

Beltrami Island State Forest

Phase II Forest Road and Trail Designation

Past Summary

This plan will cover the State lands in and near the Beltrami Island State Forest (BISF). The BISF is located north of the Upper Red Lake and south of Lake of the Woods. The State Forest covers portions of Beltrami, Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties. The statutory boundary of the BISF encompasses over 700,000 acres. The BISF is classified as managed for motor vehicle use. This designation allows off-highway vehicles, defined as all-terrain vehicles/off-highway motorcycles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs) are allowed on roads, routes and on designated trails unless posted closed.

A forest access route inventory performed in 2006 documented 1134 miles of roads, trails and other routes in the Beltrami Island Area. There was a total of 530.1 miles of routes available for various forms of recreational use at that time.

Route Designation		Miles
Forest Roads		474.2
System Roads*	355.5	
Minimum Maintenance Roads*	118.7	
Trails		290.3
Hunter Walk-In	47	
Non-Motorized (hike, horse, etc.)	4.4	
ATV/OHM*	238.9	
Non-designated		604
Access Routes	399.6	
Proactive Closures	139.8	
Re-vegetated Paths	45	
Isolated by non-state ownership	19.6	

* There were 234.4 miles of routes that were dual designation as both forest roads and ATV/OHM trails.

Future Planning

Phase II will be a review of the forest trail systems to identify new trail routes and connections, areas for special management, and to close trails that have proven unsustainable. The trail system changes will not include changing forest-wide classification.

The reason for a Phase II review of the current forest road and trail designations is to use adaptive management techniques of recreational use of trails in all of the state forests and to respond to the changes in recreational user

needs in the forest lands. DNR is committed to this project and DNR assured stakeholders that trail revisions would continue beyond the legislatively mandated process.

Process Objectives

- Designate a sustainable system of forest roads and trails that provide for diverse motorized and non-motorized public recreation and access.
- Close unsustainable routes to vehicular travel.
- Designated trails and trail systems that provide a ‘quality’ recreational experience, and provide connections to other recreation facilities, support services and other popular destinations.
- Forest roads and trails that provide adequate access for both recreational and utilitarian purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, angling, firewood collecting, berry and mushroom picking, etc.)
- Management options not available or not used during the 2003-2008 process will be implemented:
 - Hunter/walking trails designated;
 - Areas where the hunting and trapping exceptions do not apply;
 - New trails designated to provide improved state forest access and trail connections.
- The public will be engaged in recommending and reviewing changes to forest trail systems and management.

