

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREST SERVICE ISSUES OHV REMINDER TO HUNTERS

Hunters will find one thing has changed this fall: cross-country driving is no longer allowed on national forest lands in Montana as well as the Custer National Forest in South Dakota, and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in North and South Dakota.

The new policy, approved in January, took effect in July and says that vehicles must stay on existing roads and trails.

It also prohibits driving off roads and trails to retrieve game, officials said.

“We took this step to help stop the spread of noxious weeds and control erosion which driving cross-country certainly contributes to significantly,” Kathy McAllister, acting regional forester said.

Further, McAllister said vehicles shouldn’t travel on routes that are narrower than the vehicle.

“If a single-track trail is open to motorized use, then a motorcycle can use it, but an ATV or pickup shouldn’t be there,” she said.

“We encourage folks to check locally and obey the signs that are posted,” she said.

She suggested users contact the appropriate forest or grassland office for additional information regarding the new requirement and current travel information.

There’s more information about the new policy on maps the agencies sell, in a new free brochure, and online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/> under the heading “Off-Highway Vehicle – New Travel Regulations (MT, ND, SD).”

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