

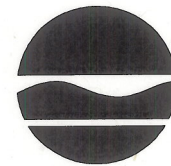
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests – 5th Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4250

Phone: (518) 402-9405 • Fax: (518) 402-9028

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

SEP 08 2011

Dear Town Supervisor:

This is to inform you the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has determined to close all trails on DEC-managed property until further notice in Ulster and Greene counties. We make this decision in the interest of public safety and in light of the fact that many trails continue to be impassable or inaccessible. All DEC campgrounds in the Catskills will remain closed until further notice.

Unsafe conditions remain in much of the backcountry of the Catskills due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and heavy rains which continue to cause flooding, bridge wash outs, trail wash outs, downed trees and other debris. In addition, many local roads are closed or only single lane traffic. As a result, we have received local requests to close trail heads in these impacted areas in an attempt to keep the roads open for local residents and emergency vehicles.

The Department will be issuing a press release and adding information to our website to inform the public of this closure. However, a close working partnership between local and state governments during this emergency is crucial. In an attempt to make this process more efficient, and in appreciation of our local partnerships, DEC is offering both Town and County officials the ability to close necessary trail heads in Ulster and Green counties “on the ground” if you so choose. We ask those officials to please coordinate any such efforts (such as signs/taping) with the appropriate regional DEC personnel identified below:

For Greene County trail information and coordination, you may contact any of the following individuals:

- Regional Forester Bill Schongar, 518-357-2155; email: weschong@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Forest Ranger Captain Pat Kilpeck, 518-357-2161; email: pkkilpec@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Regional Natural Resource Supervisor Pete Innes, 518-357-2160; email: pcinnes@gw.dec.state.ny.us

For Ulster County trail information, you may contact any of the following individuals:

- Regional Forester Jeff Wiegert, 845-256-3084; email: jawieger@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Forest Ranger Lieutenant Stephen Scherry, 845-256-3833; email: smscherr@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Regional Natural Resource Supervisor Bill Rudge, 845-256-3092; email: wprudge@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Please note at this time the phones at DEC's New Paltz regional office are still out (due to the storm). Bill Rudge can be reached via cell phone at 914-475-6566.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR
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Thank you for your cooperation during this emergency response period. Please feel free to contact me at 518-402-9405 if you have any questions or concerns involving this matter.

You can also check DEC's website for the most up-to-date trail closure information:
www.dec.ny.gov/public/76659.html

Sincerely,



Robert K. Davies, Director
Division of Lands and Forests