

On Track

A bimonthly update on forest road and trail designation in Minnesota state forests

Vol. 2, Issue 6

November 2008

Planning Progress

Cloquet Valley (St. Louis)

- Awaiting final approval.

East Central

- Approved. Implementation in progress.

Koochiching/Itasca

- Public review meetings complete.
- Comment period ends Nov. 7.
- Team will review comments, propose changes and present to regional managers.
- Commissioner review scheduled for Dec. 23.

Northern Border

- Public review meetings complete.
- Team developing response to public comments.
- Commissioner review scheduled for Dec. 22.

Southern Minnesota Unit

- Awaiting final approval.

Sturgeon River (St. Louis County)

- Approved. Implementation in progress.

Superior Group (North St. Louis County)

- Approved. Implementation in progress.

West Central Group

- Approved. Implementation in progress.

ON TRACK: Final planning report in next issue, early 2009

The *On Track* newsletter will include a final report on the process and results of forest road and trail designation and forest classification in Minnesota state forests in its next issue (early 2009).

OHV riding restrictions during firearms deer season

State forest trails will be closed to recreational OHV riding during the 2008 firearms deer season. Only people who have a valid deer license may use OHVs on state lands during the firearms deer season.

In addition, hunters may only use OHVs during:

- The period one-half hour before sunrise;
- From 11:00 am until 2:00 pm; and
- After legal shooting hours (one-half hour after sunset).

The closure in Statewide (A) 100 series is in effect from 12:01 am Nov. 8 through 11:59 pm Nov. 23. The closure in Statewide (A) 200 series is in effect from 12:01 am Nov. 8 until 11:59 pm Nov. 16. A hunting zone (series) map is available at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/fish_wildlife/regs/hunting/2008/zonemap.pdf

Forest roads remain open.

Check out 2008 Off-Highway Vehicle Trails brochure



A brochure full of information on off-highway vehicle use and where to ride is available on the DNR Web site. The brochure includes:

- Public trail opportunities
- Information on Class I and Class II OHVs
- Youth riding
- What's new in OHV laws, regulations
- Use of OHVs and hunting
- Safety
- Unmarked, unsigned routes
- Signs and what they mean
- List and map of state forests/classifications

Find the brochure at:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/ohv/ohv_brochure.pdf

OR

www.FindTheTrails.com under "Find A Trail"

Southern Minnesota unit plan awaits final approval

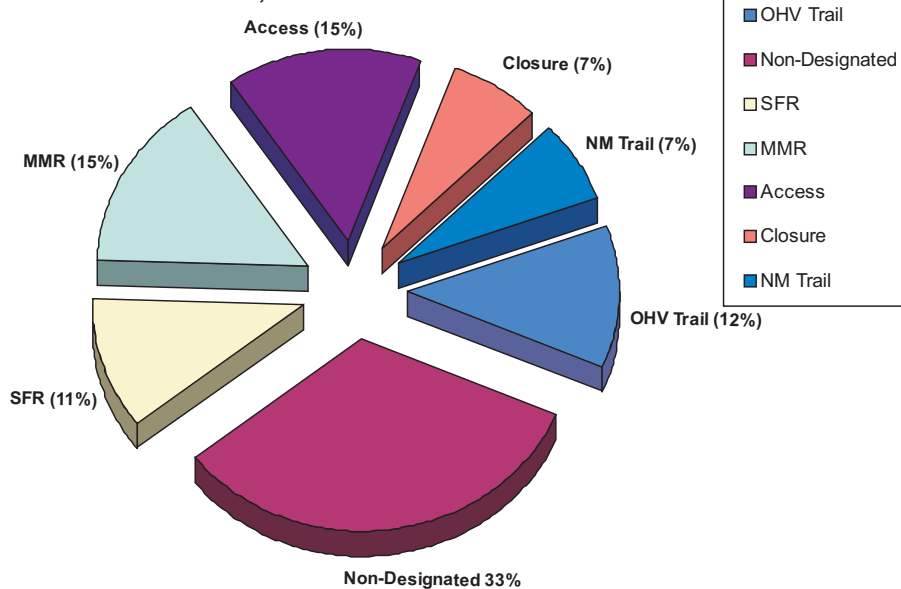
Just over 90 comments were received from the public regarding the proposed forest classification and trail designations for the Southern Minnesota State Forest unit. Most comments concerned the safety of designating mountain bike use at the Hay Creek Management Unit because of the exiting high level of equestrian trail use.

DNR staff sought input from user groups regarding mountain biking at Hay Creek. The groups agreed that mountain biking at that site could create a dangerous situation and were willing to work with the DNR to identify and develop a suitable facility at another site within the unit.

DNR Commissioner Holsten will review the plan before the end of the year.

First 45 State Forests: Final Designations

Total = 7,460 Miles of Routes



Forest Road & Trail Designation Mileage Totals for the First 45 Completed State Forests		
Route Designation	State Forest Land (miles)	
System Forest Road	845	
Min. Maintenance Forest Road	1,155	
Non-designated Routes*	4,193	
Proactive Closures	360	
In closed forests	177	
In limited forests	2,525	
In managed forests (forest access routes)	1,131	
ATV / OHM Trail*	784	
OHM Only (Single-Track Trail)	140	
ORV Trail*	27	
Non-motorized Trails	518	

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

State Forest Classifications as of November 5, 2008

This list shows the classification/s for state lands within state forests. Many state forests have more than one classification. In addition, lands within state forest boundaries include multiple ownerships. This list is not meant as a guide to where you can and cannot ride OHVs.

Closed

Battleground	Lake Jeanette*
Birch Lakes	Pillsbury
Buena Vista*	Sand Dunes
Burntside*	Snake River*
Finland*	Welsh Lake
Insula Lake	Whiteface River

Limited

Badoura	Mississippi
Bear Island	Headwaters
Bowstring	Nemadji
Buena Vista*	Pat Bayle
Burntside*	Paul Bunyan
Chengwatana	RJ Dorer Memorial
Crow Wing	Hardwood**
D.A.R.	Remer
Emily	Rum River
Finland*	Savanna
Fond du Lac	St. Croix
Foothills	Smoky Hills
General C.C. Andrews	Snake River*
Hill River	Solana
Huntersville	Sturgeon River*
Land O' Lakes	Two Inlets
Lake Jeanette*	Wealthwood
Lyons	White Earth
	Waukenabo

Managed

Beltrami Island	Grand Portage
Big Fork	Kabetogama
Blackduck	Koochiching
Buena Vista*	Lake of the Woods
Cloquet Valley	Lost River
Finland*	Northwest Angle
George	Pine Island
Washington	Red Lake
Golden	Smokey Bear
Anniversary	Sturgeon River*

* portions

** The big game hunter/trapper motor vehicle use exception DOES NOT APPLY in the R.J. Doerer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

For more information, visit the DNR OHV riding web page at www.mndnr.gov click on outdoor activities, then OHV riding or www.findthetrails.com

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