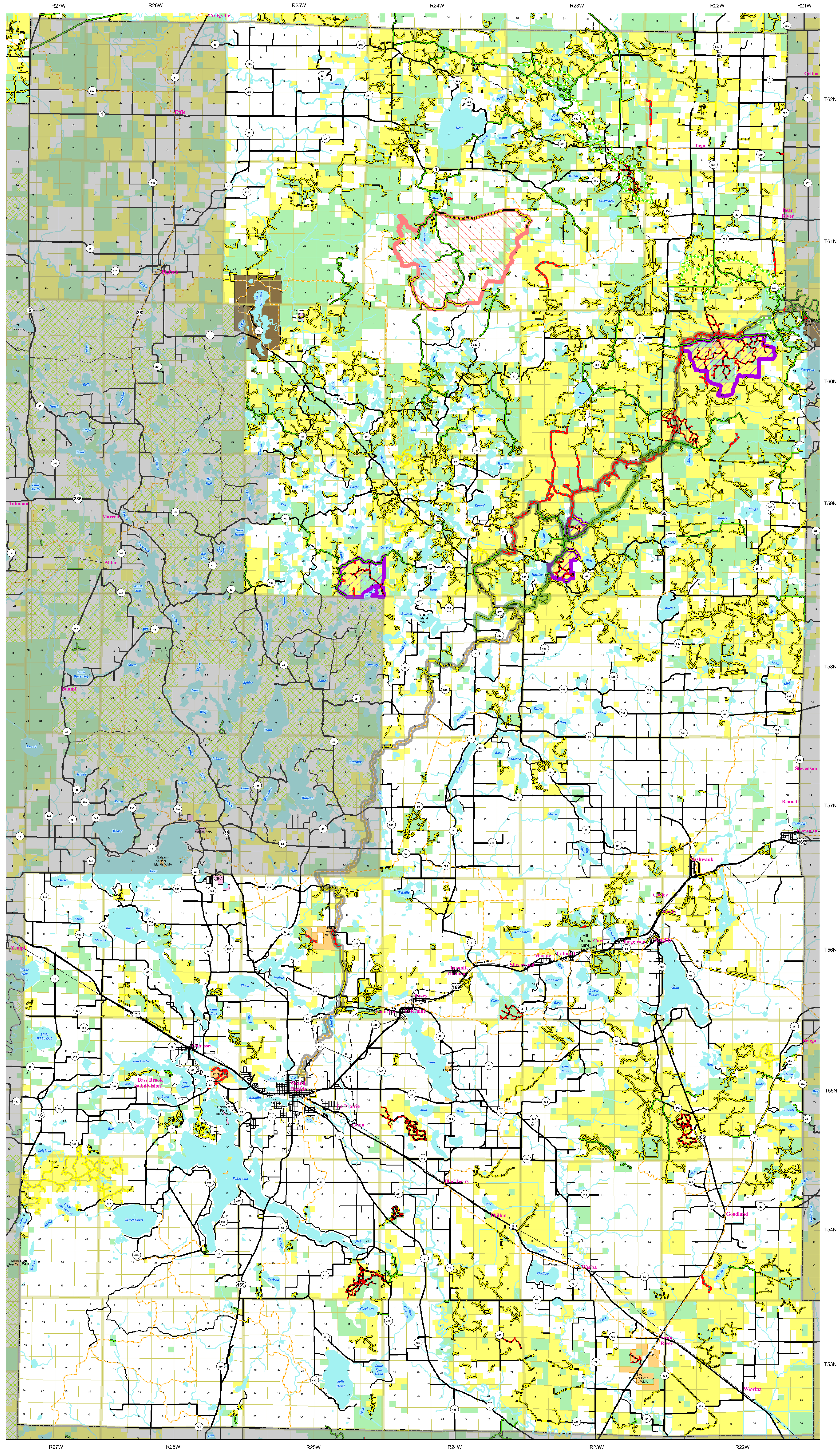
Eastern Itasca County
Forest Road and Trail Designation Plan
December 19, 2008

Final Draft

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Map Explanation

- County/State Forest Roads
- ATV - Horse Trails
- Access Route
- Access Route Not suitable for motor vehicle use unless frozen or very dry
- Non-Motorized Trails
- Non-Designated
- Proactive Closure
- Gated Seasonally Closed
- Proposed ATV Trail
- Taconite Trail
- Minnesota Snowmobile Trails
- Proposed Limited Area
- Proposed Closed Areas
  For orientation purposes only This plan does not address snowmobile trails
- Railroads
- Lake, Pond, Stream, River
- PLS Townships
- PLS Sections
- State Parks
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Other State Lands
- Federal Lands
- County Lands



Vehicle Descriptions

ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle – motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least 3 but no more than 6 low pressure tires. Class 1 ATVs have an engine displacement of less than 800 cc and total dry weight of less than 900 pounds. Class 2 ATVs have an engine displacement of less than 800 cc and total dry weight of 900 to 1,500 pounds.

HLV: Highway-Licensed Vehicle – a motorized vehicle that meets the requirements for licensing and use on public highways, including cars, vans, pickups, motorcycles, etc.

OHM: Off-Highway Motorcycle – motorized vehicles traveling on 2 wheels with a seat designed to be straddled and handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used on trails or natural terrain.

ORV: Off-Road Vehicle – motorized recreational vehicles (over 1,500 pounds) capable of travel on natural terrain, such as four-wheel-drive trucks. ORV does not include farm, logging, military, emergency, law enforcement, utility, trail grooming, or construction vehicles when used for their intended purposes.

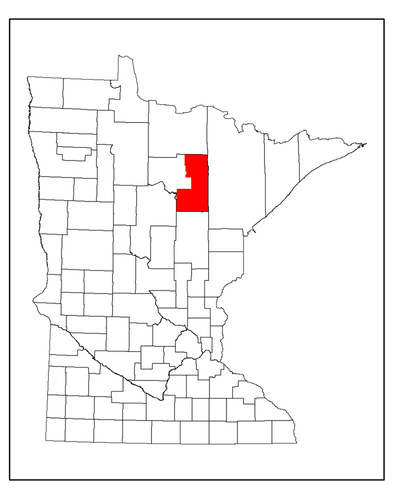
OHV: Off-Highway Vehicle – a generic term that includes ATVs, OHMs, and ORVs.

Route Descriptions

Forest Roads
- Provide access for resource management activities and public use
- Are not considered "public highways" and the managing agency is not a "road authority"
- Are typically open to use by both HLVs and OHVs
- Are classified as "System" or Minimum Maintenance" depending on condition and intended use
  - System Forest Roads
    - May be graveled or native soil surfaced
    - Maintained and graded to allow use by low clearance HLVs
    - Signed with road name at major intersections
  - Minimum Maintenance Forest Roads
    - Typically narrow and native soil surfaced
    - Caution is recommended when traveling, low clearance HLVs may not be suited for use on these roads
    - Will be signed "Road may be impassable. Travel at your own risk."
- Forest roads may be temporarily closed to motor vehicle use to prevent damage to the road surface. Forest roads on state forest land are typically open to HLVs and OHVs use most of the year. Some forest roads on county and private forest lands have gates that are typically closed to restrict access by HLVs but still allow access by ATVs

Recreational Trails
- Trails signed, mapped, and maintained for recreational use
- Various uses may be "primary," "permitted," or "prohibited"
  - ATV and OHM Trails
    - Trails that are signed, mapped, and maintained for use by ATVs and OHMs
    - Use by HLVs and ORVs usually prohibited
  - Hunter Walking Trails
    - Maintained trails primarily for use by hunters on foot
    - Use by motor vehicles and horses prohibited
  - Hiking and other Non-motorized trails
    - Trails signed and managed primarily for hiking, skiing, bicycling, horseback riding, or other compatible non-motorized uses
    - Use by motor vehicles usually prohibited

Non-designated Routes
- Routes that are neither a forest road nor a recreational trail
- Width and surface varies and routes may not be suitable for public use
- Not signed or maintained for public use
- Available for use in an "as is" condition, with the user responsible for ensuring there is no damage to the route or adjacent resources
- On state forest lands classified as *managed* or *limited* these routes are available for motor vehicle use under the hunting and trapping exceptions allowed by MN Statutes 84.926
- Non-designated routes on state forest lands classified as *managed* are referred to as access routes and are available for motor vehicle use. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on these routes in a manner that causes erosion, rutting, or damage to trees (MN Rules 6100.1950, Subpart 7A). Some access routes are only suitable for motor vehicle use when frozen; use under non-frozen conditions will result in rutting. Access routes that are damaged will be signed as closed to motor vehicle use.



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