

## Mud Season Access Policy

Approved: February 22, 2021

DLLT welcomes responsible public use of the Downeast Lakes Community Forest throughout the year. Motor vehicle usage under certain conditions can damage DLLT-maintained roads, posing a significant safety hazard for the user and inhibiting access for all throughout the remainder of the year. To preserve road condition and permit high-quality motorized access for all, DLLT shall implement the following measures:

1. Mud Season is defined as the period of the Spring when soft, muddy road surfaces are deemed by DLLT to be unsuitable for motor vehicles due to a high likelihood of rutting.
2. During Mud Season, gates installed in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest shall be closed and locked.
3. All roads in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest shall be closed to motor vehicle traffic by the public, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Keys to the gates shall be provided to local law enforcement and emergency services for their use during the regular performance of their official duties.
  - b. Keys to the Fourth Lake Road gate just west of Grand Lake Stream shall be provided to individuals whose primary residence is within the community forest for ATV use, only. This privilege shall be governed by a permit granted by DLLT, and fees or a key deposit may apply at the discretion of DLLT.
  - c. A route shall be created for ATVs to bypass the gate at the south end of the Amazon Road. Public ATV use shall be permitted on the portion of the Amazon Road that is within the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, approximated by the section from Milford Road to Lower Oxbrook Lake. All side roads and state-maintained ATV trails are closed to ATVs at this time.
4. DLLT shall make every effort to inform the public in advance of gate closures and openings. Such efforts shall include social media posts, postings to DLLT's website, signs displayed in local public areas, and signs displayed on the road network.
5. For the purposes of this policy, "ATV" shall mean any vehicle meeting the State of Maine's definition of ATV. "Motor vehicles" shall include all forms of motor-driven vehicle including but not limited to ATVs, cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, dump trucks, log trucks, motorcycles not registered as ATVs, Jeeps, snowmobiles, tractors, riding lawnmowers, and track-wheeled vehicles.

Motor vehicle access to the community forest is a privilege, and DLLT reserves the right to revoke permission to any individual or group who abuses this privilege through negligence, malicious intent, or willful disregard for the policies and restrictions imposed by DLLT.