



HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS

MOTOR VEHICLE USE DESIGNATION CHANGE

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV)

'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS'

Effective October 1, 2021, the Huron-Manistee National Forests (HMNFs) changed the Motor Vehicle Use (MVU) designation of Forest Service roads to include Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) to allow for consistent use across the Forests and other public lands statewide. This designation change will allow for OHV/ORV use on HMNFs roads.

Why was this change made?

- Aligning Forest road MVU designations with those of the State/Counties alleviates confusion and undue burden on the public.
- This project aligns MVU designations with designations of other Michigan National Forests.

What are the safety implications of this change?

Members of the public and Forest Service Subject Matter Experts have completed an analysis of roads to determine feasibility of OHV use on roads already open to highway legal vehicles.

- It is important to note that **Forest Service roads are not designated as motorized trails**, rather the allowable use on Forest Service **roads will be extended to include additional motorized vehicles, including OHV's.**
- Some existing roads will remain closed to legal OHV use because they pose a **safety** concern to the public.
- Existing roads may remain closed to legal OHV use if **connecting** State/County roads are closed to OHV use, to maintain consistency with state and local agencies.
- This project results in an additional form of motorized use (OHV's) on roads that are already open to highway legal vehicles.

How will this change be evaluated in the future?

Roads will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as deemed necessary by the Ranger Districts. We will continue to work with our State/County partners to maintain and look for better ways to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the public on our roads.

For more information about the Motor Vehicle Use Designation Change, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf or call 231-775-2421 — Facebook @huronmanisteenf - Twitter @huronnf

*Scan this QR code for more Huron-Manistee National Forests OHV/ORV information & links to maps



**Scan this QR code for more Michigan Department of Natural Resources OHV/ORV information, maps, and handbook



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Motor vehicle designations include parking along designated routes and at facilities associated with designated routes when it is safe to do so and when not causing damage to National Forest .

Designated and/or Dispersed Campground/Site— OHVs are not allowed to be ridden on campground roads unless posted otherwise. Camp away from streams, avoiding wetlands and practice “leave no trace” etiquette.

License/ Permits—All applicable Michigan DNR rules and regulations apply for licensing, titling, required equipment, age restrictions, land use and such.**

OHVs/ORVs on Forest Roads—National Forest roads open to passenger vehicles are generally open to OHVs. Some roads are closed to OHVs due to safety hazards caused by mixed use and traffic volume.

Temporary/Seasonal Road Closures—National Forest roads or trails may be closed temporarily for safety, to minimize impacts to wildlife, or to prevent road damage. Current conditions are available by calling the local Forest Service District Office or checking the Huron-Manistee National Forests website under “Road Conditions.”

Access Through Gates—When passing through unlocked gates, leave the gate as you found it. Parking a vehicle in front of a closed gate is not allowed. Blocked gates interfere with emergency access

Cross Country Travel Prohibited — The use of OHV/ORV is allowed only on designated roads and trails. Cross Country travel is NOT allowed.

Hunting Game/Retrieval - It is illegal to hunt, chase, pursue, harass or shoot at wildlife from a motorized vehicle and/or from road and trails. Firearms (except handguns) and bows carried on an OHV must be fully enclosed in a hard or soft case. Firearms (except handguns) must be unloaded.

Wilderness—By law, motorized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness areas.

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