

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FOREST OFFICIALS REMIND DRIVERS TO STAY ON THE ROAD**

**MISSOULA, MONT. – Feel like going for a drive in the great outdoors? The Forest Service says you’re welcome to do that, but just please remember to stay on the roads and trails that are open to vehicle traffic.**

**Last year, the agency banned cross-country driving in the National Forests and grasslands of Montana, North Dakota, and parts of South Dakota.**

**So, if you want to take a spin, officials are saying, “Keep your wheels where they belong.”**

**The ban on cross-country or off-road, off-trail driving applies to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bitterroot, Flathead, Gallatin, Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo national forests in Montana; the Custer National Forest in Montana and South Dakota; and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in North and South Dakota.**

**Officials say by abiding by the new rule, you’ll help protect fragile soils, soft and sensitive areas along creeks and marshes, as well plants and animals.**

**For more information, call or visit the nearest Forest Service office.**

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