



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

March 8, 2012

Pigeon River Country Equestrian Groups

SUBJECT: Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground
Elk Hill Equestrian Trail Camp State Forest Campground (Group)

The Pigeon River Country Management Unit Staff have made some changes in the camping experience in the Pigeon River Country State Forest for equine users and with this letter; we are updating you on our progress and the changes that you will see this year.

First of all, we are in the process of re-designing the Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground and are hoping to start with renovations in mid-October 2012. The renovation will include 5 additional sites and reconfigured camping sites.

In addition to this, the Department has opened 3 off-site equestrian camping locations. These locations are Witness Tree (by Road 81), Oxbow Creek (off Black River Road), and Duby Lake (by Road 11). These locations are open for camping and allow for up to 12 people on each location, with up to 4 camping units per location with the use of a camp registration card.

Director Stokes has committed to putting Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground on the Centralized Reservation System (CRS), which will allow campers to reserve sites online or from a toll free phone number. Staff at Pigeon River Country have worked closely with the Parks Division and have established an online reservation system for this campground. There will be 5 sites that you can reserve online and there will be 5 sites that will remain first come-first serve. The 5 reservation sites do not guarantee which site you will be reserving, only that you will be guaranteed a site to camp. The camping fee for this campground has been reduced from \$20.00 per night to \$17.00 per night to be consistent with the Parks and Recreation Division's camping fees for equestrian use.

We have also put the Elk Hill Equestrian Trail Camp State Forest Campground (Group Camp) into the CRS for making reservations by phone. An Event Permit will no longer be required, which will eliminate the \$50.00 fee. Instead, you will be contacting the Pigeon River Field Office on Thursdays to make your reservation. You will be charged an \$8.00 reservation fee for each reservation you make.

When you call the Pigeon River Field Office on Thursdays for your reservation, you will need to have the following accurate information available:

- the dates you would like to reserve;
- the number of people in your group;
- the number of camping units;
- a valid credit card to make payment up front for your reservation, including the reservation fee

Pigeon River Equestrian Groups
March 8, 2012
Elk Hill State Forest Campgrounds

Obviously, the need for accuracy with your group's numbers this year is of great importance. In previous years, the number of campers and camping units were not always carefully monitored, causing some issues with the campground being too crowded. With the use of the CRS, there will be an established process for refunds and cancellations, and a process for reconciling camping fees depending on the group's actual number of participants.

In 2012, our plan is to license the group campground for 50 sites in order to maintain the same level of use that we have always had. This limits the campground to the following criteria:

- Individual group size of at least 5 persons;
- No more than 100 persons in campground at one time;
- No more than 50 camping units in campground at one time ;

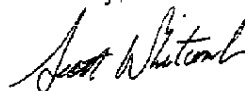
Because of the limits of our license we will be closely tracking these numbers as reservations are made, therefore accuracy is important.

You must call the Pigeon River Field Office starting March 22, 2012, to reserve your camping events at the Elk Hill Equestrian Trail State Forest Campground (Group) at 989-983-4101. Please call on Thursdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to make your reservations. Reservations will be made on a **first call-first choice** basis starting on **March 22**.

Any calls previously made to the Pigeon River Field Office for this upcoming camping season requesting reservations at Elk Hill Equestrian Trail State Forest Campground (Group) **have not been confirmed as reserved due to this new system the Department is using to make reservations for this campground.**

If you are interested in reserving sites at the Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground, please go to <http://www.midnrreservations.com/> or you may call **#800-447-2757**. Please be aware that all reservations, reservation fees and camping fees are due at the time of making your reservation.

Sincerely,



Scott Whitcomb, Unit Manager
Pigeon River Country Management Unit
Forest Resources Division
989-983-4101