**Rules & Regulations**

**What are the fines for violating the rules & regulations for the trail system?**

**For riding without a permit:**
$250 - 1st offense, thereafter - $500 & a permanent revocation of access & your OHV can be confiscated.

**For riding on areas outside of the designated trails:**
$500 - 1st offense, machine compounded thereafter

**Altering trails to create hazards:**
$500 - 1st offense, $1000 thereafter, & violating traffic rules $250 - 1st offense, $500 thereafter.

**Where will the permit requirement be enforced?**
Permits are required for all off road trails but a permit is not required for the Town & County roads that are opened for OHV access.

**Who may operate an OHV?**
Children ages 10-15 must be accompanied by an adult 18 & older OR must have successfully completed an OHV safety course & carry the course completion certificate when operating any OHV. Riders under 10, may operate an OHV but must be accompanied by an adult 18 & older.

**Remember**
If you abuse it, you may lose it!
Careless operation of OHV’s can cause damage and may result in closing areas to riders. Respect the environment, local businesses and other riders. By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow!

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Who does the trail system belong to?**
The Lewis County OHV Trail System has been built through the collaboration of many entities but the bulk of the work, maintenance, organization and annual expansion is done by the Lewis County Recreation, Forestry & Parks Department.
They can be reached at 315-376-5972 and are located in the Lewis County Court House at:
7660 N State Street
Lowville NY 13367

**The Lewis County Trail System is categorized into three types of trails.** Town and county roads provide easy access to the off-road trails. The off-road trails, consisting of county reforestation areas and private landowners’ trails, offer trail riders a sense of adventure as they explore the many miles of wilderness.

**Are there any safety courses available?**
Yes, the Tug Hill ATV Association & some area OHV clubs offer safety courses. Call the OHV Clubs for more information.

With such a unique system comes many questions. Please look inside for the most frequently asked questions that come through our office.
**Purchasing**

Get your OHV Trail Permit online

Go to

[lewiscounty.org/ohv-permit-disclaimer](lewiscounty.org/ohv-permit-disclaimer)

**Cost:**

$20 - 3-Day Pass

$65.00 - 2021 Trail Permit (Single Unit)

($20 discount if member of local club "see below")

$20.00 - Ea. additional OHV (Same Household)

*Permits sold the Tuesday after Labor Day are also valid the following year*

**OHV Club Member?**

Memberships can be purchased with the permit and still receive the discount or a valid membership card from a local club (listed below). You will need to show proof of membership with your membership card (w/name & membership number) to show seller or upload to website.

**Local OHV Clubs:**

- Black River Valley 4-Wheeler
- Black River Valley Riders
- Highmarket Wheelers ATV Club
- Northern Oneida County ATV Club
- Osceola ATV Club
- Tug Hill ATV Association
- Tug Hill Wheelers

**Local Permit Sellers:**

- Edge Hotel - Lyons Falls
- Flat Rock Inn - Lowville
- Kovach Repair - Brantingham
- Waite Motorsports - Adams Center
- Lewis County Clerks Office - Lowville

**Vehicle/Permit Requirements**

**Registration?**

Registration is not required to obtain an OHV Trail Permit. However, the weight limit on the trails is 2,000 lbs with a width up to 70".

Unregistered units are not legal on road portions of the trail system per NYS DMV Restrictions.

**Out-of-State?**

New York State honors valid out-of-state OHV registrations.

**Insurance?**

You may not operate any OHV anywhere in New York State, except on your own property, unless it is covered by liability insurance. Minimum required coverage is $50,000/$100,000 for death, $25,000/$50,000 for injury, and $10,000 for property damage in any one accident.

**Am I Buying a Permit for Myself or My OHV?**

Permits will be issued per machine, not per person. Each permit will include a decal that must be attached in a visible location on the front left side of the permitted OHV.

**Trail Information**

**When Does the Trail System Open?**

The trail system is scheduled to open April 1st based on conditions (late spring will delay opening) and closes the Tuesday after Columbus Day in October but any trail can be closed at any time due to weather, trail conditions or landowner requests.

**Can I Ride on the Trails Without a Permit?**

In order to ride the Lewis County Trails you must have either a 3-day or seasonal permit.

"See free weekend info below"

**What is the Speed Limit on the ATV Trail System?**

25 mph, unless otherwise posted.

**Can I Drive Other Vehicles on the Trails?**

Dirt bikes, ATVs & side by sides up to 2000 lbs are allowed. Anything that is over 2,000 lbs is not.

**Is There a Map of the Trail System?**

Yes, maps are available & updated every year. A free map is provided with every permit/pass purchase. As 3-Day passes are electronic you will be provided a code to pick your map up at a local seller.

**When is the Free Weekend?**

During the first full weekend of August you do not need to purchase a pass or permit to ride the Lewis County OHV Trail System. Full weekend meaning the first Fri-Sun in August.

**Where Does My Permit Application Money Go?**

All permit fees will be placed in a dedicated recreational trails fund & used exclusively for the establishment, enforcement, maintenance, & operation of the Trail System.

This money will not go into the general fund & will only be spent on recreational trails in the County.