



## ATV Useage Within Big South Fork



In May of 2005, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA) completed its General Management Plan. The plan, now in place, will serve to guide the park in it's management of existing facilities and the development of new recreational oppourtunities.

### Authorized Trail System

Following the development of a Special Regulation as required by Executive Order 11644 the only trails which will be open to ATV use in Big South Fork will be for use by licensed hunters while they are actively engaged in the legal hunting of either deer or wild boar. Hunters may operate ATVs on those trails which are designated as multiple-use trails. In compliance with the legislated limitations on motorized transportation within the "gorge area" of Big South Fork, these multiple-use trails are all located outside the gorge on the plateau portion of Big South Fork NRRA. For the recreational ATV rider there are no designated ATV trails within Big South Fork NRRA at this time.

The General Management Plan does allow for the development of an ATV trail(s) in the Darrow Ridge area of the park in the future. This trail, also located outside the defined "gorge area" of the park, will be laid out and developed with input from a variety of interest groups including local/regional ATV organizations.

When completed the National Park Service will monitor these ATV trail(s) to assess any impacts that might result from this activity upon the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Big South Fork. The results of this monitoring will then allow the park management to make a decision based on well defined and defendable facts as to whether an ATV trail system is possible within Big South Fork.

This process of public input and follow-up monitoring will allow Big South Fork

NRRA to fulfill the legal requirements as outlined in Executive Orders 11644 and 11989.

Executive Order 11644 requires areas and trails to be located to:

- minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources on public lands.
- minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats.
- minimize conflicts between off-road users and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands.
- Trails shall be located in areas of the National park system only if the agency head determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, aesthetic, or scenic values.

Executive Order 11989 added Section (9) to Executive Order 11644 providing for "Special Protection of the Public Lands." Under this section whenever it is determined that the use of off-road vehicle will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands the agency shall immediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicle causing such effects.

Title 36 CFR Section 4.10 (b) also requires the Big South Fork NRRA to draft a special regulation authorizing the use of ATVs on trails within the park.

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The following is a list of public and private lands near the Big South Fork NRRA which are open to the general public for the riding of ATVs.

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### **Brimstone Recreation**

Brimstone Recreation manages and promotes the recreational use of over 45,000 acres nestled in the remote wilds of Northeast Tennessee and located in the heart of Appalachia. Brimstone Recreation offers outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore the untamed wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains while enjoying a side array of recreational activities such as ATV riding, hunting and fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking and much more. The area has over 300 miles of OHV trails with numerous overlooks and culture exploration points of interest.

A land use permit is required to access the area. For additional information, please visit <http://www.brimstonerecreation.com>, call 1-423-663-4868 or email [info@brimstonerecreation.com](mailto:info@brimstonerecreation.com).

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### **Coal Creek OHV Area**

The Coal Creek OHV Area is 72,000 acres of off-road fun, located in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. Hundreds of off-roaders can be found every weekend enjoying the trails of Coal Creek. The area's trails are open to everyone and just about any type of vehicle. ATVs, motorcycles, Jeeps, buggies and trucks all enjoy some of the best off-roading in the country each weekend.

The property is privately owned by The Coal Creek Company and a land use permit is required to access the area. For additional information, please visit <http://www.coalcreekohv.com/>.

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### **Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area**

Royal Blue WMA offers over 130,000 acres and 430 miles of TWRA mountain trails varying in degrees of difficulty. The area's trails range from leisurely treks that families can enjoy together, to challenging obstacles and creeks for the risk-taking rider.

For further information on Royal Blue trails and information on the required permits, please contact Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region 4 by writing TWRA Region 4 Office, 3030 Wildlife Way, Morristown, TN 37814, or calling 1-800-332-0900.

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### **Ride Royal Blue ATV Guest Resort & Campground**

A full service resort for ATVer's with access to the Royal Blue and Sundquist Wildlife Management Areas. The resort provides cabins, RV and tent campsites, as well as a general store and day use facilities. Over 130,000 acres and 430 miles of TWRA mountain trails await those who visit the site.

For further information call 1-423-784-9445 or visit [www.rideroyalblue.com](http://www.rideroyalblue.com).