

# OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

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## CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

### OHV Map Review is Complete

The Chippewa National Forest OHV Road Travel Access decision, effective January 2008, included publication of a Motor Vehicle Use Map. The MVUM displays all roads open to off-highway vehicles and highway licensed vehicles on the Chippewa NF. The MVUM is updated annually and the first review of needed corrections is complete.

This annual MVUM has incorporated some changes. We listened to your feedback and as a result have improved the map's accuracy. Some roads have been added for OHV access and some roads have been closed to motor vehicle access. Other ease-of-use changes to the map have been made nationally. National Forest lands are now shown in grey tone and more navigational landmarks have been included on the map.

New, updated MVUMs are expected to be available in May.



#### Do I need another Map?

Because the MVUM is your primary source for legal OHV use of national forest roads, you will want and need to have the latest information. Some additional roads have been considered for mixed use (travel by both OHV's and passenger vehicles at the same time). Other corrections ensure you are in the right place.

#### How do I get an updated Map?

The Motor Vehicle Use Map is free and available at national forest offices in Blackduck, Cass Lake, Deer River, and Walker. Several Chambers of Commerce help distribute our maps, and the maps are also available by mail and posted on our website.

### Spring Road Closures

**All national forest roads open to OHV's will be temporarily closed to OHV use from March 15 until May 1st.**

This March provides the first opportunity to implement the seasonal road closure established in the Chippewa NF OHV Travel Management decision of November 2007. The temporary closure to OHV use was included to address public concern for road bed protection during the spring break-up period when roads are also closed to heavy vehicle traffic.

### Sign On

Along with an updated MVUM map, we are also providing some OHV guidance on the ground. All national forest system roads display brown road numbers. Those system roads open to OHV use often have a distance sign also. Note that the allow-

able distance and what appears to be the length of the road may differ. Don't be caught unaware! Cross country travel off designated roads is prohibited.

We expect to complete road signing on the ground this spring and summer.

National Forest system roads that allow mixed use may also have a sign to help alert drivers of all vehicles about sharing the road.



### The View Ahead

#### Watch for Info

This year, you will also find national forest OHV policy included in popular DNR publications as well as in Forest Service publications. Look for national forest info in the hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, State OHV regulations, Bear permits, and Snowmobile regulations.



#### Watch for Hitch-hikers

Your OHV can surprise you and become a noxious weed transport device if ridden through weed infestations. Seeds from weeds that catch on an OHV or tire can unknowingly be carried to new areas where they are deposited as the vehicle is ridden. Once spread, these plants can ruin good fish and wildlife habitat. Prevention is the best approach. Stop the spread of hitchhiking seeds by cleaning your vehicle after use and staying on designated roads and trails.

#### Watch for Vehicles

Mixed use (road travel by both OHV's and passenger vehicles at the same time) is still risky business. Awareness of your speed, and watching out for the other vehicle, especially if it's a logging truck could make or break the quality of your ride.

#### For more information

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Walker Ranger District  
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