



AORSI Instructor Guide

Course Title: Conservation & Cultural Awareness (CON)

Duration: 4 Hours (with optional field site visit)

Audience: Off-road operators, trainers, and land management partners

Course Overview

This course trains operators in recognizing and protecting environmentally sensitive and culturally significant sites, ensuring responsible trail use. By combining ecological knowledge with cultural awareness, participants will learn to reduce their impact while fostering respect for both natural and human heritage.

Learning Objectives (Instructor Notes)

- Identify fragile ecosystems and sensitive habitats. (Tip: Highlight regional examples).
- Recognize and respect cultural and historical landmarks. (Tip: Use visuals of heritage sites).
- Apply ethical practices to minimize damage and disturbance. (Tip: Share real-world stories).
- Collaborate with land managers and community stakeholders. (Tip: Discuss recent partnership successes).

Module 1: Ecosystem Awareness & Sensitive Environments (1 hour)

- Explain sensitive ecosystems (wetlands, alpine meadows, riparian zones, threatened species habitats).
- Exercise: Research one local fragile ecosystem and write a one-page summary.
- Reflection: How does protecting sensitive ecosystems benefit environment and off-road access?

Module 2: Cultural and Historical Resource Recognition (1 hour)

- Discuss Indigenous sites, homesteads, wartime relics, and legal compliance.
- Exercise: Create a checklist of signs that indicate cultural or historical sites.
- Reflection: Why involve local communities in cultural resource protection?

Module 3: Ethics in Off-Road Operations (1 hour)

- Teach ethical practices beyond laws: avoiding shortcuts, packing out waste, reporting vandalism.
- Exercise: Write 3 scenarios requiring ethical decisions and the best actions.
- Reflection: How can ethics shape the reputation of the off-road community?

Module 4: Partnerships with Land Managers and Stakeholders (1 hour)

- Discuss partnerships with land managers, Indigenous groups, and governments.
- Exercise: Draft a communication plan for a stewardship project proposal.
- Reflection: How do partnerships improve conservation and recreation?

Final Assessment

Task: Write a 500-word reflection on balancing recreational use with protection of ecosystems and cultural landmarks. Include at least two real-world examples.

Case Study Review: Examine a case of trail or cultural site damage. Identify mistakes and propose a responsible recreation strategy that would have prevented the issue.

Instructor Preparation Checklist

- Prepare visuals/maps of local sensitive ecosystems.
- Gather images/examples of cultural and historical sites.
- Develop 2–3 real-world ethical scenarios for discussion.
- Identify potential guest speakers (e.g., land managers or community reps).

Suggested Timing

- Introduction – 10 min
- Module 1 – 60 min
- Module 2 – 60 min
- Module 3 – 60 min
- Module 4 – 60 min
- Final Assessment – 30 min
- Wrap-up & Questions – 10 min