

TRAVELING *the* BACK COUNTRY



Ride the Ouachita National Forest

It's one of the most unique and scenic places in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Scenic byways wind their way through 1.8 million acres of national forest. Stunning vistas await around the next bend and crystal waters offer the perfect backdrop for fishing and floating. Hundreds of miles of hiking and mountain biking trails await those seeking fun and adventure. The Ouachita National Forest is a great destination for camping, nature photography, off-highway-vehicle (OHV) riding, hunting and much more.

National Forests are managed by the USDA Forest Service for a wide variety of uses, including many types of recreation experiences. The Forest Service and its partners strive to use management strategies that balance active use of the land with sustaining health, diversity, and productivity. Achieving such a balance requires having sideboards and standards in place to guide public use and land management activities. For OHV use, the sideboards include allowing travel only on designated roads or trails or, for big game retrieval taken legally, designated corridors adjacent to certain roads or trails; for some designated routes, it also means allowing seasonal rather than year-round use.

More Americans are visiting national forests today, compared to 20 years ago. The Ouachita National Forest has seen a sharp increase in the number of OHVs, as well as a greater variety in OHV types. In keeping with the Forest Service's multiple-use mandate, these vehicles are welcome on routes that are designed for their activity. In some places, OHV riders share the trail with hikers, bikers and equestrians.

Hundreds of miles are designated for OHV use seasonally or year-round. You can only ride these routes. You may see a path that looks suitable for an OHV, but ride there only if it is designated on the map for OHV use. You'll help protect forest resources by staying on legal routes when you bring your registered OHV to the forest.

Because OHV use can affect soil erosion, water quality and wildlife habitat and can bother nearby visitors who are sharing the forest, OHV riders are expected to be courteous, stay safe and abide by the rules.

OHV Travel Primer

- ✓ Consult the forest maps to see which roads are legal for OHV use.
- ✓ Stay on routes designated for OHV travel.
- ✓ Stay alcohol-free and drug-free while riding.
- ✓ Maintain a safe speed for your driving conditions.
- ✓ On OHV trails, vehicles are limited to 64 inches wide.
- ✓ Tracked vehicles are not allowed.

Motorized Vehicles:



Three- and four-wheeled ATVs



Four-wheel drives ≤ 64" on trails



Utility vehicles



Motorcycles

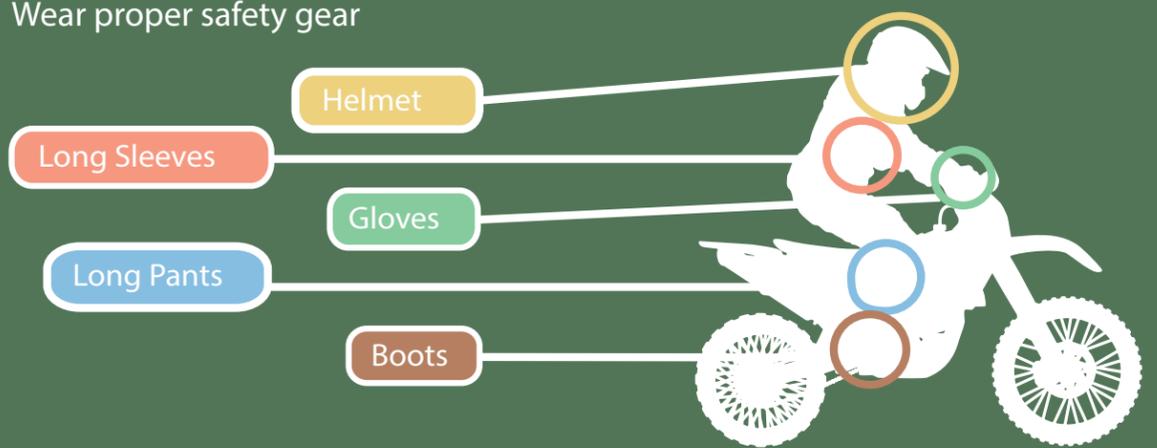
Explore the **BACK COUNTRY**

Hundreds of miles of Designated OHV Routes

Keep It Safe

Wear proper safety gear

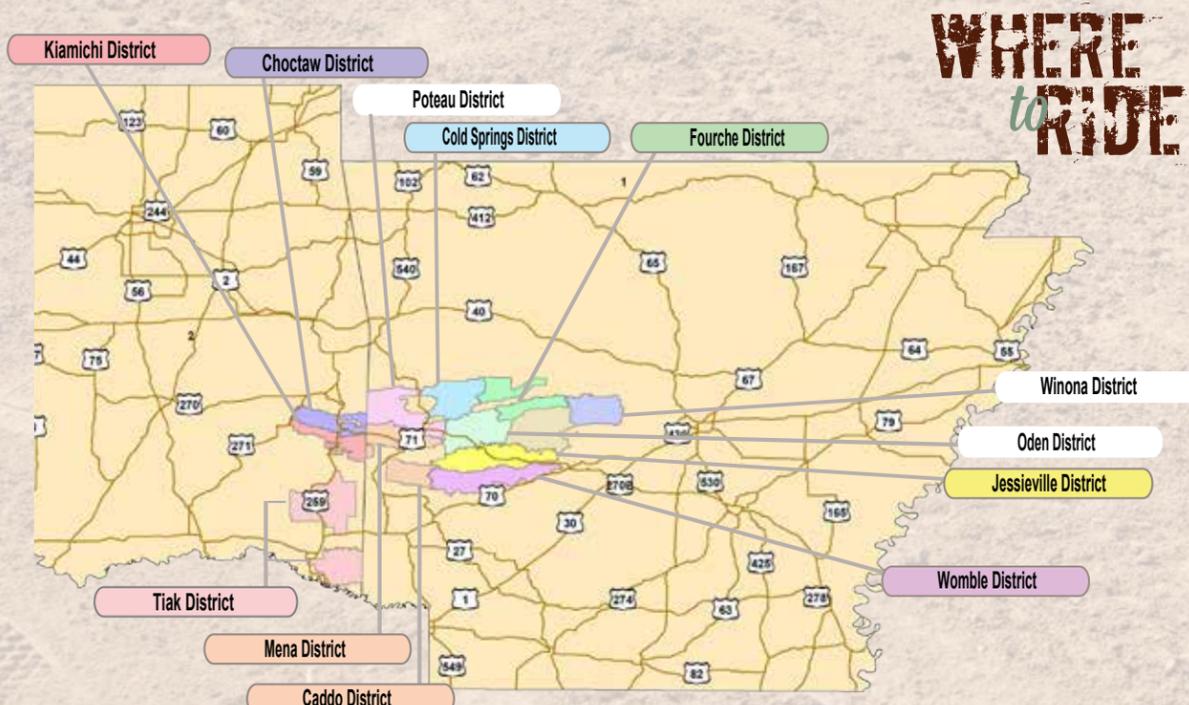
Safety is your responsibility - OWN IT!



SHARE THE ROAD

The roads and trails within the national forest are shared by many visitors. Be alert and courteous to mountain bikers, horseback riders, hikers and other OHV riders as you share trails. Expect other vehicles on roads, even logging trucks and large machinery.

Accidents can be avoided by paying attention to changing landscapes, trees, hills and natural obstructions. Avoid collisions with other vehicles and expect to see traffic that moves faster than your OHV.



Know Before You Go

Remember, parts of the Ouachita National Forest are remote.

Cell phones do not work in many areas of the forest.

Take along adequate food, water and first aid supplies.

Be weather aware and watch for changing weather conditions during your ride.

Tools like a tire pump, patch kit and tow strap can prevent a long walk.

Medical assistance may not be readily available during emergencies.

Vehicles That Are Welcome



Off-highway Vehicles

These motorized vehicles are intended to be driven on unpaved surfaces and are ≤64" wide. This category of vehicle includes all motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) with three or four wheels, utility vehicles and four-wheel drives.

Know the Law

All three and four-wheeled off-highway vehicles must be registered with the Department of Revenue in Arkansas, or the Tax Commission in Oklahoma. Upon registration, the OHV will be assessed and the owner will be charged a "one time" fee of approximately \$11 to \$15 for title, registration and a decal that will be placed permanently on the OHV. The decal is not a forest pass. It fulfills state requirements only. Call the county revenue department or tag agency for more information.

- Operating an OHV at speeds greater than reasonable is prohibited.
- Headlights and taillights must be utilized when operating an OHV between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- When two or more OHVs are operating together on a road, they should be operated in single file.
- All OHV operators must comply with applicable Arkansas and Oklahoma state laws governing the use of motor vehicles.
- Operators are prohibited from operating any vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or narcotics.

Game Retrieval

For detailed information, get a copy of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and Big Game Retrieval and Seasonal and Special Designation Tables at the nearest Ranger District office or online on our travel management webpage at <http://tinyurl.com/hkpy7s9>.

- Retrieval of big game is allowed along some Ouachita National Forest roads between October and December during state deer hunting seasons. It is allowed by OHV on one or both sides of the road as indicated on the Motor Vehicle Use maps available online at <http://tinyurl.com/hkpy7s9>. Note that some roads allow retrieval along both sides of the road, while on others it is allowed only along one side.
- On roads where game retrieval is designated, off-road travel is allowed up to 1/2 mile from the centerline of the road measured perpendicular to the road and only on lands managed by the Forest Service.

For more information about hunting, log on to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at www.agfc.com or the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at www.wildlifedepartment.com.

STAY ALERT

National forests are inherently wild and unpredictable by nature. Be aware and take responsibility for your safety and that of those traveling with you.



Black Bears



Venomous Snakes



Wasps, Bees and Ticks



Poisonous Plants



Tornadoes



Flash Floods



Wildfires



Logging Trucks



No passengers on single-rider vehicles

Children under age 12 may operate an OHV only under direct supervision of someone 18 years or older. In Oklahoma, children under 18 must also wear a crash helmet when driving or riding.



Adults only on adult OHV

Ouachita National Forest Administrative Offices

Forest Supervisor's Office
100 Reserve Street
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Telephone: 501-321-5202
www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita

Caddo-Womble Ranger District
1523 Hwy 270 E.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
Telephone: 870-867-2101

Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Ranger District
8607 N. Hwy 7
Jessieville, AR 71949
Telephone: 501-984-5313

Mena-Oden Ranger District
1603 Hwy 71 North
Mena, AR 71953
Telephone: 479-394-2382

Oklahoma Ranger District
Hochatown Unit
111 South State Highway 259A
Broken Bow, OK 74728
Telephone: 580-494-6402

Hodgen Unit
52175 US Hwy 59
Hodgen, OK 74939
Telephone: 918-653-2991

Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District
Poteau Unit
PO Box 2255
Waldron, AR 72958
Telephone: 479-637-4174

Cold Springs Unit
2190 E. Main Street
Booneville, AR 72927
Telephone: 479-675-3233

Other Important Numbers

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Telephone: 1-800-364-4263
www.agfc.com

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Telephone: 1-405-521-3851
www.wildlifedepartment.com

