

# OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP (ORVAW)

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2024 1 – 3 p.m. Grayling Township Hall

#### Welcome - Roll Call

## PRESENT FOR THE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP:

- James Maike, Chair
- Keith Lynch, Vice Chair
- James Hunt
- Bob Meyers
- Mike Maves (virtual)
- Jarrod Biebel (virtual)
- Trevor Hoffer

## PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Rob Katona, Ron Yesney, Blake Gingrich, Jessica Holley-Roehrs, Peter Costa, Paige Perry, Greg Kinser, Cpl. Michael Hearn (LED), Heather Durocher, Nicole Hunt, Annalisa Centofanti, Andrew Kenyon (USFS), Doug Rich, Joshua Pellow, Richard Kennedy

#### **Meeting minutes**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion was made by Jarrod Biebel to approve the November 2, 2023 minutes, Bob Meyers seconded, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mike Maves to approve the February 14 agenda, seconded by Jarrod Biebel, with all in favor. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **Chris Kalthoff**

Mr. Kalthoff is a Resident of Roscommon and is inquiring about opening a portion of trail located on U.S. Forest land to ORV's as it is currently restricted. Mr. Kalthoff will contact the United States Forest Service (USFS) to pursue.

#### Sue Thrushman

Ms. Thrushman mentioned that the DNR pulled over a side-by-side ORV for not wearing a seat belt. Ms. Thrushman asked when this became a law. Corporal (Cpl.) Michael Hearn, DNR, responded that if the machine has seat belts and you are not wearing helmets, then you have to wear a seat belt. This criteria is embedded within the helmet law in statue.

#### **Paul Mulder**

Mr. Paul Mulder, a member of the ATV Off Road Club, expressed concerns regarding grant sponsor sign orders. Grant sponsors were not given enough time (2 weeks) to fulfill their orders. Also, there is not an option to order the 24" signs. Mr. Mulder provided documentation to support the use of 24" signs (see attached).

#### **Dick Rainey**

Mr. Rainey expressed the need for transparency with the grant program fund dollars. He said to be sure the money is managed within reason.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **VOTE RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMITTEE CHAIR**

James Maike, ORVAW Chair, term is expiring in May and the committee is seeking a replacement for his board position.

#### **MOTION**

Motion is made by Keith Lynch, for Bob Meyers to step into the Chair role, and seconded by James Hunt. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Meyers accepted nomination and agreed to Chair ORVAW for his remaining term.

Keith Lynch recommends offering current members an opportunity to extend beyond outlined terms. Tim Novak, DNR, mentioned the DNR is internally working on a more defined process for electing officers and member turnover.

#### **EVENT RESOURCE DAMAGE**

Tim Novak, DNR, said due to the lack of snow, there has been a large increase in the number of ORV events without proper permit on state lands. Internal discussions are taking place on how to manage and address this issue. The current fine for not having a permit is \$500 maximum. Most of the larger group events would rather absorb the maximum fine and not obtain the permit. The DNR has received videos of people/groups intentionally damaging trails. Community assistance is needed to identify conversations people are having about these events or are intentionally abusing the trails. Let the DNR know if you see or hear of this type of activity. Sponsors are experiencing increased grooming, and this is reflected on grant dollars. We work with the Law Enforcement Division (LED) to investigate these activities that cause resource damage when they are brought to our attention.

Keith Lynch suggested implementing a substantial fine for malicious intent, maybe through legislation.

Cpl. Michael Hearn, DNR, said when a permit is obtained through the State it can allow more of a safety aspect where dedicated resources can be stationed at road crossings or having medical teams in place.

Bob Meyers said he has heard the permit can sometimes take a lengthy time to receive approval, sometimes even the day before an event. Bob added that streamlining the event application process and clarifying associated costs for each permit by understand costs differences, may encourage more groups to obtain a permit. Have a timeline in place when apply for permits, like a response will be received within 30 days.

Greg Kinser, DNR, added that the public needs to be educated on when a permit is needed.

#### TRAILS SUMMIT ACTIONS ITEMS

Tim Novak, DNR

CREATE MISSIONS AND GOALS FOR ORVAW

The Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) will work with each trail subcommittee to establish some common missions and goals for 2024. ORVAW members are asked to gather their thoughts and present them at the next ORVAW meeting in May.

#### FORMING WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS TO MTAC

The DNR is working with MTAC on establishing a chain of command between the subcommittees. This will align MTAC and the subcommittees in advising the DNR. Motions carried are escalated to MTAC meetings.

#### TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Trails has a 10-year strategic plan in place. The trails staff is working on implementing the goals and action items. Due to staff changes and lack of resources, the implementation had been stalled but is now back on track. Tim Novak is planning on scheduling some time for all advisory board members where an overview of the 10-year strategic plan will be reviewed.

#### **NEW ORV EQUIPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

James Maike led the discussion on forming a new ORV Equipment Subcommittee. Bob Meyers suggested keeping the same people on the "new" committee as they are most familiar with this subject.

#### **MOTION**

Motion is made by Bob Meyers to keep same people on the committee along with adding DNR staff and seconded by Keith Lynch. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **ORV EQUIPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

#### **Members:**

**Bob Meyers** 

Thomas Dunn

Paul Mulder

Scott Nestle

Craig Pinkelman

Karen Middendorp

Karl Davenport

Jessica Holley-Roehrs, DNR

Scott Slavin, DNR

#### FRD FOREST ROADS INVENTORY - P.A. 288

Jessica Holley-Roehrs, DNR, provided an update on the Forest Roads inventory P.A. 288. (presentation attached). This update is provided annually.

#### **SNOW SEASON EXPANSION**

Keith Lynch mentioned the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) is proposing to change the snow dates due to the recent years lack of snow, from Dec. 1 – March 31 to Dec. 15 to April 15. Keith said he has heard communities are concerned about economics and viability prolonging the snow season, affecting ORV use.

Bob Meyers said this reflects the same concept that is in legislation, the "No Wheeled Vehicle". Bob said the same language was in a similar bill last year and was turned down by vote. We need to be aware of the proposed bills and language within.

#### **MOTION**

Motion is made by Bob Meyers that ORVAW is not in support of this "No Wheeled Vehicle" bill as written and seconded by James Hunt. With all in favor, motion carried.

#### **ORV SAFETY AND EDUCATION ONLINE COURSE - FIELD TEST**

Keith Lynch presented an idea to incorporate a field test led by an instructor into the online safety class . Law Enforcement Division (LED), Cpl. Mike Hearn, questioned how the equipment will be supplied and who is responsible for liability. Mr. Lynch added there is no need to ride on equipment but have a vehicle available to review fundamentals and identify equipment and safety mechanisms on the vehicle for riding. Corporal Hearn pointed out online classes are offered for a convenience, and he does not know how this will be received by the students and parents. Mr. Lynch suggested to gauge the interest by offering a trial.

**ACTION**: Corporal Hearn will report at the next ORVAW meeting on LED's response.

#### **ORV PRE-SEASON MEETINGS**

Jessica Holley-Roehrs will be sending out calendar invites.

**Lower Peninsula** 

March 26 - March 28

**Upper Peninsula** 

April 2 - April 4

#### **2024 FREE ORV WEEKENDS**

June 8-9

Aug. 17-18

#### **UPDATES**

#### **USFS UPDATE**

Andrew Kenyon, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is temporary filling in and anticipates the position to be filled in the next couple weeks. Mr. Kenyon will reach out to public comment from earlier in this meeting.

#### **LED UPDATE**

Cpl. Michael Hearn (presentation attached)

Stemming from complaints about lack of user knowledge on the ORV trails, LED provided a statewide activity report broken down by regions. Noted all the reported ORV fatalities were not on state land (public roads or private lands).

#### LOWER PENINSULA ALPHA SYSTEM EXPANSION UPDATE

Paige Perry, DNR (presentation attached)

#### **2024 MEETING DATES**

- May 1 Lansing (Delta Twp. Hall)
- August 7 Ram Center Roscommon
- October 30 Grayling Twp. Hall

#### ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING

Keith Lynch is in support of alpha signage expansion in the lower peninsula.

Trevor Hoffer is in support of alpha signage expansion in the lower peninsula.

James Hunt mentioned he has a supply of "ride your trash out" stickers to anyone that would like them.

Bob Meyers would like the DNR to have an answer or an update on the public comment for 24" signs.

The ORVAW committee and DNR thanks James Maike for his time and service as Chair and on this board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

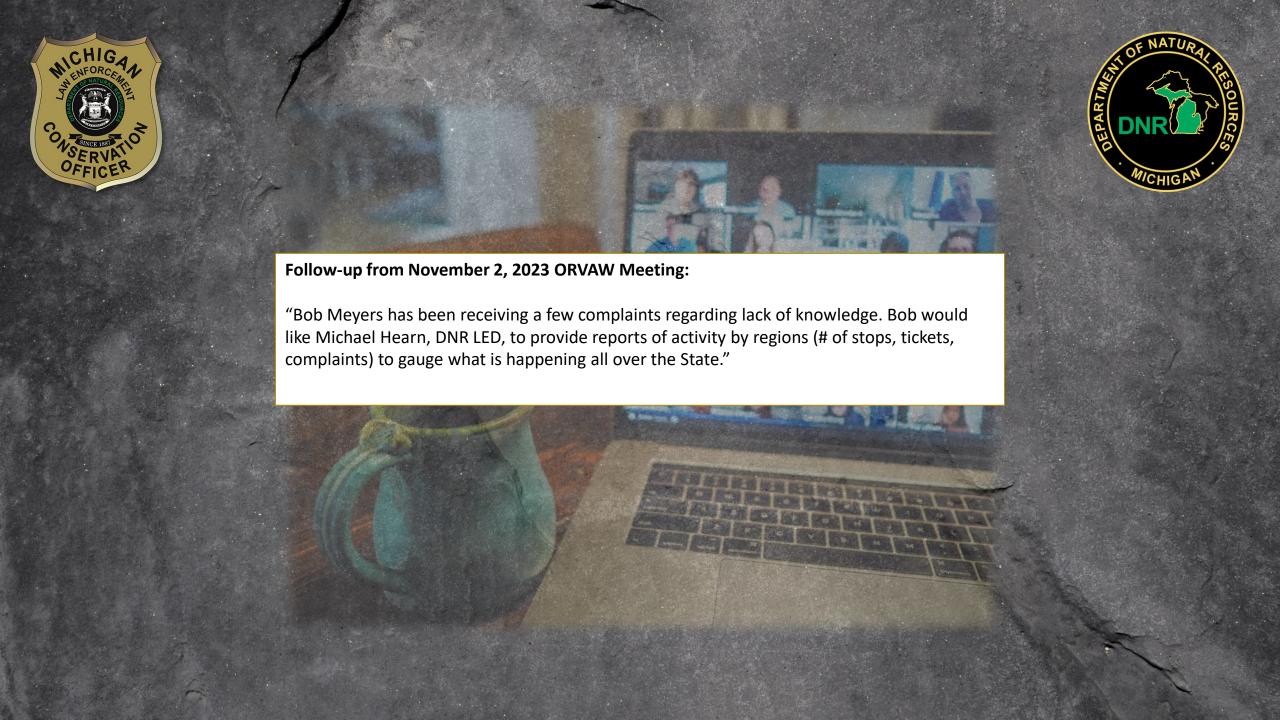
Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.





# ORV ADVISORY WORKGROUP LED UPDATE

2-14-24







# 2023 ORV Crash Fatality Information



#### **2023 CRASH FATALITY INFORMATION**

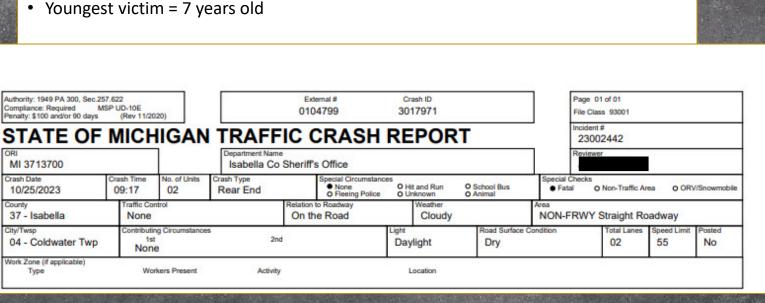
\*Disclaimer: Accuracy dependent on investigating officer properly filling out UD-10.

#### **30 Total Crash Fatalities**

- 15 SXS
- 7 ATV
- 7 Dirt Bikes
- 1 Mini-Bike
- Full size vehicle information

#### Additional Information:

- 23 of 30 crash fatalities the driver was killed
- 7 out of 30 crash fatalities the passenger was killed
- Oldest victim = 91 years old
- Youngest victim = 7 years old











### **2023 CRASH FATALITY INFORMATION**

02/18/2023	Delta	SXS	65M
04/09/2023	Ingham	SXS	41M
04/14/2023	Delta	SXS	52F
05/08/2023	Oakland	SXS	39M
05/18/2023	Lenawee	Cycle	16M
05/21/2023	Lapeer	SXS	17F
05/29/2023	Sanilac	Cycle	13M
05/29/2023	Newaygo	SXS	52M
06/03/2023	Clinton	ATV	30M
06/05/2023	Tuscola	ATV	54M
06/11/2023	Genesee	SXS	29M
06/24/2023	Osceola	ATV	59M
06/30/2023	Saginaw	ATV	70M
07/16/2023	Wayne	Cycle	23M
07/24/2023	Ontonagon	SXS	84M
07/25/2023	Presque Isle	Cycle	58M
07/27/2023	Jackson	ATV	12M
07/27/2023	St. Clair	Cycle	20M
07/28/2023	Saginaw	ATV	7M
08/05/2023	Alcona	ATV	60M
08/25/2023	Genesee	MINI	15M
08/30/2023	Chippewa	SXS	91M
09/12/2023	Ogemaw	SXS	35M
10/18/2023	St. Clair	SXS	45M
10/25/2023	Isabella	Cycle	29M
11/03/2023	Menominee	SXS	55M
11/06/2023	<b>Grand Traverse</b>	Cycle	12M
12/07/2023	Van Buren	SXS	53M
12/20/2023	Ontonagon	SXS	71M
12/25/2023	Wayne	SXS	66M









#### **2023 CRASH FATALITY INFORMATION**



#### **Relevant Points:**

- No fatalities on public land or the designated trail system
  - Private property: 11
  - Roadway: 19
- 12 out of 15 SXS fatalities no seatbelt was used
- 28 out of 30 fatalities there was an ORV violation being committed at the time of the crash
- All juvenile fatalities (5) operation conducted outside of parent supervision. Required for everyone under 16.



### **2023 CRASH INFORMATION**

#### <u>1-1-23 to 12-31-23</u>

- 726 total ORV crashes / 343 non traffic area
- 30 fatalities
- 565 injuries
- 104 alcohol or drug related

			The second secon	Carl Carlotte Co.
County	Crashes	Non-Traffic	: PIA	Fatal
1. Oceana	64	58	55	0
2. Wayne	40	4	29	2
3. Kalkaska	20	14	17	0
4. St. Clair	20	3	14	2
5. Chippewa	19	8	16	1
6. Lake	19	13	14	0
7. Roscommor	n <b>17</b>	6	14	0
8. Hillsdale	16	12	15	0
9. Livingston	15	6	12	0
10. Huron	14	6	11	0





#### **2023 CRASH INFORMATION**



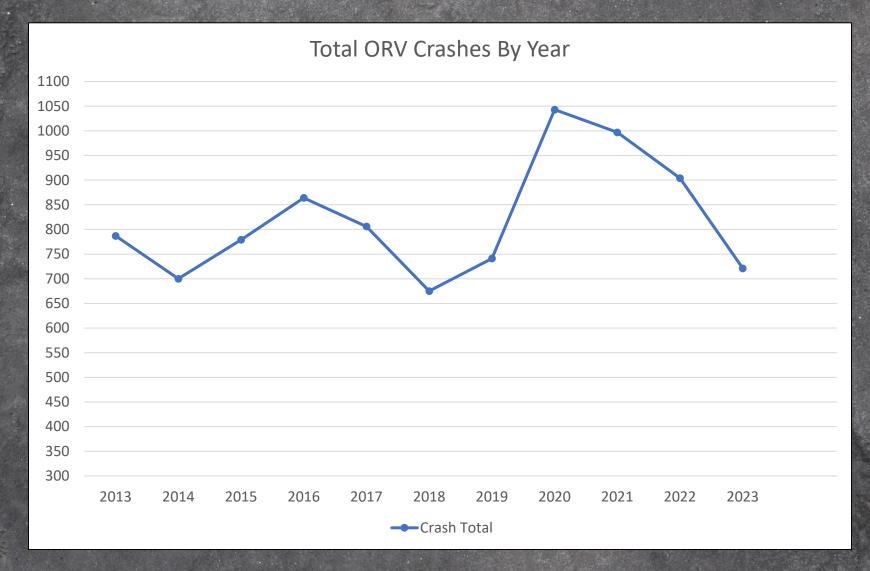
					LE Grant * 10-1-22 to 9-30-23			DNR LED 10-1-22 to 9-30-23						
County	Crashes	Non-Traffic	PIA	Fatal	Patrol Hrs	Contacts	Tickets	Warnings	Complaints	Patrol Hrs.	Contacts	Tickets	Warnings	Complaints
Oceana	64	58	55	0	394	1391	69	163	50	250 ea.	465	29	115	4
Wayne	40	4	29	2						130 ea.	61	14	32	2
Kalkaska	20	14	17	0	516	2752	36	426	38	250 ea.	579	18	132	8
St. Clair	20	3	14	2						130 ea.	213	4	38	6
Chippewa	19	8	16	1	645	408	16	20	21	250 ea.	220	20	60	0
Lake	19	13	14	0	539	3040	48	170	3	250 ea.	2273	217	239	18
Roscommon	17	6	14	0	161	217	3	29	0	250 ea.	610	35	155	14
Hillsdale	16	12	15	0						130 ea.	302	19	86	7
Livingston	15	6	12	0						130 ea.	159	6	134	12
Huron	14	6	11	0						130 ea.	11	1	3	0

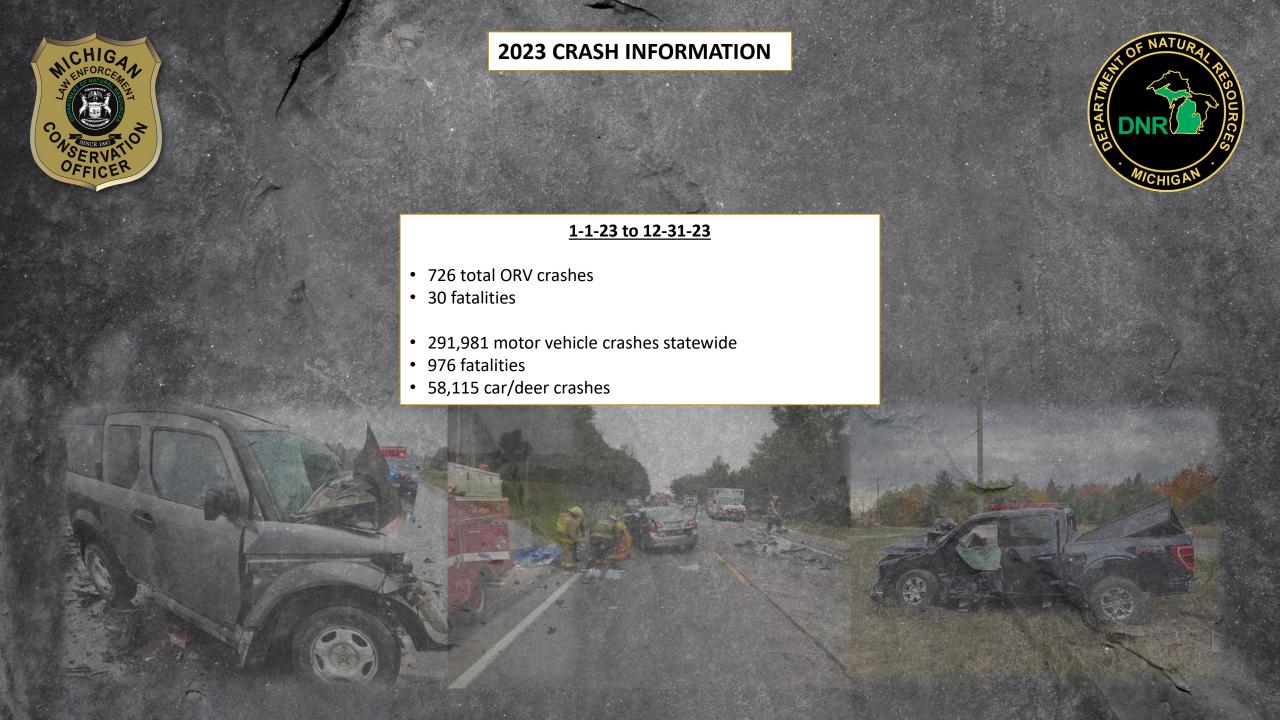
<sup>\*</sup>LE Grant portion shows the statistical data reported to the DNR from Law Enforcement agencies that receive ORV Law Enforcement grant funds. These reports typical document trail related data for recreational deputies. It is not a true measure of the total ORV efforts by the entire department or county.



#### **2023 CRASH INFORMATION**











# Contact Information:

Mike Hearn hearnm@michigan.gov

MI DNR Law Enforcement Division



## ALPHA Naming ORV trails in Michigan

Lower Peninsula Update
Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup
February 14, 2023
Paige Perry, NCLP Trails Specialist

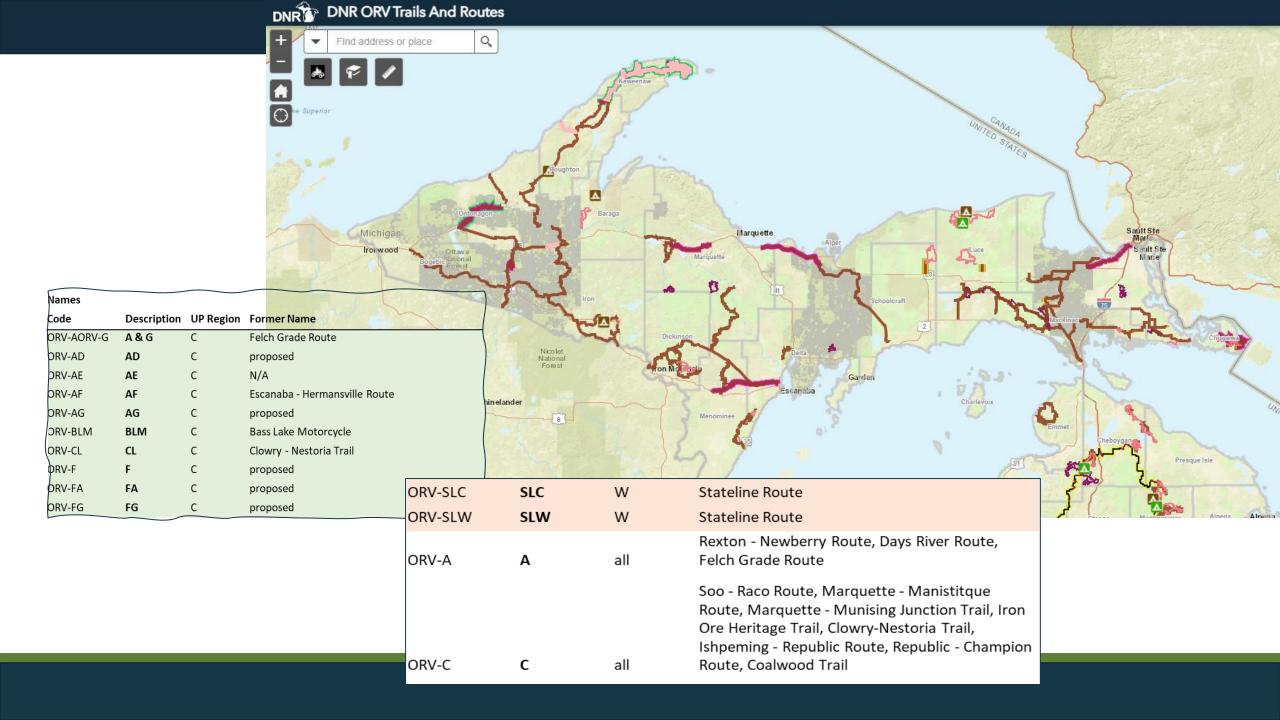
## ALPHA naming

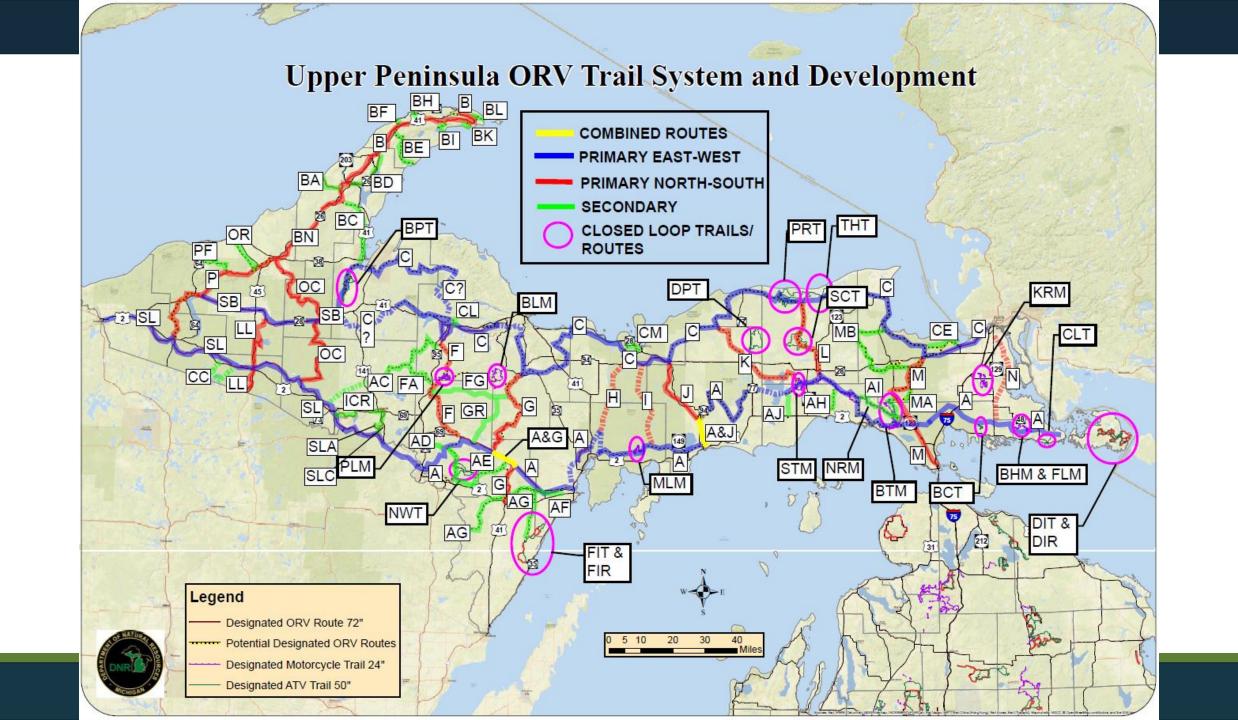


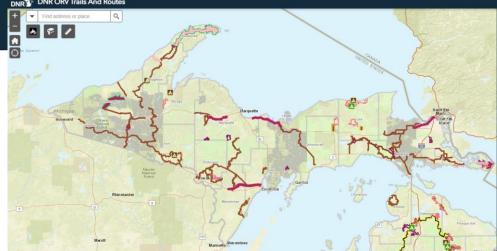
- Initial "pilot" project in WUP proposed by Mi-TRALE supported by DNR
  - o To better identify designated ORV trails on the ground
  - Differentiate between ORV and Snowmobile Trails
    - ➤ Local names of the state designated Snowmobile trails were re-labeled with NUMBERS decades ago
- Sponsors & Staff identified designated and future ORV trails/routes to be labeled, mapped and marked with letters instead of traditional geographic/local names
  - Primary North-South and Primary East-West routes
  - Secondary directional routes and
  - Looped systems.

UP trails staff & sponsors report that, after a couple of years, the alpha naming convention is 'catching on' and that riders are getting used to the letters

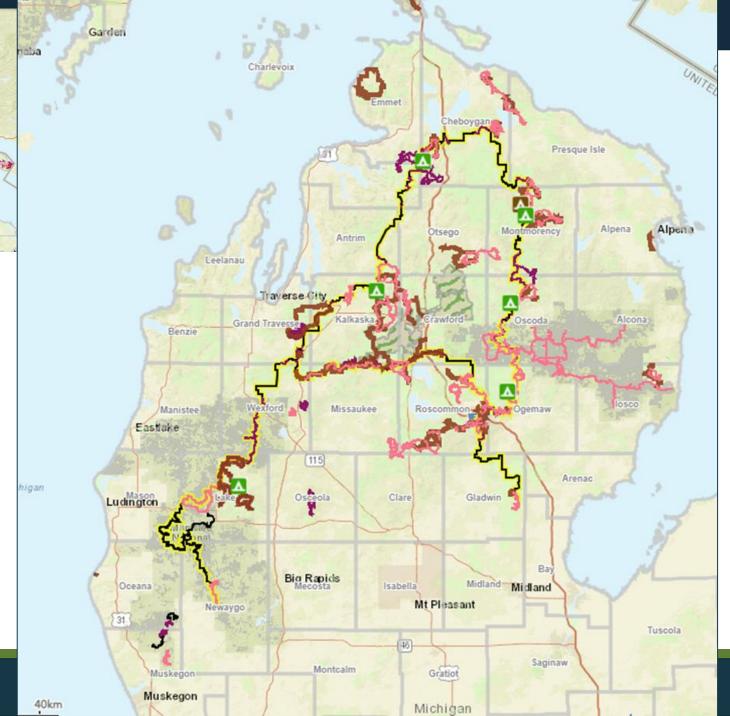
- ORVAW & MTAC each received presentations previously for information by Ron Yesney and supported looking further into how the alpha naming convention could be implemented in LP.
- For statewide consistency and ease of identification on the ground, DNR trails staff agrees that the Pilot project was successful and should plan to implement ALPHA naming in the LP







- LP ORV system is laid out differently than the UP.
- UP's designated ORV Routes are largely identified on linear grades and rights-of-way to make it more conducive to recognize as primary or secondary directional E-W or N-S routes.
- Wheeled motorized use on all state-owned Rail Trails is prohibited by Land Use Order of the Director in LP. Not designated or Open to ORVs.
- LP ORV system largely consists of loops and linear "out and back" type of connectors between them.



Code	Description	LP Region	Former Name	Map_Link
	TGM	WLP	20 Rd to GTCounty Motorcycle	20 Rd. to Grand Traverse County Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	BOM	WLP	Big O Motorcycle Trail	Big O Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	CDT	WLP	Cedar Creek ORV Trail	Cedar Creek Trail Map
	EVM	WLP	Evart Motorcycle Trail	Evart Motorcycle Trail Map
	GSM	WLP	GTCo to Supply Rd Motorcycle Trl	Grand Traverse County to Supply Rd. Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	GTM	WLP	Grand Traverse Motorcycle Trail	Grand Traverse Motorcycle Trail Map
	GLM	WLP	GT to Leetsville Motorcycle Trail	Grand Traverse to Leetsville Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	HLM	WLP	Holton Loop Motorcycle Trail	Holton Loop Motorcycle Trail Map
	HSM	WLP	Horseshoe Lake Motorcycle Trail	Horseshoe Lake Motorcycle Trail Map
	LHM	WLP	Lincoln Hills Motorcycle Trail	Lincoln Hills Motorcycle Trail & Route Map
	LHR	WLP	Lincoln HIlls ORV Route	Lincoln Hills Motorcycle Trail & Route Map
	LMM	WLP	Little Manistee Motorcycle Trail	Little Manistee Motorcycle Trail & Route North Map
				Little Manistee Motorcycle Trail & Route South Map
	LMR	WLP	Little Manistee ORV Route	Little Manistee Motorcycle Trail & Route North Map
				Little Manistee Motorcycle Trail & Route South Map
	LOT	WLP	Little O ORV Trail	Little O Trail Map
	LLM	WLP	Long Lake Motorcycle Trail	Long Lake Motorcycle Trail Map
	MOM	WLP	M20 to Big O Motorcycle Trail	M-20 to Big O Motorcycle MCCCT North Map
				M-20 to Big O Trail, Motorcycle MCCCT South & White Cloud Loop Map
	MGM	WLP	M30 to N Gladwin Motorcycle Trl	M-30 North Gladwin Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	MHM	WLP	M30 to StHelen 3 Motorcycle Trl	M-30 to St. Helen #3 Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	MTM	WLP	M55 to 20Rd Motorcycle Trail	M-55 to 20 Rd. Motorcycle MCCCT Map
	MSM	WLP	M55 to State Rd Motorcycle Trl	M-55 to State Rd. Motorcycle MCCCT Map
		WLP		MCCCT Cross State Connector Map
	MJT	WLP	Missaukee Junction ORV Trail	Missaukee Junction Trail Map
	NMM	WLP	North Missaukee Motorcycle Tr	North Missaukee Motorcycle MCCCT Map
				North Missaukee Trail, Route, Motorcycle & MCCCT Central Map
				North Missaukee Trail, Route, Motorcycle & MCCCT East Map
				North Missaukee Trail, Route, Motorcycle & MCCCT West Map
	NMT	WLP	North Missaukee ORV Trail	North Missaukee Trail, Route, Motorcycle & MCCCT Central Map
				North Missaukee Trail, Route, Motorcycle & MCCCT East Map

- ❖ LP ALPHA determination... For statewide consistency To begin, it was initially decided that the LP will move forward with naming every segment of designated ORV Trail, Motorcycle Trail and ORV route with letters.
  - Each designated motorcycle Trail, ORV (50")
     Trail and ORV Route will be uniquely identified using letters
  - Three letters for all 'looped' systems and connectors
- ❖ The third letter will always be either an M for motorcycle, a T for 50" Trail or an R for ORV Route to further assist to educate riders what type of trail they are riding and what type of vehicle they should be riding.

## Clinton MIT Twp OAK LAKE BAILEY MIR FARRINGTON Elmer Twp MIT NANCY **OSCODA** PENN SNAKE BRANCH Twp HELMER HELMER LAKE Coordinates: 44.74045, -84.222827

## LP Map mockup

 https://midnr.maps.arcgis. com/apps/webappviewer/ index.html?id=1710727ba3 ec4c64928110fdb4f7799d

#### ORV Route and Trail Alpha Sign and Decal

The alpha marker is a 6 x 6 inch by 1/8 inch thick composite sign or 3 x 3 inch adhesive sticker decal both reflectorized with white backer, black label and black border that shall be posted on state designated ORV routes and trails located in the Upper Peninsula. The marker shall be labeled with an alpha letter or multiple letters as authorized and provided by the department. Use of handwritten legends are not acceptable.

Guidance: The 6 x 6 inch composite sign shall be used on wood posts and the 3 x 3 inch adhesive decal shall be used on carsonite type posts. When used, the ORV trail and route alpha markers shall be spaced at no more than two mile intervals along a route but may be spaced at longer intervals on closed looped trails. This marker shall also be used at trail junctions and intersections and must be posted within a clear sight distance from the junction or intersection. The alpha markers should correspond to maps showing the same route/trail letter(s). The 3 x 3 alpha decal may be placed above or below ORV reassurance markers as space allows on carsonite posts. The 6 x 6 inch alpha sign shall be installed in a square position directly above ORV reassurance markers and below snowmobile reassurance markers if posted on the same post. Alpha signs must always be posted with corresponding ORV reassurance markers. Alpha signs may be placed below snowmobile reassurance and trail number markers on the same post or placed on a separate post (Figure 1).

## P 12

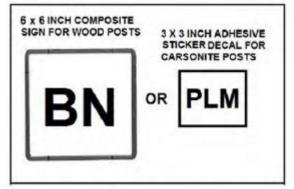
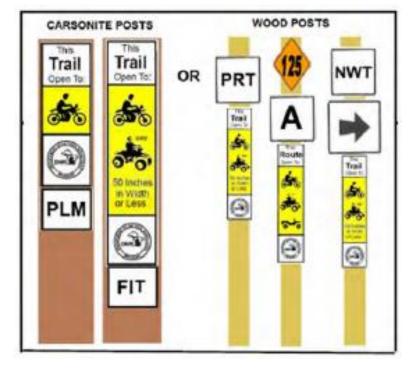


Figure 1: ORV Identification markers and signs posted on state designated ORV trails and routes. ORV route reassurance markers and alpha signs must be placed below snowmobile trail markers when posted on the same post.



## **MCCCT**

#### Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail (MCCCT)

- 500+ miles touring route that is in a large upside-down U-shape with a cross state connector.
- Intended for street-licensed dirtbikes and
- Connected using all the motorized trail types AND forest, county and state roadways. Because it is 500+ miles of connected ORV trail types, we may be able to identify it as a primary or trunkline route (or multiple routes) that might coincide with a single or 2-letter designators.

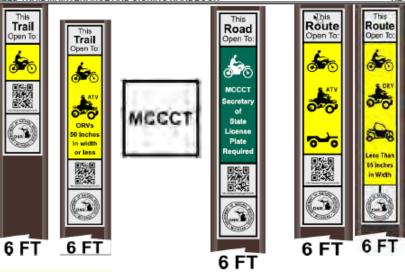
Two things will have to happen and could be phase 2 of Alpha labels in LP:

- Inventory and identify every segment of the MCCCT as either M or T or R and reroute where necessary to connect for the most logical trail type based on what's being connected.
- Add unique 'ribbon' or symbol identifier to mark MCCCT touring route as it jumps on and off other trails and routes

## P 11

MICHIGAN MOTORIZED TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND SIGNING HANDBOOK

REV OCTOBER 1,2022



#### SPECIFICATIONS for the above Trail Markers:

#### G. MOTORCYCLE TRAIL REASSURANCE MARKERS

1. Standard:

This sign shall be posted on designated state trails open to motorcycle travel where secretary of state license is not required.

2. Guidance:

Mark trails at 1/4-mile intervals or 0.1-mile intervals in dense cover areas or as recommended by DNR.

#### H. MOTORCYCLE/ORV TRAIL REASSURANCE MARKERS

1. Standard:

This sign shall be posted on designated state trails open to both motorcycle and ATV travel.

- 2. Guidance:
  - a. Mark trails at 1/4-mile intervals or 0.1-mile intervals in dense cover areas or as recommended by DNR.
  - This sign shall be posted on designated state forest roads or other road open to ORVs of all sizes including but not limited to trucks, side-by-side utility vehicles (UTV), motorcycles, and ATVs.
- 3. Option:

Mark routes at 1/4-mile intervals, however; on railroad grades, reassurance markers may be placed at ½ mile intervals.

#### I. MICHIGAN CROSS COUNTRY CYCLE TRAIL (MCCCT)

- 1. Standard:
  - This sign shall be used in conjunction of other posted ORV reassurance markers on a state designated motorcycle/ATV route.
  - Place stickers where needed over the QR code or under DNR or USFS logo on composite post to assure long distance riders that they are on the MCCCT.
  - This sign shall be posted on state designated county roads or other roads where a Secretary
    of State license is required.
- Option: On designated ORV routes located on roads, reassurance markers may be placed at intervals of 1/2 mile along the Cycle Touring route.



## Next Steps

- Planning
  - Lettering for LP ORV system
  - Mapping
- Phase 2 will include all segments of the MCCCT designation as a trail type and identify reroutes where necessary
- Implementation
  - Schedule
  - Cost to program