



## Beltrami Island State Forest Trail Revisions



# Project Background

Between 2003-2008, the DNR conducted an inventory of all the routes in state forests and classified those forests as closed, limited or managed for motorized recreation (aka Phase I).

- **Closed:** Forest is closed to OHVs
- **Limited:** OHVs may only operate on designated routes
- **Managed:** OHVs may operate on all routes not signed as closed.

The DNR also used the Phase I project to designate some roads and trails within the forest.





# Work completed during Phase I

Beltrami Island was classified as **managed**

- 238 miles of OHV trail were designated
- 4.4 miles of nonmotorized trail were designated
- 47 miles of hunter walking trail were designated



6/30/2017



# How land within Beltrami Island State Forest is managed

<b>DNR Forestry Lands</b>	<b>DNR Wildlife Management Area</b>	<b>DNR Scientific and Natural Area</b>	<b>USFWS Land Utilization Project</b>
Lands managed for multiple use including timber management, recreation and fish and wildlife protection.	Lands managed for protection of fish and wildlife, public hunting, fishing and trapping.	Lands managed to preserve the ecological diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage for scientific study and public education.	Lands owned by the US Fish and Wildlife service which are leased back to the DNR to be managed as a refuge and breeding ground for native birds and other wildlife.

DNR is moving to an *adaptive management* approach for trails located on state forests

Adaptive management allows DNR to see what is working and what is not working

- Able to increase what is working
- Able to fix what is not working

This project is known as “Phase II”





# Why Designate Trail?

Provides funding for construction, maintenance and monitoring;

Allows the trail to be signed and mapped;

Trail cannot be closed without a public process.



# Why change?

## Adapting to changes in the working forest

- Timber harvests
- Fires

## Adapting to changes in recreational interests

## Ability to use new methods of trail construction





# Steps in this process

- ✓ Public kickoff meeting/comment period-Over 60 people attended the meeting
- ✓ Comment review/Review of trails-We received over 50 comments
- ✓ Draft Plan
- ✓ DNR Internal review
- ✓ 60-day public review
- ✓ Public meeting and comment period ← We are here
  - Comment review/determine if any changes need to be made
  - DNR final review
  - Signed order by Commissioner of Natural Resources





# Steps in this process

## Implementation

- Trails that are already well-established access routes will be signed first
- Trails that may need additional work and new trails will be signed within 1-2 seasons
- New trails will not be open until constructed and signed.



# What's being proposed?

## What's staying the same?

- The managed classification is remaining
- Majority of currently-designated trails will not change



## What's Changing?

- Additional miles of ATV/OHM trails as well as hunter-walking trails
- Trails open for off-road vehicles (ORVs)
- Addition of OHV “warm-up area”
- Conversion of minimum maintenance road to trail

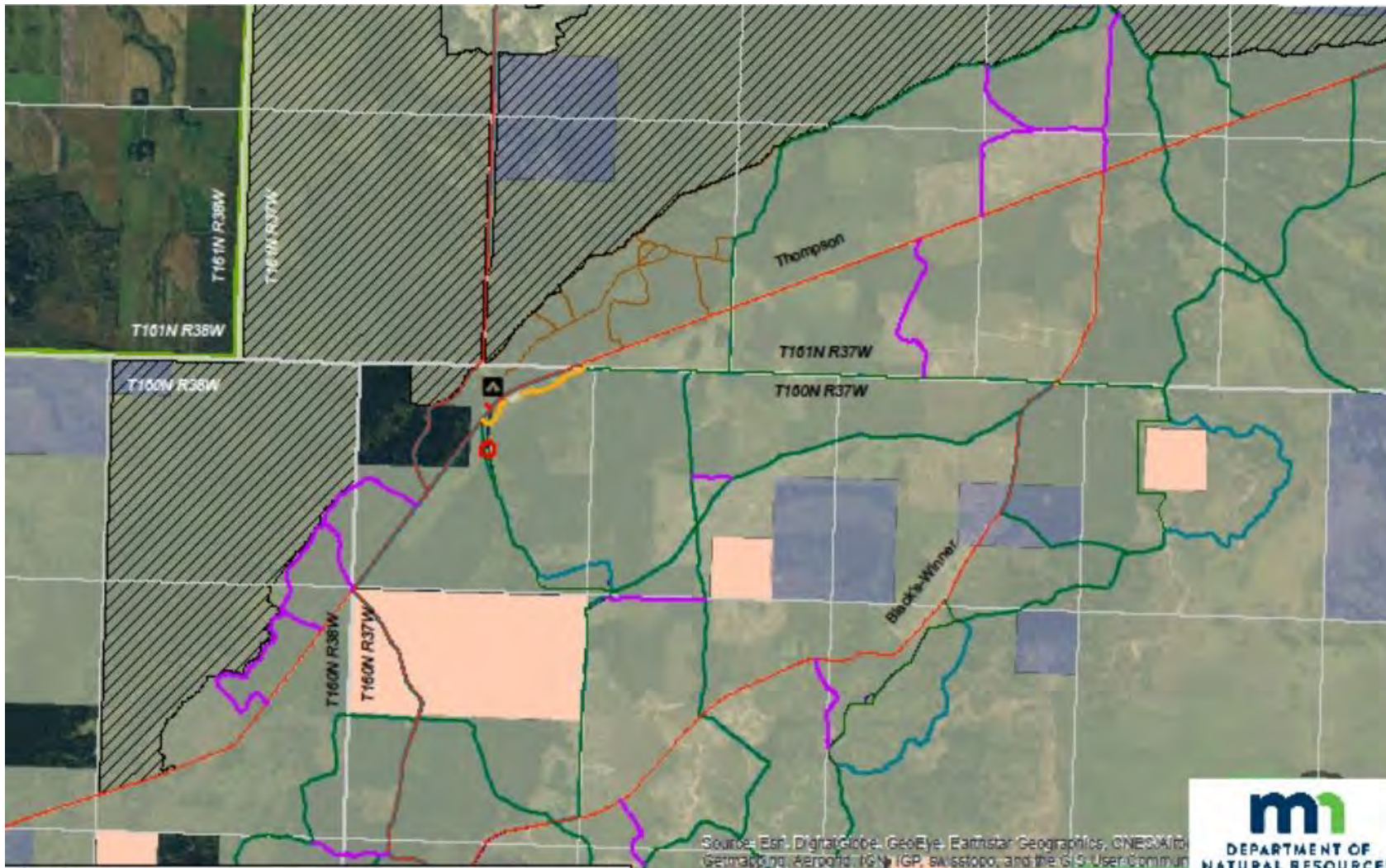
# By the numbers

Route Designation	Current Miles	Miles Added	Miles Undesignated	New Total Miles
<b>Forest Roads</b>				
System	355.5	0	0	355.5
Minimum Maintenance	118.7	1.66	2.31*	118.05
<b>Trails</b>				
Hunter Walker	47	10.54	0	57.54
Non-Motorized (hike, horse, etc.)	4.4	0	0	4.4
ATV/OHM/ORV	238.9	23.76	0	262.66
<b>Other</b>				
OHV Warm-Up Area	0 Acres	1.58 Acres	0 Acres	1.58 Acres

*\*One-mile of undesignated minimum maintenance road will be designated as ATV/OHM trail; 1.31 miles of undesignated minimum maintenance trail will be left as access routes.*

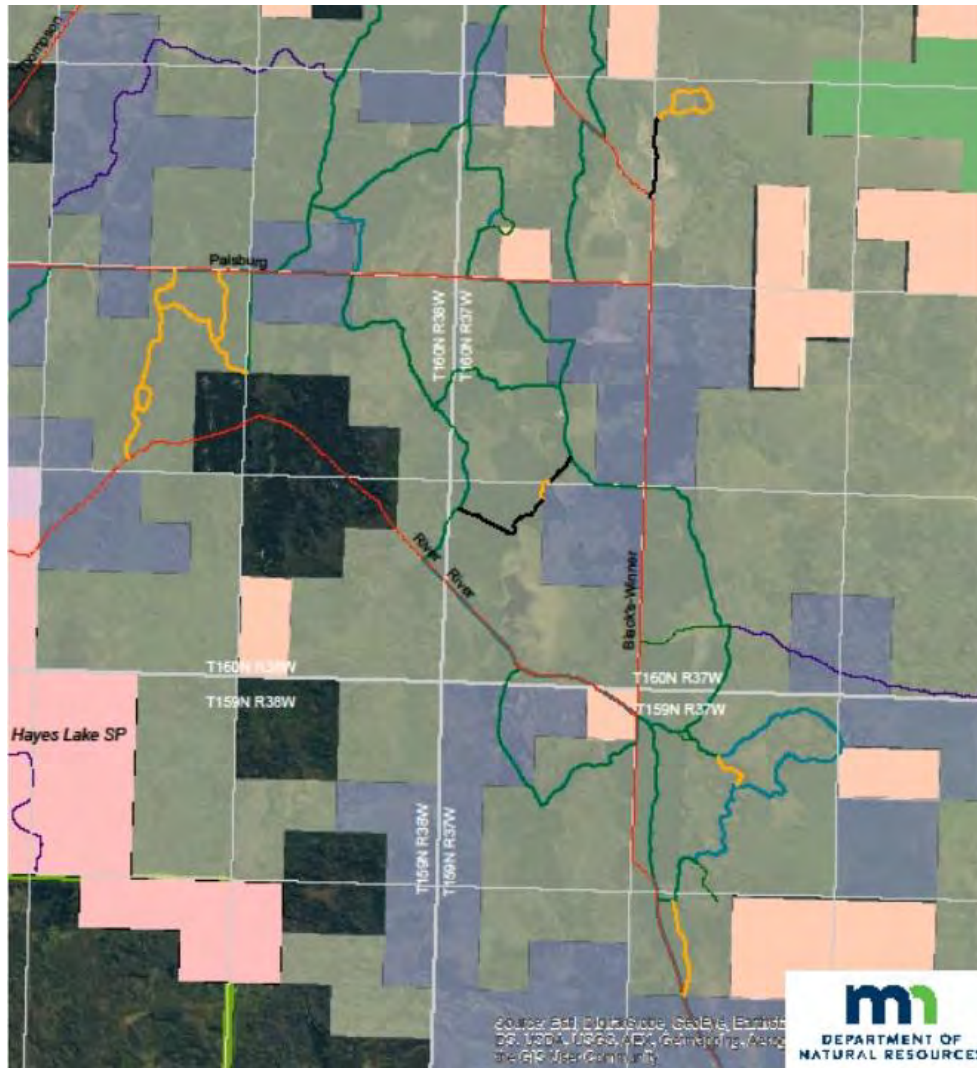


# Bemis Hill Area



- 6.4 miles designated for ORVs (trucks), ATVs and OHMs
- 0.5 miles designated for ATVs/OHMs
- 1.6 acres designated as ATV/OHM Warm-up area
- No trails undesignated

# Palsburg Area

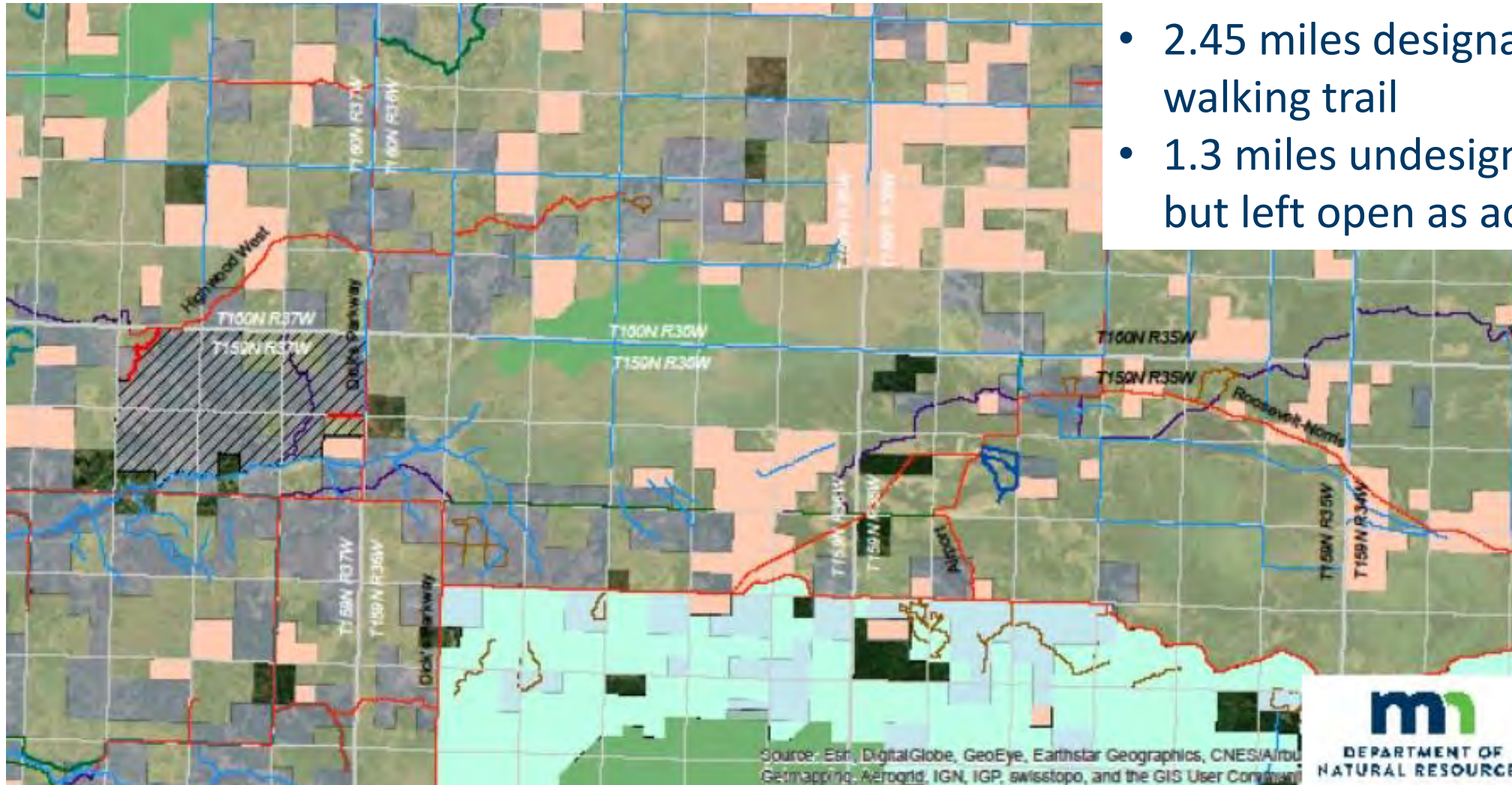


- 1.1 miles designated as minimum maintenance rd.
- 3.7 miles designated for ATVs/OHMs
- No trails undesignated



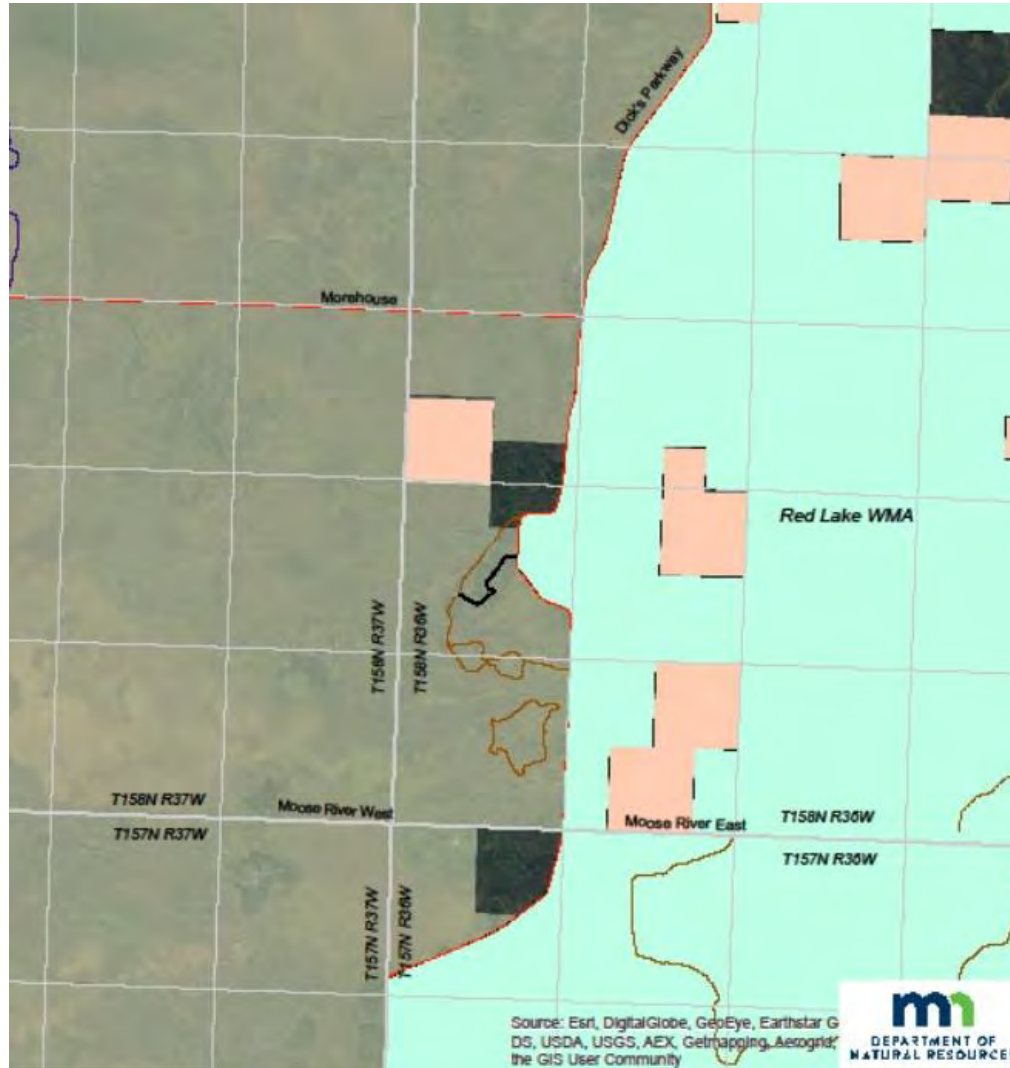
# Faunce-Butterfield Area

- 2.45 miles designated as walking trail
- 1.3 miles undesignated trail, but left open as access routes





# Moose River Area



- 0.6 miles designated as minimum maintenance rd.
- No trails undesignated

# Linder Area



- 10.2 miles designated as ATV/OHM trail
- No trails undesignated

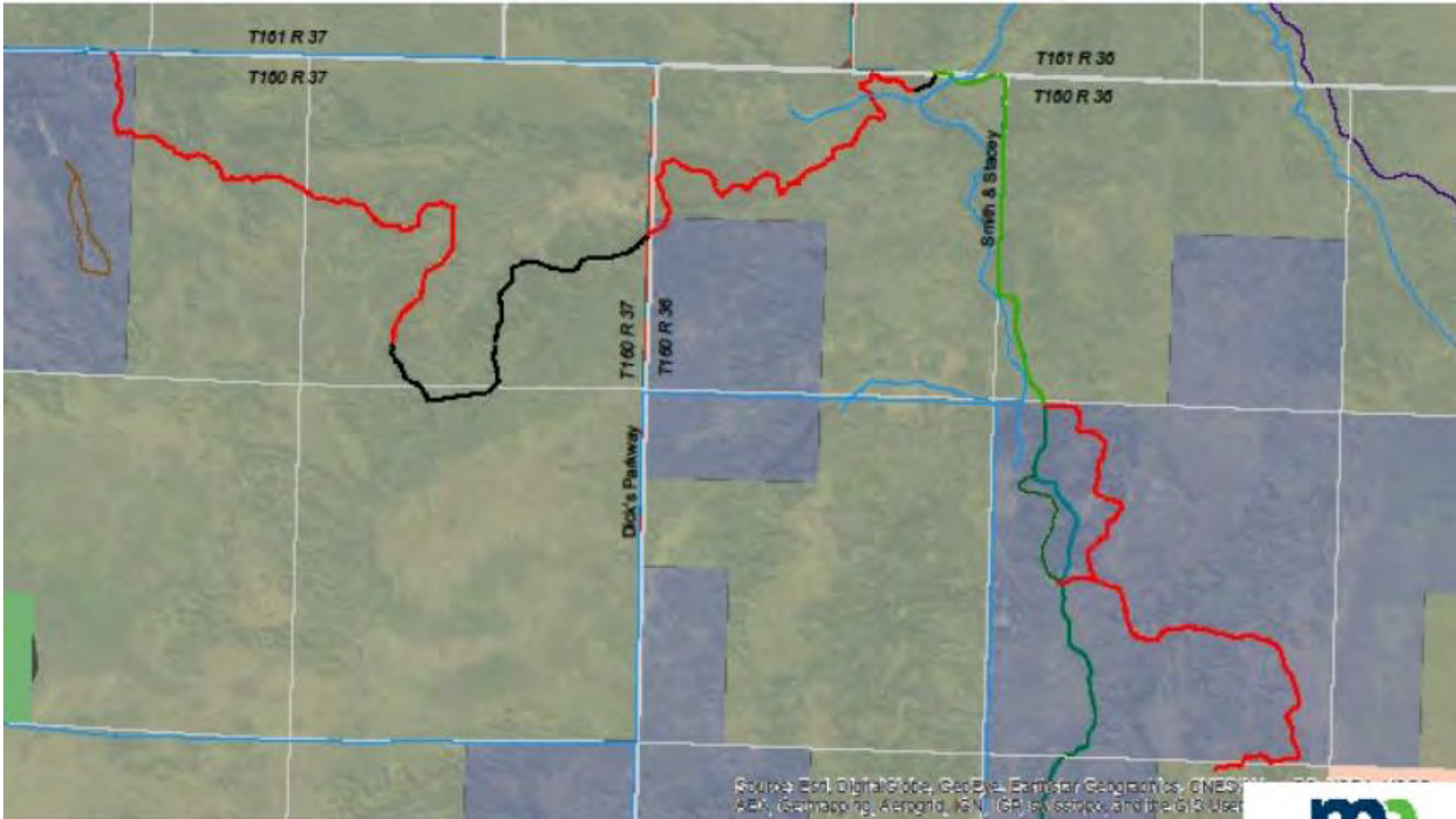
# Grover Trail Area



- 1 mile designation change from MMR to ATV/OHM trail
- No trails undesignated



# Star of the North HWT



- 5.0 miles designated hunter-walking trail only
- 1.8 miles designated hunter-walking trail but open as access routes for motorized vehicles
- 1.2 miles will be shared as designated hunter-walking trail and designated MMR/ATV/OHM trail.
- No trails undesignated

# When will the changes happen?

- After the Commissioner's order is published in the State Register, the DNR may start signing/constructing designated trail.
- Some access routes that require little to no construction will be signed and mapped early.
- New trail or access routes that require additional maintenance will not be opened until maintenance work is complete.

# To Comment

Fill out a comment form tonight and drop it in the box in the back

Mail you comment to: Joe Unger  
DNR Parks and Trails  
500 Lafayette Rd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Email your comment to [foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us)

Submit your comment using the online comment form found on our website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/revisions.html>

Comments are due by **4:30 PM July 28**