

Proposed Resolution #9
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Rob Miller
MUCC region: 5
Proposed: March 12, 2022 Conservation Policy Board meeting
Title: State Land Access Closures

1. **WHEREAS:** Public access to state lands is being lost and has been lost due to closure of trails/ roads that
2. previously provided access to these lands; and,
3. **WHEREAS:** Many of these trail/road closures result from private landowners acquiring ownership of both
4. sides of an existing trail/road that leads to state property and gating these roads/trails off; and,
5. **WHEREAS:** This allows a private landowner to gain ownership of a trail/road that leads to many acres of
6. state land and greatly reduces and/or eliminates accessibility to that public property by the general
7. public; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** This abuse can offer a great opportunity to a private landowner to own a little piece of
9. property but gain control over many acres of land through limitation of access by the public; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** The purpose of this resolution is to address loss of public access to established roads/trails
11. that have historically allowed public access. This is not intended to include privately built trails or
12. driveways that are intended to be used solely for private land access; NOW,
13. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Club) work with the DNR
14. (Department Natural Resources) and Michigan Legislature to not allow the blockage of a trail or road system that
15. accesses state property by a private landowner claiming ownership to such trail or road; and,
16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That MUCC work with the DNR to create a system that does not allow the
17. sale of state lands that have an existing trail or road necessary for access to other public state properties without
18. maintaining a right of way to all associated state, public property associated with said trail/road. This right of way
19. will need to maintain or improve the level of access available prior to the sale to private property.