

September 28, 2006

Senator Roger M. Breske, Chair  
Wisconsin Legislative Council Special Committee  
State Trails Policy  
8800 Hwy 29  
Eland, WI 54427

**Re: All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Intensive Use Area**

Dear Senator Breske:

The Superior Lobe Chapter of the *Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation* is composed primarily of members residing in Barron and Washburn Counties. We are following with great interest the discussion concerning creation of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) "intensive use area" where motorized recreation enthusiasts can enjoy their activity without interfering with those wishing to enjoy the silent sports or nature's solitude.

It is our conviction that any public funding for an expenditure to promote four-wheeler facilities, should also include funding to pay for portions of the *Ice Age State Scenic Trail* that have been taken over by ATVS at the expense Ice Age Trail users.

The Superior Lobe Chapter maintains a route of *Ice Age Trail* 48-miles in length in Rusk, Barron and Washburn Counties. On three occasions ATVs have been given segments of *Ice Age Trail* amounting to a combined total of approximately 5-miles. ATV users obtained trail that had been maintained by the Superior Lobe Chapter at no cost. Users of the *Ice Age Trail* have been displaced and are now required to use the shoulders of roads. One stretch of approximately 0.6 mile is along busy State Highway 48 and requires pedestrians to seek hazardous passage on the shoulder of a highway bridge.

For more than two years chapter volunteers have been working with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service and Wisconsin Department of Transportation in an attempt to obtain an alternate route on the opposite side of Highway 48. Little progress has been made. WisDOT has advised they will not be able to address the bridge problem for possibly another fifteen to twenty years.

Designation of these former stretches of *Ice Age Trail* for motorized use is subjecting the Chapter to enormous expense in order to restore the severed gaps.

Other negative consequences have impacted Chapter programs. An Inn-to-Inn hiking program promoting tourism where it was possible to travel from Birchwood to Haugen without using a motor vehicle is no longer viable. This negative impact has affected the following Ice Age Trail supporters and business participants in the Inn-to-Inn program:

The Farm B&B Birchwood  
Cobblestone B&B Birchwood  
Tagalong Golf and Resort, Birchwood  
Spring Creek B&B, Rice Lake  
The Rectory B&B, Cumberland

In 2002 the Chapter inaugurated a hiking and award program that demonstrated that a hiker could reasonably walk from Burnett/Barron County Line to County F Road at the Murphy Flowage Recreation Area. This program, which generated revenue for the Chapter, is no longer practical.

Before any additional funding is authorized for ATVs, we feel ATV funds should be allocated to pay for the trail that has been confiscated at the expense of those who wish to enjoy Wisconsin's solitude and natural wonders on the Ice Age Trail.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Dale Crisler  
Co-Coordinator Superior Lobe Chapter

Tim McRaith  
Co-coordinator Superior Lobe Chapter

*This letter was reviewed by the membership of the Superior Lobe Chapter at the regular monthly meeting, on September 11, 2006. The letter was approved by unanimous vote.*

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