

Vehicle Use

Licenses, applications, harvest reports and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Vehicle Travel on Public or Private Lands

It is unlawful to drive a motor vehicle off established roads or two-track roads in a hunting, trapping or fishing area, if the vehicle transports a person licensed to hunt, trap or fish for species which are in open season in that area. It is illegal for a person so licensed to ride in or upon such a vehicle. For the NMDGF definition of an established road, see page 133.

It also is illegal to drive motor vehicles on roads or areas that are closed to vehicular traffic under the Habitat Protection Act or other state or federal regulations—or that are within the boundaries of a designated Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management wilderness area or national monument, including Tent Rocks National Monument. Obey all posted rules and know the regulations that apply for the land management agency(s) where you will be driving.

The Forest Service is considering new regulations to prohibit cross-country motorized-vehicle travel on many Forest Service lands. Contact NMDGF at: **1-888-248-6866** for referral to appropriate ranger districts for current information regarding hunting a specific Game Management Unit. Off-road vehicle travel for any reason is currently not permitted in the Lincoln National Forest or in portions of other national forests. It is illegal to take vehicles more than 100 yards off established roads in areas protected under the Habitat Protection Act. This distance may vary in individual ranger districts.

You may drive vehicles off established roads on certain public lands (excluding State Trust Land) and private land to retrieve legally taken big-game carcasses — provided that state or federal regulations do not prohibit such use. These regulations do not restrict landowners, lessees or their employees from driving off-road on private or leased State Trust Land while in connection with legitimate agricultural activities. For further information about off-highway vehicle laws and requirements, see page 137.

Vehicle Confiscation for Illegal Spotlighters

NMDGF officers may seize vehicles used to hunt at night with the aid of artificial light. Vehicles used by spotlighters may be confiscated and sold at auction.



Inset photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.