



Changes in Motor Vehicle Use

Allegheny National Forest



June 30, 2008

The Travel Management Rule of 2005 requires that all national forests designate roads, trails, and areas open for motor vehicle use, and then display the roads, trails, and areas on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

The Allegheny National Forest will begin distributing the free MVUM and implementing new regulations pertaining to motor vehicle use on the Forest.



Where Can I Drive My Vehicle?

The MVUM will only show the roads and trails open for motor vehicle use. Class of vehicle and season of use will also be shown on the map. Roads and trails NOT shown on the map are NOT open for motor vehicle use. Cross-country travel is prohibited. Paved roads are legal assuming the vehicle is licensed to operate on a highway. Remember that the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code applies to all National Forest roads.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) require permits and may travel ONLY on designated ATV trails.

Routes are also marked on the ground with a route marker and road or trail number. In case a marker is removed or missing, and if the road or trail is on the map, then remember the road is still open for motor vehicle travel.

How Is This Different Than the Past?

Roads and trails used to be “open unless posted or gated closed;” now they are “closed unless shown as open on the MVUM map.” For example, a gate could be open on a road that is not identified as open on the MVUM – **THIS ROAD IS NOT OPEN!**

Who Does This Apply To?

This applies to all wheeled motor vehicles, including cars, trucks, four-wheel drives, ATVs, motorbikes, trailbikes, etc. It does not include snowmobiles traveling over snow, watercraft, aircraft, non-motorized uses, or uses authorized by permit.

Who Does This Affect?

This affects more than Off-Highway Vehicle recreationists. For example, you will also be affected if you camp outside of a developed campground or hunt. You need to be aware of the rules if you intend to travel off designated roads or trails for some activities.

Dispersed Camping: Visitors can disperse camp throughout the forest, except in specifically prohibited areas. Your vehicle, however, must be parked within 50 feet of a designated route in established dispersed recreation sites – areas where historical use has resulted in the areas being void of vegetation. It is illegal to create new areas for dispersed camping which will result in damage to forest vegetation and resources.

Hunting: You must stay on the designated routes with a motor vehicle for hunting and game retrieval. When you are on foot, keep in mind how far you will have to pack your game. You can still use a non-motorized game cart for retrieval.

What Are The Benefits Of Traveling Only On Designated Roads And Trails?

- It helps secure a wide range of recreation opportunities while ensuring the best possible care of the land.
- It helps protect soil and water resources.
- It helps control the spread of invasive species.
- It provides for public safety.

OFFICE LOCATIONS & INFORMATION**Supervisor's Office**

222 Liberty Street, PO Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-5150

Bradford Ranger Station

29 Forest Service Drive
Bradford, PA 16701
(814) 362-4613

Marienville Ranger Station

HC2 Box 130
Marienville, PA 16239
(814) 927-6628

Allegheny NF Website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
