



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: Order to Regulate Use of Cornish State Game Area, Van Buren County
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 6 of 2015
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

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

Discussion and Background:

Recently, the state of Michigan purchased about 385 acres of property located in sections 21, 22, and 28, T4S R13W, Van Buren County, establishing the Cornish State Game Area (SGA). It was purchased with funds from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. As noted in the Wildlife Division Strategic Plan, acquisition of these lands will further propel the strategic purpose to provide access to lands for wildlife recreation.

The Land Use Orders of the Director prohibit several activities on all managed state game areas and wildlife areas. The Director may order additional prohibited conduct on state game areas or wildlife areas in order to protect and preserve public lands and other property from depredation, damage, or destruction or wrongful or improper use or occupancy.

The Department is recommending that no watercraft with motors, except those using electric motors, be used on Grass Lake within the Cornish SGA. Grass Lake is shallow and highly vegetated, so the use of motorized watercraft will cause damage to the lake.

In addition, the Department recommends allowing parking in designated areas only. Parking along the sides of any of the roads could result in a public safety hazard. The Department is in the process of developing two designated parking lots in order to accommodate the public.

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Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's July 2015 calendar and may be eligible for approval on September 10, 2015.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

for 

Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



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

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 6 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 R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

3.35 Cornish state game area, Van Buren county, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.24 An individual shall not do any of the following on the lands and public waters of the Cornish state game area, Van Buren county:

- (1) Launch a watercraft with a motor on grass lake, except those using electric motors.
- (2) Park at any location other than a designated parking lot.

This amended order shall be posted on or after the 11th day of September, 2015.

Issued on this 10th day of September, 2015.

Keith Creagh
Director