



Motor Vehicle Use on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Travel Management on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



Motor vehicles provide access to your national forest. Without roads, trails, and motor vehicles, much of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest would be difficult to access for hunters, ranchers, miners, and the many other visitors and recreational enthusiasts who enjoy these multiple-use public lands. Many people enjoy experiencing national forests from off-highway vehicles (OHVs).

Motor vehicles can also, in the wrong places and at the wrong times, cause environmental impacts. Streams, wildlife, vegetation, soil, and archaeological sites can all be damaged by unmanaged motor vehicle use. The experience of other forest visitors can be affected by noise.

Sustainable use of motor vehicles requires a well-managed system of designated roads and trails and cooperation among all forest visitors. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is currently developing and implementing travel management decisions to refine our forest transportation system, implement the national Travel Management Rule, and provide for sustainable motorized recreation opportunities and public use of National Forest System lands.

What is the Travel Management Rule?

The *Travel Management Rule* requires each Forest Service Ranger District to designate those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use. Once designation is complete, the *Rule* prohibits motor vehicle use off the designated route system.

What is the status of travel planning on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest?

The Carson and Santa Rosa Ranger Districts and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area already restrict motor vehicles to designated routes reflected on a motor vehicle use map. The Bridgeport, Austin, Tonopah, and Ely Ranger Districts are conducting environmental analysis and public involvement. The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, and Jarbidge Ranger Districts will begin environmental analysis soon.

Why is there a Travel Management Rule and why is it important?

Nationally, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders have increased from 5 million in 1970 to more than 50 million today. In the right places and managed carefully, motor vehicle use is welcome on National Forests. However, unmanaged motorized vehicle recreation can threaten those resources people come to enjoy. On the Humboldt-Toiyabe, we are continually rehabilitating resource damage from unmanaged motorized vehicle use. The *Rule* provides direction on managing motor vehicles in a sustainable manner.

What vehicles are affected?

The *Rule* applies to all motor vehicles on National Forests, except snowmobiles. The rule restricts cars, trucks, SUVs, ATVs, OHVs, and motorcycles to *designated* roads, trails, and areas.

What is the Motor Vehicle Use Map?

The Motor Vehicle Use Map is the official map of designated routes, one of the products of the *Rule*. The motor vehicle use map displays those roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle use, including class of vehicle and time of year. Please ride responsibly and follow these motor vehicle designations.

Where can I get a Motor Vehicle Use Map?

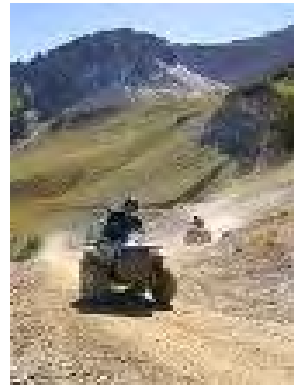
Maps of the Carson and Santa Rosa Ranger Districts and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area are now available free of charge at district offices and the Forest Supervisor's office in Sparks, and are posted online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/recreation/mvum>.

Can the designated roads, trails, and areas be changed in the future?

Yes. Designation changes will be based on appropriate public involvement and environmental analysis. A new map will be published annually if corrections are needed, and OHV riders will need to follow the most recent map.

What if I see someone driving off road or on a non-designated trail or road?

Report it to law enforcement in the area or notify the nearest Forest Service office.



How can I learn more about the Travel Rule?

- Call or contact your local Forest Service office. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has offices in Austin, Carson City, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Sparks, Tonopah, Wells, and Winnemucca, Nevada, and Bridgeport, California.
- The current maps for each District are published on the internet at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/recreation/mvum>
- The Travel Management Rule can be found at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/final.pdf>
- One of the best public contacts is a Forest Service employee with knowledge of the *Rule*!