Contractors must take care when working on trails and roadways in order to prevent damage to regulatory signage, and to provide for the safety of other users. There are legal implications of removing regulatory signage, especially if it results in injury as a result of it missing. Guidance:

1. Contractors should avoid piling logs against signs. This damages the signs and makes them unreadable to users. Contractors should also avoid pulling signs without first notifying the department.

2. Contractors shall not pile logs within 25’ of roadway or trail stop signs, or stop ahead signs. Stop signs and stop ahead signs must never be removed. If it is necessary to remove one of these signs, the contractor must notify the department first before doing so, so that it can be properly re-positioned. This poses a significant safety hazard to trail/road users and can leave the contractor with legal responsibility.

3. Contractors shall not, under any circumstances, remove, or stack wood against or within 25’ of a department open road street sign. These signs designate open roads within the forest and also have stop signs and regulatory signage attached.

23.33(8)(l). 1. No person may intentionally remove, damage, deface, move, obstruct, or interfere with the effective operation of any uniform all-terrain vehicle route or trail sign or standard or any uniform sign or standard for the operation of a utility terrain vehicle on an all-terrain vehicle route or trail if the sign or standard is legally placed by the state, any municipality or any authorized individual.