



# Foot Hills State Forest Trail Revision Project

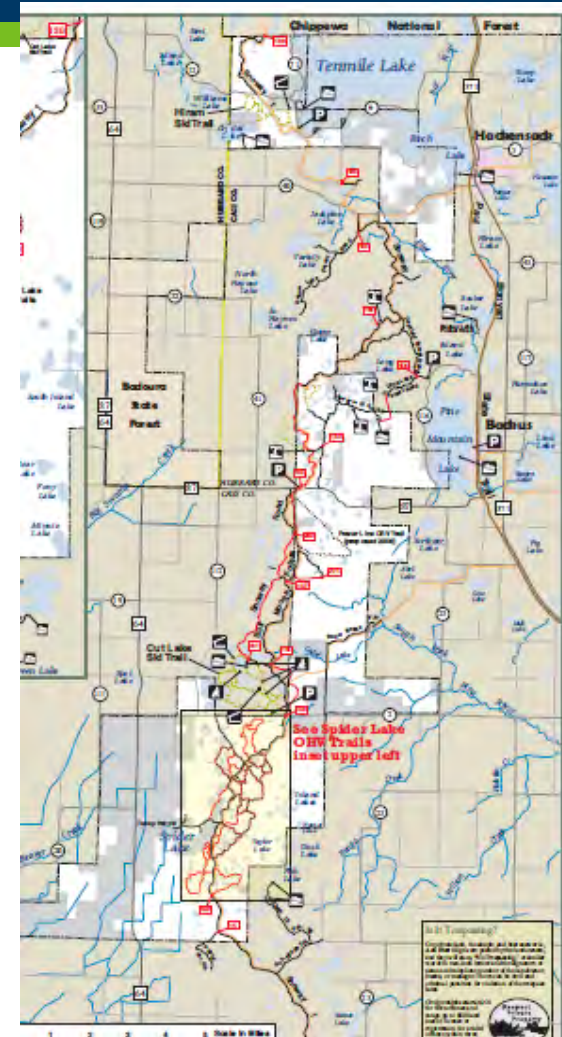
Joe Unger | OHV Planner

- ❖ We will be taking questions after the PowerPoint. If you have a question, please use the raised hand feature or type it in the Q&A.
- ❖ Written comments are encouraged! The last slide will have information how to comment and will be left up during the Q&A.



# Project Area

❖ Foot Hills State Forest in Cass County.



- ❖ Forest classification and trail designation plan completed in 2005
- ❖ During the first process, the DNR was limited to designating only existing routes, trails and roads as trails and roads.
- ❖ At the end of this process, the DNR made the commitment to review the trail designations

# Forest Classification

- ❖ The 2005 process classified each state forest as managed, limited or closed.
  - ❖ Managed: Routes are open unless posted closed
  - ❖ Limited: Routes are closed unless posted open
  - ❖ Closed: Forest is closed to motorized recreation
- ❖ These classifications focus on motorize use of the state forest lands.



- ❖ OHV-Spider Lake OHV Trails
- ❖ Cross Country Ski-Hiram and Cut Lake Trails
- ❖ Hunter walking



*All-terrain vehicles "ATV"*



*Off-highway motorcycle "OHM"*



*Hunter walking trail*



*Cross country skier*



*Off-road vehicle "ORV"*

# What is included

- ❖ New trails and trail connections (both motorized and non-motorized)
- ❖ Special management areas
- ❖ Rerouting or closing of unsustainable trails.



# What is Not Included?

- ❖ The trail system changes will not include changing forest-wide motorized classifications.
- ❖ Other recreation facilities such as campgrounds and day use sites.
- ❖ State corridor trails
  - ❖ E.g. Paul Bunyan State Trail



# Why do it?

- ❖ Adaptive management of recreational use of trails
- ❖ Fix problem areas
- ❖ To respond to working forest land changes
- ❖ Changes in recreation trends



# What's been done so far?

- No changes have been proposed.
- DNR reviewed current conditions of the trails.
- DNR discussed the project with Cass County.



# Process Objectives for the Project

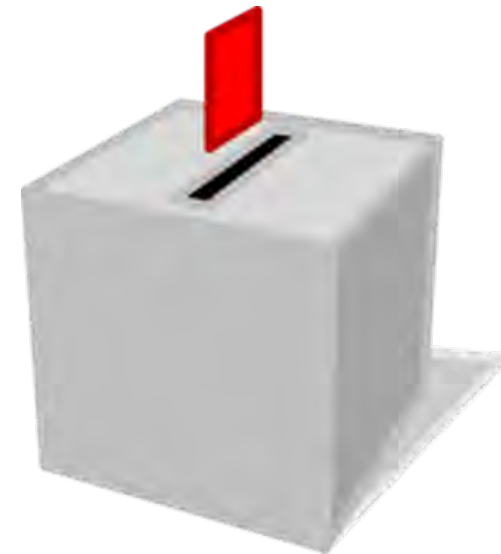
1. Designate a sustainable system of trails that provide for diverse motorized and non-motorized public recreation and access.
2. Close/reroute unsustainable trails.
3. The public will be engaged in recommending and reviewing changes to forest trail systems and management.
4. Designated trails and trail systems that provide a 'quality' recreational experience, and provide connections to other recreation facilities, support services and other popular destinations.
5. Trails that provide adequate access for both recreational and utilitarian purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, angling).

# Project Process



# Comments

- ❖ Two ways to comment:
- ❖ By email: [foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us)
- ❖ Use the online comment form
- ❖ By mail:
- ❖ Joe Unger, Parks and Trails
  - 500 Lafayette Rd
  - St. Paul, MN 55155
- ❖ Please comment by 4:30 PM May 14, 2021.





# Thank You!



**Joe Unger**

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