



SAPELO ISLAND
National Estuarine Research Reserve
PO Box 15 | Sapelo Island, GA 31327 | (912) 485-2251

Sapelo Island NERR UTV Use Policy

Purpose

To ensure responsible and safe use of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) loaned to researchers conducting work on Sapelo Island, and to protect Reserve equipment and facilities.

1. Eligibility

- UTVs are available for use by **approved researchers, DNR staff, or DNR contractors** working with or through the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- All drivers must have completed a volunteer application, including background check, and a drivers acknowledgement form.
- Users must have a **valid driver's license** and complete a **brief orientation** on vehicle use and island driving condition

2. Usage Fee

- A **\$30 per day usage fee** is required for non-DNR researchers/contractors (if only staying for the day)
- Payment must be made prior to vehicle check-out unless otherwise approved.

3. Check-out and Check-in Procedures

- **Check-Out:** UTVs must be signed out through the Reserve office with date, destination, and expected return time documented. A document confirming its condition on reception must be signed and dated by the User.
- **Check-In:**
 - Return the UTV to the **overflow parking lot** (location will be marked) or **Long Tabby**
 - **Wash the vehicle thoroughly**, including **undercarriage and body**, using the designated **power wash station** near the maintenance area.
 - Return Vehicle with **full tank of gas** (Fuel Station uses credit cards)
 - **The check-in check-list must be completed and signed by User.**
 - **Report any issues**, damages, or irregularities noticed during operation to Reserve staff **immediately**.

4. User Responsibilities

- Operate the vehicle **safely and respectfully** on designated roads only, with a maximum speed of 35 mph. Driving on firebreaks is strictly prohibited.



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- Do not allow unapproved users to operate the UTV.

5. Damage and Maintenance

- Users are **responsible for damages** resulting from neglect, improper use, or failure to follow this policy.
- Failure to report mechanical issues may result in loss of future vehicle privileges.

6. Cleanliness and Condition

- Vehicles must be returned in **clean condition**, free of mud, debris, and equipment.
- **Power wash** both the **undercarriage** and **body** at the provided station before returning.
- **If traveling on WMA**, you must do a complete undercarriage wash after each trip to the WMA.

7. Violations

- Failure to comply with this policy may result in:
 - Revocation of vehicle use privileges
 - Additional cleaning or repair charges
 - Notification to your affiliated institution

Contact

For emergencies from 9 AM – 4:00 PM or questions regarding UTV use, contact Sapelo Island NERR staff at (912) 485-2251. For emergencies from 4 PM – 9 AM, please call the on-call staff on duty.