

## ROAD CLASSIFICATION

### Philosophy:

State forest highways (roads) are subject to many types of public vehicle<sup>1</sup> use. Such use may or may not be compatible with resource management objectives for the state lands through which the roads run. Thus, classification of roads identifies appropriate uses (at appropriate times), insures proper resource management and protection, and informs the public about which roads may be used under what conditions.

### Policy:

The Department will classify all state forest highways, and so indicate on Geographic Information System (GIS) maps and in the long-range management plans for state lands.

The classification will use the following definitions:

**State Forest Highway:** A road in the long-term management of Department lands.

**Class A Road:** A paved or unpaved state forest highway that is open for year-round<sup>2</sup> public vehicle use.

**Class B Road:** A paved or unpaved state forest highway that is generally open for public vehicle use, but may be closed at certain times of the year to restrict such access.

**Class C Road:** An unpaved state forest highway not generally open for public vehicle use.

Public use of Class A and B roads may entail an entry or use fee, depending on the area or kind of use.

State forest highways do not meet the definition of a public highway as given in 19 V.S.A. §1(12), nor does the Department consider them public roads. They are solely in existence to meet the purposes of the Department as stated in 10 V.S.A. §2601.

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<sup>1</sup> **Public Vehicle:** A motorized vehicle used by a member of the public which (1) falls under the definition in 23 V.S.A. §4 and (2) is legally titled and registered.

<sup>2</sup> Specific information on classification and use is at the appropriate District/Regional office.

**Procedure for Implementation:**

Decisions for classification of state forest highways are based on management needs, road conditions, and available funding, and are made by Forestry District Managers and/or Parks Regional Managers<sup>3</sup>. Appeals on decisions and proposals for changes in classification shall be through the appropriate Division Director to the Commissioner.

*Conrad M. Motyka, Acting Commissioner*

Effective Date: May 15, 1991

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<sup>3</sup> Specific information on classification and use is at the appropriate District/Regional office.