

# On Track

*A Monthly Update on Forest Road & Trail Designation in Minnesota State Forests*

## Planning Progress

### Chippewa Group

- DNR data review completed
- Final documents being prepared

### Cloquet Valley (South St. Louis/Carlton)

- Public review ended June 29
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected November 2007

### Crow Wing/Emily (Crow Wing)

- Public comment period ended on July 6, 2007
- Planning team responding to comments

### East Central

- Inventory maps under development
- Inventory open houses to be held in August; Pillager 8/21; Emily 8/22; Mora 8/23; Hill City 8/28; McGregor 8/29
- Fall 2007 classification and route evaluation process underway

### Koochiching/East Itasca

- First public open houses expected in September

### Northern Border

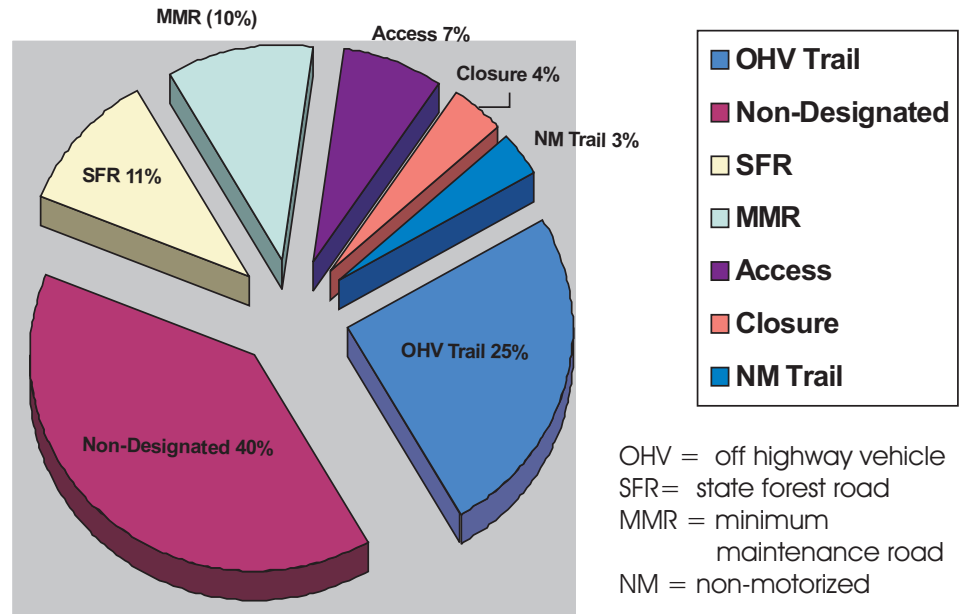
- First public open houses expected late this summer
- Inventory maps being developed

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## First 18 State Forests: Final Designations

[ Total = 3,789 Miles of Routes ]



### Forest Road & Trail Designation Mileage Summary for the First 18 Completed State Forests (See above)

| Route Designation                         | State Forest Land (miles) |      |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| System Forest Road                        | 581                       |      |
| Min. Maintenance Forest Road              | 556                       |      |
| Non-designated Routes*                    |                           | 2124 |
| Proactive Closures                        | 204                       |      |
| In <i>closed</i> forests                  | 136                       |      |
| In <i>limited</i> forests                 | 1,384                     |      |
| In <i>managed</i> forests (Access Routes) | 400                       |      |
| ATV Trail                                 | 625                       |      |
| OHM Trail                                 | 692                       |      |
| ORV Trail                                 | 23                        |      |
| Non-motorized Trails                      | 180                       |      |

### East Central group public meeting dates

East Central public meetings will be from 6 to 8:30 pm on:

- Aug. 21, Pillager School, 323 East 2nd St. S.
- Aug. 22, Emily Community Hall, 21236 2nd St.
- Aug. 23, Mora High School, 400 East Maple Ave.
- Aug. 28, Hill city High School, 500 Lone Ave.
- Aug. 29, McGregor High School, 148 S. 2nd Ave.

## Re-cap of recent public meetings

### Crow Wing

The public meeting for the proposed reclassification and road/trail designation in Crow Wing County was held on June 21. DNR and Crow Wing County staff presented the proposals and responded to questions. About 20 people submitted written comments on the proposals. The comment period ended July 6. The planning team is considering changes based on the comments.

### West Central group

Meetings were held in Menahga July 17; and Detroit Lakes July 19.

### Cloquet Valley

Public meetings were held June 20 in Cotton and June 21 at the Rice Lake Town Hall in north Duluth. Attendees reviewed maps and asked many questions. Planner Brian McCann reports that there was a good discussion on the differences between a 'limited' and a 'managed' forest. The comment period ended June 29. Final decisions are expected in November.

### Sturgeon River

About 40 people attended the July 10 public meeting on the Sturgeon River plan and the proposed designation of a portion of the Taconite Trail as open to motorized use during the summer. There were lively discussions of proposed route designations, especially in the Perch Lake area. Comment period closed July 20. Final decisions expected in October.

### What's the word?

#### Non-designated Route

A route which has not been designated for a specific use by Commissioner's order. In a LIMITED forest, a non-designated route is not open to any recreational motorized use, except for hunting big game or trapping. In a MANAGED forest, north of U.S. Hwy. 2, undesignated routes are termed 'forest access routes', which are open year-round to all motor uses.

For more information, visit the DNR OHV riding web page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/index.html>  
[www.findthetrails.com](http://www.findthetrails.com)



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## Planning Progress (cont.)

### Sturgeon River (St. Louis County)

- Public review ended July 20
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected October 2007

### Superior Group (Cook County)

- Public review ended May 31
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected October 2007

### Superior Group (Lake County)

- Public review ended June 22
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected October 2007

### Superior Group (North St. Louis County)

- Open houses held in June
- Classification/designation exercise underway
- Draft proposal expected October 2007

### West Central Group

- Planning for the North Unit is underway; draft plan will be released summer 2007
- South Unit public comment period closed August 1
- South Unit final classification review and designation expected Fall 2007