Crews Continue To Cleanup Storm Damage at Sleeping Bear Dunes DH Day Campground

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More than a week has passed since a powerful storm created havoc throughout Northern Michigan. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is just one of the many areas spending countless hours trying to clean-up the mess left behind. The park has had to close some areas because of all the damage and downed trees. The Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, the Dune Climb and Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail have since reopened. On Wednesday crews are still working to open DH Day Campground, the Heritage Trail that runs through the campground and the Alligator Trail.

Damaged picnic tables and camp sites is what DH Day Campground looked right after last week's storm. Ten days later crews have made tremendous progress.

SEEDS Youth Conservation Corps has been working to clean up the campground all this week.

"We've been leaving Traverse City about 7:30 and coming out here to spend the day working hard, getting sweaty and getting dirty," said Nate Shivlie, crew leader.

Their duties include repairing fire rings and replacing wood that outlines the campsites.

"We're happy to be out here. It's the type of work that gives our youth an opportunity to not only feel like they're involved with the help out efforts, but they are also gaining skills in the process," said Shivlie.

Deputy Superintendent, Tom Ulrich says it's been a lot of work to get the park up and running again.

"We'll definitely lose that revenue and of course we incurred costs in the cleanup," said Ulrich. "We had to divert to all hands on deck effort. We really had to divert people from their normal duties in order to make the place safe and reopen it."

Ulrich says they are estimating clean up to cost them tens of thousands of dollars.

"We worked a lot of overtime to get the park open and safe for visitors. We're hoping we will be able to receive some funds from our regional office and contingency moneys, but right now we are paying that out of our own revenues," said Ulrich.

The park is hoping to get the DH Day Campground open by this weekend.

On Friday Leelanau County Board of Commissioners will vote on whether to ask Governor Snyder to declare a state of emergency for the county.