

Dear Sen. Breske,

As chairman of the State Trails Committee, you will soon be receiving a request to create an ATV trail that crosses the Manitowish River and goes through enormous wetland complexes in southern Iron County. While I support ATV trails in appropriate non-sensitive areas, the placement of this trail in such an environmentally sensitive area makes no environmental as well as political sense. I say political sense because if ATV users go off trail into these wetlands, there will be a large political cost to the ATV community. All actions in this world are a balancing of risks and benefits, and the risks here far outweigh the benefits.

This trail proposal should be converted into a hiking/biking trail which would be compatible with the sensitive nature of the wetlands that will be bisected. The trail could connect to the Bearskin Trail in the NHAL, a tremendously successful venture for bikers/hikers in the summer, and snowmobilers in the winter.

Please work to ensure the highest use of our forest and wetland communities for all users.

Thank you.

John Bates  
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Mercer, WI 54547  
715-476-2828  
John Bates/Mary Burns [manitowish@centurytel.net]

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Do we really need to subsidize the waste of fossil-fuels for recreational purposes?

Do we want to use public funds to help people get fatter?

Do we want to use public funds to spread more invasive weeds and pests?

I say no to all three of these and I think you should too.

Linda Parker

Phillips, WI

[parkraus@pctcnet.net](mailto:parkraus@pctcnet.net)

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Dear Senator Breske,

I understand that there is Special Legislative State Trails Committee meeting on January 4 to discuss several draft bills on ATVs. I am very worried about the integrity of our forests if ATVs become a presence here in the Northwoods. I believe ATV users have plenty of trails elsewhere and that ATVs are incompatible with the clean air, quiet and beauty that attracts people to the Northwoods. Many surveys have found that people who come to Vilas and Oneida counties appreciate the quiet and pristine qualities of our lakes and forests. Our trails are multi-

use now; in summer they can accommodate biking, hiking, nature watching, horse back riding and many other silent activities. ATVs will render our trails single use - no one wants to be on a trail when a noisy, smelly, and rut creating ATV might come around the corner. ATVs not only drive away all other users, but they ruin the trails and do even more damage when they go off-track. Unfortunately, it is a fact that the ATVs deliberately go off our trails, so we cannot allow them in any segment, for fear that they may wander leaving destruction in their wake.

I have heard arguments that ATVs will be an economic force in our community but I disagree. ATVs will devastate our forests and destroy the appeal of our beautiful Northwoods. Imagine a family that comes up to enjoy many aspects of the Northwoods. The angler in the family may not be affected by an ATV, but the spouses and children of that angler may choose to bike or walk on our trails. If the trails are not peasant and quiet, the spouse and children will not be happy and the family will not come back - including the angler! The children will not be creating happy memories of peaceful lakeside camping. These kids will not develop the tradition of the northwoods experience and they will not bring their families back when they are grown. We are at a crossroads. If ATVs become a presence here, soon there will be only ATVs. Adding ATVs does not create a multi-use forest; forest recreation will be on a one-way path to creating a single-use forest, compatible only with logging. It may take a while before the full effects are clear, but I believe there will be a steady down slide in tourism. Please do not give ATVs any more money for trail development and please do every thing you can to keep ATVs out of the Northwoods.

Susan Knight  
1112 Timber Trail Court  
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

Susan Knight [knightse@gmail.com]

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Dear Senator Breske,

It's been brought to my attention that January four is a date for drafting legislation for more funding and more ATV trails. Instead of giving more money towards ATV trails how about more money towards fixing the mess that ATV's cause along their present trails. Everyone but a blind person can see whenever there is a ATV trail there is destruction caused to the trail that ATVs use. Why would anyone want to promote something that destroys everything that it touches is beyond what we as human beings such as I can comprehend. ATV's have a place doing yard work and work around the farm. It saves many steps and helps carry the load of work. But ATV's used as recreational pursuits only bring destruction the the environment. It also seems that once a person gets on a ATV they loose common sense it regards to staying on marked trails. They seem to wander everywhere but were they belong. I hear continually that the ATV riders say "give us a chance" "let us show you we can be responsible". I see ATV's every week heading to the North clean but heading South they are filthy with the only clean parts are inside head lamps. These vehicles are not looking for good clean fun.

They are looking for ways to splash around in mud. Have you ever noticed what happens to a mud hole after it has been ridden through several time? That's correct a little puddle becomes a gigantic hole that grows deeper each and every day. This destructiveness is not what we need in and around the North Woods.

Now if you want to pass legislation how about helping out by funding paths for hikers, rollerbladers, and bicycles. They never leave a path in shambles. This activity also leads to a healthy lifestyle that helps our

citizens be more productive citizens. Yes, ATV'ers spend more money buying their machines, fuel, but their destructiveness is also costly.

This needs to stop now. Throwing more money at ATV's does not make the rider ship more responsible. Please don't pass more legislation to help ATV'S destroy more of our parks and environment in our North Woods.

Thanks for voicing no more funding or trails for ATV's. I want North Woods to keep its beauty as it's been known for for the past and into the future.

Fred Radtke  
8265 Sunrise Lane  
St. Germain, WI 54558

715-479-6310

Fred and Carol Radtke [fradtke@verizon.net]

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Dear Senator Breske,

We write to you as non-motorized and silent sport enthusiasts in the beautiful Wisconsin north woods. Our sports leave the least impact on the land and we are fighting to preserve the remaining natural areas so all can enjoy solitude and peace without motors. As the Special Legislative State Trails Committee meets in Madison January 4th to draft bills for more ATV trail funding we want our voices heard against such spending. Let's keep Wisconsin beautiful so future generations may appreciate what we have.

Sincerely,

Margo & Bill Perkins

Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545

Margo Perkins [meperk2327@centurytel.net]

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I am a land owner and resident of Vilas County, WI. I am writing to ask you to not encourage, promote or fund any more ATV trails in our area, specifically Vilas County. Citizens of our county have voted to not allow ATV trails in our county and I am asking you to respect our decision. Majority should rule; even tho the ATV enthusiasts are loudly attracting your attention, they are the minority. Most of us want the air and landscape free of their pollution and noise and destruction.

Peace and quiet at the top of the state is what we seek. We are not alone. Many vacationers come just to escape the noise and pollution that other counties have in abundance.

There are plenty of other places for ATV riders to go. There are also plenty of studies and examples of how ATVs destroy natural landscape, even when there are trails to use. Having a trail does not mean that ATVs will stay on it. Those who don't are hard to track down and fine and then the damage is already done. Please don't let them destroy the peace and quiet and natural environment of our Vilas county.

Sincerely, Joanne Spinner, Box, 372, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

Joanne Spinner [<mailto:spinjo@hotmail.com>]

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Senator Breske,

Several years ago I was on the committee that resulted in a county wide referendum as to whether the people of Vilas County wanted ATV trails. The vote was 2 to 1 against ATV trails. The reasons have not changed since then:

Vilas has more lakes than any county in the world and depends on the lakes for recreation. ATVs will create several problems that will eventually discourage people from coming to Vilas County for their vacations.

They are noisy and produce a lot of dust along with the noise. In wet weather they cut deep ruts in the forests. They make any multi use trail unusable for anything other than ATVs. Vilas has been able to advertise itself as the quiet county. We did a survey of many resorts in the county, and very few were in favor of ATVs. We could not find one resort that mentioned ATVs in their literature.

We have a few lakes in the county that already have Eurasian milfoil in them. This will never be eliminated, only controlled at a great expense. The ATVs have a practice of going "mudding" and then running in lakes and streams to wash themselves off and thereby pose a great threat of spreading the mill foil. They also spread the Garlic mustard which is equally hard to eliminate and it will spread throughout our forests.

We in Presque Isle spent many hours last year pulling garlic mustard and then burning the roots with flame throwers. We were lucky that it was not widespread, so we hope that we have contained it. It was located along trails that people rode ATVs on coming out of the upper Peninsula, even though it was against the law to come into Vilas Cty or Presque Isle. If you want to totally destroy the tourism that currently exists in Vilas County, bring in ATVs. If on the other hand you want to preserve as much of our wilderness for future generations to enjoy, do not bring trails into our forests.

If you would like to see some of the damages and read what others have said about ATVs from coast to coast, go to the website [www.ncrs.info](http://www.ncrs.info).

Thank you for your attention, and consideration.

James Knuth  
Presque Isle

Jim Knuth [<mailto:knuth@centurytel.net>]

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Please keep in mind that the silent sports people here in the northwoods are adamant about not having more or any ATV trails in Vilas County. The snowmobile noises are bad enough but at least they are not damaging the habitat. The data and other state's experience all says that ATV riders cannot be depended upon to keep on trails and stay out of wetlands and river systems. Thank you for your consideration. Marge Hanselman

Marge and David Hanselman  
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"An action is right if it tends to preserve the integrity, the stability, and the beauty of an area, it is wrong if it does otherwise." Aldo Leopold

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Dear Senator Breske,

My wife and I are residents of Vilas County, WI. We ask that you do not encourage, promote or fund any more ATV trails in our area, specifically Vilas County. We the citizens of this county have voted to not allow ATV trails here and I am asking you to respect our decision. The majority should rule. Please keep

in mind that though the ATV enthusiasts are loudly attracting your attention, they are the minority. Most of us want the air and landscape free of their pollution and noise and destruction.

Peace and quiet at the top of the state is what we and most vacationers seek. We are not alone. Many vacationers come just to escape the noise and pollution that other counties have in abundance.

There are plenty of other places for ATV riders to go. There are also plenty of studies and examples of how ATVs destroy natural landscape, even when there are trails to use. Having a trail does not mean that ATVs will stay on it. Those who don't are hard to track down and fine and then the damage is already done. Please don't let them destroy the peace and quiet and natural environment of our Vilas county.

Sincerely,

Walt & Sandi Bates

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