

WORKING TOGETHER

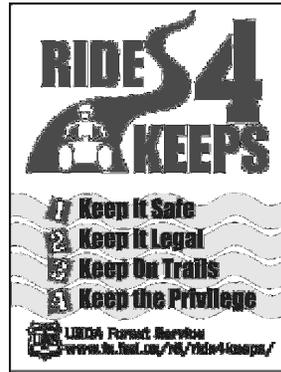
In Mississippi, the Forest Service is committed to working with the public and other interested parties in the on-going route designation process, but realizes that we can not provide everything to everyone; we are working under the constraints of the rule as well as current and anticipated budgets and available resources.

A note concerning the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)

A MVUM is being published for each ranger district. The MVUM will be a black and white map that shows only those routes where motor vehicle use is authorized and is not intended to replace visitor maps. A visitor map may be needed in addition to the MVUM, especially for people unfamiliar with a particular unit.

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TRAVEL MANAGEMENT Planning and Implementation

USDA Forest Service
Southern Region
National Forests in Mississippi



A GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI

For more information, visit
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/>

August 2009

Summary

To better protect natural resources while continuing to provide opportunities for motorized recreation, the National Forests in Mississippi has implemented the travel management rule. The travel management rule requires each National Forest and Grassland to designate roads, trails, and areas open for motor vehicle use. The rule was developed in response to dramatic increases in the number and capabilities of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) which have been responsible for increases in natural resource damage and motor vehicle accidents. The rule affects management of all motorized use, including licensed vehicles and OHVs.

Advantages of the new rule:

- ◆ Better protects natural resources (water quality, vegetation, heritage resources) by preventing damage caused by off-route travel.
- ◆ Reduces potential for user conflicts.
- ◆ Allows maintenance funds to be focused on designated routes rather than across an entire administrative unit, where cross-country travel has been legal.
- ◆ Reduces confusion on where motorized vehicles can legally be ridden.

Frequently Asked Questions



- ◆ **What is the travel management rule?** The travel management rule is a national rule developed at the national level that all national forests and grasslands (193 million acres) must implement. It requires restricting motorized use to designated roads, trails, and areas as shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM) and allows for limited cross-country travel for big game retrieval. The intent of the rule is to eliminate unmanaged (off-trail) cross-country travel by OHVs to better protect cultural and natural resources and reduce user conflicts.
- ◆ **What is an MVUM, where do I get one, and what is the cost?** The MVUM is a legal document that only displays routes (roads and trails) open to motor vehicles; if a route doesn't appear on the MVUM, it is closed to motor vehicles. MVUMs are available at each ranger district office, on the National Forests in Mississippi website, and can be obtained free of charge.
- ◆ **Can I still ride my OHV cross-country off of designated trails?** OHV use is restricted to designated trails. The only exception is for big game retrieval within identified game retrieval corridors as shown on the MVUM (i.e. most Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Consult the MVUM for more specific information concerning game retrieval. For information on trails open to OHVs, consult the MVUM.
- ◆ **Can I ride my OHV on closed roads within identified game retrieval corridors to retrieve legally harvested big game (deer and hogs)?** Yes, unless otherwise posted as closed to big game retrieval to protect natural resources or public safety.
- ◆ **Have there been changes in where I can legally drive my licensed motor vehicle?** Yes, there have been minor changes with a total of 19 additional miles available for public use. For specific information, consult the MVUM or contact the local district office.
- ◆ **How has access to traditional hunter camps been affected by the rule?** Access to existing designated dispersed campsites (traditional hunter camps) will remain unchanged as a result of rule implementation in Mississippi.
- ◆ **Are the current route designations permanent or will there be changes in the future?** Route designations are not permanent – the MVUM will be reviewed annually and updated as needed changes are identified. The public is encouraged to stay involved in route designation efforts at the local level.