

Off-Highway Vehicle Access to State Forest Campgrounds

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a state forest campground?

State forest campgrounds are designated campgrounds in state forests. They provide basic needs while camping such as picnic tables, fire rings, water and toilets. Visitors should not typically expect showers, flush toilets or electric at campgrounds. The campgrounds are managed by the Parks and Trails Division of the DNR.

What is an off-highway vehicle?

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) consist of three classes: All-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road vehicles (ORVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). ATVs are three to six-wheeled recreational vehicles that are less than 65 inches in width. ORVs are recreational vehicles over 65 inches and OHMs are two-wheeled recreational vehicles.

Why is the DNR doing this?

The DNR recognizes that camping opportunities for campers with off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is limited in state forests. Allowing campers with OHVs direct access from campsites to trails will improve their recreational experience.

Are there any state forest campgrounds that currently allow OHV ingress/egress?

Yes. Several campgrounds currently permit OHV access throughout the state. They include Bemis Hill, Blueberry Hill and Faunce in Beltrami Island State Forest, Finland in Finland State Forest, Gafvert in Nemadji State Forest, Larson Lake and Lost Lake in George Washington State Forest and Snake Creek and Trout Valley in the Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

What limitations will be placed on the OHVs accessing the campgrounds?

The OHVs accessing the campgrounds will be subjected to the same rules and regulations as highway licensed vehicles. This includes being registered in accordance with state law, following all posted signs and rules, using only designated roadways and campground spurs/parking areas and no recreational or utilitarian riding within the campground.

What are the steps in the process? What still needs to happen?

The proposal has already been reviewed by an interdisciplinary DNR team familiar with the campground area for conflicts with existing use and resource concerns. Once the public review is complete, the DNR will review comments received and make any necessary changes. The final recommendation will be reviewed and approved by DNR leadership.

How do I get more information? How do I comment?

You may get more information and comment by contacting the Parks and Trails area supervisor leading the project for the campground you have questions about. Contact information can be found on the project website. You may also attend one of the public meetings for more information or to comment. Additionally, you can contact the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR.