

Other Restrictions and Prohibitions

- ATVs must travel at reasonable and prudent speeds; obey speed limit, traffic and road closure signs; and not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land, or other natural resources.
- ATVs may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops (the rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails).
- ATVs may not operate in or across lakes, rivers, or streams except:
 - › When the water body is ice-covered.
 - › At a bridge, culvert, or designated low-water crossing.
- No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on state forest lands.

Hours of Operation Restricted

To reduce disturbance during the prime hunting times, a person possessing any valid deer license is restricted to the following hours of operation for snowmobiles and ATVs* during the firearms deer season, including the muzzleloader season. Such vehicles may only be operated:

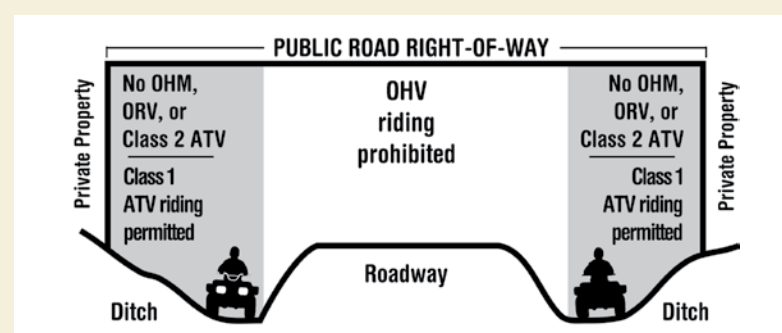
- before legal shooting time (one-half hour before sunrise),
- from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.,
- after legal shooting hours (one-half hour after sunset).

This regulation applies to all public and private lands; however landowners or persons authorized by landowners may operate ATVs on private property at any time. A permit to operate ATVs on public land during the closed time periods may be issued by a DNR conservation officer in an emergency or other unusual condition. ATVs are not allowed in State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, Scientific and Natural Areas, or in most Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). ATV use is regulated in state and national forests. See *Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook 2009* www.mndnr.gov.

* ATVs for the purpose of this regulation are defined as all vehicles not requiring Minnesota Dept of Public Safety licensing, including trail bikes, 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, 6-wheelers, tracked vehicles, and other similarly manufactured or homemade vehicles.

Plan ahead. Know where you are riding! Will you need to travel by road?

New You may operate an off-highway vehicle on a bridge, a roadway shoulder, or the inside bank of a public road right-of-way if necessary to avoid obstructions to travel or environmentally sensitive areas. You must remain in the farthest right-hand lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge, obstacle or area, and make the crossing without delay.



Check for other government regulations or ordinances since cities, towns, counties, and road authorities may further regulate the operation of ATVs under their jurisdiction. Check with the appropriate unit of government for additional regulations. The U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulate motor vehicle use on federal lands. Check with the managing agency before riding on these lands.

Plan ahead. Are there wetlands, lakes, and rivers in your hunting area?

ATV riders need to avoid riding in and around wetlands, lakes, streams and rivers. A person **MAY NOT** operate an ATV in a manner to:

- Indicate a willful, wanton, or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property; or
- Carelessly and recklessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland; or
- Impact a wetland or public waters wetland in excess of minimum amounts established under law (these vary by area of the state and other criteria, check the DNR web site for more information www.mndnr.gov).

ATV riders need to use extra caution during drought years when lakes and river beds dry up. While the water has evaporated, the boundaries of public water beds remain and are illegal for ATVs to ride. You can find the public waters boundaries at www.mndnr.gov.



Is it a wetland?

When most people think of wetlands, they think of swampy, marshy areas complete with ducks and cattails. While those areas are indeed wetlands, many other wetlands look quite different and may even have no surface water for all or part of the year. Wetlands come in all kinds of shapes and sizes from bogs and marshes—to shrub and wooded swamps—to seasonal basins, wet meadows, and rare calcareous fens. **Both the grassy sedge meadow and the shrubby brush before those popple trees in the distance are wetlands.**

New Penalties increased for OHV wetland disturbance

Carelessly and recklessly upsetting the natural and ecological balance of a wetland is a gross misdemeanor and vehicle forfeiture upon a second gross misdemeanor of this type may occur. In addition to training requirements after conviction, operating privileges are suspended for one year for: 1) conviction for carelessly and recklessly upsetting the natural and ecological balance of a wetland (gross misdemeanor violation); or 2) conviction or civil penalty for operation on unfrozen public water, in a state park, SNA, or WMA; willful/wanton/reckless disregard for safety of persons or property; or carelessly upsetting the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland.

Sometimes it can be difficult to determine whether you are in a wetland or a public water. Play it safe. DON'T KNOW? DON'T GO.



Plan ahead. Know your hunting land location? Public lands

The most commonly hunted public lands in Minnesota are state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), State Forests, National Forests, and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WFPAs). Other hunting opportunities include Forest Legacy Conservation Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, county lands, as well as others. Check out more information on potential hunting land locations at www.mndnr.gov.

State of Minnesota laws and rules apply on National Forest Systems Lands, except as otherwise stated in federal regulations. The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulate motor vehicle use on federal lands. Counties may regulate motor vehicle use on forest lands under their jurisdiction differently than the state of Minnesota. Check with the managing agency before riding on these lands. See the Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook for more information at www.mndnr.gov.

Private property

Minnesota's trespass laws have been written to protect human life, livestock, and the rights of landowners. Trespassing is the most frequent complaint landowners have against hunters. Always ask permission before entering private land. You will also need permission to hunt on agricultural land, even if it is NOT posted. Trespassing has criminal and civil penalties. If convicted, you could lose your license to hunt. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws. Remember, your actions reflect on all hunters.



Protect your privilege!

If hunters using ATVs are irresponsible with the use of their machines, there will be increased pressure on land and wildlife management agencies to further restrict ATV use during the hunting season.

Nobody likes more laws and rules; but more laws and rules could become necessary unless you and others like you take steps to voluntarily reduce vehicle impacts.

ATV users are not alone in this respect. As more and more people use public lands for recreation, the impact of these activities is growing. Virtually all recreation users — jeepers, horse enthusiasts, rafters, snowmobilers, hikers, campers, rock climbers, geocachers, motorcyclists, anglers, and mountain bikers—are being asked to reduce the impact of their activities, so that public lands can be enjoyed by this and future generations. Here are some rules and tips to remember while out on the hunt.

Ask yourself... "Am I causing damage?"

Avoid the use of ATVs in wet areas or during wet conditions. Even though lighter weight and low-pressure tires reduce impacts, ATVs can still do damage to wet areas—even in just a single pass.



Stop and think!

Turn around before you make the wrong impression.



STAY OUT!

Don't make problems worse by continuing to use wet routes.



Here are a few tips from other hunters who use ATVs:

- Know the vehicle use regulations for the area you are hunting and where you're permitted to ride.
- Respect road and trail closures, closed areas, and private property.
- Stay on existing roads or trails as much as possible.
- Avoid wet areas or waterways.
- To increase your chances of success and decrease any potential disturbance to hunters around you:
 - 1) access your hunting area on existing roads and trails before shooting hours, and
 - 2) retrieve harvested big game during the middle of the day. (See www.mndnr.gov for more information, including a sunrise/sunset table)
- Have respect for other users. Slow down or stop your ATV when you approach others on the trail. When meeting persons on horseback, approach slowly, pull over and stop, turn off your engine, and remove your helmet, some horses 'spook' easily, then ask how best to proceed.
- Keep your ATV properly tuned and muffled to reduce engine sounds and exhaust emissions.
- When meeting or going around others on the road or trail, pass in a safe and courteous manner.
- Limit ATV use in and around campsites. Be respectful of other campers' desires for quiet.

These are simple tips, but they can go a long way toward reducing the impact of ATV use. They will also help protect wildlife habitat and improve the hunting experience. Most importantly, following these tips will reduce the need for more laws and rules, and help retain the ATV opportunities that you currently enjoy.

If you enjoy accessing your favorite hunting location using an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), you are not alone! Many do.

But remember that using an ATV while hunting is a privilege, and the responsibility is yours to maintain the high quality and character of your hunting area. Being respectful of the landscape and wildlife around you is key to safe guarding this privilege for next year's hunt, as well as that of future generations.

About ATVs

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are part of a group referred to as Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) which also include off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs), such as 4x4 trucks or Jeeps.

ATVs are defined as motorized, flotation-tired vehicles with at least three low-pressure tires, but not more than six tires. Class 1 ATVs are further defined as vehicles with engines less than 960 cc and under 900 pounds. Class 2 or utility ATVs are heavier side-by-side vehicles with engines less than 960 cc that weigh between 900-1,500 pounds. See www.mndnr.gov for more information.



General Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- Transport a firearm on any off-highway vehicle unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed in a case or is a handgun carried under a valid permit to carry (see ***New*** Transport Exceptions)
- Transport an archery bow on any off-highway vehicle when armed with an arrow or bolt, ***New*** bows no longer need to be cased
- Use any off-highway vehicle to chase, run over, or kill a wild animal
- Shoot or attempt to shoot an animal from any off-highway vehicle without a special disability permit
- Shoot from a motor vehicle.



Minnesota's conservation officers want you to have a safe and enjoyable hunt. "Know the law. Plan ahead. And treat other hunters and landowners with the same kind of respect you'd expect."

New Transport Exceptions

A person **MAY** transport an unloaded, uncased shotgun or rifle in a motor vehicle while:

- At a shooting range with permission
- Lawfully hunting on public or private land
- Traveling to or from a site the person intends to hunt that day or has hunted that day.

However, a person **MAY NOT** transport an uncased shotgun or rifle:

- Within Anoka, Hennepin, or Ramsey counties
- Within an area where the discharge of a firearm is prohibited by ordinance
- Within a city with a population of 2,500 or more
- On school grounds
- As otherwise regulated under game refuges, or shining or night vision laws.

A handgun/pistol cannot be transported uncased without a valid permit to carry. See *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* www.mndnr.gov for more detailed information.

ATV off-trail or cross-country travel is prohibited on public lands except for Class 1 ATVs operated during certain times for big game hunting and retrieval, trapping, and constructing stands on state forest lands and some other public lands.



Photos: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This document contains a brief overview of Minnesota's ATV, hunting and trapping laws, rules and regulations. Find more information at www.mndnr.gov. Youth 17 years of age and younger must wear an approved helmet while operating or riding on public lands, trails, and frozen public waters and on road rights-of-way. For complete OHV, ATV, hunting and trapping laws and regulations, consult Minnesota Statutes and Rules.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Information Center 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-6157 Toll free: 1-888- 646-6367 (1-888-MINNDNR) TTY (651) 296-5484 TTY toll free: 1-800-657-3929 www.mndnr.gov.

Ethical riding: www.treadlightly.org

Turn in Poachers hotline: 1-800-652-9093

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This information is available in an alternative format upon request. E-mail the DNR Information Center at info@dnr.state.mn.us or call at (651) 296-6157 or 1-888-MINNDNR; TTY: (651) 296-5484 or (800) 657-3929.

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Hunting and ATVs

Your riding privileges depend on YOU!



New Changes in 2009:

- State Forest riding opportunities
- OHV Gross Misdemeanor operator privileges revoked, and vehicle forfeiture for violating certain laws
- Firearm/bow transportation while hunting



State Forest Lands

Hunting, trapping, and fishing in state forests are generally allowed during open seasons with a valid license. State game refuges within state forests are closed to hunting unless listed as open. Some State forests also contain private holdings within their boundaries, many of which are signed "No Hunting."

ATVs are generally permitted on state forest roads and trails in accordance with state forest motor vehicle use classifications and regulations. Check for updates on Forest Road and Trail conditions before you go. Go to www.FindTheTrails.com and click on "OHV Trail" or "Forest Road" closures. (See the map and list of forest land classifications.)

Areas with Limitations

The big game hunter/trapper exceptions do not apply in areas signed and mapped indicating "No Motorized Travel." All entry points will be posted as "Area with Limitations."



Areas with Limitations by County

County	Forest Name	Classification
Aitkin	Clearwater	Lake
Becker	McGregor Marsh	Coffee Pot
	Sugarbush/Two Rivers	Itasca
		Upper Rice Lake
Beltrami	Indian Creek	Hubbard
	Shell River	Crocus Hill
		Crooked Lakes
		Gulch Lakes
		Mantrap Lakes
		Soaring Eagles
Clay	Fern Lake	Manweiler Dam
	Larson Lake	Mahnomen
	Saum	Snider Lake
	Shotley	Itasca
Hubbard	Beltrami/Hubbard	Dishpan - Fiske Lake
Headwaters	Headwaters	Itasca/Beltrami
Cass	Cass	Morph Meadows NE
		Kanabec
Deep Portage	Deep Portage	Kanabec
Drumbeater Lake	Drumbeater Lake	Kanabec
Land O Lakes SF	Land O Lakes SF	Kanabec
Pillsbury/Meadowbrook	Pillsbury/Meadowbrook	Kanabec
Willow River	Willow River	Kanabec

Unmarked/Unsigned Access Routes:

In a MANAGED forest, motor vehicles MAY operate on all pre-existing, unsigned access routes on State forest lands. In a LIMITED forest, motor vehicles MAY NOT operate on pre-existing, unsigned routes except persons with a valid hunting, trapping, or commercial trapping license may use routes not specifically designated for other uses as per the hunting trapping exceptions.

However, when operating on unsigned routes in Minnesota's state forests, it is illegal to cause erosion, rutting, or damage to trees. So use your best judgment—if it's wet, don't ride!

Managed or Limited State Forest Land Hunting/Trapping Exceptions (Does not apply in the R.J. Dorner Memorial Hardwood Forest.)

Traveling off of roads and trails (cross-country travel) is prohibited on all state lands; however, Minnesota statute has provided four exceptions for ATVs operated in MANAGED or LIMITED State Forests. In these State Forests, persons with a valid hunting, trapping,



or commercial trapping license in possession may use Class 1 ATVs to travel cross-country to:

1. Retrieve big game (Sept. through Dec.)
2. Hunt for big game and construct stands (Oct. through Dec.)
3. Trap during the open season for protected furbearers
4. Trap for minnows under certain conditions.



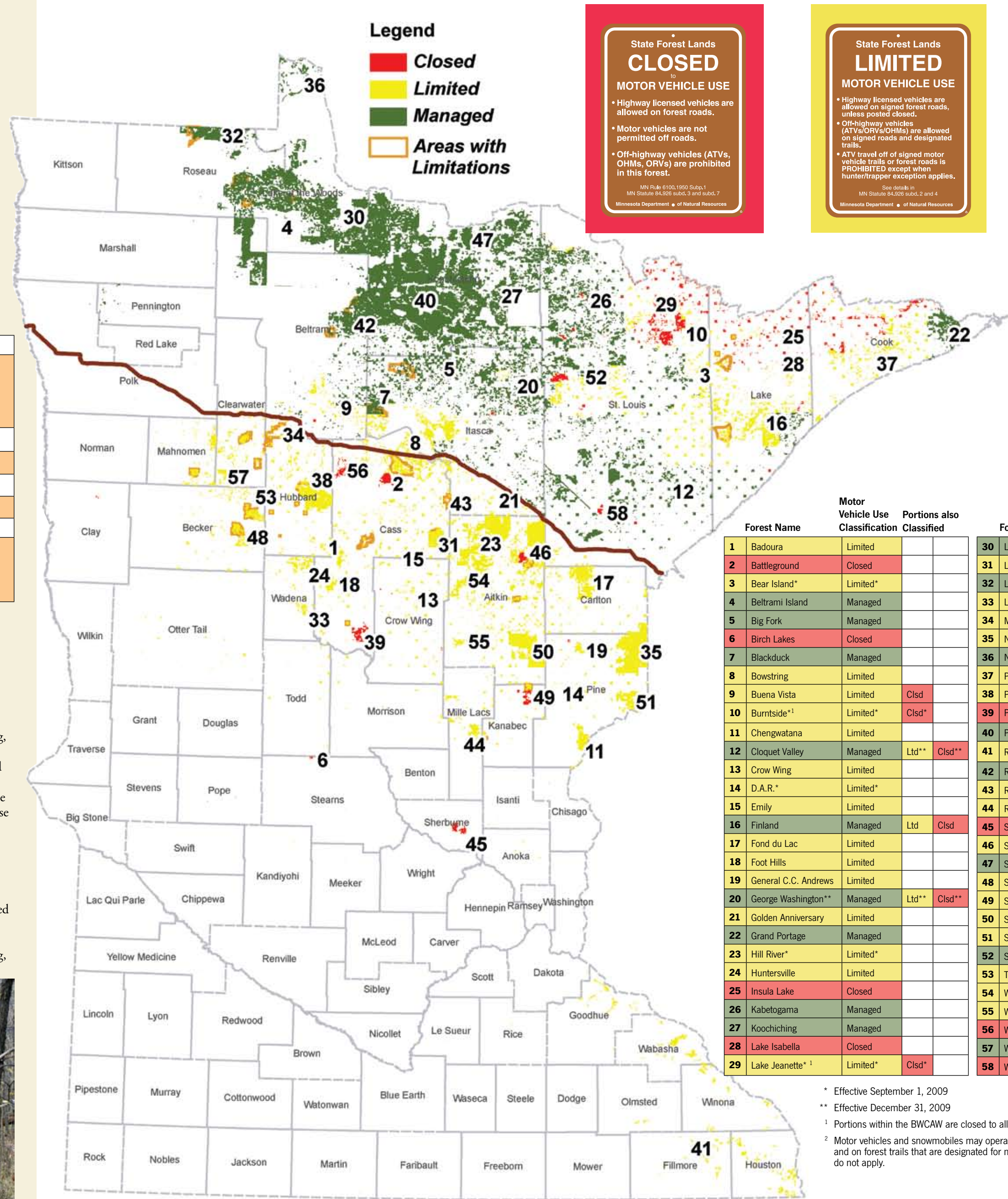
And Class 2 ATVs, ORVs, and HLVs to travel on a trail not specifically designated for other uses. See *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* for more information at www.mndnr.gov.

Bear Baiting

Cross-country travel (off roads and trails) with motorized vehicles for the purpose of bear baiting is not lawful in Minnesota. Class 1 ATVs may only be used off trail to retrieve downed big game in Managed and Limited forests from September through December, and for stand construction October through December.



State Forest Land Classification Map



Legend

- Closed
- Limited
- Managed
- Areas with Limitations

State Forest Lands
CLOSED
to
MOTOR VEHICLE USE

- Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on forest roads.
- Motor vehicles are not permitted off roads.
- Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, OHVs, ORVs) are prohibited in this forest.

MN Rule 6100.1550 Subp. 1
MN Statute 64.502 subd. 3 and subd. 7
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

State Forest Lands
LIMITED
to
MOTOR VEHICLE USE

- Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on signed forest roads, unless posted closed.
- Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, OHVs, ORVs) are allowed on signed roads and designated trails.
- ATV travel off of signed motor vehicle trails or forest roads is PROHIBITED except when hunter/trapper exception applies.

See detail in:
MN Statute 64.502 subd. 2 and 4
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

State Forest Lands
MANAGED
to
MOTOR VEHICLE USE

- Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on roads/routes unless posted closed.
- Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, ORVs, OHVs) are allowed on roads, routes, and on designated trails.
- ATV travel off routes, roads, and designated trails is PROHIBITED except when hunter/trapper exception applies.

MN Statute 64.502 subd. 2 and 4
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Forest Name	Motor Vehicle Use Classification	Portions also Classified	Forest Name	Motor Vehicle Use Classification	Portions also Classified
1 Badoura	Limited		30 Lake of the Woods	Managed	
2 Battleground	Closed		31 Land O'Lakes*	Limited*	
3 Bear Island*	Limited*		32 Lost River	Managed	
4 Beltrami Island	Managed		33 Lyons	Limited	
5 Big Fork	Managed		34 Mississippi Hdwrts.	Limited	
6 Birch Lakes	Closed		35 Nemadji	Limited	
7 Blackduck	Managed		36 Northwest Angle	Managed	
8 Bowstring	Limited		37 Pat Bayle	Limited	
9 Buena Vista	Limited	Clsd	38 Paul Bunyan	Limited	
10 Burntside ¹	Limited*	Clsd*	39 Pillsbury	Closed	
11 Chengwatana	Limited		40 Pine Island	Managed	
12 Cloquet Valley	Managed	Ltd** Clsd**	41 R.J.D. Memorial Hdwd. ²	Limited	
13 Crow Wing	Limited		42 Red Lake	Managed	
14 D.A.R.*	Limited*		43 Remer	Limited	
15 Emily	Limited		44 Rum River	Limited	
16 Finland	Managed	Ltd Clsd	45 Sand Dunes	Closed	
17 Fond du Lac	Limited		46 Savanna*	Limited*	
18 Foot Hills	Limited		47 Smokey Bear	Managed	
19 General C.C. Andrews	Limited		48 Smoky Hills	Limited	
20 George Washington**	Managed	Ltd** Clsd**	49 Snake River*	Limited*	Clsd*
21 Golden Anniversary	Limited		50 Solana	Limited	
22 Grand Portage	Managed		51 St. Croix	Limited	
23 Hill River*	Limited*		52 Sturgeon River**	Managed	Ltd** Clsd**
24 Huntersville	Limited		53 Two Inlets	Limited	
25 Insula Lake	Closed		54 Waukenabo*	Limited*	
26 Kabetogama	Managed		55 Wealthwood	Limited	
27 Koochiching	Managed		56 Welsh Lake	Closed	
28 Lake Isabella	Closed		57 White Earth**	Managed	Ltd**
29 Lake Jeanette ¹	Limited*	Clsd*	58 Whiteface River	Closed	

* Effective September 1, 2009
 ** Effective December 31, 2009
¹ Portions within the BWCWA are closed to all motor vehicle use.
² Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate ONLY on forest roads that are not posted closed, and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. HUNTING/TRAPPING EXCEPTIONS do not apply.

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Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

General WMA ATV Restrictions

A person CANNOT operate an ATV in a Wildlife Management Area, a State Park, or a Scientific and Natural Area, except as specifically authorized by law or rule. See the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook* for more information or www.mndnr.gov.

On WMAs north and west of the green line shown below, an ATV may be used by a licensed firearms deer hunter who does not possess a firearm (cased or uncased) to retrieve and transport a deer that is known to be dead from the close of shooting hours to two hours after the close of shooting hours during the regular firearms deer season and for one day after the season.

ATV RULES

On this Wildlife Management Area ATVs are:

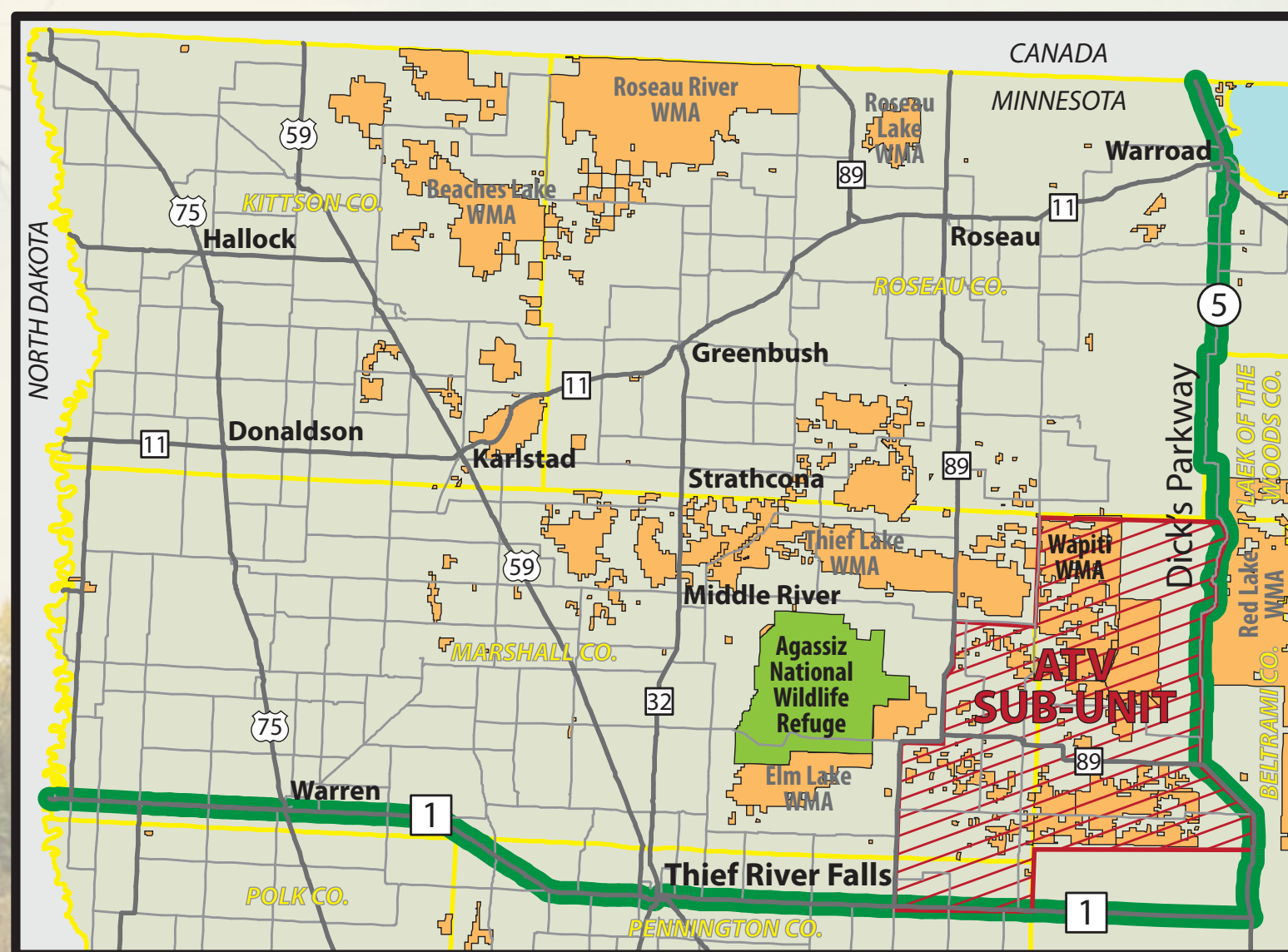
NOT PERMITTED

EXCEPT

During regular firearms deer season, ATVs are permitted off trail by licensed firearms deer hunters to retrieve a harvested deer:

- For two hours after the close of legal shooting hours.
- The day after the end of the season.

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ATV RULES

On this Wildlife Management Area ATVs are:

PERMITTED ON DESIGNATED ATV TRAILS ONLY

EXCEPT

During regular firearms deer season, ATVs are permitted off trail by licensed firearms deer hunters before and after legal shooting hours and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

- Permitted off trail by licensed deer hunter to retrieve a harvested deer:
- For two hours after the close of legal shooting hours.
- The day after the end of the season.

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On WMAs within the ATV Sub-unit, a licensed deer hunter may operate an all-terrain vehicle during the firearms deer season before and after shooting hours and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or during the 2 hour period after the close of shooting hours.

ATV RULES

On this Wildlife Management Area ATVs are:

PERMITTED ON DESIGNATED ATV TRAILS ONLY

EXCEPT

During regular firearms deer season ATVs are:

- Permitted off trail by licensed deer hunters before and after legal shooting hours and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
- Permitted off trail by licensed deer hunter to retrieve a harvested deer:
- The day after the end of the season.

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