

Frequently Asked Questions

Where on the Forest can I legally use my motor vehicle?

- ➔ Consult the Interim Motor Vehicle Use Map (IMVUM). This map shows the roads and trails on the Colville National Forest available to different classes of motor vehicles including highway legal vehicles and off-highway vehicles (OHV). Some roads have seasonal restrictions. These roads are shaded and listed on the back of the maps. OHV use is permitted on over 650 miles of roads depicted as open to all vehicles on our IMVUM. Please note that full-size highway legal vehicles (such as logging trucks and passenger cars) and OHVs (ATVs and motorcycles) are sharing these roadways. So drive and ride safely.

How do I know if a road is open or not?

- ➔ Consult the IMVUM and look for route markers and other signs to help determine your location and whether the road has restrictions on it or not. If a route is not signed or does not show on the map, it is safest to assume that the route is not open to motor vehicle use. When in doubt, visit your local Forest Service office for further assistance.

Why are some roads not shown on the maps?

- ➔ The IMVUM only shows roads that are open to motorized travel. Closed roads do not show on the map but may exist on the ground with or without closure devices (gates, berms, or signs). Additionally, some roads shown on the 2006 IMVUM are not on the 2007 IMVUM. Roads that are all or partly outside of Forest jurisdiction and roads that were scheduled for closure under past decisions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) no longer show on the map. The map will continue to change every year, with some routes added for OHV use and others closed based on the Forest road management decisions.

Does the term “Interim” on your Motor Vehicle Use Map effect legal enforcement of route usage?

- ➔ The IMVUM is enforceable based upon a Colville National Forest Road order. The Forest Service Travel Management Rule that took effect in 2005 requires each National Forest to designate routes available to different classes of motor vehicles on a Motor Vehicle Use Map. While we’re working on implementing this rule, the Colville National Forest provided the Interim Motor Vehicle Use Map to facilitate public use of the routes currently available to motor vehicles.

So how long will it take to finish designating routes?

- ➔ Travel management planning is an on-going process. Updated Motor vehicle use maps will be published annually to reflect changes.

Why aren’t all roads open to off-highway vehicles (OHVs)?

- ➔ The process of identifying and designating roads for OHV and mixed vehicle use requires an assessment of public safety and the impact on forest resources. The potential for serious accidents increases when mixed-use occurs on roads designed for higher speeds and traffic volumes. On other roads OHV use may be restricted due to impacts to water quality, wildlife, or other forest resources.

Where can I ride my all-terrain vehicle (ATV)?

- ➔ Most ATVs (conventionally known as quads or four-wheelers) can be operated on roads and trails open to all vehicles and trails open to vehicles 50 inches or less in width.

Where can I ride my motorcycle?

- ➔ Dual-sport motorcycles that have valid state licenses and registration for highway legal use can ride on any open road or motorized trail on the Colville National Forest. Motorcycles that are not highway legal cannot ride on roads open to highway legal vehicles only.

Does my OHV need to be registered in Washington State?

- ➔ All OHVs must have a current registration. Either a Washington State or a valid OHV registration from your state of residence will do.

My OHV is licensed to operate on highways in Idaho. Can I ride my OHV on roads open only to highway legal vehicles on the Colville National Forest?

- ➔ No. Washington State law does not allow any OHV, licensed or not, to operate on roads open only to highway legal vehicles.

What equipment do I need?

- ➔ Depending on where you will be riding, State and Federal law requires certain equipment such as mufflers, brakes, and helmets. State laws regarding motor vehicle use such as age, safety equipment, and registration requirements apply on Forest Service roads. There are also Federal regulations that need to be followed. See the Colville National Forest's Off-Highway Vehicle Use pamphlet for more information.

Do I need to wear a helmet?

- ➔ When riding on Forest Service roads, helmets are required. Helmets are not required elsewhere on Forest Service lands, but are strongly recommended.

Can my children ride with me?

- ➔ Children under the age of thirteen may operate an OHV under the direct supervision of a person eighteen years of age or older who possesses a valid driver's license.