

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need a new rule for motor vehicle use?

The widespread use of motorized vehicles continues to grow. While this use is an important recreation activity on NFS lands, some of the use has resulted in undesirable user conflicts and natural and cultural resource impacts.

When does the new rule go into affect?

Current rules and authorities remain in place until a motor vehicle use map is published. Although we do not anticipate having a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) produced before Spring 2007, the Forest will take steps to implement the desired future condition of OHV use as described in our 2006 Forest Plan this year.

Where can I ride my ATV this summer?

OHV users will have access to OML 1 and 2 roads and currently designated OHV trails. A Forest Supervisor closure order prohibiting cross-country use will be implemented after the 2006 Forest Plan is adopted. OHV users are encouraged to visit their local FS office for information regarding trails and appropriate vehicle use.

What about access to my UPPCO camp or private property?

Access to UPPCO camps is provided under the terms and conditions of the UPPCO lease. This is not changed under the Travel Management Rule. Private property can be accessed with the appropriate authorization.

Can I use my OHV during hunting season for baiting or for big game retrieval?

Hunters will have access to OML 1 and 2 roads and currently designated OHV trails. Cross-country use for big game retrieval and other activities associated with hunting, such as baiting, scouting, and setting up blinds will be prohibited.

What type of policy do you have for Administrative Use?

Motor vehicle use outside of designated routes and areas will be provided for fire, military, emergency, resource management, and law enforcement purposes.

What about access for someone who is older or disabled?

Everyone will have access to routes open to motorized use. Where motor vehicle use is prohibited, such use is prohibited for all people.



United States
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Forest Service
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OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

Off Highway Vehicle Use and the Travel Management Rule

*A guide to the
Travel Management Rule
and its Implementation*

More American's than ever are using off-highway vehicles (OHV's) to enjoy the outdoors. Indeed, OHV use on the Ottawa has changed over the past 20 years and the demand for this type of motorized recreation opportunity has grown significantly.

In the right places, and managed carefully, motor vehicles are an appropriate use of national forests. However, if not managed carefully, motorized recreation can damage both the land and the resources that visitors come to enjoy.

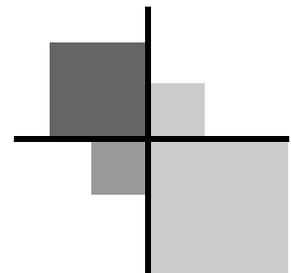
In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for providing motor vehicle access to national forests. This new rule—the Travel Management Rule—gives us a nationally consistent approach to travel management, while providing a framework for local decisionmaking.

Implementation of the Travel Management Rule is a priority for the Ottawa.



For More Information

More information on the Travel Management Rule and its implementation is available on Forest Service web sites (www.fs.fed.us), in the 2006 Forest Plan and Record of Decision (available at your local Forest Service office), or by calling 906-932-1330.



Implementing the Travel Management Rule

Travel Management Rule

The 2005 Travel Management Rule moves the Agency to a designated use system to minimize or eliminate the impacts from unmanaged motor vehicle use.

- Prohibits motor vehicle use off the designated system.
- Provides for administrative use.
- Designation also includes class of vehicle and time of year.
- Designated routes and areas will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM).
 - Motor vehicle use maps will be free to the public.
 - Motor vehicle use maps will be updated annually.
- The Rule requires public involvement and coordination with state and local government agencies.

The Forest Plan

The 2006 Forest Plan allows for OHV use on a trail system to be designated that promotes diverse and quality recreation experiences, while minimizing impacts to the natural resources. The 2006 Forest Plan:

- will prohibit cross-country use of OHV's on National Forest lands
- will require that OHV use occur only on roads or trails designated for such use.
- will help protect soil and water resources, control the spread of invasive species, provide for public safety, and reduce conflicts with other multiple uses.
- Will provide for consistency of OHV policies with our neighboring national forests.
- Provides for administrative use.

Implementation of the Travel Management Rule and 2006 Forest Plan will be a multi-staged process.

1. A closure order to prohibit cross-country OHV use on the Ottawa will be implemented summer 2006. This will NOT pertain to use by OHVs on roads and trails currently available for use.
2. Forest personnel will review the Ottawa's transportation network of roads open to OHV travel to prepare the initial motor vehicle use map. Open houses will be held in Fall 2006 to review the proposed trail system.
3. A motor vehicle use map will be published in Spring 2007 that displays open roads and trails.

Understanding the Travel Management Rule

Road Designations

What does Operation Maintenance Level (OML) mean? What's an OML 1 road? an OML 3 road? Below are some basic definitions for Forest Service Road types.

- OML 1 Intermittent roads closed to highway vehicle traffic.
- OML 2 Road suitable for high clearance vehicles. Road may be open to vehicle traffic or closed to vehicle traffic.
- OML 3 Road that is open and maintained for highway vehicle traffic. May be single or double lane.

OML 1



OML 2



Protecting Our Resources

In the right places, and managed carefully, motor vehicles are an appropriate use of national forests.

It is the Ottawa's goal to promote diverse and quality recreation experiences, while minimizing impacts to natural resources. To that end, resource protection is a key element of our OHV use program.

It is important to note, too, that wetlands and riparian areas are protected in the state of Michigan and OHV's are prohibited in or upon the waters of any stream, river, bog, wetland, marsh or quagmire.



Riding off trails can damage natural resources and is prohibited.

