Off-Highway Vehicles and Oversnow Vehicles

Under the authority of the Act of Congress of June 4, 1897, as amended (16 USC 551), and the Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations 36 CFR 261.50(a) and or (b), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on all National Forest System Roads and Trails on the Ottawa National Forest:

1. Over-snow vehicles may not be operated on any National Forest System Road unless the road is posted as a designated Over-snow Vehicle route or, the road is impassable to highway vehicles (passenger cars or trucks) due to snow depth. 36 CFR 261.54 (a)

2. Operating an Off-Highway vehicle without a valid State of Michigan ORV license. Roads - 36 CFR 261.54(e), Trails – 36 CFR 261.55(a)

3. Operating a Over-snow vehicle without a valid State snowmobile registration in your possession. Roads - 36 CFR 261.54(e), Trails – 36 CFR 261.55(a)

4. Operating Over-snow vehicle without a valid Michigan Snowmobile Trail Permit. Roads - 36 CFR 261.54(e), Trails – 36 CFR 261.55(a)

5. Operators and passengers of Off-Highway Vehicles and Over-snow Vehicles must wear the required safety equipment including helmet and eye protection. Roads - 36 CFR 261.54(e), Trails – 36 CFR 261.55(a)

6. Using a Over-snow Vehicle to travel cross-country off of designated groomed Over-snow Vehicle trails and unplowed roads. 36 CFR 261.53 (a)

7. Using a Over-snow Vehicle to travel cross-country in designated Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas. 36 CFR 261.53 (f)

This order applies to all National Forest System Roads and Trails on the Ottawa National Forest, except that item six (6) above applies only National Forest System Land administered by the Ottawa National Forest east of M-64 and south of M-28 from March 1 until snow melt of each year. (see attached map)

Forest Service Definitions:

Off-Highway Vehicle means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

Over-snow vehicle: means a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow.

Michigan State Definitions:

Snowmobiles are defined in M.C.L.A. 257.1501: "...any motor driven vehicle designed for travel primarily on snow or ice of a type which utilizes sled type runners or skies, or an endless belt tread or any combinations of these or similar means of contact with the surface upon which it is operated."

ATV's are defined in M.C.L.A. 257.1601 Sec. 1 (a): "ATV means any 3 or 4 wheeled vehicle designed for off-road use that has low-pressure tires, has a seat designed to be straddled by the rider, and is powered by a 50 cc to a 500 cc gasoline engine or comparable size using using other fuels."

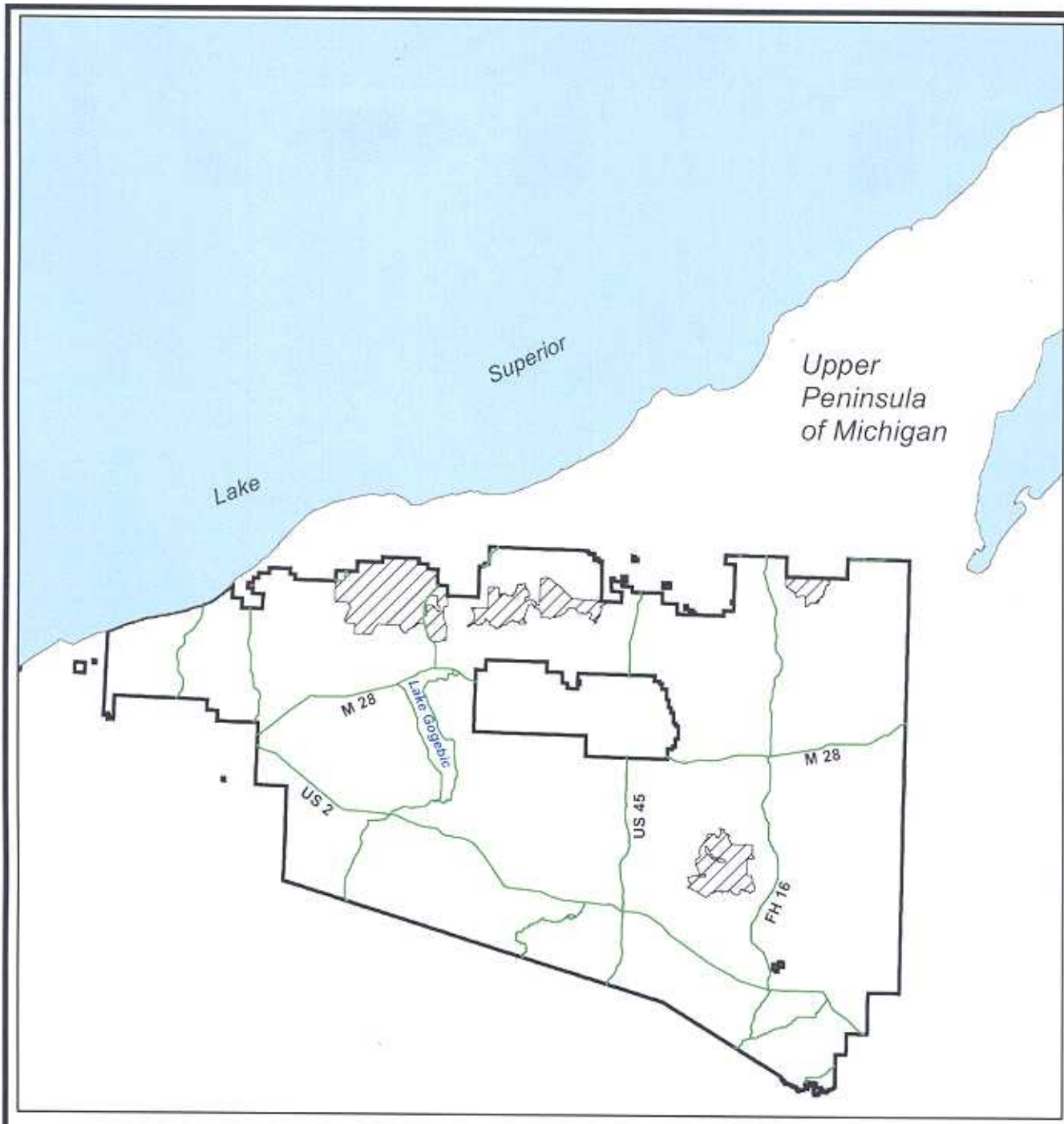
ORV's are all other off highway vehicles that do not meet the above two definitions.

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571)

Dated this 14th day of August, 2007 at Ironwood, Michigan.

Susan J. Spear

Susan Spear
Forest Supervisor
Ottawa National Forest



Ottawa National Forest Management Areas 6.1

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