



MIKE COOMBS PHOTO

# OFF-ROAD

If it's a motorized off-road escape you're looking for, there are trails to be found in Grant County.

Two easy-access areas for ATVs, motorcycles and jeeps include Little Canyon Mountain Trail, approximately 2.5 miles east of Canyon City, for experienced riders, and Morrow/Grant County OHV Park, 82 miles northwest of John Day off of Highway 207 (35 miles south of Heppner) which has trails for a variety of skill levels.

## LITTLE CANYON MOUNTAIN Designated Routes

A short drive from Canyon City will take you to this popular recreation spot that is open year-round.

Visitors turn onto East Main Street from Highway 26. The road is also called Marysville and County Road 52.

A kiosk on site shows designated routes for motorcycles, ATVs and jeeps.

BLM officials note that to the southeast is land designated by the Forest Service as Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area, closed to OHV use; riders should also avoid private property and active mining claims. They warn conditions are dangerous when the ground is muddy or icy.

Accessibility could change when a new BLM management plan for this area is finalized; officials ask visitors to call their office in Prineville, 541-416-6700, at that time to see if the revision will affect their trip.

## MORROW/GRANT COUNTY OHV PARK

There are plenty of trails at the Morrow/Grant park, and plenty of amenities. Open season is May 12 through December 6, depending on weather, and there is a limited riding area open during the off season.

The park boasts 200 miles of trails (20 miles jeep accessible) including trails for a variety of skill levels. Some areas have novice and advanced trail systems in the same area for family fun.

There is an RV park, which has tent spaces and cabins available for rent with newly built ADA restrooms and showers nearby. Wi-fi is available in open season, and certain areas allow for cell service, including at the main entrance and near the stop sign at Highway 207.

Day trail riding is free and there are picnic areas. Small stocked fishing ponds, a hiking trail and a golf driving range provide more recreation.

Volunteer EMTs are around on most weekends during open season, and law enforcement is on patrol year-round.

For the off-season area, drive past the main entrance on the 21 Road, travel about 3 miles and turn right at the 2128 Road (a sign reads day use), travel about 1 mile, unload in the day use area on right hand side. A vault bathroom (no water) is available.

Park officials remind the public to stay safe by wearing appropriate riding gear, riding with a friend; also, tread lightly by leaving the trails in good condition, being respectful and picking up trash.

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## RICKY AUDIS

When Ricky Audis of John Day isn't working, he's riding – four-wheelers, a side-by-side, motorcycles and snowmobiles.

He put it this way: His four-wheeler, less than a year old, has 6,200 miles on it.

"I go out every day when I'm off work," he said.

Audis is a native of John Day and works as an alignment technician at Les Schwab Tire Center.

When Audis rides, he brings his wife, daughter and the dogs.

He sticks mainly to easy terrain with dirt and gravel roads.

"I enjoy the peacefulness – no people, the wildlife and wild horses," he said.

For the latest information on accessible ATV routes, call the Malheur Forest Supervisor's Office at 541-575-3000 or visit their website at [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/).

A couple ATV riding areas include the Morrow/Grant County HOV Park in northern Grant County, and Canyon Mountain Trail east of Canyon City.

**For more information or to  
purchase maps of the  
Little Canyon Mountain Trail or  
Morrow/Grant County OHV Park**

**Call the main office at:  
541-989-8214**