

Due to the estimated 40,000 visitors and users of the OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) area annually with the carrying capacity of the parking areas and trails being exceeded on many weekends, we cannot accommodate the additional demand of three or four wheel all terrain off highway vehicles at this time. The reasons for this are:

1.) SAFETY

- Potential for collisions on one way routes and at intersections with limited trail width being taken up by wider vehicles
- traffic volumes and noise levels
- No available parking

2.) IMPACT ON PROJECT NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES- Wider trails, more disturbed soil, erosion and sedimentation into the river affecting fisheries resources. As well there would be increased potential impacts on historic properties.

As a management decision to be consistent with the visitors and for the reasons outlined below three and four wheel all terrain vehicles are not permitted at Thomaston Dam.

As a result of Executive Order 11644 issued in 1972, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers developed regulations which were used to establish and manage snowmobile trails and trail bike trails at Thomaston Dam.

Trail bikes and snowmobiles were the only OHV's outside of the few jeeps and 4WD pickups available to the public in the 1973-74 timeframe when we established the OHV trails. Thus our public meetings and state agency meetings only addressed these vehicles. As a result of the process, 19 Corps of Engineers projects in New England had snowmobile trails designated and 5 of these allowed trail bikes in certain areas.

The current regulation in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations states "The operation of a vehicle off roadways is prohibited except at locations and times designated by the District Engineer." Since we have designated trails only for snowmobiles and trail bikes at Thomaston Dam, we have no areas open to 3 wheelers or 4 wheel all terrain vehicles and their operation on Thomaston Dam project lands is in violation of Title 36.

For other federal Off Highway Vehicle areas see,
http://www.recreation.gov/recFacilityActivitiesHomeAction.do?goto=offhighway_vehicle.htm&activities=18&topTabIndex=RecreationArea

You may wish to contact The State of CT DEP at
http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323844&depNav_GID=1642 or the CT State Environmental Conservation Police at (860)485-0226 or by e-mail raul.camejo@ct.gov regarding any other public riding opportunities that may exist in CT other than Thomaston Dam. Also you may want to look at the Pathfinders MC website
<http://www.pathfindersmc.org> <<http://www.pathfindersmc.org/>> You may also contact the Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Mgt.
<http://www.state.ma.us/dem/recreate/orv.htm>
<<http://www.state.ma.us/dem/recreate/orv.htm>> at several of their state forests. Also the New Hampshire Bureau of Off Highway Vehicles
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/OHRV/ohrv.htm> Another suggestion is
<http://www.nysorva.org> <<http://www.nysorva.org/>>, for New York State.

Thank you for your interests,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Thomaston Dam