

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Parks and Trails

### Directive

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#### **Subject**

D-002 Accommodating Non-Motorized Through Travelers at State Parks, State Recreation Areas and Forest Recreation Areas with Designated Camping Areas.

#### **Action**

This directive provides temporary guidance to unit managers on how to accommodate non-motorized through travelers (i.e. bicycle, canoe/kayak, and hike) in units with campgrounds when all designated campsites are occupied.

#### **Guidance**

Division of Parks and Trails welcomes and promotes persons traveling through an area via non-motorized methods (i.e. bicycling, canoe/kayak, and hiking) and recognizes that such travelers are susceptible to conditions that impact travel time and making it difficult to schedule daily stopping locations. As a result, making reservations in advance for camp spots at specific locations may not be possible. It is the division's intent to encourage non-motorized travel and accommodate these travelers.

Existing division policy (P-011 Camping) grants unit managers the authority to allow emergency overnight camping, for one night, in excess of the normal camping capacity of the unit. Unit managers should utilize this authority to accommodate non-motorized travelers. In this instance, emergency overnight camping accommodation is defined as a situation in which non-motorized travelers may arrive (planned or unplanned) where personal exhaustion, injury, or equipment breakdown prevent further travel or when alternate accommodations cannot be readily obtained.

In the event that non-motorized through travelers arrive without a reservation and all designated campsites are full:

1. Unit managers have the authority and are encouraged to allow emergency overnight camping, for one night, in excess of the normal camping capacity of the unit and to determine the appropriate emergency camping location within the unit.
2. A camping fee should be charged based on current fee structures for that unit or an amount determined by unit manager based on amenities available or unique site situation.
3. Emergency camping locations under these circumstances may not provide standard campsite amenities such as picnic tables or fire rings. Access to water and restrooms will be identified or provided, but may not be in an ideal location for overnight campers.

**Duration**

The directive is effective from the date of signature and expires with the approval of an updated P-011 Camping that includes this direction.

**Authorization**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pnp6ff', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Deputy Director  
Division of Parks and Trails

*April 27, 2017*

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Date