

# ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING CENTER

Promoting Sustainable Off-Highway Vehicle Use



## OHMVR DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is to provide leadership statewide in the area of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation; to acquire, develop, and operate state-owned vehicular recreation areas; and to otherwise provide for a statewide system of managed OHV recreational opportunities through funding to other public agencies. The OHMVR Division works to ensure quality recreational opportunities remain available for future generations by providing for education, conservation, and enforcement efforts that balance OHV recreation impacts with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING CENTER PRAIRIE CITY SVRA

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[www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/prairiecity](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/prairiecity)



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The goal of the Environmental Training Center, also known as the ETC, is to help preserve sustainable off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation opportunities by educating OHV users on environmental responsibility and safe practices.



The idea of long-term, sustainable, off-highway vehicle use began when two California State Legislators drafted the Chappie-Z'berg Act of 1971. This law aimed to balance off-highway vehicle recreation with protecting the natural environment from adverse impacts caused by off-road vehicles.

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks provides and maintains OHV recreation areas for long-term recreational opportunities and environmental sustainability.

### THE FACILITY

The ETC at Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area was designed with features relating to both OHV education and environmental stewardship. The ETC building, which houses a classroom, office and locker room, was constructed of recycled materials and uses solar panels to provide 100% of its energy.



To reduce the environmental impacts of OHV use, the ETC provides information on alternative fuel vehicles, including electric motorcycles, electric utility vehicles, and other technological advancements. The ETC is equipped with charging stations to power these vehicles.

### THE TRAINING AREA

The OHV training area consists of a level dirt riding arena and a three-acre trail system designed to mimic natural riding conditions. The level training area is used by certified professional trainers to introduce new riders to proper riding techniques. This OHV safety training program teaches students safe and responsible riding. When the importance of staying on trails and staying in control is emphasized, new riders learn to minimize their impact on the environment. The trail system allows trainers to instill respect for the land in students while challenging them to real-life riding conditions.



The Environmental Training Center's unique trail system covers more than three acres, landscaped with native plants from six different California ecosystems: desert, chaparral, oak woodland, conifer forest, sand dunes and a riparian zone.

Various natural obstacles often found in other statewide OHV recreation areas enhance the riders' experiences and learning ability. Participants learn off-road riding techniques as they become more environmentally conscious and responsible.

The ETC provides a setting for local youth, teachers, and environmental stewardship organizations to explore a wide variety of native plants and animals. The ETC trail system helps California State Parks staff practice proper trail maintenance techniques, such as erosion control and proper trail alignment. Improved soil and habitat management benefits all state park users.

### ATV SAFETY INSTITUTE

The ATV Safety Institute (ASI) offers a hands-on, half-day All Terrain Vehicle Rider Course. Students practice basic safety techniques with hands-on exercises that cover starting and stopping, turning, negotiating hills, emergency stopping and swerving, and riding over obstacles. Particular emphasis is placed on safe OHV operation and maintaining vehicle control. The course offers students an opportunity to increase their awareness of the environment and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed Instructor.

### MSF DIRTBIKE SCHOOL

DirtBike School was created by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) to provide hands-on rider training with an emphasis on safety and skill development. New riders—or those who want to improve their riding skills—will

benefit from the course, taught by certified MSF DirtBike School Coaches. Students learn basic techniques for safely riding off-highway motorcycles as they gain information on protective gear and environmental concerns.

### CLASSROOM/FACILITY USE:

The ETC classroom and Range facilities are available for instruction of ASI- and MSF-certified courses, non-profits, and groups. Interested groups can reserve the facility using the Facility Request Form; obtain a form online at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/prairiecity](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/prairiecity) or by calling (916) 985-1093. Groups or individuals interested in taking a course can call (916) 985-1093 for a list of open classes or to schedule one. We can assist in providing a certified instructor for your group.

