



# Road and Trail Signage

## Getting Around On Upper Lake Ranger District Roads & Trails

The route markers shown below identify the three types of transportation systems on the Upper Lake Ranger District. These markers are typically posted at the entrance of roads and motor vehicle trails and at trailheads. To ensure you are operating on a route legally designated for your vehicle type, you will need to refer to the Mendocino National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

The National Forest Primary Route and Horizontal Route Markers are used to identify roads recommended and maintained for passenger car travel. On the Upper Lake Ranger District, OHV travel is prohibited.

on these roads unless otherwise designated. If the road is not designated for mixed-use, only vehicles that are highway legal may travel on these roads.

The Vertical Route Marker is placed on roughly graded roads that are recommended and maintained for high-clearance vehicles such as four-wheel drives and pick-ups. On the Upper Lake Ranger District, the "mixed-use" of street-legal and non-street-legal motor vehicles (OHV) is *allowed* on these roads unless otherwise designated (See Mendocino National Forest MVUM for legal designations). When traveling these types of roads, you can expect to encounter a variety of street-legal passenger vehicles and four-wheel drives, as well as non-street-legal vehicles like dirt bikes, ATVs, dune buggies, and other types of specialized or modified vehicles. When traveling these roads, please keep your speed down to 15 mph, stay to the right, and observe all rules of the road.

## Route Symbols

- Open to Vehicles less than 40" wide
- Open to All Terrain Vehicles
- Open to Sand and Rail-Type Buggies
- Open to Vehicles over 50" wide
- Open to Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles
- Red Slash Means Closed To That Type Of Vehicle Use

## Sharing Routes (Mixed Use)

The National Forests allow multiple uses. As you travel around, you may encounter visitors pursuing various activities, with different interests, all using forest roads and trails at the same time. Courtesy for others is essential for everyone to have an enjoyable experience. Please extend the same courtesy and consideration to those around you as you expect from them. If you choose to travel these roughly graded roads, be prepared to encounter rocks, boulders, road washouts, downed trees, and brush encroaching on the roadway.

## Route Difficulty Level

Routes are rated for difficulty based on route alignment, steepness or grade, gain and loss of elevation, number and kind of natural barriers that must be crossed, and impact of weather on route surfaces. The degree of challenge that a route presents to an average user is affected by trail condition and route location.

- Easiest: Limited physical ability and skill to travel (novice to advanced ability)
- More Difficult: Some physical ability and skill to travel (intermediate to advanced ability)
- Most Difficult: A high degree of physical ability and skill to travel (advanced ability)

## Route Difficulty Level

Difficulty levels are assigned to routes under ideal conditions and are based on difficulty compared to other routes in the surrounding area. Route conditions are always subject to change due to the weather and other acts of nature.



**If you choose to travel on these low-standard roads, be prepared to encounter rocks and boulders, road washouts, downed trees, and brush encroaching on the roadway.**

## Know Before You Go!

It is the responsibility of our visitors to know the rules and regulations, some of which may be area specific. If you are unfamiliar with an area or unsure about what to do, or where to go, we suggest you contact the Ranger District Office first to determine if the area you want to visit can meet your recreation needs. For our visitors who enjoy using motor vehicles on the Mendocino National Forest, whether as a recreation activity or to get to your favorite fishing hole, it is important to pick up a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), which designates the roads, trails, and areas open for motor vehicle use.

Use of a motor vehicle—particularly an OHV—in the national forest may be hazardous. Using protective apparel, operating within your skill level, vehicle condition, terrain, weather, common sense, and following forest rules all affect your safety. **Be careful, stay alert, and ride at your own risk!**

## Respect for Private Land

Where travel is permitted on private land, the route will appear on this map and the Mendocino National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map. Respect the landowner's property and the privilege of using it. Stay on the designated route; keep speed, noise, and dust down; and follow all posted rules.

Where land is posted or fenced, please respect the right of the landowner and do not trespass.

## Seasonal Designation

Occasionally, sections of roads, trails, or areas must be closed seasonally to protect natural resources. These closures help to minimize impacts to water quality, wildlife, and their habitat, and prevent soil erosion and road and trail rutting. All of the Upper Lake's Ranger District's seasonal designations will appear on this map with a symbol used in conjunction with one of the other road, trail, or area symbols to indicate that the road, trail, or area is open only during certain portions of the year.

## Trail Etiquette

- Motorcycles Yield to All
- Bicycles Yield to Equestrians & Hikers
- Hikers Yield to Equestrians

## Wildlife Protection

- Avoid high speeds and high rpm's near camps and picnic grounds. Speed limit is 5 mph in campgrounds and staging areas.
- On combined use roadways, ride single file on the right side of the road keeping speed under 15 mph. Carry out any and all litter.
- Stay on designated system trails. Cutting switchbacks, creating hill climbs, and riding in undesignated areas causes erosion, loss of wildlife habitat, and other resource damage.
- Wildlife and livestock have their places in the forest, too. Don't chase them. Cut your throttle when you encounter them and allow them to cross your path.
- Avoid wheel spins. Be conscious of any impacts you are making on the land. Remember to tread lightly!
- Never ride alone. Use the buddy system.
- Riding in Middle Creek should be limited to trail access only. Leaving the staging area and riding to the south is prohibited (see map).
- Sand Rails, Dune Buggies, and Rail-type Buggies recommended riding is limited to OHV corridor and 4WD roads.
- Route conditions vary with changes in weather.
- Do not expect routes to be in the same condition as the last time you traveled them.

## Watershed Protection

Some roads and trails must be closed during wet weather to prevent damage to the road or trail surface and to adjacent watersheds, which could be harmed by sediment eroding from damaged areas. Sediment entering streams is a serious threat to water quality, fisheries, and other aquatic resources. These closures will be shown on the MVUM and this map in the form of a seasonal designation.

## Public Safety

If travel on a road would be hazardous to all or even certain types of users, a restrictive closure may be implemented.

## Special Closures/Forest Supervisor Closure Order

At various times of the year, the need may arise to temporarily close a road, trail, or area due to extreme fire conditions, weather, or some other act of nature. In order to provide for public safety and protection of natural resources, each of the following is prohibited on any area, or forest development road or trail within the Mendocino National Forest:

- Use of any off-highway vehicle or other vehicle on any forest development road not designated for that purpose. (36 CFR 261.55B)
- Use of any off-highway vehicle or other vehicle off any forest development road or trail. (36 CFR 261.56)

Forest Supervisor Closure Orders that are for emergencies or are more temporary in nature will be posted at Ranger District offices, on kiosks, and at the Forest Supervisor's office. Please call ahead, as conditions may have changed since your last visit.

## Wilderness

Wilderness is a unique and vital resource that offers non-motorized, non-mechanized primitive recreation opportunities allowing for solitude, and its character and values are dominant and enduring. It is our job to ensure its availability and enjoyment as wilderness for present and future generations. It is important that human influence does not impede the free play of natural forces or interfere with natural succession in the ecosystems.

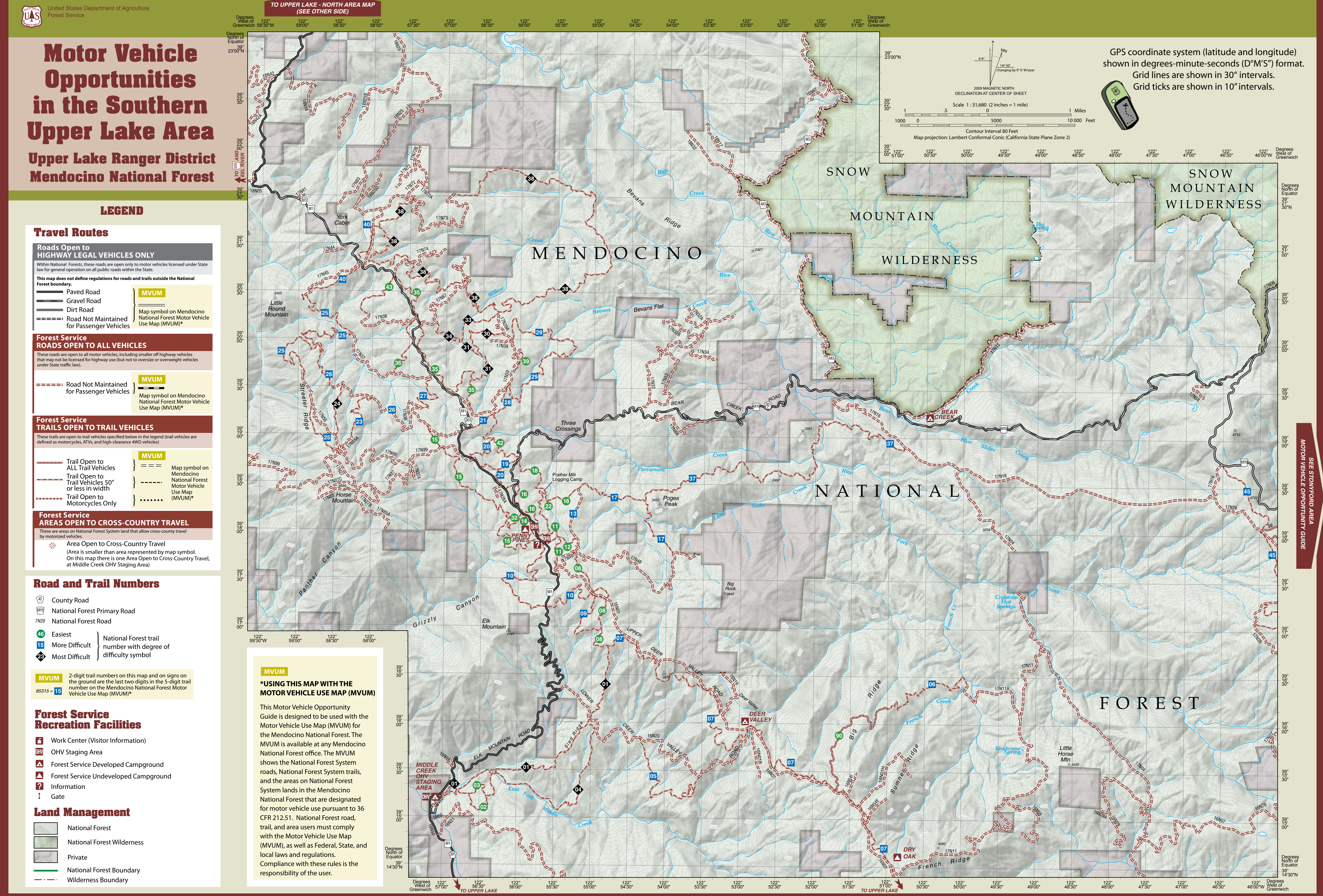
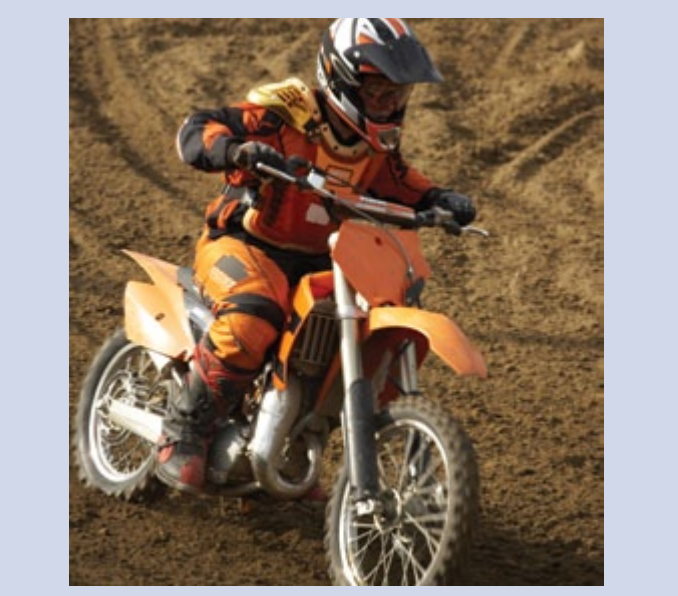
## Rainfall Closure

The use of any OHV or other vehicle is prohibited on any forest development trail after receiving 2 inches or more of rainfall in a 24-hour period. Road closure will remain in effect until there has been 48 hours of NO measurable precipitation (36 CFR 261.56).

## Why Is This Road Closed?

In addition to the restrictions indicated on the Mendocino National Forest MVUM, this map, and those signed on the ground, forest visitors may encounter locked gates, barriers, earthen berms, or other barriers to prevent access to some roads and trails. These closures and travel restrictions have been established to provide for public safety, protect natural resources, and minimize conflicts between users.

Trail #	Miles	Level	Trail Name
01	3.6 miles	◆	Sled Ridge
02	1.4 miles	●	Salamanca
03	0.4 miles	●	Middle Creek Access
04	2.6 miles	◆	Sled "A"
05	2.2 miles	●	East Fork
06	1.8 miles	●	Big Ridge
07	7.0 miles	●	Deer Valley
08	1.8 miles	●	Short Cut
09	1.1 miles	●	Lil Sled
10	3.4 miles	●	Summit
11	0.6 miles	●	Prather Access
12	0.5 miles	●	Prather South
13	0.8 miles	●	Progeny
14	0.3 miles	●	Penny Pines Access
15	3.7 miles	●	Elk Mountain
16	0.9 miles	●	Campers Pass
17	2.0 miles	●	Mason
18	1.4 miles	●	Log Camp
19	0.3 miles	●	Plantation Hill
20	1.6 miles	●	Prather West
21	0.4 miles	●	Jumpers Hill
22	0.8 miles	●	Millhouse
23	1.1 miles	●	Horse Hill
24	0.7 miles	◆	Snake Hill
25	5.4 miles	●	Streeter Ridge
26	1.8 miles	●	Bucknell Creek
27	1.0 miles	●	Mole Trail
28	0.5 miles	●	Bevans Creek Access
29	3.2 miles	●	Bevans Creek
30	0.9 miles	◆	Tadpole
31	0.8 miles	◆	Mud Hole
32	0.4 miles	◆	McClendon's Loop
33	0.7 miles	◆	Little Willow
34	0.6 miles	◆	Tadpole
35	3.1 miles	●	Bypass
36	0.9 miles	●	Bacon Camp
37	5.3 miles	●	Pages Peak
38	14.4 miles	●	Willow Creek
39	0.2 miles	●	Bevans Jump Access
40	1.4 miles	●	Butter Trail
42	1.1 miles	●	Ole Road
43	0.8 miles	●	Bypass Connector
44	1.9 miles	●	Big Ridge Connect



# Motor Vehicle Opportunities in the Southern Upper Lake Area Upper Lake Ranger District Mendocino National Forest

### LEGEND

#### Travel Routes

**Roads Open to HIGHWAY LEGAL VEHICLES ONLY**

Within National Forests, these roads are open only to motor vehicles licensed under State law for general operation on all public roads within the State.

**This map does not define regulations for roads and trails outside the National Forest boundary.**

- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dirt Road
- Road Not Maintained for Passenger Vehicles

**Forest Service ROADS OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES**

These roads are open to all motor vehicles, including smaller off-highway vehicles, that may not be licensed for highway use (but not to oversized or overweight vehicles under State traffic laws).

- Road Not Maintained for Passenger Vehicles

**Forest Service TRAILS OPEN TO TRAIL VEHICLES**

These trails are open to trail vehicles specified below in the legend (trail vehicles are defined as motorcycles, ATVs, and high-clearance 4WD vehicles).

- Trail Open to ALL Trail Vehicles
- Trail Open to Trail Vehicles 50" or less in width
- Trail Open to Motorcycles Only

**Forest Service AREAS OPEN TO CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL**

These are areas on National Forest System land that allow cross-country travel by motorized vehicles.

- Area Open to Cross-Country Travel (Area is smaller than area represented by map symbol. On this map there is one Area Open to Cross-Country Travel, at Middle Creek OHV Staging Area)

## Road and Trail Numbers

- County Road
  - National Forest Primary Road
  - National Forest Road
  - Easiest
  - More Difficult
  - Most Difficult
- National Forest trail number with degree of difficulty symbol

## Forest Service Recreation Facilities

- Work Center (Visitor Information)
- OHV Staging Area
- Forest Service Developed Campground
- Forest Service Undeveloped Campground
- Information
- Gate

## Land Management

- National Forest
- National Forest Wilderness
- Private
- National Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary

## \*USING THIS MAP WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP (MVUM)

This Motor Vehicle Opportunity Guide is designed to be used with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for the Mendocino National Forest. The MVUM is available at any Mendocino National Forest office. The MVUM shows the National Forest System roads, National Forest System trails, and the areas on National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest that are designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51. National Forest road, trail, and area users must comply with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), as well as Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Compliance with these rules is the responsibility of the user.

## KEY

- Developed Campground
- RV Camping
- Potable Water
- Restroom
- Information
- OHV Staging Area
- Day Use
- Accessible Facility

## Travel Tips

In order to access the trail system from the Middle Creek Campground trailhead, you may have to cross the East Fork of Middle Creek during high water in the winter months. No riding is permitted south of the Middle Creek Staging Area. The only open riding area is located adjacent to Middle Creek Campground and is for beginner riders only. No excessive speeding is allowed in this area. There is also no open riding permitted in the Penny Pines, Deer Valley, and Oak Flat Campgrounds. Riding is limited to trailhead access only.

Deer Valley and Penny Pines Campgrounds are self-service only. This means there is no garbage service. Therefore, you must pack out what you pack in. Ride your OHV only to enter or leave a campsite. Campgrounds are not the spot for joy riding. Park your vehicles in the parking spurs provided. Do not exceed posted speeds around camps and people.



**Middle Creek Campground is adjacent to a beginners-only riding area.**