Forest Roads Inventory Update

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NRC 01/09/2025

Public Act 288

- Signed by Gov. Snyder in 2016

- Requires determination of motorized and non-motorized use restrictions

- Requires DNR to post maps and mileage open to motorized use each year

- Requires an inventory of forest roads by region, including:
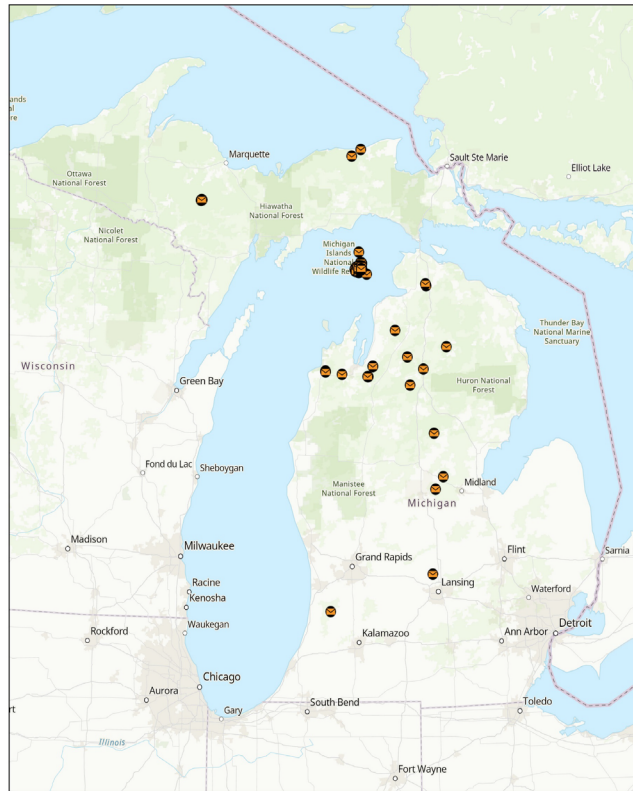 - Location
  - Condition
  - Development Level

Inventories Completed

- Dec. 14, 2017: LUOD designated roads open to ORVs in the NLP

- Dec. 13, 2018: LUOD identified UP and SLP roads open to ORVs

- Maps are fine-tuned each year

- Roads may be opened or closed to ORVs or other vehicles

Process for Change

- Status changes can be initiated by public comment, Department staff, stakeholders, tribal governments or local units of government

- Multi-disciplinary DNR team reviews and recommends changes

- 30-day public review each year before proposed changes are made

- DNR received 60 comments from Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024; 24 comments were received during the Nov. 1-Dec. 1, 2024, public review phase

2024 Proposals

- Remove 69.0 miles of road segments from state forest maps for conventional & ORV use

- Delete 21.2 miles of roads due to data cleanup of non-existing or duplicate roads

- Add 15.3 miles of roads to maps that were not previously included in the inventory; 11.7 miles will be open to ORV use, 3.6 miles closed to ORV use.
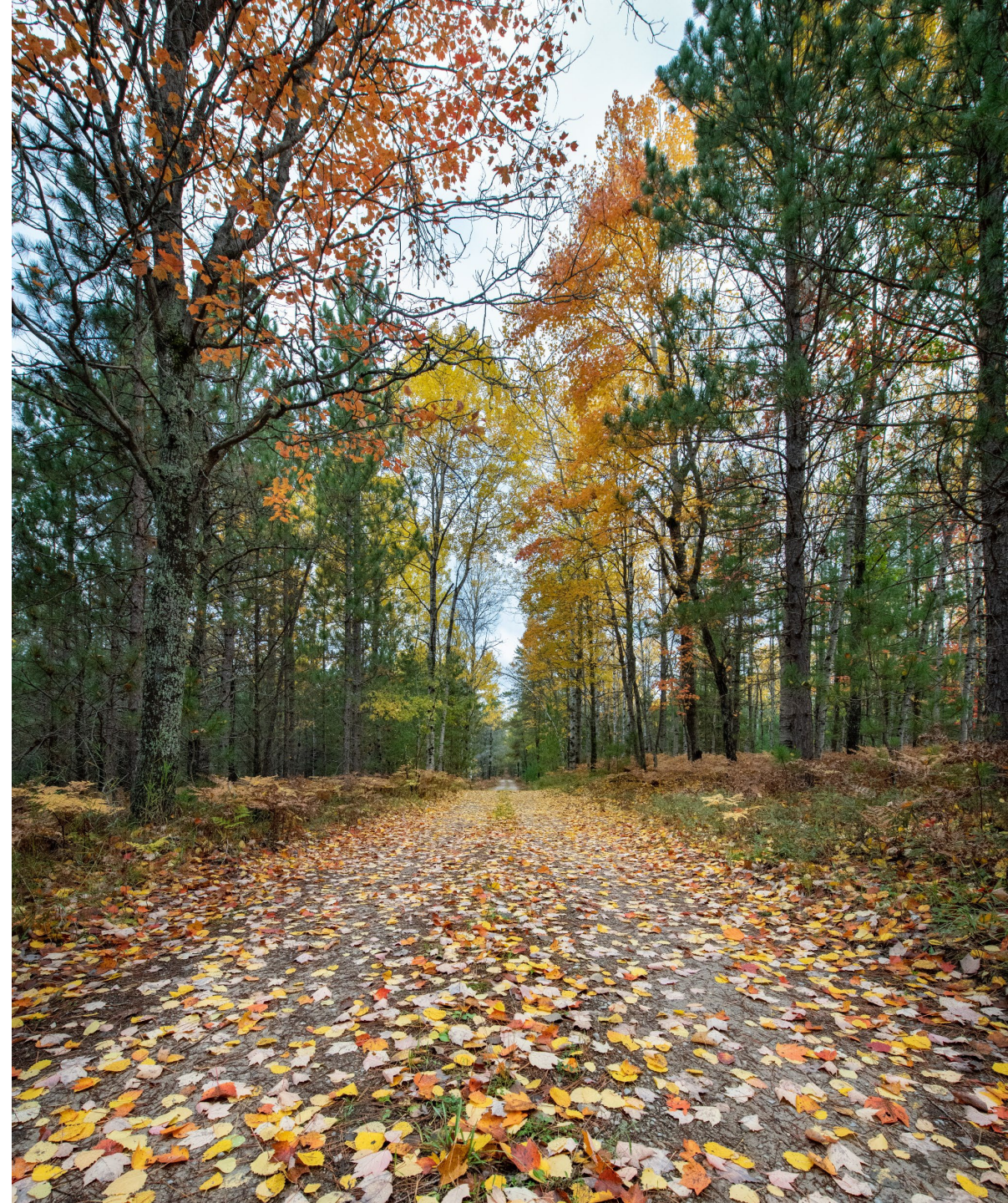
Miles of Road by Region

- Upper Peninsula: 5,706.4 miles open to ORV use out of 5,800.6 total miles

- Northern Lower Peninsula: 6,094.9 miles open to ORV use out of 7,286.7 total miles

- Southern Lower Peninsula: 9.1 miles open to ORV use out of 359.1 total miles

What's Next?

- Director's action in February

- Maps reflecting approved changes will be published online by April 1, 2025

- Signs will be posted on state-managed forest roads closed to ORV use, including seasonal closures

Questions?