



NEWS RELEASE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release No. 12 – June 25, 2018

Michigan DNR Incident Command Team Completes Initial Trail Damage Assessment

LANSING, MICH. A Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) incident command team deployed to Hancock, MI has completed an initial assessment of recreational trail damage in Houghton County. Torrential rains early on Sunday, June 17, washed out many sections of snowmobile and off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in the Houghton-Hancock vicinity.

Local DNR staff began assessing trail damage soon after the rain event on Sunday afternoon. Incident management team members from across the state began arriving on Wednesday, June 19, to coordinate the effort. Since then ground crews have been inspecting affected trails by ORV, or on foot where vehicle use was not possible.

Ground crews have inspected almost 60 miles of trails. One-hundred fifty washouts have been mapped, measured and photographed as of Friday evening. Preliminary cost estimates for trail restoration are being compiled. In addition to repairing washouts and failed culverts, many stretches of trail will need grading and resurfacing.

“Now that we’ve had a good look at the trail impacts, we will continue making sure the trails are properly closed to ensure public safety. We are also focusing on removing debris from plugged culverts so future rains won’t make things worse” said Brian Mensch, incident commander for the DNR operations.

DNR Director Keith Creagh visited the area on Thursday to get a first-hand look at the damage. Employees from Parks and Recreation, Forest Resources, and Law Enforcement divisions are working together to address impacts and public safety on DNR trails and boating access sites throughout the county.

Hazards remain on many area roads and trails. The DNR advises travelers to use caution in affected areas and to be alert for unstable conditions.

For the latest information on closures of DNR-managed facilities, visit the DNR’s webpage at: www.michigan.gov/dnrclosures.

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The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the SEOC is overseen by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.

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