



# Centennial State Forest: Forest Classification and Road & Trail Designation

Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Trelipe Town Hall

# DNR Personnel in the Room


- ▶ **Joel Lemberg**, Area Forest Supervisor
- ▶ **Richard Peterson**, Statewide Legacy Program Coordinator
- ▶ **Blair Olson**, Area Natural Resource Forestry Specialist
- ▶ **Dave Schotzko**, Area Parks & Trails Supervisor
- ▶ **Joe Unger**, Statewide Parks & Trails Principal Planner
- ▶ **Tim Williamson**, Regional Parks & Trails Acquisition and Development Specialist

# Agenda

- ▶ Process Objectives
- ▶ Centennial State Forest history & current situation
- ▶ What is roads & trails designation?
- ▶ Forest classifications
- ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Public Input for this project

# Process Objectives




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- ▶ Designate a sustainable system of forest roads and trails that provide for diverse motorized and non-motorized public recreation and access
  - ▶ Classify the forest using the DNR's motor vehicle use classifications to maintain a sustainable, working forest
  - ▶ Close unsustainable routes to vehicular travel

- ▶ Forest roads and trails that provide adequate access for both recreational and utilitarian purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, angling)
- ▶ Possible hunter/walking trails designated
- ▶ Areas where the hunting and trapping exceptions do not apply (M.S. 84.926)
- ▶ The public will be engaged in recommending and reviewing changes to forest trail systems and management

# Centennial State Forest History



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- ▶ The Forest is comprised of 640 acres of School Trust Land and approximately 2,751 acres.
  - ▶ Current land uses include timber management, wildlife habitat and recreation.
  - ▶ Popular recreation uses include OHV and snowmobile riding, dispersed camping, fishing and hunting.

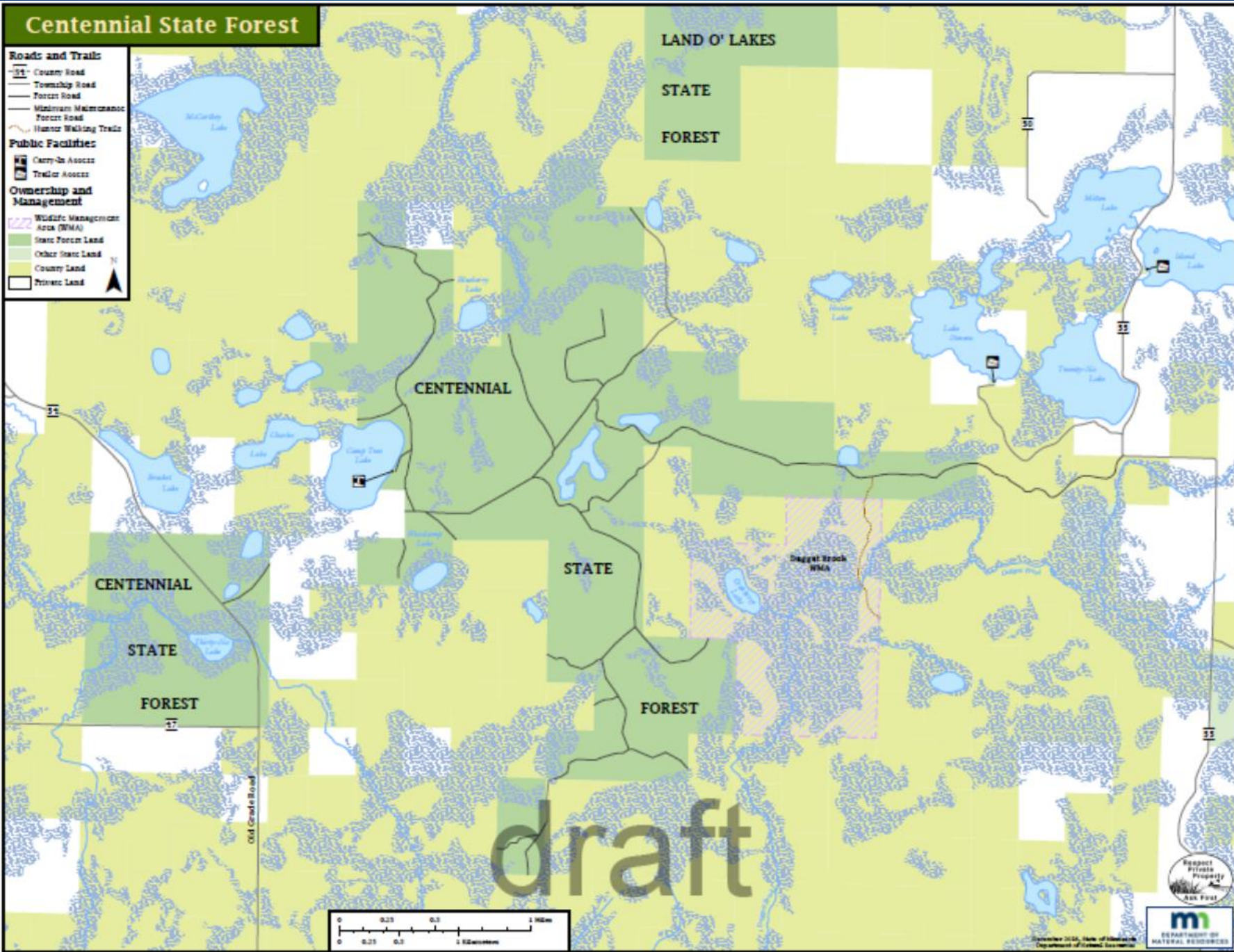


- ▶ Current developed recreational amenities include one grant in aid snowmobile trail and an unimproved access to Camp Two Lake.
- ▶ Centennial State Forest was designated by the Minnesota Legislature in 2016.



# Centennial State Forest

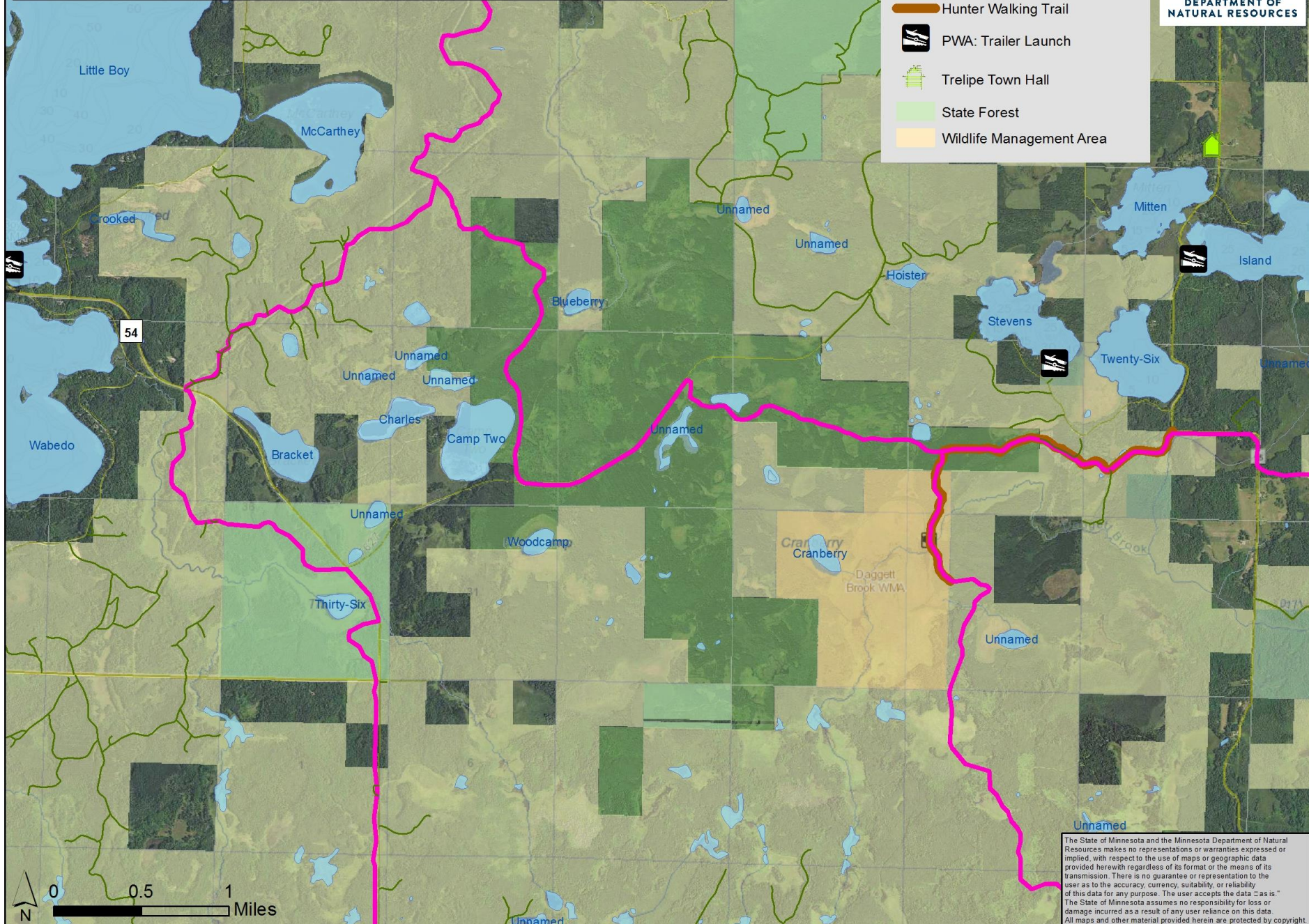
- Roads and Trails**
  - County Road
  - Township Road
  - Forest Road
  - Minimum Maintenance Forest Road
  - Hunter Walking Trails
- Public Facilities**
  - Carry-In Areas
  - Trailer Areas
- Ownership and Management**
  - Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
  - State Forest Land
  - Other State Land
  - County Land
  - Private Land



# Centennial State Forest: Current Recreation Situation



-  Grant in Aid Snowmobile Trails
-  Hunter Walking Trail
-  PWA: Trailer Launch
-  Trelipe Town Hall
-  State Forest
-  Wildlife Management Area



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# Roads Designation Process



# Roads Designation Process

Because the forest is a new addition to the DNR, the forest must go through the Department's motor vehicle use classification.

This classification process will designate the forest as either limited (allowing restricted OHV use) or closed (not allowing OHV use).

Forest roads, both system and minimum maintenance as well as trails may also be designated through this process.

# Forest Road Policy

## (Citation: MS 89.002 subd. 3)

The commissioner “shall provide a system of forest roads and trails which provides access to state forest land and other forest land under the commissioner’s authority which is adequate to permit the commissioner to manage, protect, and develop those lands and their forest resources consistent with the forest resource management policy, and to meet demands for forest resources.”

# State Forest Roads

Roads maintained by the DNR within a State Forest open to motor vehicle uses according to the Classification for Motor Vehicle use of the State Forest.

# State Forest Roads & Trails

## ▶ **System Road:**

Usually gravel-surfaced with two lanes maintained on a regular basis. Most of these roads are connected to state, county, or township public highways.

## ▶ **Minimum Maintenance Road:**

Maintained on an intermittent, as-needed basis typically for timber harvest access. They may not be suitable for routine low-clearance highway licensed vehicle travel. The minimum maintenance road sign says “Road may be impassable. Travel at your own risk.”





## **Forest Trail:**

A trail that is either constructed, maintained, or located on forest lands administered by the commissioner for recreational activities on forest lands. Access trails are closed unless posted open in a limited forest.



## **Hunter Walking Trail:**

These trails provide comparatively easy access to areas where small game such as grouse and woodcock may abound. Enhancements on the trails vary. Some feature clover planted along the trail, others have forest openings that tend to attract wildlife and some are mowed annually. These trails wind their way through the landscape, sometimes connecting with state forests, SNAs and other public hunting lands.



## ► **Motorized Trail:**

These are corridors or treadways that allow people to travel the landscape using a motor vehicle such as an ATV, OHM or ORV. These routes may be managed for specific uses and signed accordingly. All motorized trails in a State Forest are open to non-motorized uses.

## ► **Non-Motorized Trail:**

A corridor or treadway that allows people to traverse the landscape. These routes may be managed for specific uses and signed accordingly. Uses are many but include: backpacking, all forms of bicycling, bird watching, nature study, hiking, horse riding & hunting.

# State Forest Motor Vehicle Use Classifications





The allowed motor vehicle use for roads and trails designated by the Commissioner of the DNR on State Forest lands or scattered State Forest lands in a county.

Off road or trail travel by motor vehicle is prohibited except when hunter/trapper exception applies in a Limited or Managed State Forest.

The three classifications defined by Law are:

## 1. Closed:

- ▶ State forest roads are open only to highway-licensed vehicles. Off-highway vehicles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs) are prohibited except by special event permits. The Commissioner of DNR may open forest roads to ATV use for Big Game hunting.

## 2. Limited:

- ▶ State forest roads are open to highway-licensed vehicles and off-highway vehicles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs). Forest trails are closed to motor vehicle use, except where designated and signed to permit specific motorized uses.

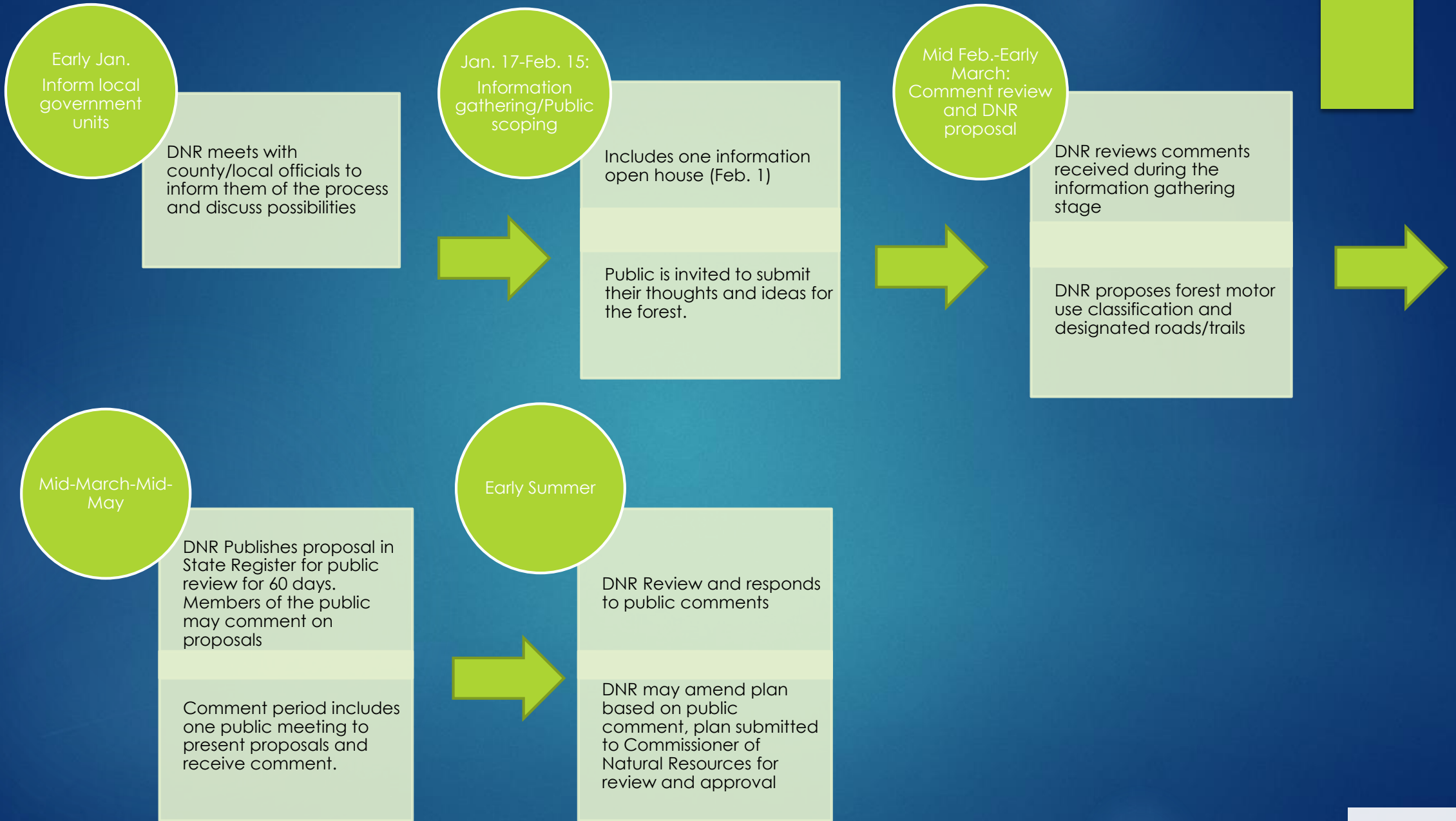
### 3. Managed

- ▶ State forest roads and non-designated routes that are not posted closed are open to motor vehicle use. Signing and enforcement restrict motor vehicle use in sensitive resource areas and on non-motorized trails. Forest trails may be designated, managed and signed for specific motorized uses.

**Because the forest is located south of US Highway 2, there are only two motor use classifications the DNR may consider: limited or closed.**

# Timeline









# Public Input Stage

▶ Comments received will be used to develop a draft recommendation that will be submitted to the DNR Commissioner for approval.

▶ Changes to state forest classification and road and trail designations must be made by Commissioner's order and published in the State Register.

Public Comment Form  
Forest Classifications and Road/Trail  
Designations for Centennial State Forest



In order to properly manage the road/trail system within Centennial State Forest, the Department of Natural Resources is classifying and designating roads and trails within the Forest. We invite your comments to better understand the current uses and what users would like to see. If you are commenting on a specific area, please include the location description as detailed as possible.

How do you use State Forest trails? (Check all that apply)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessing Private Property | <input type="checkbox"/> All Terrain Vehicles         | <input type="checkbox"/> Berry Picking   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching              | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Access               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting Access               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off Highway Motorcycles    | <input type="checkbox"/> Off Road Vehicles            | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) _____ |  |

Additional Comments:

Large blue-lined text area for providing additional comments.

*Comments are due by February 15, 2017*

Send comments to:  
Joe Unger  
MN Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4039  
forestrailplanning\_dnr@state.mn.us  
Phone: 651-259-5279  
Fax: 651-297-1157

For more information, visit the [OHV Planning Web Page](#)

▶ Written comments may be submitted by email to [foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us) or by mail to Joe Unger, DNR Parks and Trails at 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4039.

▶ The DNR will accept written comments through Wednesday Feb. 15.

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Additional Comments:

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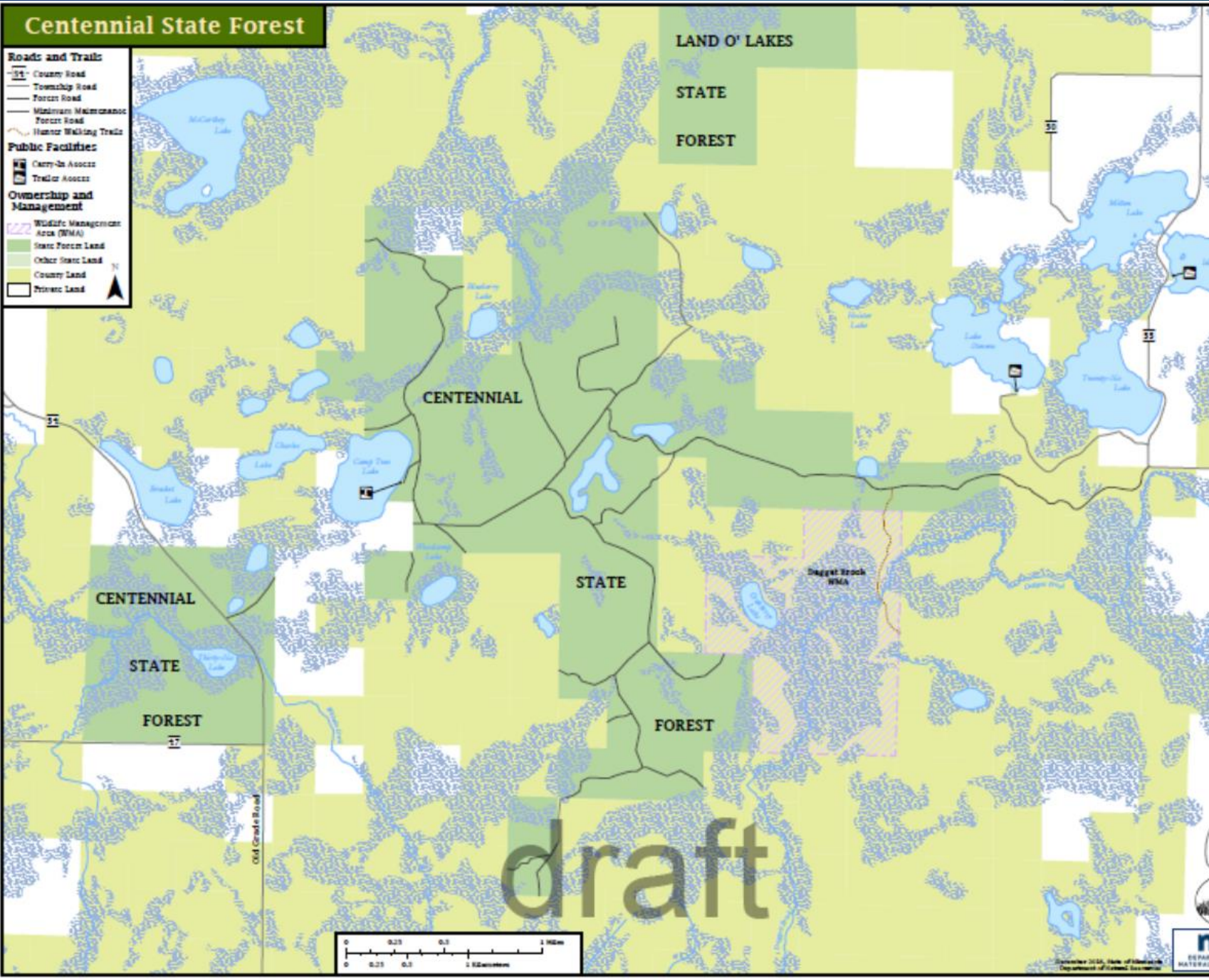
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# be Answering Questions & Comments Tonight



# Centennial State Forest

- Roads and Trails**
  - County Road
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  - Forest Road
  - Midwestern/Midwestern Forest Road
  - Honor Walking Trails
- Public Facilities**
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