

## What Does This Mean to Me?

Visitors are required to understand and follow the regulations displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map in much the same way hunters are required to have and use the State of Washington's Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet. The Motor Vehicle Use Map displays information on where visitors may drive their highway legal vehicles, as well as their Off Highway Vehicles (OHV). If you drive on forest roads, ride motorcycles or other OHVs less than 50 inches in width, or camp outside of designated campgrounds, the Motor Vehicle Use Map displays information that applies to you. Motorized use outside of roads, trails or areas designated on the Motor Vehicle Use Map is illegal and subject to enforcement action.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map does not display information regarding snowmobile use or non-motorized uses. These uses continue to be managed through site-specific management. Some roads and trails are closed to wheeled motorized use and do not appear on the map. These include: roads closed through a separate planning process for a valid resource reason, unused roads placed in storage for potential future use, private roads, roads open only for administrative use or special use permittees, and trails designated for non-motorized use only.

## Background

The Travel Management Rule of 2005 was conceived to provide a consistent method for all National Forests to show which roads, trails and areas are open to use by motor vehicles. The Rule requires each Forest to issue a Motor Vehicle Use Map to display which roads, trails and areas designated for motorized use, by class of vehicle and time of year. The Motor Vehicle Use Map displays which roads, trails and areas are legally open to use by motorists, by time of year and type of vehicle.

On the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Motor Vehicle Use Map serves to consolidate all of the current management of wheeled motorized use into a single place, which replaces the current system of regulating motorized use with site-specific regulations and signs on the ground. The Motor Vehicle Use Map serves as both a reference for the public to know what type of use is legally allowed on the Forest, as well as a tool for Forest Service Law Enforcement personnel to use in protecting forest resources.



## Gifford Pinchot National Forest



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## Understanding your Motor Vehicle Use Map

### Gifford Pinchot National Forest



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Vancouver, WA 98682  
(360) 891-5000  
TTY (360) 891-5003  
[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/)

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District  
10024 US Hwy 12  
Randle, WA 98377  
(360) 497-1100  
TTY (360) 497-1101

Mt. Adams Ranger District  
2455 Hwy 141  
Trout Lake, WA 98650  
(509) 395-3400  
TTY (509) 395-3422

Mount St. Helens NVM  
42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd.  
Amboy, WA 98601  
(360) 449-7800  
TTY (360) 449-7802

## Driving on Forest Roads

Visitors are allowed to operate motor vehicles only on the roads, trails and areas displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Roads, trails and areas not shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map are closed to motor vehicle use. In other words, visitors are not allowed to drive cross-country or on roads not displayed on the map. Motor vehicles may be parked within one vehicle length from the edge of the road surface when it is safe to do so without causing damage to USDA Forest Service resources or facilities, unless prohibited by state law, a traffic sign, or an order.

Forest Roads are open to highway legal vehicles only. Highway legal vehicles, including sedans, trucks, sport utility vehicles and dual sport motorcycles, are licensed by the state and operated by persons with state-issued drivers licenses. A highway legal vehicle is equipped with all necessary components to drive on a State Highway.

Keep in mind that storms or floods may occur at any time, damaging roads and trails to the point they are not physically passable. Just because a road or trail is identified as legally open to drive, it is still the driver's responsibility to determine if it is safe to drive on.



## Riding Off Highway Vehicles

Some trails displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map are open to motorcycles and Off Highway Vehicles measuring less than 50 inches in width, while other trails are open only to motorcycles. The legend on the Motor Vehicle Use Map shows the difference in how these two types of trails are displayed. Trails not displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map are closed to all motorized use.

OHVs are only allowed to ride on the trails designated on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. In other words, OHVs are not allowed to ride on Forest Roads, non-motorized trails, or to drive cross-country.

## Cross-Country Motorized Travel

Travel by wheeled motorized vehicle off of designated system roads and trails displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (cross-country travel) is not allowed on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Leaving designated roads and trails for the purpose of retrieving large game is not allowed on any forest in Washington and Oregon.

## Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping (camping outside of a designated campground) is a popular activity across the Forest and many favored campsites are located alongside Forest roads. The Motor Vehicle Use Map displays regulations associated with dispersed camping. Within 150 feet of many road segments identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map, you may drive your highway legal motor vehicle off of the designated system to reach your chosen campsite.



In order to prevent damage to forest resources and comply with all appropriate regulations, visitors driving within these zones should,

*Drive only to campsites located within camping corridors identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. A table located on the front or back of the MVUM highlights areas where this camping corridor does not apply.*

*Drive only on existing routes within the corridor. An existing route has an established history of passenger vehicle use. It is illegal to create a new road into a campsite.*

*Avoid damaging forest resources with your motor vehicle. Respect signs and barriers such as gates or berms, do not enlarge or create parking areas at campsites, and do not drive through streams or wetlands to access campsites. Practice good camping etiquette.*

## Where Do I Get a MVUM?

The Motor Vehicle Use Map is free, and you can pick up your copy at your local Ranger District or at Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters. Because the Motor Vehicle Use Map was designed only for the purpose of showing the public where they may legally use their motor vehicles, it does not display the information you would need to plan a trip or navigate throughout the Forest. There are a variety of visitor maps available to be used in combination with the Motor Vehicle Use Map for this purpose.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map is revised annually to incorporate changes to the Forest road and trail system as a result of Travel Management Planning occurring throughout the year. Maps are issued in January, so make sure the copy you carry is current.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Motor Vehicle Use Map or the information displayed on it, please contact your local Ranger District and request to speak to the Motor Vehicle Use Coordinator.