The Turtle Mountain State Recreation Area is open to all three classes of OHVs, which includes motorcycle, dirt bike, ATV, UTV and side-by-side. The recreation area trailhead has parking to accommodate large trailers. The hilly terrain and heavy woodland cover provide a unique landscape for riding OHVs in North Dakota. Enjoy over 12 miles of trails and an additional play area. A portion of the Peace Garden Snowmobile Trail runs through this area, connecting outdoor enthusiasts to a scenic trail system through the Turtle Mountains, Lake Metigoshe State Park and the International Peace Gardens.

The diverse habitat of the area makes for great bird watching. Many of the birds that can be observed in the Turtle Mountains are on the Natural Heritage Program’s state rare species list.

Venture to the Old Baldy Overlook to take in the stunning views of the forested Turtle Mountain State Forest, which encompasses over 7,500 acres of pristine forests, wetlands and grasslands.

Nearby Lake Metigoshe State Park is home to an extensive year-round trail system as well as North Dakota’s first National Recreation Trail, the Old Oak Trail. Visitors can also find several geocaches located along the trails.

In the winter, trails are groomed and packed, and visitors can rent snowshoes or cross-country skis at the park. In the summer, kayaks and canoes are available to rent and explore the small lakes that are perfect for paddling.

With a multitude of year-round cabins and facilities, Lake Metigoshe State Park is an ideal location for special events.

REGISTRATION
Registration is required to operate any OHV on public lands. North Dakota Residents must register through the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

Non-residents must purchase a non-resident public trails and lands access permit. Permits can be purchased at any North Dakota state park, by phone at 701-328-5357 or online at travel.parkrecnd.com.

TRAIL RULES
1. Individuals under the age of 12 may not operate OHVs on public lands.
2. OHV state safety certification card required for operators ages 12-15.
3. Helmets are required for operators and passengers age 17 and under.
4. Must have functioning spark arrestor and exhaust.
5. All OHV use is restricted to designated areas and trails.
6. Driver must obey all posted signs and traffic regulations.
7. Operator must be able to provide proof of liability insurance coverage.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS
1. Be sure chains and other metal parts aren’t dragging from your vehicle.
2. Check your tire pressure. Driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks.
3. Stay on trails and avoid riding/parking in tall grass. Hot exhaust pipes can start fires.
4. Never let your brake pads wear too thin; metal on metal makes sparks.
5. Make sure your spark arrester is installed and free of carbon build up.
6. Carry a shovel and a water source or fire extinguisher when operating in high or extremely high fire conditions.