



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Allegan County Road Commission has applied for a public road easement from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on land in the Allegan State Game Area. The purpose of the easement is to allow private landowners free and unfettered access from Allegan Dam Road to the right-of-way of the old 120th Avenue and on to their privately-owned land immediately north of the Game Area. The easement would grant legal access via an existing two-track road. The proposed easement will formalize an undocumented drive, which crosses a portion of Allegan State Game Area northwest of Allegan, MI. The approximately 66 x 66-foot easement is in Valley Township in Allegan County and crosses the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter in Section 15 of T02N, R14W.

The easement is on land which was acquired with federal Dingell-Johnson (DJ) Sport Fish Restoration Act funds. Because the public land was purchased with DJ funds, additional project planning, tracking and reporting requirements are needed. DJ funds are generated from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, a portion of the gasoline fuel tax attributed to small engines and motorboats, and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure boats. DJ funds are allocated to the states based on the number of paid fishing license holders and the square miles in each state, including both inland and coastal waters. Since its implementation in 1950, DJ funds have provided more than \$300 million to Michigan for sport fish restoration and management, public access for recreational boating, and aquatic education.

The DNR offers the opportunity for public comment on the public road easement described above. Written or verbal comments should be directed to Maria Albright, Acting Wildlife Biologist, Allegan State Game Area Field Office, 4590 118th Ave., Allegan, MI, 49010, (or by email albrightm@michigan.gov or phone 269-673-2430). The public comment period shall be open through October 4, 2017.