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Title: Dog Access Rules At Badger Ordinance Site

The Problem:

The Badger Ordinance Works in Sauk County will soon be a new and very large DNR controlled site.

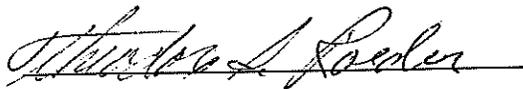
Many DNR controlled trails and recreation sites currently restrict activities for dogs and their owners, primarily due to the large number of Wisconsin residents already using those existing facilities, who do not wish to compete with large numbers of dogs for limited space.

The appearance of this new Badger site in Southern Wisconsin provides an opportunity to explore new regulations to allow wider access to recreational and competitive opportunities for this underserved and widely diverse dog owner population. There are a limited number of places where sled dog training can take place in Wisconsin during either the summer or winter months and perhaps the area could be used for a sled dog race at some time in the future. Dry Land events are becoming more popular in the region where people compete with dogs by canicross (running themselves with a dog in harness), bikejoring, and lightweight scooter and cart racing. The large amount of trails at the Badger Ordinance site would be ideal for sled dog training and racing in Wisconsin.

Local dog clubs in Wisconsin support a large variety of seasonal functions and competitions which could benefit from having an outdoor recreation area available, with long trails for training and racing, as well as large open fields and parking for an ever increasing number of outside activities. Local businesses will also profit from such increased use of the land.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the DNR write a new set of regulations specific to the Badger Ordinance site, taking advantage of the fact that the large size of the site and the varied terrain yield many possible uses, so dogs can be accommodated there for numerous functions, including a) trail access for dogsleds in winter and canicross, bikejoring, and scooter and cart training the rest of the year, b) herding, tracking, terrier trials, and other individual or group centered activities, c) year round training for such activities, d) dog shows and obedience trials and matches, and e) recreational use and fitness training for individual dog owners and their pets.

Signature:



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