

Public Act 288

Road Inventory Project

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What is Public Act 288?



**Signed by Gov. Snyder in
September 2016**

- **Opens Lower Peninsula forest roads to ORVs**
- **Provides consistency between UP and LP**
- **Allows for cross country retrieval of certain big game species**
- **Requires DNR to annually post maps and mileage open to motorized use**



Public Act 288 does not:



- Apply to other state Departments
- Apply to state, county, or private roads
- Apply to US Forest Service lands
- Apply to designated trails
- Provide for funding



Road Inventory Process



- **Complete inventory of roads**
 - Location
 - Condition
 - Motorized restrictions
- **Identify areas of concern with ORV access**

Forest Roads



Road Inventory Process



- Road classification based on purpose of road not condition or maintenance needs
- Classification based on accessibility by public
- Based on infrastructure needs of Department for forest management

Considerations

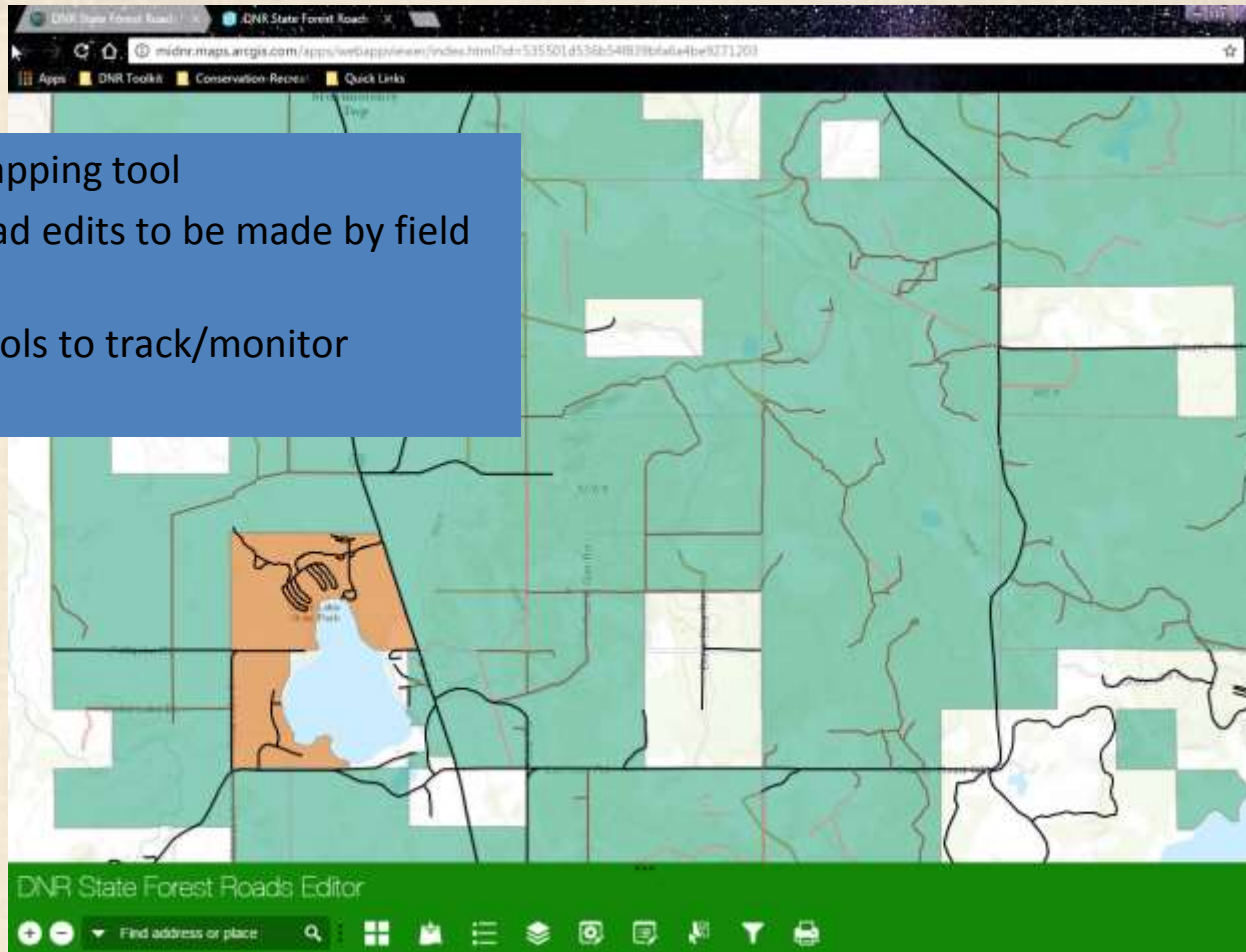


- Access for various recreational users
- Protection of sensitive/unique sites
- Conflict between users
- Safety
- Special designated areas

Web Editing Environment



- Online mapping tool
- Allows road edits to be made by field staff
- Helpful tools to track/monitor progress



Considerations



- Access for various recreational users
- Protection of sensitive/unique sites
- Conflict between users
- Safety
- Special designated areas

Forest Inventory Statistics

- DNR field staff have mapped over 7,600 miles
- Initially proposed about 87% of forest roads be opened to ORVs, 13% remain closed
- 3 public meetings followed, online access and traditional means for providing comments



Public Input



- **Over 1,000 public comments**
- **About 50% disagreed with DNR recommendations**
- **76% opposed roads proposed to be open**
- **24% opposed roads proposed closed to ORVs**

Public Input Themes



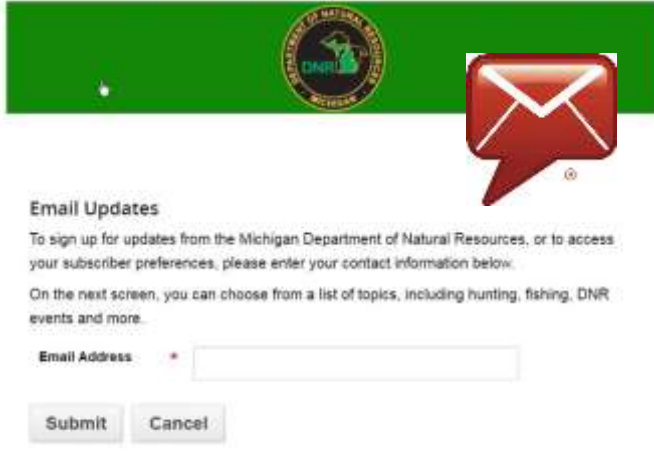
- Concerns with resource damage, user conflicts, noise
- Concerns with motorized recreational users opportunity and lack of connectivity
- Concerns about Special Management Areas
- DNR staff reviewed public comments and modified proposal



Public Engagement



- Met with recreation groups & stakeholders
- Tribal consultation
- 3 Public input meetings
- Outreach via press releases, social media
- michigan.gov/forestroads
- DNR Roads Web Map Viewer

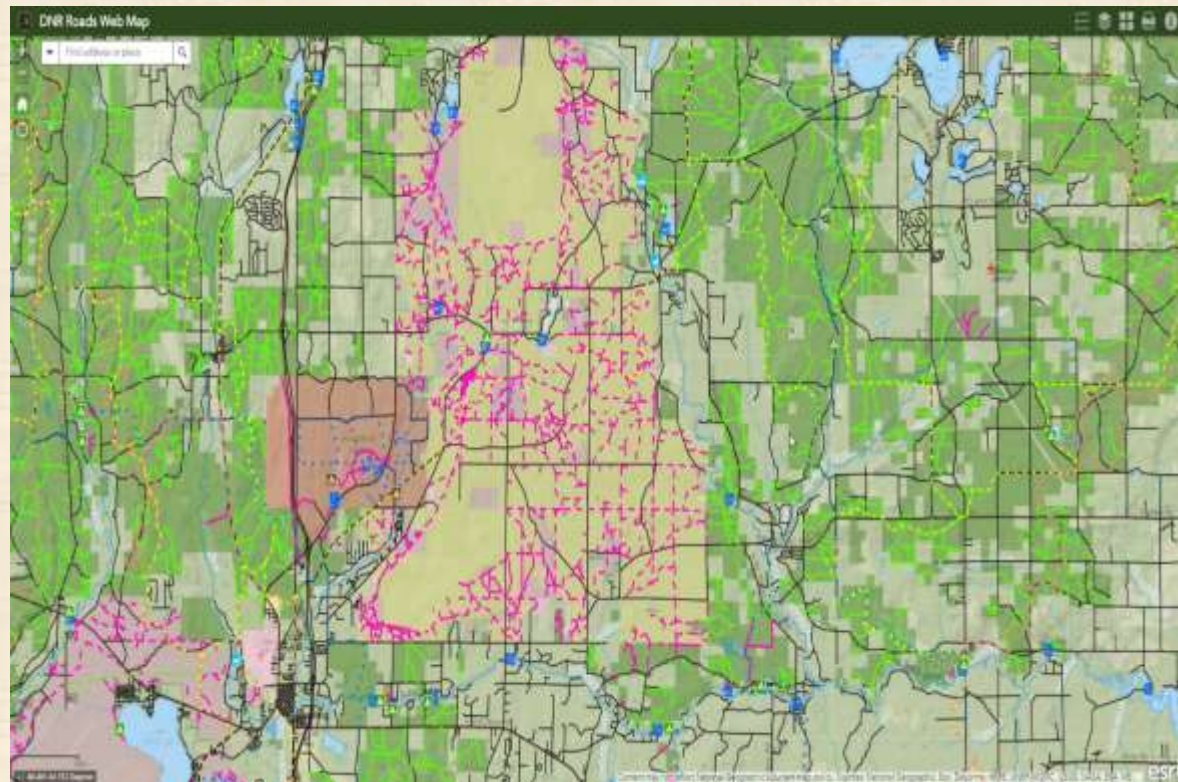


The screenshot shows a web form for signing up for email updates. At the top left is the Michigan DNR logo. To the right is a red envelope icon. The text reads: "Email Updates", "To sign up for updates from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.", and "On the next screen, you can choose from a list of topics, including hunting, fishing, DNR events and more." Below this is a text input field labeled "Email Address" with a red asterisk. At the bottom are "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons.

Next Steps



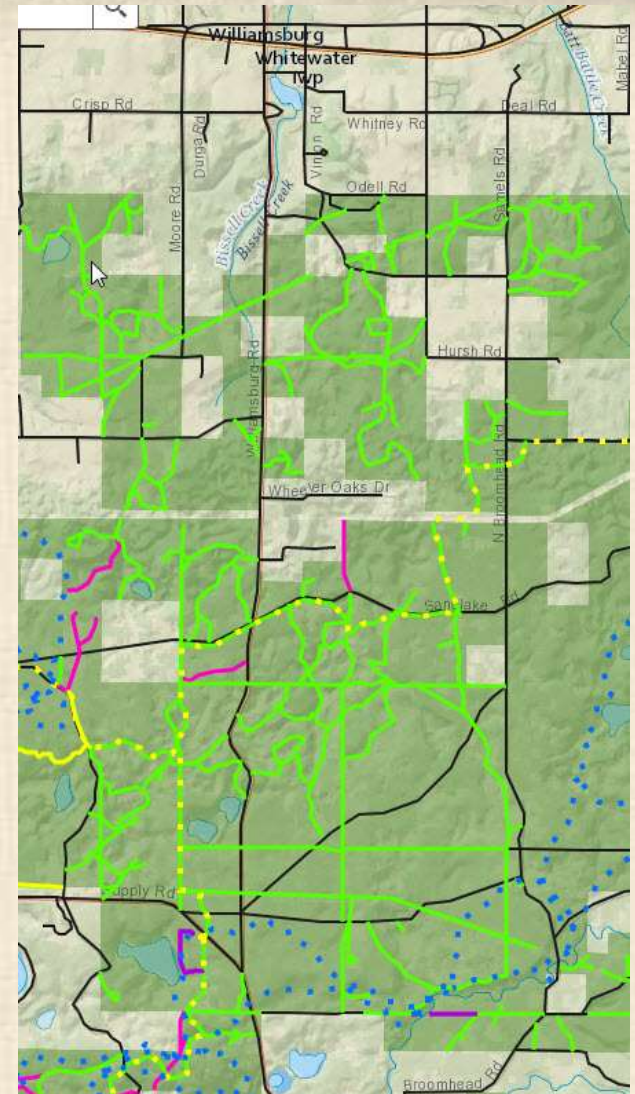
- **October NRC**
 - Information Item
- **Comment period**
- **December NRC**
 - Decision by the Director



Road Infrastructure



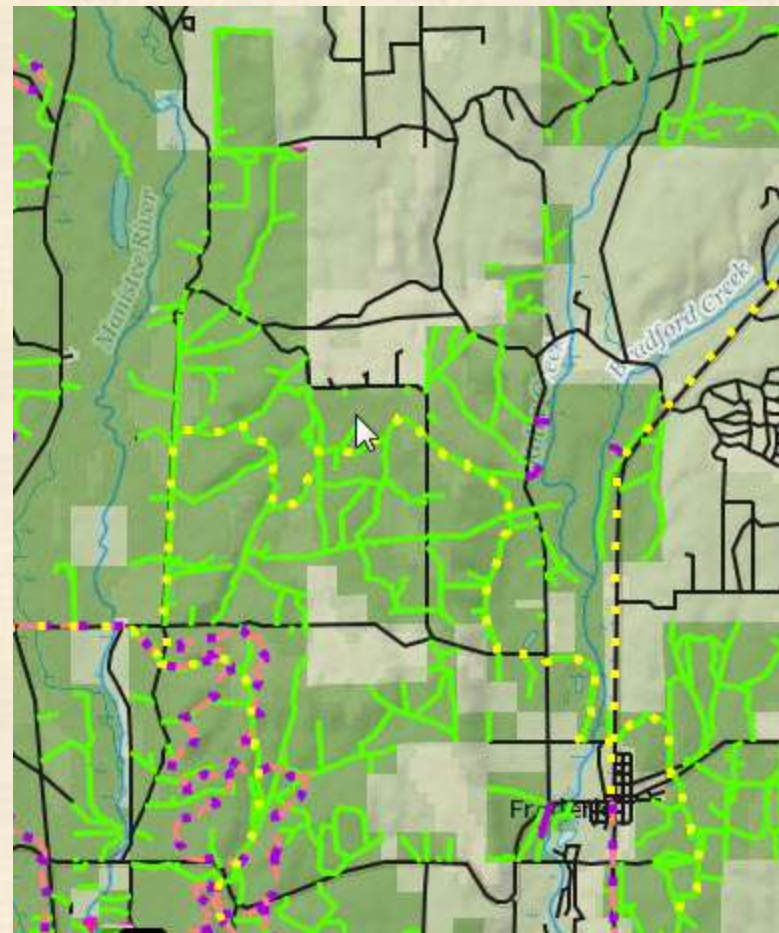
- Over 7,600 miles of forest road
- Other data needed point features
- Planning needing for maintenance, replacement schedules
- Negative affects of roads
 - sedimentation
 - fragmentation
 - user conflicts



Road Density Concerns



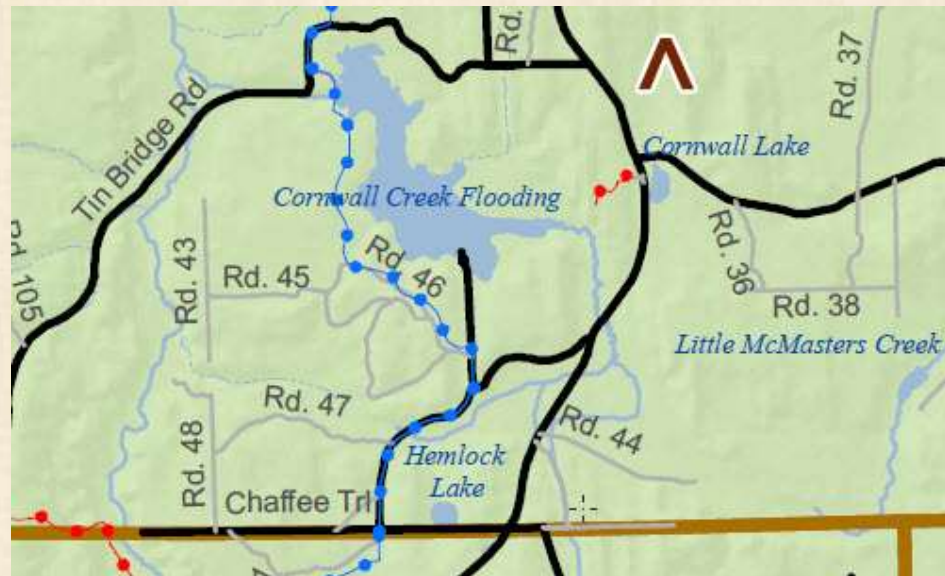
- Other roads add to density
- Road density ranges from 1-3 miles per sq. mile
- Roads user created
- Habitat concerns
- Forest production losses
- Sedimentation issues
- Forest fragmentation



More analysis needed



- Proper road planning important
- Lower overall road mileage and density can still provide access for public and management
- Use temporary access points for management
- Still 88% of forest within ½ mile of road for access



Questions?

