



Dear Michigan DNR,

The coalition of non-motorized trail users in the Pere Marquette State Forest have been actively involved in the lead up to and release of the new PA 288 on-line mapping tool. We have been appreciative of your public outreach and glad to have the opportunity to understand the intent behind this project and how it impacts our trail stewardship on state land.

The non-motorized trail users are appreciative of the protections around the Vasa and Sand Lakes Quiet Area. We are encouraged by the quality of the mapping tool and the inventory process as it will help determine sustainable trail use for all user groups (non-motorized and motorized) going forward.

From our perspective this process and online tool will help:

- 1) Maintain a reasonable level of safety for ALL recreation users within the Pere Marquette forest system. Reducing the likelihood of accidents between non-motorized users AND motorized to motorized accidents is our goal. Any recreational accidents are bad for all of us.
- 2) Protect environmentally sensitive areas from BOTH motorized and non-motorized use. Sustainability is the core principle of our coalition. Any irresponsible damage is bad for all of us.
- 3) Share our recreation areas with ALL users and assist where possible other user groups to repair and maintain trail damage, trail wear, storm damage and sign damage that accumulates over time. We have much more common ground between us than differences.

Our Specific response to PA288 and the mapping inventory process is:

- Where possible, every attempt should be made to mitigate user conflicts with trail design changes so forest roads can be opened to ORV's. Where trail design changes are not possible, we support closure of forest roads for ORV use.
- Some forest roads on the map are shown as closed because of user conflict. Many of those should be closed for environmental sensitivity or because they are already closed on one end. In some cases we support changing the cause for closure to reflect a more accurate reason to prevent negative sentiment from being misplaced on non-motorized users.

Again, thank you for your work to keep us informed and for your attention to our concerns. We are committed to working with you to ensure our state forests and natural areas provide the array of benefits we have come to appreciate and expect.

Sincerely,

*Iceman Mountain Bike Race*

*North American Vasa Ski Race*

*Mud, Sweat and Beers Mountain Bike race*

*TART Trails, Inc.*

*Vasa Ski Club*

*Cherry Capitol Cycling Club*

*Kalkaska DDA*

*Northern Michigan Mountain Biking Association*

*Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation*

