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#### **(S.D.)-Forest Service Reminds People Mudbogging Illegal On Forest Lands**



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 11/04/2013 01:46 PM

(Hot Springs)-The US Forest Service would like to remind area residents that mud bogging and tearing up forest roads and lands is against the law. The legal and financial consequences can be steep, and damages done to the land can take years to repair. Unfortunately some damages cannot be repaired.

While off-highway vehicle use is an allowable activity on designated Forest Service roads and trails, 'mudding' is not. Public roads are built to minimize resource impacts, especially fragile areas such as streams, meadows and wet areas. The difference between allowable use and mudding is whether it causes damage.

'Mudding' can occur on or off roads and trails. It rips up plants and exposes soils, which leads to erosion and an increase of noxious weeds. Mudding can also compact soils, destroy habitat, harm wildlife and cause damages that may take years to repair.

Mike McNeill, Fall River District Ranger said, "The intent of our travel management decisions was to ensure that motorized use on National Forests and Grasslands is authorized in a manner that minimizes damage to resources. Mud bogging is not a compatible use with that objective."

'Mudder' violators on all federal lands can face fines of up to \$5,000 and six months in jail, in addition to paying restitution costs.

(Story courtesy US Forest Service)