

LUOD to Enforce Motorcycle-Only Trail - SIGNED!!!

SUCCESS!

Yesterday evening, May 8th, the Director signed an Order which will protect Michigan's Single Track trails!

Here is a copy of the actual Order:

[www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/07luod08\\_MotorcycleOnlyDesignation\\_ACTION\\_232186\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/07luod08_MotorcycleOnlyDesignation_ACTION_232186_7.pdf)

Thanks to those concerned enthusiasts who took action and sent in comments in support of this! Your voice was heard AND counted!

Please continue to be involved, and help to keep the fantastic ORV recreation opportunities we enjoy in Michigan.

- Jeff Magowan, UP Sandstormers

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 3:18 PM

Subject: The Slow Death of Single Track Trail - LET'S STOP IT!

ORV single track trail in Michigan is dying a slow death. Little by little, the tight, twisting 24 inch wide trails are becoming wider, faster, less challenging, and more dangerous. Trail that is designated by the DNR to be maintained as 24 inch trail is being ruined by ATV use and abuse. Through a combination of rider ignorance, blatant disregard of trail designation, inadequate signage, and lack of enforcement, these 24 inch single track trails are becoming 4-6 feet wide high-speed freeways.

If you have any interest in preserving single track trail for your off-road riding enjoyment, please read this message and then take five minutes of your time to e-mail supporting comments to the DNR.

Background:

The Michigan DNR has 3,185 miles of ORV trails and routes. Of the designated trails and routes, approximately 30% is designated and maintained for motorcycle-only use, approximately 50% is designated and maintained for both ATV and motorcycle use, and approximately 20% is designated and maintained as ORV route, open to ORVs of all sizes including trucks, ATVs, and motorcycles. In addition to the designated ORV trail and route system, thousands of miles of State and national forest roads are open to ORV operation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On May 9, 2007, Jeff Magowan of the UP Sandstormers Motorcycle and ORV Club submitted a petition to the ORV Trail Advisory Board. The petition requested a DNR Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) to manage and enforce Michigan's designated motorcycle trails for two-wheeled vehicle use only. The petition contained hundreds of signatures, endorsement by several motorcycle and ORV clubs, including support of the Michigan Cycle Conservation Club. Despite the Department's different maintenance standards for motorcycle trails (24 inch tread width) and ATV trails (50 inch tread width), there is no ability for the Department to enforce the rules. ATVs are riding on designated motorcycle trails creating undesirable conditions by widening, straightening, and braiding the trails, creating spur trails, and safety concerns.

Actions Taken:

The DNR Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management (FMFM) staff completed an evaluation of designated motorcycle trails to determine which trails should be included in such a LUOD using criteria such as:

- Is the trail already maintained for motorcycles?
- Does the trail still have some desirable single-track attributes, or has it been significantly altered (widened, straightened) by other ORVs?
- How wide is existing infrastructure like bridges and tree openings?
- Is it used often and by whom?
- What is the proximity to other types of trails?
- Existing agreements with cooperating divisions or organizations (e.g. Hunt Creek)

The Findings:

The DNR trail evaluation indicated that approximately 187 miles (out of 786) of designated motorcycle trails no longer met the criteria stated above, and their designation should be changed to ATV/MC use. These trail miles have been widened to a point where they can no longer be considered single track in nature. The remaining miles of designated trail still retain single track width and meet the criteria listed above.

The FMFM staff recommends a LUOD be approved to limit the use of trails that meet the criteria above to motorcycle use only (see list of affected trails in linked PDF document). The LUOD should allow for use of ATVs on the trail for maintenance and enforcement activities, as approved by the DNR. In addition, the LUOD will need language to exempt the segments of these trails that extend onto forest roads, ATV trails, routes, etc.

This re-designation/LUOD would result in 24% of the existing ORV trail system being designated as motorcycle only, compared to the current amount of 30% of the trail miles being designated as motorcycle trail. We have already lost 6% of our single track trail, and will continue to lose it unless the LUOD is approved.

Next Steps:

The ORV Trail Advisory Board and the Michigan DNR fully support this recommendation. The DNR is seeking public comment on the recommendation up until February 20, 2008. The recommendation and comments will then be presented to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for initial review, likely at their April 10th meeting. At that time there will be a second public comment period, lasting 30 days. Finally, the NRC will perform a final review at their May 8th meeting, and then present a recommendation to the Director for a decision on the LUOD request.

Action Items:

For this initial review period, it is imperative that we send positive and constructive comments to the DNR supporting this recommendation.

Please forward comments to:

Steve Kubisiak, DNR - FMFM  
kubisias@michigan.gov

Please copy Jeff Magowan (jam@garceauins.com) on the e-mails that you send to the DNR; Jeff is helping to drive this initiative, and would like to keep track of the comments.

The deadline for receiving public comment for this round is February 20, 2008!

Supporting Documents:

[www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2008\\_02\\_06\\_motorcycle\\_trail\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2008_02_06_motorcycle_trail_briefing.pdf)

[www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2007\\_11\\_07\\_trails\\_advisory\\_board\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2007_11_07_trails_advisory_board_minutes.pdf)

[www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2007\\_05\\_09\\_trails\\_advisory\\_board\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.d14enduro.org/legislation/2007_05_09_trails_advisory_board_minutes.pdf)