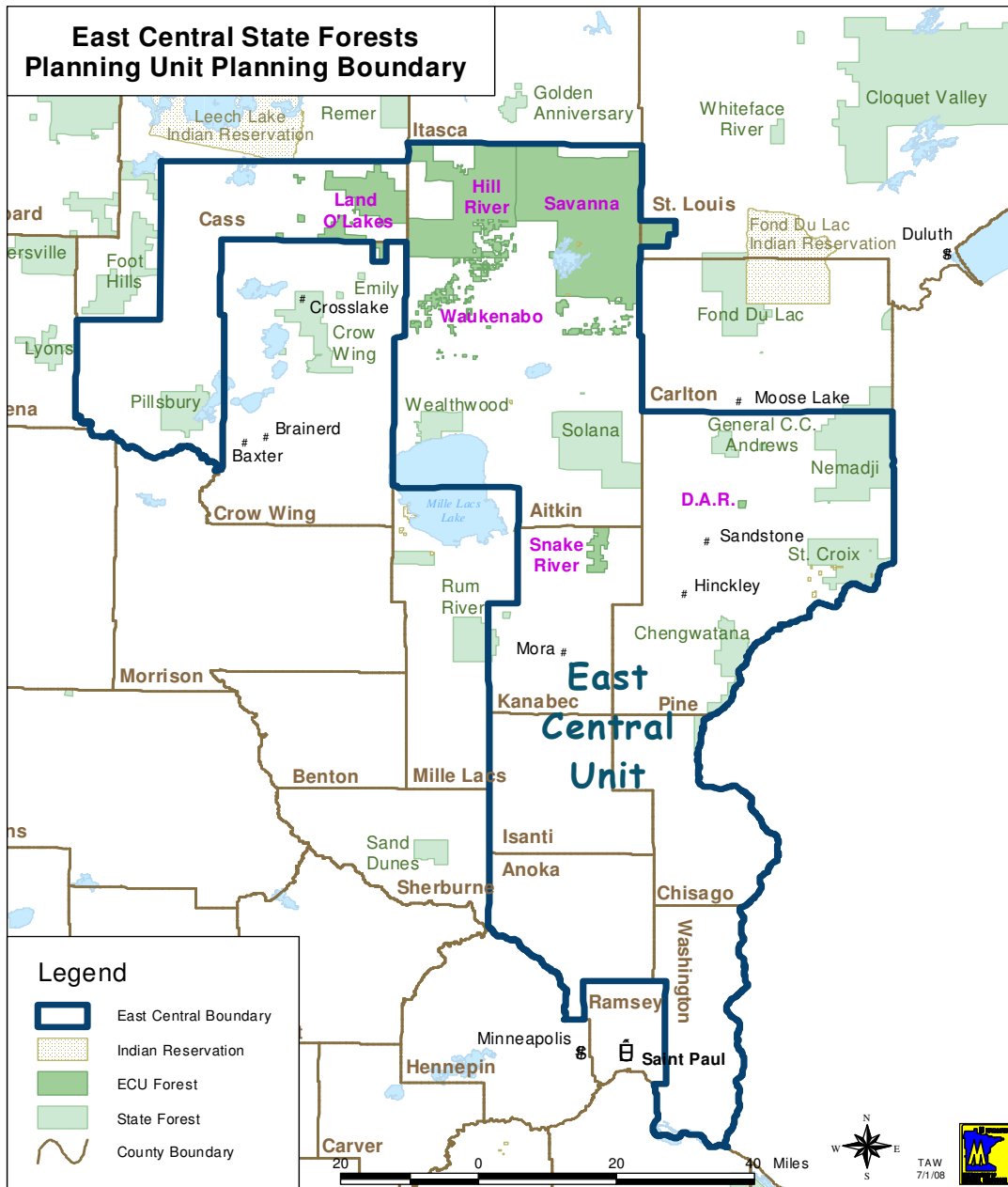


Forest Classification & Road/Trail Designations for the East Central Forests Final Plan



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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Acknowledgements

The DNR East Central Forests Road & Trail Team gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals to the forest classification and road/trail designation process.

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Executive Summary

Purpose

Minnesota Laws 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 167 (as amended) directs the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to review the motor vehicle use classification of all state forest lands. Following public review and comment, the Commissioner must change the classification of state forest lands south of US Hwy 2 to either *limited* or *closed*. These forest classifications and the accompanying road and trail designations will be adopted and implemented through the publication of written orders as specified in *Minn Rules Part 6100.1950*. These decisions become official upon publication in the *State Register on the Plan Effective Date* listed on the published orders.

Lands Covered by this Plan

This plan covers an eight-county area in East-Central Minnesota including six named State Forests. Given the mixed state and county land ownership in this planning unit, the DNR coordinated its work with affected County Land Departments. State and county land managers collaborated in developing final planning recommendations. This plan, however, documents final forest land classification and route designation decisions for state-administered lands only.

The East Central Forests planning unit includes six (6) named State Forests and scattered state forest lands administered by the DNR Division of Forestry across eight (8) counties. Lands subject to the planning effort are as follows:

- 1) State forest lands within the statutory boundaries of the DAR, Hill River, Land O'Lakes, Savanna, Snake River, and Waukenabo State Forests; and
- 2) Scattered DNR Forestry-administered lands located in these counties: Aitkin; Anoka; Chisago; Isanti; Kanabec; Pine; Southern Cass; and Washington.

It should be noted that a portion of Land O'Lakes State Forest occurs in Crow Wing County; all other State Forest Lands in this county were addressed in the Crow Wing County Planning Unit. Similarly, the East Central Forests includes only southern Cass County; the balance of this county was addressed in the Chippewa Planning Unit. The DNR has already completed the classification review for both the Crow Wing and Chippewa Planning Units.

Forest Route Inventory [Table 1]

In 2003-04', DNR staff inventoried the location and condition of all existing routes showing evidence of ongoing human use on state and county-administered forest lands. The inventory identified about 997.4 miles of routes on DNR Forestry-administered lands in the East Central Forest planning unit. Approximately 688.6 miles of inventoried routes are located inside state forest boundaries and 308.8 miles are located outside the state forest boundaries. Routes inventoried on county-managed lands included about 219.3 miles of routes on Aitkin County forest lands, and a total of 405.3 miles on Cass County forest land. These mileages have been corrected during the course of this exercise. The new totals are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Forest Land Ownership in East Central Forests

Source: Forest Access Route Unpublished Data, 2008. DNR DRS. Generated Using ArcView Extension

Inside State Forest					
State Forest	Statutory Acres	Administrator		Inventoried Routes State Lands Only	
		DNR	County		
DAR	636 ac	356 ac		0	0.0 mi.
Hill River	124,204 ac	80,115 ac	Aitkin	15,047 ac.	178.8 mi.
Land O'Lakes	51,489 ac	28,348 ac	Cass	12,191 ac.	141.8 mi.
			Crow Wing	1,120 ac	
Savanna	238,954 ac	127,191 ac	Aitkin	29,274 ac	377.4 mi.
Snake River	9,635 ac	7,885 ac	Kanabec	0.0 ac.	62.8 mi.
Waukenabo	15,461 ac	15,461 ac	Aitkin	0.0 ac.	16.4 mi.
Totals	440,379 ac.	259,356 ac		56,512 ac.	806.4 mi.
Outside State Forest					
County		DNR Forestry-Administered Lands Only		Inventoried Route Miles	
Aitkin		71,133 ac		61.0 mi.	
Anoka		649 ac		0.9 mi.	
So. Cass		15,192 ac		77.1 mi.	
Chisago		157 ac		0.0 mi.	
Isanti		238 ac		0.0 mi.	
Kanabec		3,297 ac		10.6 mi.	
Pine		12,000 ac		36.2 mi.	
Washington		0.1 ac		0.0 mi.	
Totals		102,666.1 ac.		185.8 mi.	

Final Motor Vehicle Use Classifications

State Forest Classification (Lands inside State Forest boundaries)

DAR State Forest (Pine Co.):	<i>Limited</i>
Hill River State Forest (Aitkin Co.):	<i>Limited</i>
Land O'Lakes State Forest (Cass Co.):	<i>Limited</i>
Savanna State Forest (Aitkin Co.):	<i>Mixed Limited & Closed</i>
Snake River State Forest (Kanabec Co.):	<i>Mixed Limited & Closed</i>
Waukenabo State Forest (Aitkin Co.):	<i>Limited</i>

Scattered State Forest Land Classification (Lands outside of State Forest boundaries.)

Anoka County:	<i>Limited</i>
Aitkin County:	<i>Limited</i>
Chisago County:	<i>Limited</i>
Isanti County:	<i>Limited</i>
Kanabec County:	<i>Mixed Limited & Closed</i>
Pine County:	<i>Mixed Limited & Closed</i>
So. Cass County:	<i>Limited</i>
Washington County:	<i>Limited</i>

Final Route Designations – State Lands Only [Table 2]

Table 2 (below) summarizes the final state land route designations both inside and outside of state forest boundaries. A total of 992.2 miles of routes (state lands) are reflected in the table.

Plan Implementation & Effective Date

Forest classifications and the road and trail designations are to be adopted and implemented through the publication of written orders as specified in *Minn Rules Part 6100.1950*. These decisions become official upon publication in the *State Register*, and they become effective on the *Plan Effective Date* listed on the published orders. This date is September 1, 2009. The DNR encourages county cooperators to formalize their route designations by this same date to ensure consistency across public land ownerships.

Table 2. Final Forest Road & Trail Designation Summary, East Central Forests

Source: Forest Access Route Unpublished Data, 2008. DNR DRS. Generated Using ArcView Extension

Final Route Designation Summary (E-C Unit – State Lands <u>Only</u>)	Lands Inside State Forest (miles)		Lands Outside State Forest (miles)	
Total Inventoried Routes	688.6	806.4	308.8	185.8
System Forest Road	53.4	55.2	3.9	5.7
Min. Maintenance Forest Road	60.5	65.2	16.0	16.5
Non-designated Routes		497.9		143.1
Proactive closures	24.9	24.6	4.9	4.6
In <i>closed</i> forests	29.5	24.2	0.0	
In <i>limited</i> forests	419.9	449.3	247.2	138.5
ATV & OHM Trail	28.0	28.3	21.5	14.3
ATV-Only Trails	35.3	27.7	3.0	0.0
Hunter Walking Trails	37.3	41.7	8.8	10.1
Other Non-Motor Trails	0.0	85.6	0.0	0.7

RED indicates changes to the draft proposal resulting from public and agency review.

Final Plan Maps

Final planning maps which accompany this plan are published and available for free download at www.mndnr.gov or at www.findthetrails.com. These maps, referenced herein, are hereby incorporated as part of this Final Forest Classification & Road/Trail Designation Plan for the East-Central Minnesota Group of forests.

Forest Land Classification & Road / Trail Designation Plan East-Central Minnesota

Background

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages over 4 million acres of State Forest land for the people of Minnesota. Minnesota's State Forests are managed to produce timber, protect watersheds, provide outdoor recreation, and perpetuate rare and distinctive species of native flora and fauna. State Forests are managed in a "sustainable" manner to ensure that they remain healthy, vital, and productive for present and future generations. State Forests provide a variety of dispersed, unstructured outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g., *hunting, trapping, collecting, nature observation*). Many State Forests also contain developed recreation facilities with campgrounds, day-use areas, and designated trails for a variety of motorized and non-motorized purposes.

Minnesota Statutes direct the Commissioner of Natural Resources to:

- Manage State Forests according to the principles of 'multiple use and sustained yield' (M.S. Sec. 89.002, subd. 1); and
- Provide a system of forest roads and trails to access state forest lands (M.S. Sec. 89.002, subd. 3.)

Prior to the mid-1980s recreational motor vehicle use was generally allowed in most State Forests. As the number of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) increased, the DNR closed some forests to OHV use and began developing trails and other facilities for OHV use in other State Forests. In late 1996, the DNR began to reassess its OHV management programs. The DNR classified State Forests as *managed, limited, or closed* with respect to motor vehicle use. In 1999-2000, the DNR revised the rules governing recreational use of State Forests.

Minnesota Laws 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 167 (as amended) directs the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to review the recreational motor vehicle use classification of state forest lands and to designate forest roads and trails. Following public review and comment, the Commissioner must also change the motor vehicle classification of State Forest lands south of US Highway 2 to a classification of *limited or closed*. [*Lands north of US Hwy 2 may retain their managed classification, unless reclassified by the Commissioner*]. Motor vehicle classifications and road and trail designations are to be adopted according to the process and criteria of *Minn.Rules Part 6100.1950* and implemented through the publication of written orders in the State Register.

This final plan documents the outcome of that evaluation, and identifies the final state forest land classifications and route designations for the East Central Minnesota Planning Unit. Motor vehicle use within this unit will, upon this plan's published effective date, be limited to only those roads and trails that are specifically mapped, signed and designated for such use.

Planning Process

In July 2006, an interdisciplinary team with members from the DNR Divisions of Ecological Resources, Enforcement, Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and Trails & Waterways began work on this plan. Major steps included the following:

1. Compile an inventory of forest roads and trails, and other routes, showing evidence of ongoing motorized use. Prepare maps showing all travel routes.

2. Host a series of public open houses to alert people to the classification review, to gain an understanding of how they access and use these routes, and to solicit ideas regarding the future use and designation of selected routes.
3. Conduct interagency sessions to make preliminary designation and use recommendations based on inventory data, staff expertise, and input from the public open houses.
4. Identify routes potentially suitable for designation as motor/non-motor recreational trails.
5. Prepare designation plans and maps for agency and public review and comment.
6. Modify and revise the draft proposal based upon public and agency review, and
7. Seek final review and approval by the DNR Commissioner.

Given the mix of county and state land ownership in the planning area, the DNR team coordinated its work with county land managers from Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Pine Counties. The goal was to develop a consistent, understandable and enforceable approach to regulating vehicular access across public forest lands. The team worked within existing mandates and guidelines for the management of State Forest lands, while respecting the management plans and policies of other forest land managers within the planning area.

Description of Lands Covered by this Plan

The East Central Forests planning unit includes six (6) named State Forests and scattered State Forest lands administered by the DNR Division of Forestry in eight (8) counties located in East-Central Minnesota. Lands subject to the planning effort are as follows:

- 3) State forest lands within the statutory boundaries of the DAR, Hill River, Land O'Lakes, Savanna, Snake River, and Waukenabo State Forests; and
- 4) Scattered DNR Forestry-administered lands located in Aitkin; Anoka; Chisago; Isanti; Kanabec; Pine; Southern Cass; and Washington Counties.

This plan addresses forest classification and road/trail designations for the State Forest Lands identified above. Since only a portion of Land O'Lakes State Forest occurs in Crow Wing County, all other state forest lands in this county were addressed in the Crow Wing County Planning Unit. Similarly, northern Cass County was addressed in the Chippewa Planning Unit. Plans for both units have already been completed. See www.mndnr.gov for details.

Location, Acreage, and Ownership [Table 3, Figure 1]

The planning unit covers a total of approximately 4.45 million acres, including water-covered areas. There are six named State Forests within the planning unit. These six state forests have a gross combined acreage of about 440,379 acres, about 259,356 acres of which, or about 59% is administered by the DNR Division of Forestry. Another 102,666 acres of forest land administered by the DNR Division of Forestry lies outside of State Forest boundaries in the planning unit. Therefore, a total of 362,022 net acres were the focus of this planning exercise.

State & County Administered Forest Lands

Aitkin and Cass Counties manage forest lands within the statutory boundaries of state forests in the East Central Forests. Both counties have a Land Department responsible for motor vehicle use on these ownerships. Aitkin County manages 44,321 acres in the Hill River and Savanna State Forests respectively, while Cass and Crow Wing Counties manage 12,191 and 1,120 acres, respectively in the Land O'Lakes State Forest.

Aitkin and Cass Counties also manage tax-forfeit forest lands outside state forest boundaries. These counties viewed this planning effort as an opportunity to develop motor vehicle use plans for county-managed forest lands. County designations are also depicted on the various planning maps that accompany this plan.

Table 3. Summary of Forest Land Ownership in East Central Forests

Source: Forest Access Route Unpublished Data, 2008. DNR DRS. Generated Using ArcView Extension

Inside State Forest				
State Forest	Statutory Acres	Administrator		Inventoried Routes State Lands Only
		DNR	County	
DAR	636 ac	356 ac	0	
Hill River	124,204 ac	80,115 ac	Aitkin	15,047 ac.
Land O'Lakes	51,489 ac	28,348 ac	Cass	12,191 ac.
			Crow Wing	1,120 ac
Savanna	238,954 ac	127,191 ac	Aitkin	29,274 ac
Snake River	9,635 ac	7,885 ac	Kanabec	0.0 ac.
Waukenabo	15,461 ac	15,461 ac	Aitkin	0.0 ac.
Totals	440,379 ac.	259,356 ac	56,512 ac.	
Outside State Forest				
County		DNR Forestry-Administered Lands Only		Inventoried Route Miles
Aitkin		71,133 ac		61.0 mi.
Anoka		649 ac		0.9 mi.
So. Cass		15,192 ac		77.1 mi.
Chisago		157 ac		0.0 mi.
Isanti		238 ac		0.0 mi.
Kanabec		3,297 ac		10.6 mi.
Pine		12,000 ac		36.2 mi.
Washington		0.1 ac		0.0 mi.
Totals		102,666.1 ac.		185.8 mi.

Motor Vehicle Use Classification

Minnesota Law requires the Commissioner of Natural Resources to complete a review of the classification of State Forest lands for motor vehicle use by December 31, 2008. The process and criteria for forest classification are contained in *Minnesota Rules part 6100.1950. subp. 2*. Minnesota motor vehicle use classifications are characterized as follows:

‘Managed’ Forest Lands. All state forest roads and forest trails are open to motor vehicle use unless posted closed. Managed forests are characterized by low-intensity and widely dispersed use, a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities, and little competition among recreational visitors. Signing and enforcement restrict motor vehicle use in sensitive resource areas and on designated non-motor trails. ATVs may be operated on non-designated routes and off-trail pursuant to statutory hunting/trapping exceptions. ORVs and HLVs may be operated on non-designated routes under these same hunting and trapping exceptions. When using motor vehicles on unsigned routes it is illegal to operate the vehicle in a manner that causes erosion or rutting or injures, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The *managed* classification may only be applied to forest lands north of U.S. Hwy 2.

‘Limited’ Forest Lands. Forest roads are open to motor vehicle use unless posted closed. Forest trails are closed to motor vehicle use, except where designated and signed open. These forests are characterized by moderate to high levels of public recreational use. It is necessary to designate OHV trails so that OHV use occurs only in suitable locations. ATVs may be operated on non-designated routes and off-trail per MS 84.926. ORVs and HLVs may also be operated on non-designated routes under the hunting and trapping exceptions.

‘Closed’ Forest Lands. Forest roads are open to highway-licensed vehicles, but OHVs are not permitted, except that OHVs may operate on frozen public waters (*e.g., across lakes for ice fishing*). Closed state forest lands are susceptible to vehicle damage or have a history that precludes motorized use. The hunting/trapping exceptions do not apply in *closed* forests.

The following criteria are considered when classifying forest lands for motor vehicle use:

- A. resource sensitivity and management objectives;
- B. resource impact by motorized and non-motorized use, including erosion, rutting, and impacts on vegetation, wildlife, air, water, or natural habitats;
- C. motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunity in area;
- D. user needs, such as trails, parking, signs, and access;
- E. the degree and trend of motor vehicle use in the area;
- F. the degree and trend of non-motor vehicle use in the area;
- G. competing interests among different user groups; and
- H. public safety and law enforcement concerns.

Lands Covered by this Classification Review

This motor vehicle use classification review covers State Forest lands in East-Central Minnesota. Six state forests are covered by this classification review: D.A.R.; Hill River; Land O’Lakes; Savanna; Snake River; and Waukenabo. Scattered state lands located in Aitkin, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Southern Cass, and Washington Counties were also evaluated. In total, this planning unit covers approximately 4.45 million gross acres.

Inside State Forest Boundaries

There are six (6) named State Forests occurring whole or in part with statutorily-defined boundaries within the planning unit; these are: DAR; Hill River; Land O’Lakes; Savanna; Snake River; and Waukenabo. This Final Plan addresses these six (6) state forests, which have a gross acreage of about 440,379 acres, about 259,356 acres of which is administered by the DNR Division of Forestry and is subject to this review. *M.S. Section 84.777* applies the State Forest classification and road/trail designation process to county-administered forest lands within the boundaries of State Forests, unless the county board adopts a resolution that modifies restrictions on the use of OHVs on county-administered land within the forest.

The motor vehicle use classification and related State Forest rules do not apply to federal, tribal, or private lands inside or outside of State Forest boundaries. The classifications also do not apply to public roadways within State Forest boundaries, which are under the jurisdiction of state, county, or local public road authorities. Finally, forest classification decisions do not apply to state lands administered by units other than the DNR, Division of Forestry, such as State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific & Natural Areas, or along State Trails.

Outside State Forest Boundaries

The East Central Forests include about 102,666 acres of State Forest land administered by the DNR Division of Forestry outside of the State Forest boundaries. These lands occur in: Aitkin

County (71,133 acres); Anoka County (649 acres); Chisago County (157 acres); Isanti County (238 acres); Kanabec County (3,297 acres); Pine County (12,000 acres); and Washington County (0.1 acres). All of these lands are covered by this classification review.

County-administered forest land outside of state forest boundaries also occurs in Aitkin, Pine, Kanabec, and Southern Cass Counties. This plan does not apply to any of these county-administered lands. However, both Aitkin and Cass Counties have developed recommendations for motor vehicle use for select routes, in conjunction with this planning exercise, on their respective forest land ownerships.

Classification Evaluation Process

East Central Team members reviewed the classification criteria, collected data, and gathered input from other DNR staff, county land managers, other governmental units, and from the public. Five public open houses were conducted over the period August 21-29, 2007. The DNR solicited and received written comments from the public over this period. This input is reflected in the final planning recommendations and decisions.

The DNR team and cooperators worked together to develop recommended forest classifications, road/trail designations, and areas with motor vehicle use restrictions. Final designations are based upon statutory criteria, an evaluation of existing conditions, and review of current use and route conditions. Every effort was made to protect natural resources and further resource management objectives through this process. The plan also seeks to foster consistency across mixed public ownerships in terms of vehicle use regulation. This fosters public understanding and compliance, and facilitates effective field enforcement.

Current Motor Vehicle Use Classification

Motor vehicle use has generally been allowed in most state forests. On September 3, 1998 the Commissioner of Natural Resources issued a memorandum establishing interim classifications for all State Forests. The interim classifications became permanent on January 1, 2000. The classification for DNR Division of Forestry-administered State Forest Lands within the DAR, Hill River, Land O'Lakes, Savanna, and Waukenabo forests is currently *managed*. The Snake River State Forest is currently classified as *limited*. These historical classifications will change pursuant to implementation of this plan.

Final Forest Classifications – East Central Forests

The state forests and/or associated scattered state forest lands in East Central Minnesota will be reclassified as either *limited* or *closed*, as outlined below, in compliance with state law.

DAR State Forest - *LIMITED*

The DAR State Forest will be reclassified as *limited* under this plan with regard to motor vehicle use. This forest occupies just one legal land section, with DNR ownership in the northwest half of the parcel. No motorized inventory exists on this parcel. The forest's statutory boundary encompasses 636 acres, of which 356 acres are managed by MN DNR, Division of Forestry.

Hill River State Forest – *LIMITED*

Under this plan, lands within the Hill River State Forest will be reclassified as *limited* with respect to motor vehicle use. A *limited* classification affords a better opportunity to align DNR and county land management than is possible under a *closed* classification. The *limited* classification acknowledges that motorized access can be sustained on the existing route

inventory. The *limited* classification also facilitates future Grant In Aid trail development opportunities on both county and state lands.

Land O'Lakes State Forest – LIMITED

The Land O'Lakes State Forest is located in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The forest's statutory boundary encompasses 51,489 acres, of which 28,348 are administered by DNR Forestry, Cass County manages 12,191 acres, and Crow Wing County manages 1,120 acres within the state forest boundary. The balance of 9,830 acres is in private and corporate ownership. The forest abuts the Hill River State Forest on its eastern boundary.

Under this plan, state lands within the Land O'Lakes State Forest will be reclassified as *limited*. A *limited* classification is consistent with DNR and county land management objectives, and the need to provide public vehicular access to public lands in the area.

Savanna State Forest – Mixed LIMITED & CLOSED

The Savanna State Forest in Aitkin County will be reclassified a mix of *limited* and *closed*. All State Forest Lands outside the Remote Lake Solitude Area will be classified as *limited*, while lands (and 20.3 miles of inventoried routes) inside this special area will be *closed* to OHV use. The *closed* classification at Remote Lakes respects historic management of this area, which has long prohibited motor vehicle use. The *limited* classification, outside the Remote Lakes Area, is consistent with both DNR and county land management objectives. The *limited* classification also allows for potential future Grant In Aid trail development on both county and DNR lands in that portion of the Savanna State Forest.

Snake River State Forest – Mixed LIMITED & CLOSED

Under this plan, lands in the Snake River State Forest will be reclassified a mix of both *limited* and *closed*. State Forest Lands south of 370th Avenue will be reclassified as *closed*, but the remainder of the forest (to the north) will retain the *limited* classification, per motor vehicle use.

The *closed* classification was deemed necessary to protect important riparian values, especially in T42N R22W, Section 18 - along the 'oxbow' portion of the Snake River. This classification is consistent with planned expansion and improvement of hunter walking trails in this area.

The northern one-third of the forest will retain its *limited* classification, which will provide an enforceable transition between lands classified as *closed* to the south, and Aitkin County forest lands, which are managed according to a "closed unless posted open" (or *limited*) public vehicle access policy. However, because of concerns over damage historically associated with fall hunting activity, the hunter/trapper exceptions (of MS 84.926, sub. 2 & 4) will not apply in the limited (northern) portion of the Snake River State Forest.

Motorcycle-related special events have been permitted in the forest for many years, using routes that typically are located in the northern 1/3 of the forest, extending into Aitkin County. This use will be allowed to continue, subject to Special Event Permit terms and conditions, in both the *limited* and *closed* portions of the Snake River State Forest.

Waukenabo State Forest – LIMITED

All state forest lands within the Waukenabo State Forest will be reclassified as *limited* per motor vehicle use. This classification permits historic non-motorized uses of the forest to be retained. Forest monitoring and enforcement efforts will ensure that use is controlled and resources are protected within the forest's 15,461 acre statutory boundary.

Scattered State Forest Lands / Aitkin County - LIMITED

All scattered state forest lands within Aitkin County will be reclassified as *limited* per motor vehicle use. This includes about 71,133 acres with 84.0 miles of inventoried routes on forestry-administered state lands. A *limited* classification will allow historic big game hunting and trapping access (per M.S. Sec. 84.926, subd. 2 & 4), while protecting natural resource values. Public access on non-designated routes for utilitarian purposes (e.g., berry picking) will only be possible by foot travel under a *limited* classification. Both HLVs and OHVs are permitted uses on forest roads.

Scattered State Forest Lands / Anoka County - LIMITED

All state forest lands within Anoka County will be reclassified as *limited*. About 0.9 miles of inventoried routes are present on the 649 acres of forestry-administered state land. No State Forests are located in Anoka County. A *limited* classification will allow historic big game hunting and trapping access, while protecting natural resource values. Public access via non-designated routes will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized means.

Scattered State Forest Lands / Chisago County - LIMITED

All state forest lands within Chisago County will be reclassified as *limited* per motor vehicle use. There is no recorded inventory on the 157 acres of forestry-administered state land in the county. No named State Forests are located in Chisago County. A *limited* classification will allow historic big game hunting and trapping access, while protecting other resource values. Public access will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized means.

Scattered State Forest Lands / Isanti County – LIMITED

All state forest lands within Isanti County will be reclassified as *limited* per motor vehicle use. There is no recorded route inventory or named State Forest in this county. About 238 acres of forestry-administered lands are located in Isanti county. A *limited* classification will allow historic big game hunting and trapping access while protecting natural resource values. Public access for other utilitarian purposes will henceforth only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized methods.

Scattered State Lands / Kanabec County – Mixed LIMITED & CLOSED

Scattered state forest lands within Kanabec County will be reclassified both *limited* and *closed* per motor vehicle travel. A *limited* classification for remaining lands will allow historic big game hunting and trapping access, while protecting natural resource values. Public access on non-designated routes will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized methods, in the *limited* forest. Both HLVs and OHVs are permitted uses on forest roads.

About 560 acres of scattered state forest lands in Kanabec County in, T42N R23W, Section 16 will be reclassified as *closed* to OHV use (Appendix B). This parcel abuts Hay Snake WMA and has about 3.0 miles of inventoried routes. These routes will be designated as hunter walking trails, which will complement the hunter walking trails in the Snake River State Forest. The *closed* classification is consistent with management of the adjacent WMA. No motor vehicle use will be allowed on routes into this area under the *closed* classification. Public access will only be possible by foot or other non-motorized means of travel.

Scattered State Lands / Pine County – Mixed *LIMITED & CLOSED*

The approximately 12,000 acres of forestry administered state lands in Pine County outside of State Forest boundaries will be reclassified as *limited* per motor vehicle use. This will allow for traditional big game hunting and trapping access while protecting natural resource values. Public access via non-designated routes for utilitarian or recreational purposes will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized methods, under the *limited* classification.

The 565-acre Sturgeon Lake Area (Appendix B) will be reclassified as *closed* due to a history of wetland damage and its proximity to both the Sturgeon Lake WMA and to the Kettle River Canoe Campsite. This is entirely DNR forestry land which contains 2.9 miles of routes which will no longer be available for motor vehicle use.

Scattered State Forest Lands / So. Cass County – *LIMITED*

All scattered state forest lands within Southern Cass County will be reclassified as *limited*. This includes about 177.1 miles of inventoried routes on 15,192 acres of state forest lands outside of state forest boundaries. A *limited* classification will allow traditional big game hunting and trapping access, while protecting natural resource values. Public access via non-designated routes for utilitarian purposes will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized means under a *limited* classification. Both HLVs and OHVs are permitted uses on forest roads.

Scattered State Forest Lands / Washington County - *LIMITED*

There are no State Forests in Washington County, and only about 0.2 acres of forestry-administered state lands in the county. There are no inventoried routes on these parcels. All state forest land in Washington County will be reclassified as *limited*. Although hunting and trapping vehicle use will be permitted, public access for other purposes will only be possible by foot travel, or other non-motorized means, under the *limited* classification.

Areas with Limitations on Off-trail & Non-designated Trail Use

A total of 11 parcels ranging in size from 80 acres to 19,403 acres, containing a total of 64.3 miles of inventoried routes, will be designated as 'motor-limited' pursuant to *MS Chap. 84.926, Subd. 5*. This is in order to vacate the hunter/trapper exceptions for vehicle use that would otherwise exist in these special areas. (*See Appendix B & Final Plan Map*). Most of the areas have a history of non-motorized use, and all were deemed ecologically sensitive and unsuited to continued vehicle use. One of these areas (inside Land O' Lakes SF) was reduced in size by about 1/3 in response to public comments and concerns. The others remain unchanged from the draft proposal.

Final Route Designation Summary [Table 4]

The miles of routes proposed to receive various administrative designations are identified below. This plan addresses 806.4 miles of routes on state lands inside State Forest boundaries and 185.8 miles of routes on scattered State Forest lands in Aitkin, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Southern Cass, and Washington Counties. These routes are shown on the maps that accompany this plan.

In sum, 29 miles or about 3% of the total 992 miles of all inventoried routes will be proactively closed to vehicle use under this plan. Another 588 miles (or 59%) of non-designated routes will also be closed to all but seasonal use by licensed hunters and trappers. With non-motor trail designations, fully 80% of the total final route inventory will be closed to all or most motor vehicle use. Most of these routes were previously legal to ride.

System Forest Roads – Final Designations

State forest roads are generally open to use by highway-licensed vehicles and OHVs, but may be closed seasonally or temporarily to address natural resource or public safety issues. The DNR divides State Forest Roads into two classes – System Roads and Minimum Maintenance Roads – based upon their condition, intended use, and planned maintenance level.

Under this plan 55.2 miles of System State Forest Roads will be designated inside state forest boundaries; and 5.7 miles will be designated outside state forest boundaries. These roads will be managed by the DNR and will typically be open to HLVs and OHVs.

Table 4. Final Forest Road & Trail Designation Summary, East Central Forests

Source: Forest Access Route Unpublished Data, 2008. DNR DRS. Generated Using ArcView Extension

Final Route Designation Summary (E-C Unit – State Lands <u>Only</u>)	Lands Inside State Forest (miles)		Lands Outside State Forest (miles)	
Total Inventoried Routes	688.6 806.4		308.8 185.8	
System Forest Road	53.1 55.2		3.9 5.7	
Min. Maintenance Forest Road	60.5 65.2		16.0 16.5	
Non-designated Routes	497.9		143.1	
Proactive closures	24.9 24.6	474.3	4.9 4.6	252.1
In <i>closed</i> forests	29.5 24.2		0.0	
In <i>limited</i> forests	419.9 449.3		247.2 138.5	
ATV & OHM Trail	28.0 28.3		21.5 14.3	
ATV-Only Trails	35.3 27.7		3.0 0.0	
Hunter Walking Trails	37.3 41.7		8.8 10.1	
Other Non-Motor Trails	0.0 85.6		0.0 0.7	

RED indicates changes to the draft proposal resulting from public and agency review.

Minimum Maintenance Forest Roads – Final Designations

Some 65.2 miles of Minimum Maintenance State Forest Roads will be designated inside state forest boundaries, and 16.5 miles will be designated outside the state forest boundary. These roads will be managed by the DNR and will typically be open to HLVs and OHVs, but they may not be maintained to a level where low-clearance vehicles can routinely travel on them.

Recreational Trail Designations

M.S. 89.19, subd. 2 authorizes the Commissioner of Natural Resources to designate forest trails under prescribed procedures. Designated forest trails provide public access for a range of purposes, both recreational and utilitarian. The Commissioner may designate motorized or non-motorized trails, and may provide associated support facilities (*e.g., parking or staging areas, toilets, trailhead, day-use picnic sites*). These trails have designated primary uses, are signed, mapped, monitored, and maintained, and are listed in various DNR publications.

Non-Motorized Trails – Final Designations

Under this plan, a total of 138.1 miles of non-motorized recreational trails will be newly designated. This includes 127.3 miles inside of state forests, and 10.8 miles outside forest boundaries. About 52 miles of this total are hunter walking trails, and the remainder are for general non-motor use (*e.g., hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc.*)

There are many opportunities for non-motorized recreation beyond the officially designated and maintained hunter walking and non-motorized trails. Hiking is allowed on forest roads and trails that are designated for other uses. Foot travel is also allowed on most non-designated routes, although these routes are not signed, mapped, or maintained for specific recreational uses. Foot travel is also allowed off-trail on forest lands. Non-designated routes on DNR forest lands (in limited forests) are closed to motor vehicle use except that ATVs and HLVs may be used for certain big game hunting and trapping activities (*as per MS Chap. 84.926*). No OHV use is allowed in areas classified as 'closed'.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Trails – Final Designations

ATVs are permitted to operate on forest roads, and on forest trails specifically designated for ATV use subject to seasonal road and/or trail closures. Under this plan 27.7 miles of ATV-Only trail will be designated – all inside state forest, and nearly 43 miles of trail will be designated for shared ATV/OHM use on state lands inside and outside of state forest.

All designated forest roads and ATV/OHM trails will be open to Class 1 ATVs. Operation of Class 2 ATVs will be permissible on all forest roads, while it is possible that some segments of designated ATV/OHM trail will not be available for Class 2 ATV use. This will be determined on a route-by-route basis during plan implementation.

Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) Trails – Final Designations

OHMs are permitted to operate on forest roads and trails specifically designated for OHM use subject to temporary and/or seasonal closures. Under this plan, 42.6 miles of shared ATV/OHM trail will be designated for OHM use. No OHM-Only 'single-track' trails will be designated through this planning process.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trails – Final Designations

ORVs are permitted to operate on forest roads and trails specifically designated for ORV use. Under this plan, 142.6 miles of forest roads will be open to ORVs on state-administered lands. No ORV trail designations are made under this plan for either DNR or county-managed forest lands. Both ORVs and HLVs may operate on state forest roads, year-round, subject to seasonal road and/or trail closures and/or weight restrictions.

Non-Designated Routes

A total of 587.8 miles of inventoried routes on state lands will remain *non-designated* under this plan. These routes will not typically be signed, mapped or actively managed, but they are open to hunter/trapper vehicle use, and to non-motorized foot traffic. (The status of non-designated routes on county-administered lands depends on their respective public access policies). Non-designated routes in the *closed* forest (about 24 miles) will be closed to all motor vehicle use. The only motorized uses permitted in *closed* forests are highway-licensed vehicles on designated State Forest Roads and snowmobile use. OHVs may operate only on frozen waters inside the *closed* forest.

Proactive Closures

About 29.2 miles of routes deemed generally unsuited for motor vehicle use, or showing signs of damage, have been proactively closed. Closed routes will have signs, gates, or barricades to clearly indicate that motor vehicle use is not permitted. These routes are unavailable for motor vehicle use under the big game hunting/trapping exceptions of *M.S. Section 84.926*.

Plan Implementation and Monitoring

Road & Trail Development and Signing Projects

After the Commissioner publishes motor vehicle use classification and road & trail designation orders, the DNR will implement the plan by developing and signing roads and trails. Required permits will be obtained when site-level development projects are implemented.

The DNR is committed to substantially completing the development and signing of forest roads and trails by the published plan effective date.

Plan Effective Date

The anticipated effective date for the change in forest classification, route designations, and implementation of the 'motor-limited' areas is September 1, 2009.

Final Designation Maps

The final forest road and trail designations for state forest lands in the East Central Forests are depicted on a series of maps, which are referenced herein and incorporated into this plan by reference. Final planning maps are available for free download at www.mndnr.gov or at www.findthetrails.com.

Ongoing Monitoring and Management

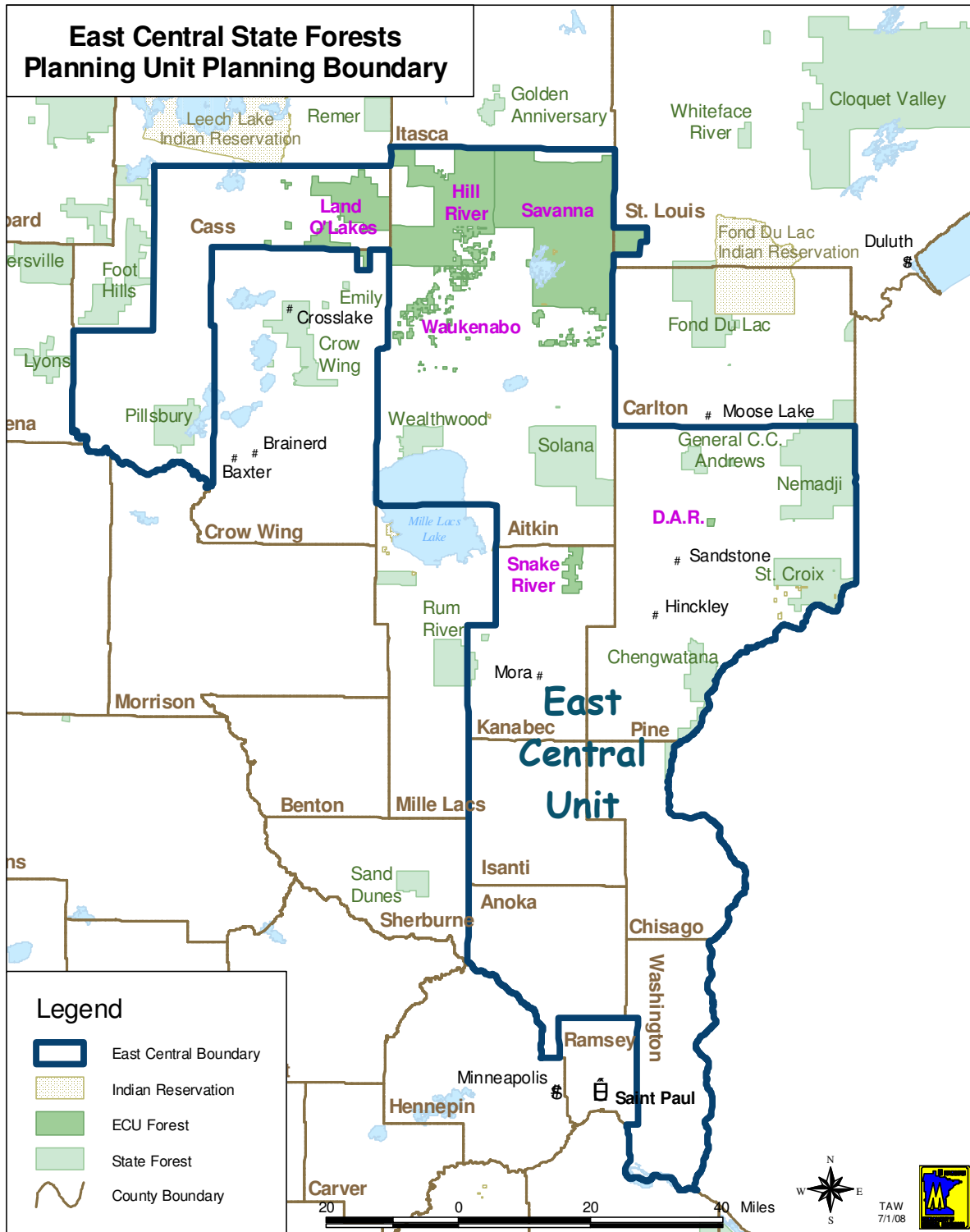
The DNR is committed to providing both motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities on State Forest Lands. A guiding principle for recreational trails is "managed use on managed trails." The intent is to provide quality recreational experiences on environmentally sustainable non-motorized and motorized trails. The DNR will use approved best management practices for forest roads and trails.

The DNR will monitor roads and trails for maintenance and sustainability needs. Education and enforcement will be used to ensure compliance with road and trail use designations. The level of user satisfaction and user conflicts will be monitored and future adjustments in the motor vehicle use classification and trail use designations may be proposed.

Roads and trails may be temporarily closed as warranted by weather conditions (*e.g., spring frost-out, high fire hazard, following major storm events*) or while needed repairs are being made. Permanent changes to the designated trail system, however, will be subject to added public review and comment.

E-C Final Plan.doc
04 Nov. 2008

Figure 1: Planning Unit



Appendix A

Minnesota Statutes & Rules Related to State Forest Classification & Off-Highway Vehicle Operations

MN Laws 2003, Chapt. 128, Article 1, Sect. 167, as amended by M.L. 2005, 1st Special Session, Chapt. 1, Article 2, Sect. 152, and by ML 2007, Ch. 57, Sec. 155.

Subdivision 1. Forest classification status review.

(a) By December 31, 2006, the commissioner of natural resources shall complete a review of the forest classification status of all state forests classified as managed or limited, all forest lands under the authority of the commissioner as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 89.001, subdivision 13, and lands managed by the commissioner under Minnesota Statutes, section 282.011. The review must be conducted on a forest-by-forest and area-by-area basis in accordance with the process and criteria under Minnesota Rules, part 6100.1950. Except as provided in paragraph (d), after each forest is reviewed, the commissioner must change the status of the lands within each forest to limited or closed. The commissioner may classify portions of a limited forest as closed. The commissioner must also provide a similar status for each of the other areas subject to review under this section after each individual review is completed.

(b) If the commissioner determines on January 1, 2005, that the review required under this section cannot be completed by December 31, 2006, the completion date for the review shall be extended to December 31, 2008. By January 15, 2005, the commissioner shall report to the chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance regarding the status of the process required by this section.

(c) Until December 31, 2010, the state forests and areas subject to review under this section are exempt from Minnesota Statutes, section 84.777, unless an individual forest or area has been classified as limited or closed.

(d) Notwithstanding the restrictions in paragraph (a), and Minnesota Statutes, section 84.777, subdivision 1, all forest lands under the authority of the commissioner as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 89.001, subdivision 13, and lands managed by the commissioner under Minnesota Statutes, section 282.011, that are north of U.S. Highway 2 shall maintain their present classification unless the commissioner reclassifies the lands under Minnesota Rules, part 6100.1950. The commissioner shall provide for seasonal trail closures when conditions warrant them. By December 31, 2008, the commissioner shall complete the review and designate trails on forest lands north of Highway 2 as provided in this section. History: 2003 c 128 art 1 s 21 (as amended)

Subdivision 2. Temporary Suspension of Environmental Review.

The requirements for environmental review under Minnesota Statutes, section 116D.04, and rules of the environmental quality board are temporarily suspended for each reclassification and trail designation made under subdivision 1 until the commissioner has met all requirements under subdivision 1, or December 31, 2008, if the commissioner has failed to complete those requirements as required by law.

Chapter 84.773, Minnesota Statutes 2006

84.773 RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATION.

Subdivision 1. Restrictions. A person may not intentionally operate an off-highway vehicle: (1) on a trail on public land that is designated or signed for non-motorized use only; (2) on restricted areas within public lands that are posted or where gates or other clearly visible structures are placed to prevent unauthorized motorized vehicle access; (3) except as specifically authorized by law or rule adopted by the commissioner, in unfrozen public waters, as defined in section [103G.005](#); in a state park; in a scientific and natural area; or in a wildlife management area; or (4) in a calcareous fen, as identified by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. Wetland disturbance. A person may not operate an off-highway vehicle in a manner to:

- (1) indicate a willful, wanton, or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property;
- (2) carelessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland; or
- (3) impact a wetland or public waters wetland in excess of the amounts authorized in section [103G.2241](#), [subdivision 9](#), unless: (i) sequencing of the impact is followed according to section [103G.222](#), [subdivision 1](#), paragraph (b), and the impact is repaired under section [103G.2242](#), and rules adopted pursuant to that section; or (ii) the activity is exempt under section [103G.2241](#).

Subd. 3. Private land access. The commissioner may grant up to a ten-year permit to exempt a private landowner or leaseholder from this section when the only reasonable access to a permit applicant's land is across state land. **History:** 2003 c 128 art 1 s 19; 2004 c 255 s 6

Chapter 84.777, Minnesota Statutes 2007

84.777 OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE OF STATE LANDS RESTRICTED.

Subd. 1. Designated trails. (a) Except as otherwise allowed by law or rules adopted by the commissioner, effective June 1, 2003, notwithstanding sections 84.787 to 84.805 and 84.92 to 84.929, the use of off-highway vehicles is prohibited on state land administered by the commissioner of natural resources, and on county-administered forest land within the boundaries of a state forest, except on roads and trails specifically designated and posted by the commissioner for use by off-highway vehicles. (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to county-administered land within a state forest if the county board adopts a resolution that modifies restrictions on the use of off-highway vehicles on county-administered land within the forest.

Subd. 2. Off-highway vehicle seasons. (a) The commissioner shall prescribe seasons for off-highway vehicle use on state forest lands. Except for designated forest roads, a person must not operate an off-highway vehicle on state forest lands outside of the seasons prescribed under this paragraph. (b) The commissioner may designate and post winter trails on state forest lands for use by off-highway vehicles. (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "state forest lands" means forest lands under the authority of the commissioner as defined in section 89.001, subdivision 13, and lands managed by the commissioner under section 282.011.

Subd. 3. Mapped trails. (a) Except as provided in sections 84.926 and 84.928, after completion of official department off-highway vehicle maps for the area, a person must not operate an off-highway vehicle on state land that is not mapped for the type of off-highway vehicle. This paragraph does not apply to state forest land north of U.S. Highway 2 until after June 30, 2009. (b) This subdivision does not apply to a forest access route in a managed forest north of U.S. Highway 2 that the commissioner has not designated as a road or trail. Forest access routes will not be signed or maintained and will not be included on published user maps of the forest. Off-highway vehicle operation on forest access routes is subject to the prohibitions on causing erosion, rutting, damage to trees or crops, and construction of unauthorized trails contained in Minnesota Rules. Damaged routes are subject to closure to off-highway vehicle use.

Subd. 4. Exemption from rulemaking. Determinations of the commissioner under this section may be by written order published in the State Register and are exempt from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14. Section 14.386 does not apply. **History:** 2003 c 128 art 1 s 21

[MS 84.8045] RESTRICTIONS ON OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRAILS.

Notwithstanding any provision of sections 84.797 to 84.805 or other law to the contrary, the commissioner shall not permit land administered by the commissioner in Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties to be used or developed for trails primarily for off-road vehicles as defined in section 84.797, subdivision 7, except:(1) upon approval by the legislature; or (2) in designated off-road vehicle use areas.

History: Minnesota Session Laws 2007, Ch. 57 Sec. 26.

Chapter 84.926, Minnesota Statutes 2007,

84.926 VEHICLE USE ON PUBLIC LANDS; EXCEPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. Exception by permit. Notwithstanding sections [84.773, subdivision 1](#), and [84.777](#), on a case by case basis, the commissioner may issue a permit authorizing a person to operate an off-highway vehicle on individual public trails under the commissioner's jurisdiction during specified times and for specified purposes.

Subd. 2. All-terrain vehicles; managed or limited forests; off trail. Notwithstanding section [84.777](#), but subject to the commissioner's authority under subdivision 5, on state forest lands classified as managed or limited, other than the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, a person may use an all-terrain vehicle off forest trails or forest roads when: (1) hunting big game or transporting or installing hunting stands during October, November, and December, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; (2) retrieving big game in September, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; (3) tending traps during an open trapping season for protected furbearers, when in possession of a valid trapping license; or (4) trapping minnows, when in possession of a valid minnow dealer, private fish hatchery, or aquatic farm license.

Subd. 3. All-terrain vehicles; closed forests; hunting. Notwithstanding section [84.777](#), the commissioner may determine whether all-terrain vehicles are allowed on specific forest roads, on state forest lands classified as closed, for the purpose of hunting big game during an open big game season. The determination shall be by written order as published in the State Register and is exempt from Chap. 14. Sect. [14.386](#) does not apply.

Subd. 4. Off-road and all-terrain vehicles; limited or managed forests; trails.

Notwithstanding section [84.777](#), but subject to the commissioner's authority under subdivision 5, on state forest lands classified as limited or managed, other than the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, a person may use vehicles registered under chapter 168 or section [84.798](#) or [84.922, including class 2 all-terrain vehicles](#), on forest trails that are not designated for a specific use when:(1) hunting big game or transporting or installing hunting stands during October, November, and December, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; (2) retrieving big game in September, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license;(3) tending traps during an open trapping season for protected furbearers, when in possession of a valid trapping license; or (4) trapping minnows, when in possession of a valid minnow dealer, private fish hatchery, or aquatic farm license.

Subd. 5. Limitations on off-trail and undesignated trail use. The commissioner may designate areas on state forest lands that are not subject to the exceptions provided in subdivisions 2 and 4. Such designations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section [14.386](#) does not apply. Before designating such areas, the commissioner shall hold a public meeting in the county where the largest portion of the forest lands are located to provide information to and receive comment from the public regarding the proposed designation. Sixty days before the public meeting, notice of the proposed designation shall be

published in the legal newspapers that serve the counties in which the lands are located, in a statewide Department of Natural Resources news release, and in the State Register.

Subd. 6. Operation; class 2 vehicles. Except as provided in subdivision 4, operation of class 2 all-terrain vehicles on lands administered by the commissioner is limited to forest roads, minimum maintenance roads, and trails designated or signed for class 2 all-terrain vehicles.

Subd. 7. Snowmobiles; closed forests; off trail. Forests classified as closed forests are open to off-trail snowmobile use unless prohibited, as determined by the commissioner by written order published in the State Register. The determination is not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. **History:** 1984 c 647 s 5; 1986 c 444; 2003 c 128 art 1 s 31; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 45; 2006 c 281 art 2 s 6

Minnesota Rules, Part 6100.1950

6100.1950 MOTOR VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES; FOREST LANDS.

Subpart 1. Classified forest lands. The operation of motor vehicles and snowmobiles on forest lands classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use according to subpart 2 and Minnesota Statutes, section 89.002, is regulated according to items A to C.

A. On forest lands classified as managed, a person may operate a motor vehicle only on forest roads and forest trails that are not posted and designated closed and in areas that are posted and designated to allow motor vehicle use, subject to the limitations and exceptions in this part.

B. On forest lands classified as limited, a person may operate a motor vehicle only on forest roads that are not posted and designated closed and on forest trails or areas that are posted and designated to allow motor vehicle use, subject to the limitations and exceptions in this part.

C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on forest lands classified as closed, unless on frozen public waters where operation is not otherwise prohibited. Motor vehicles that are licensed for use on public highways may be operated on forest roads that are not posted or gated closed. Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

Subp. 2. Criteria for classification. The following criteria shall be considered when classifying forest lands for motor vehicle use:

- A. resource sensitivity and management objectives;
- B. resource impact by motorized and nonmotorized use, including erosion, rutting, and impacts on vegetation, wildlife, air, water, or natural habitats;
- C. motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunity in area;
- D. user needs, such as trails, parking, signs, and access;
- E. the degree and trend of motor vehicle use in the area;
- F. the degree and trend of nonmotor vehicle use in the area;
- G. competing interests among different user groups; and
- H. public safety and law enforcement concerns.

Subp. 3. Notice and public meeting. Before changing the classification of forest lands for motor vehicle use, the commissioner shall provide notice and a public meeting according to items A to C.

A.) A public meeting shall be held in the county where the largest portion of the forest lands are located to provide information to and receive comment from the public regarding the proposed classification change.

B.) Sixty days before the public meeting, notice of the proposed classification change shall be published in legal newspapers that serve the counties in which the lands are located and in a statewide Department of Natural Resources news release and in the State Register. The notice shall include a summary of the proposed action, a request for public comment, and notice of the public meeting.

C.) Twenty-one days before the public meeting, notice of the meeting shall be announced in a statewide Department of Natural Resources news release.

Subp. 4. Commissioner's decision. The commissioner shall make a decision about the proposed classification change after considering the criteria listed in subpart 2 and any public comment received and explaining how the nature and magnitude of the criteria and comments relate to the classification.

Subp. 5. Nonmotorized trails. No person shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on forest lands on a designated nonmotorized trail, including ski, foot, horse, bike, or accessible trail, unless the trail is also posted open for a motorized use. *STAT AUTH: MS 14.045; 14.388; 84.03; 85.052; 85.053; 85.20; 86A.05; 86A.06; 89.031; 89.19 to 89.21; 89.71 HIST: 24 SR 208; 25 SR 782; 27 SR 27*

Appendix B

Areas with Limitations on Off-trail and Non-designated Trail Use

Name	Gross Acres	DNR & County Acres / Routes	Location	Rationale
<p>1. Pillsbury / Meadowbrook <i>T135N R31W, Sec. 36</i></p>	658 ac.	All DNR .64 mi. routes	Cass County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent WMA closed to OHV. • Pillsbury SF closed to OHV. • 'Limited' still allows for Cass Co. connector trails.
<p>2. Deep Portage / Birch Lake T140N R30W, Sec. 36 and Sec. 12, 13, 14 of T139N R30W, and Sec. 6 & 7 of T139N R29W</p>	6,697 ac.	DNR – 1,305 ac. Cass Co. – 5,392 ac. 5.2 mi routes	Cass County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside Deep Portage Reserve. • Remote canoe campsite at Boy River (managed by DP). • Coop DNR/County HW trails. • History of wetland damage. • DP Mgmt Plan calls for no motor vehicles, except HLVs. • MMR provides vehicle access to Boy Lake.
<p>3. Boy River / Child Lake <i>T140N R29W, Sec. 16</i></p>	733 ac.	DNR – 213 ac. Cass Co. – 520 ac. .17 mi. routes	Cass County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upstream from walleye egg collection station. • Within Boy River Clean Water Partnership Project Area.
<p>4. Washburn/Margaret Lakes T139N R25W, All or portions of Sec.10, 15 & 16</p>	821 ac.	DNR – 263 ac. Cass Co. – 558 ac. 3.5 mi. routes	Cass County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated campground with X-C ski trails. • Adjacent Cass Co. lands are managed as non-motorized.

Name	Gross Acres	DNR / County Acres	Location	Rationale
<p>5. Land O'Lakes State Forest T140N R25W, all or portions of Sec. 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32.</p>	4,215 ac.	DNR – 3,841 ac. Cass Co. – 374 ac. 14.6 mi. routes	Cass County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of non-motor remote hunting area mgmt by DNR Forestry / F&W. Adj. to Moose River ATV Trail. Extensive wetlands.
<p>6. McGregor Marsh T47N R23W, parts of Sec. 4 & 6, and T48N R23W, parts of Sec. 32, 33, 34.</p>	1,111 ac.	All DNR No inventoried routes	Aitkin County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjoins McGregor Marsh SNA. Soo Line ATV Trail crosses. Extensive wetlands; damage. Proposed SNA addition.
<p>7. Sugarbush / Two Rivers T50N R22W, all or parts of Sec. 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31, 32, and T50N R23W, Sec. 36, and T49N R23W, Sec. 1</p>	3,670 ac.	DNR – 2,742 ac. 13.5 mi. routes	Aitkin County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of non-motor mgmt. Adjacent to Savanna Portage SP. Gated HW Trails. Strong local support.
<p>8. Chelsey Brook (Snake River State Forest) T42N R22W, all or parts of Sec. 6, 7 and T42N 23W all or parts of Sec. 1, 12.</p>	2,600 ac.	DNR – 2,200 ac. No County Land 18.2 mi. routes	Kanabec County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay soils w/groundwater limitations. Soft after freeze. Major damage along Brook. 'Limited' allows for OHM special events, possible future GIA trail development.
<p>9. Rum River Esker Addition T39N R25W, Parts of Sec. 8</p>	80 ac.	All DNR 0.9 mi. routes	Kanabec County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly erodible soils. Tunnel Valley wetlands. Accessible only from 'closed' area of the Rum River SF.

Name	Gross Acres	DNR / County Acres	Location	Rationale
<p>10. Trelipe Township T139N R37W, All of parts of Sec. 4, 16, 26, 36.</p>	19,403 ac.	DNR – 1,382 ac. Cass Co. - 18, 021 ac. 5.93 mi. routes	Cass County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within larger county non-motor area. • Supported by Cass Co.
<p>11. Blind Lake (T139 N R28W, Sec. 16)</p>	640 ac.	All DNR 1.7 mi. routes	Cass County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent to county non-motor area. Blind Lake Township.

East-Central Forests

Summary of 'Closed' Area Classification Designations

Name	Gross Acres	DNR/County Acres/Routes	Location	Rationale
<p>1. Remote Lk Solitude Area T50N R23W, All or parts of Sec. 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27</p>	5,340 ac.	All DNR 20.3 mi. routes	Aitkin County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated non-motor area. • Established walking trails. • Adjacent to Savanna Portage State Park. Inside Savanna State Forest • Strong local support.
<p>2. Sturgeon Lake Area T45N R20W, most of Sec. 16, except for E ½ NE ¼</p>	565 ac.	All DNR 2.9 mi. routes	Pine County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of wetland damage. • Adj. to Sturgeon Lake WMA. • Adjacent to designated Kettle River Canoe Campsite.
<p>3. Hay-Snake Area T42N R23W, most of Sec. 16, except E ½ SE ¼</p>	555 ac.	All DNR 3.0 mi. routes	Kanabec County Outside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuts Hay Snake WMA. • Proximate to Snake River SF • Proposed hunter walking trails.
<p>4. Snake River State Forest (Southern 2/3)</p> <p>All or parts of: T41N R22W, Sec. 6 T41N R23W, Sec. 1, 2 T42N R22W, Sec. 18, 19, 30, 31 T42N R23W, Sec. 13, 14, 24, 25, 26, 36</p>	7,232 ac.	DNR – 5,832 ac. No County Land 40.0 mi. routes	Kanabec County Inside State Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of wetland damage. • High riparian area values, especially in oxbow area. • Existing hunter walking trails and Canoe & Boating Route. • Motorized Special Events can still be permitted subject to specific permit conditions.