

Proposed Resolution #E

Submitted by: Mark Hergenreder, Chelsea Rod and Gun Club
MUCC region: 8
Proposed: March 13, 2021 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: Encourage MI DNR to further engage opportunities of collaboration within the Michigan Trail Systems by utilizing citizen science data collection for natural resources management

1 **WHEREAS**, Citizen Science, as it is called, typically involves data collection by members of the public
2 who pass their information along to researchers trying to answer real-world questions. Volunteer
3 monitoring has contributed for many years to diverse fields ranging from astronomy to medicine and
4 computer science to natural resource management; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, Participation in Citizen Science while using the Michigan Trails system can contribute to
6 Wildlife Connectivity among its varied outdoors users; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, Singletracks ranks Michigan as one of the most bike-friendly states in the nation with
8 thousands of miles of family-friendly trails; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, Michigan has nearly 4,000 miles of hiking trails, 2,700 plus miles of rail trails connecting
10 communities, 3,600 plus miles of designated ORV trails, 6,000 plus miles of designated snowmobile
11 trails, 1,300 plus miles of equestrian trails, nearly 2,000 mile of biking trails and 1,000 plus miles of state
12 park trails; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, The DNR currently has a web-based platform [Eyes in the Field](#). Users of Eyes in the Field
14 includes forms for reporting observations of diseased wildlife, tagged fish, mammals such as cougars and
15 feral swine, fish such as sturgeon, birds such as wild turkeys, and reptiles and amphibians such as the
16 eastern massasauga rattlesnake; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, The Audubon Great Lakes promotes citizen collected science points of data via the [MI](#)
18 [Birds program](#). MI Birds aims to deepen Michigander’s engagement in the understanding, care, and
19 stewardship of public lands that are important for birds and local communities; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan Herp Atlas Project is used to collect observation data about Michigan's native
21 amphibians and reptiles (collectively known as herpetofauna or "herps") so we can document their
22 distribution and changes in their populations statewide; and,

23 **WHEREAS**, Public participation in environmental projects has been described as a global phenomenon;
24 and,

25 **WHEREAS**, An improved web-based system that collects citizen driven data points can assist in the
26 planning and implementation of mitigation strategies to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions; and,

27 **WHEREAS**, An app could be used to constantly collect information and to find community
28 recommended points of interest and points of public safety including wildlife, trail hazards, stranger
29 danger, invasive species, points of interest and would be utilized more frequently and offer a better
30 experience for users to engage; NOW,

31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs encourages the
32 Michigan DNR to further establish an opportunity for detailed data points to be registered quickly and
33 shared easily with users utilizing a community driven application.