

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

FOREST SERVICE - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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KENTON, MI 49967
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Implementing the Travel Management Rule on the Ottawa

Ironwood, Mi. – As we enter hunting season, the Ottawa National Forest reminds Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) users that the the Forest is moving toward a designated system of roads and trails open for motorized use. *Use of OHVs off of designated roads and trails is prohibited.* This applies only to federal lands and Forest Service roads.

Currently, the Forest is working to identify those roads and trail segments that will be open to OHV use in the future. These roads will then be displayed on a Motor Vehicle Use Map, available to the public in the Spring of 2007. “Until this map is available, *those roads and trails that are currently available for OHV use will remain open,*” Forest Supervisor Lueckel said.

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These actions bring the Ottawa National Forest in line with its 2006 Revised Forest Plan and all other national forests located in the Agency's Eastern Region, including the other 2 national forests in Michigan.

The Forest Service is moving to a designated use system to minimize or eliminate the impacts from unmanaged motor vehicle use related to the significant increase in off-road motorized vehicle use in the past decade. Designated trails and elimination of cross-country travel will help protect soil and water resources, control the spread of invasive species, provide for public safety and reduce conflicts with other multiple uses.

For additional information on the Travel Management Rule please visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa or call your local Forest Service office.

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