

## AT A GLANCE: Rum River State Forest & Scattered Forestry Lands Proposed Trail Revisions

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<b>Location</b>	Morrison, Mille Lacs
<b>Classification</b>	Limited
<b>Highway-Licensed Vehicles:</b>	May be used on designated forest roads only.
<b>Off-Highway Vehicles:</b>	May be used on designated forest roads and trails signed as open to the specific type of off-highway vehicle.
<b>Area (acres)</b>	Rum River: 40,605
<b>Natural Resource Profile</b>	Loamy soils with glacial till. Glacial features are found within the forest. Tree types consist of mostly hardwood including aspen, oak and maple.
<b>Current Uses</b>	Forestry, seasonal recreation, tourism, hunting, habitat improvement.
<b>Recreation Types</b>	Snowmobiling, horseback riding, hiking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle riding, cross-country skiing, biking, camping, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching.

Trail Designation Summary	Approximate miles
Off-highway motorcycle-Designate	5.9
Off-highway motorcycle/All-terrain vehicle (class 1)-Designate	5.1
Off-road vehicle-Designate	1.1

### Description of Changes:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is proposing the addition of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails within the Rum River State Forest and surrounding scattered state forest lands. This proposal will include trails for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs). The trails will be in three different areas: two within the statutory boundaries of the Rum River State Forest and one on scattered state forest lands.

#### Area 1: “Dirty Eight Area”

Area 1 will contain a designated ATV/OHM trail totaling approximately 2.8 miles. Trail width will be approximately 50-55 inches to accommodate class one ATVs (max width 50”) and OHMs only. The trail will begin by following a forest access route and snowmobile trail before breaking in to several loops along the main trail. The trail will be routed to avoid wetlands and sensitive habitat. The trail will incorporate bends and natural features to decrease speed and increase seat time, thus providing an enjoyable experience in a limited area.

#### Area 2: “Daily Pit Area”

Area 2 will contain a designated ATV/OHM trail (approx. 2.3 miles) and an OHM single track trail system (approx. 5.9 miles). Much of this area is a previously disturbed gravel pit. Trail width for the ATV/OHM trail will be approximately 50-55 inches and allow class one ATVs only. The primary objective for the ATV/OHM trail is ATV hunting access and an easier OHM trail experience. The OHM single track trail will be approximately 18-24 inches wide and will provide a variety of experiences for OHM riders. The trails will be routed to avoid wetlands and sensitive habitat to the greatest extent possible. Approximately 500 linear feet of OHM trail will cross a seasonal wetland, which will have a maximum impact of .02 acres. Trail building technologies such as boardwalks and puncheons may be used to further reduce the impact to wetlands.

### **Area 3: "ORV Trail"**

Area 3 will contain an off-road vehicle (ORV) trail totaling approximately 1.1 miles on scattered state forest lands. The trail will cater towards ORVs that are also highway licensed vehicles as parking will be limited. The trail width will be approximately 120 inches and be routed to utilize natural rock features as challenges for ORV drivers. Small loops will branch off the main trail providing a variety of experiences for ORV drivers.

### **Trail construction, monitoring and maintenance**

Trail routes shown on designation maps are approximate. Final trail layout and flagging as well as permitting will be conducted prior to trail construction by DNR Parks and Trails staff. Once flagged and all permits are in place, construction will begin. Construction will be conducted by trail building professionals, including DNR staff and volunteers. Parks and Trails employs a professional roving crew for trail construction. This crew utilizes specialized equipment with experienced operators to efficiently construct OHV trails. Much of the single track will be constructed by hand as it is too narrow for most equipment.

Trail monitoring will be conducted by DNR staff and volunteers, such as local clubs and Trail Ambassadors. Trail Ambassadors are volunteers who are trained to identify trail maintenance and invasive plant issues and then report their findings to DNR Parks and Trails. Trails may be closed during the spring thaw or after heavy rain events to reduce the potential for treadway issues.

As designated trails, maintenance may be performed by DNR staff. The DNR will either perform maintenance themselves or partner with a local government unit and club to perform maintenance through the Grant in Aid program. Parks and Trails has identified several OHV clubs that would be interested to partner for maintenance on the trail system.