



JULIAN VAIL, LLC NEWS & NOTES

MAY 16, 2008

HOW DO I CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATUARL RESOURCES?

Department of Natural Resources
www.michigan.gov/dnr

Natural Resources Commission
www.michigan.gov/nrc

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

www.michigan.gov/dnr
Click on the "grants" link under
the "inside DNR" section.

For more information on
the Pigeon River Country
Management Concept, visit
www.michigan.gov/dnr. Click
on the "Forests, Land & Water"
link, then on the "Pigeon River
Country" link.

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

House

Judiciary

May 21, 2008

9:00 a.m.

521 House Office Building

Chair: Rep. Paul Condino

Senate

Appropriations: Agriculture

May 21, 2008

12:00 p.m.

Rooms 402 & 403, Capitol Bldg.

Chair: Sen. Cameron Brown

**For a complete list of
committee meetings visit www.legislature.mi.gov.*

WEEKEND EVENTS

May 17-18

East Lansing Arts Festival

MSU Spring Arts and Crafts Show

Visit www.mfea.org for more
festivals and events!

2008 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- May 20 1:30 p.m.
- May 21 1:30 p.m.
- May 22 12:00 p.m.

SENATE

- May 20 10:00 a.m.
- May 21 10:00 a.m.
- May 22 10:00 a.m.

NO MORE HORSE RIDING OFF PIGEON RIVER TRAILS

On May 8, Department of Natural Resources Director Rebecca Humphries signed a land use order that restricted horse riding and camping in the 118,000 acre park that is home to the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi.

For the last 20 years Mr. Dick Kleinhardt has hauled his horses to Pigeon River to ride with his children and grandchildren, who joined him and about 50 other citizens at a Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources Committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss the restrictions.

"I think, frankly, it is discrimination," he told the committee. "Of the 12 legislative offices I spoke to about a week ago, only two of them had heard of the Pigeon River legislation," he said.

Department of Natural Resources Legislative Liaison Dan Eichinger stated the DNR was looking to create a balance because the unregulated off-trail riding is having an impact on the wildlife and the Pigeon River.

There is still 280 miles of trail available for horseback riders in the Pigeon River area, according to the DNR. But those 280 miles are limited to part of the Shore-to-Shore Riding-Hiking Trail, county roads, open forest roads and open service trails. Riders had previously been advised not to travel outside of those roads and trails but no formal restrictions had been in place until they took effect on May 9. Much of the now-available trails are on roads with motor vehicle traffic.

Rep. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) asked Mr. Eichinger why the DNR had decided to hire a conservation officer after the regulation was in place. "This is about horse riding going off the trail, yet you didn't hire a CO to deal with it (before), yet now you're hiring a CO after the riders can't go off the trails," asked Mr. Casperson.

Mr. Eichinger admitted the DNR had done a poor job on enforcing trail-riding rules, but said that enforcement had to happen along with regulation.

"We may very well have another committee meeting on this," said Committee Chairman Joel Sheltrown, D-West Branch. "I'd like some time to sort through this."

RENEWABLE FUELS COMMISSION TACKLES FOOD VS. FUEL DEBATE

The Renewable Fuels Commission (RFC) recently discussed factors and identified challenges impacting the current food versus fuel debate as it outlined Michigan's plan for the development of sustainable fuel sources.

The RFC outlined issues related to the expansion of biobased fuels such as the need to take stock of Michigan's supply and production chains to determine the long-term sustainability of those fuels. At the forefront of the sustainable fuel discussion is the impact that biofuels may be having on the rising cost of food in the United States.

The RFC heard a presentation by Dr. Chris Peterson, director of the Michigan State University Product Center, discussing impacts on food prices. Ethanol production is only one of many contributing factors to higher food prices. Other factors include, but aren't limited to, skyrocketing fuel costs (especially since food has to travel further to get onto store shelves), increased food demand due to population and income growth, worldwide weather conditions, and dwindling carryover stock of agricultural commodities.

Two key factors impacting food costs are the growing middle class in China and India, who are able to afford more protein in their diets, including more meat and milk which is adds to the demand for feed; and the declining value of the U.S. dollar. The fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar create a two-fold issue: it creates a larger worldwide demand for U.S. exports while simultaneously making food and fuel imports more expensive. The U.S. now spends \$1.4 billion a day on imported oil.

"As a leader in the development of renewable fuels, Michigan is dedicated to creating a long-term roadmap for growing this industry," said Koivisto. "Additionally, taking a measured approach is critical to helping biofuels live up to their reputation to expand the state's agri-business sector, break our reliance on foreign oil, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions."

For more information, visit the Renewable Fuels Commission Web site at www.michigan.gov/rfc.

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