

PUBLIC ACCESS *

1. GOAL

Maintain or enhance access to publicly owned land and resources by protecting rights-of-way or publicly-owned corridors such as trails, winter roads, river corridors, etc.

2. MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

A. Retain Access. Retain access sites and corridors in public ownership, or retain sufficient rights to lands that the state leases or sells, where appropriate to protect or improve public access to areas with significant public resources.

B. Reservation of Access. Appropriate public access will be reserved when land is conveyed to private ownership. Section line easements should not be vacated unless alternative physically useable public access can be established. To the extent feasible, public access rights through private use areas and along public waters should be retained.

C. Access for Development. When an access route is constructed for resource development, existing public access should be maintained or improved to mineralized areas, recreation, fish, wildlife, and forest resources, agriculture areas and other public resources.

D. Adequate Access Rights. Where practical and within the limits of available funding, full public rights of access should be provided when roads are constructed by state or local governments. Perpetual exclusive easements should be acquired when the state acquires access rights across property in other ownerships.

E. New Access. Where new or additional access is warranted, such access should be provided on public land where possible. Where suitable public land is not available, attempts should be made to arrange for such access across private land. Possible means of doing this include easements granted by land owners, state purchase of limited rights, fee-simple purchase of the land or land exchange.

F. Limiting Access. Access to public lands may be curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, to allow special uses and to prevent harm to the

environment. Examples of conditions that may justify limiting public access are fire management, timber harvest operations, and high soil moisture content when traffic may cause extensive damage to roads and trails.

G. Purchase of Access Sites. Public appropriations may be requested to purchase access sites, easements or reservations to public use areas and to proposed settlement and agricultural projects.

H. Other Guidelines Affecting Public Access. A number of other guidelines may affect public access. For details of these guidelines, see the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Forestry
- Settlement
- Subsurface Resources and Materials
- Transportation
- Lakeshore Management
- Stream Corridors
- Trail Management
- Wetlands Management

* See also the Transportation and Trails Management sections of this chapter.