

Brown Mountain: Land of mystery

The off-highway-vehicle area is located on Brown Mountain, another area of interest on the Grandfather Ranger District. Brown Mountain is the subject of much folklore surrounding the mysterious lights.

The places to view these mysterious lights are at Brown Mountain Overlook on NC 181 and Wiseman's View on NC 105.

Where can you ride?

The Brown Mountain OHV (off-highway vehicle) area offers 34 miles of trail. This is the only OHV area on the Grandfather District. OHV riders may go only on designated roads and trails posted by signs—pole-like stakes at the head of each trail section.

These trails are mostly designed for trail bikes and ATVs. Jeeps and 4WD vehicles may only use Trail 8 and part of Trail 1. No bushwhacking or cutting vegetation is allowed. Only street legal machines that meet all state regulations for safety and noise may use open Forest Service roads.

Wildlife watch

Protect your national forest wildlife. Call 1-800-662-7131 to report game law violations. Your name and other information is confidential.

For emergencies

In case of injury, dial 911

Hospitals: Grace Hospital: (828) 438-2000;
Caldwell Memorial: (828) 757-5398
Burke Contry Sheriff: (828) 438-5550
NC Highway Patrol: (828) 728-9241



Directions to OHV area

FROM LENOIR:

Take U.S. 90 west to Colettesville; turn left on Adako Road, just beyond elementary school and grocery store. The entrance to the off-highway-vehicle area is the fifth road on your right (about one mile beyond Brown Mountain Beach Road at the Forest Service sign.)

FROM MORGANTON:

Take NC 181 north toward Linville; turn right on Brown Mountain Road (State Road 1405) at a small wooden church on right; OHV entrance road is about five miles east on the left side, 300 feet beyond a small concrete bridge at Forest Service sign.

Follow operating rules and regulations

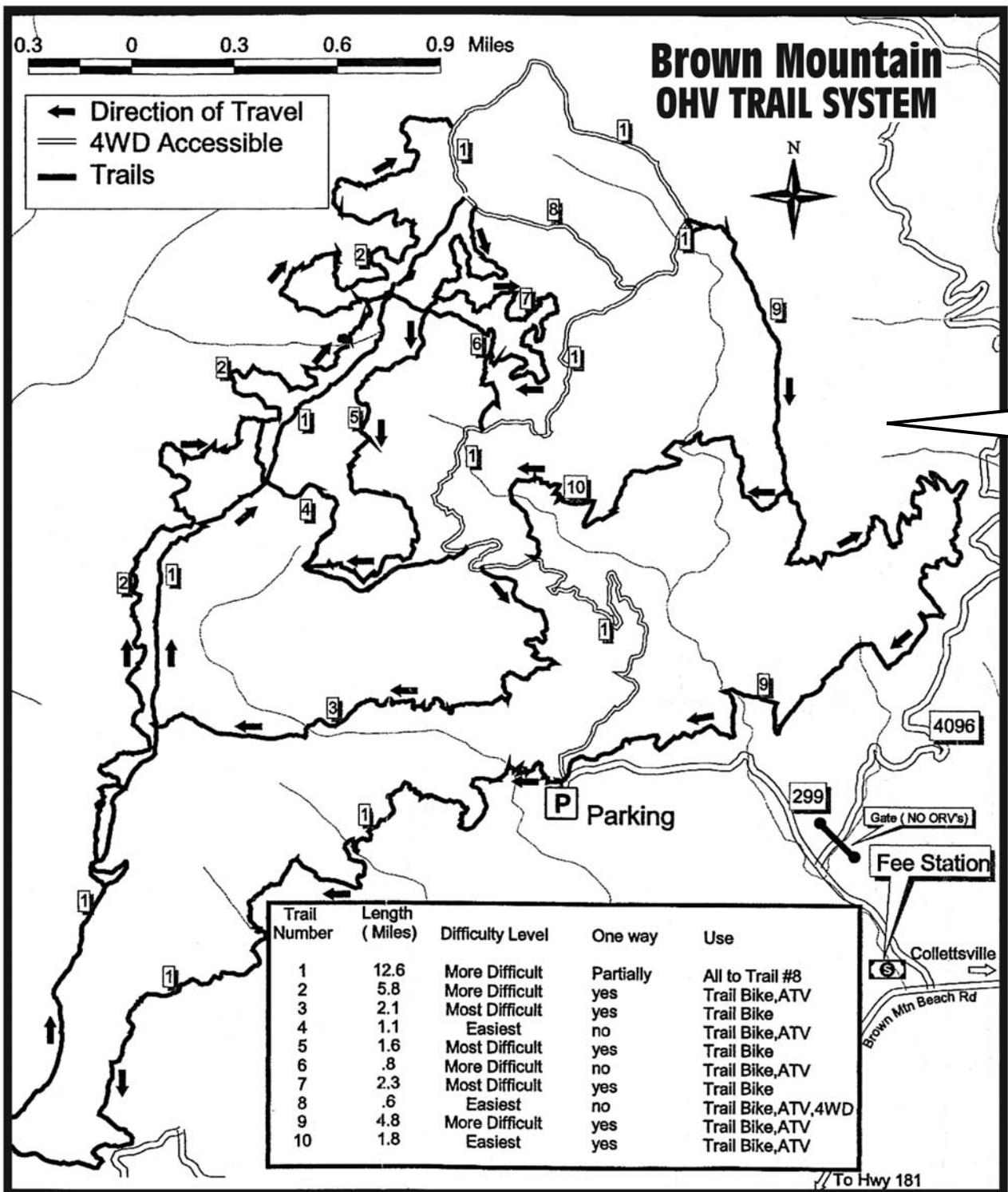
To ensure a safe experience for all forest visitors, follow these rules.

- Do not carelessly operate a vehicle without regard for another's safety or in a way that could endanger any person or property.
- Do not operate a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not operate a vehicle with metal studs embedded in or protruding from tires.
- Do not operate a vehicle in excess of the maximum noise limit allowed. The noise should not exceed 99dBu.
- OHVs are not allowed on forest roads.
- Ride only on designated trails. Do not travel cross-country.
- Riders must have valid passes attached to their vehicles at all times.
- Always comply with state and federal safety laws, including child-age requirements.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in Brown Mountain OHV area or in campsites.

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Tread lightly

- Stay on the designated routes marked with symbols showing the kind of off-highway vehicle allowed. To protect the land, don't carve new routes or make shortcuts.
- Some old routes are badly eroded and are closed, so help nature restore these sites by not riding on them. Avoid wet trails and wheel spins.
- Be sure your spark arrester works properly. Remember: You are responsible for any fire you start.
- Keep noise levels low. Many people go to the forest to get away from noise. Get the quietest machine you can, then make it quieter.
- Stop when you encounter hikers, bikes, and horses and determine the best way to pass. Yield the right of way to hikers and horses.
- Try not to bother wildlife.
- Carry a litter bag and pack out all trash. Learn and use no-trace camping techniques.
- Carry a trowel and bury human waste 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from water.
- Remember, people may judge all OHV owners by your actions.



Detailed maps available

The Brown Mountain OHV map and Chestnut Mountain quad maps give more details on Brown Mountain OHV area. To buy these maps, contact the Grandfather Ranger District. The district also provides camping information.

Grandfather Ranger District:
 109 East Lawing Drive
 Nebo, NC 28761 (828) 652-2144
<http://1.usa.gov/MQ30ra>

The OHV Trail System map shown here is not to scale. A more detailed map is available at the Grandfather Ranger District.

Handling emergencies

Backcountry emergencies are often handled alone, because help is not nearby. In helping someone who is injured, remain calm and use your head.

If you come across someone who is injured, stop immediately! Treat the injury and make the victim comfortable. If you must go for help, leave one person with the injured person,

If you have to leave the victim, provide shelter and food, water and a light within reach. Attach a note to the victim, giving the person's name, injury description, time injury occurred, first aid administered, your name, intended destination, and time you left the site.

Be sure you know your way back to the victim's location.

Volunteers needed

For more information on how you can help maintain these trails, please contact: Grandfather Ranger District; 109 East Lawing Drive; Nebo, NC 28761; (828) 652-2144.

Brown Mountain OHV TRAIL SYSTEM



Ride 34 miles of trail through the Brown Mountain OHV Trail System on your trail bike or all-terrain vehicle, discovering the Brown Mountain area of the Pisgah National Forest.



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