

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

FOREST SERVICE - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa National Forest Announces Open Houses

Ironwood, Mi. – Looking for information about the Travel Management Rule? Beginning December 1, the Ottawa National Forest will be hosting several open houses across the Forest to answer your questions about the Travel Management Rule. “Open houses will be scheduled at each District and will provide the public the opportunity to interact with Forest personnel to answer questions and learn more about the Travel Management Rule.” Forest Supervisor Lueckel said.

The Travel Management Rule, which moves the Forest to a designated system of roads and trails for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, prohibits cross-country travel. “This does not mean that OHV’s are not allowed on

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the Forest,” stated Lueckel. “In fact, in the right places and managed carefully, OHVs are an appropriate use of the National Forest. The Travel Management Rule provides that OHV’s are to be operated on roads and trails that allow for that use.”

Based on public input from the Forest Plan Revision Process, the Forest is working to identify those roads and trail segments that are open to OHV use. These roads will then be displayed on a Motor Vehicle Use Map, available to the public in the Spring of 2007. Once completed, the Motor Vehicle Use Map will be available at no cost to the public. Designation of trails will be an ongoing process. The Motor Vehicle Use Map will be updated annually with public involvement.

During the December open houses, Forest personnel will be on hand to answer questions about road and trail designations and provide additional information on the Forest’s Motor Vehicle Use Map. A general overview of the Travel Management Rule will also be provided. Open houses are scheduled as follows:

December 1, Iron River Ranger District (3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST)

December 2, Watersmeet Visitor Center (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CST)

December 5, Ontonagon High School (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST)

December 7, Marenisco Town Hall (3:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. CST)

December 11, Kenton Ranger District (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST)

For additional information on the open houes, please call Lisa Klaus at 906-932-1330, ext. 328 or your local Forest Service office. If you plan on attending one of the open houses and need special accommodations, please call in advance.

To learn more about the Travel Management Rule, please visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa or call your local Forest Service office.

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