

December 2005

## **Off Road Riders, Bust the Dust**

**Scenario:** You moved to the outskirts of town buying several acres of land. You bought a number of quads and/or dirt bikes for your family to enjoy on your property. You create a path or track on your land to ride on, and also enjoy riding up and down the dirt roads in the neighborhood. It is fun. It is great to be outdoors. It keeps your teenagers “out of trouble.”

Neighbors have approached you or your children asking you to slow down or ride somewhere else because they don’t like breathing the dust that gets kicked up into the air, cannot have backyard barbecues due to the dust, or they have to keep their windows and doors closed for the noise and dust. A neighbor may also have a respiratory illness like asthma, which is affected by airborne dust.

**Question:** What can you do to be a responsible neighbor while still enjoying your quads, and before you get a visit from a Sheriff Deputy?

**Answer:** First, make sure your property is zoned to allow off-road tracks. Chapter 18.07 of the Pima County Zoning Code was recently amended regulating off-road vehicle use on private property. Find *Section 18.07.030 M. Off-road vehicle facilities* on the Development Services website at [www.co.pima.az.us/cob/code/c18a5.html#576](http://www.co.pima.az.us/cob/code/c18a5.html#576). Among others, new regulations limit use of off-road tracks to a minimum of a 10-acre lot, restricts the hours of operation, requires permits, and involves meetings with neighbors.

Basic actions to consider for any off-road riding include:

- Educate your children on responsible riding and make sure they practice it.
- Ride slower in areas close to neighbor’s homes, or where they walk or exercise.
- Avoid crushing vegetation as plants help soil resist wind, control erosion, beautify the desert, and provide habitat for desert critters.
- Water your track before, during, and after use as necessary.
- Don’t ride on windy days.
- Trailer your quads and ride in public areas designated for off-road riding.
- Use less noisy models.
- Resist revving your engine.

More information about riding responsibly is posted at [www.deq.pima.gov/air/NEAP/ORV.html](http://www.deq.pima.gov/air/NEAP/ORV.html). In addition, you can find links from this page to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management, and the Public Lands Information Center.

Our actions make a difference. Responsible riding ensures continued riding.

**Questions or Concerns?** Click or call: [www.deq.pima.gov/air/pcneap/Dust\\_info.htm](http://www.deq.pima.gov/air/pcneap/Dust_info.htm), e-mail [karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov](mailto:karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov), or 740-3340.

**Got Dust? Keep it Down!**