



OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) TRAIL AND ROUTE MAINTENANCE HANDBOOK



**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Forest Resources Division**

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For information or assistance on this publication, contact Forest Resource Management Section, Forest Management Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30452, Lansing MI 48909-7952.

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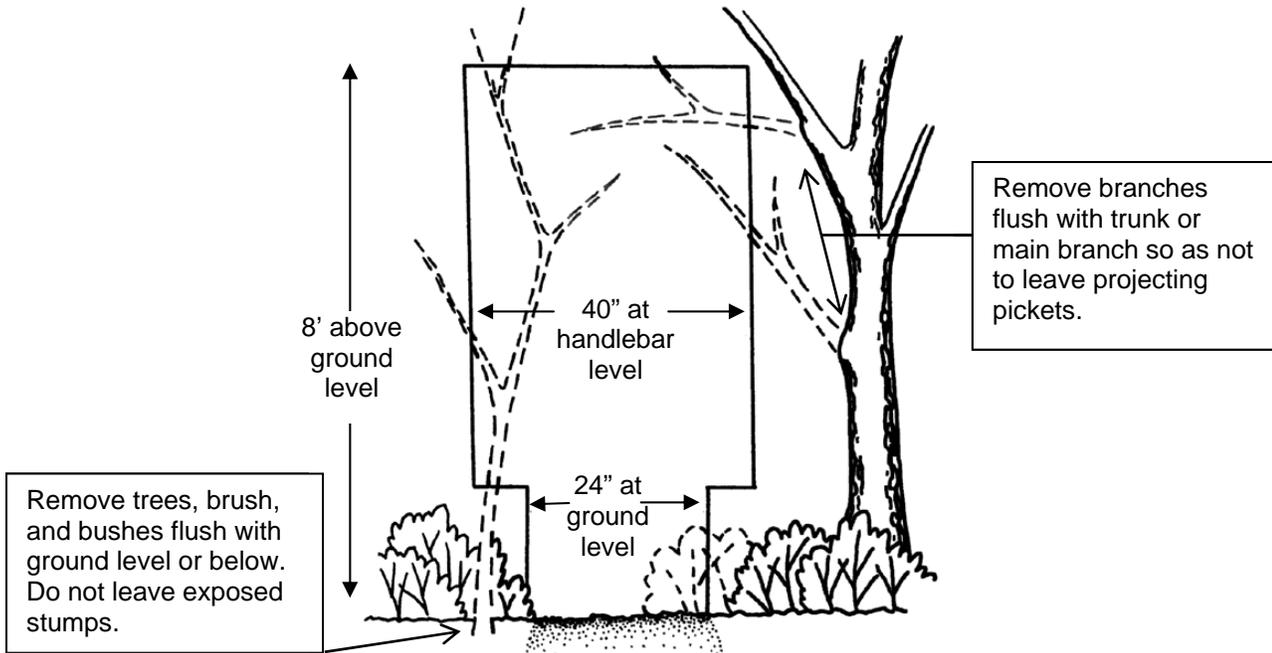
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This handbook is intended to provide guidance to the Michigan DNR field staff and grant sponsors in consistent standards for trail and route sign installation, placement, and trail maintenance.

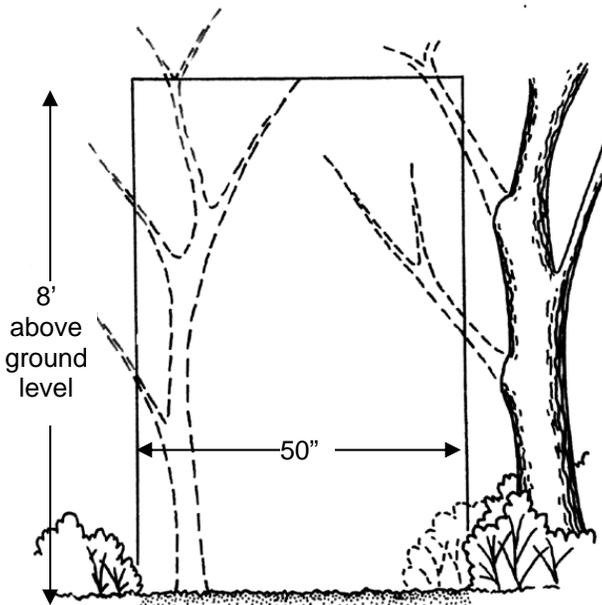
TRAIL CLEARANCE STANDARDS

Trails/routes should be cleared of brush, branches, and obstructions within dimensions according to the following diagrams.

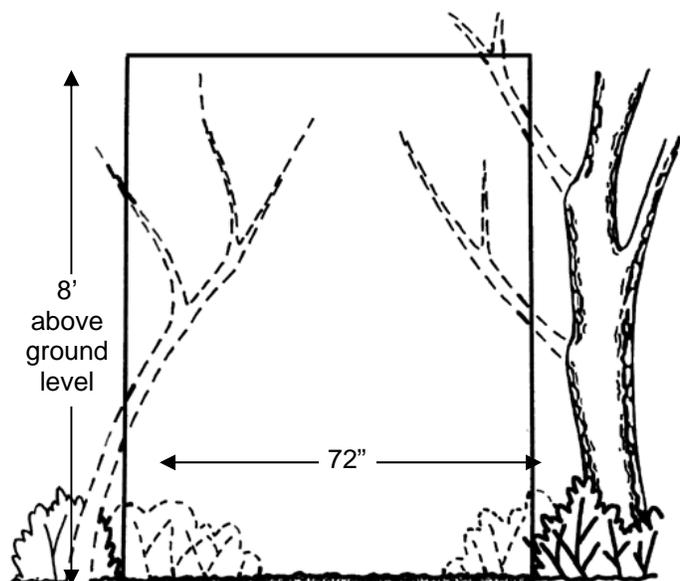
ORV trails include two categories: *Motorcycle Trails* are to be cleared to 24 inches width at ground level and 40 inches at handlebar level up to 8 feet. *ATV Trails* are to be cleared to 50 inches width up to 8 feet. *ORV Routes* are to be cleared to 72 inches width up to 8 feet.



Motorcycle Trail



All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Trail



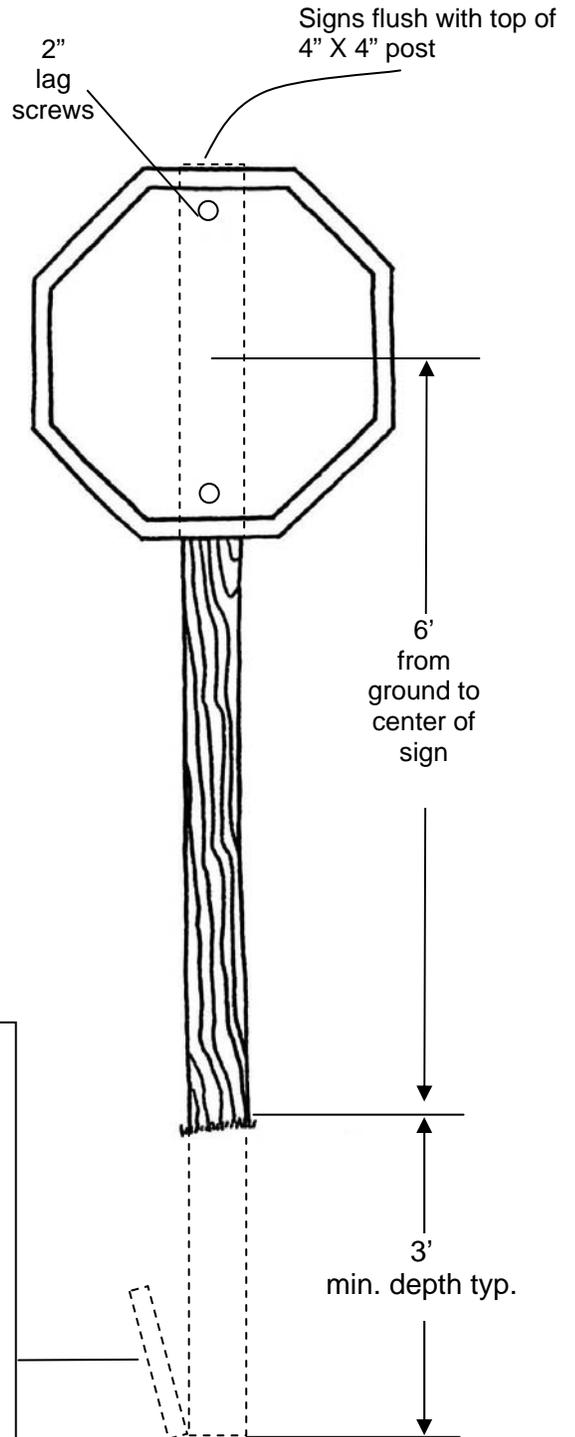
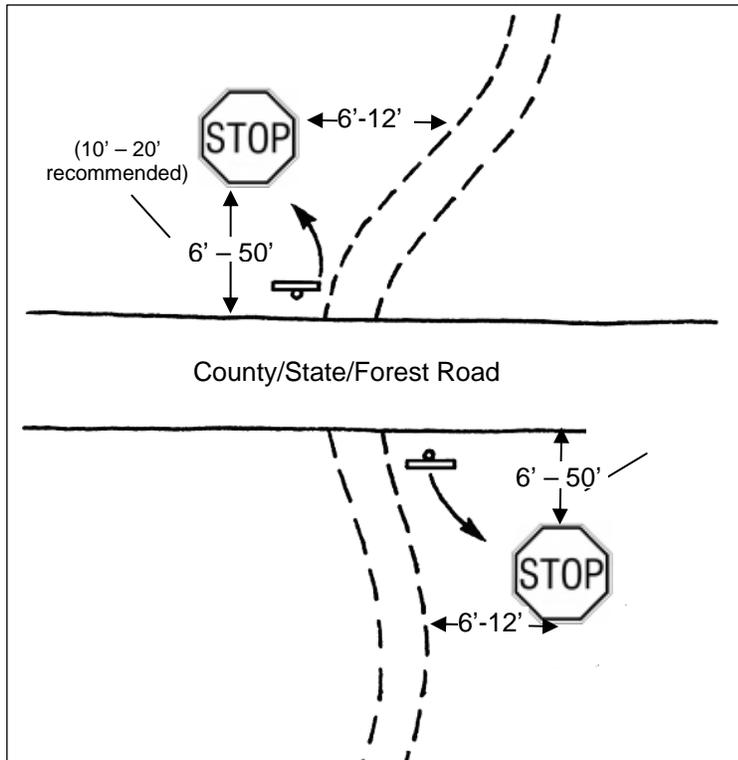
ORV Route

SIGNS

STOP SIGNS

Highway-type stop signs shall be used on trails. Stop signs shall be a minimum size of 18" X 18" and be a reflectorized octagon, with white lettering and border on red background. Stop signs shall be affixed to 4" X 4" treated wooden posts or on round posts with a 3" top diameter minimum.

Stop signs shall, at a minimum, be placed at all trail intersections with county, state, and forest roads. Signs shall be placed at the point where the vehicle is to stop or as near to that point as practical. Signs shall be affixed to posts with two 2" lag screws.



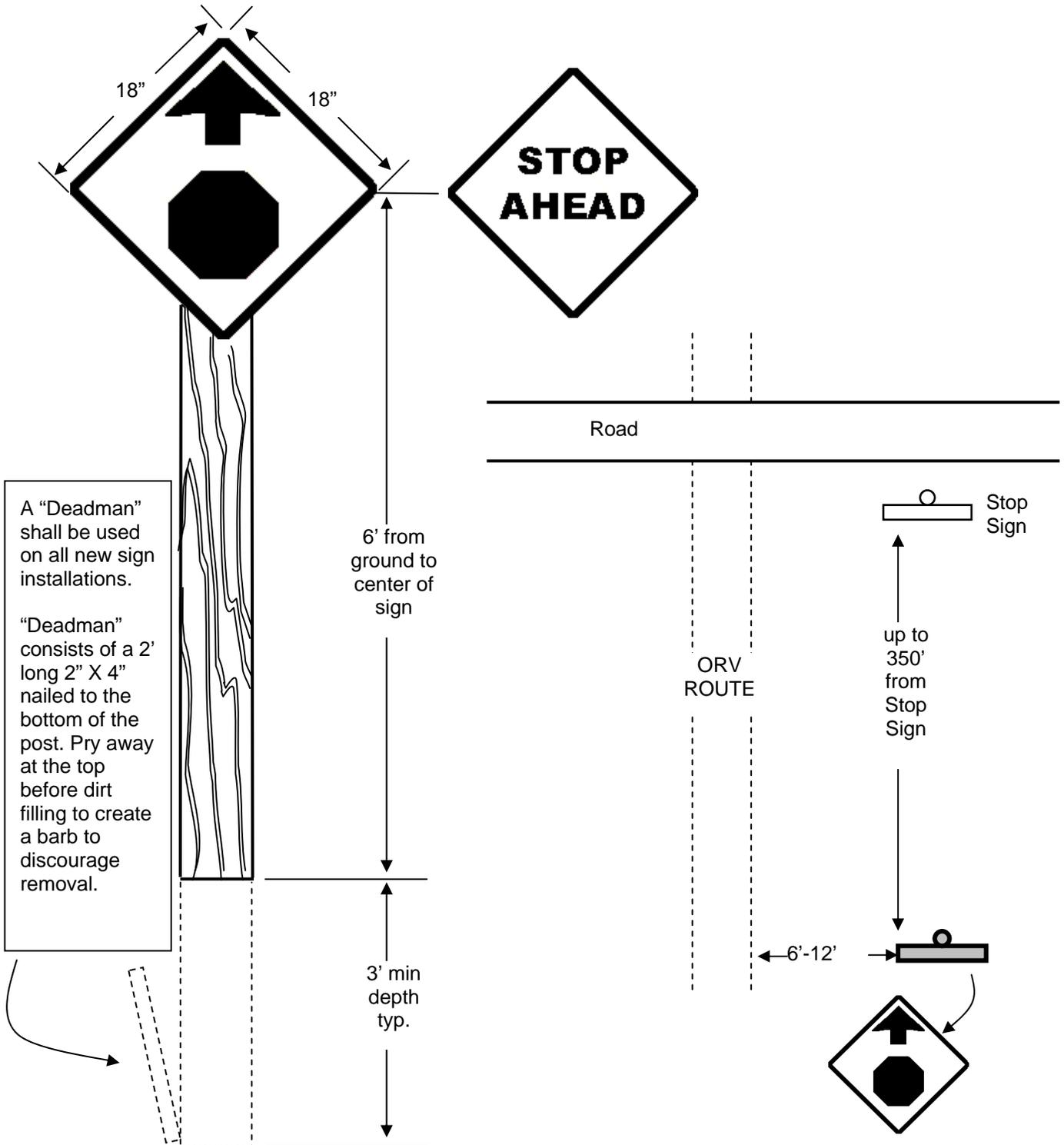
A "Deadman" shall be used on all new sign installations.

"Deadman" consists of a 2' long 2" X 4" nailed to the bottom of the post. Pry away at the top before dirt filling to create a barb to discourage removal.

STOP AHEAD SIGNS

18" X 18" reflectorized diamond, black graphics or text and border on yellow background. Signs shall be affixed to 4" X 4" treated wooden posts.

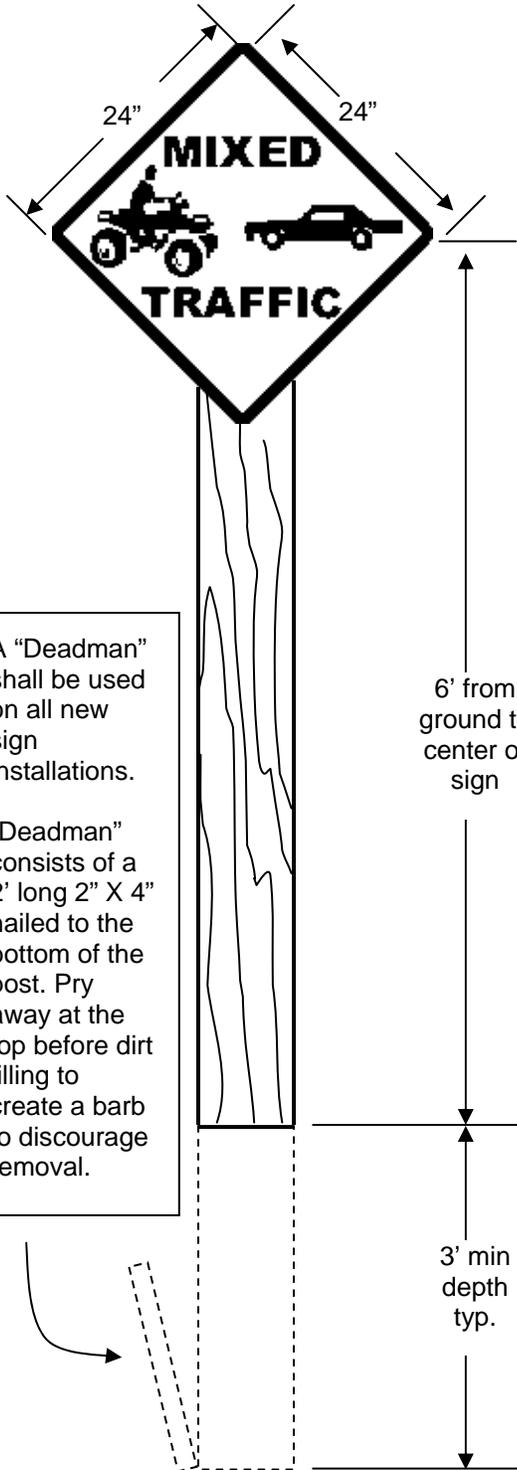
These signs shall be used along designated forest routes and trails whenever traffic needs advanced warning of a pending STOP. This sign is not expected to be needed on trails, as they are narrow and slow of speed. However, when necessary, such as when longer straight segments lead riders into intersections at speeds in excess of 20 miles per hour, these signs will be placed to provide adequate warning to the rider.



MIXED TRAFFIC SIGNS

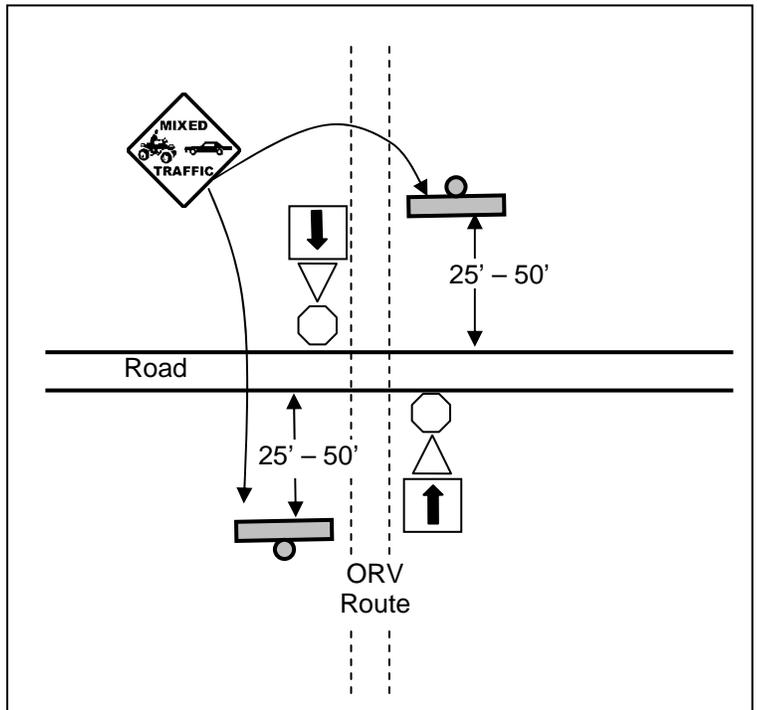
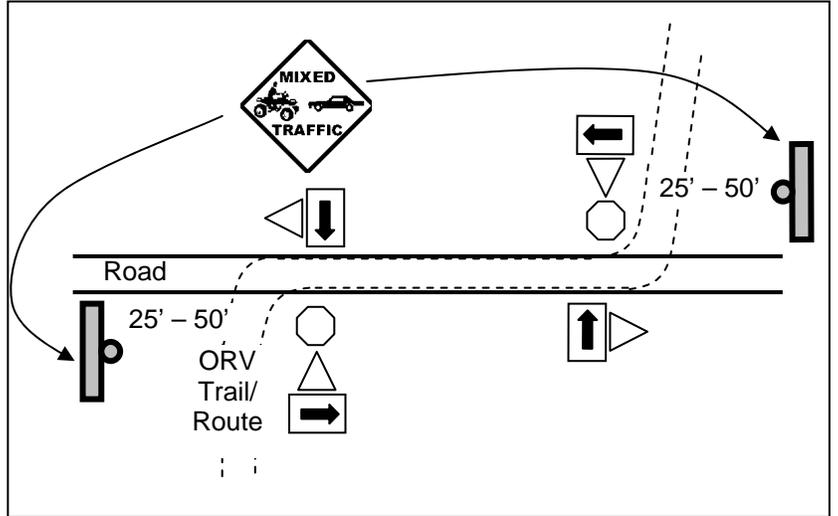
24" X 24" reflectorized diamond, with black lettering, border, automobile and ATV symbols – on yellow background.

Placed along road at point where a trail or route begins following forest roads designated open to ORV use.

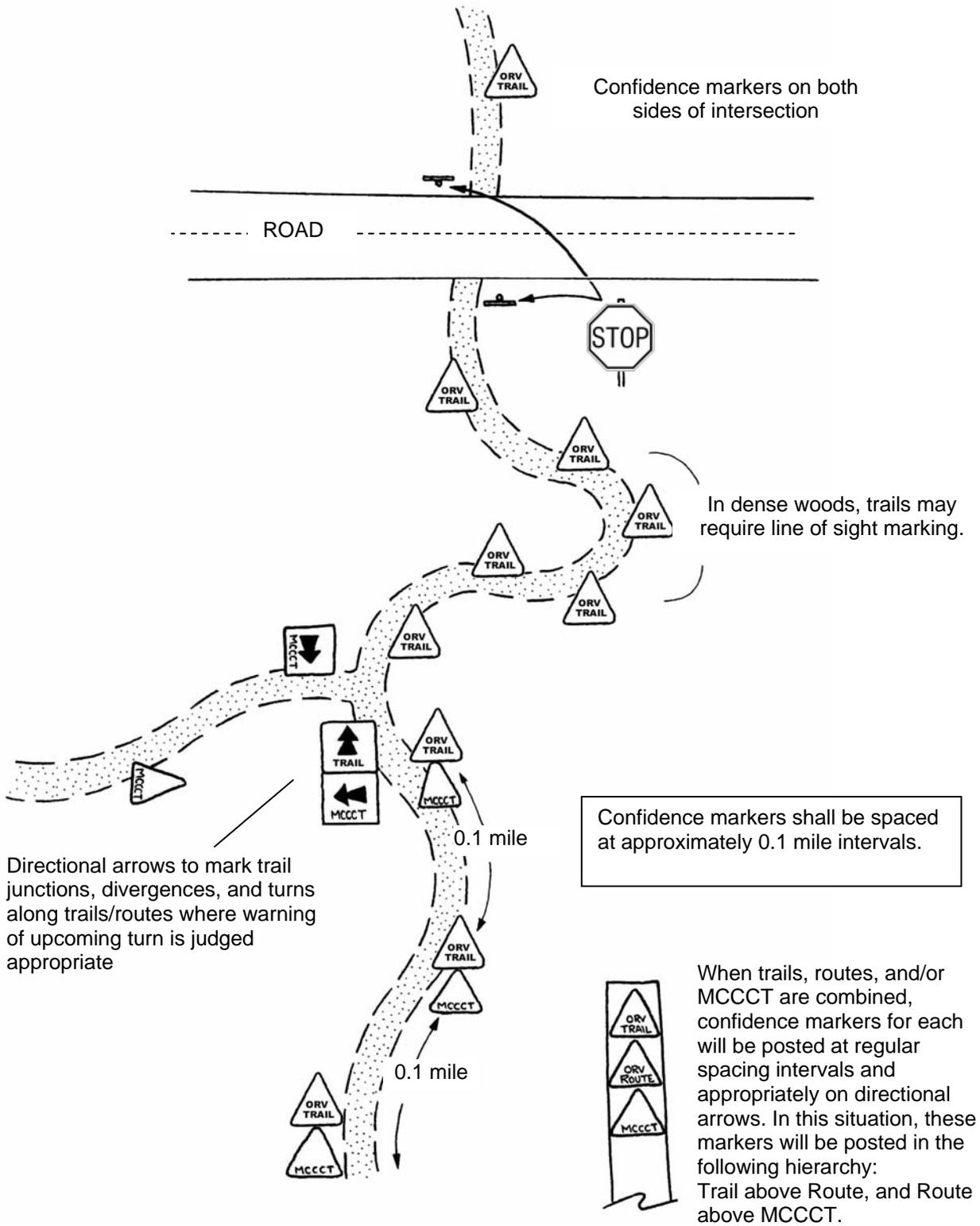


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TRAIL MARKINGS

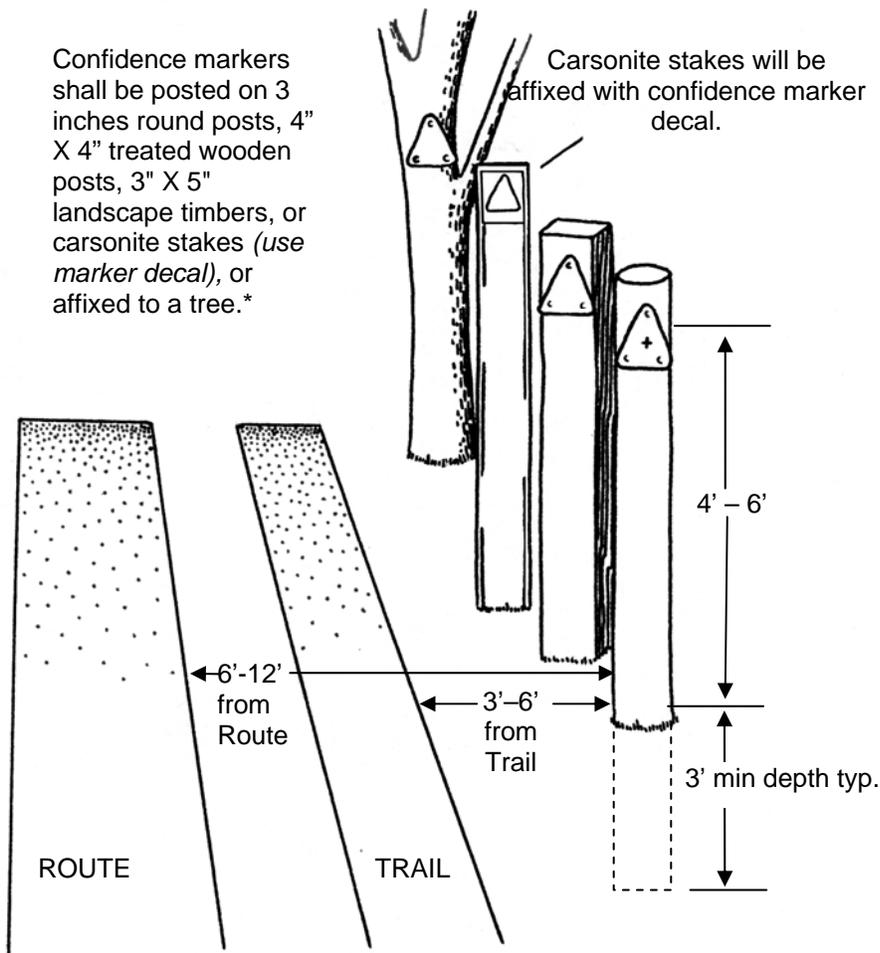


GUIDE SIGNS

Trails and Routes shall be identified by 5" X 5" X 5" orange triangles (confidence markers) labeled with appropriate symbol and text. Confidence markers will be placed on both sides of intersections with all roads and trails and along trails and routes at approximately 0.1-mile intervals. In dense woods trails/routes may require more frequent confidence marking within line of sight. Brush should be removed from around sign to ensure clear visibility. No signs are to be posted on utility poles.



Confidence markers shall be posted on 3 inches round posts, 4" X 4" treated wooden posts, 3" X 5" landscape timbers, or carsonite stakes (use marker decal), or affixed to a tree.*



Three 2" aluminum or magnesium nails affix confidence marker in upright position.

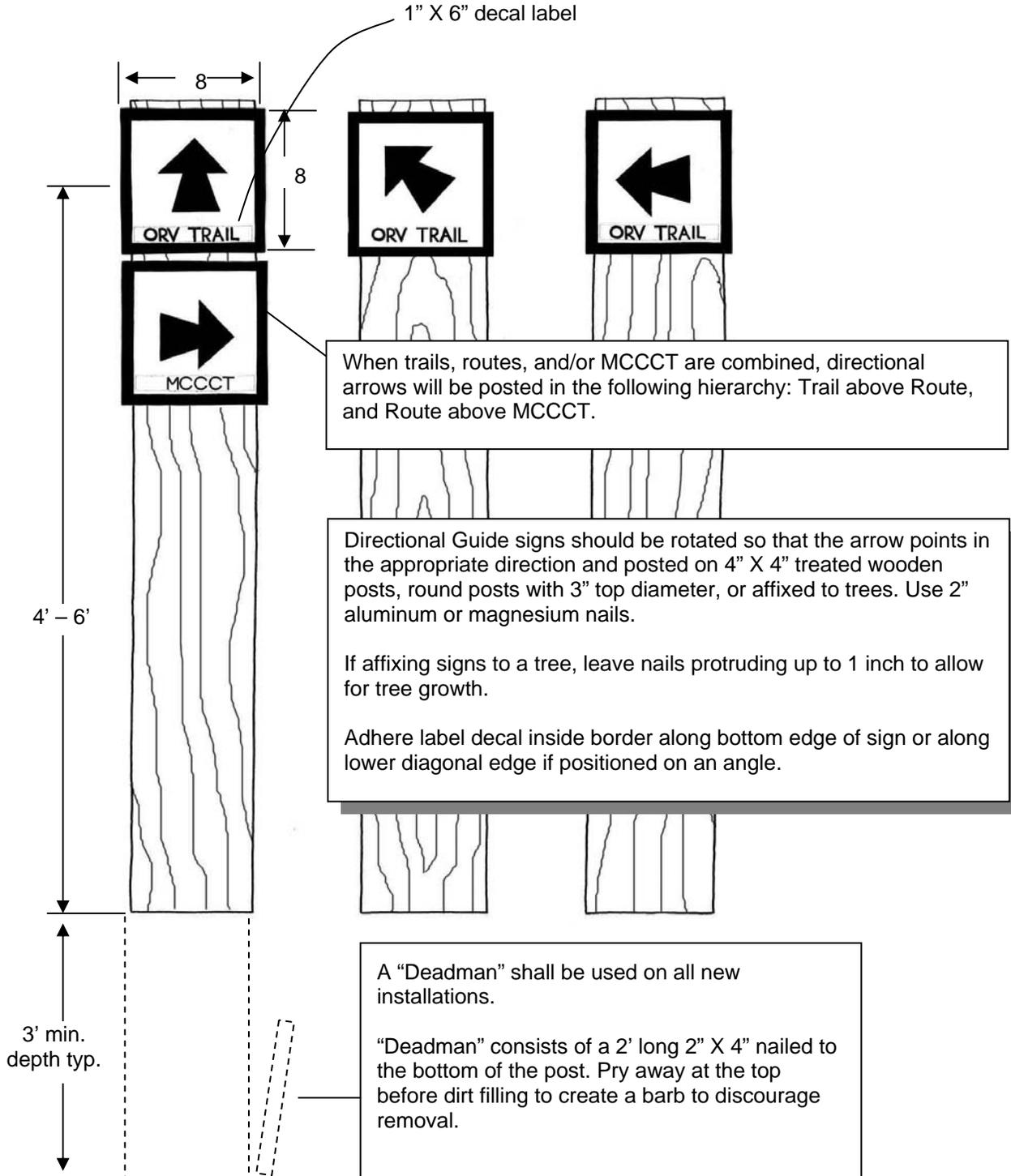
If posted on a tree*, leave nails protruding up to 1" to allow for tree growth. Do not obstruct lettering.

***NOTE: The DNR is currently reviewing sign policy and is moving toward removing all markers from trees.**

DIRECTIONAL GUIDE SIGNS

8" X 8" white square with black arrows are to be used at trail intersections, crossings, turns, trail heads, etc.

These Directional Guides will be labeled appropriately "TRAIL," "ROUTE," or "MCCCT" according to which facility they apply. This label will be a 1" X 6" adhesive decal which will be attached at time of posting.

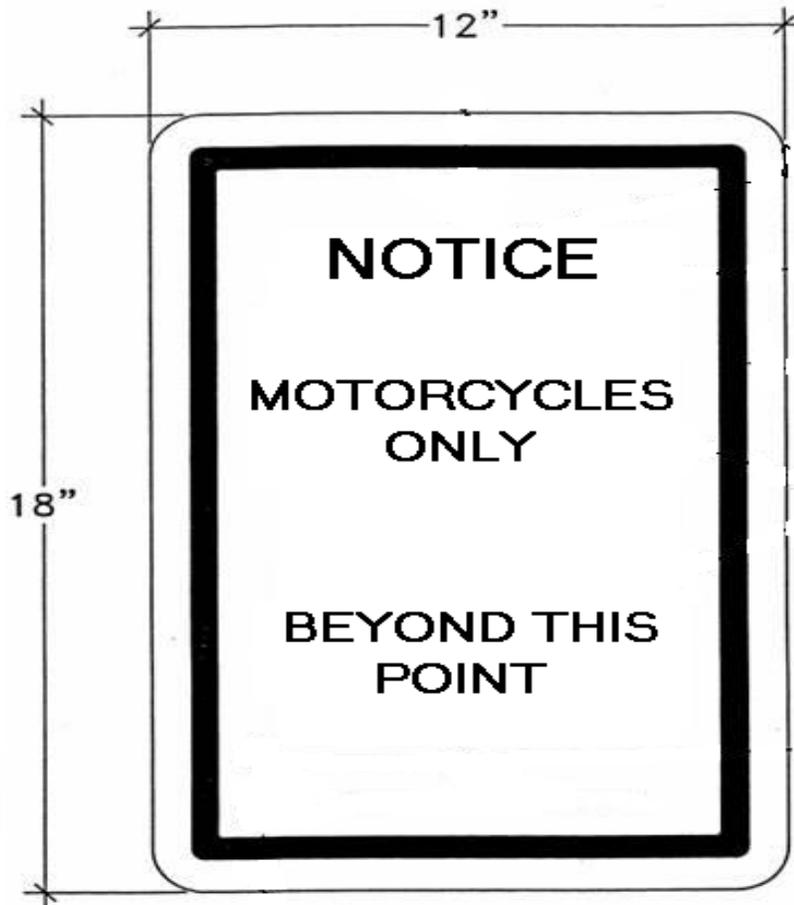


MOTORCYCLE TRAIL NOTICE

MOTORCYCLE TRAIL NOTICE

12" X 18" reflectorized rectangle with black lettering on white background sign. This sign will emphasize trails that are designated for motorcycle use only.

The sign reads "Notice motorcycles only beyond this point." This sign will be posted at trailheads and major road intersections as directed by the DNRE.



STREET LICENSING NOTICE

12" X 18" reflectorized rectangle with black lettering on white background sign. This sign will emphasize when the street license from the Secretary of State is required.

The sign reads "NOTICE Secretary of State Licensing Required Beyond This Point." This sign will be posted just prior to the point where the MCCCT enters a road upon which vehicular use requires such licensing.

