

Kabetogama State Forest
Forest Trails Revision Project

Past Summary

This plan will cover the State lands in and near the Kabetogama State Forest. The majority of the State Forest lies within St. Louis County with outlying areas extending into Koochiching County. The statutory boundary of the Kabetogama SF encompasses over 600,000 acres, with approximately 160,000 acres of DNR-administered land. The Kabetogama SF is classified as managed for motor vehicle use. This designation allows off-highway vehicles, defined as all-terrain vehicles/off-road vehicles/off-highway motorcycles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs) on roads, routes and on designated trails unless posted closed. Approximately 113 miles of the Arrowhead State Trail is within the forest. The Arrowhead is a natural surface trail open to hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and snowmobiling. A forest access route inventory performed in 2006 documented 1,438.5 miles of roads, trails and other routes in the Kabetogama SF.

Route Designation	Miles	
Forest Roads		129
System Roads	70	
Minimum Maintenance Roads	59	
Trails		158
Hunter Walking Trails	45	
Summer Nonmotorized Trails	75*	
Arrowhead State Trail	113*	
Forest Access Routes (non-designated)		1,186

**The Arrowhead State Trail includes some Summer Nonmotorized Trails.*

Table 1: Current route designations in Kabetogama State Forest

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, 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.