



Order to Consolidate and Standardize Watercraft Restrictions on Certain Lakes in the Pigeon River Country State Forest

LUOD No. 3 of 2021

Unique Resource

- Lakes in the Pigeon River Country State Forest offer some of the best remote fishing and aesthetic experiences in the Lower Peninsula.



Erosion and Overuse



Confusing Protections

- Watercraft controls for lakes within the Pigeon River State Forest (PRCSF) are located within three separate sections, in two different chapters of the existing Land Use Orders of the Director and contain slightly different restrictions.
- Fisheries Division and Forest Resources Division worked cooperatively with the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council to craft appropriate revised Order language.
- Consolidation and standardization of the watercraft controls within the PRCSF is recommended to reduce user confusion, increase user opportunities, and provide greater consistency.



Existing Land Use Orders

- Chapter 4.34 (9) allows the launch of non-motorized watercraft, or those using electric motors on Hemlock, Ford, and West Lost Lakes.



Existing Land Use Orders

- Chapter 4.34(10) restricts the launch of any vessel other than inflatable float tubes on Section Four, Lost, North Twin and South Twin Lakes.



Existing Land Use Orders

- Chapter 7.4(1) prohibits the launch and use of motorized vessels within the Blue Lakes Ranch area.



Resource Improvements



Proposed LUOD Amendments

Significant changes include:

- Remove the restriction on launching vessels other than inflatable float tubes on Section Four, Lost, North Twin, and South Twin Lakes;
- Restrict the launch of motorized vessels on all ten lakes,
- Clarify that the proposed uniform protections apply to the “recently” acquired North Blue, South Blue, and Walled Lakes, which are located within the Blue Lakes Ranch Area.



In Summary

Only carry-in, non-motorized watercraft may be launched from state-owned land onto any of the following described lakes:

- 7 Sinkholes
 - Ford, Hemlock, and West Lost Lakes
 - Lost, North and South Twin, and Section Four Lakes
- 3 Blue Lakes Ranch Lakes
 - Walled, North and South Blue Lakes



Thank you!

