

CHAPTER 49
OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN MEANDERED
STREAMS, NAVIGABLE STREAMS AND TROUT STREAMS

571—49.1(462A) Purpose and intent. This chapter implements Iowa Code section 462A.34A and identifies meandered streams, trout streams, and navigable streams in which motor vehicles may not be operated.

571—49.2(462A) Definitions.

“Department” means the department of natural resources.

“Meandered stream” means a lake or stream which at the time of the original government survey was surveyed as a navigable and important water body and was transferred to the State upon admission to the union to be transferred or retained by the public in accordance with the laws of the State upon admission to the union. A list of such lakes and streams is available on the departments website.

“Motor vehicle” means a vehicle which is self-propelled and are not operated upon rails. A motor vehicle is not a watercraft as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(40).

“Navigable stream” means all streams which can support a vessel capable of carrying one or more persons during a total of a six-month period in one out of every ten years.

“Trout stream” means a stream which, by natural or artificial methods, supports trout fish species.

571—49.3(462A) Motor vehicle prohibition in meandered streams, trout streams and navigable streams and identification of streams.

49.3(1) The department shall create a complete list identifying the meandered streams, navigable streams and trout streams which are included as part of this rule. This list shall be published on the departments website.

49.3(2) Motor vehicles shall not be operated in the following locations, except as provided for in Iowa Code Section 462A.34(2).

- a. Any portion of the bed of a navigable stream when covered by water
- b. Any portion of a trout stream or meandered stream, including dry bed and sandbars.

49.3(3) A vessel operating on any of the streams listed in this rule must be operating by floating on the water as a result of the buoyant force of the water. A vessel propelled by tires or tracks in contact with the bed of the stream is not a watercraft for the purpose of this rule.