

**Off-Road Advisory Workgroup
Minutes
March 8, 2017
Demmer Center, 4830 East Jolly Road, Lansing**

The regular meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW) was called to order by Chair Dunn on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: **Chairman Dunn, Pat Brower, Don Helsel, Tim Kobasic, Lewis Shuler, and Jim Maike.** Jim Hunt was not present.

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present: Jessica Holley, Barbara Graves, Cpl. John Morey, Nicole Toman, and Scott Whitcomb. The following staff via telephone: Emily Meyerson, Todd Neiss, and Rob Katona.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Dunn welcomed everyone and asked the board members and guests to introduce themselves.

Mr. Paul Mulder, a member of the audience, requested a moment of silence to honor Mr. Bill Whippen who passed away last Thursday. Mr. Whippen served on several DNR committees and was very instrumental in the original ORV advisory group.

Chair Dunn informed the group that member Jim Hunt would not be with the group tonight due to a medical issue.

Chair Dunn introduced Jim Maike, the newest member of the Workgroup, charged with representing side-by-side users.

MOTION: T. Kobasic moved to approve the November 2, 2016 meeting minutes. It was seconded by D. Helsel and it carried unanimously.

MOTION: D. Helsel moved to approve the amended March 8, 2017 agenda. It carried unanimously.

UPDATES

- T. Kobasic and Rob Katona from PRD presented the proposed alpha marker system pilot for the U.P. (attached). From feedback they received, Option 3 was the preferred one among the group. Chair Dunn asked how they will be paying for the signs and markers and asked about the money that was set aside for it. R. Katona replied there were grants for sign upgrades, however, he was informed most of that

is being used for the carsonite install. Right now at this time he does not know what will be used to fund it. Chair Dunn charged the group to come up with funds.

R. Katona said after talking to Richard Kennedy, they would need approval, funding allocated, and know what letters they would be ordering by April, however, the sign manual is a work in progress and it can be incorporated.

Chair Dunn said because they were unable to have Paul Yauk or Jacklin Blodgett present, it put a nix in some of their discussions. He thinks once they have discussions within the department, they could still possibly meet that April deadline, but it's probably going to have to come from internal.

MOTION: D. Helsel made the motion to approve the project contingent upon an approved funding source being identified no later than June 2017. T. Kobasic seconded and it carried unanimously.

- Handbook of Michigan ORV Laws/Safety Education Subcommittee - Cpl. John Morey said the 2017 handbooks are now available. There is also a surplus of 2016 student manuals that they would like to use before they get into the 2017 versions. D. Helsel asked that LED provide a document for each of the workgroup members. Please send any issues with the handbook to Cpl. Morey and he will relay the information to the Lansing office. These manuals are on the DNR website as well.
- J. Holley went over the ORV Funds Working for Michigan handout (attached) that shows some of the ORV program accomplishments since 2014. Please send any ideas for additions to her. K. Thrall from USFS will send some new connectors. Nicole Toman suggested adding the economic impact of ORV use. They will also add missing information for the LP.
- J. Holley gave an update from T. Neiss of the Cadillac office. The Ham Creek bridge structure in Missaukee County that will serve both ORV and Snowmobilers is ahead of schedule. Some of the funding did come from the ORV program as a result of the fee increase. The bridge should be open by the end of March (see attached).
- K. Thrall from the USFS gave an update on staff changes.
- Cpl. John Morey informed the group there will be two ORV instructor academies this spring: April 21 – 23 at the RAM, May 19 – 21st in Escanaba. Anyone with an interest in the program, call 517-284-6055.
- E. Meyerson and T. Neiss from PRD reported that they organized a meeting in Mesick the night before to look at trails in the Grand Traverse and Wexford-Manistee

area. Mesick would like to have ORV, thus, it was added to a work list. Sean Duperron of Benzie County Parks and Recreation would like to get a single track motorcycle trail in the county. They are in the initial processes of planning it. It was a very good meeting; a lot of people attended, and it was hopeful for everybody. It was also noted that there is a meeting with contractors to move forward with construction on the Leota route.

- T. Kobasic updated the group on the USFS and road closures in that there was a comprehensive trail workgroup put together. They have specific representatives of the east and west complex for the Hiawatha. He is the point person for the western complex at the request of the motorized riding associations. One will be appointed to the east side. This workgroup will have a full definitive comprehensive plan for the Hiawatha completed by January of 2018 for submission. Good news that all of the work they did going back to 2012 is on the table and there has been no changes to that. Level 2 roads will stay on the table. They have done an excellent job in bringing it back into focus. The USFS are listening and working with them and he's very pleased that this took place.
- Public Act 288 of 2016 – S. Whitcomb from Forest Resource Division gave an update on the Road Inventory Project Update (see attached). Forest Resources (doing a bulk of the project), Wildlife, and Parks and Recreation Divisions are all involved in the project.
- DNR and U.S. Forest Service Partnership on Safety Infographic – J. Holley reported that they are partnering with the USFS and the *Treadlightly!* Campaign on safety infographics. More information can be found at: <https://www.treadlightly.org/programs/ride-on/ride-on-michigan/>. K. Thrall said the Ride On campaign is pulling in snowmobiles as well.
- Chair Dunn and L. Shuler visited the proposed ORV park in Oakland County. Closing is expected in April with the goal to open in 2018. They see it initially as a big truck/side by side park, with potential down the road.
- Confidence Marker (Carsonite) Installation – J. Holley. They are in the final phase of an instruction work document for the clubs. Many clubs are already working. A lot of questions arose so they had meetings to answer those questions. The document will continue to be updated throughout the project as more questions will arise. The goal is to have it available at the pre-season maintenance meetings.
- Joint SAW/ORVAW Meeting – Chair Dunn said the joint meeting in December went well. The biggest challenges they face are finding ways to get snow and ORV clubs to work together and finding ways to combine the trail work so it is more cost

effective. Multiple issues arose, including conflicts on shared trails. Some discussion has taken place on making them seasonal. A subcommittee was formed with two ORVAW and two SAW members to talk about equipment and other issues. The next Joint SAW/ORVAW meetings will be held May 3, 2017 and November 1, 2017. One will be in the UP and one in the LP, locations yet to be determined.

- ORV Permit Sunset – Chair Dunn will have updates when he speaks to the department again. He has had conversations with Senator Casperson and will be doing some follow-up. Any recommendations please send to him. He can be reached at 517-896-9757.
- Spring Maintenance Meetings for Stakeholders: April 8, 2017 in LP, and UP yet to be determined. Locations to be determined. All questions on carsonite installation will be answered then. As soon as J. Holley knows locations, she will let everyone know. In the meantime, contact your Recreation Trail Specialist for questions.
- Upcoming Appointments and Reappointments – Chair Dunn said he was happy to announce that D. Helsel, P. Brower, and L. Shuler have been reappointed for two-year terms. He again welcomed J. Maike the newest member to represent side-by-sides. J. Hunt will hopefully heal quickly and be back.

NEW BUSINESS

- State Trails Implementation Plan – J. Holley said a lot of people and a lot of work was done to put this plan together. She wants to start conversation on the goals again. Please mark it up, makes notes, etc., and she would like this on the next agenda so they can pull together a new movement and make a plan to work on some more goals.
- Administrative Grant Workshop – Cpl. Morey said the next meeting is March 23, 2017 in Roscommon. Grant staff from Parks and Recreation primarily takes the lead on it and Law Division is there as a support and provide updates on legal issues such as P.A. 288. It is open to all law enforcement agencies in the state that are eligible to apply for and receive grants. J. Holley said that she, P. Yauk, and R. Kennedy will be in attendance.
- ORVAW Proposed 2017 Meeting Dates: June 14, September 13, and October 10. Chair Dunn said the October 10 meeting may have to be rescheduled. The June and September meetings will be conference calls.
- Proposed ORV Rider Recognition Day June 10 – D. Helsel would like the group to consider a resolution to be forwarded to MTAC to have June 10 as an ORV Rider

recognition day for Michigan, that coincides with their first free riding weekend of the 10th and 11th.

MOTION: T. Kobasic moved to approve the resolution for an ORV Rider Recognition Day of June 10 as presented. It was seconded by D. Helsel and was unanimously approved.

- Proposed recommendation to Open Lake Gogebic State Park to ATVs – D. Helsel would like the group to consider this proposal.

MOTION: T. Kobasic moved to approve the recommendation to endorse the use of Lake Gogebic State Park for ATVs with the understanding that it would need trail connections. It was seconded by D. Helsel and passed with P. Brower opposing.

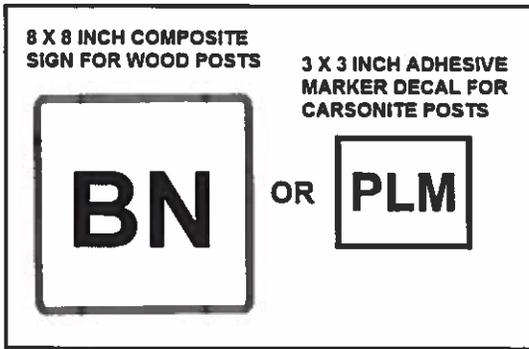
- MOTION: J. Maike moved a motion that the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup recommend that they go to a one-sticker program for ORVs beginning in 2018. All were in favor; the motion carried unanimously.
- T. Kobasic said the new appointment of Ryan Zinke as the Secretary of the Department of Interior has been very fruitful for them, and in fact, he has two new orders that have come out essentially taking these lands off the market.
- L. Shuler announced the dates for the 2018 NOHVCC conference: August 14 – 18 at the Doubletree Hotel near the Grand Rapids airport.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Mr. Paul Mulder said the Michigan Manual changed the definition and the wording of an 18” sign to: ‘The minimum sign size for bicycle 18” sign shall not be used or placed in any other location that would have application to any other vehicle.’ Section 9b-02. An 18” sign in the woods is improper and illegal and it goes against what they paid money for in the sign study. P. Brower asked for the new law number, of which Mr. Mulder did not have at the time. Chair Dunn said they can then see where it falls within the state for the ORV trail system.

T. Kobasic suggested sending it to the Attorney General’s office for an interpretation of the law since it’s an item of continued contention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

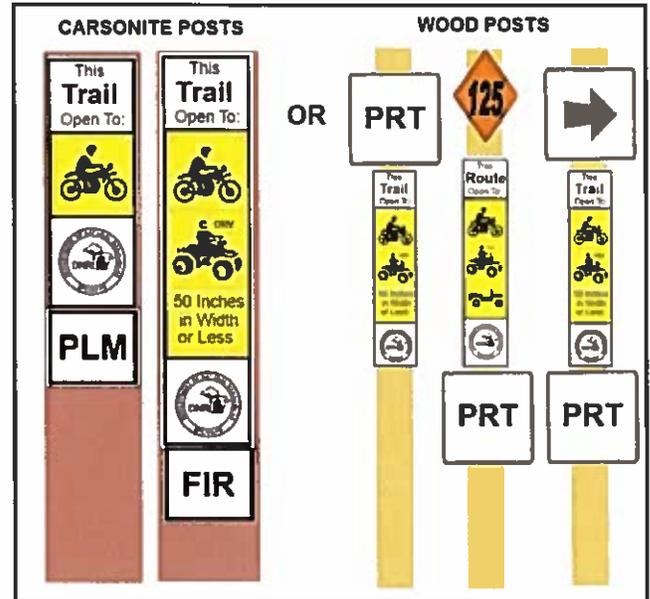


**ORV Route and Trail Identification Sign and Marker
(Required Program Sign for Upper Peninsula Only)**

This is an 8 x 8 inch by 1/8 inch thick composite sign or 3 x 3 inch adhesive marker 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. This sign shall be labeled with an alpha letter or multiple letters only as authorized by the department. The route/trail identification label must be the only label on the marker. This label will be printed during the manufacturing of the signs or attached as an adhesive decal at the time of posting. Use of hand written legends is not acceptable.

Guidance: The 8 x 8 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 identification sign shall be spaced at no more than two mile intervals along the trail or route. The identification sign may correspond to maps showing the same route/trail letter(s). This marker may also be used at trail junctions and intersections, and should be posted within a clear sight distance from the junction or intersection. The 8 x 8 inch identification sign and 3 x 3 inch identification marker shall be installed in a square position directly above or below the ORV route and trail reassurance markers. Identification signs and markers must always be posted with corresponding ORV reassurance markers. Identification signs may be placed below snowmobile reassurance and trail number markers on the same post or placed on a separate post. (Figure 1).

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



Cost: Cost estimates were provided by MSI as follows:

- 3 x 3 inch marker: \$0.38 per each
- 8 x 8 inch sign: \$1.90 per each

The cost per mile was calculated by using the distance intervals that the signs and markers will be posted, in addition to the average number of intersections per trail, which was derived from a group of routes and trails located in the Upper Peninsula. The estimated costs are as follows:

- Motorcycle/ORV trails and routes with carsonite markers: \$2.70 per mile (cost includes using 8 x 8 inch signs at intersections).
- ORV routes with wood posts: \$4.20 per mile using all 8 x 8 inch signs.

Total cost per trail type for entire Upper Peninsula

Type	50" ORV	24" Cycle	Route	Total
Mileage	306	293	737	1336
Cost	\$826	\$791	\$3,095	\$4,712

Recommendation: Five options were originally discussed by the subcommittee but we narrowed it down to two preferred options, option 3 and option 4. The two options were mapped out and shown to the subcommittee with option 3 being the preferred option among the group. Following are the option descriptions with corresponding maps illustrating the alpha trail/route identification across the Upper Peninsula.

Option 3

- Primary east-west routes are single letter starting with A from the west end of the UP.
- Primary north-south routes are double letter with the first letter starting with A from west and continuing on to E to the east end of the UP.
- Secondary routes are triple letter with the first letter starting with A from west and continuing on to E to the east end of the UP.
- Closed loop trails and routes will use three letters with common name abbreviations and beginning with M for all motorcycle trails.

Option 4

- Primary east-west and north-south are single letter starting with A from west and continuing on to M to the east end of the UP.
- Secondary routes are double letter with the first letter the same as connected primary and second letter starting with A and continuing on to Z from the west to east and south to north.
- Closed loop trails and routes will use two or three letters with common name abbreviations.

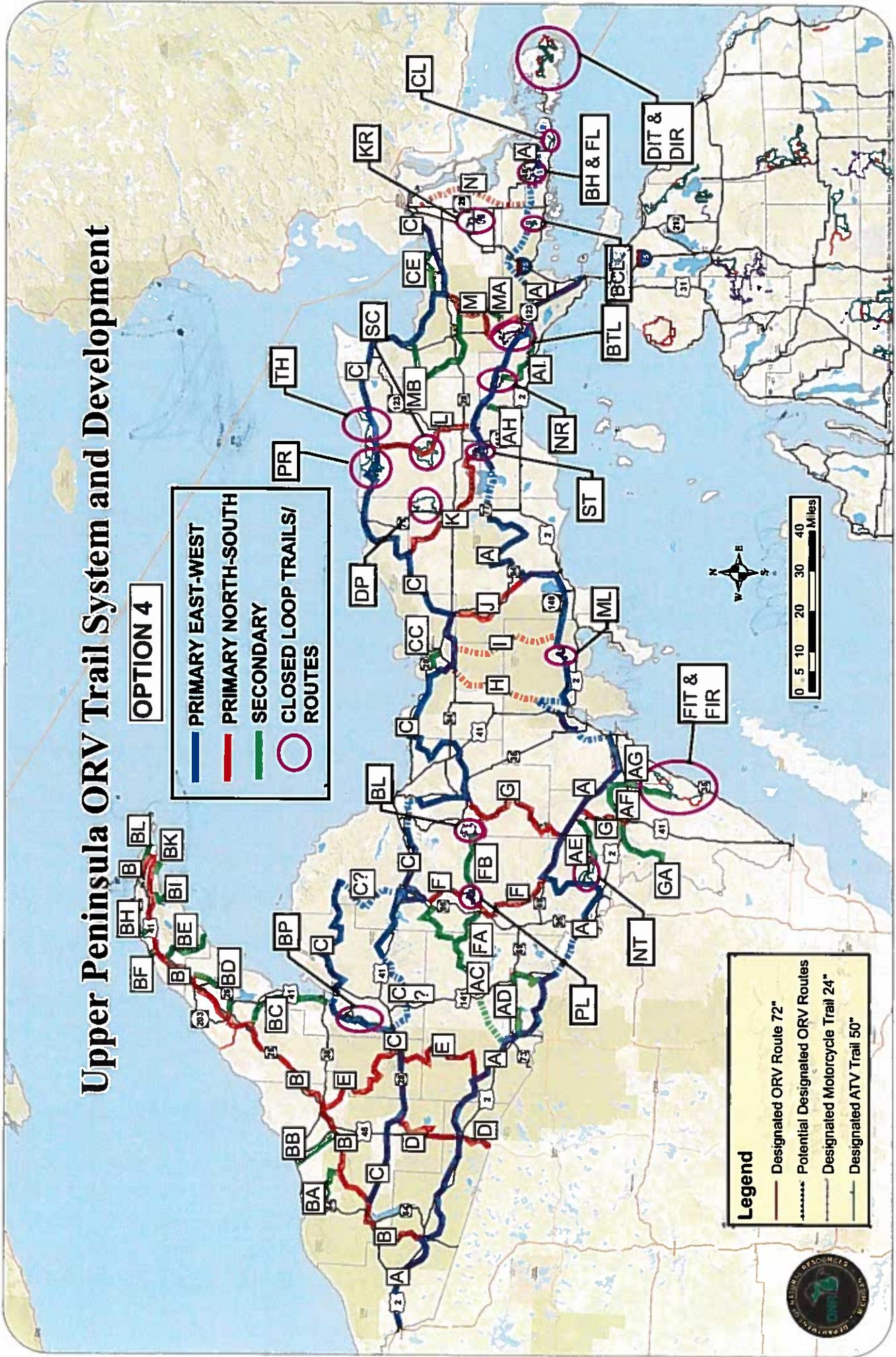
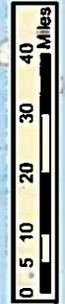


Upper Peninsula ORV Trail System and Development

OPTION 4

- PRIMARY EAST-WEST
- PRIMARY NORTH-SOUTH
- SECONDARY
- CLOSED LOOP TRAILS/RUTES

- Legend**
- Designated ORV Route 72"
 - Potential Designated ORV Routes
 - Designated Motorcycle Trail 24"
 - Designated ATV Trail 50"



ORV FUNDS WORKING FOR MICHIGAN



Starting in 2014, Michigan began requiring an **OFF ROAD VEHICLE (ORV)** license to be eligible to operate on county roads, state forest roads in the Upper Peninsula and eligible national forest roads and on the frozen surfaces of public waters. This license is required to operate anywhere off of private lands.

173

Miles added to the ORV trail system

13

New ORV routes in the Upper Peninsula

225

Miles of new surface material and grading

15

New ORV connectors in the Upper Peninsula

2

Purchased two miles of railroad grade in Iron County



ORV funds helped fund restoration of the dunes near Silver Lake State Park

ORV funds have recently been used to open five additional state parks in the Upper Peninsula to Off Road Vehicles – all located near ORV routes/trails. ORV funds were used to develop access to these trails, provide proper signage and add parking areas.



Funds were also used to repair or replace multiple bridges

An ORV is a vehicle built primarily for off-road recreation. Michigan's designated ORV Trail/Route system covers more than 3,800 miles of trails and routes throughout the state.



MICHIGAN: THE TRAILS STATE

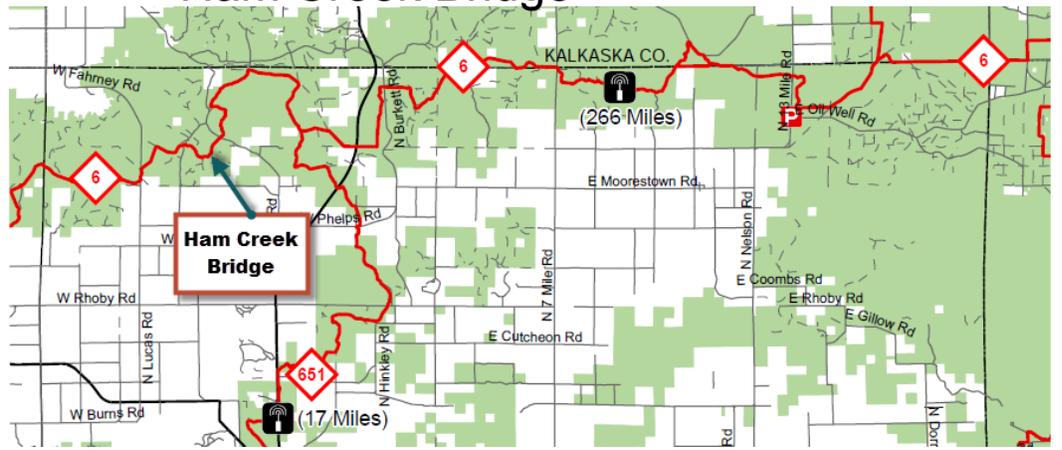
Ham Creek Bridge

Department of Natural Resources Designated Snowmobile Trails Missaukee County, Michigan

GPS Data Disclaimer: Locational accuracy +/- 300 feet. Please use the GPS coordinate data as a general guide for trail location. It is not to be used as an exact location reference.

Legend

-  Parking Lot
-  Link to Download GPS file
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Highway
-  Paved or Gravel Road
-  Poor Dirt Road



Ham Creek Bridge



Ham Creek Bridge



Road Inventory Project Update

March 8, 2017

Public Act 288 Background

Public Act 288, which was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on Sept. 28, 2016, changes rules for:

- ORV use on state forest roads
- Use of ORVs by hunters to retrieve game
- Use of pack and saddle animals for the retrieval of game

In addition to these changes, PA288 also requires that the DNR conduct a comprehensive inventory of all of the state forest roads and map them.

Key Messages

- The DNR is conducting an inventory of all state forest roads be inventoried and mapped:
 - In the northern Lower Peninsula by Dec. 31, 2017
 - In the southern Lower Peninsula by Dec. 31, 2018
- Forest roads will be opened for ORV use in the northern Lower Peninsula following the inventory and mapping, but they aren't open yet.
- At the end of 2017, maps will be published online to let users know what's open for usage and which forest roads aren't. These maps will be updated every year.
- This is an inclusive process. There will be an opportunity for folks to have their voices heard. This public input component will be crucial to the decision-making process.

Road Classification System

Forest roads are defined in statute (PA 451 of 1994) and State Land Administrative Rules as : **A Forest Road is defined as a hard surfaced road, gravel or dirt road, or other route capable of travel by a 2-wheel drive, 4-wheel conventional vehicle designed for road use. Forest road does not include a street, county road, or highway.**

Project Completion Timeline

- Road Classification System approved by DNR (January 2017)
- DNR will gather input from tribes and interested stakeholders (Winter 2017)
- FRD Staff have completed initial classification on 98% of forest roads in NLP since January 23rd. Training of UP staff will occur in March 2017
- DNR will contract with a private firm to perform quality assurance and quality control functions including data merging, gap analysis and running data quality rules (Spring 2017)
- DNR Field staff will field verify road data from contractor if needed

- DNR Divisions review recommendations for restrictions and/or closures of Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP)roads - (June 2017)
- Tribal notification and consultation on proposed road restrictions/closures in NLP (July 2017)
- Stakeholder meetings in Lansing (early June 2017)
- Public meetings in NLP (late June 2017)
- Final decision by Department on road restrictions – (August 2017)
- Prepare Land Use Order for review and decision (September-November 2017)
- Maps published online for NLP by **December 31, 2017.**
- Timeline for the UP and SLP will overlap the above with maps published on the DNR website by December 31, 2018

Total Road Segments Edited ↗

50916 ↕

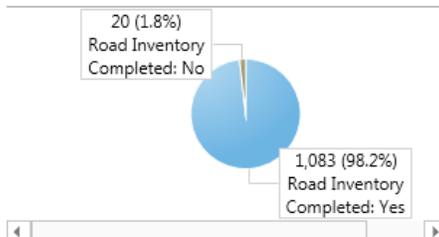
Total road segments edited since 1/23/2017.

Roads Segment Edits 24 Hour ↗

402

Total road segments edited within the last 24 hours.

Percent of Compartments Completed ↗



Percent of compartments completed.

Resolution: ORV Rider Recognition Day in Michigan

On Behalf of the People of Michigan

I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

June 10, 2017

ORV Rider Recognition Day

Whereas Michigan is recognized as the trail state with 3,700 miles of designated ORV trails

Whereas Michigan has over 220,000 licensed riders using these trails

Whereas June 10-11, 2017 is Michigan's ORV Free Riding Weekend

Whereas it is recognized how important this recreational sport is to our tourist economy

Whereas the users of our trail system should be recognized

Whereas the local trail sponsors and their many volunteer hours need to be recognized

Whereas this day will encourage safe riding, while practicing Tread Lightly riding

Now, Therefore, I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim June 10, 2017 as ORV Rider Recognition Day in Michigan.