



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Designated dark sky preserve, state park lands; allowable conduct
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2022
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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:

Within the state of Michigan and across the world, there has been a movement to preserve dark skies for future generations. A growing problem, gaining significant attention, is that of excessive amounts of night light, or light pollution. Since many light fixtures are not designed to direct light downward toward the ground, light pollution results when outdoor lighting is used and leaks into the night sky.

Michigan has been a leader in the conservation and preservation of night sky viewing. With the enactment of PA 57 of 1993, which designated state-owned land at Lake Hudson in Lenawee County as the state's first "dark sky preserve," Michigan became the first state in the country to adopt standards for dark sky preserves. Since the inception of the first preserve, five more locations have been added. An amendment to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994), states that, in addition to Lake Hudson State Park, designated dark sky preserves have also been established at Port Crescent State Park, Rockport Recreation Area, Negwegon State Park, Wilderness State Park and Thompson's Harbor State Park.

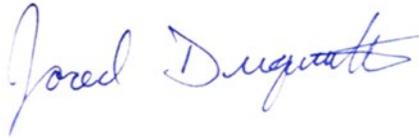
Since the dark sky preserves are located within state parks, entry into these locations is prohibited between the hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.; therefore, impacting the ability of people to take part in stargazing. The State Land Use Rule R 299.927(a) makes it unlawful to "Enter or remain in a campground, outdoor center, cabin area, or day use campsite between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., unless the individual is a lawfully registered occupant. An individual shall not enter or remain in a day-use area between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., except as posted otherwise." This land use order proposes to expand the open hours of the state parks where a designated, signed, dark sky preserve is located.

Designated Dark Sky Preserve, State Park Lands, Allowable Conduct
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2022

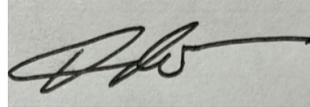
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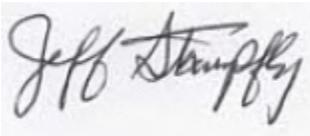
Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item will appear on the Department's May 3, 2022 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 9, 2022.



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



David Shaw, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



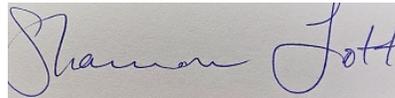
Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 2 of 2022

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:

5.24 Designated dark sky preserve, state park lands, allowable conduct.

Order 5.24 Notwithstanding the prohibition of access to day-use areas contained within administrative rule 299.927(a), access to the designated, signed, dark sky preserves identified in MCL 324.75102 for the purpose of star gazing shall be allowed 24 hours a day.

This order shall be posted on or after the 10th day of June 2022.

Issued on this 9th day of June 2022.

Daniel Eichinger
Director