

**Mullett Lake South
Stakeholder Input Meeting Summary
February 2, 2022, 10am – 12pm**

The planning team invited over 60 stakeholders, both individuals and community groups, representing governmental, recreational, non-profit, neighborhood, and business/tourism interests, to participate in a facilitated input workshop held online via Microsoft Teams on February 2, 2022. Representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the stakeholders with a brief overview of the Mullett Lake South property and an outline of the general management plan process, timeline, and an explanation of the plan elements that their input would inform.

Input from the stakeholders to help inform the management plan was solicited through a series of brainstorming questions, the results of which are presented below.

Say one word or phrase that describes the property or this general location right now.

- Wet
- Unique
- Scenic
- Problematic
- Peaceful
- Loud in summer
- Rare
- Unregulated
- Natural beauty
- Habitat
- One mile from parking, beachfront and bathrooms in Topinabee
- Significant
- Natural
- Convenient access
- Beautiful shoreline
- Noisy in summertime (people at the waterfront/boaters)
- Wetlands & Wildlife
- Peaceful
- Great location for a trail to run through (NCST)
- Natural shoreline protects rest of property from the boaters
- Popular

Say one word or phrase that you want to describe the property in the future.

- Quiet
- Sustainable
- Unobtrusive to property owners
- Environmental education for the future
- Ecologically diverse
- Properly regulated and enforced
- Trail amenity
- Fishing pier for kids
- Pleasant stop on the trail
- Healthy water resources
- Public lake access
- Preserve access by non-motorized boats
- Needed loop trail
- Unchanged
- Accessible in its natural state (as natural as possible)
- Educational (i.e. signage)
- Kept in its natural state
- Tranquil/quiet
- Wetlands protected/preserved
- Monitored
- Visible boundaries

How can the property benefit the wider community? Could be from the standpoint of recreation, preservation, economic development.

- Shoreline stewardship and education
- Enhance the trail experience
- Education signs along the trail relating to habitat and geology
- Local ecotourism attraction
- Public health amenity – passive recreation, hike, bike, snowshoe, skiing
- Thoughtful development to assist in appropriate use
- Consider fencing boundaries adjacent to private land
- Quiet recreation (a loop trail for example)
- Educational opportunity to learn about nature and wildlife (topography, flora/fauna) in a non-disturbing way
- Providing access for the community to natural resources (an area to park to be able to walk the trails)
- Small parking lot at existing driveway spot
- Low-impact recreation connections from the trail to other trails
- Regulate party boat crowd access to ensure natural resources and “quiet” atmosphere is protected
- Create an intentional connection between water/ NCST and rest of property

What natural or cultural aspects should be prioritized at the property?

- Wetland preservation
- Complete a biological inventory
- Preserve diversity
- Maintain natural and pristine lake frontage – one of few public properties on the lakeshore
- Trail preservation (not impacted)
- Old sawmill buildings? (Indian Woods trail old logging encampment)
- Historical education
- Identify, preserve and protect areas of cultural significance
- Natural shoreline benefits – education and partner with other DNR programs
- Education/interpretation signs of ancient lakeshore ridgeline, natural resources
- Education opportunities/interpretive signage regarding Native American impacts on the property
- Large trees preserved/protected
- Consider not allowing metal detection at the park based on other park precedents

What recreational activities should be prioritized at the property?

- Walking
- Minimal and quiet
- Non-motorized (on the property)
- Cycling (on the trail)
- Trail should be priority and new uses should not infringe
- Opportunity for light camp activities e.g. bike camping accessible from the trail
- More use could damage lakeshore (high use of lake by boats)
- Designated area for lakeshore use

- Recreational use should not infringe on private properties
- Tranquility maintained
- Maintain tree cover/ natural environment
- Limited trail development with signage (like LTC property) – low impact, well maintained
- Prioritize dedicated times or locations for non-motorized boating use. (Opposite of mouth of Cheboygan River)
- Shoreline use by boater’s problematic
- Foot traffic (snowshoeing/cross country skiing, hiking trails)
- Education/interpretive signs
- Frisbee golf
- Picnic access close to water
- Kayak/canoe access
- Ice fishing access
- Help alleviate congestion along Straits Highway at Woodruff Road
- Preserved biking activities on the NCST
- Potential for restricting kinds of hunting? (restricting to bow/small game seasons only) – may be unsafe due to other recreation activities proposed.
- Safe access from (i.e., off road parking) and across S. Straits Hwy.

What are some collaboration and partnership opportunities that the property presents for local stakeholders and communities?

- Indian River RV resort willing to assist
- Watershed council partner on educational opportunities and maintaining wetlands
- Collaboration between DNR, stakeholders and Law enforcement
- Cheboygan County updating rec. plan
- TOMTC
- Neighborhood Association potentially help with stewardship/ monitoring?
- Explore possibility of new regulations with Twp. (balance private and public)
- UMICH Douglas Lake Biological Station study of flora/fauna history/human history of area
- Local school districts – education opportunities
- Lake associations – help keep lines of communication open and to be stewards of site
- Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, Burt Lake Band can help us with interpretive/educational opportunities. May also help us with naming the site
- Inland Waterway water trail organization

Attendees:

Mullett lake South Property Stakeholder Workshop Attendees	
Name	Representing
Brent Bolin	Top of Michigan Trails Council
Cam Cavitt	Cheboygan County Drain Commissioner
Cole Williams	Representative Allor’s office
Darcy Ashman	Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society
Dave Lurie	Grandview Beach Association
Denise Lange	Neighboring Property Owner
Frank Kirst	DNR Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee
Laz Surabian	Mullett Township Supervisor
Herm Boatin	Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society
Jennifer Merk	Cheboygan County Planning & Zoning
Jessica Lovay	Northern Lakes Economic Alliance
Jim Conboy	Top of Michigan Trails Council
Jim Metcalf	Indian Woods Trail Association
Kacey Cook	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Kathie Lafferty	Indian Woods Trail Association
Ken Hoehn	Woodside Park Owners Association
Kieran Fleming	Little Traverse Conservancy
Kyle Keller	Cheboygan County Sanitarian
Lauren Dey	Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Margie Reh	Top of Michigan Trails Council
Michael Turisk	Cheboygan County Planning & Zoning
Representative Susan Allor	Michigan House of Representatives, District 106
Terrell Deppe	Indian River RV Resort

Planning Team Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Park Management Plan Administrator), Matt Lincoln (Land Liaison/ Grants Specialist), Keith Cheli (Regional Field Planner), Rich Hill (District Supervisor), Dave Stempky (Cheboygan Field Office Manager), Greg Norwood (Stewardship Ecologist), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Greg Kinser (NLP Trail Coordinator), Paige Perry (Trails Specialist), Stacy Tchorzynski (Archaeologist), Peter Rose (Geologist), Tim Rosochaki (Conservation Officer)