

On Track

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

Planning Progress

Chippewa Group

- Preparing final plan, maps and Commissioner's Orders for state forest lands

Cloquet Valley (South St. Louis/Carlton)

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

Crow Wing/Emily (Crow Wing)

- Public review in progress. Draft plan and map available on DNR website
- Public comment period ends on July 6, 2007

East Central

- Inventory maps under development
- Public open houses to be held in late August
- 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 later this summer
- Inventory maps being developed

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East Central Forests planning area expanded

The East Central Forests planning unit has been expanded to review scattered forest lands in four more East Central Minnesota counties. These additional counties are: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, and Washington. Although there are no state forests in these counties, DNR manages about 1,050 acres across these counties.



East Central Group members toured Snake River State Forest trails June 19. The group will propose trail designations over the next few months. Pictured are Keith Simar, David Pauly, Bob Moore, Rick Dunkley and Andy Kett. Also participating: Michael North, Roger Hugill and Bill Salo.

Good turnout expected for Sturgeon River, Taconite Trail plans meeting

On July 10, the DNR will hold a public meeting on the Sturgeon River State Forest plan which makes recommendations for over 180 miles of roads and trails on nearly 61,000 acres of state forest lands and recommends a managed classification for the forest. The meeting will be at Ironworld in Chisholm, MN.

A second proposal would amend the Taconite Trail Master Plan to allow motorized use on 4.7 miles of the snowmobile trail which goes from Ely to Grand Rapids.

The proposals are available at www.findthetrails.com. Written comments will be accepted until July 20. Send to Brian McCann, T/W, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4052.

The DNR proposal was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and St. Louis County Land Department.

West Central - South Unit Public meetings set for July 17, 19

The DNR will hold two public meetings in July for the West Central Forests - South Unit on proposed motor vehicle use classifications and route designations.

The first meeting is at the Menahga School, 216 Aspen Avenue SE, Menahga. The second meeting is at the Detroit Lakes Middle School, 500 Eleventh Avenue South, Detroit Lakes. Both meetings are from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Staff from the Becker County Land Department and White Earth Natural Resources will be present at the Detroit Lakes meeting. For information contact Bill Johnson at 651-259-5643.

DNR amends classification recommendations for Clay, Douglas, and Pope counties

DNR released the Draft Plan for the West Central Forests - South Unit on May 15, 2007. The plan and its recommendations are now out for public review.

The Draft Plan incorrectly recommended a "limited" classification for DNR Forestry-administered scattered lands in Clay, Douglas, and Pope Counties. DNR now proposes a "closed" classification for these parcels.

This affects about 14 forties, or some 560 acres, found in these three counties. See the Draft Plan Errata at DNR's website for more information.

What's the word?

All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Class 1 – A motorized vehicle with three to six low-pressure flotation tires, with an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight less than 900 pounds.

All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Class 2 – A motorized vehicle with three to six low-pressure flotation tires, with an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of 900 to 1,500 pounds.

Class 2 ATVs can legally travel on State Forest Roads, on ATV trails specifically signed to allow Class 2 ATV use, on the shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and state trunk highways, and on the right side of township roads and city streets, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws.

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



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Planning Progress (cont.)

Sturgeon River (St. Louis County)

- Public review in progress
- Next steps: Public meeting July 10 in Chisholm
- Comment period ends July 20

Superior Group (Cook County)

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

Superior Group (Lake County)

- Public review ended June 22
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected September 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 now out for public review and comment
- For South Unit draft plan and maps, see www.findthetrails.com
- South Unit public meetings on July 17 (Menahga) and July 19 (Detroit Lakes)