**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Respect road and area closures.**

- Yes. You can operate your UTV on any developed road that is open or signed open for UTV use or trail that is open or signed open for UTV use. There is no road or trail to that location. Can I use this section of road?

- No. Those individuals that are going around the gate with ATV’s and snowmobiles are in violation of the Ordinance #7.2. Any section of a closed road is in violation of the Ordinance #7.2.

- No. You cannot use your UTV on a non-developed road or trail that is open or signed open for UTV use or trail that is open or signed open for UTV use. There is no road or trail to that location. Can I use this section of road?

- No. When a road or trail is closed to motorized vehicles, it is considered an ATV for all intensive purposes. If you need to get to the location on a road or trail that is open or signed open for ATV use, you must trailer your ATV.

- No. You can only operate your ATV on a trail if you have a special use permit. You must call the Douglas County Forestry Department to request an application.

- No. When a road or trail is closed to motorized vehicle use due to the risk of wetland and soil damage. If the ground is frozen sufficiently, individuals can request an infrastructure, but you will have to walk the remaining distance. The access to my hunting area. How can I do that?

- You can operate your snowmobile off-trail to access remote areas of the Forest to trap. Is it legal to do this?

- No. You cannot use your UTV on any developed road or trail that is open or signed open for UTV use or trail that is open or signed open for UTV use. There is no road or trail to that location. Can I use this section of road?

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Be responsible or be further regulated… it’s your choice!

The Douglas County Forest Recreation Access Plan has been adopted as the Department’s comprehensive approach to access management on the County Forest. The Plan is designed to promote public enjoyment of the Forest in a wide array of experiences, including those for both motorized and non-motorized pursuits.

**Plan Goals**

- Ensuring sustainability of natural resources
- Providing a range of opportunities for all users of the Forest
- Encouraging public safety for all users

The Douglas County Forest Access Management Plan has been adopted as the Department’s comprehensive approach to access management on the County Forest. The Plan is designed to promote public enjoyment of the Forest in a wide array of experiences, including those for both motorized and non-motorized pursuits.

**Plan Goals**

- Ensuring sustainability of natural resources
- Providing a range of opportunities for all users of the Forest
- Encouraging public safety for all users

**What’s New in 2010**

- Uppy Voice Technology (UVT) is also known as lightweight utility vehicles or side-by-sides, are now permitted for use on all ATV trails managed by the Douglas County Forest Department.

- All vehicle operators are required to complete the Department’s online training course at www.recreation.wi.gov/training before using the Forest.

- UTV use is prohibited in some areas of the Forest to reduce the impact of motorized vehicle use on the Douglas County Forest. Those operators who use this trail will be held to the same standards of safety and responsibility.

- UTVs are not permitted on cross-country trails (excluding the Straight Arrow OHV Trail) as this area is designated for lightweight utility vehicles or side-by-sides.

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**Why access is a concern**

When people access the forest, whether by foot, horseback, motorized vehicle or other method, the forest floor, water, stream, or other natural area is impacted to varying degrees. Usually increasing motorized recreation, particularly ATV use, has spurred user conflicts with non-motorized or silent-recreational use and also has become a natural resource protection issue. Concerns include soil erosion, water quality, wildlife harassment, user conflicts, hazardous substance spills, spread of specific none nurient plant species, littering/destruction, and alteration or damage to sensitive habitats and ecosystems.

**Three area classification system**

The Access Management Plan designates the following mapped classification system for managing motorized recreational access across the forest. Each area has its own set of established conditions, objectives, and open road density goals used for management. Users can expect the least motorized areas to have the least amount of motorized access opportunities and the high motorized areas to have the greatest.

**Motor vehicle terminology**

- **Highway Vehicle (HV)**: Any motorized vehicle that is classified as a highway vehicle. It has a net weight of 900 pounds or less, which has a width of 48 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat designed to be occupied by a person while the vehicle is in motion.

- **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)**: A motorized device that is designed for off-highway travel and has four or more wheels. ATVs include dune buggies, golf carts, go carts, amphibious vehicles, etc.

- **Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV)**: A motorized device which is designed for off-highway travel and has four or more wheels. UTVs include Corves, Polaris XTs, etc.

- **Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM)**: An engine-driven device which is capable of propelling the vehicle at a ground speed of 15 miles per hour or more.

- **Snowmobile**: A motor vehicle, or other device designed to travel on snow or ice.

- **Ground Tram (GT)**: A motor vehicle with four or more wheels designed for access to otherwise closed timber or roads.

**Rules & Regulations**

- It is prohibited to operate any unregistered or unlicensed motor vehicle, highway vehicle, off-highway vehicle, ATV, UTV, OHM, or snowmobile which can be officially licensed or registered by the State of Wisconsin as a highway or recreational vehicle.

- It is prohibited to operate a motor vehicle, highway vehicle, off-highway vehicle, ATV, UTV, OHM, or snowmobile in any sand, gravel, or other natural material.

- It is prohibited to block in any manner a road or trail which obstructs access by others.

- It is prohibited to operate a motorized vehicle with studded tires at any time for any purpose.

- Cross-country travel is prohibited for any purpose.

- Motorcycles that are legal for public use on Wisconsin State trails and wildlife area are regulated by State law: the Gandy Dancer State Trail, the Straight Arrow OHM Trail, the Northwoods Recreation Trail, etc. For further information on those portions of the trail in Wisconsin, please contact the Forestry Department to confirm the location and availability of multi-use use areas.

**General Douglas County Rules & Regulations**

- **Forest travel** is permitted on all roads, trails, and areas of the Forest.
- **All vehicles** (motorized or non-motorized) must remain on the developed road or trail surfaces at all times.
- **Highway Vehicles (HV)** may operate on legally licensed Highway vehicles may operate on developed roads or trails that have a gate, berm, barricade, or other barrier to the forest.
- **Off-highway Vehicles** may not operate on developed roads or trails posted with signs prohibiting the use of off-highway vehicles (ex: snowmobiles). Open road areas are not guaranteed passable at all times.
- **Motorized travel** on any permanently, temporarily, or seasonally closed road or trail is prohibited.
- **Cross-country motorized travel** is prohibited for any purpose.
- **Motorcycles** (e.g., dirt bikes, mini-bikes, etc.) are prohibited to operate on or off designated closed roads or trails.
- **Snowmobiles** are prohibited to operate on or off designated closed roads or trails.
- **A permit for persons with disabilities to access otherwise closed roads or trails may be issued under certain circumstances:** Contact the Forestry Department for details.
- **Cross-Country Travel** is Prohibited — Your may not operate a highway vehicle, ATV, UTV, OHM, or snowmobile on a developed or natural resource access area. Cross-country travel from a developed road or trail surface at any time for any purpose. This includes but is not limited to the following: for hunting, habitat management, and other uses under the property. You must remain on the developed road or trail surface at all times.
- **A permit for persons with disabilities to access otherwise closed roads or trails may be issued under certain circumstances:** Contact the Forestry Department for details.
- **Off-Highway Motorcycle Trails**
  - **Off-highway motorcycles** that are not legal for public use on Wisconsin State trails and wildlife area are regulated by State law: the Gandy Dancer State Trail, the Straight Arrow OHM Trail, etc. For further information on those portions of the trail in Wisconsin, please contact the Forestry Department to confirm the location and availability of multi-use use areas.

**State Regulations — All State of Wisconsin regulations pertaining to the use of any motor vehicle, highway vehicle, off-highway vehicle, ATV, UTV, OHM, or snowmobile are applicable on State trails and wildlife area. Including the following State trails and wildlife area are regulated by State law (the Gandy Dancer State Trail, the Straight Arrow OHM Trail, the Northwoods Recreation Trail, etc.) Please contact your local WDNR office for additional regulations. Neighboring Burnett, Washburn and Bayfield Counties as well as the State of Minnesota all regulate motor vehicle use on public lands, to be sure to check with the managing agency before riding.

**Signage**

**Please observe all Douglas County Trail, road, and Motor vehicle laws.**

**In general, you MAY operate a Highway Vehicle, ATV, UTV, or Snowmobile:**

- On developed roads or trails that have a gate, berm, barricade, or other blockage device installed.
- On developed roads or trails posted with signs prohibiting the use of specific motor vehicle types.
- On legally licensed, established, located or located roads or trails. Please contact the Forestry Department to confirm the location and availability of multi-use use areas.
- On developed road or trail surface with action coordinates in county trail.

**In any area restricted by County Ordinance.**

**Know where you are riding!**

**Penalties** — If you make your motorized vehicle is found to be in violation of County Ordinance, you face civil penalty. Civil citations start at $150 and go up to $1,000. For each count, an administrative fee of $10 may be assessed. In addition, restitution for any damages you cause may be assessed. The forest may be closed to cross-country travel in any area, which includes all off-highway vehicles, including snowmobiles. This guide and all other updates anytime.

**State of Wisconsin as a highway or recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles).**

- **Off-highway motorcycles** (i.e. dirt bikes, mini bikes, etc.) which are not legal for public use as highway or recreational vehicles (including snowmobiles). Use of all other motorized vehicle use is prohibited. The only exception to this rule is the following: for hunting, habitat management, and other uses under the property. You must remain on the developed road or trail surface at all times. Cross-country travel from a developed road or trail surface at any time for any purpose. This includes but is not limited to the following: for hunting, habitat management, and other uses under the property. You must remain on the developed road or trail surface at all times.

- **Equestrian (horses), mountain bike, dogsled, cross-country ski, ski-doo, or other motorized uses:**
  - **Highway Vehicle (HV)**
  - **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)**
  - **Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV)**
  - **Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM)**
  - **Snowmobile**
  - **Ground Tram (GT)**

**Conclusion**

Be a part of the solution! Report violations!

**Summer ATV Trails & Winter Snowmobile/ATV Trails**

Douglas County offers some of the best snowmobile and ATV trail riding opportunities in the state. Close to 100 miles of summer ATV trails and over 100 miles of winter snowmobile and ATV trails are available to users. Trail maps are updated annually and are available at the Douglas County Forestry Service Office, 4252 County Road 137, Moose Lake, MN 55767 or Lake State Park at 4252 County Road 137, Moose Lake, MN 55767 or 218-483-5456. Get opening dates, closing dates, conditions, and other updates anytime.

**Off-Highway Motorcycle Trails**

Off-highway motorcycles that are not legal for public use on Wisconsin State trails and wildlife area are regulated by State law: the Gandy Dancer State Trail, the Straight Arrow OHM Trail, etc. For further information on those portions of the trail in Wisconsin, please contact the Forestry Department to confirm the location and availability of multi-use use areas.

**Contact the Forestry Service Office at (715) 395-1341, Douglas County Planning and Zoning Office (715) 395-1380, or the Forestry Department for additional regulations. Neighboring Burnett, Washburn and Bayfield Counties as well as the State of Minnesota all regulate motor vehicle use on public lands, to be sure to check with the managing agency before riding.**

24/7 Trail Hotline (715) 378-4528