

## TRAIL CLOSURE

### Philosophy:

Trails on state lands periodically may be damaged, become vulnerable to adverse impacts, provide incompatible public access to ecologically sensitive areas, or pose threats to the safety of trail users. Timber management activities may also have temporary impacts on the use of trails. Under such conditions, the state must close trails or sections of trails to protect users and/or resources, and to rectify the problems if possible.

### Policy:

Recreation trails on state lands may be closed whenever there is a risk of damage to the trail or associated resources, or risk to the user. Closure may be of varying duration, up to and including permanent, depending on circumstances.

### Procedure for Implementation:

Decisions to close and reopen recreation trails shall be made by the Forestry District Manager or Parks Regional Manager, depending on jurisdiction, with prior notification to the Lands Administrator. If a trail is to be closed permanently, the District and/or Regional Manager shall consult with the Lands Administrator, who shall coordinate a response with the Commissioner and Division Directors.

Appeals on closure or reopening shall be to the Lands Administrator, who shall coordinate a response with the Commissioner and Division Directors.

Requests for closure or reopening may be made by trail organizations, and actual closure or reopening may be effected by trail organizations with written permission of the District or Regional Manager.

Public notice of actions will be to the related local and state trails organizations and by news release to the appropriate media.

Closed trails shall be posted with appropriate signing.

*Conrad M. Motyka, Commissioner*

Effective Date of First Revision: October 7, 1994

Original Effective Date: May 15, 1991.