

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 in progress
- Proposed classification: *Managed.*
- Public meetings scheduled for June 20 and June 21
- Comment period ends June 29

Crow Wing/Emily (Crow Wing)

- Public review in progress. Draft plan and map available on DNR website
- Public information meeting in Baxter on June 21, 2007
- Public comment period ends on July 6, 2007

East Central

- External partner kickoff in June
- Site visits in June
- Inventory maps developed in June-July
- First public open houses expected in August

Koochiching/East Itasca

- Kickoff and orientation for staff May 4
- First public open houses expected in September

Northern Border

- First public open houses expected later this summer

Vol. 1, Issue 5

June 2007

Legislative update

Minnesota's 2007 Legislative Session ended May 21. Several changes in law could affect the statewide forest classification and road/trail designation process. Under the new law, the DNR Commissioner may now classify portions of a limited forest as closed; shall prescribe seasons of use for OHVs on state forest lands; and may designate and post winter use trails for OHVs on state forest lands. Under the legislation, ORV trail development is restricted in Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard counties. The law also provides that once a forest is completed, OHVs are to operate on mapped trails.

Crow Wing County public meeting set for June 21

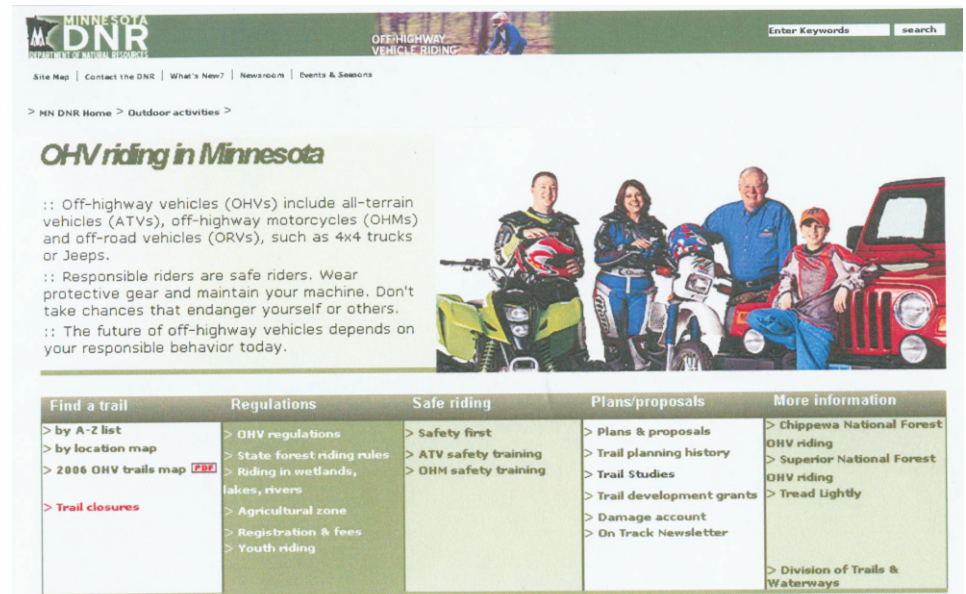
The DNR and Crow Wing County will co-host a public meeting on June 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive in Baxter on its motor vehicle use classification and route designation proposals for state forest lands in Crow Wing County. The proposal would classify the majority of state forest lands in Crow Wing County as limited, which means the land would be closed unless posted open. The plan also proposed designations for the 104 miles of existing routes on public forest lands in the county. For information contact Jack Olson 218-833-8716.

Find it on the web

Looking for information on trails – where to ride – trail closures – OHV regulations – ATV safety – state forest plans and proposals – Superior National Forest OHV riding – and much more? Visit the web site at:

www.findthetrails.com

(See sample of the first page below.)



MINNESOTA DNR
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RIDING

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OHV riding in Minnesota

:: Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs), such as 4x4 trucks or Jeeps.

:: Responsible riders are safe riders. Wear protective gear and maintain your machine. Don't take chances that endanger yourself or others.

:: The future of off-highway vehicles depends on your responsible behavior today.

Find a trail	Regulations	Safe riding	Plans/proposals	More information
> by A-Z list > by location map > 2006 OHV trails map PDF > Trail closures	> OHV regulations > State forest riding rules > Riding in wetlands, lakes, rivers > Agricultural zone > Registration & fees > Youth riding	> Safety first > ATV safety training > OHM safety training	> Plans & proposals > Trail planning history > Trail Studies > Trail development grants > Damage account > On Track Newsletter	> Chippewa National Forest OHV riding > Superior National Forest OHV riding > Tread Lightly > Division of Trails & Waterways

Agencies host northern St. Louis County access open houses in June

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), USDA Forest Service -Superior National Forest, and St. Louis County will co-host three public 'open houses' in June to present the joint map of inventoried forest access routes on state, federal, and county-administered forest lands in northern St. Louis County.

At these open houses, the public is invited to review the access inventory of state and county-administered forest lands, and to discuss future management of roads and trails that provide motor vehicle access (e.g., cars, trucks & off-highway vehicles) to public forest lands in the county.

DNR planning will address the Bear Island, Burntside, Kabetogama and Lake Jeanette State Forests, along with scattered state lands located outside forest boundaries in the northern portion of St. Louis County. Routes on U.S. Forest Service and St. Louis County forest lands will also be evaluated during the course of this joint planning exercise.

Public open houses will be held at the following times and locations:

- June 6, 5:00-7:30 p.m., Mesabi Community College, 1001 Chestnut Street West, Virginia, MN 55792
- June 7, 5:00-7:30 p.m., MN DNR Offices, 650 Highway 169, Tower, MN 55790
- June 13, 5:00-7:30 p.m., Orr American Legion Post 480, Orr, MN 55771

For more information contact Brian McCann at 651-259-5627.

What's the word?

Motor Vehicle

The term "motor vehicle" is defined by Minnesota Rule as "any self-propelled vehicle including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, dune buggies, minibikes, motorcycles, trail bikes, and all terrain vehicles (ATVs) but not including snowmobiles." This definition covers both Class 1 and 2 ATVs and off-road vehicles (ORVs).

As a rule of thumb, unless otherwise noted, all motor vehicles may be operated on forest roads under the managed or limited forest classification. Operation on designated forest trails is restricted to the signed uses and these routes are not open to operation by highway-licensed vehicles.

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 ends May 31, 2007
- Analysis of comments underway
- Final plan expected August 2007

Superior Group (Lake County)

- Public review in progress
- Public meeting June 12
- Public review ends June 22

Superior Group (North St. Louis County)

- Open houses scheduled for June 6 in Virginia, June 7 in Tower, and June 13 in Orr
- June - August forest classification and route evaluation exercise

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)