

Public Motorized Road Access Planning – Frequently Asked Questions (Dec. 2015)

Q: What is Motorized Road Access Planning?

- Motorized Road Access Planning is a means by which the department can inventory, classify and map existing open and closed roads on department-owned lands (with a focus placed on existing roads and not trails)

Q: Why is the department undertaking these efforts?

- As a result of Wisconsin State Statute 23.116, **“The Department shall inventory and map all roads that are located on each Department property. Each map shall designate which roads are open to the public for the use of motorized vehicles and shall state when each road is open or closed for such use.” (State Statute 23.116)**
 - Responding to Public Interests/Expectations
 - Making access easier for people of all ages and abilities on department lands
 - Desire for maps/technology advancements

Q: When did Motorized Road Access Planning begin?

- The project began as part of the 2013-15 biennial state budget – master plans have included motorized access planning, and this will allow the department to inventory and map these roads.

Q: What stage is the project currently in?

- [Final guidance](#) has been approved following a public comment period. Inventory systems have been developed and are ready to be completed. Any properties currently in the planning process are being evaluated for motorized access.

Q: Will the public have any input into Motorized Road Access Planning? What is the process?

- The department gathered comments through an extensive public involvement process regarding general considerations, and used this feedback to help determine the criteria and decision making processes used to evaluate roads on department property.
- As properties are planned, the department will seek comments regarding property-specific roads

Q: Which types of vehicles are considered “motorized” for the purpose of this planning process?

- Broadly defined → cars, trucks, SUVs, ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles.

Q: Which types of vehicles will be allowed on roads that are classified and mapped?

- Those decisions will be made at the property-level during the planning process. Public feedback and involvement will continue to be very important as the process is applied to properties.

Q: How did the department decide which roads to classify? Were criteria used to make the classifications?

- Public feedback and [approved guidance](#) is used to determine which roads on DNR properties are classified.

Q: What does this process mean for trails?

- The current inventory and planning process involves only DNR roads. Trails are involved in the master planning process, but are not the focus of the Public Motorized Road Access Planning process.

Q: Will the new road policy result in a loss of hunting opportunity?

- The department does not anticipate a loss in hunting opportunity as a result of public motorized road access planning – recreation activities are an important part of the decision making process and will be a key part of the discussion at each property.

Q: Who will pay for maintaining roads in wildlife areas, fishery areas, state forests, and state parks?

- Funding will come from the department's road budgets for road improvements and maintenance.
- There are opportunities for external stakeholders to assist the department in maintaining roads.

Q: Will there be an environmental assessment done for this change in policy and the ensuing impacts?

- Whether motorized access is implemented on a property via a master plan or as a standalone project, the Department will conduct an environmental analysis under the new NR 150 rule for any proposed motorized access. The master planning process includes an environmental analysis component. If motorized access is not part of a master plan process, then the department will conduct a separate environmental analysis for the proposed motorized access.

Q: How will the new road policy be handled for properties with existing Master Plans?

- Additions to existing master plans will take place through the Master Plan amendment process. For properties without an NR 44 compliant Master Plan, additions will be made using the standard planning process.

Q: How will I know which roads are available for public use on a DNR property?

- The department's [Public Access Lands atlas](#) provides current maps for public lands throughout Wisconsin. As properties complete motorized access planning, new property maps within the atlas will reflect these updates.