

## RUSK COUNTY

### 16.02 (28) COUNTY FOREST VEHICLE REGULATION ORDINANCE

1. Purpose. Pursuant to the authority vested in the county under Sec. 28.11 (3) (b), Stats., and in accord with the purpose of the management plan adopted under Sec. 28.11 (5) Stats., the purpose of this Ordinance 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.
2. Definitions:
  - A. "All-terrain vehicle" means an engine-driven device which has a net weight of 1,000 pounds or less, which has a width of 48 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and which is designed to travel on 3 or more low-pressure tires. A low-pressure tire is a tire which has a minimum width of 6 inches, which is designed to be mounted on a rim with a maximum diameter of 12 inches and which is designed to be inflated with an operating pressure not to exceed 6 pounds per square inch as recommended by the manufacturer. "Utility Terrain Vehicle" (UTV) means engine driven device which has a net weight of 1,300 lbs or less, which has a width of 63 inches or less, and a wheelbase of 94 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat designed side by side for a driver and a passenger. Which has 4 or more low-pressure tires and an engine size not to exceed 1000cc., which has a steering wheel, equipped with a stock, manufacturer installed cargo box, brakes, brake lights, tail lights, headlamps, spark arrester, and noise limits as defined in 33.33 (6) (6(m)). Definition excludes go-carts, golf carts, mini-pickups, tracked vehicles, and low speed vehicles.
  - B. "Committee" shall mean the Land and Forestry Committee of the County Board and its successors.
  - C. "Rusk County Forest" – Lands owned by Rusk County and entered under the County Forest Law as described in chapter 28.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
  - D. "Emergency" means a situation threatening or involving loss of life, personal injury, or serious resource or property damage.
  - E. "Law Enforcement Officer" means any peace officer, including the County sheriff, County Sheriff's Deputies, and such other persons in possession of the powers set forth at Sec. 165.8(2)(c) Stats.
  - F. "OFFICIAL USE" means use by an employee, agent or designated representative of the county.

- G. "Posted Notice" – shall mean signs constructed of metal, plastic or wood, placed in areas of high visibility to all roads, trails or areas on which wording 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 1,000 lbs.
  3. Unlawful to operate any ATV in any Rusk County park or within 500 feet of any county park or on any road or trail contrary to posted notice, except as provided in paragraph 3.C.5.
- H. "Gate" means any cable or metal pipe gate constructed to obstruct entrance to roads, trails or areas.
- I. "Authorized" means by motion passed and entered into the minutes of any Land & Forestry Committee Meeting.
- J. "Timber Sale Vehicles" means any motorized vehicles used to harvest timber under contract with Rusk County, including vehicles used to access timber sale contract areas.
- K. "Motorized vehicle" means any motorized vehicle designed or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain, which would include, but not limited to, such vehicles as four-wheel drive units, motorcycles, all terrain vehicles and air cushioned vehicles.
3. Regulation. 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 Rusk 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.
1. RUSK COUNTY TRAILS ASSOCIATION (Blue Hills Trail Area) – That part of Section 6, T.35N.-R.8W. lying east of the Blue Hills Trail. Also that part of Sections 4 and 5, T.35N.-R.8W., known and signed as the 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 NE ¼ 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 W ½ 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 S ½ of the NW ¼ 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 N ½ of the NW ¼ 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 S ½ of the NW ¼ 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 SW ¼ of Section 31, T.36N.-R.8W., the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 36, T.36N.-R.9W., and the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 1, T.35N.-R.9W., known and signed as the Blue Hills Nature Trail.
6. BLUE HILLS FELSENMEER STATE NATURAL AREA – The N ½ of the SW ¼ and S ½ of the NW ¼ 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.
  - a. Timber Sale Vehicles shall be permitted entrance to timber sale contract area upon written and or authorization by the Rusk County Forest Administrator.
  - b. It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any motorized vehicle greater than one thousand three hundred pounds (1300) in the following areas of the Rusk County Forest:
    1. That part of the NE ¼ 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 W ½ Section 6, T., 35N. – R.8W., lying west of the Blue Hills Trail Road or as described and signed as the Hunter Walking Trail.
    2. RUSK COUNTY ATV TRAIL – All State-Funded Designated and Signed as ATV TRAIL.
  - c. 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-March 14 and ATV's 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-June 1.
  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-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-March 14.
  4. Any area within the boundaries of Josie Creek Park, except designated county snowmobile trail, and the parking lot located in the boat landing area for ice fishing use from November 16-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-March 14.
  6. Any county maintained boat landing and associated parking lot from March 15-November 15, except for winter ice fishing use from November 16-April 15.
- d. It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of a motorized vehicle of any kind on any road, trail or area within the Rusk County Forest contrary to any posted notice authorized by the Committee.
- e. The above prohibitions shall not apply to any authorized maintenance, patrol, timber sale, emergency, or other vehicles being used for official county business as authorized by the Committee.
- f. Rusk County will provide access from Audie Lake Campground parking area to the ATV trails for ATV use.
- g. 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 June 1. Except there shall be no prohibition to authorized maintenance patrol, emergency vehicles or other official use.

- h. No 4-wheel drive vehicle, passenger car, all terrain vehicle, truck or motorcycle shall be permitted to travel on approved County Snowmobile Trails between December 1 and June 1 without written permission of the Rusk County Snowmobile Coordinator. Exception will be given allowing Motorized vehicles to travel from December 1 to June 1, on all-weather, gravel County Forest Roads: Betty Lake Road, Three Lakes Road, and 4-Hill Road.

**i. Areas Closed to Any Motorized Vehicles.**

RUSK COUNTY TRAILS ASSOCIATION (Blue Hills Trails Area) – That part of Section 6, T.35N-R.8W lying east of the Blue Hills Trail. Also that part of Section 4 and 5, T.35N-R.8W, known and signed as the Rusk County Trails Association Trails. This does not include what is known as the John Creek all-weather graveled road.

That part of the NE ¼ 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 W ½ 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. The restriction shall be from December 1 through June 1.

BUCKS LAKE – That part of the S ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 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.

JOSIE CREEK RIFLE RANGE AND ARCHERY WALKING RANGE – That part of the N ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 14, T.35N-R.5W, designated as the rifle range, lying north and east of the Josie Creek Campground and Boat Landing.

That part of the S ½ NW ¼ Section 14, T.35N-R.5W, designated as the Archery Walking Range, lying east of the Josie Creek Campground and Boat Landing.

PERCH LAKE NATURE TRAIL – That part of the SW ¼ of Section 31, T.36N-R.8W, the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 36, T.36N-R.9W, and the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ Section 1, T.35N.-R.9W, known and signed as the Blue Hills Nature Trail (This area added on 11/12/90 by Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee).

BLUE HILLS FELSENMEER STATE NATURAL AREA – The N ½ of the SW ¼ and S ½ of NW ¼ of Section 31, T.35N-R.9W.

AUDIE/PERCH LAKE ELECTRIC RIGHT-OF-WAY – That part of Section 1 & 11, T. 35N-R.9W, and that part of Section 36, T.36N-R.9W, known as the right of way clearing for the underground Electric line to Audie/Perch Lake area.

4. ICE AGE TRAIL

There is hereby created in Rusk County an Ice Age Scenic Trail to be established by the County of Rusk 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 follows:

Motorized Vehicle Use will be allowed on the following areas where dual use trails now exist:

STOUT ROAD AREA:

SWSW, Sec. 2., T. 35 N. – R. 9 W.  
NWSW, Sec. 2., T. 35 N. – R. 9 W.  
N ½ SE, Sec. 3., T. 35 N. – R. 9 W.  
SENW, Sec. 3., T. 35 N. – R. 9 W.

NORTH LAKE AREA:

NENW Sec.10., T. 34 N. – R. 9 W.  
SESW Sec. 3., T. 34 N. – R. 9 W.  
SESE Sec. 4., T. 34 N. – R. 9 W.