

# Be Responsible or be regulated...IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

If you are one of the many hunters in the great state of Minnesota who enjoys accessing your favorite hunting location with an **all-terrain vehicle (ATV)**, you are not alone!

Using **ATVs** while hunting is a **privilege**, and the responsibility is yours to maintain the high quality and beauty of your hunting area. Being respectful of the landscape and wildlife around you is key to ensuring the next year's hunt, as well as that of future generations. Here are some rules and tips to remember while out on the hunt.

## About ATVs

ATVs are defined as motorized, floatation-tired vehicles of not less than three low-pressure tires, but not more than six tires. Class 1 ATVs are further defined as vehicles with engines less than 800cc and under 900 pounds. Class 2 ATVs are defined as vehicles with engines less than 800cc weighing between 900-1,500 pounds.



Class 1 ATV



Class 2 ATV

## Managed or Limited State Forest Land Hunting and Trapping Exceptions (Class 1 ATVs)

**Travel off 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 (see reverse for forest classifications). In these State Forests, Class 1 ATVs may be used cross-country to:

- retrieve big game (September through December)
- hunt for big game and to construct stands (October through December)
- trap during the open season for protected furbearers
- trap for minnows under certain conditions.

The ATV operator must have the appropriate valid hunting, trapping, or commercial license in possession. (These do not apply to the Richard J. Dorer Forest.)

## Class 2 ATV rules

Class 2 ATVs may use unmarked/unsigned routes (see State Forest section on reverse for definition) during hunting season, but may not travel off-trail or cross-country for any reason.

## Related Off-Highway Vehicle Laws

It is unlawful to ride:

- in unfrozen public waters (lakes, rivers, streams, and certain wetlands), or in calcareous fens. (definition: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Calcareous\\_Fen\\_List.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/Calcareous_Fen_List.pdf))
- on a trail on public land that is for non-motorized use only.
- on restricted areas within public lands that are posted or where gates or other clearly visible structures are placed to prevent unauthorized motorized vehicle access.

## Using ATVs During Deer Season

To reduce disturbance during the prime hunting times, a person possessing any valid deer license is restricted to the following hours of operation for 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 Regulations for more details.)

## Firearms and Archery Transportation

While travelling on a motor vehicle, all firearms, including handguns, must be unloaded and contained in a case, and all bows must be unstrung or contained in a case. Discharge of a firearm or bow from an ATV without a permit is illegal.



## Special Permits for Disabled Hunters

A permit to shoot from a standing motor vehicle may be issued to a licensed hunter who has a permanent physical disability, and is unable to step from a vehicle without the aid of a wheelchair, crutches, braces, or other mechanical support or prosthetic device; or is required to use supplemental oxygen to assist breathing because they are unable to walk any distance because of a permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease. Permits are available at any DNR regional office, or by calling the DNR Information Center at: 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

**Public waters** where ATVs may not be ridden include: below the ordinary high-water level of unfrozen lakes, rivers, and streams; certain wetlands; or in calcareous fens. The inventory of public waters can be viewed on DNR's Web site ([http://www.mndnr.gov/waters/watermgmt\\_section/pwi/maps.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/waters/watermgmt_section/pwi/maps.html)) or at DNR Waters and Fisheries offices; and at county auditors, soil and water district, watershed district, and zoning and engineering offices.

## ATVs and Wetland Disturbance

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.
- carelessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland.
- impact a wetland or public waters wetland in excess of minimum amounts established under law.

Wetland restrictions vary by area of the state and other criteria. Check the DNR Web site for more information, [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov).

# ATV RIDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF BIG GAME HUNTING IS A PRIVILEGE!

## RESPECT the Land



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



OK! Minimal Impact



Stop and Think!



STAY OUT!

## Make a good impression...

The actions that you take when riding affect how others view the sport. Actions of ATV riders that affect their sport are:

### Law Violations:

- Trespassing
- Operating on wetlands
- Uncased firearms
- Destroying trees or crops
- Under-aged persons riding
- Carrying too many passengers
- Littering

### Unsafe Riding:

- Speeding
- Not wearing a helmet
- Operating near vehicles
- Ill-fitting machine for operator
- Hill climbing

### Unethical Behavior:

- Causing erosion
- Running on roads
- Excess operation between 11 and 2
- Disturbing someone's hunt
- Hunting from ATVs

## For More Information

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 296-6157  
Toll free: (888) 646-6367 (MINNDNR)  
TTY (651) 296-5484  
TTY toll free: (800) 657-3929  
[www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov)  
Ethical riding: [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)  
Turn in Poachers hotline: 1-800-652-9093

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
[www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov)

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## Hunting and ATVs



Your privilege to ride depends on you!

**Your responsible riding continues the privilege. Share this information with others in your party.**



# Know where you are riding!

## Hunting Land Locations

Finding a great place to hunt is often as challenging as the actual hunting itself. Minnesota hunters are fortunate that the search is not nearly as difficult as it is in many states, where public land is rare. The most commonly hunted public lands in Minnesota are state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), State Forests, National Forests, and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). For additional information, go to [www.mndnr.gov/hunting/tips/locations.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/hunting/tips/locations.html)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** What are the restrictions on the use of my ATV while deer hunting?
- A:** It depends on where and when you are deer hunting. On private land, you may travel on private roads or trails or off roads and trails. However, public waters (such as lakes or streams) and wetlands must be avoided, as damaging public waters is illegal.
- On public land in a National Forest, call 218-335-8600 for the Chippewa National Forest and 218-626-4300 for the Superior National Forest. For county land, contact the local county authority. See information on WMAs and State Forests below.

## 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 full "2008 Hunting and Trapping Regulations" for more information.

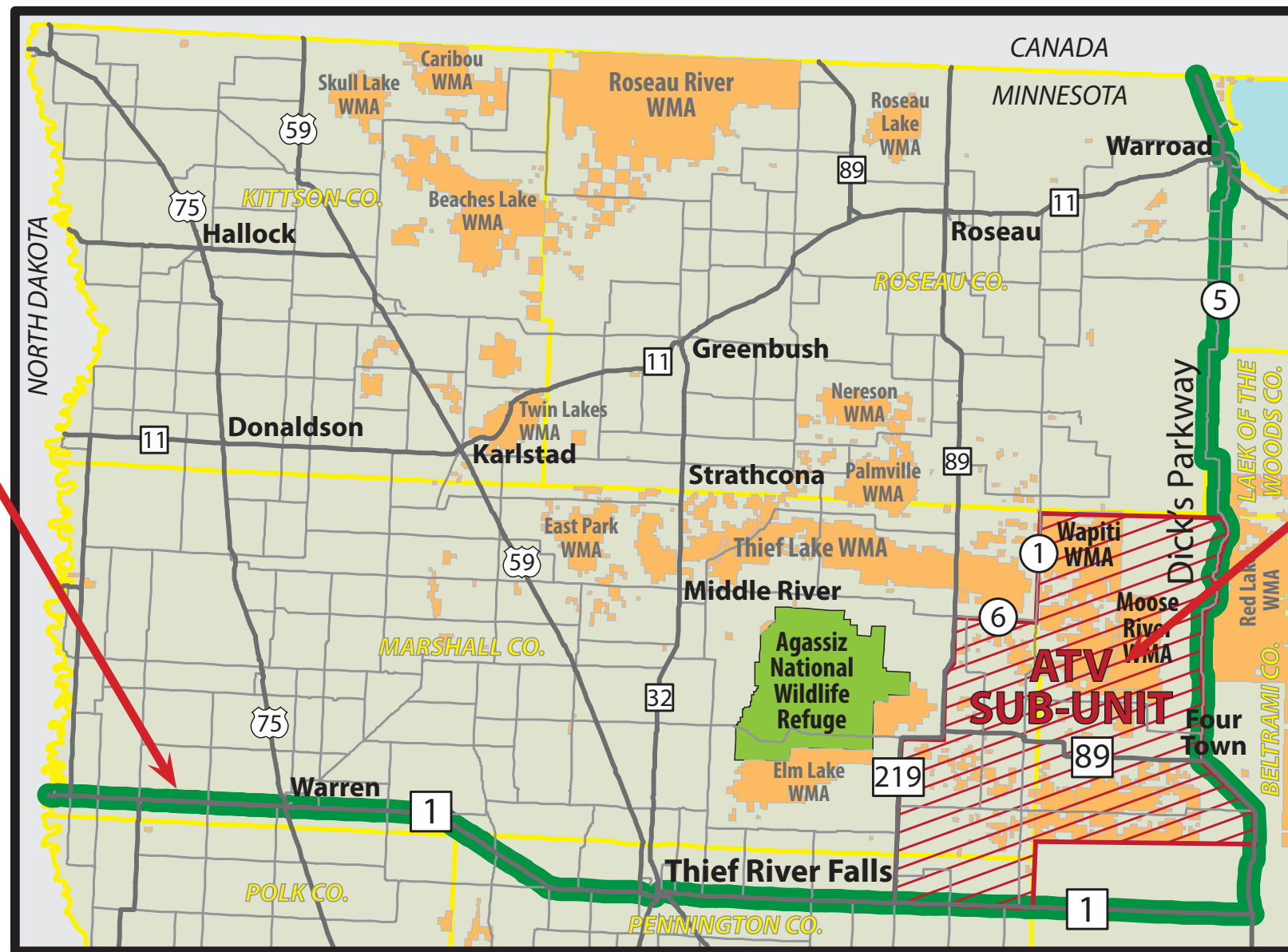


### WMAs with Special ATV Use Allowed

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.

**watch for this sign!**

**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 without a firearm in possession to retrieve a harvested deer:  
• For two hours after the close of legal shooting hours.  
• The day after the end of the season.  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



**watch for this sign!**

**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 without a firearm in possession to retrieve a harvested deer:  
• For two hours after the close of legal shooting hours.  
• The day after the end of the season.  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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.

**watch for this sign!**

**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.  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### Private Property

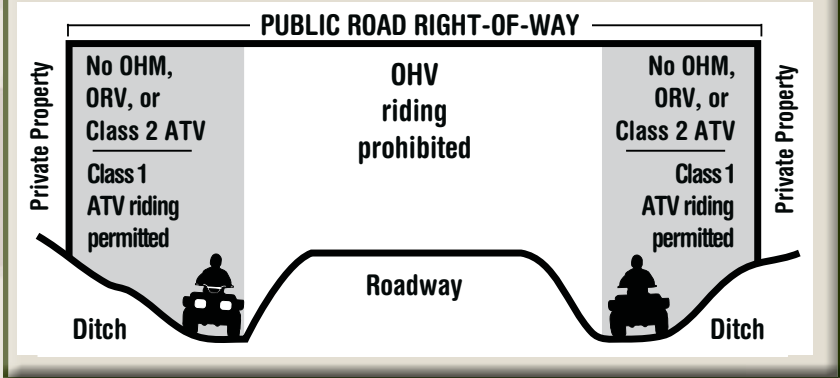
Most of Minnesota is private property. And most hunters hunt on private land. Minnesota's trespass laws have been written to protect human life, livestock, and the rights of landowners. These laws, summarized in the "Hunting and Trapping Regulations," require hunters to get permission to hunt agricultural land.

Also, hunters can't hunt any posted private land unless they have written permission, and they can't hunt land if they've been told to leave. To find out if unmarked land is private, inquire at the county auditor's office.



**Public road right-of-way** includes the entire right-of-way of a roadway that is not privately owned, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians.

It is illegal to operate ATVs on the inside slope, shoulder, and roadway of state roads and most county roads, except when avoiding an obstacle, such as a bridge. NOTE: Class 2 ATVs may be operated on the shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and on the right side of township roads and city streets if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws. Check with local authorities for the rules in the area you are riding. Class 2 ATVs may NOT be operated on the shoulder of a state trunk highway. See "2008 OHV Regulations" for full rules.



### Is It Trespassing?

On private land, the simple and best answer is, ask first! Signs are posted by the landowners, and they will state, "No Trespassing," or similar words in two-inch letters and the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws.



Civil penalties start at \$50 for the first offense, and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

Other hunting opportunities include Forest Legacy Conservation Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, county lands, as well as others. Check out: [www.mndnr.gov/hunting/tips/locations.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/hunting/tips/locations.html) for more information on these opportunities.

## State Forests

When deer hunting in a State Forest, you need to know the Forest's classification. Is it a **Closed** forest, a **Limited** forest, or a **Managed** forest?

**Area with Limitations**  
Hunter/Trapper Exception Does Not Apply Here  
**No Motorized Travel**  
Authorized Vehicles Only  
MN Statute 84.02 Subd. 5  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Areas with Limitations** are areas within State Forests where the big game/trapper exceptions do not apply. Generally, hunters using forest lands classified as **Managed** or **Limited** are afforded off-highway vehicle exceptions when hunting big game or transporting or installing hunting stands during October, November, and December, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; retrieving big game in September, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; tending traps during an open trapping season for protected furbearers, when in possession of a valid trapping license. **Areas with Limitations do not have this general exception.**

**State Forest Lands CLOSED**  
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 Statute 84.02 Subd. 7  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

In a **CLOSED** forest, no ATVs are allowed on state land for either hunting or recreational riding.

**State Forest Lands MANAGED**  
MOTOR VEHICLE USE  
• Highway licensed vehicles allowed on forest roads unless posted closed.  
• Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, OHVs, ORVs) are allowed on forest roads, and on designated trails.  
• ATV travel off roads, roads, and designated trails is PROHIBITED except when hunting/trapper exception applies.  
MN Statute 84.02 Subd. 8  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

In a **MANAGED** forest, allowed ATV use for deer hunting is the same as in a Limited forest except that in a Managed forest, traffic is allowed on all routes, including ATV trails, forest roads, and unmarked routes, unless the route is closed with a sign, gate, or physical barrier. See hours of operation under the "Limited" section.

**State Forest Lands LIMITED**  
MOTOR VEHICLE USE  
• Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on forest roads unless posted closed.  
• Off-highway vehicles (ATVs, OHVs, ORVs) are allowed on forest roads and designated trails.  
• ATV travel off roads, roads, and designated trails is PROHIBITED except when hunting/trapper exception applies.  
MN Statute 84.02 Subd. 9  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

In a **LIMITED** forest in **September** an ATV can be used on an ATV trail or forest road or off-trail for retrieval of a big game animal when in possession of a valid big game license.

In a **LIMITED** forest during the months of **October, November, and December**, for hunting big game, or for transporting or installing stands when in possession of a valid big game license:

- Class 1 ATVs - can be used off trail, on Class 1 ATV trails, on trails not designated for a specific use, and on forest roads
  - Class 2 ATVs - can be used on Class 2 ATV trails, on trails not designated for a specific use, and on forest roads
  - ORVs - can be used on trails not designated for a specific use and on forest roads
- NOTE: These exceptions do not apply if the route is closed with a sign, gate, or physical barrier, or to the Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

Forest trails that are designated for a specific use other than ATV riding cannot be used by ATVs for big game hunting.

**Hours of operation for ATVs during the firearms deer season, including the muzzleloader season are:**

- before legal shooting time (1/2 hour before sunrise),
- from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- after legal shooting hours (1/2 hour after sunset).

**NOT ALL PUBLIC LAND BOUNDARIES ARE MARKED!**  
Use maps and a GPS unit to know whose land you are on. Learn the Off-Highway Vehicle rules for the land you are on.

### Forest Name and Classification

Badoura	Limited	Lake of the Woods	Managed
Battleground**	Closed	Land O' Lakes	Managed
Bear Island	Managed	Last River	Managed
Beltrami Island	Managed	Lyons**	Limited
Big Fork	Managed	Miss. Headwaters**	Limited
Birch Lakes	Closed	Nemadji	Limited
Blackduck	Managed	Northwest Angle	Managed
Bowstring**	Limited	Pat Bayle*	Limited
Buena Vista**	Limited	Paul Bunyan	Limited
Burntside***	Closed/Managed	Pillsbury	Closed
Chengwatana	Limited	Pine Island	Managed
Cloquet Valley	Managed	R.J.D. Memorial***	Limited
Crow Wing**	Limited	Red Lake	Managed
D.A.R.	Limited	Remer**	Limited
Emily**	Limited	Rum River	Limited
Finland**	Limited/Closed	Sand Dunes	Closed
Fond du Lac	Limited	Savanna	Managed
Foot Hills	Limited	Smokey Bear	Managed
General Andrews	Limited	Smokey Hills**	Limited
George Washing.	Managed	Snake River	Limited
Golden Anniver.	Managed	Solana	Limited
Grand Portage	Managed	St. Croix	Limited
Hill River	Managed	Sturgeon River	Managed
Huntersville**	Limited	Two Inlets**	Limited
Insula Lake	Closed	Waukenabo	Managed
Kabetogama	Managed	Wealthwood	Limited
Koochiching	Managed	Welsh Lake**	Closed
Lake Isabella	Closed	White Earth	Managed
Lake Jeanette	Closed/Managed	Whiteface River	Closed

Go to: <http://www.mndnr.gov/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/status.html> for the latest information  
\* effective September 1, 2008  
\*\* effective December 31, 2008  
\*\*\* Portions are limited and managed. Effective 9/1/08 portions are closed, limited, and managed.  
\*\*\*\* This limited forest does not have any areas where the big game hunter/trapper exception applies.

### Unmarked / Unsigned Routes: Vehicle Use Rules and Regulations

In a **Managed** forest, motor vehicles may be operated on pre-existing, unsigned routes on State Forest lands. When operating on unsigned routes in Minnesota's State forests, it is illegal to cause erosion, rutting, or damage to trees.

**Use your best judgement - if it's wet, don't ride!**

### Bear Baiting

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



**Check for updates** on Forest Road and Trail conditions before you go!  
Go to [www.FindTheTrails.com](http://www.FindTheTrails.com) and click on "OHV Trail" or "Forest Road" closures.