

### In your opinion, what type of punishment would be most suitable for ATV riders who illegally venture into closed areas?

**A) Light punishment.** It's really not that big of a deal. Maybe a \$50-\$100, similar to a speeding ticket. **(6.5%)**

6.5%

**B) Medium punishment.** I think it should be a little bit more significant, maybe a \$200-\$300 ticket. **(23.8%)**

23.8%

**C) Heavier punishment.** I like the \$200-\$300 ticket idea, but let's hit them where it hurts: Also include loss of hunting privileges for one year. **(32%)**

32%

**D) Sock it to 'em.** Confiscate the entire ATV, and loss of hunting privileges for a year. Problem solved. **(37.7%)**

37.7%

As voted on at **eastmans.com**



Violators, such as this one photographed by the editor last fall, are creating some extreme opinions on what punishment such violators should receive, and what true effects they have on the landscape.

Not many respondents minced words on this issue, which was heavily one-sided. The most common opinion was also the most severe – to confiscate the entire ATV in addition to loss of hunting privileges. Also, a whopping 93.5% of all poll takers feel that state agencies need to step up the penalties above where they currently are in most areas. Only one in every 16 of those who voted felt that we should be taking violators lightly.

### Here's what some voters had to say:

I love ATVs, but like everything, they have a time and a place. Personally, I'm 71 years old and love to hike and hunt. *Bob Humphrey, Illinois*

I am the first to get ticked off when someone busts my hunting plans, whether it's an ATV or a pickup, but I am more ticked off by the creation of all these new inaccessible wilderness areas. I'm angry at not being able to hunt the areas I hunted for years because I can no longer hike 12 miles and 6000 feet up with an 80-lb. pack into a wilderness area...I'll take ATVs any day rather than more government restrictions of public lands! *Jeff Owens, Nevada*

I voted for D. Not all ATV abusers are hunters, so taking the ATV gets them all...*Jim McGee, Colorado*

I enjoy hunting and am also an OSP game officer... I have heard all the excuses and wish the penalties were more severe for violators. *Craig Johnson, Oregon*

If it's the law, follow it! They take ATVs where they're not supposed to be and then hide them. Hope I don't find

it. First offense - take the ATV. *Bill Haeck, Wyoming*

I am a responsible ATV owner and voted D. I have seen some of my favorite areas destroyed. Just because you own an ATV doesn't give you the right to ride wherever you want. *Jake Bussio, Utah*

Multiple times I have been in a non-motorized area when ATVs come rolling by. It is not fair to those who pour blood, sweat and tears into a

backpack hunt only for it to be ruined by illegal ATV use. *BiJay Adams, Idaho*

There's nothing like finding a trail on a map, driving 300 miles to scout, just to find out it's been turned into an ATV highway! *Joy Logue, Idaho*

"No Motorized Vehicles Beyond This Point" means exactly that; either park it or go home. It only takes one lazy idiot to ruin it for everyone else. *J. Theien, Wyoming*

"If they can't follow the rules for access, why would they follow the rules for the hunt? A slob is a slob."  
*Nick Connor, Wyoming*

ATVs are the single biggest reason why we don't have big mule deer anymore. Something serious needs to be done to keep violators in check. *Jim McDonald, Utah*

#### Next issue's poll question:

In your opinion, which Western state does the worst job of managing its big game populations when considering that state's potential? (Please don't vote for your own state)

- a. Arizona
- b. Colorado
- c. Idaho
- d. Montana
- e. Nevada
- f. New Mexico
- g. Oregon
- h. Utah
- i. Washington
- j. Wyoming

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