



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: November 9, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Abolishment of the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, Part 811 "Off-Road Recreation Vehicles"

Discussion and Background:

In 1991, the Off-Road Vehicle Trails (ORV) Advisory Committee was created within the Department of Natural Resources (Department) by statute. In 1995, Governor's Executive Order No. 1995-9 abolished the ORV Trails Advisory Committee and transferred all statutory authorities to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), effective July 17, 1995. In October 1995, the NRC reestablished an ORV Trails Advisory Board that consisted of seven members to advise the Department on matters relating to the ORV program. In March 2002, the NRC reaffirmed earlier action and approved and adopted clarified roles, responsibilities, and term limits for the Advisory Board.

In October 2009, Governor's Executive Order No. 2009-45 created the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) as an advisory body within the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). The order takes effect on January 17, 2010.

The MTAC shall advise the Director of the DNRE and the Governor on the creation, development, operation, and maintenance of motorized and nonmotorized trails in this state, including but not limited to, snowmobile, biking, equestrian, hiking, off-road vehicle, and skiing trails. In advising the Director and the Governor on the creation and development of motorized and nonmotorized trails in this state, the MTAC shall seek to have the trails linked wherever possible. The MTAC shall consist of seven members appointed by the Governor.

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Recommendation:

Due to the creation of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council, and the related transfer of advisory authorities, staff recommends the Natural Resources Commission abolish the Off-Road Vehicle Trails Advisory Board.

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