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## *Update on Houghton/Hancock and the Keweenaw Trail Damage*

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According to John Pepin, DNR Communications Specialist, at this time, about the middle of October, we are still having some very rainy weather, which has not helped the situation whatsoever. ““The rains that have fallen over the past several days have not helped recovery efforts in Houghton County. We are continuing our work to protect human safety by stabilizing areas where storm waters washed out trails during the initial summer storms – places where additional problems could arise if these washouts are not addressed. We understand the impact trails and tourism have on Houghton County, and we are working to reopen these trails as soon as possible. However, our No. 1 priority in this endeavor is public safety.”

Along with the DNR, there are many other people and groups working to help get the trails back and functioning. One of those people is Matt Downey, who owns and operates Keweenaw Snow Expeditions. We really were hit hard here with the Father's Day Flood of 2018. Many of our important trails will not be open this year because of the damage. Many of my friends, neighbors, and business owners will have a rough winter ahead trying to survive without income from the snowmobile tourism.

A fund raiser is planned for Saturday January 26, 2019. We will meet at Wildlife Refuge Cabins in South Range, MI at 9a.m. Parking will be across the street from Wildlife Cabins at MDOT Park and Ride. We will have backcountry Guided Tours provided by Keweenaw Snow Expeditions (limited spots available) and Guided Groom Trail Rides (limited spots available). Then, that night, we will meet up at South Range VFW from 6pm-midnight for Raffles, Auctions, Social time, live music.”

More information:

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For more information, be sure to check out the DNR's website and look for Trail Closures and Updates.