



LANGLADE COUNTY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE AND TRAIL POLICY

Approved by Forestry and Recreation Committee

April 14, 2023

Purpose.

Many separate groups of off-highway vehicles have utilized trails and roads on the County forest for many years. Indiscriminate use of off-highway vehicles can damage fragile ecosystems and fragile resources on the County Forest. Motor vehicles, ATV's, UTV's and motorcycle use off road can create erosion on hills and trails, destruction of stream banks, lake beds and conflicts with other users often restricting off-road vehicle use. The purposes of this policy are to:

1. Define and regulate the use of off-road vehicles on the County Forest to provide protection to the forest and natural resources.
2. Define official areas for off-road vehicle recreational use on the County Forest to provide for a manageable area for such use.
3. Create an official off-road trail system on the County Forest to meet current and future needs for recreational users of Langlade County.

Definitions.

As used in this policy, the following terms mean:

- 1) **DEPARTMENT.** The Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department
- 2) **COMMITTEE.** The Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Committee, assigned by the Langlade County Board to oversee policy and operations of the Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department.
- 3) **RESPONSIBLE TRAIL CLUB.** An official club with an official legal identity and the desire, means and ability to enter into an agreement to establish, construct and maintain a recreational trail on County property. A responsible club also provides liability insurance to the County for club members engaged in trail establishment, construction and maintenance activities.
- 4) **MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAIL.** Include all trails designed, operated and maintained for use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV), Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) or Snowmobiles as defined in Wisconsin DNR Regulations or other Motorized uses as may be defined by the Committee.
- 5) **MOTOR VEHICLE.** A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012. Including 2-wheel-drive and 4-wheel drive, 4- wheel conventional vehicle designed for road use.
- 6) **OFF-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLE ORMV.** A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012, that has been used off of a road. Examples may include but not be limited to custom 4x4 jeeps, SUVs, or trucks designed for off-road use with or without modifications that **still allow for licensed highway use.**
- 7) **OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV).** A commercially designed and manufactured motor driven device that does not meet federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect on July 1, 2012, that is not a motorcycle, golf cart, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), utility-terrain vehicle (UTV), low-speed vehicle,



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mini-truck, or tracked vehicle, that is designed to be used primarily off of a highway and was designed for off-highway use. Examples may include but not be limited to custom 4x4 jeeps, SUVs, or trucks designed for off-road use with modifications that **do not allow for licensed highway use because of vehicle modifications such as wheel width or vehicle height.**

- 8) **OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) PERMIT.** Permit issued by the Department allowing use of defined and mapped ORV trails.
- 9) **PERMITTED OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV).** Include all ORMV and ORV authorized by the Department permit to utilize ORV trails.
- 10) **PERMITTED ORV OPERATOR** Any person that has obtained and signed an ORV Operations Permit authorized and approved by the Department.
- 11) **OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) TRAIL.** Include all trails on County Forest property authorized by Committee action through a special use permit issued to a responsible trail club. Trails must meet sustainable design standards with attention to reduce or limit environmental impacts. Special use agreements require construction, operation and maintenance of the trail by the responsible trail club requiring supervision and approval of the Department.
- 12) **RESPONSIBLE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE CLUB.** A Department approved Club which has been duly formed, with the capabilities and membership to construct, maintain, manage and operate ORV trails under agreements with the County. Responsible clubs have financial ability to develop and manage trails which are approved.
- 13) **FOREST ROAD.** Hard-surfaced roads, gravel or dirt roads or other routes capable of travel by a 2-wheel-drive, 4-wheel conventional vehicle designed for highway use, except for and interstate, state, or county highway or Town managed road.
- 14) **OPEN FOREST TRAILS AND ROADS.** Designated path or way, **not posted as closed** to motor vehicles by a sign or blocked by a gate (open or closed) or physical barrier, that may be traveled by a 2-wheel-drive or 4-wheel drive, 4-wheel conventional vehicle.
- 15) **DESIGNATED ORV TRAIL.** Any forest trail that is posted and signed as open for ORV use by approval of the Committee.
- 16) **DESIGNATED ORV ROUTE.** A Forest Road or other road that is designated and signed by the Department for ORV use.
- 17) **ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV).** Wisconsin law, Chapter 340.01 (2g) of Wisconsin Statutes, defines an all-terrain vehicle as a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device which has a net weight of 900 pounds or less, *was originally manufactured with a width of 50 inches or less, equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator* and which is designed by the manufacturer to travel on three or more tires. This includes small or child-sized ATVs. Certain ATVs that do not currently fit the ATV definition may be registered as UTVs. The following do not meet legal ATV specifications.
 - Any recreational vehicle or machine that does not meet the statutory specifications for ATVs.
 - An ATV modified with tracks, skis, etc.
 - Machines that can be legally registered as UTVs.
 - An off-road motorcycle.
 - 6-8 wheel amphibious vehicles.
 - A go-cart or golf cart.
 - Golf cart: a vehicle in which the speed attainable in one mile does not exceed 20 mph on a paved, level surface, and that is designed and intended to convey one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course.
 - A homemade or non-commercially manufactured machine.



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18) **UTILITY TERRAIN VEHICLE (UTV).** Wisconsin law Chapter 23.33.(1)(ng) of Wisconsin Statutes, defines a utility-terrain vehicle as a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that is designed to be used primarily off highway, and originally manufactured and equipped with all of the following: a weight, without fluids, of 3,000 pounds or less; four or more tires; steering wheel; tail light; brake light; two headlights; width of not more than 65 inches; seat belts; and roll bar or similar device designed to reduce the likelihood that an occupant would be crushed as the result of a rollover. This includes small or child-sized UTVs. Vehicles that do not qualify as an ATV as defined in ss.340.01(2g) but are commercially designed and manufactured, motor driven devices that contain 3 or more tires, a weight without fluids of 2000 pounds or less, a width of 65 inches or less and a seat designed to be straddled by the operator may also be registered as a UTV. The following do not meet legal UTV specifications:

- A motor-driven device that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.
- A UTV modified with tracks, skis, etc.
- A dune buggy or golf cart.
- Golf cart: a vehicle in which the speed attainable in one mile does not exceed 20 mph on a paved, level surface, and that is designed and intended to convey one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course.
- Vehicles that meet the legal definition of a low speed vehicle.
- A mini-truck.
- A homemade or non-commercially manufactured machine.

USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON COUNTY OWNED LAND

- ORV Vehicle Permit Required.** Any ORV operating on trails signed by the Department as open to ORV travel, shall have a vehicle permit issued by the Department attached to the vehicle.
- ORV Operator Permit Required.** Any operator of an ORV operating on trails signed by the Department as open to ORV travel, shall possess an ORV operator permit as issued by the Department.
- Cross Country ORV Operation.** Cross Country ORV operation on County owned lands is not permitted. Creating new trails without Department approval is prohibited. ORV operation must be only on designated trails.
- Designated ORV Trails.** Trails or roads closed to motor vehicles as approved by the Committee and established, created, constructed, and maintained as an ORV Trail under a special use permit with a Responsible Off Road Vehicle Club.
- Operation of ORV on Designated ORV Trails.** Permitted ORV's with a permitted operator may operate on ORV trails as designated open by signage approved by the Department. Speed on designated trails shall not be at a rate which creates questionable safety for the operators, passengers, or other users of County lands or which exceed 10 miles per hour whichever is less.
- Operation of ORV on Open Forest Trails and Roads.** Permitted ORV's with a permitted operator possessing a valid driver's license may operate a permitted ORV on any trail or road open to motor vehicles on County Forest lands. The operator of the ORV retains the responsibility to identify roadways and trails as owned by Langlade County prior to use. Speed on open forest trails and roads shall not exceed the posted speed limit or 35 miles per hour where speed limits are not posted.
- Official Use Exempt.** This policy, in its entirety does not apply for emergency response, patrol, contractors under a department contract for logging or construction work or departmental vehicles.



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OTHER USE OF ORV DESIGNATED TRAILS

- a) Protected uses of the County forest including hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and sight seeing shall be **maintained and not restricted** on or near any designated ORV trail
- b) ATV's, UTV's, Motorcycles, undefined motor vehicles or state motor vehicles not possessing a permit **shall not be permitted** on designated ORV trails.

CHAPTER 16 ORDINANCE SECTIONS RELATED TO THIS POLICY

1) REFUSE.

- a) No person shall leave or dump any litter, rubbish, debris, dirt, stone, stumps, yard waste or other materials on any County-owned lands.
- b) Waste receptacles at all facilities are for waste deposition by the department or those utilizing the facility under a permit or license, no person shall utilize waste receptacles on County owned property for deposition of personal waste.

2) FOREST ACCESS. No person shall block or restrict access to any trail, road, parking area, or recreational facility, or intentionally interfere with lands and facilities under the management and regulatory control of the Committee. Access closure by the Department is exempt from this subsection.

3) VEHICLES AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

- a) *Damage by Vehicle.* No person shall operate a vehicle for recreational use or other purpose in or on any property administered by the Committee in such a manner as to cause intentional soil displacement, soil erosion, soil or water pollution or other environmental damage as determined by the Department
- b) *Abandoned Vehicles.* As used in this section, vehicle means any motor vehicle, boat, ATV, UTV, motorcycle snowmobile, trailer, semi-trailer, mobile home, or any other vehicle as determined abandoned. No person shall leave any vehicle unattended without prior Department authority for more than 48 hours under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to have been abandoned. An abandoned vehicle shall constitute a public nuisance and may be removed from County property by the Department. Cost of recovery of the abandoned vehicle shall be the responsibility of the owner.
- c) *Speed.*
 - i) No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour in any developed recreational facility or contrary to official traffic signs on any road or recreational trail.
 - ii) No person shall operate any vehicle on County forest roads without posted speed limits at speeds exceeding 35 miles per hour.
 - iii) No person shall operate any vehicle on any trail or road at unreasonable speeds or speeds which create questionable safety for the operator, passengers or other users of the County lands.
- d) *Parking.* No person shall park, stop or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft, in any manner as to block, obstruct, or limit the use of any road, trail, waterway, facility, or contrary to posted notice.

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- e) *Motorized Access for Mobility Impaired People.* Individuals with a State-issued, disability-parking placard or card, or other State-issued proof of disability, a valid, State-issued, disability-parking placard or card, or a Class A, B, or C Disability Permit issued by WI DNR or other State-issued proof of disability may apply for a Power-Driven Mobility Device (PDMD) from the Department. Under an approved PDMD permit use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDM's) including defined motorized vehicles will be provided on specific areas of the forest lands that applicants wish. to access. PDMD permitted access will be approved only on existing roads and trails and cross-country travel will not be approved.
- f) *Licensed Motor Vehicles on Designated Snowmobile Trails.* Use of licensed motor vehicles is not authorized on designated snowmobile trails during the period that commences with the first trail grooming until such a time that the trail officially closes.
- g) *Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM).* Use of OHM that are not DOT licensed on County land is only authorized on trails or routes designated on the Langlade County OHM Trails Map and on approved access roads or trails which are appropriately signed as open to unlicensed OHM. Cross country or use of OHM that are not DOT licensed on roads or trails not posted as open is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as issued by the Department. No person shall operate OHM in unauthorized areas. **There currently are no OHM trails designated on County lands.**
- h) *All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV).* with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as issued by the Department or agency.
 - i) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on public lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the Federal, State, County or Local agency controlling the lands under a permit or **unless marked or designated as open** by action of the appropriate agency. County forest roads open to motor vehicle traffic are open to ATV/UTV use.
 - ii) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on public lands, trails, or roads **designated as closed** to vehicles by a sign, physical barrier or gate (either open or closed) placed by the agency controlling the lands.
 - iii) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV cross country on public land.
 - iv) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on private lands, trails, or roads unless authorized by the landowner individually or by a trail use easement or agreement as part of a public trail.
 - v) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV off from established trail surfaces on any lands. Trail surfaces shall be signed and marked with uniform motorized recreational (ATV/UTV) vehicle signs in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - vi) No person shall operate any ATV/UTV on designated trails when the trails have been officially closed by public notice from the Department or otherwise marked as closed.
 - vii) ATV/UTV use on established non-motorized trails is only authorized when such use is part of sled dog training on established sled dog trails, part of trail maintenance or part of trail safety operations.
 - viii) Landowners of any ATV/UTV shall be exempt from use limitations in this subsection on lands under their control.
- i) *Undefined Motorized Vehicles.* Use of motorized vehicles including but not limited to power driven boards, tracked motorcycles, golf carts, E-Bikes which exceed a maximum power output of 750w or other undefined motorized vehicles on County land is a violation, with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific



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area or other permits as approved by the Committee.

- j) *Damage by Vehicles or Non-vehicular Traffic.* No person shall operate a vehicle or utilize other modes of transportation for recreational use or other purpose in or on any property administered by the Committee in such a manner as to cause soil erosion, excessive road damage, pollution or other damage.



**LANGLADE COUNTY OFF-ROAD
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LANGLADE COUNTY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PERMIT

VEHICLE OWNER: _____
OWNER ADDRESS: _____
OWNER PHONE: _____

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

MAKE: _____

MODEL: _____

COLOR: _____

ENGINE DISPLACEMENT: _____

HIGHWAY LEGAL _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER (if any): _____

VEHICLE INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE): _____

(attach a copy of vehicle insurance card to permit in file)

Under this permit issued by the Langlade County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department, the above described vehicle is allowed to operate on designated off-road vehicle trails when trails are designated as open. The above described vehicle, if not highway legal, is also authorized to operate on forest roads owned by Langlade County for the purposes of off-road recreation when designated as open as an ORV route. Note: **A copy of this permit must be with the permitted vehicle during operations and the official Langlade County sticker must be attached on the driver's side front of the vehicle directly in front of the operator's door.** Operator of the permitted vehicle must also possess an annual Langlade County ORV Operator's Permit and agree to abide by Langlade County rules related to off-road vehicle operation. Owner of the permitted vehicle agrees that damage that may occur while in operation on ORV trails are at the sole responsibility of the owner.

This permit shall become effective upon signature approval of authorized representatives of the Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department and will remain in effect for 2 years following approval date.

Vehicle Owner Signature: _____

Vehicle Owner License Number: _____

Department Permit Approved By:

Date of Approval: _____

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FORESTRY, PARKS AND RECREATION

Required Vehicle Equipment

All vehicles must be equipped with:

- Proper front and rear working brakes.
- A roll bar (four-point) or non-removable hard top.
- A dry chemical fire extinguisher, a minimum of 2 ¼ pounds, should be securely mounted and within easy reach of the driver.
- A first aid kit.
- Proper seat belts. Everyone in the vehicle is required to wear a seat belt while the vehicle is in motion.
- Properly mounted tow hooks or hook points on front and rear of vehicle.
- Proper battery hold down securing it to the vehicle.
- Fluid spill containment kit including floor dry, plastic bags and shovel for removing contaminated soils.

Recommended Equipment

- Cell phone
- CB or GMRS radio
- Tow strap - without hooks (No chains will be allowed for pulling)
- Clevis
- Winch, if vehicle is equipped with a winch, the vehicle must also have a Tree Saver Strap
- Spare tire
- Roll cages (six-point)
- Trash bag
- Insurance coverage



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**LANGLADE COUNTY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE OPERATOR'S
PERMIT**

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Mailing Address: _____

Applicant Phone Number: _____

Applicant email: _____

Applicant Driver's License # (or Learners Permit #):

License State of Issue: _____

License Expiration Date: _____

Applicant Age: _____

Guardian Signature (for those under 18 years of age) _____

Under this permit issued by the LANGLADE County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department, Permission is granted to Permittee to operate off-road vehicles on authorized and signed off road trails and authorized open trails and roads owned by Langlade County for the purposes of off-road recreation under the following conditions:

1. By signature on this permit the applicant agrees to have reviewed the Langlade County Off-Road Vehicle Use and Trail Policy and agrees to follow rules and regulations within that policy.
2. This permit must be in immediate possession of the permittee when operating a permitted off-road vehicle.
3. Permittee shall use all possible care in operation of the off-road vehicle to prevent damage trees (including saplings), roadways, trails, waterbodies and soils on County property. Permittee will be subject to penalty provide by statutes and ordinances for unauthorized cross-country use of off-road vehicles under this permit.
4. Permittee retains all responsibility for knowing the property ownership prior to off-road vehicle use under this permit.
5. All Vehicles utilized must remain on roads and trails authorized for off-road vehicle use. Permittee shall be liable for damage to forest roads and trails for improper use.
6. Permittee agrees to comply with all State and Federal regulations and County Ordinances regarding litter and motor vehicle policies.



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7. Failure to comply with conditions of this permit may result in permit revocation and/or prosecution of the Permittee for violations of law and for damages to County property.
8. Permittee agrees that LANGLADE County or any County Contractor, including logging contractors, cannot be held liable for injuries or accidents resulting from any permittee actions or omissions under this permit. Permittee assumes and agrees to protection, indemnify, and save harmless the Owner (Langlade County), its representatives, agents, officers, and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, causes of action, liability, costs, or expense by reason of loss or damage to any property or bodily injury to any person, including death, as the direct or indirect result of operations under this permit or in connection with any action or omission of the Permittee.

Trail Ride Rules

- At no time may an operator be impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- There will be no unnecessary damage to land or vegetation or the endangering of livestock or wildlife.
- All litter must be packed out by participants.
- It will be the duty of parents & pet owners to control their children and pets at all times, especially around moving or winching vehicles.
- Pets must be leashed and attended or confined, and cleaned up after. Owners will be held responsible for pet's actions.
- Exhaust system must be mounted in such a way as to direct exhaust away from occupants, gas tanks, and tires or possible gas spillage.
- It is recommended that any vehicle with a rear mounted fuel tank so exposed to constitute a rupture hazard, be equipped with skid plates both bottom and sides.
- All operators must have a valid state issued driver's license or learner's permit and comply with all rules set forth by those permits.
- All drivers must report any incident resulting in injuries while driving on this property to Langlade County authorities.
- The lack of properly displayed current Trail Sticker and/or failure to comply with the above rules will be grounds for expulsion from this trail system.
- A speed limit of 10 MPH on trails.
- Stay on the trails.

This permit shall become effective upon receipt of \$30.00 fee in cash or check and signature approval of authorized representatives of the Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department and will remain in effect for 1 year following approval date.

Permittee Signature: _____

Department verification of Permittee or Guardian License or Identification Number: _____

Department Permit Approved By: _____

Date of Approval: _____