

Members of the Great Lakes and Environment Committee and the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee

My name is Robert Hoffmeyer. I am a resident of Clarkston and am a member of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks. On this committee, I represent the interests of Michigan field trialers and dog clubs throughout the state.

Dog trial clubs

There are over 30 field trial clubs in Michigan.

In 2008 these clubs held 127 events on the 6 trial grounds which are all located in state parks, state forests, or state recreation areas in Michigan.

The 127 events were held over 262 days during which 5,500 handlers ran 6,900 dogs, using 2,100 horses with over 2,800 people in the galleries.

Volunteers

At these field trial grounds there are numerous volunteer groups that work with the DNR to not only aid in the control and removal of invasive shrubs and plants, but to improve the habitat for rare and endangered species. These stewards also collect and plant seeds from native plants and grasses.

Gladwin Over 500 volunteer hours have been dedicated to upgrade their grounds.

Ionia Over 390 volunteer hours have been dedicated to maintain and clear their grounds.

Highland The 15 clubs using Highland have volunteered over 720 hours working hand in hand with the Stewardship Unit and MCCC Stewardship Crews to protect our natural resources and restore the grounds to a high quality oak barren ecosystem, large open prairie grass areas with scattered oak trees. The Highland Field Trial Clubs, over the past 12 years, have volunteered 3,000 hours and donated over \$90,000 to help the State Park Stewardship Unit in the restoration of these grounds.

There are no collection booths at any of our trial grounds, and the "recreation passport" will greatly reduce the need for workers to travel through the state park parking lots checking for MVP's. This will enable the DNR staff members to direct their efforts to more efficiently serve the visitors.

I feel that the bills before your committees will provide a stable long term source of funding that is much needed to help preserve the great natural resources that attract visitors to our State, and its many parks and recreation areas.

Benefits as I see them:

- One of the best values in the state. Eliminates the MVP and the BAS for residents, and allows unlimited access to state parks, state forest campgrounds, boating access sites, trails and pathways.
- Provides long term stable funding for operations and infrastructure.
- Saves valuable "cashier" hours, which will allow personnel to attend to more of the park's needs.
- Very equitable way for our citizens to help preserve Michigan's natural resources for future generations.
- Financially aids the state forests, pathways, and local parks as well.
- Residents may opt out of paying the "recreation passport" fee if they are not going to use the state parks, state forests, or pathways.
- Will help preserve state historical structures.
- Will help reduce the lines at park entrances.
- These restricted funds can only be used for their dedicated purpose.

Robert W. Hoffmeyer
9810 Trotter Lane
Clarkston, MI 48348
(248) 625-6886