Media contacts: Joe Unger, DNR OHV Planner, Division of Parks and Trails, 651-259-5279, joe.unger@state.mn.us; Joe Majerus, Area Trails and Waterways Supervisor, Division of Parks and Trails, 218-753-2580 x 252, joseph.majerus@state.mn.us.

DNR to hold open house in Orr to discuss Kabetogama State Forest trails planning

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division invites those interested in recreational trail systems and motorized use in the Kabetogama State Forest in St. Louis County to attend an open house on Wednesday August 3, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Orr American Legion located at 4543 US-53, Orr, MN 55771.

The open house will offer the public the opportunity to participate in the forest trails revision planning process for Kabetogama State Forest and provide input on improving trail sustainability and enhancing user experiences.

Between 2003 and 2008, the DNR inventoried all routes and designated trails within state forests. This current project will reevaluate the designations made during the initial review. Changes could include redefining how trails can be used, determining options for motorized trail routes and trail connections, closing unsustainable trails, designating "areas with limitations" during hunting and trapping activities, and developing new hunter-walking trails.

At the open house, maps of existing trails will be provided and the public will have opportunity to ask DNR staff questions, submit comments and suggest changes.

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

Written comments may be submitted to foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us or by mail to Joe Unger, DNR Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039. The DNR will accept written comments through August 17, 2016.

For more information, please contact:

- Joe Unger, OHV Planner, Division of Parks and Trails, 651-259-5279.
- Joe Majerus, Area Trails and Waterways Supervisor, DNR Division of Parks and Trails Tower Area Office, 218-735-2580 x 252.

Information is also available online at

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/revisions.html.