



**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
State of New York

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# Conservation Easement Public Recreation Road and Trail Sign Guidance Manual



## **Introduction**

The following manual provides standardized signs<sup>1</sup> proposed for management of public recreation use on conservation easement properties. It is intended for the landowner and DEC to agree that the uniform type, design and content of the signs in this manual are for common placement at locations on these properties with public recreation use and are consistent with provisions of the Conservation Easement and with DEC Regulations for Conservation Easements, applicable sections for posting listed below.

The approved signs in this manual are meant to assist field foresters representing both parties in streamlining the implementation processes: for meeting provisions of the conservation easement; when a demonstrated need for signs is determined through recreation planning; or when the need for signs become evident based on situations that arise in the field. It is intended that the placement of these signs at property locations will be determined at the local level by the respective land managers for the properties.

Other uncommonly used signs necessary to address property-specific management issues and concerns are not presented in this plan. Sign needs commensurate with these particular circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the respective land managers, with sign content and location to be mutually agreed upon at that time.

This manual is designed to provide guidance on universal signs and signing for public recreation management of conservation easement properties. It may be amended or modified, consistent with provisions for a specific conservation easement property, location in the State or as determined by the parties to that conservation easement. However, roads and trails open to motor vehicle and snowmobile use for public recreation on all Conservation Easements must be posted for such use, section I provides uniform signs for meeting that regulation.

### **§190.0 Introduction**

**a.** Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Part shall apply to all persons entering upon or using State lands under the department's jurisdiction that are administered by the Division of Lands and Forests, the Division of Operations, or both, including but not limited to such lands as ... and *to those rights owned and managed by the State as conservation easements as defined in §190.12 of this title. ...*"

**k.** *No person shall operate a vehicle on any State truck trail or road maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation on State reforestation areas at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour."*

**m.** *Use of motor vehicles on State land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation outside the forest preserve is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by posted notice or by permit issued by the department. ..."*

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<sup>1</sup> Signs featured in this manual have been developed through the past collaborative efforts of representatives of both DEC and the Lyme Timber Company (a CE Landowner) in 2010. It reflects sign usage for Conservation Easements in the Adirondack Park. Other CE property locations throughout the State may require appropriate color, content and style adjustments to signs used for public recreation in those areas. Revisions to signs were made to adjust recommended sign size to DEC sign shop standard sizes.

## §190.12 Conservation Easements

"a. *Applicability.* This section applies only to conservation easement lands to which the public has a right of access. Unless specified otherwise in this section, the **following sections of this Part apply to persons using conservation easement lands** under the jurisdiction of the department's Division of Lands and Forests: §190.0, §190.1, §190.2, §190.3, §190.4 and §190.8.

b. General. Unless specified otherwise in this section, the following regulations also apply to persons using conservation easement lands.

1. No person shall deface, mutilate, remove or destroy any sign or structure of the landowner, lessee or the department.
2. No person shall erect any sign, structure, gate, barrier or other improvement unless specifically authorized in the conservation easement.
3. No person other than the landowner, its invitees, or lessees, or the department shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on any roads or trails except those roads and trails posted for such use. ..."

DEC Sign Shop Stock Material		
SIGN SIZE	WOOD TYPE	METAL OR PLASTIC SIGNS
6"x16" - board	3/4" pine	11.25" x 11.25"
8"x24" - board	3/4" pine	7.5" x 11.25"
9"x30" - board	3/4" pine	can cut down stock to 5.625" x 5.625"
8"x12"	1/2" MDO	
16"x24"	1/2" MDO	
30"x48"	1 3/4" pine or 3/4" MDO	
48"x72"	1 3/4" pine or 3/4" MDO	
48"x96"	3/4" MDO	

## **Roads & Trails–Elements and Protocols for Broad Category Signs**

*I. The following public recreation management signs are proposed for use on all conservation easement properties that allow for public recreation. These broad category signs are intended for widespread “generic” use across the greatest practicable extent of easement properties.”*

### **1. Signs to be used uniformly on all entrances, roads, parking areas and trails open to public recreation use.**

#### **A. Public Use Signs**

**1. Public Use Conditions & Rules** Informational Kiosks or large signs located at critical public access points, parking lots and/or staging areas, determined in the Recreation Plan; large signs depicting public use conditions (rules & regulations) for the property and a public use map.

**2. Permitted Public Motorized Use-** at trail heads, parking lots, main intersections or the beginning of public use routes; intended to inform the public of what recreation uses and what types of vehicles are allowed on a specific road, trail or use corridor.

**3. Trail Marker-** Along the route at points where the public could go off the route (side roads, etc); intended to keep public motorized use and traffic on the route that has been designated as open for that use.

**4. Camp Site-** at designated camping sites.

**5. Parking Area-** where parking is allowed.

**6. Boat Launch-** where access to water is allowed.

**7. Other (allowed activity)-** where the activity is specifically allowed in the Recreation Management Plan;

## 2. Public Use Conditions and Rules:

Public Access Point Informational Kiosk

*Fabricated Using DEC In-House Sign Services*

- Dimensions:** 4' x 8'
- Color Scheme:** Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
- Reflective:** Not Required
- Construction:** Wood



**Kushaquua Tract Conservation Easement Lands**

**Privately Owned Working Forest Lands - Public Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**



Public Recreation on the Property is Subject to the Following Conditions

- Be prepared to encounter logging trucks and equipment at any time
- Speed limit on all property roads is 25 MPH— use of your headlights for visibility purposes is recommended.
- Roads and trails open to the public may be temporarily closed or rerouted due to road conditions or logging operations.
- Parking is permitted in designated parking areas, pull-offs and on road shoulders- Please do not block gates or obstruct the travel of other vehicles.
- Use of motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, ATVs and snowmobiles, is limited to roads and trails specifically marked and designated for those uses (see map)
- Camping and campfires are permitted only at designated campsites
- Please respect the rights of the landowner, their lessees, employees and contractors.
- Don't Litter- If you carry it in....carry it out
- Camps and a 1 acre area surrounding them are private property- trespass by the public in these areas will not be tolerated.
- Private camp lessees are permitted to travel to and from their camp lots by any motorized means, regardless of the road's designated public use.
- For more information on public recreation management of the property, contact:  
NYS DEC Lands and Forests: (518) 897-1200
- To report an emergency, contact:  
NYS DEC Forest Ranger Dispatch: (518) 408-5850

LEAVE THIS SPACE

(APPROX 2 FEET WIDE x 3-1/2 FEET TALL)

BLANK FOR THE ADDITION OF A CUSTOM DESIGNED MAP AND/OR TRACT SPECIFIC PRACTICES/REGS POSTER CREATED BY REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

4'

8' (FLIP PAGE OVER FOR TEXT AND GRAPHICS DIMENSIONS)

**EXAMPLE**

**TEXT AND GRAPHICS SIZES**

- DEC LOGO— 4 INCH DIAMETER LOGO WITH "NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION" WORDING AROUND THE LOGO.
- TITLE TEXT (TOP OF SIGN)— 3" HIGH, "BOLD FACE" ARIAL FONT TEXT
- "Public Recreation on the Property is Subject to the Following Conditions"— 2" HIGH, "BOLD FACE", UNDERLINED, ARIAL FONT TEXT
- BULLETED TEXT— 1" HIGH, ARIAL FONT TEXT
- TEXT SPACING— 1/4" To 1/2" Maximum

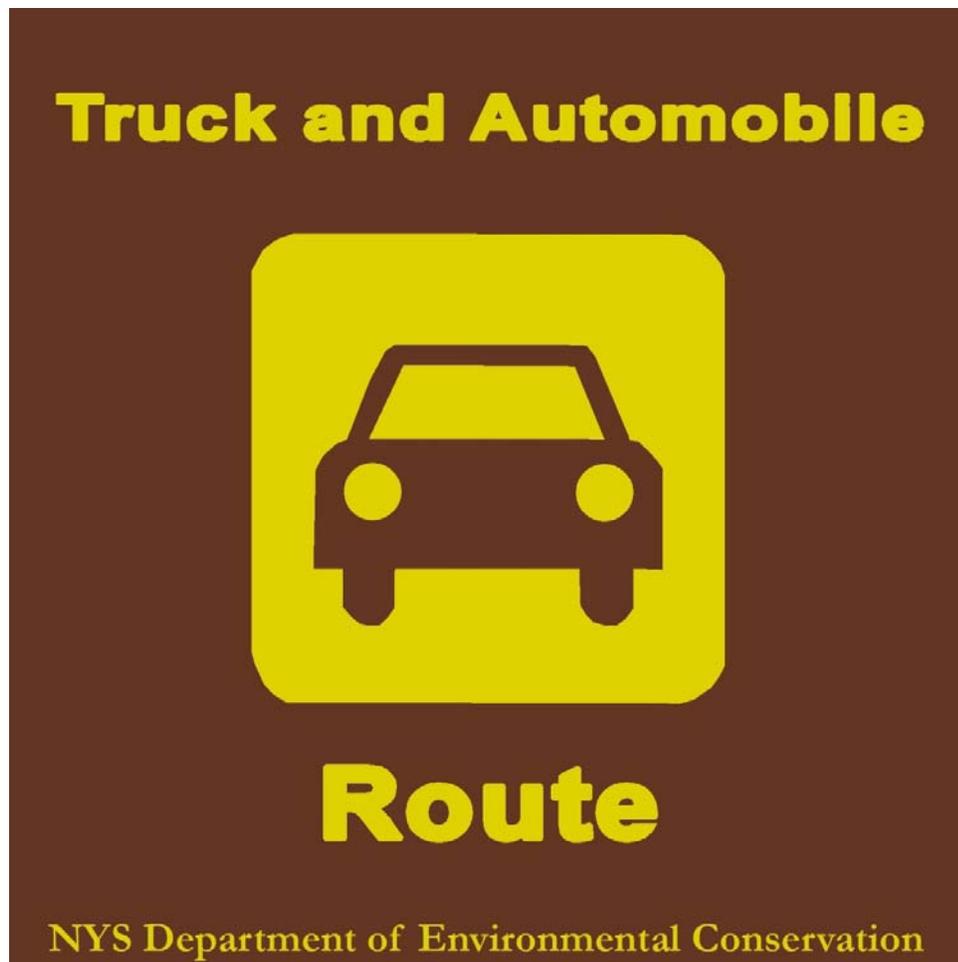
**3. Permitted Public Motorized Use:** For Easement Roads and Trails

- Dimensions:** 11.25" x 11.25" or size enlarged at regional discretion
- Color Scheme:** Yellow Background/Brown Lettering
- Reflective:** Not Required
- Construction:** Preferably Metal
- Other:** The # of symbols on the sign will vary from one to three with the road/trail. There could be a need for up to three; ATV, Car or Truck, and Snowmobile.



- Image shown is Not to Scale
- Public Motorized Use Activity Icons:
  - Will be applied to signs by DEC sign shop as needed on route-specific basis
  - DEC Foresters will submit individual requests to the sign shop for these signs based on their needs
  - DEC will use the above standard icons across all easement properties.
  - Icons illustrate permitted public means of motorized access and recreational use allowed on a specific route.
- Regions must supply sign shop with appropriate Ranger emergency telephone number.
- Tract Names and Road Names are optional but should be applied with adhesive label by regional office.
- Regions may choose to enlarge this sign's dimensions (customize) to meet specific needs.

- 4. Trail Marker:** Trail Marking Blazer  
**Dimensions:** 5.625" x 5.625"  
**Color Scheme:** DEC Standard Colors-Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering  
**Reflective:** Required - Lettering  
**Construction:** Metal or Vinyl

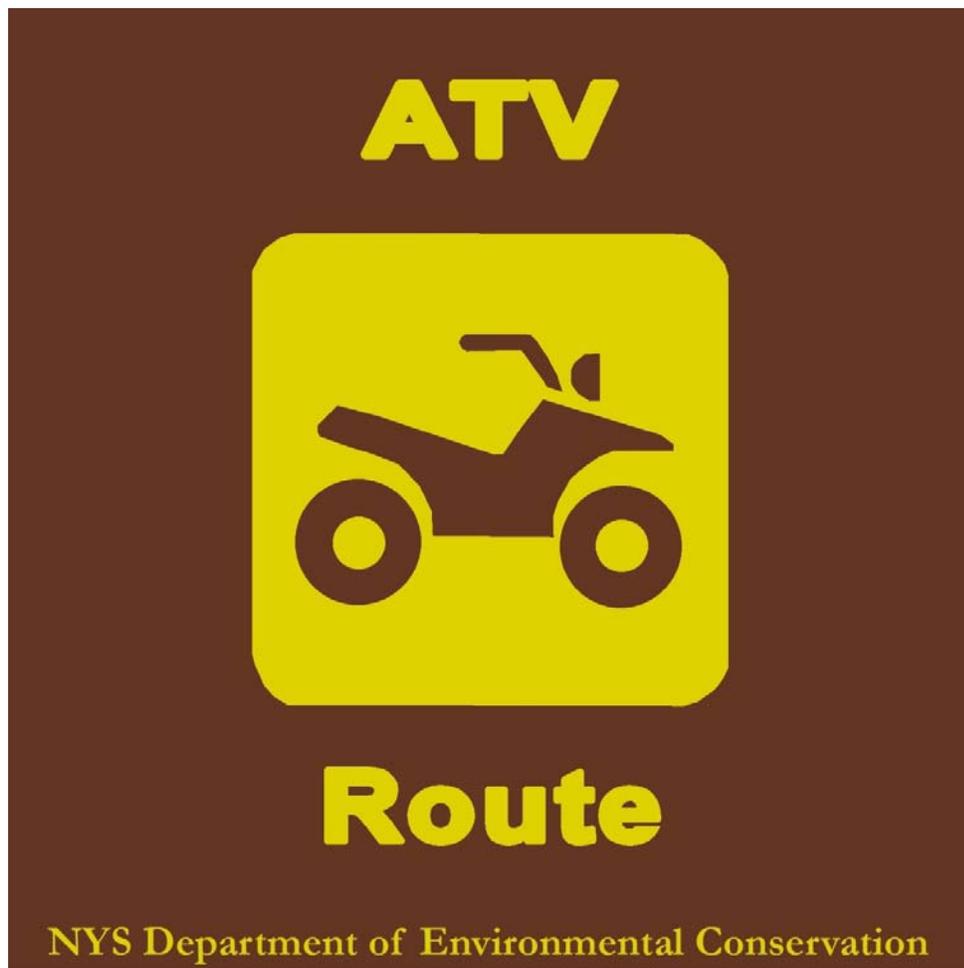


# Snowmobile



# Route

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



- Images shown approximately to scale.
- Mark both sides of designated travel corridor in an effort to keep public motorized traffic funneled onto the corridor and away from intersecting side roads

5. **Camp Site** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)
6. **Parking Area** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)
7. **Boat Launch** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)
8. **Other (allowed activity)** (other universal signs)

*II. Broad category signs - necessary to address similar tract-specific management issues and concerns are presented below in this plan. Sign needs commensurate with these particular circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the appropriate local management level." These signs are also intended for widespread generic use across the greatest practicable extent of the easement properties when needed.*

**1. Signs to be used on Roads Open to the Public when there are specific management issues or concerns**

**A. Regulatory, Prohibition and Caution Signs**

**1. Stop Signs-** Dangerous situations where conflicting uses of the property could converge; where active timber haul roads intersect with recreational use routes; not to be employed in a general way or as a matter of routine placement on public recreation roads.

**2. Speed Limit Signs-** Special situations along roads or trails; speed limits or recommended speeds should be included in the **Information Kiosk Sign** under conditions of use and on the **Permitted Public Use Signs**. If appropriate.

**3. Stop Ahead-** Snowmobile trails and other special situations at intersections.

**4. One Lane Bridge Ahead-** Special situations

**5. Right Curve/Left Curve-** Special situations

**6. Hazard Markers-** Special situations

**7. Barrier - 100 feet-** Special situations

**8. Do Not Enter-** Should be used only when there is a specific DEC need to prohibit the public from entering, not because it is a private road and the landowner wants added protection from intrusion.

**9. No Parking-** DEC recreation management need or reason.

**10. Do Not Block Gate-** DEC recreation management need or reason.

**11. Other as specifically needed for the situation.**

## 1. Stop Sign

<b>Dimensions:</b>	18" x 18"
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	USDOT Standard- Red and White
<b>Reflective:</b>	Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Metal or Vinyl



- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Stop signs will be posted at the specific location where the desired action is intended to take place (i.e. intersection)

## 2a. Recommended Speed Limit 15 MPH

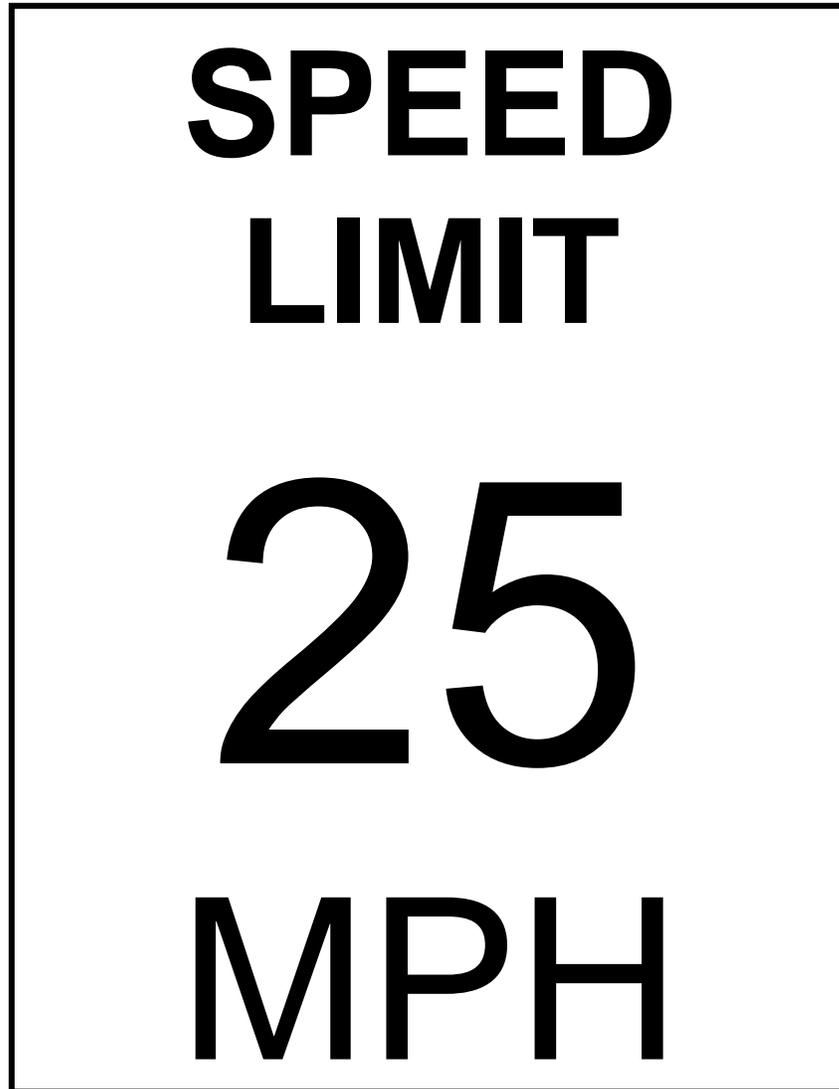
<b>Dimensions:</b>	12" x 18"
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	Yellow Background/ Brown or Black Lettering
<b>Reflective:</b>	Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Metal or Vinyl



- Image shown is Not To Scale
- These signs may be posted at critical public access points to each easement property as well as intermittently along specific roads/trails that have been designated as open to public motorized use.
- Tract-specific circumstances that necessitate a recommended speed limit that is less than 25 mph will be addressed locally on a case-by-case basis with joint consultation and agreement between the landowner and DEC.

## 2b. Speed Limit 25 MPH

<b>Dimensions:</b>	12" x 18"
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	USDOT Standard -- White Background/ Black Lettering
<b>Reflective:</b>	Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Metal or Vinyl



- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Same posting criteria as “Recommended Speed Limit” signs
- Part 190: Use of State lands including conservation easements as defined in section 190.12; 190.8 (k): 25 mile an hour speed limit.
- Tract-specific circumstances that necessitate a recommended speed limit that is less than 25 mph will be addressed locally on a case-by-case basis with joint consultation and agreement between the landowner and DEC.

**3, 4, 5, 6, 7: As Shown Below**

**Dimensions:** Hazard Markers- 6" x 12"  
All Others Shown- 18" x 18"  
**Color Scheme:** As Shown Below  
**Reflective:** Required  
**Construction:** Metal or Vinyl



#3



#4: Hazard Marker Sign



#5: Left Curve or #6: Right Curve  
(As operational needs dictate)



#7

- Images shown are Not To Scale
- Hazard marker signs will be posted on both sides of the public use road corridor immediately adjacent to the identified hazard condition (bridge railings, culverts, etc.)
- In consideration of research conducted, and a recommended easement tract maximum speed limit of 25 mph in place, caution signs *other than hazard marker signs* will be posted no less than 100 feet in advance of the identified hazard. In circumstances where the road approaching an identified hazard is windy or steep, caution signs will be posted no less than 150 feet in advance of the identified hazard.

## 8. Do Not Enter- Road Closed to Public Motorized Vehicles and Snowmobiles

<b>Dimensions:</b>	18" x 18"
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	USDOT Standard- Red and White
<b>Reflective:</b>	Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Metal or Vinyl



### *EXAMPLE*

- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Sign has universal applicability for road closures—may be posted in response to either temporary or permanent management needs and goals.
- These signs will be posted at the specific location where the desired action is intended to take place (i.e. intersection)

**III. Broad category informational and directional signs** should be deployed on conservation easement properties with public recreation use as program resources are available to do so. The following recreation management signs are designed to enhance the public's use of the recreational resource and are intended for widespread generic use across the greatest practicable extent of the easement properties

1. **Easement Road Identification Sign**- All shared use roads
2. **Directional Signs**- Appropriate trail and road intersections and other locations.
3. **Mileage Marker Signs**- All roads and possibly trails.

### 1. Sign: Easement Road Identification Sign

<b>Dimensions:</b>	6" x16" or other standard wood size
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	DEC standard colors- Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
<b>Reflective:</b>	Not Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Wood or Vinyl

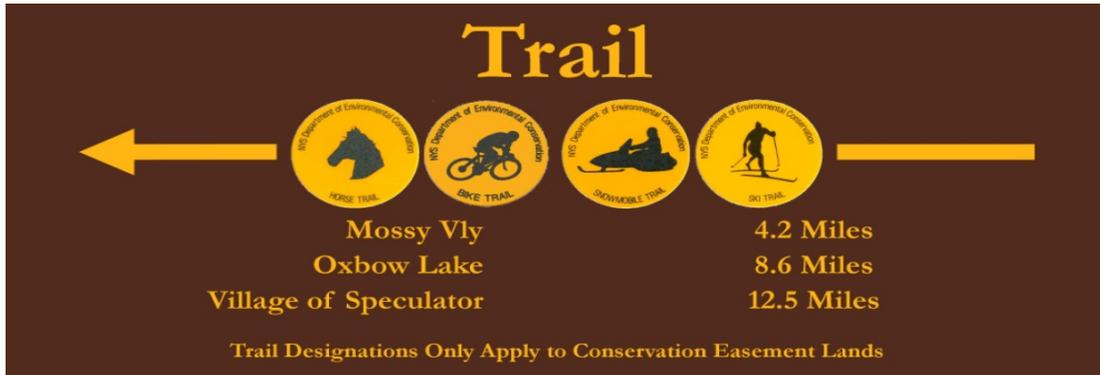


#### **EXAMPLE**

- Images shown are Not To Scale
- Easement Road ID sign content will be cross referenced to ensure consistency with road ID language found in DEC Rec Plans.
- Road ID names/numbers will be tract-specific and are at the discretion of the DEC planner, subject to consultation with the landowner as need dictates.

## 2. Easement Directional Signs

- Dimensions:** 9" x 30" or other standard wood sizes  
**Color Scheme:** DEC standard colors- Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering  
**Reflective:** Not Required  
**Construction:** Wood



**EXAMPLE**



**EXAMPLE**

### 3. Mileage Markers

<b>Dimensions:</b>	5.625" x 5.625"
<b>Color Scheme:</b>	Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
<b>Reflective:</b>	Not Required
<b>Construction:</b>	Metal or Vinyl



*EXAMPLE*

- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Mileage markers should be cross-referenced to descriptions on kiosk maps and/or brochures whenever possible
- Wide number range from 1mile to 15 miles
- Layout on road networks is subject to road ID system established by DEC recreation management plan

### 4. All other directional or informational signs

Will be developed as need dictates on a tract-by-tract basis. Signs will be custom-ordered by local DEC staff using in-house sign fabrication services. Generally speaking, directional signs will be constructed of wood and labeled with yellow lettering set on a brown background.