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Forest
Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST RELEASES MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP

Harrisburg, IL, March 23, 2009 – Today Forest Supervisor Allen Nicholas announced the publication and release of the Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Shawnee National Forest.

In December, 2005, the Forest Service put into effect a new regulation governing off-highway and other motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands. This new rule, the Travel Management Rule, requires each national forest to identify where motor vehicle use is authorized. Each forest is required to create a Motor Vehicle Use Map displaying where motor vehicles use is authorized. The Motor Vehicle Use Map will be revised and reprinted annually.

In compliance with the Travel Management Rule, the Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Shawnee National Forest has been completed and is now available to the public. There are no significant changes between the roads authorized for use on this map and roads currently available for public use. There are no roads or trails identified for use by ATV's, since ATV use on the Shawnee National Forest is prohibited except as allowed under permit. The Motor Vehicle Use Map in no way alters equestrian use of roads.

Visitors will be required to comply with the Motor Vehicle Use Map. As an example, some roads on the Forest have been seasonally closed for years. These roads are identified on the map, along with closure dates.

Protection of the natural resources that occur on the national forests is of critical

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importance to the Forest Service. Should resource damage on a road be identified through monitoring, the road can be closed to vehicular use. Roads can be added or deleted should an administrative need or resource damage be identified. Such changes will be made to the Motor Vehicle Use Map, when it is reprinted the following year.

Maps can be obtained at Shawnee National Forest offices in Harrisburg, Vienna, Murphysboro and Jonesboro. The map can also be found on the Forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee. For additional information contact Hidden Springs District Ranger Tim Pohlman at (618) 658-1236 or Mississippi Bluffs District Ranger Dan Lentz at (618) 833-8576.

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