Rum River State Forest Trail Revision Project



Department of Natural Resources Parks & Trails Central Region



Background

- Forest classification and trail designation plan completed in 2008
- Developed three classifications for motorized recreation:
 - Managed: Routes are open unless posted closed
 - Limited: Routes are closed unless posted open
 - Closed: Forest is closed to motorized recreation
- This process is the second phase and will focus on trail designations



Planning

What is included

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





Planning

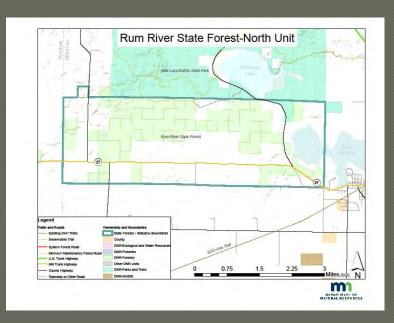
What is Not Included?

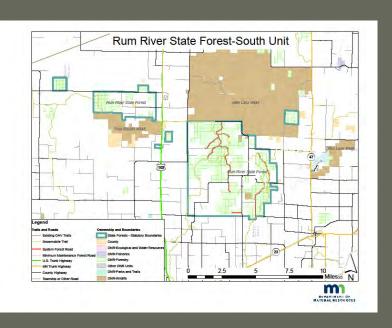
- ☐ The trail system changes will not include changing forestwide motorized classifications.
- Other recreation facilities such as campgrounds and day use sites
- State corridor trails



Project Area

- Rum River State Forest
- Scattered state forest lands surrounding the forest.







Why do it?

- Adaptive management of recreational use of trails
- To respond to working forest land changes
- Changes in recreation needs







Process Objectives for the Project?

- Designate a sustainable system of trails that provide for diverse motorized and non-motorized public recreation and access.
- 2) Close/reroute unsustainable routes to vehicular travel.
- 3) The public will be engaged in recommending and reviewing changes to forest trail systems and management.



Process Objectives for the Project?

- Designated trails and trail systems that provide a 'quality' recreational experience, and provide connections to other recreation facilities, support services and other popular destinations.
- Trails that provide adequate access for both recreational and utilitarian purposes (e.g., hunting, trapping, angling, firewood collecting, berry and mushroom picking, etc.)



Process Objectives for the Project?

- Management options not available or not used during the 2003-2008 process will be implemented:
 - Hunter/walking trails designated;
 - Areas where the hunting and trapping exceptions do not apply;
 - New trails designated to provide improved state forest access and trail connections.



Project Time Line

Determine scope of project, gather background information

Public input

Review public input, generate new trail proposals

interdisciplinary review, check for environmental issues and management Public review of proposals-Mandatory 60-day notice of public meeting

Review public comments, make changes to draft plan if necessary

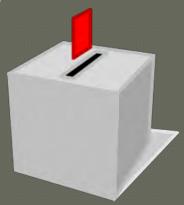
Final environmental review Final DNR review and designation by Commissioner of Natural Resources

Permitting/construction



Comments

- Three ways to comment:
 - Tonight: Fill out a comment form and drop it in the box
 - By mail: Take a comment form home with you and mail it to the address shown
 - By email: foresttrailplanning.dnr@state.mn.us
 - Please comment by April 11, 2018





Thank you!



