

We oppose an ATV/OHV trail system in Vilas County because it threatens the reason people choose to live, work and play here: the natural beauty of our lakes, streams and wild areas. Our areas of concern are:

Ecological impact: Noise, air and water pollution, loss of wildlife habitat and spread of exotic species could severely damage our fragile wetland areas, thereby harming our lakes and streams.

Economic impact: ATVs are incompatible with non-motorized uses (hiking, biking, wildlife viewing). ATVs will drive away the non-motorized users who contribute more to the economy due to the high numbers of participants.

Law Enforcement and Safety: Adding additional law enforcement officers and liability from injuries could pose a substantial cost to taxpayers. How can the county sheriff enforce the laws on littering, speed, alcohol abuse and trespass? We don't need the death and destruction that will accompany these trails.

Property Rights: Landowners in ATV states and counties are bearing the burden of enforcing laws when ATVs trespass. Who will compensate landowners for damage?

There is not enough money in any fund to pay for the potential damage to our resources, threats to tourism and private property and cost of enforcement to monitor ATVs, which can, and do, go anywhere. We are at the brink of turning yet another invasive species loose in Vilas County. But we have a choice: keep and attract more people who want to recreate in our beautiful natural oasis or become just another lunar landscape, catering to those who wreckreate.

Sincerely,

Fred & Sally Lippert
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