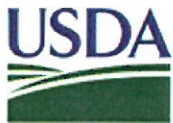




## Off-Highway Vehicle Use Ouachita and Ozark National Forests

*Photo Courtesy of Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism*



### Designated OHV Routes

The Forest Service offers two types of designated OHV opportunities

1. Designated trail systems
2. Designated roads open to all motor vehicles.

#### ***Ouachita***

- Wolf Pen Gap
- Fourche Mtn
- Belle Starr
- 2,100 + miles of roads available for OHV use

#### ***Ozark***

- Brock Creek
- Huckleberry Mtn
- Mill Creek
- Moccasin Gap
- Buckhorn
- 1,100 + miles of roads available for OHV use

Many designated FS OHV routes connect with county roads.

### OHV Use on Arkansas' National Forests

Riding off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is a fun way to recreate on the National Forests in Arkansas. Over 3,200 miles of riding opportunities are currently designated for this use in order to meet that demand.

Ensuring that OHV opportunities are sustainable is important to public land managers. As a result, a balanced approach must be used, factoring in other recreational demands with management of natural resources.

OHV use has increased dramatically in the past two decades in Arkansas, causing significant impacts on the land and posing challenges for forest managers seeking to protect cultural and natural resources while providing suitable opportunities to meet the growing demand.

Degraded trails and roads develop when use exceeds the natural carrying capacity. Another concern is use that spills over onto places that are not designated for OHV traffic. Funding to maintain roads and trails has declined in past years.

The U.S. Forest Service enacted a nationwide Travel Management Rule in 2005. In depth analysis of the use and effects on each national forest led to a system of designated routes to accommodate the growing need. Changing the status of designated routes requires analysis through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The St. Francis National Forest in eastern Arkansas and the Wedington Unit in NW Arkansas do not offer OHV opportunities due to resource concerns.

The National Forests in Arkansas provide the bulk of riding opportunities on public land within the Natural State, including other federal and state agencies.



Riding OHVs is permitted on designated routes on the National Forests in Arkansas. These routes are managed for public use.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Why do National Forests designate where OHV riders can go?**

Unmanaged recreation was identified years ago as a primary threat to the health of National Forest System lands. The use and size of OHVs has increased over the last two decades with increasing impacts. While most OHV riders are very conscientious about the environment, significant damage is occurring. Increased levels of stream sedimentation have been found, ruts are deepening at stream crossings and on steep hillsides, cultural (archeological) resources have been damaged and vegetation is being lost from some fragile soil types. Widespread trash and litter is increasing across the national forests. To help maintain optimal resource conditions, a plan was implemented to designate routes for all motorized recreation that would meet visitor needs and protect forest resources for future generations.

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- **Where can I find out about designated routes for my OHV? Are there maps available of the routes?**

Designated routes on each ranger district can be found using the forest downloadable Motor Vehicle Use Maps at the websites listed below, or the free Avenza app on your smartphone at [www.avenza.com/pdf-maps](http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps). Printed maps may also be obtained from any district office.

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- **Where are OHV enthusiasts allowed to ride?**

OHV enthusiasts can ride on any designated route! There are over 3,200 miles of designated OHV routes on the National Forests in Arkansas. To protect natural resources, using OHVs to travel cross country, or on routes not designated for this use is not allowed. Not every open road or trail is legal for OHV use. Consult the MVUM or Traveling the Backcountry brochure to ensure you are on a legal route. You may not take your OHV behind a closed gate, over a berm, off a designated road or trail (cross-country), or on any other route not shown on the MVUM as designated for that specific use. Motorized vehicles are not allowed in any Wilderness Area.

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- **Can a disabled person use motorized means to access the national forest?**

All OHV riders may operate vehicles on designated trails and routes, regardless of physical ability. Any person with a disability requiring the use of a wheelchair may use the wheelchair anywhere foot travel is permitted even if the wheelchair is battery-powered. All wheelchairs must be designed solely for the use of the person with the disability and suitable for indoor use. This includes routes and trails that have not been designated for motor vehicle use. Wheelchairs are allowed on all OHV-designated routes.

Ouachita National Forest

(501) 321-5202

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/ouachita/recreation/ohv>

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

(479) 964-7200

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/osfnf/recreation/ohv>