

### **Sec. 34-190. Purpose.**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the county under Wis. Stats. § 28.11(3)(b) and in accordance with the purpose of the management plan adopted under Wis. Stats. § 28.11(5), the purpose of this article is to regulate vehicle use of lands in the county forests in order to both protect the public users of such vehicles and to facilitate proper management of the county forests.

*(Code 1987, § 16.02(28)1; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989)*

### **Sec. 34-191. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*All-terrain vehicle* means an engine-driven device with the following specifications: net weight of 2,000 pounds or less, width of 48 inches or less, equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator designed to travel on three or more low-pressure tires. A low-pressure tire is a tire with a minimum width of six inches, designed to be mounted on a rim with a maximum diameter of 12 inches and inflated with an operating pressure not to exceed six pounds per square inch as recommended by the manufacturer. The term "utility terrain vehicle (UTV)" means engine driven device with the following specifications: a net weight of 2,000 pounds or less, which has a width of 65 inches or less, wheelbase of 94 inches or less, equipped with a seat designed side by side for a driver and a passenger, four or more low-pressure tires, engine size not to exceed 1,000 cc., equipped with a steering wheel stock, manufacturer installed cargo box, brakes, brake lights, tail lights, headlamps, spark arrester, and noise limits as defined in Wis. Stats. § 33.33(6)(6(m)). This definition excludes go-carts, golfcarts, mini-pickups, tracked vehicles, and low-speed vehicles.

*Authorized* means by motion passed and entered into the minutes of any land and forestry committee meeting.

*Committee* means the land and forestry committee of the county board and its successors.

*County forest* means lands owned by the county and entered under the county forest law as described in Wis. Stats. § 28.11.

*Emergency* means a situation where a threat exists or is imminent involving loss of life, personal injury, or serious resource or property damage.

*Gate* means any cable or metal pipe gate constructed to obstruct entrance to roads, trails or areas.

*Law enforcement officer* means any peace officer, including the county sheriff, county sheriff's deputies, city or village police officers, or their designees.

*Motorized vehicle* means any motorized vehicle designed or capable of cross-country travel on or over land and water, under frozen, wet or dry conditions. This definition includes, but is not be limited to, four-wheel drive units, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and air cushioned vehicles.

*Official use* means use by an employee, agent or designated representative of the county.

*Posted notice* means signs constructed of metal, plastic or wood, placed in areas of high visibility to all roads and trails. Wording shall be in the English language denotes any one of the following prohibitions:

- (1)  
Unlawful to operate any motorized vehicle.
- (2)  
Unlawful to operate any motorized vehicle exceeding 2,000 pounds.
- (3)  
Unlawful to operate any ATV in any county park or within 500 feet of any county park or on any road or trail contrary to posted notice, except as provided in [section 34-194\(a\)\(7\)c.1](#).

*Timber sale vehicles* means any motorized vehicles used to harvest timber under contract with the county, including vehicles used to access timber sale contract areas.

(Code 1987, § 16.02(28)2; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; [Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013](#))

### **Sec. 34-192. Disabled vehicle usage.**

The county forestry department may issue a permit authorizing persons with physical disabilities to use vehicles as a mode of transportation in county forest land. A permit is not required for disabled person using a motorized wheelchair.

(Code 1987, § 16.02(30); Res. No. 05-03, 1-25-2005)

### **Sec. 34-193. Motor vehicles prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of a motorized vehicle of any kind on all roads, trails or areas within the county forest, contrary to posted notice authorized by the committee, except there shall be no prohibition to authorized maintenance patrol, emergency vehicles or other official use. Timber sale vehicles shall be permitted entrance to timber sale contract area upon written and/or authorization by the Rusk County Forest Administrator.

**Sec. 34-194. Applicability.**

(a)

The land subject to this article and regulations associated with each tract are as follows (areas closed to any motorized vehicles):

(1)

Rusk County Trails Association (Blue Hills Trail Area)- That part lying East of Fire Lane Road known and signed as the East Side Rusk County Trails Association Trails. This does not include what is known as the John Creek all-weather graveled road.

(2)

That part of the NE¼ Section 1, T.35N.-R.9W., lying south of the Perch Lake Road and east of Audie Lake Picnic Area and Boat Landing. Also the W½ Section 6, T., 35N-R.8W., lying west of the Blue Hills Trail Road or as described and signed as the Hunter Walking Trail - West Side Rusk County Trails Association Trails. This restriction shall be from December 1 through June 1.

(3)

Bucks Lake, that part of the S½ of the NW¼ of Section 26, T.36N.-R.9W., lying west and south of the Bucks Lake Road or described as the Bucks Lake Emergency Spillway Area and the Bucks Lake Dike Area.

(4)

Josie Creek Rifle Range and Archery Walking Range, that part of the N½ of the NW¼ of Section 14, T.35N.-R.5W., designated as the rifle range, lying north and east of the Josie Creek Campground and Boat Landing, also that part of the S½ of the NW¼ of Section 14, T.35N.-R.5W., designated as the archery walking range, lying east of the Josie Creek Road and south of Josie Creek.

(5)

Perch Lake Nature Trail, that part of the SW¼ of Section 31, T.36N.-R.8W., the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 36, T.36N.-R.9W., and the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 1, T.35N.-R.9W., known and signed as the Blue Hills Nature Trail.

(6)

Blue Hills Felsenmeer State Natural Area, the N½ of the SW¼ and S½ of the NW¼ of Section 31, Township 35 North, Range 9 West.

(7)

Audie Lake Electric Line Right-of-Way, the right-of way from Audie Lake Boat Landing to the Stout Road. Designated crossings will be allowed for access to the north and west from the Audie Lake Area.

(b)

Areas closed to motorized vehicles greater than 2,000 pounds.

(1)

Timber sale vehicles shall be permitted entrance to timber sale contract area upon written and/or authorization by the county forest administrator.

(2)

It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any motorized vehicle greater than 2,000 pounds in the following areas of the county forest:

a.

That part of the NE¼ Section 1, T.35N.-R.9W., lying south of the Perch Lake Road and east of Audie Lake Picnic Area and Boat Landing. Also the W½ Section 6, T., 35N.-R.8W., lying west of the Blue Hills Trail Road or as described and signed as the Hunter Walking Trail.

b.

Rusk County ATV Trail, all state-funded designated and signed as ATV trails.

(c)

Restrictions and allowance in parks, campgrounds and boat landings. It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile in the following areas:

(1)

Any area within the boundaries of Audie Lake Park, except: the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14 and ATVs will be allowed to load and unload at the designated ATV loading and unloading area in the Audie Lake boat landing area, except from March 15 to the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend.

(2)

Any area within the boundaries of Perch Lake Park, except the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.

(3)

Any area within the boundaries of Community Park, except the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.

(4)

Any area within the boundaries of Josie Creek Park except the Josie Creek Campground area will be open to ATV during daylight hours and except

designated county snowmobile trail, and the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.

(5)

Any area within the boundaries of Murphy Flowage Recreation Area (campground and picnic area), except the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16 through March 14.

(6)

Any county maintained boat landing and associated parking lot from March 15 through November 15, except for winter ice fishing use from November 16 through April 15.

(7)

The county will provide access from Audie Lake Campground parking area to the ATV trails for ATV use.

(d)

Seasonal restriction.

(1)

It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any motorized vehicle except on all-weather gravel county forest roads from March 15 to the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

a.

This prohibition shall not apply to authorized maintenance patrol, emergency vehicle or other official use.

(2)

No motorized vehicles shall be permitted to travel on approved county snowmobile trails between December 1 to the Friday before Memorial Day weekend without permission of the county forest administrator.

a.

This prohibition shall not apply to the following:

1.

County forest roads listed as follows:

i.

Betty Lake Road, Three Lakes Road and 4 Hill Road.

2.

County forest ATV/UTV trail shall be open for use from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend to December 31, unless it is also a county snowmobile trail that is groomed for snow.

3.

Snowmobiles.

(Code 1987, § 16.02(28)3; Res. No. 89-21, 2-28-1989; Res. No. 00-40B, 2-26-2013; Amend. of 6-18-2013;  
Res. No. 00-40C, 10-29-2013; Res. No. 00-40C, 11-12-2013)

## **Sec. 34-195. Ice Age Trail.**

(a)

There is hereby created in the county an Ice Age Scenic Trail to be established by the county and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Inc., pursuant to an agreement between those parties. This trail shall be designated and maintained as a hiking trail with other non-motorized uses such as jogging and cross-country skiing allowable. Where county authorized snowmobile trails coincide with the Ice Age Trail, snowmobiling on the trail shall be allowed during the winter season when snowmobile trails are open. Other motorized use of the Ice Age Trail, except for authorized maintenance, patrol emergency vehicles or other official use is prohibited except as stated in subsection (b) of this section.

(b)

Motorized vehicle use will be allowed on the following areas where dual use between trails and open roads exist:

*T.36N.-R.9W. Town of Wilson:*

SWSW Section 19

S $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 28

SE Section 30

E $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 33

SW Section 34

*T.35N.-R.9W. Town of Wilkinson:*

SW Section 2

N $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 3

Section 11

NWNW Section 13

W $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 26

NW Section 35

*T.34N.-R.9W. Town of Strickland:*

SESW, SWNW Section 3

SESE Section 4

NENW Section 10.