



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

December 29, 2011

Dear DNR Recreation and Trails Stakeholders,

The purpose of this correspondence is to introduce myself to the trails community, and give all of you an update on the transition of the Recreation and Trails Section from Forest Management Division to Parks and Recreation Division.

I have been Chief of the Parks and Recreation Division at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since January 2005. Prior to joining the DNR, I served for 20 years as associate city administrator and superintendent of the Ann Arbor parks and recreation department, as well as filling in as interim city administrator on two occasions. I've also held positions directing parks and recreation agencies in Maryland for 11 years and in Indiana for two years. I am a trail user myself and value the tremendous trail resources that exist in Michigan.

The formal transition of the forest recreation and trails programs will occur on January 8, 2012. To maintain a seamless program, all business practices at the field operations level will remain in place for the upcoming season, including snowmobile and cross country skiing programs. Business communications will still occur with the same field contacts and program trails staff.

We will be designating an interim State Trails Coordinator for Michigan's trails programs by January 8, 2012, to administer the trail grants programs. In the meantime, as stated above, please continue to work with the current field and program trails staff.

The primary goal is to provide the best trail systems possible, resulting in high quality, memorable experiences for all the trail users throughout our vast trail system.

Soon you will receive a survey to complete that will give you an opportunity to identify your perspectives on the trail programs and provide ideas that you have about what works well and identify ideas to enhance the trail system program. Your input is very important in order to provide quality trail experiences, so please don't miss this opportunity to share your insight with us.

The DNR transition team will continue to meet in the upcoming weeks to discuss the business practices of the forest recreation and trails programs. We will be sure to update you as the transition progresses, and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns as it pertains to the reorganization. Our goal is to make this transition as seamless and transparent as possible.

The staff of the DNR recognize the immeasurable contributions that you have made in building and maintaining Michigan's trail systems. We look forward to getting to know each of you and continuing our collaboration with you to keep Michigan a national leader in recreational trails into the future.

Staff has identified the trail stakeholders listed below; however, please feel free to share this with other groups that have an interest in the State Forest Trail System.

Sincerely,



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Parks and Recreation Division
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cc: Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council
Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup
Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup
Michigan Snowmobile Association
Michigan Cycle Conservation Club
Great Lakes 4 Wheel Drive Association
Non-motorized Advisory Workgroup
Equine Trailways Subcommittee
Snowmobile Trail Grant & Enforcement Sponsors
ORV Trail Grant & Enforcement Sponsors
Forest Management Advisory Committee
Michigan Association of Timbermen
Michigan Mountain Bike Association
Recreation Specialists and Trail Analysts
Top of Michigan Trails Council
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
West Michigan Trails Greenways Coalition
Mr. Frank C. Wheatlake, Chair of MSTAC
USFS
North Country Trail Association
MDOT Non-Motorized Division
Ms. Emily Meyerson, Parks & Trails Way Coordinator
Mr. Rodney A. Stokes, Director, DNR
Dr. Kelley D. Smith, Acting Natural Resources Deputy, DNR
Mr. Mark Hoffman, Chief, Administrative Officer, DNR
Mr. Bill O'Neill, Acting Chief, Forest Resources Division, DNR
Ms. Donna Stine, Policy Coordinator, DNR
Mr. Jim Radabaugh, DNR
Mr. Mark Mandenberg, DNR
Mr. Steve Krzesicki, DNR
Ms. Brenda Curtis, DNR
Ms. Annamarie Bauer, DNR
Mr. Steve Kubisiak, DNR
Mr. Richard Kennedy, DNR
Ms. Andrea Turner, DNR