

NEWS RELEASE

USDA • FOREST SERVICE • Mark Twain National Forest

401 Fairgrounds Rd. Rolla, Missouri 65401 (573) 364-4621 <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain>.

Release: MT-296	Contact: Henry Hickerson	Voice: 573-785-1475
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OHV Study Proposal Trails Not Open To Public

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. -- Mark Twain National Forest's proposed Off- Highway Vehicle (OHV) study areas are not open to the public for OHV use.

Mark Twain National Forest is proposing to conduct a study to assist forest managers determine the environmental and social impacts of OHV use of trails. A scoping letter and news release describing the proposed activities was made available to the public December 22, 2003. The scoping letter included maps of the proposed trail systems.

The OHV trails as shown on these maps are only a proposal," said Poplar Bluff District Ranger Henry Hickerson. "No final decision has been made. In the meantime, these proposed trails are not open to motorized travel. Interested persons are invited to hike these proposed routes to better understand the proposed study." Until a decision is made, Hickerson said forest users may ride on any open, numbered Forest Service Road in counties where OHV county permits are issued, providing the riders abide by Missouri State motor vehicle regulations.

Hickerson said open, numbered Forest Service Roads are roads that are physically numbered with a post or sign. Roads or trails without a numbered post or sign are not open to motorized vehicles.

OHVs are not permitted off-road except in designated areas. Regulations guiding OHV use on the Mark Twain National Forest may be found at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/recreation/regulations/atv_rules_handout.pdf

Please remember to "Tread Lightly!"

T ravel only where motorized vehicles are permitted. Never blaze your own trail.

R espect the environment and the rights of others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.

E ducate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, complying with signs and barriers, and asking owners' permission to cross private property.

A void streams, lakeshores, meadows, muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, and wildlife and livestock.

D rive responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy your vehicle on wild lands.

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