



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: July 13, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Seasonal Closure of Certain Roads, Gladwin Forest Management Unit,
Midland County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 04 of 2015

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

Department of Natural Resources (Department) recommends the seasonal closure of a forest road in the Gladwin Forest Management Unit, locally known as Dublin Road, located in Sections 24 and 25, T15N, R01E, Lincoln Township, and Sections 19 and 30, T15N, R02E, Larkin Township, Midland County. The Department also recommends the closure of a forest road in the Gladwin Forest Management Unit accessing an area locally known as the Sand Flats, located in Sections 9 and 10, T15N, R01W, Jerome Township, Midland County.

Dublin Road, Midland County

Department staff has documented extensive illegal ORV use and trash dumping on State-owned lands in the Gladwin Forest Management Unit accessed by Dublin Road. Additionally, in the spring of 2015, the Department responded to two (2) wildfires in this location, one of which is suspected of being caused by arson.

The Department sought to address these concerns through a series of actions, including organizing eight (8) separate cleanup projects in this area through the Adopt a Forest Program and utilizing conservation officers to issue numerous tickets and impound vehicles. Unfortunately, trash dumping and illegal use by ORVs and "mudder" trucks continues in the area. The continued illegal use of Dublin Road has rendered the existing roadway impossible to traverse by common 2-wheel drive vehicles. Moreover, the Department's efforts require an excessive amount of staff time and Department funds, while the illegal activity has nevertheless become nearly uncontrollable. Therefore, Department staff recommends seasonally closing the roadway by gate and limiting access to the area outside most hunting seasons from January 1st through September 14th.

Sand Flats, Midland County

Department staff has also documented extensive illegal ORV use and trash dumping on State-owned lands in the Gladwin Forest Management Unit, locally known as the Sand Flats. The illegal ORV use has removed all the vegetation from a large area, and the exposed soil is not able to recover under current conditions. Site restoration will require extensive stabilization and planting by the Department.

The Department sought to address these concerns by organizing cleanup projects, and by utilizing conservation officers to issue numerous tickets and impound vehicles. Unfortunately, trash dumping and malicious damage caused by ORVs and "mudder" trucks continues in the area. This damage has greatly reduced the ability of all hunters, fishers, and other outdoor users to recreate on these State-owned lands. The continued illegal use of the Sand Flats area has rendered the existing roadway impossible to traverse by common 2-wheel drive vehicles. Moreover, the Department's efforts require an excessive amount of staff time and Department funds, while the illegal activity has nevertheless become nearly uncontrollable. Therefore, Department staff recommends promoting access to the area via foot traffic and closing the roadway by using a gate and a combination of berms and stumps. Wildlife Division has proposed to create a flooding to provide for improved waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities, and the Department plans to rehabilitate the erosion caused by illegal ORV use of the area.

Recommendation:

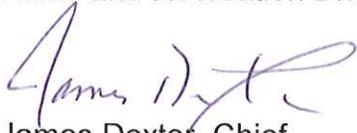
This order was submitted for information and consideration at the July 9, 2015, meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared on the Department's July 2015 calendar and may be eligible for approval on August 13, 2015.


for Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division


Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division


Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division


Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division


William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 04 of 2015

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R299.921 to R299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

4.32 Midland county, motorized vehicles upon certain state-owned lands, prohibited conduct; Midland ORV trail and certain ORV routes in Midland county, temporary closure to vehicles; Kawkawlin creek flooding, prohibited conduct.

Order 4.32 (1) A person shall not operate a motorized vehicle upon state-owned lands lying south of highway US-10 in sections 9 and 10; lying north of the salt river in section 15; and lying north of Saginaw road in section 16, T15N R1W, Midland county.

(2) A person shall not operate any motorized vehicle upon the state designated Midland ORV trail and other designated ORV routes within T15N R1W, T16N R1W, T16N R1E, and T16N R2E, Midland county.

(3) The following regulations shall apply to the Kawkawlin creek flooding located in sections 17 and 18, T16N R2E, Midland county:

(a) A person shall not enter into or upon the dam control structure of the east dike in section 17.

(b) A person shall not park or camp upon either the south or east dikes.

(c) A person shall not camp in a designated parking area within the Kawkawlin creek flooding.

(d) A person shall not use or operate a motorized vehicle on the south and east dikes, except that the road on the east dike will be open to such vehicles from August 15 through February 1 unless temporarily closed by the department during erosive, wet weather conditions.

(4) A person shall not operate a wheeled motorized vehicle on state-owned land located in section 11, T15N R1W, commonly known as the turtle pond area, except for the black creek campground located north of black creek and the turtle pond access road and parking area.

(5) A person shall not operate a wheeled motorized vehicle between the dates of January 1 and November 6 on state-owned land located in sections 7 and 18, T13N R01W and sections 1, 12 and 13, T13N R02W, Midland county, except on the road segments open for use within 1/8 mile of the perimeter of state land.

(6) A person shall not operate a wheeled motorized vehicle between the dates of January 1 and September 14 on state-owned land located in sections 24 and 25, T15N R01E, and sections 19 and 30, T15N R02E, Midland county.

(7) A person shall not operate a wheeled motorized vehicle upon state-owned lands lying north of highway US-10 in S1/2 of the NE1/4 or N1/2 of the SE1/4 north of US-10 of section 9 and N1/2 of the SW1/4 north of US-10 of section 10; T15N R1W, Midland county.

(8) This order shall not apply to employees of the state or designated contractors of the state while performing their official duties.

This amended order shall be posted on or after 14th day of August, 2015.

Issued on this 13th day of August, 2015

Keith Creagh
Director

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF DUBLIN ROAD

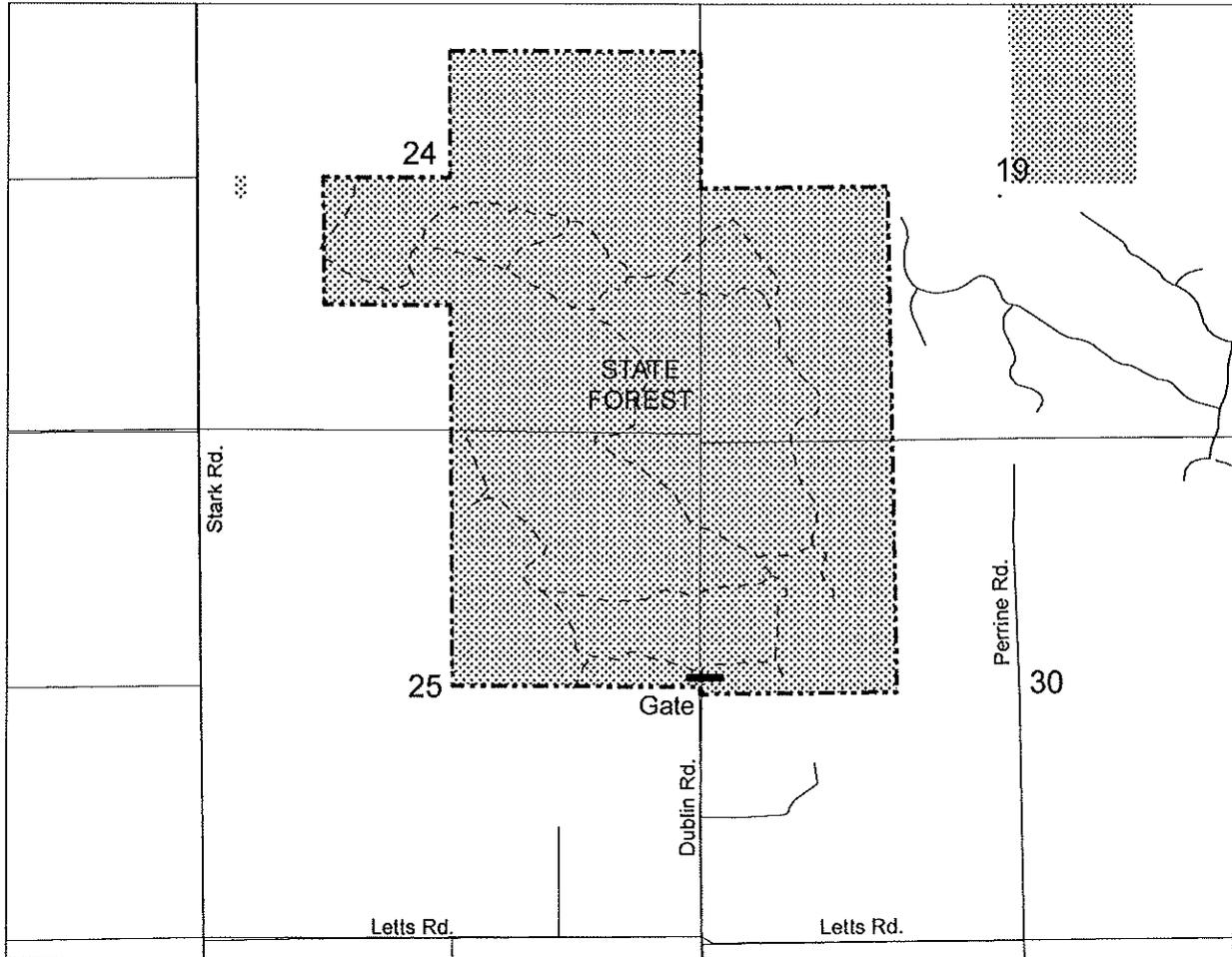
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No.4 of 2015

Gladwin Forest Management Unit, Compartment 103

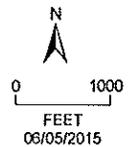
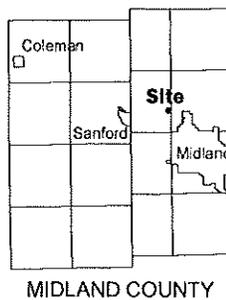
Sections 24 and 25, T15N, R01E, Lincoln Township

Sections 19 and 30, T15N, R02E, Larkin Township

Midland County

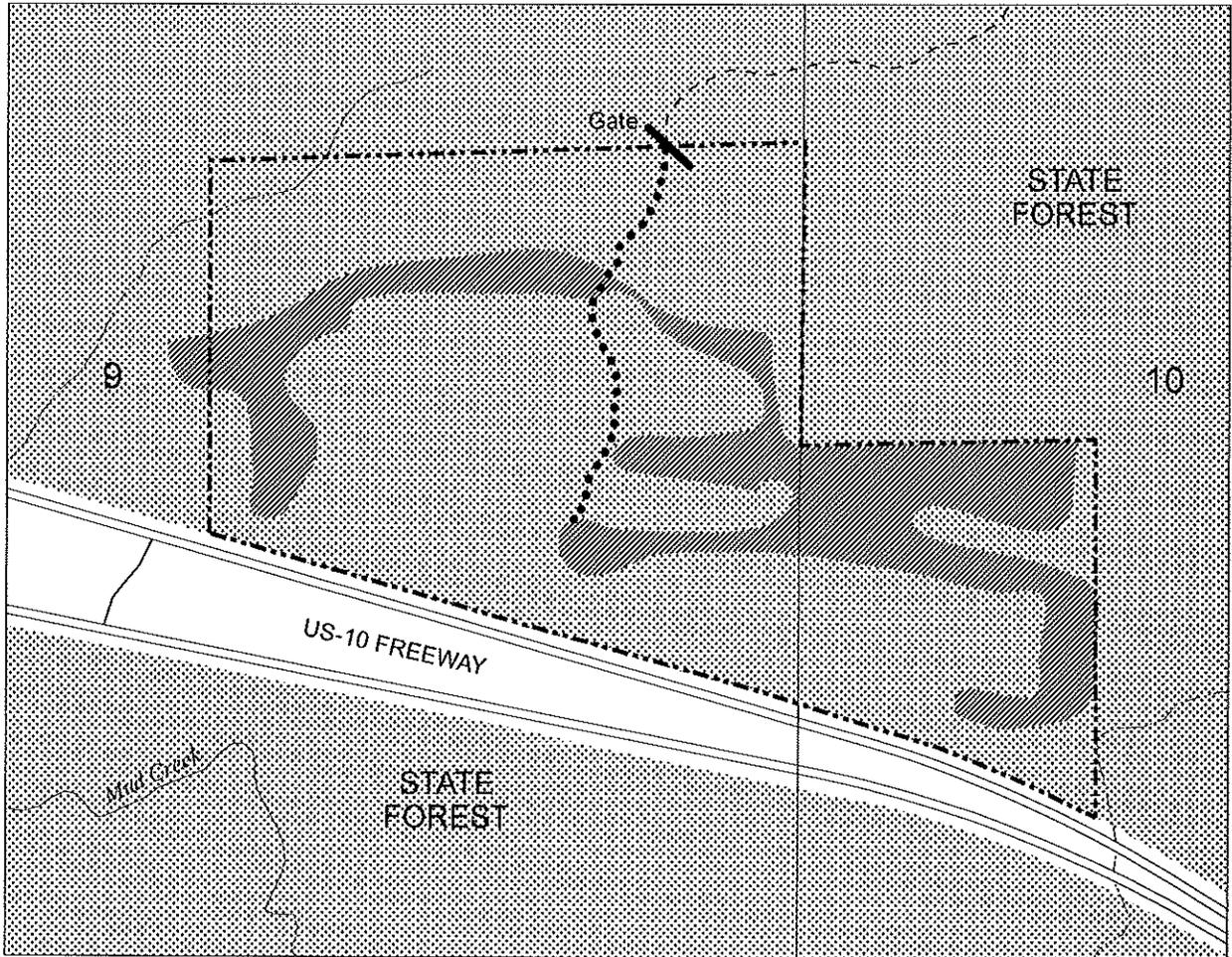


- - - State forest road
- - - - Area closed to motorized vehicles
- ▨ State land



SAND FLATS PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE

Land Use order of the Director Amendment No.4 of 2015
Gladwin Forest Management Unit, Compartment 104
Sections 9 and 10, T15N, R01W
Jerome Township, Midland County



- - - State Forest road
- Closed road
- - - - Area closed to motorized vehicles
- ▨ Area of exposed sandy soil
- ▨ State land

