



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 POLICY FACT SHEET Alternative Recording for State Forest Roads

It is needed because

This proposal will clarify the process used to establish the state's claim of use of forest roads for forest management and public recreation and access purposes. It clearly defines the process that property owners can use to appeal those portions of recorded state forest maps affecting them.

Major elements

This proposal does the following:

- ◆ Clarify the definition of a “state forest road map”;
- ◆ Require that a state forest road map be prepared at a scale compliant with county recorder standards, instead of a scale of at least four inches equals one mile. The four-inch-to-a-mile scale was copied from statutes that cover alternative recording for town roads. This scale has been found to be unwieldy for state forest roads, making it necessary to record numerous maps for each county; and
- ◆ Clarify the process whereby a property owner can appeal a recorded state forest road map.

Priority-setting

State forest road prescriptive easement projects are selected county-by-county using the following priorities:

- ◆ Counties where there is a high number of large industrial landowner parcels,
- ◆ Counties with the most forest road/private land interfaces,
- ◆ Counties where the state forest off-highway vehicle designation process has been completed, and
- ◆ Counties where the county land commissioner has requested that the prescriptive easement process be completed as soon as possible.

Project locations

The following 28 counties have at least one forest road over which a prescriptive easement will be recorded: Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Hubbard, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Mille Lacs, Olmstead, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis, Sherburne, Stearns, Wabasha, Wadena, and Winona.

Key measures and outcomes

The desired outcome for the prescriptive easement process is a recorded map showing the state's legal interest in forest roads in each of the targeted 28 counties.

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