

If you have additional questions, visit or call our office or check out our website.

Maps are available for free at the following locations and on-line.

Revisions are made as necessary and new maps are printed annually in April.



**Ottawa Visitor Center**  
E23949 US Hwy 2  
Watersmeet, MI 49969  
(906) 358-4724

**Supervisors Office**  
E6248 US Hwy 2  
Ironwood, MI 49938  
(906) 932-1330

**Kenton Ranger District**  
4810 E. M-28  
Kenton, MI 49967  
(906) 852-3500

**Ontonagon Ranger District**  
1209 Rockland Road  
Ontonagon, MI 49953  
(906) 884-2085

#### Ottawa MVUM Website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ottawa/home/?cid=STELPRDB511>



Try our interactive mapping tool where you can build and print a custom map!

<http://maps.fs.fed.us/TravelAccess/>

# Ottawa National Forest Motor Vehicle Recreation Opportunity Guide



## Frequently Asked Questions about the Motor Vehicle Use Map

# Frequently Asked Questions

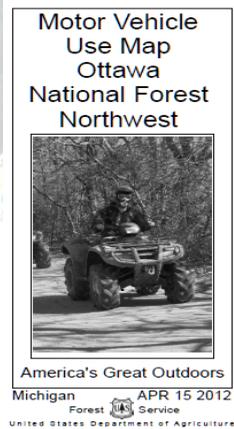
## *"Where Can I Drive My Motorized Vehicle on the Ottawa National Forest?"*

- **What about roads and trails that are not shown on this map?**  
You may only drive your vehicle on the roads and trails shown on the MVUM that are open to your type of vehicle. If a road or trail is not on the MVUM, it is prohibited to drive there. Cross-country or off-road travel is prohibited, including travel on power line or utility corridors.
- **Can I park a vehicle or camper-trailer on the side of the road or in a log landing, or turn around?**  
If the road or trail is designated for motorized use on the MVUM, you may park a vehicle or camper-trailer on the side of the road, in a log landing, or in a turn around that is associated with the road or trail. You may also park at the beginning of a closed road or trail (in front of the closure device), when it is safe to do so and you are not restricting access. For safety and fire response, do not block any roads or gates. Please pay attention to the vegetation and resources and try to avoid any that could be damaged.
- **When can I drive on these roads and trails?**  
All trails and roads with seasonal designation symbol on the MVUM are closed to vehicles from March 15–May 15. Seasonal designations are used to prevent damage to the roads and natural resources during the wet snowmelt season in spring. All other roads and trails without this symbol are open year round.
- **Can I use my OHV during hunting season for baiting or for big game retrieval?**  
Hunters will have access to roads and trails currently designated on the MVUM. Cross-country use for big game retrieval and other activities associated with hunting, such as baiting, scouting, and setting up blinds are prohibited.
- **What about access for someone who is older or disabled?**  
Where motor vehicle use is allowed or prohibited, it is allowed or prohibited for all public use.



## Motor Vehicle Use Maps

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is a free map available at any of the Ottawa National Forest offices and on our Forest website (see back panel). This map shows the roads and trails in the Ottawa National Forest that are designated for public motor vehicle use and the type of vehicle that can be operated. It also shows which routes are restricted during the seasonal closure (March 15 thru May 15).



In addition to complying with Forest Service motor vehicle regulations, users of Forest roads and trails must comply with state ATV regulations. Visit: <http://www.atvsafety.gov/state/michigan.html> for more information on State rules and regulations.



## Signs

Our goal is to have all of our motorized travel routes signed at the primary junctions. Currently most routes have a sign indicating the Forest Service road number and we are in the process of adding stickers to those signs indicating which types of motor vehicles are allowed. However, routes designated for motor vehicle use may not always be signed on the ground (signs are vulnerable to vandalism and severe weather). **The MVUM is the primary tool for you to use to ensure that you are allowed to use your motor vehicle** It is ultimately your responsibility to determine if you are on a designated road or trail for the motor vehicle you are using, whether a route marker or sign is present or not.

The Ottawa uses both gates and earthen berms (made of soil and gravel) to limit or prohibit access to roads. Some gates and berms have been designed to allow OHV's to travel around them; while others are intended to prohibit all motor vehicle use. Users should reference the MVUM to ensure that you are on the correct route!

Resource damage that can occur on wet routes.



## Driving Etiquette for Protecting Our Resources

In the right places, and managed carefully, motor vehicles are an appropriate use of National Forests. It is the Ottawa's goal to promote diverse and quality recreation experiences, while working to ensure resource protection.

It is important to note that wetlands and riparian areas are protected in the state of Michigan, and OHVs are prohibited in or upon the waters of any stream, river, bog or wetland.

- Riders are encouraged to use only designated roads and trails that can accommodate OHV or vehicle use. Riding on wet, rutted, and muddy roads and trails can cause significant resource damage and possible road

closures. Please notify the Forest of any roads or trails that need to be repaired.

- Ensure that your vehicle's undercarriage and tires are not carrying weed seeds. The spread of noxious weeds is a serious threat to wildlife habitat and plant communities. Wash vehicles before and after traveling roads and trails. For more information: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ottawa/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/>

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- Protect and respect cultural resources, such as old cabins, historic mining sites, and traditional cultural properties. They are an important part of our heritage.