Tread Lightly

Ride only on routes wider than your vehicle.
Different trail types are constructed for different widths of vehicles. Learn about different trails and which trails are designed for which vehicles. Remember to only ride on trails wider than your vehicle. Motorized routes fall into 3 categories: all vehicle, vehicles 50 inches or less, or single track motorcycle.

Ride only on routes open to your vehicle.
In Colorado, we use brown signs with white graphics to designate which trails are open to which vehicles. A red slash across a sign indicates a trail is closed to that type of vehicle. Signs are present at trail heads and may be present at trail junctions.

Ride over obstacles, not around them.
Going around obstacles widens trails, impacts vegetation and causes erosion. Challenge yourself by staying on the trail. Use caution when going over obstacles and remember to be courteous to other trail users.

Slow down for your fellow riders.
Care is required when passing or meeting fellow OHV enthusiasts on narrow trails. Slow down. Let the other rider know your intentions. Stay on the trail.

Be an ambassador to non-motorized trail users.
On any day of riding you become the face of OHV recreation to other users, so leave them with a good impression of your sport. Always yield the trail to non-motorized users.

Please Follow the Rules!
This brochure contains a listing of regulations and motorized travel information on the San Juan National Forest. Failure to comply with rules and regulations may result in citations and fines. These regulations are in place to ensure your safety and that of other visitors, and to protect natural resources. For more information see the contact information on the front of this brochure.

Fines
Fines vary by offense and jurisdiction, but Forest Service fines can be up to $5000.00 and 6 months in jail. Fines for riding off of a designated trail begin at $250.00. Offenses incurred while hunting can include losing preference points as well as monetary fines or jail time. State and County fines can be additional.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation is one of many uses allowed on Public Lands.

Help keep public lands open and available for OHV enthusiasts. Ride responsibly and respect the rights of others and natural resources.

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

San Juan National Forest

Motorized Travel





San Juan National Forest Headquarters
Durango, Colorado
(970) 247-4874

Columbine Ranger District Bayfield, CO
(970) 884-2512

Dolores Public Lands Office Dolores, CO
(970) 882-7296

Pagosa Springs Ranger District Pagosa Springs, CO

(970) 264-2268

Online at
http://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan or
www.facebook.com/sanjuannationalforest

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Let's Go for a Ride

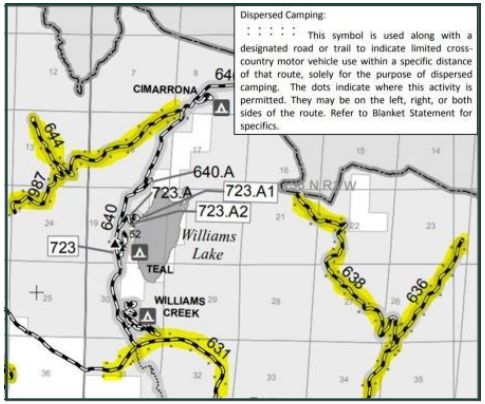
Please remember that you will be sharing Forest Service roads with full-sized vehicles. All roads and OHV trails are also open to bicyclists, horse riders, and hikers.

Damage to roads, trails and other areas is not allowed, and you can be ticketed for damage. On roads and trails designated as open to motorized vehicles, consider the condition of the surface and your ability to successfully travel without damage to yourself, your vehicle, or the road or trail surface.

Check with our office for current conditions and carry a current map. Maps are available at our offices listed on the front of this brochure.

Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) show stretches of road in the National Forest that allow OHV's. National Forest offices carry MVUMs.

Download MVUM by District



Seasonal Road Closures are listed on MVUM's.

Federal Rules

Most National Forest roads are open to OHVs. There are exceptions where roads are closed to OHVs due to high traffic and high speed limits. Check with the Ranger District prior to your visit for details or consult the official Motor Vehicle Use Map for the area.

Temporary Road Closures
National Forest roads or trails may be closed temporarily at times for your safety, to minimize impacts to wildlife, or to prevent road damage. Current conditions are available by calling a local office or online: www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan, then selecting Road Conditions.

Closed Areas
By law, motorized or mechanized (bicycles) vehicles are never allowed in the Piedra Ar-ea, and the Weminuche, Lizard Head, Hermosa and South San Juan Wildernesses.

Access Through Gates
Never park a vehicle in front of a gate to a closed road. It may block emergency access for firefighting, search & rescue, etc. When you pass through gates on trails, leave the gate as you find it (either open or closed). These gates restrict the movement of livestock.

Cross Country Travel
Travel off of roads or designated motorized trails is prohibited unless allowed by a permit or contract issued under federal law or regulation. Cross country travel is not allowed.

Private Property
Unless there is a public right of way or someone has permission from a landowner, it is illegal to cross private land to access public land. There are many private, subdivision or gas well roads that are not open to the public. Trespass violations are enforced by the County Sheriff office.

If your property is adjacent to the National Forest, you are not allowed to drive a motorized vehicle onto National Forest lands from your property.

Parking
Parking is allowed up to one vehicle length off of open roads and motorized trails for day use. For dispersed camping, refer to dispersed camping regulations.

Vehicle Types

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) Definition

Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swamp-land, or other natural terrain. (36 Code of Federal Regulations 212.1). They do not have to be street legal but they must be registered in Colorado to ride on public roads and trails.

- ATV: Less than or equal to 50" wide. Colorado does not recognize ATV's as street legal.
- UTV or Side by Side: Most are wider than 50". Colorado does not recognize UTV's as street legal.
- Motorcycle: In line, 2 wheeled. Street legal motorcycles must be registered as OHV's to travel on designated trails.