

## **Special Committee on State Trails Policy –**

### **W.A.T.V.A. – A Conflict of Interests?**

It is hard to understand how a group that claims to represent the entire state's ATV riders can be so closely aligned with and actually employed by the DNR, if you will, since contracts given for the Trail Ambassador program and Safety Class instruction are so DNR related, and yet the other phase or side of this is the N.O.H.V.I.S. which sells the insurance for the very events the association sponsors. These events tend to feature challenge races and other events that bear little similarity to the family forest riding interests of the northern counties. We see very little support for trail riding and development from either the organization or from the DNR. Now there is talk of purchasing more land for intensive use parks, when an expansion of the trail systems might better serve the general ATV community, at least in the state's northern regions.

\*NOTE – Frank decided to soft pedal the part about DNR support the first day, and will cover that in November meeting. He used his handwritten notes for his presentation, but thought I would send this along to you.