

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### Classification of State Forest Lands in North St. Louis County, Minnesota with Respect to Motor Vehicle Use

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commissioner of Natural Resources orders the classification of state forest lands described below with respect to motor vehicle use. These classifications of state forest lands with respect to motor vehicle use are pursuant to *Minnesota Laws 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 167, (as amended in 2005 and 2007) and Minnesota Rules Part 6100.1950.*

#### WHEREAS

1. *Minnesota Laws 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 167, (as amended in 2005 and 2007) and Minnesota Rules Part 6100.1950* require the Commissioner of Natural Resources to classify all state forest lands with respect to motor vehicle use.
2. The Department of Natural Resources published its proposed motor vehicle use classifications and proposed forest road and trail designations for state forest lands in North St. Louis county in a draft plan in May 2008. The agency held public meetings and solicited and received written comments and submissions regarding the public's use of forest lands, roads, and trails in North St. Louis County.
3. All notice and procedural requirements in *Minnesota Statutes*, and other applicable laws and rules have been met.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that the following state forest lands be classified as 'closed' with respect to motor vehicle use, pursuant to authority vested in me by Minnesota law:

- Approximately 32,746 acres of state forest lands outside of statutory state forest boundaries in northern St. Louis County; including all State forest lands located within the federal Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW); and
- State forest lands located within the following named sites: (all except the *McNiven Site* are located within the statutory boundaries of the Kabetogama State Forest)

*Ash River East* – Approx. 69 acres. This site is located in Section 32 of T69N R19W at the end of the Ash River Trail and County Road 129. It is bounded by Voyageur's National Park.

*Black Bay Trails* – Approx. 1,054 acres. This site in Section 11 of T63N R18W is located on a peninsula that lies between Black Bay and Norwegian Bay on Lake Vermilion.

*Echo Lake* – Approx. 1,798 acres. This site is located in Section 36 of T66N R17W and is bounded on the north by the Echo Trail; on the east by Picket Creek; on the west by a USFS Road; and on the south by the state land ownership boundary.

*Elephant Lake* – Approx. 3,587 acres. This site just southwest of Elephant Lake is located in Section 34 of T66N R19W and is bounded on east by Co. Road 180; on the north by the Clover Road; and, on the south and west by an established snowmobile trail.

*Gheen Hill* – Approx. 630 acres. This site is located in Section 36 of T64N R20W just west of State Hwy 53 and north of Gheen Corner. It is bounded by a large swamp on the southwest. A Minimum Maintenance State Forest Road forms the site's northern boundary.

*Willow Valley* – Approx. 1,460 acres. This site is located in Section 17 of T63N R21W. It is bounded on the north by Willow River and private property lines; on the east by a township road; on the south by property lines and wetlands; and, on the west by private property lines.

*McNiven* – Approx. 3,741 acres. This site is located in Section 16 of T19N R19W. It is bounded on the west, north and east (partially) by Slow Creek, and on the south by County Road 469. County Road 25 bisects the area running north-south through the center of the parcel.

These state forest lands are depicted as 'closed' on the maps in *Exhibit B*, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the following state forest lands be classified as 'limited' with respect to motor vehicle use, pursuant to authority vested in me by Minnesota law:

- State forest lands in the Bear Island State Forest;
- State forest lands in the Burntside and Lake Jeanette State Forests; except for those lands located within the BWCAW; lands within the BWCAW are 'closed' to motor vehicle use.
- Approximately 3,944 acres of land termed the 'Ash River West Site' located within the Kabetogama State Forest. This site is located in T68-69N R20-21W. It lies east of Highway 53, north of County Road 129, and north of the Ash River Trail. It is bounded by Voyageur's National Park on the north, by snowmobile and hiking trails on the south, and by streams on the east and west.
- Approximately 91,868 acres of state forest lands outside of statutory state forest boundaries in northern St. Louis County; and

These state forest lands are depicted as 'limited' on the maps in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the following state forest lands be classified as 'managed' with respect to motor vehicle use, pursuant to authority vested in me by Minnesota law:

- State forest lands in the Kabetogama State Forest; except for the 3,944 acre 'Ash River West Site' (above).
- Approximately 142,824 acres of state forest lands outside of statutory state forest boundaries in Northern St. Louis County; and

These state forest lands are depicted as 'managed' on the maps in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the above motor vehicle use classifications and designations of areas with limitations shall become effective September 1, 2009.

Date: 10-21-08



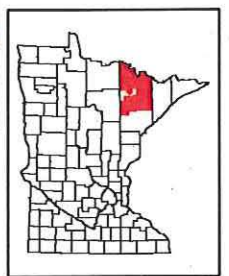
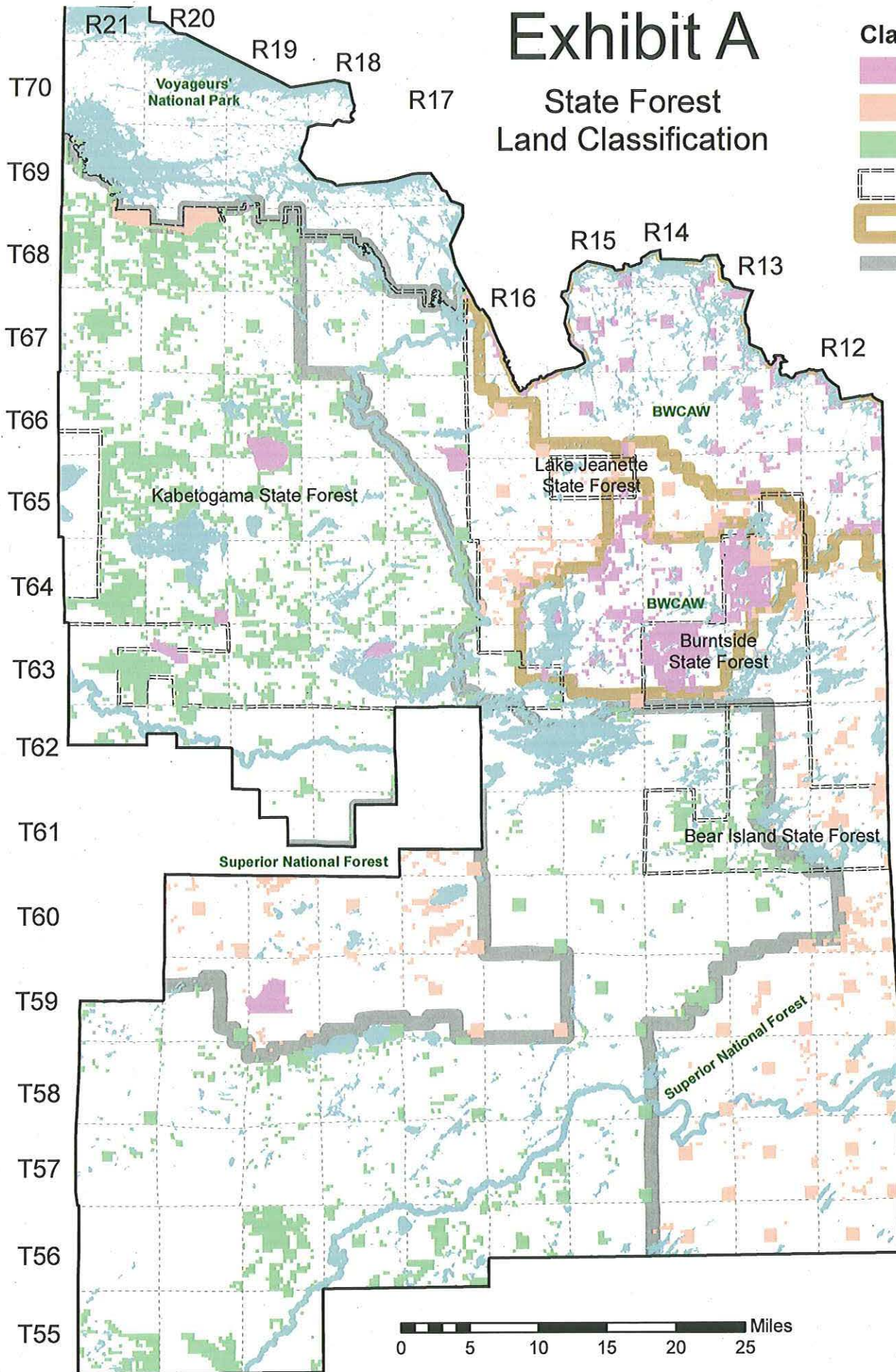
Mark Holsten, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

# Exhibit A

## State Forest Land Classification

### Classification

- Closed
- Limited
- Managed
- State Forest
- BWCAW
- National Forest



# Exhibit B

## Areas With Motor Vehicle Use Restrictions

