

On Track

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

Planning Progress

Chippewa Group

- Planning completed; implementation in progress
- Maps and documents are on the DNR Web site

Cloquet Valley (St. Louis)

- Awaiting final approval

East Central

- Draft plan and maps available July 21, 2008
- Public meetings in Aitkin, Mora, and Pine River in September

Koochiching/Itasca

- Planning team developed preliminary route designations in May and June
- Internal review and release for public comment in July

Northern Border

- Internal review and release for public comment in July

Southern Minnesota Unit

- Public comment period for draft plan July 7 - Sept 12, 2008
- Public open houses 9-10 Elk River, 9-11 Rochester

Sturgeon River

(St. Louis County)

- Awaiting final approval

Superior Group

(North St. Louis County)

- Public meetings held July 1, 2
- Final plan expected Oct. 2008

West Central Group

- WESF draft plan/maps available
- Mississippi Headwaters Unit complete
- South Unit complete

Vol. 2, Issue 5

July 2008

Southern MN unit public comment begins July 7

Proposed forest classification and trail designations have been reviewed and approved by the Regional Management Team, OHV Policy Committee, and the CMO. The draft plan went out for public comment on July 7. Public open houses will be held on Wed., Sept. 10, from 6 - 8:30 pm at the Sherburne County Government Center, Maple Room, 13880 Highway 10 in Elk River; and on Thurs. Sept. 11, 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the People's Coop, 3935 Highway 14 East, Rochester.

The public comment period will end on Fri., Sept. 12 at 4:30 pm. The final draft will then undergo another round of internal DNR review before final approval is sought from the CMO.

Meeting set for Becker, Clearwater, Mahnomen counties

A public meeting to gather comments on the DNR motor vehicle use classification and route designation proposals for White Earth State Forest and scattered DNR Forestry-administered lands in Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen counties will be held Tues., July 15, from 6 to 8 pm, at Mahnomen High School, 209 First Street SW.

The DNR will present recommendations for approximately 125 miles of roads, trails and other inventoried routes on about 70,000 acres of state forest lands in the state forest and scattered lands. The proposal, which includes some route closures, will ultimately determine where motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks and off-highway vehicles (OHVs), will be allowed to operate on state lands in the forest and in these counties.

Written comments on the draft proposal will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 25.

East-Central forest plan review to begin July 21

The DNR will release its draft plan for the East-Central Planning Unit on July 21, 2008. Public meetings are being planned for Aitkin, Mora, and Pine River in late September for this group of six state forests spread across an eight-county planning area.

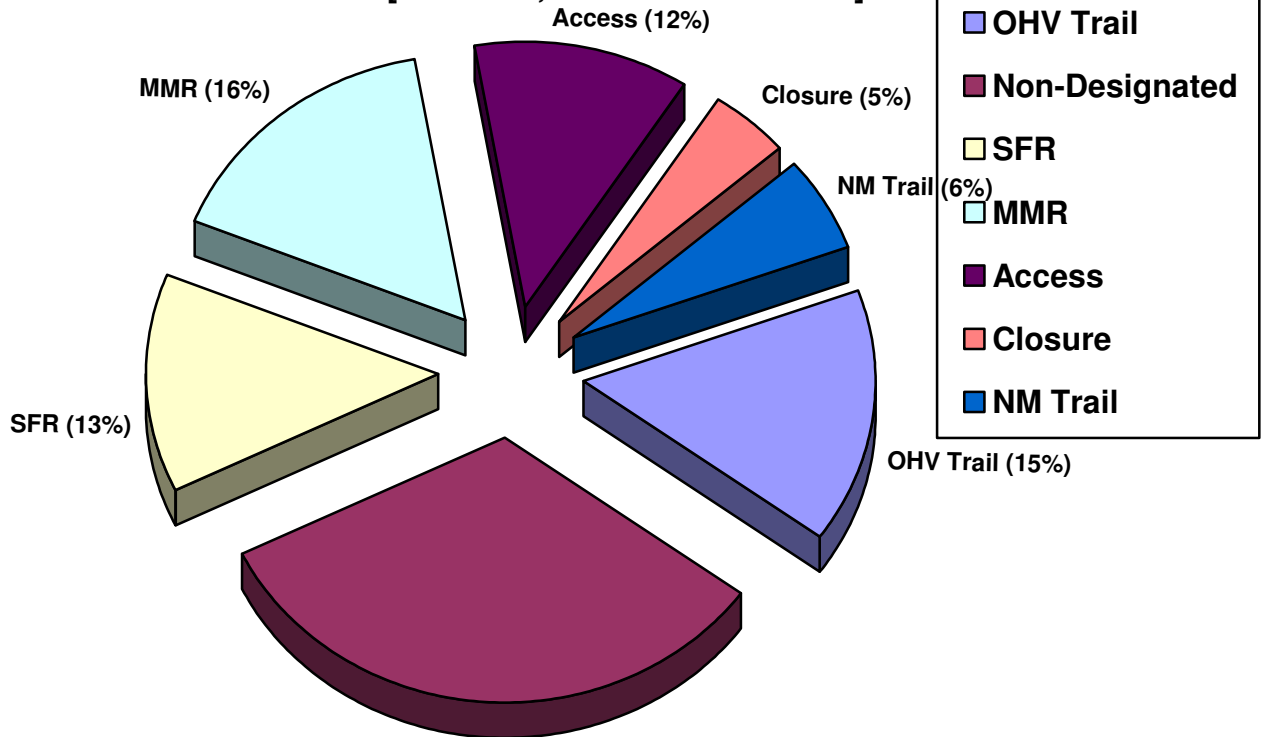
The East-Central state forests are: In Cass/Crow Wing counties – Land O'Lakes; in Aitkin County – Hill River, Savanna, and Waukenabo; in Kanabec County – Snake River; and in Pine County – DAR.

Forest classification and route designation plans have also been crafted for scattered DNR Forestry-administered lands (located outside of state forests) in Anoka, Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Southern Cass, and Washington Counties. Watch for more details to be released soon at www.mndnr.gov.

For more information, contact Brian McCann, Recreation Planner at 651/259-5627 or brian.mccann@dnr.state.mn.us.

First 33 State Forests: Final Designations

[Total = 5,359 Miles of Routes]



Non-Designated 33%

Source: MN DNR, Trails & Waterways, Unpublished Data, May 2008. Some county-administered routes are included in the route inventory and designation totals. Shared trail miles result in some double-counting of reported miles of OHV trail designations (above).

Forest Road & Trail Designation Mileage Totals for the First 33 Completed State Forests		
Route Designation	State Forest Land (miles)	
System Forest Road	723	
Min. Maintenance Forest Road	880	
Non-designated Routes*		2,813
Proactive Closures	251	
In closed forests	153	
In limited forests	1,773	
In managed forests (i.e., forest access routes)	636	
ATV / OHM Trail*	687	
OHM Only (Single-Track Trail)	140	
ORV Trail*	11	
Non-motorized Trails	310	

* Shared use OHV trails result in considerable double-counting of reported OHV trail designation totals.



Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to MN-DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. Alternative format available upon request by contacting the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR.