

Dear Senator Breske,

On short notice, I would like to praise your committee for taking on the very challenging issue of state trails, especially the use of ATVs. When considering policy, please remember the 80% of non-motorized users of public land (Scorp Report 2005-2010). Please consider the needs of these people who use nature as a quiet place to reflect and renew their senses. The same Scorp Report showed that these people felt that a major barrier to their enjoyment of the northwoods was the increasing use of ATVs and their associated impacts.

The ATV sport comes with many unsolved problems that threaten the desire of other users to experience nature and threaten the health of the few remaining forests and lakes. The ATV itself is manufactured and promoted to increase one person's capacity for severe damage to the environment. One person's presence, even on a legal ATV trail, is amplified many times by the use of an ATV.

ATV riders presently have well over 8,000 miles of year around trails and routes (compiled county by county from current web sites), through out Wisconsin. Before more trails are constructed Wisconsin should develop a comprehensive ATV trail plan for the entire state that provides sustainable trails that minimize damage to nature and displacement of other users.

Are the present ATV trails overcrowded? No reliable, scientific traffic count exists. To make wise choices, Wisconsin needs to project future ATV traffic levels and additional trail requests.

Also needed is a designated fund to repair illegal damage to the Ice Age Trail, and other private and public property. Enforcement and damage control will continue to be ineffective until the registration numbers on each ATV are displayed so they can be easily read. As long as an individual rider can not be identified, no-one is held responsible for the damage.

The **World Wildlife Fund's 2006 Living Planet Report** states that humans are consuming our planets resources 25% faster than the earth can renew them. At this rate we will need two planets worth of resources by the mid-21st century. Therefore it is now imperative that policy makers, like your Trails Committee, choose to sustain our remaining natural resources and support forms of recreation that are less damaging to the environment than ATVs.

Sincerely,
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