

COUNCILS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO TRAILS

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently advised by two statutory councils related to trails, the State Trails Council and the Snowmobile Recreational Council. The DNR is also advised by the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council, the statutory existence of which was repealed in 1999 but which was continued by the DNR.

In the statutory structure of the executive branch of state government in Wisconsin (ch. 15 of the statutes), a “council” is a “part-time body appointed to function on a continuing basis for the study, and recommendations of solutions and policy alternatives, of the problems arising in a specified functional area of state government.”

This enclosure is intended to assist the committee in its evaluation of the proposal for a new statutory council to advise the DNR on matters related to trails that are intended for nonmotorized use and uses of trails by nonmotorized users.

GOVERNOR’S WISCONSIN STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Website of the State Trails Council

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/council/index.html>

Members of the State Trails Council:

- [David W. Phillips](#), Madison, (hiking/walking), chair
- [Randy Harden](#), Sheboygan, (off-road vehicles), vice-chair
- [Ken Carpenter](#), Fort Atkinson, (equestrian), secretary
- [Tom Huber](#), Madison, (Department of Transportation)
- [Jim Joque](#), Mosinee, (representing users with disabilities)
- [Mike McFadzen](#), Plymouth, (cross-country skiing)
- [Thomas Thornton](#), Grand View, (snowmobile)
- [Robbie Webber](#), Madison, (bicycling)

Duties of the State Trails Council and DNR

- Statutes direct the DNR to:

Seek the advice of and consult with the state trails council regarding the planning, acquisition, development and management of state trails.

- The State Trails Council also provides advice in administering the federal recreational trails program, which distributes funds for trails (approximately \$1.1 million per year) which is necessary for the state to participate in the program.

SNOWMOBILE RECREATIONAL COUNCIL

Website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/lr/snowmobile/reccouncil.html>

Members of the Snowmobile Recreational Council:

Michael Willman	Nicholas Berens
Robert Lang	Mike Cerny
Jerry Green	Richard Steimel
Bev Dittmar	Donna White
Karen Carlson	Larry Erickson
Jon Schweitzer	Sam Landes
Tom Thornton	Thomas Chwala
Andrew Malecki	

Committees Created by the Council

The Snowmobile Recreational Council has created four committees that address specific issues related to finance, law enforcement, infrastructure, and tourism.

Duties of the Snowmobile Recreational Council and DNR

- The DNR is required to consult with the Snowmobile Recreational Council before adopting snowmobile trail construction standards, rules regarding noise level standards for snowmobiles, and proposed changes in appropriations and laws that affect snowmobiles and snowmobiling.
- The Snowmobile Recreational Council may assist the DNR in developing public education programs, review and comment on rules proposed by the DNR regarding snowmobiles or snowmobiling, and provide written comments on proposed changes in appropriations and laws.
- The DNR and the Snowmobile Recreational Council must jointly prepare a model ordinance for the operation of snowmobiles on a roadway or the shoulder of a highway.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE COUNCIL

Website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Grants/Agendas-Minutes/Offroadvehicle.html>. (Web page with links to ORV agendas and minutes.)

Members of the Off-Road Vehicle Council:

Larry Strangfeld, Chair

Rob McConnell, Vice-Chair

Mike Peterson

Russell Hermsen

Joe Fitzgerald

Dave Traczyk

Duties of the Off-Road Vehicle Council

Not expressed in statutes or rules. Generally advises DNR on funding and trail development for ATVs and motorcycles.