

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Forest Certification Work Instruction**

DRAFT     FINAL

**Date of Draft Document:**

**Effective Date: 6-01-16**

**Revision Number: 4**

**Supersedes Version Dated: 6-23-15**

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**Work Instruction Title:** 6.2 Integrating Public Recreational Opportunities with Management on State Forest Lands

**Work Area Group:** 6 – Education and Recreation

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**Purpose:** To develop, operate, maintain and promote an integrated recreation system that operates within the auspices of the state forest management planning program.

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**Work Instruction:**

1. The DNR is committed to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
2. State forest campgrounds, pathway trailheads, pathway corridors, and boating access sites located on the state forest are administered by the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, but remain within the scope of certification. Recreational opportunities on State Forest lands shall be integrated with forest management programs. Ongoing communications with Forest Unit Managers, Park and Recreation Managers & Supervisors, and District Supervisors also assure recreational facility development, enhancements, or reductions are integrated and made compatible with forest operations. Public and Tribal participation regarding recreational facilities is encouraged during the Compartment Review process and other meetings held in the State.
3. The DNR staff works with public interests, local units of government, user groups and DNR resource and administrative divisions to identify recreational needs and impacts.
  - a. DNR complies with statutory provisions for providing and planning development and maintenance of recreational facilities within the state and on State Forest lands and they are carried out through specific planning documents that guide the statewide recreation and trails programs.
  - b. DNR staff works with sponsors and local units of government to administer grant funds for trails. These funds are dispersed through a process of grant project application and review. Applications review is conducted by department staff, based on criteria guidance provided by public advisory groups to the programs.
  - c. Some of the public advisory boards or work groups that the DNR works with are: Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council, Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS), Non-motorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW), Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW), Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) and Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee.
  - d. DNR resource divisions conduct reviews for resource impacts related to any proposed recreational project on state forest lands.

4. The DNR manages recreational uses to accommodate various demands. Recreational activities on state forest lands include but are not limited to:

Recreational Activity	Management Responsibility
Hunting	WD
Trapping	WD
Fishing	FD
Camping/Dispersed	FRD
Camping/Designated Campground/ Group	PRD
ORV trails	PRD
Snowmobile trails	PRD
Pathways (cross-country skiing, hiking; back packing, biking, and mountain biking)	PRD
Designated boating access sites, Kayak/canoe tours	PRD
Equestrian trail riding	PRD
Field Trials with dogs, dog training, and dog tracking	FRD & WD
Wildlife viewing, birding tours	WD
75 Scenic tours (e.g., waterfalls, scenic sites, spring wildflowers, fall color tours)	FRD
Geological tours	FRD
Wild fruit, nut, mushroom gathering	FRD
Medicinal plant gathering	FRD
Aesthetics and spirituality – passive recreation, unique recreational opportunities i.e. Wilderness, Wild and Natural Areas	FRD, WD
Extreme sports/endurance sports	FRD/PRD
Commercial operations and events	FRD/PRD

*WD = DNR Wildlife Division; FD = DNR Fisheries Division; FRD = DNR Forest Resources Division*

5. Resource Impacts as a result of recreational use are reported, monitored, and addressed.
- Impacts on campgrounds and trails are reported, monitored and addressed.
  - Impacts on lands adversely affected are reported, monitored, and addressed. (e.g. excessive ORV damage. Refer to monitoring section for other key examples)
6. DNR evaluates recreational facilities and ensures that changes are made when needed.
- Open/closure of campgrounds/facilities and/or public land areas is recommended when determined by the monitoring process
  - Additional facilities are recommended when determined necessary.

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**Scope:** (All State Forest Land and Affected Divisions):  State Forest Land  Other: Office of Communications  
 DNR – FRD  DNR – Wildlife  DNR – Fish  DNR – Law  DNR – Parks

**Responsibility and Role:** (Staff who will implement or supervise this instruction)

<b>Job Title/Division</b>	<b>Role</b>
Trail Specialist/PRD	Coordinate the planning, review by all divisions, and monitoring of trail recreation and opportunities. Ensure that on the ground work by trail sponsors meets Department standards and specifications.
FRD Staff	Assist with development and maintenance of public recreation facilities and opportunities
Manager/Supervisor, Field Offices/PRD	Plan, develop, monitor, and maintain state forest campgrounds, boating access sites and facilities.
Regional Landscape Design Planners/PRD	Plan the development of recreational facilities.
/Volunteer Coordinator/PRD	Implement public outreach and volunteer activities associated with recreational opportunities on State Forest
Information & Education Coordinator/WD	Produce Hunting & Trapping Guides
Fisheries Biologist/FD	Produce Fishing Guides
State Trails Section Chief /PRD	Approve the planning and development of designated state trail recreation facilities and opportunities
Interpretive Manager/OC	Manage Michigan and Fishing Heritage Center
Unit Manager/FRD	Coordinate with PRD staff on planning and operation of public recreation opportunities at the management unit level.
Conservation Officer/LED	Enforce state fish and game laws as provided in annual hunting and fishing guides, ORV, snowmobile and marine guides. Administers Safety Training programs.
ADA Liaisons/ DNR	Enforce and review ADA law and requirements

**Training/Skills:** (Those required to accomplish work instruction)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Brief Description of Skill or Course</b>	<b>Exists/ New</b>
	Public Speaking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	American's with Disabilities Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Hazard Tree Identification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Exotic Plant Identification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Snowmobile/ATV Operator's Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Chain saw safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Heavy Equipment Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Snowmobile Grants Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Communications software (Power Point, Word, Excel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Arc View	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	BMP Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Commercial Driver's License	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Soil Erosion/Sediment Control Certification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
	Lift-truck Certification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N

## References:

- Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail and Route Maintenance Handbook (IC-1991);
  - Annual guides for hunting & trapping, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, ORV's, and marine;
  - Public Act 451 of 1994;
  - American with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336.
  - Planning Documents:
    - 1) Guiding Principles and Strategies - Wildlife Division Strategic Plan 2010-2015 – Provides goals, objectives and strategies for wildlife-related recreation.
    - 2) Parks and Recreation Division 2009-2019 Strategic Plan – Provides strategic goals, objectives, actions and tasks for camping, boating, and trail recreation.
    - 3) 2013-2017 Fisheries Division Strategic Plan – Provides strategic goals, objectives and strategies for fishing recreation.
    - 4) Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan 2013-2018, April 2013 – Provides for statewide motorized and non-motorized trails goals.
    - 5) State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013 – Provides for statewide recreation priorities.
    - 6) Governor's Blue Ribbon Report 2012 – Blue Ribbon Panel report to the Governor on statewide recreation goals.
    - 7) Michigan Tourism Strategic Plan 2012 to 2017 – Provides goals and objectives to the growth and vitality of Michigan's tourism industry.
    - 8) Forest Recreation Plan – June 1995 – Provides for non-motorized forest recreation
    - 9) Michigan Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan, 2008 – Provides a guide to ORV trails/routes/ and scramble areas planning and management.
    - 10) Snowmobile Plan – Annual updates VIA grant sponsor application.
    - 11) Assessment of Recreation and Trails – July 1999 – Provides forest recreation program overview and projected needs to support public recreation demands.
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## Monitoring: Occurs at Three Levels

1. Forest Management Unit Level:
  - Active management practices (i.e., prescriptions) conducted by WD/FD/FRD are monitored subsequent to implementation via the Forest Treatment Proposal process. WD and FD also conduct game and non-game population surveys for management purposes such as harvest regulation and inventory.
  - T&E species reviews
  - Inventory data collection.
  - Inspections of Land Use Permits.
  - Campground inspections.
  - Inspections of boating access sites and associated facilities.
  - Road inspections
  - Compartment Review/Open House process.
  - Trail inspection reports
  - BMP non-compliance reporting
2. District / Eco-regional Level:
  - Public values expressed as a set of indicators to gauge management actions; also
  - Issues specific to landscape scales are addressed at this level (e.g., road closures).
  - Enforcement of state laws and Department administrative rules through hunting & trapping, fishing, individual species, ORV, snowmobile, and marine guides.
3. State Level: databases maintained at each division central office which compile monitoring activities at the management unit level.

## Records:

### Hardcopy:

- Forest Treatment Proposals (R-4048) and completion reports (R-4048-1E).
  - ORV trail monitoring (PR-1990-2 and PR-1990-3) and maintenance (PR-1990-1).
  - Snowmobile trail monitoring and maintenance; no standard form, with the exception of weekly grooming reports (PR-1855).
  - Land Use Permits (PR-1138).
  - State Forest campground inspections (R-4117).
  - Boating access/facilities inspections; Grant-in Aid/PRD (R-3024-A, R-3024-B, R-3024-C, R-3024-D).
  - Road projects/bridges (project reporting form; PR-4288). There is no form for road inspections.
  - Hazard tree inspections (form in draft).
  - ORV/snowmobile trail proposal form (R-1862-E).
  - Land acquisition (R-4077-E).
  - Annual species harvest reports
  - Wildlife survey reports
  - BMP non-compliance reports
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