

Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest Trail Revision Project



Zumbro Bottoms
Hay Creek
Kruger
Sunset Trail

Department of
Natural Resources
Parks & Trails
Central Region

Housekeeping

- ❖ 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.

Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest Trail Revision Project

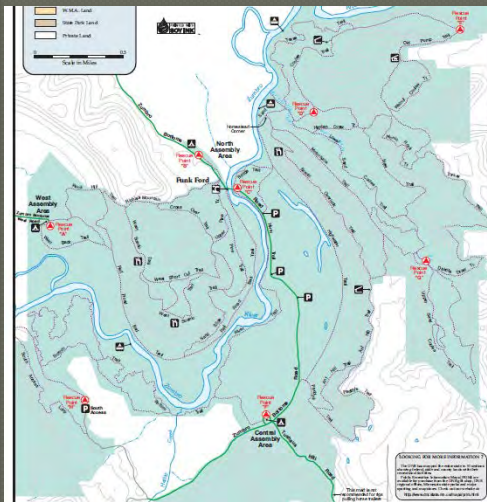


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Project Area

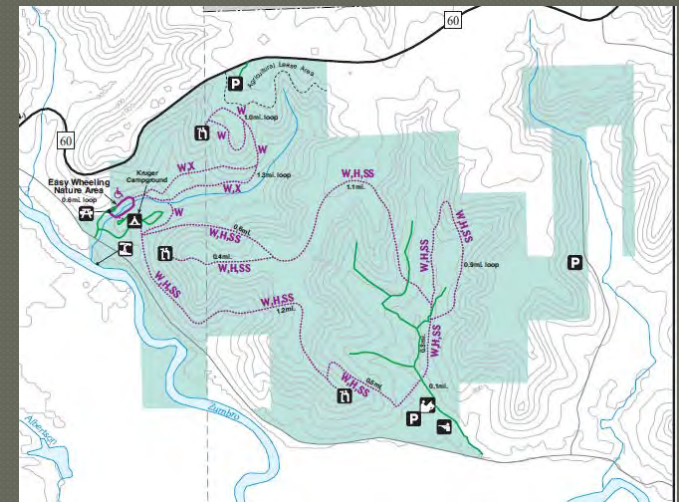
- ❖ Zumbro Bottoms, Hay Creek and Kruger management units of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.
- ❖ Sunset Trail



Zumbro Bottoms



Kruger



Hay Creek

What's been done so far

- No changes have been proposed.
- DNR met with the Zumbro Bottoms Trails Coalition in fall, 2019
- DNR reviewed current conditions of the trails.
- This project will review current trail alignments and uses.

Current Uses

- ❖ Horse-44 miles in Zumbro Bottoms, 15 mile in Hay Creek and 5 miles in Kruger.
- ❖ Hiking/Trail running
- ❖ Off-highway motorcycle-Utilize Zumbro Bottoms Trails during special events.



Background

- ❖ Forest classification and trail designation plan completed in 2008
- ❖ 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 the DNR made the commitment to review the trail designations



Forest Classification

- ◉ The 2008 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.



Special Regulations for the Dorer

- The big game hunter exemption does not apply in the forest (MS 84.926).
- Horses and mountain bikers must stay on designated trails (MR 6100.1355).

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. Goodhue Pioneer 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 needs



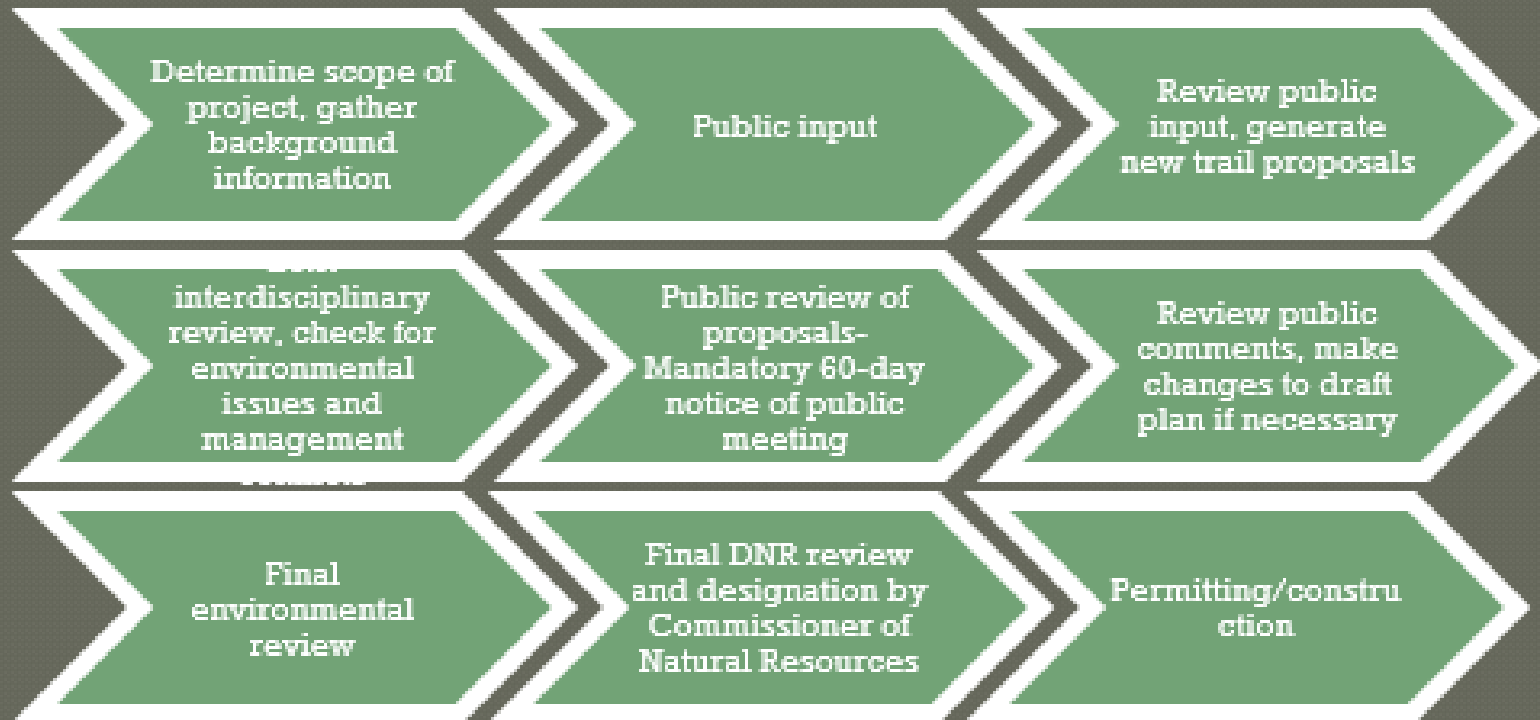
Process Objectives for the Project?

- 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.

Process Objectives for the Project?

- 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
- By mail:
 - Joe Unger, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul, MN 55155
- Please comment by 4:30 PM
Sep. 10, 2020



Thank you!

