

LAW LIMITS CROSS-COUNTRY OHV USE IN STATE FORESTS THAT AFFECTS BEAR HUNTERS

Currently, state forests in Minnesota are classified as "closed", "limited", and "managed" for purposes of OHV use.

No OHV use is allowed in "closed" forests.

In forests classified as "limited", OHV use is allowed only on trails that are posted open, or on roads that are not posted closed to vehicle travel.

In forests classified as "managed", OHVs are allowed to be used, unless a trail or area is posted closed.

Under law, cross-country travel is prohibited, with a few exceptions. Cross-country travel is travel off of roads or trails, essentially breaking new trail. Exceptions to the cross-country travel ban (for both limited and managed forests) that will pertain to bear hunters are:

- Hunting or constructing hunting stands during October is allowed.
- Retrieving harvested bears during September and October is allowed.

These exceptions apply only to All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) less than 800cc engine displacement and 800 pounds total weight motorcycles. Trucks are not allowed cross-country travel. ATV use is regulated in state and national forests. See rules on using public lands in hunting regulations.

Note: These exceptions do not allow bear hunters to travel cross-country to place bait prior to October 1.