

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to closing trails at the Taconic-Hereford MUA in DEC Region 3.

I am a local trail user and I visit Region 3 lands and forests throughout the year. These trails are very popular with many user groups including runners, hikers, cyclists, equestrians, snowshoers, skiers, and snowmobilers. Furthermore, these trails are on the DEC's own website and have been for at least a decade.

Users have been enjoying these trails for over 15 years. Why close them now? COVID showed we should be increasing trail access not decreasing it. Huge increases in park and trail use statewide during the pandemic led to trail over-use issues and crowding.

If these trails are closed, it will lead to overcrowding and over-use on the remaining trails, increased erosion, and increased maintenance. If anything, trails should be added at this and other Multiple Use Areas to accommodate the increase in outdoor recreation demand we've seen in recent years and we expect to see in the future.

Sincerely,

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Name

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Signature

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Town of Residence

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Phone

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Email