

Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

*The following comments regarding the vision, goal statements, and conceptual alternatives for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area were received by the Department in **email** form during the public comment period (July 15 through August 31, 2013). The contents of the emails are copied here as received; the contents have been formatted to a consistent font. Personal names of non-public figures have been redacted.*

1	<p>Thank you for not proposing a motorized boat landing for this area. The original reason we gave money to purchase the [REDACTED] property was that It would be kept as pristine as possible while utilizing the area of the BAAP pump house. We are property owners that abut the property.</p> <p>Later email from same address: I originally wrote you regarding the 3 alternatives of the DNR for the Badger property. I feel you should consider the above [alternative 4]. We have land adjacent to the [REDACTED] property and contributed so that it would not be developed to ruin the setting.</p>
2	<p>Why haven't horse trails been included in this area. Horses are a large part of our history and they are a large part of peoples life now. It is a big industry in Wisconsin. We really do need a place to ride in this area. The only place really close is Blackhawk Ridge, and that is almost impossible to get into. So, please think about including horse trails in this area.</p>
3	<p>We'd like to support the use of the Badger ammunition property to be used for recreational vehicles. I believe it would bring much needed revenue to Wisconsin. There are already too many state properties that don't allow recreational vehicles. There could easily be portions dedicated to this sort of recreation. Let's make more of this kind of recreational use available. WE allow recreational vehicles on my property (we have approximately 150 acres) We've never had any misuse of our land.</p>
4	<p>I have lived in the Sauk Prairie area all my life and think it is a great natural resource area. Both my parents have worked in Badger. I have worked in Badger as a contractor maintaining the exterior of the buildings over the years. We have archery hunted and also I have been a mentor for the youth turkey hunt in the Spring several times and I mentored kids in Badger for the turkey hunt.</p> <p>I am interested in maintaining Badger as a prairie on the flat open areas. This is a great large area for prairie plants, birds, and animals to thrive in a native prairie. I also think hunting, fishing, trapping should be included in the plan to keep the populations of wild game under control for the habitat. I found out that the shooting range is to be on the South end and I think that is great to include. We need a place to be able to shoot safely at longer distances. From hunting in Badger in the past. The sounds of the guns will be very faint or non existant from the North End. Depending on the time of day and the wind. I do not think it will interfere with anything happening on the North half. I think low impact hiking, biking, and horse back riding is great also. I do not know what to think of off road vehicles as they will cause alot of erosion possibly.</p> <p>I also think that we need to take a look at getting rid of all the invasives that have taken over lately. Last time I was in there there was about every invasive plant in the area and they were thriving.</p>
5	<p>I feel that both non-vehicle and 4 wh clubs can share that property. We are four wheelers and our group has helped start many trails. There is a lot of land and all parties concerned can work today.</p>
6	<p>I would very much like to see the Sauk Prairie Rec Area include motorized recreational vehicles. Specifically, off road motorcycles. There are so few tracks in Wisconsin, that I often travel all the way to the Upper Peninsula, to ride my dirt bikes. I recommend changing a maintenance fee for use, so there will be funds for upkeep in the long term.</p>
7	<p>I am extremely disappointed, upset and frustrated that this is even an issue now. It has been worked on and worked out for many years and decided that it will be a low impact NATURAL Area, as in Department of NATURAL RESOURCES!!! Prairie Birds, and other animals and some plants cannot exist next to a noisy, polluting, 4 wheel route or a target range. Our area and the people who have been on committees, taking</p>

	<p>community comments for years have come up with a plan—respect it. We need Natural Areas!! Especially Prairie Areas, especially in the SAUK PRAIRIE Area! NRA and 4 Wheel Groups can buy land.</p> <p>I have been working with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance taking children, Classes out to Badger for the last 5 or 6 yrs, Thousands (really) of kids becoming Prairie Restorers, they have been helping lop and pull invasives, even in the winter with snowshoes on—they have felt that they are part of a big, worthwhile effort to restore the Prairie not to build a shooting range or 4 wheel park. The kids have been from Reedsburg District, Weston District, Ithaca District, Baraboo District, River Valley District, Wisconsin Dells District from Private Schools, St. Peters, Sacred Heart, Boy Scout Groups, Home School Groups and clubs.</p> <p>This is an outrageous situation that this prime Natural Area, a great educational area, a great area for children to do community service and feel a part not only of a community effort but also a Natural Resource Effort is even being considered for anything other than Nature.</p> <p>We need this property for a Prairie.</p>
8	<p>I would like to see Number 3. It needs to be a park, a destination park. You need to see what they did in Lake Havasu, AZ. It was done by the rotary club. It is called rotary park. Walking trails, with exercise stations, pavilions, picnic shelters, bottchi ball courts, playground equip. Skatepark area, ball diamonds, softball and baseball. It is on a water way but that is not the highlite of the park. It is all the use area that it has. It is a destination park. You drive there to wall and see and do all the things that are there. They have bathrooms, H2O STATIONS, and much more. They are happy to share the info they have. Worth the call.</p>
9	<p>I was told good news over the weekend from a neighbor, [REDACTED].</p> <p>She said that the WDNR has decided that a motorized boat landing is not going to go into the land parcel. That a carry-in canoe landing, picnicking and fishing pier are possibilities.</p> <p>THIS IS GREAT NEWS FOR US. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO KEEP THE LAND AS NATURAL AS POSSIBLE.</p> <p>At this time do you know if there are any plans to finally take down the Pump House Building?</p>
10	<p>As an equestrian rider, I fully support option #3 as a draft conceptual alternative in the Operation of Former Badger Ammunition Plant at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments.</p>
11	<p>In my opinion the site should be used for Alternative 2: Ecological Restoration Emphasis. The area has been so abused ecologically by the manufacturing of weapon ammunitions over the decades that it would only make sense to take the steps to heal the area using prairie restoration. It is a big enough area where Wisconsin could finally have its own large "prairie park." There are plenty of areas for people to use their outdoor machines, this area could be for those of us looking for a peaceful place to hike and watch "Wisconsin" come back to life over a long period of time that it would take to fix it. It would be an economic boom for the area, as there are more bird watchers than other uses now in Wisconsin. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
12	<p>I do not believe a shooting range and area for motorized vehicles area are compatible use for recreation at Badger with the other low-impact recreational uses suggested. I support use of Badger for hiking, nature/ecological studies, nature conservation, and also a museum/nature center to educate on the history of Badger and the wildlife it supports. There may be other compatible uses such as bicycling, horseback riding, etc. (I'm sure you get the idea) that would also be compatible with low impact recreational uses. Thanks for your consideration. Please make the responsible/reasonable decision here.</p>
13	<p>I own property in Lake View Estates. I have not built on my property because of the water issues. My understanding is that there is an area on the Badger Amunition Property that will be turned over to the WI DNR and is slated as "Special Use Zone". I am opposed to having dirt bikes and shooting range so close to a residential area. The noise and the clouds of dirt derived from this special use zone conflicts with the high-end property estates in our subdivision. Such an area located so close to highway 78 will impact our property values. If the DNR has concrete plans for having a special use zone, could it not be located closer to highway 12 where the neighbors are campers?</p>
14	<p>We are hoping that the former Badger Ammunition facility and land will not be used for shooting practice. This is</p>

	<p>such a wasteful idea that sickens most of us. We need less shooters and more growers in Wisconsin. We need more nonviolence, not violence, in our communities. We need a governor who will start teaching that nonviolence is the right way to act. Instead we have a society that teaches that the only way to resolve a problem is to pick up a gun and shoot. How sad.</p>
15	<p>It's time for the DNR to get serious about addressing climate change. It MUST stop promoting the burning of fossil fuels for "recreation".</p> <p>I am totally opposed to inclusion of any motorized "recreation" at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. It is irresponsible and destructive. The area should be totally restored to native prairie and wetlands to maximize habitat for native species. Only recreation compatible with that goal should be included, emphasizing hiking, nature study and similar activities.</p> <p>Restoration and protection of native ecosystems and species must be the primary management goals.</p>
16	<p>I write this short email as a resident of Lakeview Estates on Weigands Bay of Lake Wisconsin. My home is in very close proximity to Hwy 78 and immediately across from Hwy 78 is the Ammunition Plant. My request is simple in that this area remain a low impact environment. The idea of a shooting range and ATV trails does not fit. We already have high impact motor sports in the way of large power boats and snowmobiles. We also already have the Sauk City Trap and Skeet Club very near. Lastly we have been dealing with large demolition explosions and load equipment noise going on seven years. We don't need more noise and confusion. We ask that you support the original usage plan.</p> <p>[Later email:] As you are probably aware, the Merrimac Town Board last Thursday supported the 500-acre ATV park in the Town of Sumpster on the former Badger Ammo Plant site. I have good familiarity with what this type of activity looks like from my years of living in Michigan and it's easy to also witness its impact from looking at the Black River Falls and Mercer areas. I support ALTERNATIVE 4 which has been offered and hope you do a very careful review of the ATV proposal and its true impact on our community. ATV parks need to be very isolated as they are in Mercer and the Black River Falls areas.</p>
17	<p>I have just learned the sad and shocking news that the DNR is seriously considering adding a "special use zone" for ATVs and a shooting range for high powered rifles to the proposed "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area."</p> <p>The move is a tragic violation of the spirit of the Badger Reuse Plan that I, for one, have supported. I can see no valid reason at all, why the DNR at this stage should even be considering such a dismal, noisy and disruptive addition to a natural preserve and wildlife refuge.</p> <p>Will the DNR please consider the impact ATVs and rifle fire will have on the wildlife, particularly. As an ex-U.S. Marine, I can testify that one does not find birds at rifle ranges and one does not walk gently over land that has been ripped apart by ATVs....</p> <p>Please add my name to the many whom I suspect are in total opposition to these unfortunate additions to the Badger Reuse Plan.</p>
18	<p>Please consider my comments on Badger land reuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. • • The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. • • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger

	<p>lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.
19	<p>I am speaking on behalf of the Badger Prairie having a LOW IMPACT RECREATIONAL USE...this does NOT include ATV and Gun Ranges! Those uses would be inappropriate for this area that is home to so many rare birds and it would negatively impact those people living in the nearby community of Badger Village..my brrdother, [REDACTED], also is supporting LOW IMPACT and HE is a GUN USER! He lives in Badger Village and does NOT want a gun range in his back yard! There is one near Sauk Prairie, and I live 9 miles away and hear those guns late into the evening! PLEASE, visit my home when there is a gun event happening there..BOOM<BOOM<BOOM! No thank YOU!</p>
20	<p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>We need to provide large sectors of habitat for vanishing species and not encourage frivolous use of fossil fuel for off road activities and shooting which will reduce occupancy by these species.</p>
21	<p>I am writing to provide comments on the Land Use Alternatives provided by the WDNR for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands.</p> <p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described the alternatives.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the Badger Reuse Plan recommended, I support it. I ask that the WDNR expanded alternative 2 to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – <u>specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range"</u> – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on the alternatives for this precious piece of land.</p>
22	<p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Wisconsin DNR's master plan for their portions of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. However, there are some aspects to this plan that do not properly reflect the aims made in the Badger Reuse Plan, therefore indicating a failure by the DNR to keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin.</p> <p>The largest flaw in the plan is an option in Alternative 3 to create a 562-acre "Special Use Zone", which would be set aside for motorized recreation and a shooting range. These high-impact recreational uses of land are simply inappropriate for several reasons:</p>

	<p>-These uses run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan -They explicitly contradict provisions in the DNR's agreement with the National Park Service -They will have detrimental effects on neighboring landowners, on other recreational users and visitors, on the sound environment of Badger - as it is known for its degree of quiet - and on a multitude of grassland birds and other wildlife. -The proposed area includes one of the important pioneer cemeteries of Badger, the highest quality prairies/savanna remnant on the entire Badger property, and the drainage channel of glacial Lake Merrimac, a unique 12,000 year old geological feature.</p> <p>In addition to that, the alternatives downplay the critical opportunities for education and research at Badger, and make no mention at all of agriculture. These are vital parts of the reuse vision. Badger has already served as a vital research and education site. We have hosted hundreds of students, from hundreds of Sauk County school kids to advanced UW graduate students, at Badger. I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not fully reflect the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>I hope these comments help shape a master plan that respects the scientific, recreational, ecological, educational, and cultural benefits of Badger's Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
23	<p>I understand that the state is allowing public input to the Sauk Prairie Rec area. I'm a Racine county resident and have enjoyed off highway motorcycling with my family and friends for many years. The lack of non-licensed motorcycle trail access in the state of Wisconsin drives us to visit Michigan's upper peninsula in order to locate good trail systems. We buy Michigan trail access passes and support their economy in the process. Wisconsin offers assistance to snowmobilers and ATV clubs to establish trails funded through vehicle registration but without an off highway motorcycle registration we find ourselves left out of trail access. Adding OHV trails to the Sauk Prairie Rec area including motorcycles would be a great draw to the area economy and allow us to compete with neighboring states. Please consider this input as part of the Master Plan for the area.</p>
24	<p>As you know, the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance has worked long and hard to develop a plan for the rehabilitation, reuse, and protection of the former Badger munitions site.</p> <p>I am dismayed that the establishment of a "Special Use Zone" in the DNR plan provides for high-impact activities, in specific contradiction to provisions in DNR's agreement with the National Park Service. Badger most certainly would not be appropriate for "non-traditional recreational uses" such as ATV trails, a long-range rifle range, paint-ball competitions, etc. Such uses run counter to the explicit recommendations in the BRP, that recreational uses should be "low impact in nature," "compatible with other uses," and "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property."</p> <p>Alternative 2 in the DNR plan is closest to what the BRP recommended, and I would support it if it is it expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and to incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>But again, activities suggested for the proposed "Special Use Zone" have absolutely no place on this land and I could not possibly oppose them more strongly!</p>
25	<p>Regarding the Badger Reuse plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. • The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. • The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.

26	<p>I am not prone to copying other people's words and using them as my own. That being said, I AM doing that with his email BECAUSE these words are exactly how I feel and I can't really say it more concisely myself. I moved to this area in 1989, before Badger was being deconstructed. What an incredible opportunity we have to do something good here/now. Please do not undo all the hard work of those who have worked so selflessly to come up with the reuse plan.</p> <p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
27	<p>Thank you so much for your work on this needed project and for soliciting feedback. This has been an amazing community generated project, with citizens gathering the many community partners with the coordination of the Wisconsin DNR and National Park Service == the ideal of democracy in action to restore and conserve part of our national heritage for future generations. I was part of a complimentary effort in Western Wisconsin, to try to save enough prairie and savannah habitat in the area to save the plummeting numbers of grassland birds -- the meadowlark, boblink, and others, along with the Karner blue butterfly, etc.</p> <p>Sometimes it feels like we are fighting a losing battles, but sometimes, when citizens galvanize with education and partnerships behind the state, DNR, and national agencies, wonderful things happen. This is one of those precious situations. And the proposed plan brings it to fruition, except for the Special Use section, which allows high impact motorized and shooting ranges to the project. There are other places for these activities, not here.</p> <p>It's the metaphor that Aldo Leopold loved of people loving the pig so much as to want the pig in the parlor, or to rollerskate in church.</p> <p>The original intent of this area was not to replicate what can be found elsewhere, but to restore what was once here that is no longer being found elsewhere.</p> <p>So I ask that the Wisconsin DNR remain true to this and to the enormous triumphant of citizen democracy that has been and is being achieved by this coalition building -- not just between partners who often work together, but through new alliances, such as with the Ho-Chunk nation. This is what really makes this project unique and to be honored. And how fine it would be to bring our children and grandchildren someday to see the bison, hear the meadowlark sing, and to walk and camp on these restored lands and understand the history of it, the people with nature and with a democratic urge to build friendships apart from political lines to leave something of great worth given to us by God that we can pass on in good shape to generations to come. Turning of weapons and swords into peace and community.</p>
28	<p>I'm writing about the Badger reuse plan. I have lived in Sauk City all my life until recently and been very interested in Badger Munitions plant.</p> <p>I strongly support ecological restoration and quiet recreation, especially, walking, biking bird watching, educational opportunities for kids, research into sustainable agriculture , etc. We REALLY need this in southern Wisconsin. Apparently Alternative 2 is the closest one to this idea.</p> <p>I am totally opposed to high impact recreation, motorized or shooting ranges. There's a shooting range just west of Sauk city that people can use for this. There are plenty of ATV trails in the state forests such as Black River SF.</p>
29	<p>While our great American democracy allows all kinds of entertainment for it's citizens, I don't think motorized recreation or shooting is appropriate at Badger Prairie. Those activities are best left to private land owners with commercial interests.</p>

30	<p>I received this email address through a state senator's email and I would like to comment on the land use planning for Badger Prairie.</p> <p>I prefer 100% low-impact use, but realize there are demands for high impact use. Containing the high impact activities to a section of the park might satisfy a few users, but I think noise cannot be contained very well. The motor and gun noise will ruin the experience for many.</p> <p>Please add noise to the list of factors that must be monitored and controlled to keep the area enjoyable for all.</p> <p>There are numerous control methods such as rows of trees, extra distance, embankments, limited hours, limited days, etc. Maybe open more of the park to off road vehicles a couple of weeks per season, then keep it closed the rest.</p> <p>Shooting noise should be limited to a few blocks of time per week. That would give the opportunity for shooting and to plan a hike without the noise.</p>
31	<p>I wish to comment on some of the proposed land uses being discussed for the Badger Army/Sauk Prairie Rec Area site.</p> <p>A shooting range and an off-road vehicle playland are both particularly noisy activities, that would ruin the area for any other type of use. Most importantly, neither activity benefits from or requires ANY connection to natural habitat, beauty or any degree of wildlife! Either activity can be safely and efficiently built in any old gravel quarry or farmfield in the state -n move some dirt and its done. I honestly don't know why Natural Resources should even be involved here. Were talking public dollars and public land here, no?</p> <p>There are many for-profit and club rifle ranges in south-central Wisconsin. I cannot understand why our state would need to enter as a range competitor. As for ATVs, I am less familiar with the options, but can only say the people of our state are getting fatter and fatter. It would seem even a horseback riding and horse camping park would make more sense. At least that could be combined with a cross country ski area in the winter. Both of those at least require a desire to connect with nature by seeking peace outdoors.</p> <p>Very peculiar. Either of these activities noisy activities should be zoned for areas along freeways or such that, due to freeway noise, are already unsuitable for most nature oriented activities . I would think either of these proposed uses are wildly inappropriate for areas abutting suburban housing developments. Creepy. Is Wisconsin becoming the nation's new West Virginia?</p>
32	<p>Regarding use of this as a shooting range and for off road vehicles.....I am strongly opposed. This land was originally a beautiful prairie with natural springs and vegetation, also historically for farming. I think this area would best be restored and preserved as wetlands, and for hiking and wildlife habitat. It could also be used as an example of prairie restoration and for educational purposes. It has had more than enough gun powder.</p>
33	<p>Thank you for taking the time to contact the public on the use of the lands making up the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area. I have been to previous meetings on the future of this recreational area and how it will be used by the public and protected by a Master Plan that is responsible to the wishes of all interested parties.</p> <p>I would like to put the support of the off-road motorized recreational riders behind Alternative #3. There is a huge demand for riding areas for the off-road motorcyclists, who have been very under-served by the state. As the President of WOHMA, the Wisconsin Off Highway Motorcycle Association, I have been repeatedly approached by riders looking for someplace to recreate with their legal vehicles. We feel there are enough DNR and County lands in Wisconsin already available to those who propose just silent sports or re-establishing prairie or forested areas that exclude all but people of foot or for hunting and fishing. In the Southern half of the state there are very minimal areas to recreate with dirt bikes and ATVs. I have worked with the DNR to obtain riding areas near the population centers, but the DNR has up to now had little success in obtaining land or developing the Southern area for OHV recreational pursuits.</p> <p>We feel that an area of between 700 and 800 acres would serve the OHV community well. This would still leave the majority of the 3800 acres available for ecological restoration and the silent sports as well as leaving room for other popular activities such as a shooting range, horseback trails, and mountain bike trails. But the motorized recreational users should be given a substantial area for their favorite activities.</p> <p>An OHV area would also be an attraction that would offer economic development to the surrounding area. This would be for camping, fuel sales, restaurants, grocery stores, motels, and all other resources and activities that people would be using in the area.</p>

	<p>I might add that WOHMA currently has a vehicle registration program going through the legislative process that would provide funds for trail building, maintenance, law enforcement, safety training, and support to counties and municipalities allowing this activity.</p>
34	<p>I am writing to express my concern over the inclusion of ATV trails and a shooting range. I live near BAAP and have endured the constant blasting that was necessary over the past few years to get rid of buildings, etc. I was excited at the prospect of the job being done and the area being groomed for "soft" recreation. I cringe at the thought of a shooting range and ATV access and what that would mean for the quiet and peace of mind that visitors would find if they were allowed.</p> <p>PLEASE pass on my concerns to those making decisions about those being included.</p>
35	<p>I'm excited about the land being converted from military to natural habitat.</p> <p>I read Fred Clark's article on the plan and was impressed with all his points.</p> <p>As a prairie loving Vietnam Veteran I want to add that I have heard enough gunfire already!</p> <p>The plan to put a rifle range on the property is incredibly disturbing to me.</p> <p>Please stick with the original plan!</p>
36	<p>I am writing to offer my view of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. This has been along process that has produced impressive results over the years. I find the nature of the Recreation Area threatened by some of the later proposals.</p> <p>I have been impressed by the wisdom of the participants in the planning process at least until some developments have come to my attention. I am particularly disturbed by alternative 3, Outdoor Recreation Emphasis. The addition at this time of some of the elements of this plan including "motorized recreation opportunities" and "shooting range opportunities" are in profound violation of earlier plans agreed to and the spirit of what the land might become.</p> <p>Of the alternatives listed by the DNR either alternative 1 or 2 are much closer to the intent of the transition. Alternative 2, Ecological Restoration Emphasis is the most desirable. A set aside area of for appreciation of the land will be undone by "trails" with motorized vehicles and a shooting range that are hard to fathom as consistent with the ideas for the area.</p> <p>I believe the special use areas and the above high impact uses should be removed from the plan. These options fail to align the plan with the values of an sustainable and agricultural research plan. Alternative 3 should be removed from options.</p> <p>I am a land owner and full time resident in the town of Vermont, Dane County and have been driving by the BAAP for years, very eager to see the new plan take effect. Now I see the idea ruined by the special use areas. Please stay with the Badger Reuse Plans.</p> <p>Thank you for opening this to Wisconsin citizens for comment. I feel strongly about what I have written,</p>
37	<p>I am opposed to using any portion of the former Badger Munitions Plant for off-road vehicle use and/or shooting range. These activities are both dangerous and environmentally damaging.</p>
38	<p>Re: The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. • The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. • The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.
39	<p>You can probably tell from my email address that I am a silent sports enthusiast. I am also a resident of Sauk County and have volunteered my time to help with prairie restoration at Badger Prairie and to move historical photos from the Sauk Co. Historical Society in Baraboo to the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) History Museum, and as a member of the Sauk County Institute of Leadership, I have had an extensive tour of BAAP. I am writing to give my comments about the DNR's proposed use of Badger Prairie.</p> <p>I support Alternative 2 because I believe that it is the most in keeping with what the Badger Reuse Plan recommended. However, I also like the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3, and would like to see them added to Alternative 2.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the environmental and human impact of the recreational activities that would be allowed in the Special Use Zone in Alternative 3. I am not anti-shooting or anti-ATV. In fact, my husband and son are doing an ATV trip on the Cheese County Trail in a couple of weeks. I recognize the need for trails for ATV enthusiasts. However, I believe these and similar high-impact recreational activities are inappropriate for Badger Prairie. I am concerned about the impact of these types of activities on the fragile prairie ecosystem which is still in the process of restoration. I am concerned that the sound from these types of activities will carry to neighbors and into the existing boundaries of Devil's Lake State Park and disturb the tranquility of Devil's Lake which is used exclusively for silent sports. I am concerned that the human history of BAAP has been contentious - from the taking of the land from Ho Chunk by the white settlers, to the taking of the land from the descendants of the white settlers by the Army. There is also a graveyard in Badger Prairie which would be in or adjacent to the proposed Special Use Zone. I feel that introducing high-impact recreational activities will only further the contention.</p>
40	<p>I am a lifelong native of the Prairie du Sac area. I am writing to state my opinion on the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>I think that it would be in the best interest of the majority of citizens for the decision-making parties involved to support the original plan for reuse of this land. I believe the original, agreed-upon plan supported uses limited to restoration, education, sustainable agriculture, and low-impact recreation.</p> <p>I enjoy riding ATV's, target shooting, and the like, but it seems to me that this area lends itself to a quiet, park-like application. I think other more intrusive uses should go in other places, not at Badger. I believe this is a unique opportunity to preserve an especially beautiful area, and I think the future pay-off in tourism and recreational green space will be a huge asset to the public.</p>
41	<p>Thank you very much for the long hours you have been devoting to helping determine the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Yours is no easy task. Thank you, too, for inviting citizens to share input on the management alternatives you unveiled recently for the SPRA.</p> <p>I was born in Wisconsin and have lived most of my life in this state. Since 1998 I have lived in Sauk Prairie. Over the last couple of years, I have spent many hours volunteering to help with conservation and research at the Badger property, along with other members of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. Despite the ticks, wild parsnip and heat, getting to know that special property has been a joy and a privilege.</p> <p>It has also been eye-opening and inspiring to learn more about the process that a diverse and comprehensive group of stakeholders, including the DNR, went through to bring about the best possible future for the property. Of course I'm referring to the process that ultimately led to the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>I wish to express to you my great respect for the Badger Reuse Plan and the many individuals who poured their sweat and tears into it. I favor the alternative that best honors the fruits of their long labor. It appears that alternative 2 is that alternative, although I appreciate the conservation, low-impact recreation, interpretation and education elements of alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>I have serious concerns about alternative 3, which includes the proposed "Special Use Zone." The activities that would be allowed in this zone go against both the letter and the spirit of the Badger Reuse Plan. High-impact recreational activities like ATV riding and firearms practice have no place in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area because they run counter to the explicit recommendations in the BRP, namely that recreational uses should be "low-impact in nature," "compatible with other uses," and "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural</p>

	<p>and natural features of the property.” These activities would also upset many neighboring property owners (noise, potentially contaminated dust, heavy traffic, etc.).</p> <p>The area that would contain the “Special Use Zone” currently contains breeding populations of grassland birds that are designated species of Greatest Conservation Need. Clearly this is unacceptable. Furthermore, this area contains the highest quality prairie/savanna remnant on the Badger property -- the very remnant that I and my fellow volunteers have been working so hard to restore.</p> <p>I was also dismayed to see that none of the three alternatives the DNR proposed call for integrating research and sustainable agriculture into the SPRA. This concerns me for two reasons. First, research and sustainable agriculture were values that all stakeholders agreed was important enough to include in the BRP. Second, it seems a shame not to utilize the top-notch personnel and resources of the nearby USDA and the University of Wisconsin (Madison, Baraboo and Richland campuses) at the SPRA, especially when there is such an interest in both basic research and sustainable agriculture at both institutions. What a wonderful opportunity to make Wisconsin a showcase for the world on how to integrate conservation and agriculture! Such pioneering would honor all past human residents of that beautiful land, as well as present and future non-human residents.</p> <p>For these reasons I urge you to remove the proposed “Special Use Zone” from the alternatives. Amending alternative 2 to include appropriate recreational access, research and a focus on sustainable agriculture, as well as the educational and interpretive components contained in alternative 3, would make alternative 2 a wonderful blueprint for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and would fulfill the promise the DNR made to the people of Wisconsin and area stakeholders when it endorsed the painstakingly crafted Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>A management plan that cleaves to the Badger Reuse Plan is in the interests of <i>all</i> Wisconsin residents, current and future.</p> <p>After every volunteer work day up at the Hillside Prairie, I am struck by the incredible conservation, education, research and recreation potential of the property. I know you appreciate that potential, too, and that you understand that we need to get this right from the get-go.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments and adding them to the river of public input you must be receiving.</p>
42	<p>An enormous amount of effort has been made by concerned citizens to propose equitable and forward-looking plans for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. It is gratifying that Alternatives 2 and 3 have an emphasis on ecological restoration, nature compatible recreation, community involvement and educational activities. Because Alternative 2 is closest to the Badger Reuse Plan culminating many years of citizen input and refinement. This is the plan I would support, particularly if it were improved to be more in line with the BRP proposal. A few of these points follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put more emphasis on appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses. 2. Include the educational and interpretive activities outlined in Alternative 3. 3. Include recommendations from the BRP concerning research and sustainable agriculture. <p>The omission of agriculture is a huge disappointment and failing to emphasize the essential interconnectedness of nature and agriculture is a gaping hole in the alternatives. Agriculture is the backbone of Wisconsin's economy and as the proportion of people intimately connected with it decreases, the more interesting it becomes to visitors and the more essential it is to educate an increasingly disconnected public. The BRP planners certainly had this in mind, and thus their passion for including agriculture and sustainability along with ecology in their planning.</p> <p>While I believe Alternative 2 can be vastly improved and strengthened by including the points above, it is extremely troublesome to find the inclusion of the "Special Use Zone" in Alternative 3. Especially egregious is that this zone and its "non-traditional recreational uses" has appeared out of nowhere in a near-final decision-making draft without any discussion with the BRP community or even the "non-traditional recreational users". This raises a huge red flag about the DNR's commitment to the public at large, its independence from narrow interests and the promises made to ensure "low impact", "compatible with other uses" and "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property". This late hour addition flies in the face of a long process to preserve a unique property and I resent what the disregard of that process implies.</p>
43	<p>After hearing about the modified plans for Badger I wanted to submit a statement for the review period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be

	<p>expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high-impact recreational uses described for the “Special Use Zone” in the Alternative 3 – specifically the “motorized use and a shooting range” – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan’s recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. • The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.
44	<p>As a former state legislator and attorney who does some land use and real estate practice, I urge the DNR to select Alternative 2, because it is the closest option to what has been recommended by the BRP.</p> <p>In addition, I ask that Alternative 2 be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. The high-impact recreational uses described for the “Special Use Zone” in the Alternative 3 – specifically the “motorized use and a shooting range” – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan’s recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The “Special Use Zone” and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>The rehabilitation of Badger Ammunition has been in the works for many years, as you know; hundreds of people - experts, citizens, and community leaders - have provided input and ideas to create the Badger Reuse Plan. This site has incredible potential to be of significant value to the people of Wisconsin. I am disappointed that none of the alternatives fully reflect the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan; in particular the need to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into the land use plan.</p> <p>In closing, I urge the DNR to keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.</p>
45	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to voice my view for the Badger Ammo Plant revival.</p> <p>My vote is for Alternative #2...ecological restoration emphasis. I believe this will serve the most users without including activities which distract from others. There is a shortage of wild areas in this region of WI. This proposal will address that need.</p>
46	<p>I am writing to you to voice my opinion about the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I believe that the DNR should implement the Badger Reuse Plan as it was written since it took into account all the interested parties and the transfer of land to the state was based on this plan. For many years I have taken middle school students to Badger to do ecological restoration and have used the area to teach about prairies. My vision of Badger is closest to Alternative 2 as proposed by the DNR, but I would like to see low impact recreation that emphasizes nature and interpretive and educational activities. Many of these activities are included in Alternative 3, but I am opposed to motorized use and a shooting range since these are not compatible with low-impact uses. I do not want to take class groups to Badger for science instruction and have the drone of ATVs or the shots of a gun close by. It’s hard to point out a bobolink to kids with shots being fired nearby. The reuse plan did not include these activities and it should be adhered to, adding research and sustainable agriculture into one of the alternatives. Please consider a fourth alternative that is a combination of alternative 2 and 3.</p>
47	<p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the “Special Use Zone” in the Alternative 3 – specifically the “motorized use and a shooting range” – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan’s recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and</p>

	<p>adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
48	<p>We would like to express our displeasure at the choice of potential sites for the shooting range and the ATV course at the BAAP. My wife and I have been residents at Waters Edge for the last 10 years and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the lake and surrounding country side. We would hope not to have that peace and quiet disturbed by a gun range or ATV course. There are numerous existing sites for both activities in the surrounding areas, perhaps those sites could be expanded and improved to accommodate additional users or perhaps elsewhere along Highway 12 where there are fewer homes.</p> <p>We have been looking forward to the completion of the demo phase, especially the frequent use of explosives, and hoping we would be able to bike, ski and snowshoe with our children and grandchildren soon. What we don't want is to sit in our backyard and listen to rifle shots and loud ATV's all day.</p>
49	<p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 --specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" --run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
50	<p>Hello Diane. I suspect you have been getting some surveys recently regarding singletrack trails for Mt. Biking in Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. (There is a link on the local chapter of the international mountain bike association forum regarding the upcoming meeting). I am sending you the above link to look at when you have time. IMBA is a very valuable resource for sustainable trail building...regardless of user types. You are probably well aware of the advances in the mountain biking community, but it is a challenge to reach all of the various lands managers to create a good understanding of why trails need to be constructed with proper planning and execution, and most importantly to clarify that cross country ski trails and doublewide hiking trails do not satisfy as mountain bike trails. Good trails are built and maintained to minimize erosion and are quite narrow...hard to even know they are there until you come across them. They work great for adventure trail runners and also for snowshoeing. There is a recent push to develop high school mt. Bike teams and clubs. I will be at the meeting on Wednesday and hope to be able to talk with you...I'm confident you will be busy! Thanks for your time.</p>
51	<p>I'm writing to voice my support of wildlife habitat and low impact recreational use of the former Badger land.</p> <p>The Badger Oversight and Management Commission (OMC) that was formed in 2005 has spent many hours discussing use of Badger land. It was decided that the land should be used for wildlife habitat, dairy research and low impact recreation. The OMC is a diverse group representing the community and did what seems to be impossible today--they came to a consensus. That process should be respected and their recommendations should followed.</p>
52	<p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the</p>

	<p>educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the “Special Use Zone” in the Alternative 3 – specifically the “motorized use and a shooting range” – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan’s recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
53	<p>I am writing you because I am very concerned about usage of the tract of land that was formerly the Badger Ammunition Plant . I feel that the emphasis should be on ecological restoration and nature based-recreation for our area. Interpretive and educational activities should be included in the plan. You have several alternative plans, and I support Alternative #2, with expansion of emphasis on appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, as it is closest to what the BRP recommended. Alternative #3 describes motorized use and a shooting range, neither of which are appropriate. I also encourage a plan that will integrate research and sustainable agriculture.</p>
54	<p>Please consider my thoughts on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I am a "young" senior citizen so I do not expect to be around to see or take advantage of the Area, but I do have some recommendations and considerations.</p> <p>I have lived on a 90-acre hobby farm on the bluff in the Town of Merrimac for 38 years and was born and raised in Baraboo, swimming in Devil's Lake and playing/picnicking at Parfrey's Glen when it was a cow pasture. Therefore, I am very familiar with the area, the topography, soil, the incredible amount of land under DNR ownership/control, etc. I have a strong opinion that equestrian interests and accommodations be given strong consideration in the development of the area. A trail-head with good horse trailer parking, tie-ups/hitching rails, and trails would be a blessing to horse trail-riding enthusiasts. I can tell you that from my experience in riding in and around the washes in Tucson and in Saguaro National Park - East, horseback-riding can be compatible with hiking and bicycling but is NOT compatible with ATVs or other motorized vehicles. Since riding is mainly a seasonal/non-winter activity, it would also be compatible with cross-country skiing. Horses, hikers, and bicycles do much less damage to the environment and are less intrusive to wildlife than motorized activities.</p> <p>When I was younger, growing up in Baraboo, it was relatively safe to ride along rural roads. This is no longer the case, and unless one has large acreage, it is necessary to trailer several miles to bridle trails. Many young riders do not have the means to travel far. Horse enthusiasts add to the economy - it is costly to even maintain a horse - and could add more if there were accommodations for related activities: competitive trail rides, riding club events, etc. Private enterprise may be encouraged to start up: Nearby stabling and other businesses.</p> <p>I do hope equestrian activity will be part of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Thank you for reading and considering message.</p>
55	<p>Regarding the future of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant:</p> <p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the “Special Use Zone” in the Alternative 3 – specifically the “motorized use and a shooting range” – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan’s recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
56	<p>I am writing to tell you that I strongly disapprove of the current planning for a shooting range and for motorized recreational vehicles within the confines of the old Badger Ammunition property. There are many other fine</p>

	<p>venues in Wisconsin and the region for such activities. There are no other sites like Badger that can provide a low human generated sound environment. This will become an increasingly precious resource as our general environment becomes more crowded and filled with noise. It would be exceedingly difficult to ever revert to such a quiet environment if the gun and motor barrier is broken. It would not be difficult to add these features in the future if circumstances changed to make their inclusion appropriate.</p>
57	<p>I do not want to see atv use at the old badger plant. I would use it if it were a pace for hiking, biking and bird watching but not if there were high impact activities.</p> <p>I would even be willing to by a pass such as the state park passes to do so. Please keep it a place where nature and man can both enjoy it.</p>
58	<p>I am the Town Chairman of [REDACTED]. We live across the Wisconsin River from the Badger Property. We strongly object to a shooting range and motorized vehicles in the land use plan.</p> <p>On any given night we can hear the gunshot reports from the 3 surrounding Target Ranges in Roxbury, Merrimac and Sauk City. We do not need another one.</p> <p>Also , I have 2 Brother-in-laws in Tomahawk where 4 Wheeling is allowed and the landscape has been rutted and ruined. These vehicles are noisy and kick up clouds of dust. Often drivers don't stay on the existing trails disturbing wildlife and vegetation in the area.</p> <p>These activities are not compatible with a nature area, especially at Devil's Lake State Park, the crown jewel of all Wisconsin Parks.</p>
59	<p>I am writing to you as a former Wisconsin resident who cares deeply about the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant property to submit my comments on the draft master plan for the Badger lands. I thank you for taking the time to read this email and hope it is useful to you as you finalize the plan for Badger's future.</p> <p>I lived in Madison from 1998 to 2003 while I was a graduate student in UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. I don't remember how I first learned about Badger, but I quickly became fascinated by its rich history and its tremendous potential for historic preservation, ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, and more. I spent several years following the work of the Community Conservation Coalition for the Sauk Prairie (later the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, or SPCA), attending dozens of meetings and interviewing many of the key players. I wrote my master's thesis on the way in which this modest group with no official power came to be at the center of a web of relationships across diverse interests, each of which had a vision Badger's future and none of which could realize its vision without the others.</p> <p>A few key principles emerged out of that collaboration. The most important, I believe, was that no use should come at the expense of any other use. All the pieces had to fit together, and the property should be managed as a whole. I had a great deal of admiration for the way in which the SPCA continually sought common ground, seeking to embody this principle of "we're all in it together." They recognized that military history and local agriculture and Native land tenure all were as deserving of a place at the table as was ecological conservation. By walking that talk, they inspired others to do the same, and the result was the groundbreaking Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Based on my read of the draft plan, Alternative 2 is the most consistent with the holistic vision embodied by the Badger Reuse Plan, and I urge you to select it as the preferred alternative. One thing that I see as missing from this alternative, however, is the interpretive and educational activities outlined in Alternative 3. In addition, I see no mention of the research and agricultural activities that are central to both the current uses of the Badger lands and the vision for their future as outlined in the Badger Reuse Plan. I encourage you to add these activities to Alternative 2 before it is finalized.</p> <p>In addition, there is an element in Alternative 3 that I find to be wholly inconsistent with both the Badger Reuse Plan and with DNR's agreement with the National Park Service. This is the proposal for a "Special Use Zone" with motorized uses and a shooting range. The Badger Reuse Plan very clearly calls for low-impact, non-motorized uses, and I urge you to remove these activities from the plan regardless of which alternative is chosen.</p>
60	<p>This area should be preserved as much as possible. The area should be restored, with old buildings and contamination removed for user safety. This area should not be destroyed by the use of vehicles that can cause much damage such as ATVs.</p> <p>I have seen the damage ATVs do to areas in the north. Many ATV users have no respect for the outdoors.</p>

61	<p>I would like to submit my input regarding the plans for the Badger Army Ammunition plant.</p> <p>I would be in favor of an area for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, fishing and cross country skiing. However, as a resident of the area, I would be strongly opposed to the development of ATV paths and a shooting range.</p> <p>The potential noise pollution of the ATV trails and shooting range is undesirable. We chose our property in part based on the tranquility and we pay a hefty property tax in our neighborhood to get this atmosphere. The recent blasting at the ammunition plant shook our house daily for months. With this plan for development we hope the blasting has come to an end. There are two separate gun clubs within 3 miles of the area that should be suitable for anyone who wishes to use the facilities of a shooting range. Membership dues are extremely inexpensive. I would imagine there are many other areas in the southern part of the state, which are less residential, for consideration for ATV paths.</p>
62	<p>It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to change the Badger Use Plan to allow for a very different use than has originally been agreed upon.</p> <p>After all the work that has gone into the Plan I don't think that it is wise or fair to suddenly come up with changes to the Plan, just because a small vocal group is expressing an opinion.</p> <p>Alternative 3 is listing uses of a large portion of the land that is not in keeping with the vision of the land. Why is a shooting range needed when there are plenty of Rod and Gun Clubs around where hunters can practice their aim. Secondly, there are excellent computer programs that help hunters to practice their marksmanship without burdening the neighborhood with the noise, and those computer programs are the preferred tool of the younger generation. I live 1 mile away from a Rod and Gun Club and summer nights are punctuated with gunshots.</p> <p>ATV trails are the most destructive use of our land. The noise is deafening and carries for long, long distances. So if there has to be a shooting range and an ATV trail, then please place it along Highway 12, where there is already plenty of noise, instead of in the most pristine and quiet area of the land. Yes, I see that the land along Highway 12 belongs to the USDA. But maybe the DNR can trade land with the USDA. It certainly would make so much more sense.</p> <p>Larger tracts of open prairie are so rare why destroy the one opportunity we have to preserve a larger sample of what the land looked like and what birds and animals need to live for the benefit of very few.</p>
63	<p>Please listen to the many voices that have worked so hard to make plans for the Sauk Prairie project. We don't need another ATV trail or the noise and disruption of shooting ranges. Having visitors to the area is great, but they should be a gentle addition to the pristine land all around and not one more opportunity for litter, noise and other problems.</p>
64	<p>I would like to submit my suggestion for the use of the Sauk Prairie Rec are(formerly Badger).</p> <p>First of all there was already an agreement signed to keep and preserve the land at Badger, not make it into a recreational area.</p> <p>I am in favor of Alternative #2. This will enable the use of the land without destroying it.</p> <p>We do not need another gun club as there is one in each direction less than 3-4 miles away that are available to the public.</p> <p>As far as ATV's, there has to be a better location for an ATV trail in Southern WI. The Badger Ammunition plant still t this day has contaminated soil and ATV's would just spread it around and cause noise and air pollution. The lake access area also contains contamination from the many years of dumping hazardous waste into the lake.</p> <p>It would be nice to have trails for hiking, skiing, bird watching, and public use, but not ATV trails and a shooting range to disrupt mother nature more than the ammunition plant already has done.</p> <p>This is my input. There is no need to change what was already purposed and agreed upon for the use of this land.</p> <p>What will be the forum for the Wed meeting at the River Arts Center and how long is it supposed to last? Is it just to inform the public about the new option? Or will there be a public input session?</p>

65	<p>I support this.</p> <p>The DNR is having a public open house on July 31 from 5-7:30 PM at the River Arts Center, with a presentation from 6-6:15 PM. This is regarding the land use of Badger Army Ammunition Plant. One option is for a small part of the land (562 acres) set aside for off road vehicles. Please send an email to diane.brusoe@wisconsin.gov if you want to support ATV use in Badger.</p>
66	<p>I read about the meeting in Prairie du Sac in Outdoor News and the three proposed options. I believe option 2 is best for this site, as it was developed by a consensus after many meetings and involved a wide range of participants. It's proximity to a major metropolitan area and the Dells makes it a major showcase for "wild Wisconsin" in all its natural beauty. Opening it up to shooting and ATV trails will degrade its potential as a showcase for hiking, birding and exposure of city dwellers to what our landscape was in days past. I've watched ATVs speed down forest roads in the north, and listened to people shooting while on lakes up there and wondered where the rounds were going to land. I've hunted all my life and shot at the Dane County Range and know how loud it is.</p> <p>We don't need another range, especially in a park. As for ATV trails, we all know how much trouble we have keeping snow mobile drivers on the trail, it will be just as bad with ATVs and the damage to the terrain won't go away as it does when the snow melts. Let's keep it's use as originally agreed by all the people who worked so hard to reach agreement on use.</p>
67	<p>Please count me in as supporting the 562 acre use for off road vehicles. We travel to many parts of the state to use our ATVs. It would be great to keep our money locally and ride trails in Badger.</p>
68	<p>I plead for the second (ecological) alternative for a couple of reasons. We are all concerned about rare and endangered species, but we should also be concerned about other elements of our environment that are endangered. Grassland and associated species are now rare in WI, but so also is silence and darkness. Silence around the clock and darkness at night are under-appreciated amenities and we are losing them. Hence, I plead for minimum development aimed for silent sports. This alternative would preserve other alternatives for the future whereas going for Alternative 3 compromises the possibility of de-development. Motorized sports and shooting ranges are most compatible with airports and bowling alleys. They should not be located in the last remaining silent areas of WI.</p>
69	<p>[We] are in support of only low impact hiking and nature trails. We would not want to see a racing track and shooting range as we feel it would not benefit the wildlife and natural areas of the Badger land. In addition, the noise would be a disadvantage to all residential areas that would be near the Badger lands.</p>
70	<p>I feel very definitely that the Badger ammunition plant land should be preserved as natural, not given over to noise and racing around on ATVs. I know they're fun for some people, as are shooting ranges, but there are already a lot of shooting ranges all over the state, and after a snowfall when anyone drives out across the countryside, there are snowmobile tracks in every field and alongside the highway. This may be our last chance to hang onto an unspoiled area. I hope public opinion will carry some weight.</p>
71	<p>I support #4 for the Badger Ordinance area. It supports some quiet recreation and conserves the land. It will be a place for people and animals and plants.</p>
72	<p>For 21 years, I was an L.T.E. Naturalist at Devil's Lake State Park. I know what a treasure the Badger property is for the many species of animals, such as meadowlarks and other grassland birds. It also has been a welcome refuge for plants, some of them being rare and beautiful prairie species. Please, please, do all in your power to prevent opening any of this area up to A.T.V. and other high impact invasions! This tract of land has the potential to be a treasure store for education, conservation and low impact recreation.</p>
73	<p>After reading letters and emails from several groups and individuals, I feel compelled to respond to the plan the DNR has proposed for the land they have received from the US National Park Service in the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I am totally in favor of the ecological restoration and creating visitor access that follows the plan of low-impact use of the land.</p> <p>I am totally not in favor of the "special use zone" for ATV use and a rifle range. Paintball?? Why in the world would that be in a plan for land that is being restored?</p> <p>I quote from a member of the Badger Reuse Committee:</p>

	<p>"Such uses run counter to the explicit recommendations in the BRP, that recreational uses should be "low-impact in nature," "compatible with other uses," and "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property."</p> <p>"We have yet to learn where the suggestions for "non-traditional recreational uses" came from. No one involved in the long, hard work of consensus-building at Badger had ever brought them up, and no representatives of these special interests have ever appeared before the OMB."</p> <p>There are so many people that do not understand why our DNR, which is to protect our natural resources, would suggest such a use for our land. We are owed an explanation as to who came up with these proposals.</p> <p>I quote from an article from Fred Clark:</p> <p>"But whatever you think about shooting ranges and motorized sports, you cannot call them low impact."</p>
74	<p>I am sending this email to inquire about the possibility of a special use of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area next summer (2014) or some subsequent summer.</p> <p>I am a member of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). The NAR is a hobbyist organization primarily supporting consumers in the areas of model rocketry and advanced hobbyist rocketry. You can learn more about the NAR and what we do at the website here: www.nar.org You may be familiar with Estes model rockets, commonly found in hobby and craft stores.</p> <p>Each summer, the National Association of Rocketry hosts a National Championship for model rocketry. Contestants from all over country come to this National Meet to compete. Model rocketry competition is done in 4 age divisions, A (7 yrs. to 14 yrs.), B(15 yrs. to 19 yrs.), C(20 yrs. and up), and a team division. Each year a different local club (NAR section) hosts the national meet. This year, the 55th annual national meet was held in Aurora, Ohio and just ended last Friday. You can see an extensive collection of photographs, videos, and contest results at this website from this year's competition: www.naramlive.com</p> <p>The National Championships have been held in many mid-west states over the years, including 4 times in Ohio, 2 times in Indiana, 2 times in Illinois, 3 times in Michigan, and once in Minnesota. But it has never been held in Wisconsin! The NAR is currently looking for a venue for next year's National Championship. I am looking into the possibility of bringing it to Wisconsin next year or another year in the future if we can't do it this year. As a founding member and former president of the Wisconsin Organization of Spacemodeling Hobbyists (NAR section 558), I have wanted to host the National Meet since moving to Wisconsin 18 years ago. However, our club launch sites, including Bong Recreation Area, are not suitable for such an event. Recently I became aware of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. It appears to me that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area meets and in many ways exceeds the needs for a National Championship class field.</p> <p>The requirements for a National Championship field are: Large - 300 to 1000 acres or more</p> <p>Open - Not densely wooded, prairie land or pasture is ideal Relatively flat Short drive (less than 40 minutes) from housing (usually an area hotel or college dormitory) Easy access from launch site to parking Support parking for up to 250 cars (around 300 to 400 participants)</p> <p>The NAR can provide a limited amount of financial compensation for the use of the field for the week long activity. We also provide our own insurance that covers the flyers, host club, and the field owner.</p>
75	<p>I was given your email address to send a request to support the possibility of making 562 acres of the Badger Army Ammunition available for ATV use. I am favor of this and am unable to make the meeting on July 31st</p>
76	<p>The Badger Army Ammunition Plant captivated me from the first time I saw it—it seems to sit like a vast, mysterious, quiet front porch for Devil's Lake State Park. When I laid eyes on it, and then got inside, its history and the biological communities that have thrived there over the past several decades, got under my skin. It hooked me, as it has hundreds of neighbors, visitors, scientists, historians, volunteers, kids and adults.</p> <p>I started volunteering with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, continuing and expanding the stewardship activities on remnant prairie and savanna areas at Badger, then I dedicated my Masters research to Badger – I</p>

	<p>studied other large-scale restoration projects in the Midwest and made contact with the experts who were working on projects like Badger. What impressed them most about our project in Wisconsin was that neighbors and community members, experts from the universities and from federal and state agencies like the DNR, were working together to come up with a plan for the future of Badger! I watched and participated as my friends and neighbors and public servants in the DNR and other agencies created this plan. It has earned respect and credibility across sectors, agencies, and communities, because it represents years of work, years of relationships, research, and consensus about what we want Badger to look like. Furthermore, it's intentionally flexible to account for changing conditions over time.</p> <p>That's why I'm joining hundreds of my colleagues, neighbors, and friends, with the following recommendations:</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. I ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to the future of our shared resources. I look forward to seeing the vision of the Badger Reuse Plan realized and having the DNR as an active partner in implementing it.</p>
77	<p>I am writing to convey my opinion on the proposed future usage of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. My preference for development would actually be a mixture of Alternatives 1 and 3, in that any action which will be taken should be done with an eye towards outdoor recreation, while at the same time minimizing the amount of money spent on development.</p> <p>I feel the public should have access and the ability to use all of this property for outdoor recreation, except for limited areas where there are legitimate safety concerns. (Eventually those hazards could be mitigated and the area restored to common use.) I would like to see this land used for all the purposes discussed in Alternative 3, and to me the most appropriate use would be for a shooting range. What better way to celebrate the history of this property than with a related pastime such as target shooting?</p> <p>However, the frugality offered by Alternative 1 also appeals to me. I feel any development that does take place should limit the amount of public funds used, possibly by soliciting private donations from the prospective users of the land to subsidize a portion of the development. Allow outdoor recreation as soon as feasible, and if a shooting range is proposed, I for one would be willing to donate money toward its construction and operation.</p> <p>I am unable to attend the open house tomorrow, but please include my comments with the other opinions offered. Thank you.</p>
78	<p>A Badger Prairie Heritage Preserve would include the former land of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. This heritage preserve will be a combination of railway historical park and prairie nature park. This preserve should be operated by the Badger Prairie Heritage Preserve, Inc., that would include a 12 member board of directors. A Badger Prairie Heritage Society should be established as a non-profit heritage support organization.</p> <p>The Board of Directors for the preserve should include one representative each from the National Park Service, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Mid-Continent Railway Museum, Ho-Chunk Nation, and Sauk County Historical Society, two members from the University of Wisconsin (a history professor and a natural resources professor), and five members elected by the membership of the Badger Prairie Heritage Society. The board members would serve staggered three year terms and elect officers from amongst themselves. The officers would include a President, Vice President, Secretary, and</p>

	<p>Treasurer.</p> <p>A Badger Prairie Heritage Preserve would employ a staff of college educated and experienced professionals to run the preserve. The permanent professional staff of the preserve should include a Preserve Manager, a Chief Ranger/Assistant Preserve Manager, a Park Ranger-Historian, a Park Ranger-Naturalist, and a Park Ranger responsible for law enforcement. The Preserve Manager and Chief Ranger/Assistant Preserve Manager would be required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. The Park Ranger-Historian and the Park-Ranger-Naturalist would be required to have a master's degree in their fields. The law enforcement Park Ranger would be required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, preferably in criminal justice and be certified as a law enforcement officer. They would then hire qualified part-time and/or seasonal Park Rangers to assist them as needed or required.</p> <p>The symbol of the Badger Prairie Nature Preserve would be a badger and a steam locomotive. It would include the words BADGER PRAIRIE arched above them and the words HERITAGE PRESERVE underneath them.</p> <p>NON-PROFIT HERITAGE CORPORATIONS</p> <p>I do not believe that it is necessary for the National Park Service to own and/or operate all national historic sites, national archeological sites, national battlefields, a site within a multi-unit national historic sites or national battlefield sites, and for heritage preserves. The National Park Service may need to establish the area, but once established and developed, it then can be turned over to a non-profit heritage corporation. These areas can be owned and operated just as well by a non-profit heritage corporation as by the National Park Service. This would not be setting a precedent since there are a number of areas in the National Park System that are not owned or operated by the National Park Service.</p> <p>The National Park Service does need to establish professional guidelines so that these areas are operated properly and professionally. Each national historic site, national archeological site, national battlefield, site within a multi-unit national historic sites or national battlefield sites, and heritage preserve would include a 12 member board of directors and a support heritage society. They would be required to employ college educated and experienced professionals. This includes a Site or Preserve Manager and a Park Ranger-Historian. The national historic sites, national archeological sites, national battlefields, multiple unit national historic sites or national battlefield sites, probably would not need a Park Ranger-Naturalist and a Park Ranger responsible for law enforcement, but may have a Park Ranger responsible for any nature interpretation and law enforcement that may be needed or required. The heritage preserves should be required, though, to have a Chief Ranger/Assistant Preserve Manager, a Park Ranger-Naturalist and a Park Ranger responsible for law enforcement. They would then hire qualified part-time and/or seasonal Park Rangers to assist them as needed or required.</p>
79	<p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p>
80	<p>As a Wisconsin resident and hunter, I would like to see, if not all the old Ordnance Plant land used for hunting and trapping, at least half of it open to hunting and trapping.</p> <p>If this is an issue with the anti's, how about split sharing of the plant? Hunters and trappers use it from August or Sept. to March. From May to July or August the anti's or those that just want to bird watch or walk the land. No animals allowed, as this just creates problems if there are animal traps in the area. The animal lover's seem to think they are above the law and can let their animals run without leashes. Then their animal gets caught in a trap and they blame everybody but themselves.</p> <p>Of course the anti's and the rest can use the hunting land too, if hunting allowed, just at their own risk. But let us not forget, Wisconsin is a very safe state when it comes to responsible hunters with very few accidents or deaths</p>
81	<p>I have followed the work of the 21 member Badger Reuse Committee since 2000. They worked long and hard to develop a plan which reflected several appropriate uses for the Badger site: restoration, agriculture, education and research, and recreation. The plan, which resulted from a true participatory process, was endorsed by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the WI DNR's Natural Resources Board, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Alternative 2 of the current plan is the one which most closely reflects the plan which the Badger Reuse</p>

	<p>Committee created. Consequently, I support Alternative 2 and request that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities in Alternative 3. I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not fully incorporate the goals of the original Badger Reuse Plan, especially the failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture in planning for these important lands.</p>
82	<p>I am the Town Chairman of ██████████ which borders the Devils Lake State Park. You will be blessed at your meetings, with many people who want to do nothing with the parkland other than look at it. Since we have the opportunity to bring a more diverse group of visitors to the park, I suggest we try to do that. I think that there easily could be trails for both horses, which I own, and some motorized vehicles. The southern part of the State is lacking in both horse trails and ATV and Snowmobile trails in the winter. Multiple use trails work quite well if administered correctly. The flat area would work well for placing horse trailers and tow vehicles. The horse campers do not need much. Most of us have our own water and hay and can find a way to tie or corral our horses. Horses on this property would even give the City dwelling campers a chance to see the horses and their riders if they wished.</p> <p>There is no reason why some horse and ATV trails could not be included in the use plan for the new area. There are various clubs that would help in the lay out and maintenance of these trails. It is done in other places, and can work out well. .</p> <p>I hope to be in Sauk tomorrow evening for the meeting.</p>
83	<p>I would like to add my humble opinion regarding the outcome of the former Badger plant in Baraboo. I would like to see it used for hiking and biking and bird watching but NOT for ATV use. People can ride ATV'S anywhere, once we push nature to far we can never get it back. I would even be willing to buy a season pass like they do for the state parks or the 400 trail to be able to use the property.</p>
84	<p>I would like to express my support for Alternative #4 which has been put forth by the Badger Management Oversight Committee, Citizens for Safe Water around Badger, The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.</p> <p>This plan allows only those uses which comply with the Badger Reuse Plan while also recognizing the need for restoration, educational facilities and basic infrastructure needs</p> <p>I find it unfortunate that the DNR felt compelled to present it's 3 options in such a way that people would think those were the only options, thereby suggesting that in order to have basic facilities, activities such as rifle shooting would have to be allowed. The land is being given to the state with the understanding that uses will comply with the Badger Reuse Plan and rifle ranges and ATV trails do not meet that criteria. I can only hope that you and your colleagues are under so much political pressure that you fear for your jobs. I urge you to comply with the agreement with the National Park Service and cease pursuing inclusion of ATV trails and Rifle Ranges.</p> <p>I would like to see the following: Specific Activities and Uses consistent with Conservation and Low Impact Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement plan elements specified in the Badger Reuse Plan; • Restore large, unfragmented tracts of grassland, wetland and shrubland (Habitat Management Zone)* to support native and migratory birds and wildlife; • Restore remnants of native natural communities and the species they support (Native Community Management Zone)*; limit access to pedestrian use; • Provide low-impact porous non-paved recreation trails that complement the topography and resource management; • Preserve and enhance key vistas through vegetation management; • Selectively site and construct (through community partnerships) a new visitor center with interpretation and educational opportunities; • Provide interpretation and education opportunities about this property's history and geographic location, acknowledge Ho-Chunk Nation history and Euro-American histories and displacements, and the design, operation and decommissioning of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant; • Provide facilities such as a classroom, parking area, staging area, wash station and bathrooms near the Visitor's Center in the Habitat Restoration Zone; • Identify and improve primary auto access roads through the property and deconstruct roads no longer needed. Limit vehicle access; • Provide interpretation and education opportunities for schools and universities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use volunteers to promote community participation in education and to help restore natural communities; • Provide outdoor research opportunities for ecologists, scientists and students; • Develop parking, picnic areas and viewing areas in the Expanded Recreational Zone* and to a lesser degree in the Habitat Restoration Zone*; • Develop a fishing pier, canoe/carry-in boat access, and picnic area at the Lake Wisconsin parcel; • Provide a multiple use trail connecting the Sauk Prairie area, Merrimac area, and Devil's Lake State Park via Burma road consisting of hiking and biking and a seasonal snowmobile trail on an agreed upon route; • Designate parcel "M" and "M1" as a Habitat Restoration Zone*; • Remove any unwanted infrastructure, buildings or debris that remains on the property, with the exception of infrastructure that may provide bat habitat and support bat research. <p>Note (*): The use of the term "Zone(s)" above is to maintain compatibility with language in other DNR proposed alternatives; BOMC members feel this term in most cases is too restrictive and exclusive for Badger lands which often have characteristics of one or more zone types in one area. Exclusive use zones may conflict with the first Value of the Badger Reuse Plan: to manage Badger as a whole.</p>
85	<p>I am writing in support of BOM Alt. #4. I believe a Conservation and Low Impact Recreational Emphasis is most appropriate. Combining hunting, fishing, canoeing, and hiking while providing educational opportunities along with best agricultural and conservation practices looks like a winning formula. All of this can be accomplished without disturbing area residents. In time, this land will heal itself. Please consider this great option. Thank you for your time and efforts.</p>
86	<p>I am writing to voice my opinion on the future of the Badger Ammo Plant property. Of the three options I've seen I prefer alternative number three: outdoor recreation emphasis as reported at http://www.wkow.com/story/22960809/2013/07/29/open-house-on-the-future-of-badger-ammo</p> <p>A public shooting range would be fantastic as there is not much available to the Madison area unless you have lots of private land. Also, I am curious what the motorized use would entail – atv and motorbikes only or a better trail system the 4-wheel drive vehicles could use also? I also like the idea of the educational center. I hope some of the history of the site can be saved!!</p>
87	<p>My comments are as follows: I am writing in favor of restoring and maintaining as much grassland as possible as this type of habitat is critical for a variety of uncommon birds and animals. As a nature enthusiast I also enjoy the peace and quiet that goes along with restricting access to this area for quiet sports only- hiking, biking, snowshoeing etc. Opening up the area to ATV and shooting ranges would diminish the habitat and lead to user conflicts.</p>
88	<p>I would propose that the Badger Ammunition land be restored to grassland & access be limited to pedestrians.</p>
89	<p>As avid horse back riders we would like to see the trails at Badger be open to trail riders. Several years ago for a short time it was open for trail riding and riders were respectful of the terrain, maintained the trails and raised funds for organizations. Unfortunately the closest riding area Blackhawk ridge's parking lot is not suitable for accommodating several horse trailers whereas badger would be.</p> <p>We are avid users of the parks for snowmobiling, skiing , hiking, hunting and of course riding so it would be nice to have another park for riding close to home. We have travelled to Europe, The Big Horn mts., the Black Hills , Colorado Rockies and several other states to ride and found these places welcoming riders with excellent facilities and not having trouble with the environment , but instead people were very respectful and horse people added money to their economy through tourism .</p> <p>We support the DNR by purchasing several licenses, trail passes and park fees and would like our interests as horseback riders supported.</p>
90	<p>I think developing the land with mountainbiking trails and a shooting range sound like a great idea.</p>
91	<p>I'm writing to express my concern regarding the addition of high-impact activities proposed for the Badger reuse plan. To emphasize my point, I offer the following short story: I was recently on a hike with some young children in the Kettle Moraine State Park. As you may be aware, there is a shooting range just next to the park. After hiking for 10 minutes the range opened for the day and shooting began. Not only was our sense of solitude interrupted, but the children were scared by the sound. I could see one of them wince with every report from the rifles. They were worried that "bad" people were coming. I tried to reassure them, but this intrusion had a very negative impact on our planned activities. One hunter firing his weapon spoiled the morning for several hikers. Please note that this range is further away from nature activities than it would be in the proposed special use plan. I can't imagine trying to enjoy a day with nature while having gunfire that close. These sportsmen need</p>

	<p>their practice but not in a protected and recovering natural area. Besides that, hasn't the Badger area seen enough gun powder and bullets to last several lifetimes?</p> <p>Regarding the possible motorized vehicle use area, it's nearly impossible to escape the noise of engines in Wisconsin as it is. The current noise pollution created by motorcycles is so prevalent as to be absurd. Motorcyclists are riding with altered mufflers and producing harmful noise pollution with impunity throughout the state. Must we be subjected to noise and possible soil erosion of this special interest group while trying to enjoy the natural beauty of this area? Again, not here please!</p> <p>Ms. Brusoe, please help the citizens of our state to enjoy this new and healing area by removing the Special Use Zone from the plan. We need more plants, more animals, and a much lighter human footprint.</p>
92	<p>I would like to see the Badger Ammunition Plant property south of Baraboo be restored to a grassland, with no further development and restricting access to pedestrians.</p> <p>This would a great opportunity for future generations, for wildlife and endangered bird habitat to be restored. This a one-time chance in a life time for a project that will be great gift to restore the area to original site character and a great conservation project for The Department of Natural Resources as the best option for the site.</p>
93	<p>I am responding to the request for comments for the future use of the SPRA. I would like to see alternative 3 happen. I am an off road motorcycle trail rider and the nearest area for this is almost 3 hours away. It would be great for this area to have trails for motorcycle use only and separate wider trails for atvs' and such. Mountain bike trails would also be a great addition.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.</p>
94	<p>Thanks for your representation last night at the River Arts Center. I spoke with you briefly after the meeting. I live in Grubers Grove. We appreciate the opportunity to hear what you have to say and to also have a voice in this decision.</p> <p>As a local resident, I've been following the Badger Oversight Committee for many years. They've worked hard to come together to create a plan that all parties agreed upon. This was not an easy task. They are a very committed group and have spent a great deal of effort in coming up with a comprehensive plan that benefits everyone. The wisdom of this group should not be discounted.</p> <p>Area residents have waited for many years to see the outcome of this project. The Alternative 4 suggestion is a great alternative. The Badger Oversight Committee worked hard to implement your recommendations into this plan while staying within their basic guidelines. I'm asking you to value the efforts of this group and take serious consideration of their suggestions.</p>
95	<p>I would like to bring to your attention that I would like to see ATV trails added to the Badger ammunition property when it becomes public.</p>
96	<p>I am a fifty-year resident of Sauk Prairie, a retired Family Physician and a wellness proponent. I have biked across the United States coast to coast twice, thus I am familiar with the popularity and needs of biking families. I am therefore hopeful that there is a plan for converting the current rail line to a hiking/biking trail making a safe connection between Sauk Prairie and Devil's Lake State Park.</p> <p>With the epidemic of obesity and diabetes there is a great need to encourage opportunities for safe, physically active, recreational activities. I believe promoting riders of more motorized machines (ATVs) is simply contrary to what we ought to be encouraging. Furthermore, I suspect there is good reason there are fewer ATV trails in southern Wisconsin. ATVs conflicts with a denser population who are seeking parks of serenity.</p> <p>I am sure you are aware that there is a gun club and shooting range open to the public just a couple of miles west of Sauk Prairie. Do we really need more shooting ranges?</p> <p>I appreciate the attempt to be as inclusive as possible, but trying to fit shooting and ATVs with the Sauk Prairie Recreational Park seems to me to be too great a conflict of use.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.</p> <p>[Later email:] I believe my previous email opinions would be best fit with "Alternative 4". I failed to mention that though my year-round home is in Prairie du Sac, I have a cottage in Gruber's Grove with shore line in the bay. I do hope that there will not be ATV trails and a gun range in the plan.</p>

97	I write in support of the Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4 for the future of the former Badger plant. I support Alternative 4, because it is consistent with the values and way of life of our state, the home of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Warren Knowles, and Gaylord Nelson--giants in protecting our American environment. I oppose using the Badger property for such high-impact activities as ATV trails or shooting ranges.
98	I enthusiastically support the BOMC Alternative 4 for the use of the Badger site. It incorporates the good parts of DNR's three alternatives; complements the surrounding Baraboo Hills, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin Riverway, and rural agricultural landscape; provides a big boost to the local economy based in the beautiful place where we live; and is the ONLY proposal that honors the agreement to develop only LOW IMPACT uses. It also has the strong support of the local community. Please implement BOMC Alternative 4. Thank you.
99	Please include our family in support of the BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger Reclamation project. It fits perfectly with the future we are seeking as it will enhance the low-impact utilization of land and resources this area is known for.
100	I have studied the Badger proposals and I favor BOMC "Alternative 4".
101	As a borderline stakeholder in the Badgerland restoration, a frequent visitor to the area and a supporter of community efforts for many years I would like to encourage you to consider seriously Alternative 4 proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.
102	Alternative #4 makes everyone happy. I hope you will support this proposal, especially since it has been created by all the parties that have planned from the very beginning.
103	I support BOMC Alternate #4 as the best use for the Badger property and feel it is the best fit for the area's long standing commitment to the environment. With the International Crane Foundation, Aldo Leopold's shack and legacy center, the Nature Conservancy's presence, the Baraboo Hills and Devil's Lake in the immediate zone of influence, Alternate #4 is the best choice for reuse. Please give this utmost consideration as you move forward. What would Aldo do?
104	I am writing to you today in support of the BOMC Alternative #4. I am hoping that you will support it as well. It makes the most sense for the area of concern.
105	I am a resident of Merrimac. My father worked as a mechanical supervisor during the active days of the Ammo Plant. We as a family have always taken great pride in our beautiful area around the river/Lake Wisconsin and because of this, we want to express our vote for Alternative 4. Thank you for your consideration and passing this on to the Wisconsin DNR.
106	I am writing to express my strong support for the BOMC alternative 4 proposal for the "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area". This proposal blends the best of WDNR's alternatives and places an emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses. This alternative also compliments the surrounding Baraboo Hills, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin Riverway, and rural agricultural landscape – while providing a big boost to the local economy. I am deeply troubled by the notion that, in order to have recreation on the former Badger lands, we must also open the area up to all forms of recreation, including ones that are potentially in direct conflict with the most important opportunity that the Badger lands represent: that of unprecedented conservation and restoration project and learning lab. I am also confused as to why the DNR would propose new usage options without also including one that more closely reflects the spirit of the Badger Reuse Plan. To disregard a plan developed over a long time period and which was the result of many key stakeholders coming together to create the best possible solution (a solution which received the blessing of the Department of the Interior) seems misguided to me at best. The BOMC alternative 4 proposal is the best option for the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. It'd be

	terrible to miss this opportunity to embrace a healthy future for the Badger lands and its surrounding communities.
107	<p>I have been fortunate to tour the former Badger Ordinance land a couple times in the last year or so and have been following the plans being proposed over the years. I fully support the BOMC alternative 4. It takes into account the collaborative research, input collected and the recommendations made that were based on these efforts. It also promotes educational possibilities and restoration and has the support of those entities most involved with this process.</p> <p>We and future generations do not need more areas to be blighted by noise and pollution.</p> <p>As an aside, I live on Lake Wisconsin, several miles from a shooting range. Our peaceful mornings of sitting by the lake, listening to birds and watching the eagles and herons, are frequently interrupted by the repeated and unending gun blasts. This is not what we need near Devils Lake or on this land. Please allow it to be restored and utilized for low impact use.</p>
108	<p>I'm emailing you to express my support for BOMC Alternative # 4, by the Badger Management Oversight Commission. I'm certain you and other DNR staff are aware of it and have studied it.</p> <p>The plan has complementary uses planned, ones that will retain the peaceful atmosphere that the birds, animals, and visitors there have adapted to and currently thrive in.</p> <p>The idea of upsetting the peace of Badger with ATV's, snowmobiles, and/or a shooting range is highly objectionable to me and to the members of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. In addition I feel strongly those uses would be a disrespectful slight to the many volunteers who have given a great deal of time and energy to improve Badger to its present condition through the years.</p> <p>In an age where human population is too quickly eliminating peaceful and healthy natural areas it best serves the future of Badger to keep it a quiet and peaceful spot where nature can be enjoyed and observed without the too familiar sounds and scents of gunfire (other than legal hunting as is currently practiced there) and motorized recreation (wreck-reation?).</p> <p>I certainly hope you and other responsible DNR personnel will accept Alternative # 4 over the other proposals. Thank you for your attention to this email.</p>
109	<p>From 1905 to 1921 my grandfather owned land and a farm where the Badger Ordinance Depot is located. It was along the present Hwy 78 just south of the cemetery. My great grandfather owned a farm just across the road (HWY 78) and a little bit to the north of the cemetery. My aunt went to a one room school house west of my grandfather's farm. She told me about the cemeteries now inside the Badger Ordinance grounds. My dad as a little tot watched chain driven trucks go by the farmhouse hauling rock to make the Prairie du Sac dam around 1918.</p> <p>As to the future of the Badger Ordinance depot I would like to see it revert to a nature area where one can go for peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle. I would like to see hiking paths, and BICYCLE PATHS. These paths could be used by snowmobiles in the winter. I would prefer many of the facilities and buildings used to make ammunition razed, however leave a few buildings standing near the main gate to show visitors a part of this land's history from 1941 to 1970 etc. I also believe the grounds needs a visitor's center or sign boards where visitors can gather information about the history of the grounds.</p> <p>However, one thing I am not in favor of is ATV's on the property. I have impressions that ATV users will go off the designated paths and tear up the vegetation and operate their vehicles with no regard to the pristine nature of the place.</p> <p>I would be agreeable to horse paths on the grounds, if they would not interfere with paths for hikers and bicyclists. I am afraid of horses and would not like one to come on a path I am walking on as a hiker or on a bicycle.</p> <p>I hope my feelings are helpful to you and your group. I hope that eventually we can use this ground as a nature area within the next 10 years. I am getting tired of waiting.</p>
110	I have looked at the BOMC ALTERNATIVE #4. I like the emphasis on conservation and emphasis on low impact use

111	I am writing to express my support for BOMC Alternative #4 for reuse of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Sauk City, Wisconsin. I believe this alternative includes a mix of recreational and conservation uses that best fits the property, local residents, users of the adjacent DNR properties, and the majority of the visitors to the area.
112	The timing of your public meeting on the 31st must have been specifically selected to stymie those who work for a living from participating. 5 p.m. start?
113	<p>I am writing to encourage the DNR, as it is planning for the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, to ensure that opportunities are provided for non-motorized recreation, particularly mountain biking.</p> <p>The elevation change and varied topography in parts of SPRA, particularly the north end towards Devils Lake State Park, offer great opportunities for high quality single track mountain biking trails. Mountain biking is a very healthy and environmentally friendly activity. It does not cause erosion or tear up the ground as does horseback riding, motorcycling, ATVing, and the like. The International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) has published detailed guidance on planning and building mountain biking trails -- see "Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack" (http://www.imba.com/catalog/book-trail-solutions) and "Managing Mountain Biking: IMBA's Guide to Providing Sweet Riding" (http://www.imba.com/catalog/book-mmb).</p> <p>[Later email:] I am writing to follow-up on our conversation from earlier in the year concerning the planning process for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA).</p> <p>I have reviewed the recently released three land use alternatives for the SPRA that are currently posted on WI DNR's website. I was disappointed in these three alternatives, particularly the latter two as they seemingly set-up the false choice between conservation or recreation. I think that the optimal outcome for the SPRA has a well considered mix of conservation and low-impact recreation.</p> <p>I strongly urge serious consideration of a fourth alternative -- the so-called Alternative 4 proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). I think that SPRA can strongly emphasis conservation and prairie restoration while simultaneously embracing low-impact recreation, including mountain biking, as we previously discussed. But I do not believe that intensive summertime motorized use (e.g., All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), motorbikes) and shooting ranges are right for SPRA's original conservation intent. Perhaps limited opportunities can be provided for snowmobiling along the rails-to-trails corridor, but this should be carefully limited as well.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. I look forward to the planning process moving forward.</p>
114	<p>I want to let you know I strongly support BOMC Alternative #4. I truly believe this is the best, most long-sighted, healthiest and most sustainable use of the Badger Ammunition Plant lands.</p> <p>Thank you for your work and dedication to doing the right thing, today and for future generations.</p>
115	I support the attached proposal [Alternative 4] for the Sauk Prairie lands.
116	<p>Please make note of my support for Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative #4 proposing the development of Badger Ammunition lands in Sauk County.</p> <p>Alternative #4's list of proposed activities and land uses, including both restoration of unfragmented land to its prior natural habitat and the gentle presence of human beings (educational and recreational), reveal the foresight and intelligence that went into this proposal. If implemented, this plan promises to be good for Wisconsin, good for the people who live in the vicinity of Badger Ammunition lands and good for the future of land use planning in this state.</p> <p>This is a model, however delayed, of wise input and cooperation resulting in something beneficial for everyone; conservation at its very best.</p> <p>Please adopt this well-considered alternative to the use of a great Wisconsin resource.</p>
117	<p>I am copying this from a friend, as we feel the same way about it.</p> <p>Dear Ms. Brusoe,</p>

	<p>Please make note of my support for Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative #4 proposing the development of Badger Ammunition lands in Sauk County.</p> <p>Alternative #4's list of proposed activities and land uses, including both restoration of unfragmented land to its prior natural habitat and the gentle presence of human beings (educational and recreational), reveal the foresight and intelligence that went into this proposal. If implemented, this plan promises to be good for Wisconsin, good for the people who live in the vicinity of Badger Ammunition lands and good for the future of land use planning in this state. This is a model, however delayed, of wise input and cooperation resulting in something beneficial for everyone; conservation at its very best.</p> <p>Please adopt this well-considered alternative to the use of a great Wisconsin resource.</p>
118	<p>We give our whole hearted support for alternative 4.</p> <p>Just a short look at the landscape anywhere in WI reveals less and less habitat and human sensitivity to our fellow travelers on this earth we share.</p>
119	<p>I'm writing to formally express my support for Alternative #4: Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis for the Sauk Prairie Restoration Area. I support the use of this area for conservation and low-impact recreational activities. As an avid hiker and mountain biker, I believe that these activities would be a better fit for the Sauk Prairie Restoration Area than other activities. These kinds of low-impact activities are more sustainable to the terrain in the Sauk Prairie Restoration Area and complement conservation activities. Hiking and biking do not disturb grassland birds the way that more intrusive activities such as ATVing, motorcycling, and equine activities do. Because of the fragile state of this environment, I believe that the recommendations spelled out in Alternative #4 are the best use of this land because lower impact activities such as hiking and mountain biking do less damage as well as offer a greater opportunity to enjoy the natural areas.</p>
120	<p>Being a long-term friend of CSWAB and the SaukPrairie Conservation Association, I am learning about current discussions of Badger restoration, widely reported in the news.</p> <p>I want to say a couple of things, as the public has been asked to contribute our observations about alternative land uses in the Badger plant acreage.</p> <p><u>Recreation is not all alike. Some recreation flies in the face of agreements made by the DNR with the National Park Service. Some recreation creates environmental hazards, both mental and physical, that were are hard put to tolerate nowadays from any source whatsoever.</u></p> <p>The facts are clear to me:</p> <p>FIRING RANGES Guns are not a Natural Resource. They are always and forever associated with war and the systematic destruction of Natural Resources. Firing ranges pollute people's minds, starting at a very early age: they demonstrate the idea that guns and firing guns is a good thing for civilians to do for fun. This is absolutely damaging to our civilization, our moral fabric. Firing ranges cause a lot of noise that is very unsettling, which is just the opposite of what a Natural habitat is cultivated to produce in and for humans, in and around it. The noise is not just loud, it signifies wartime activity, not peaceableness. The gunpowder once fired there accomplishes nothing good, and is an air pollutant. Vehicles are used to get to and from the range. Danger there is everywhere, causing the need for policing.</p> <p>We have decided, as a nation, to dismantle the Badger plant; converting anything in it to a firing range is to go from AMMO TO AMMO; DUST TO DUST. Just look at it for these reasons alone, and see how much this idea is a very clear internal contradiction for both the DNR and the SPCA; what you stand for is directly against such an idea.</p> <p>ATV TRAILS We have in our part of the state extremely erodable soil. Even if we did not, the less erodable soils can be destroyed in their own ways by anything that digs into them over and over and over and over. But then we take the case of our sand here; our neighborhoods have a great many of easily studied examples of the erosive destruction of the ATV vehicle used to follow in a gerbil-like pattern, usually by youngsters without productive hobbies. The ATV trail is to tear up the <u>very thing that a Natural habitat offers: natural growth and formations to observe.</u></p>

	<p><u>study, worship, appreciate, understand</u> as we use what we have left of wilderness and prairie, for protecting the surface of the planet for generations to come. The Badger area can be either an example of a place where concentrations of gas-using vehicles, polluting the air and soil where they dig over and over and over, ... or it can be an example of Natural Resources. ATV vehicles are the opposite of Natural Resources, and the DNR ought to be very careful about their advocacy in this issue.</p>
121	<p>I very much support the Badger Oversight Management Commission's alternative plan for the Badger Property as its plan for low-impact recreation and conservation for the property has been the result of careful and considered planning and is best suited for the property.</p>
122	<p>Please accept this as my strong endorsement of Alternative #4. My wife and I live over a mile from a shooting range, and I can assure you that it, as well as 4-wheeling, is completely incompatible with the low-impact uses for the former Badger Ammunition property. It seems to me that this is stating the obvious. We can hear the shooting very clearly, regardless of wind direction.</p>
123	<p>I support BOMC Alternative 4 as the plan that will implement long term use of the Badger property that is best for the environment, citizen use, and the local economy.</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and the reuse process which I have watched unfold for many years. I have not been an active participant in this process, but feel a duty to voice my concern that the DNR has not integrated the importance not only of the Badger Reuse Plan in its own planning, but of the process itself. The Badger Reuse process is an excellent example of local coordination and participation and it is imperative to respect these bottom-up initiatives. I do appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature based recreation, community participation and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in Alternative 3, specifically the motorized use and shooting range, are incompatible with the aforementioned uses. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>The opportunities that Badger presents for the people of Wisconsin with its unique geographical context, natural resources, and sheer scale are a rarity in southern Wisconsin. It is imperative that we, and in particular the DNR as stewards of the public trust, get this right. The planning should integrate research and sustainable agriculture and the DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin and other Badger stakeholders and more fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>The potential for Badger to provide an example of how agriculture and conservation can (and inherently must) work together based on local involvement for the good of Wisconsin's land, water, wildlife, people, economy, and future should not be undervalued in an attempt to appease incompatible forms of recreation. I say this as a sportsman who values the opportunity to safely shoot and one who appreciates a place for ATV's as well.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing the voice of a Sauk County native who takes pride in the great state of Wisconsin, including the proud heritage of the DNR .</p>
124	<p>I really like this alternative 4 for the Badger land use. The idea of having a shooting range, ATV trails, etc is unnecessary and unwise. It was never intended to be used for these hi -impact activities. Please do not use this land for those purposes. Alternative 4 is the best idea I've seen so far for the use of this land.</p>
125	<p>My comment for the ammunition plant is to have both UW-Madison agriculture and Wisconsin ag dept plus building engineers from all UW-campus's to build 20-25 foot high glass structures to produce fruits and vegetables within it for chem-pest-bacteria free environment.</p> <p>Such structures are known as sky/vertical farming.</p> <p>One such structure can produce 100,000 heads of lettuce.</p> <p>Such structures have to be without shadow effects from buildings and from trees. Also, savings of transportation from south and west is there!</p> <p>If this can be done on an affordable experiment and success is there then go on to larger structure for all year round, sustainable agriculture production for state and elsewhere for distribution to food stores, dining halls and others businesses.</p>

126	<p>After reading the three alternatives suggested by the DNR and the fourth alternative suggested by the BOMC (Badger Oversight Management Commission), I believe the BOMC alternative is far superior to the other three alternatives. The three DNR alternatives either shut many recreation users out or defeat the goal of low impact recreation. The BOMC plan includes a visitor center, trails for hiking, fishing access, and permits recreational hunting. It provides protection for the grassland bird population which is in decline in many areas of Wisconsin. It is an ideal plan for wildlife viewing and involving users in the unique landscape that this area will become. It avoids land damaging motorized vehicle use and noisy shooting ranges which detract from the natural experience that many visitors hope to experience. I believe the BOMC alternative which they have dubbed "alternative 4" is the way to proceed. Thank you for considering this proposal.</p>
127	<p>Please consider BOMC Alternative #4 for the use of the land in the Badger property or Badger lands. I would love to have access to this beautiful location for recreation other than another water park which keeps me away from that area of the State. I am an avid bicycle rider and want to get started in cross country skiing and would love to have this property available to the people of Wisconsin and not just tourists.</p>
128	<p>I am writing to support the fourth alternative for reuse of the Badger Ordinance land, as presented by the Badger Oversight Management Commission. As a life-long resident of southern Wisconsin, I believe that the BOMC alternative is the best option. As it attracts low-impact recreation lovers to a unique and beautiful area, it will boost the local economy for the long term.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. I urge the DNR to consider the BOMC alternative.</p>
129	<p>Please support this fourth alternative. I participate in most activities that have been proposed under various alternatives. I believe this alternative is best for the land and the people.</p>
130	<p>I support parts of Alternative 3 and parts of Alternative 2. Overall I would like to see an area that is for low impact recreation including constructed mountain bike trail that can be multi use with snow shoeing, hiking and trail running. Along with that I support a 2nd multi use trail system for hiking and cross country skiing</p> <p>Restoration work of the grassland ecosystem has its important point I don't think that it has to be exclusive use of the facilities. The Outdoor recreation opportunities is what excites me the most about this property. I would most like to see multi use trail that would consist constructed mountain bike trail that is built to imba standards. There is only 50 miles of constructed mountain bike trails in the state park system in Wisconsin. I would love to see more of this type of trail in the park. This trail could also function well as multi use with Hikers, trail runners and snowshoers. This type of trail would be best located in the more wooded and rolling hilly sections of the park. This trail would not be a good fit to share with cross country skiing, Motorized, or horse traffic. Constructed mountain biking trails have been found to have a very low environmental impact that is similar to hiking trails. "an emerging body of knowledge on the environmental impact of mountain biking can help guide current management decisions. All of the existing scientific studies indicate that while mountain biking, like all forms of recreational activity, can result in measurable impacts to vegetation, soil, water resources, and wildlife, the environmental effects of well-managed mountain biking are minimal.</p> <p>Furthermore, while the impact mechanics and forces may be different from foot traffic, mountain biking impacts are little different from hiking, the most common and traditional form of trail-based recreational activity."</p> <p>http://www.imba.com/resources/research/trail-science/environmental-impacts-mountain-biking-science-review-and-best-practices</p> <p>Constructed mountain bike trails are consistent with multi use recreation and low impact recreation and are the best fit for the park.</p> <p>I also support the development of cross country ski/hiking trails.</p> <p>Although I am not opposed to the possibility of horse traffic in the park they should have their own trail system. There is no use other than cross country skiing that is compatible with horses. What defines "adequate trail maintenance" differs for each group. Mountain bikers like to have well-groomed trails to ride, something horses do not need. When horses ride, their hoofs break up the trail bedding creating poor conditions for biking. I have been involved with trail maintenance on a trail that horses shared with mountain bikes. This combination made it impossible for the volunteer group to continue to repair the horse damage and they eventually abandon it for other lands that didn't allow horses.</p> <p>I am concerned with the possibility of noise and trail degradation that comes with motorized trails. I do not support motorized trails. I oppose the idea of target ranges because of the noise.</p>

	I am not opposed to traditional hunting during open seasons. I am opposed to trapping.
131	Diane thank you for the opportunity for we people to comment on the future of this expansive property. As the former Town Chair of ██████████, I have followed the efforts of the DNR and the many involved citizens. The uniqueness of this property should be kept as a preserve with biking, fishing and hiking and not have any motorized invasions of ATVs. I would support having a horse trail going around the perimeter of the property even though this type of activity which can cause possible erosion problems. The animal, insect and plant communities should definitely be respected and preserved. If this property is properly managed I could see a good harmony with the public use for ecotourism and maintaining the balance of all life that exists within its boundaries. Please think long range for the future generations when evaluating such a one of a kind property.
132	I am writing to express my opinion on the future of the Badger Ammo area. I am very much against the area being developed into a shooting range and off hwy vehicles trails. I would remind the DNR that the Baraboo range is an area high in conservation/preservation practices and to let the public destroy the environment with off road riding just doesn't fit into that mission. A shooting range would disturb wildlife and birding nesting and migration. The people in the area have the opportunity to shoot at a range in the Sauk/Prairie area if they want. I am much more open to low impact activities for the public, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, birding, etc. In other words, family activities where people and animals are not cringing with fear of straying bullets. Although, hunting within specific dates could be a possibility as in the past. Also, the idea of a visitor center sounds great as a way for the public to view the history of the area! Please resist the temptation to be swayed by the off road colliations for this area.
133	I am so excited to hear that the State is taking public comment on the future use of the former ammunition plant. I had the pleasure of riding my horse on these grounds a couple of times as part of a fund raiser many years ago. This is truly beautiful and sacred land. Unfortunately there is less and less open land available to the public and with continued restrictions on the use of public land, less land for us horse back riders to enjoy. The Baraboo area does not offer public land for horse back riders, with many of us having little choice but to ride on our very busy roads or trailer long distances. Long gone are the days when our country areas had dirt roads and private land owners allowed horse back riders to pass through. I am respectfully requesting that horse back riding trails be considered as part of the future use of this land. I would be happy to be part of a committee to investigate this possibility further or help with fund raising, trail development etc.
134	Alternative 3 is something I would like to see for the future of the Badger Army Ammunition plant. The main reasons are it supports recreational activities of a greater percentage of the public versus just a few. Also, with an outdoor emphasis, it gives many opportunities we presently don't have in this area, and actually I think it could be managed to do several activities. Public Hunting with ATV trails can be combined with areas closed for certain seasons or grass savannas etc. The second reason, these types of activities have a better business plan, bringing more dollars to the economy versus other plans. ATV sales, Fishing & Hunting equipment sales, and jobs associated with this would be huge versus other alternatives plans listed. BASED on economics and political interest – I think the Outdoor emphasis is the best plan.
135	I write to you on the matter of land-use planning on the Badger Army Ammunition site in Sauk County, WI. I live in in Baraboo and work in Sauk Prairie and the future of the area is near and dear to me. The DNR has provided many fine proposals for restoration of the land in a way which will, in ecological and eco-tourism terms, place it in the premier group of restored prairie lands found throughout the United States. I support Alternative 2 of its land-use planning because the high impact uses in Alternative 3 are incompatible with the original objectives laid out by the parties in the original planning for the land. Please see to it that the "Special Use Zone" is removed if ALternative 3 is implemented. Those activities are better suited to less pristine land. This land, when considered in conjunction with Devil's Lake State Park, can still truly be a top outdoorsman's paradise without the high-impact activities which will negatively impact wildlife and neighbors alike. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I am a Wisconsin citizen who thinks about the long-term health of our state lands more than the short-term satisfaction for a few who prefer deleterious high-impact activities in ecologically sensitive lands.

136	In regard to plans for the land at Badger. ATV trails are in most state and county forests. Please do not include on at the Sauk Prairie area. The land should be used exclusively for prairie restoration.
137	I am writing in support of BOMC "Alternative 4", the new alternative for Badger. I believe creating a low impact recreation area, which complements the surrounding Baraboo Bluffs, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin Riverway, and rural agricultural landscape is the best use of the land. I also believe this plan will provide an economic boost to the area. Thank you in advance for considering my opinion.
138	I am writing to express my opinion that because of the history of Badger, I believe the residents/people who live in the area desire a low impact resolution to the land that was a munitions factory. My family lives 3 miles west of the plant, and I do not believe we need another gun range or ATV trail in this area. This is a place that should be set aside as a memorial to those who died from those munitions, should be a memorial to Erhart Mueller and Dr. Donald Kindschi, who worked on the history and wrote numerous books about the area. Dr Kindschi established a prairie on land outside of the plant, and it is a source of beauty and people from all over visit this place. It needs to be tied to conservation and preservation for the generations that will be coming along.
139	<p>I am writing to provide my comment on the future management of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Overall, I support 'Alternative #2: Ecological Restoration Emphasis'. While I view this as the best of the presented options, several of the educational, interpretation, access, and low-impact recreational aspects of Alternative #3 should also be incorporated, and would allow this unique area to better serve the citizens of Wisconsin. As a scientist and educator myself, I feel that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area provides a remarkable opportunity to educate students and the general public on a range of important societal issues. Furthermore, the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area provides unique research opportunities at the interface of agriculture and ecological restoration.</p> <p>I oppose the high impact (non-traditional) recreational uses that are included Alternative #3. These uses are simply not appropriate for this site, and are not consistent with the vision and recommendations of the Badger Reuse Plan, which previously brought together diverse stakeholders to create a consensus vision for the future of the Badger Plant.</p> <p>In summary, the DNR would be much better off simply incorporating the recommendations of the Badger Reuse Plan into its planning process.</p>
140	<p>I am writing as a Merrimac resident who owns and resides in a home with my husband [REDACTED] in the Lakeview Estates subdivision on Lake Wisconsin. We are not pleased with the WI DNR's three reuse alternatives for the former Badger property. We especially would not like to see the land used for off-road vehicles or for a shooting range.</p> <p>We are in favor, however, of the Badger Oversight Management Commission's Alternative 4 with its emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses. Its suggestions fit best for our neighborhood, for the Baraboo bluffs, for Devil's Lake State Park, and for the local economy.</p> <p>Please consider BOMC's Alternative 4 as the best for all concerned.</p>
141	Will input in next Wed. open house meeting in Sauk have any weight on the archery season happening or not happening? I feel it's not right to only offer a gun season and leave the archers out in the cold. What is the reasoning behind this decision. There are usually less archers than gun hunters and they are safer when it comes to hunting in a public areas such as state parks and state land.
142	I am writing to show my support of Alternative #4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. As a local landowner I feel Alternative #4 best fits the wants and needs for the majority of the stakeholders. Your consideration of Alternative #4 is greatly appreciated.
143	<p>Please adopt the plan of the Badger Oversight Management Commission which would offer a balance of low-impact recreation to this property.</p> <p>The plan was formulated by members from the local, county, tribal, state, and federal governments as well as community stakeholders. A similar group came together for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and Wildcat Mountain State Park several years ago. We see today that the economy of Kickapoo area has thrived as this naturally beautiful area has become widely known and appreciated. As important, family activities and nature-based recreation have grown.</p> <p>Use of noisy, "gas-guzzling" recreation would have a very negative impact on the wildlife and the ecology of this</p>

	unique setting.
144	<p>I have been disgusted to read that the DNR is considering opening up the former Badger Ordnance property to such destructive uses as ATV vehicles and hunting. Under Scott Walker, the DNR is focusing on destroying Wisconsin's beautiful natural areas in favor of big business, mining, and developers.</p> <p>As someone who treasures Wisconsin's natural beauty, I urge the DNR to maintain the Badger Ordnance property as a natural area and only allow for low-impact recreation such as hiking.</p>
145	<p>I would like to echo my husband's sentiments on choosing Alternative 4 for the most reasonable land usage at the Powder Plant (B.O.W.).</p> <p>People like the [REDACTED] lost farms and homes to the WWII effort, and the desire is to see "swords beaten into plowshares" in the most effective & reasonable way. The BOMC alternative 4 seems best!</p>
146	<p>I want to add my support for inclusion of low-impact recreational activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, and cross-country skiing as well as family activities, conservation, outdoor education and other nature-based recreation at Badger Ordnance. This is the land usage recommended by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>
147	<p>I see that you're the person to whom people should send ideas/input about the DNR public use plan for the Badger Ammo property, so here's my input:</p> <p>As much as I don't appreciate the raucous less-respectful outdoor uses like ATV's, snowmobiles, and motorcycles, I think the available land at Badger is an ideal place to make this available for the public in southern Wisconsin. The land is certainly not pristine or strikingly scenic, so let it be used for more things like that.</p> <p>Also, I know there's a pretty great need for horse trails in this area.</p> <p>I know there is a perimeter road that encircles the original property (not just DNR land). That would make a GREAT bicycling loop, if the Ag Center, DNR, and the Ho-Chunks could cooperate and make it happen.</p> <p>It's also crucial to remember that this is a time of dwindling budgets and staffing. Some uses of the land require oversight and supervision with staff on-site for safety, information, and regulation. It would be irresponsible and delusional to make some activities available, but not provide money for staff, law enforcement, maintenance, and visitor services. Bike trails, picnicking, skiing, hiking horse trails, viewing, and fishing would require less oversight. Shooting rangers, motorized trails, visitor center, entrance station, and camping would require more staff and \$\$\$. Don't try to have one without the other.</p> <p>That's my 2-cents-worth.</p>
148	<p>ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>I wish that Aldo Leopold, August Derleth and Frank Lloyd Wright sat amongst you today. They were outspoken leaders with vision. They are gone...but not forgotten, because they taught Wisconsinites well. They live on today through the hundreds of conservation groups working to reclaim land, recycle waste, and protect precious areas for natural wild birds and animals. Back in their day, "conservation" was an original idea. Today, thanks to the efforts of many, Sauk County, the Baraboo Hills, and the Wisconsin River Valley are some of the most beautiful places on earth. Travel the earth and you will understand that abandoning principals of conservation has led to ugly communities, ugly states and ugly countries. Think of the damage done by strip mining in Wyoming, removing the rain forests in South America, and the nuclear and coal pollution of the air and water in China and Russia. No leadership, no understanding. Industry and politics ruled.</p> <p>Legislating, mentoring and assisting the DNR to develop the best conservation practices and low impact recreation in the Badger Ordinance Area will preserve a fantastic natural place. A place that thousands of tourists will flock to enjoy the biking, cross country skiing, canoeing, cycling and hiking, along with a great natural outdoor school for generations to come. This space is needed in Southern Wisconsin; you should note that on any given weekend Devil's Lake and Parfrey's Glen are so crowded that there is no parking available. Hikers are literally lined up back to back on the trails. Thank God the DNR and environmentalists had the good sense to dedicate these places as natural areas 50-75 years ago.</p> <p>Also, please keep in mind the sacrifice people made when they gave up their land for the building of an</p>

	ammunition plant, vital to the WWII effort. The government was a poor steward of the land: we allowed pollution of the water, the land, and even the air for fifty years. Today, you, and all of us, have been presented with the opportunity of a lifetime; to be a Leopold, to be a Derleth, to be a Frank Lloyd Wright. Let's be ahead of our time. Let's us go down in history as people, represented by a legislative body that understood the value of preserving natural places and wildlife for our children and the generations that will come to this beautiful place. Let's not blow this once in a lifetime opportunity.
149	I think the "Alternative 4" suggested by the Badger Oversight Management Commission is the best overall plan. Efforts to introduce new high impact activities such as motorized vehicle trails or shooting ranges are misguided, and a reversal of years of cooperative planning.
150	I support BOMC 4 for the former Badger property in the Barboo Hills.
151	We are writing to support the proposal of the Badger Oversight Management t Commission, which offers a more complementary use in connection with Devils Lake State Park the Baraboo Hills, the Wisconsin Riverway, and the surrounding communities and farms. We like the balance of low-impact recreation and conservation, outdoor education, and nature-based recreation. Many of our friends and neighbors have expressed a great deal of interest in this alternative, and we hope that the DNR will seriously consider this proposal.
152	Just wanted to register my support for BOMC Alt. 4 as a proposal that fits what I see as best use for an amazing area. Low-impact recreation, and nature-based education do not coexist well with noisier pursuits such as ATV and snowmobiling. My biggest concern is maintaining an environmentally and ecologically sound set of guidelines for this unique area.
153	I'm writing in regards to the upcoming plans for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I have heard that one of the proposed plans would include a "Special Use Zone" for "non-traditional recreational uses," such as ATV trails, a paintball course, and a high-powered rifle range. These uses would adversely affect the surrounding community (noise pollution, hazard, and lack of environmental stewardship), and furthermore would not be "low-impact" and would not "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property" as stipulated by the Badger Reuse Plan. I am very concerned with conservation and environmental stewardship in general--I have devoted years of my career to environmental education. I also believe in community involvement and in the kind of inclusive, thorough process that I believe created the BRP. The "Special Use Zone" would be neither good environmental stewardship (especially for the many species of birds in the zone) nor a fair outcome of all the community input so far. I strongly support ecological restoration, community participation, and environmental education, and because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it, especially if expanded to incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. Please do not allow the intrusion of the activities in the "Special Use Zone"; please stick with the plan so many citizens have worked so hard to create.
154	I just wanted to take a few moments of your time to present my opinion on the various options being explored regarding the future use of this precious resource. My fear is that there are too many outspoken opponents whose sole desire is to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles in this area. I respectfully disagree and truly believe there can be "shared use" areas. I am an avid ATV'er and as a Trail Patrol Ambassador recognize the need for responsible trail ethics. I personally have traveled via ATV on multi-use trails which include the Tuscobia Trail and portions of the Clark County Trails just to name a few. We respect the presence of other users we encounter while riding on the portions of the "shared use" trail systems. My ATV registration fees are supposed to assist with maintaining and growing the network of state trails available for legal riding. Currently there are very few riding opportunities in Southern Wisconsin on public property and I feel it would be extremely beneficial to have such an opportunity available to me within a very short distance of where I live and pay taxes. A portion of the Badger property dedicated to "shared" use including registered off road vehicles, horseback riders and perhaps other users would certainly be an asset to those who would utilize such facilities, not to mention the positive economic contribution these activities would bring to the local communities. Let me also briefly mention that I also do a lot of walking/hiking, bicycle trail riding (the 400 Trail is a favorite,)

	<p>hunting/fishing and frequently visiting one of our many state parks to enjoy all of the outdoor bounty Wisconsin offers. I hope I am not a minority when I state the aforementioned activities can coexist and that I firmly believe in "sharing" our resources but sadly feel the outspoken words of a few are currently viewed as being the "majority."</p> <p>In closing, it is important to remember the aforementioned property will never be restored to its original owners <i>but</i> prior to becoming the Badger Army Ammunition Plant the property was active for agricultural and other important uses, not merely as a "sanctuary" for which I am sure some are hoping this land will become. My vision is that this resource should be shared by <i>all</i> and with <i>multiple</i> opportunities for its users to experience all that the great Wisconsin outdoors has to offer.</p>
155	<p>I wish to support most heartily the fourth alternative for conservation and low impact recreation for the former Badger Ordnance property. I have been a member and stakeholder of the support group for the property since the first announcement of the Army's release of said property and have been consulted about its geology. I followed closely the years-long negotiations by DNR, the HoChunk Tribe, and the US Department of Agriculture's Forage Research agency and thought that the matter of reuse was finally settled several years ago. It was with surprise and shock that I found DNR reopening the process of establishing the reuse plan. When is such a complicated matter finally to be settled? Why must we bow to the ludicrous argument that "times have changed"? By what time scale is such "change" to be judged? Ten year? Five? One? Are all your policies subject to revision at the whim of some minority that suddenly has a 'new' idea? If the latter, then it makes a complete mockery of policy setting.</p> <p>As a geologist long familiar with the geology and natural history of the whole Baraboo-Sauk Prairie region in which I have conducted extensive research, I strenuously object to the modification of the reuse plan that was finally established several years ago after so much negotiation. The Fourth Alternative Plan would complement the adjacent Baraboo Hills and Devils Lake State Park with conservation and low impact recreation and research in the best possible manner. The other proposed uses with higher impact would compromise the integrity of the property itself to a very adverse degree and also impact negatively those adjacent areas. Therefore, I oppose all but alternative four.</p>
156	<p>Please consider The Badger Oversight Management Commission fourth alternative. I believe this is a better alternative. I worked at Badger back in the mid 1960's and still believe my cancer several years ago was due to all the toxic chemicals we were exposed to at that time. There is still probably lots of contamination of the land we still do not know about, especially out in the nitro area that was built into the side of the Baraboo bluffs.</p> <p>I hope the DNR takes the time to consider this fourth option. Thank you.</p>
157	<p>I vote for limited public access for nature-based activities.</p> <p>Almost everything is saved for people to use. We take too much. And we've certainly taken too much from that land already to say nothing of the people who used to live there.</p> <p>Clean it up and then leave it alone!</p>
158	<p>I am writing to voice my thoughts on how to properly use the SP Recreation area. Having lived in Sauk County for most of my life, I am thrilled to see this wonderful plot of land returned to the public for all to enjoy.</p> <p>As an avid outdoorsman, I would like to see the land used in as many ways as possible to give a wide variety of people the chance to enjoy the great outdoors. In my opinion, any activity done outside is worth exploring. With the amount of land in question, there should be no reason why all parties involved are not given a "piece of the pie."</p> <p>Obviously, a good portion should be returned to natural prairies for the environmentalists, bird watchers, hikers, etc to enjoy. There should also be areas designated for other proposed activities such as motorized off road trails, shooting ranges, etc. As an owner of off road motorcycles, it is frustrating for my family and I to have to travel north to other counties to use our vehicles. We would rather spend our time and money locally.</p> <p>There is more than enough room for the "tree huggers" and the "motor heads" in Sauk County. Let's not favor one or the other but rather get more people, including kids, into the outdoors.</p> <p>Do the right thing.</p>

159	<p>Please do not support anything that will turn the property at the old ammunitions plant into noisy conglomeration of activities. Let it remain a place where people can enjoy nature without shooting, noises of off-road vehicles etc. The letter in the Wisconsin State Journal of Monday Aug. 5 written by Dave Trumble, Laura Olah and George Meyer says it quite well. Please listen to their ideas.</p>
160	<p>I would like to express support for BOMC Alternative #4 for the best use of the land. I am a former resident of Sauk City.</p>
161	<p>I was wondering how your mail has been running pro/con about the ATV use and shooting range at Badger. Most of the people I talk to want more of a nature conservancy, hiking trails, etc. type of usage. After all, it is the taxpayers who ultimately own this place and I hope we are getting proper consideration at to our wishes.</p>
162	<p>I am a past president of the Dane County Conservation League and past board member of the Friends Of Pheasant Branch. That might not mean much, although it does show I have concern for the natural world and I am willing to spend extra time to protect and promote it.</p> <p>I'm going to keep this short because I'm sure you are getting tons of mail on this issue.</p> <p>Dirt bikes, four wheelers, snow machines or other power toys do not belong in a place like this. Snow machines have enough trails in the state. four wheelers can do so much damage and dirt bites belong in a place like the one along federal highway I90 or I94 going to Milwaukee. Having a quiet place to roam for miles is something southern Wisconsin doesn't have. one can't mix the two uses. I for one would never place a foot on that place if I had to hear the high impact recreation some want for that place. There are so many other uses for this place like school natural resource destination, conservation camp for youth, community gardens, nature trails for the handicap people and the list goes on.</p> <p>Yes, I am in favor and support the BOMC alternative four plan. I hope you will do everything in your power to see that this plan will be best for the area, Wisconsin and the natural beauty this place is and can be because it still needs a lot of help.</p>
163	<p>I support BOMC alternative 4- it includes the important components of the Badger Reuse Plan that community members and government agencies have already agreed to and been working to implement.</p>
164	<p>I encourage DNR to support Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative #4 for use of the Badger property. I believe the other proposed uses are not good uses for the property. A combination of nature-based and low-impact recreation, as well as family activities, conservation, and outdoor education uses are far superior to the three possible alternatives recently presented by the Wisconsin DNR.</p> <p>As a local resident and stakeholder and voter, I encourage DNR to support BOMC Alternative 4 to place an emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses.</p>
165	<p>I am writing in response to the draft conceptual alternatives for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I have been a resident of Sauk County for over 20 years and was involved in meetings that led to the Badger Reuse Plan. After the agreements hammered out over a decade between the Federal Government, the Tribes, conservation groups, the local community and the State, I am appalled that the DNR would even consider diverging from the BRP in Alternative 3.</p> <p>While I support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3, I am strongly opposed to the high impact uses proposed in Alternative 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. I ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – contradict the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses must be removed from the proposed alternatives. These high-impact land uses not only contradict the Badger Reuse Plan and the agency's application to the National Park Service, the proposal contradicts local planning and zoning in this part of rural</p>

	<p>Sauk County. All of Badger and neighboring lands have been locally zoned either Exclusive Agriculture or Conservation Agriculture, reflecting the community's commitment to protecting and preserving our rural heritage. As part of the reuse planning process for Badger, DNR partnered with local, federal and tribal governments, as well as area business, farmers, landowners, and environmental organizations to develop the Badger Reuse Plan. As part of this public process, DNR made a LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENT to these partners, to the public and the National Park Service that the Badger lands would be set aside for ecological restoration and low-impact recreation. DNR must honor this commitment or risk losing its fragile credibility and having to defend against legal challenges.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan.</p>
166	<p>As one who has looked longingly at the Badger Ammunition Plant for years and wished to personally enjoy it, I would like to express my support for the Badger Oversight Management Commission – Alternative Four which it seems to me respects the integrity of the environment while providing access to persons with different recreational interests. Alternative Four also an outgrowth of the opinions of many different constituencies, all of whom have connections to this wonderful piece of land. Please express these thoughts to relevant others within the DNR.</p>
167	<p>I'm not closely involved with the remediation of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, but I'm familiar with both Laura Olah and George Meyer, and they seem to think you guys should be taking a closer look at BOMC Alternative 4. If they say you should, you probably ought to.</p>
168	<p>Several proposals for the use of the land commonly called "Badger" have been proposed. Recently it came to our attention that an Alternative 4 "Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis" Has been drafted by several groups. We support Alternative 4. This alternative supports our goals for the use of Badger which is to restore the land and make it environmentally friendly while allowing low impact use of the land. We feel that any use of this land should complement Devil's Lake State Park which adjoins the land on the north. Further restoring the land helps preserve the long history of the land and provides respect to those farmers who sacrificed their land for Badger. The quiet use of the land will provide use of the land for such activities as hiking, birding and fishing while allowing the animals and birds a safe environment to prosper in.</p> <p>We oppose the use of the land for an ATV trail. Such a trail will not be environmentally friendly and will result in having an opposite affect on the land than we desire.</p> <p>Having a shooting range at Badger makes no sense at all. I am not certain of the planned location but considering there is residential development to the East and West, ag research to the south and a Devil's Lake hiking trail to the north along with having other use of the Badger land having shooting going on with possible stray shots makes no sense. The noise volume of a shooting range will interfere with the desired quiet use of the land. We know that the shot from a shooting range will also destroy the environment.</p> <p>Please provide for a use of the Badger land that supports the environment and provides for the quiet use of the property.</p>
169	<p>I support Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC) aka "Alternative 4".</p> <p>Madison resident 21 years.</p>
170	<p>We are in favor of Alternative 3.</p>
171	<p>I support the BOMC alternative # 4</p> <p>i have lived in the sauk prairie area most of my 58 years, am an avid camper and nature lover and want to see a reuse plan that is safe and gentle for the land, the animals and the people that live here.</p>
172	<p>I strongly support alternative #4</p>
173	<p>I'm 14 years old and live in Baraboo, WI. I'm emailing you to voice my opinions on what should be done to the former Badger Ammunition Plant now the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area.</p> <p>My main point here is going to be that there is enough room for everybody to get what they want. Off road</p>

	<p>vehicle trails would be an awesome thing to make part of the Rec. area. The trails/track would not have to take up the WHOLE area. There could a section for trails, a shooting range, and still have plenty of room for prairies and hiking trails.</p> <p>Every time our family decides to go dirt biking for a day, we have to travel out of the county to another track/trails somewhere else. It would be nice to have trails right here in Sauk County. It would also be a great source of income for Sauk County.</p> <p>There should be as many opportunities for kids like me to get outdoors as possible. This Rec. area is a great way to get kids off the couch and enjoy the outdoors. We should not just be limited to hiking, fishing, birdwatching, etc. We should have the option of off road trails and tracks too.</p> <p>Please take my opinions into consideration and realize that there is enough room for everybody.</p>
174	<p>I am writing in support of the plan for the former Badger Munitions Depot that was developed by the Badger Reuse Committee. The plan that they came up with was a cooperative effort by all stakeholders. It emphasizes low-impact use, and protection of cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>I strenuously object to opening this land to motorized off-road vehicles. I have seen the destruction that irresponsible use of ATVs has wreaked on the land just west of Glacier National Park. It was at the end of the season, and while we were waiting to rent 2 vehicles, a guy returned the ATV he had rented totally splashed with mud and minus a front fender. The concession operator has to replace his vehicles nearly every year. This is NOT the kind of use that the Badger Prairie should be subjected to.</p> <p>This land is a wonderful prairie remnant. And the soil is/was contaminated by the munitions manufacture. You don't want to be ripping up the plants and the (supposedly) remediated soil.</p> <p>Please leave this land for hikers and birders and farmers and the animals and the Ho Chunk to manage sustainably.</p>
175	<p>I am a resident of Sumpter Township and will be directly affected by a gun range/ATV trail via NOISE that this will produce. We do NOT need another gun range in this area, as shooters have the Sauk Prairie Trap area to shoot, and also have Roxbury Trap club, North Freedom Trap club and Leland Trap club and I'm sure there are others out there..these are all within 5 miles of the proposed gun range..Also, an UNSUPERVISED ATV track is wrong in so many ways! What happens when someone's child dies on that track or is injured requiring lifelong support? Who pays for that? Are you going to ask for EVERYONE to have LIABILITY and ACCIDENT insurance? What are you planning to do to prove that? It's a BAD idea!</p>
176	<p>Having been a visitor to this area, and then a part of the community when I married someone from Baraboo, I support the Badger Oversight Management Commission's alternative as the best use option for this historic place. It would be wonderful to see it filled with Wisconsinites and visitors alike and a perfect place for both recreational and educational purposes.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of this fourth alternative use of Badger land!</p>
177	<p>I'm sure you are aware that in the southern part of the state there is only one public owned ATV trail (cheese country trail) which is way south. Otherwise the nearest is the Black River falls area. We recently moved from a farm where we had some riding on our place and a neighbor's. Now we live in North Freedom and have no where to ride. I'm 77 years old and lately it seems that riding is more enjoyable than walking. There are numerous places and thousands of acres of land in southern Wisconsin for hikers and bird watchers to enjoy. I also enjoy nature and I believe it is time to do a little sharing. ATV riders pay a license fee to ride on trails that we don't even have, without making a long haul.</p> <p>I'm also a hunter and it would be nice to have a long range rifle range to sight in rifles and to just enjoy shooting. I'm sure you are aware of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), passed in 1937, which is funded through an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. I would be very curious to know where Wisconsin's share of this money has been spent in the last year, and if any is going to the Badger Land Use Project. If you don't have this information I would appreciate it if you would refer me to some one who does..</p>
178	<p>"The oldest task in human history is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it" Aldo Leopold</p> <p>Since your department, "The Department of NATURAL Resources" seems to be more interested in the human</p>

	<p>factor than the natural world, I will make this rather short and cast my human vote for Alternative 2 (prefer Alternative 4) but would change the title to "Ecology and Restoration" and eliminate the category of Recreation completely since that implies a human activity. The suggested change would be far more accurate for the Department of Natural Resources since as far as we know, the natural world does not require recreation.</p> <p>In my letter of 10 August 2012 during the initial round of "letter and head counting" I used the same Leopold quote and it still remains very appropriate to the current activity. I sincerely hope that you and those reading the letters received are doing so thoroughly as well as listening to the thoughts being expressed by the "community", however I am not hearing or seeing any thoughts from the natural world that your department represents.. You have received this land from the American people as a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to help bring the land back to as near as possible its original natural self To do this it is important for all of us to understand the process of the past 15 years that has brought us to this point. This ground work which has been paid for by the American tax payers provides you the way to move ahead from here. Those of us who have been involved over the years are counting on you and your department members to continue the process on behalf of the "natural" world we call the Sauk Prairie. We will be glad to provide whatever assistance we possibly can.</p> <p>Thank you for reading and considering these thoughts and we look forward to working with you in the future</p>
179	<p>I am in favor of BOMC Alternative 4. I filled out a survey for Number 3 before I knew about # 4. I want restored prairie's on the site with possible sustainable natural reproduction of bird populations. I am against a shooting range or ATV, dirt vehicles or horses on the site. Some of the roads should be maintained for public access to various sites and tours. Open to public hunting after bird populations are established.</p>
180	<p>We strongly support the Badger Oversight Management Commission's proposal for a fourth alternative for the Badger Ordnance property as described in the August 5th, 2013 Wisconsin State Journal, Opinion Page A11.</p> <p>We like that the commission includes members of local, county, tribal, state, and federal governments and community stakeholders. It supports many family & low impact activities, and environmental education, as well as conservation, all issues so important. Such a welcoming place would help the local economy as well. We like to hike, snowshoe, bike, and especially, bird, and have birded there already with a prearranged group.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts in considering and hopefully supporting the alternative four of the BOMC.</p>
181	<p>I support BOMC alternative number 4 that is being proposed for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Prairie Du Sac WI.</p> <p>Please do not put a shooting range and recreation area for motorized vehicles such as ATV's. That detracts from the natural peace and beauty of the area. We live so close to a beautiful area of Lake Wisconsin and we have very few places that we can go to enjoy that where there is little noise and vehicle pollution. Please consider the opinions of those who live in this area and preserve a more natural area that visitors can enjoy but not ruin and support alternative #4.</p>
182	<p>I support alternative no. 4.</p>
183	<p>Thank you for another opportunity to provide input on plans for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I have completed the survey on the DNR website and have reviewed both the materials available through the DNR and through Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance about alternative approaches to the future of SPRA. I strongly support the Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4: Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis. I think this Alternative best represents the 2011 Badger Reuse Plan and what that Plan contains in terms of many years of good thinking by a diversity of stakeholders. I also think this Alternative is most compatible with the vision and goals outlined by the DNR. SPRA has an opportunity to be a premiere example of restoration of iconic ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, use as a research and educational outdoor laboratory, and destination for low impact and cultural recreation. Many of these goals are not highly compatible with higher impact uses such as motorized recreation or a shooting range. I hope that the DNR and the NRB will consider very seriously Alternative 4 as outlined by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p> <p>Thank you for all you do for the natural resources and citizens of Wisconsin.</p>
184	<p>I am in favor of ATV / Motorcycle trails as it will provide a sanctioned place to ride. This may then deter folks who are currently using non-sanctioned areas like the lower Wisconsin River shore and marsh areas. It will also generate tourism that is currently going elsewhere.</p>

185	<p>I am a local resident of Sauk City and would like to see part of the Badger reuse plan include atv and snowmobile trails. I appreciate your time and efforts in this matter.</p>
186	<p>I am writing to you respectfully as a private landowner regarding the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) potential use of its portion of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, which I refer to as "Badger Land" in this document. My family owns approximately 2,400 acres of property on the Wisconsin River one-half way between Portage and the Dells. The land uses and processes that are employed on our property prioritize conservation of the land and the overall environment. We consider ourselves neighbors to the Badger Lands and we are deeply concerned over potential activities that the WDNR has introduced in the Sauk Prairie Draft of Conceptual Land Use Alternatives. We view these as variations from the original intent of the Badger Re-use Plan (BRP).</p> <p>For the most part we feel that the WDNR's plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA) is very well thought out and promotes the ecological and conservation ideals that are consistent with the original BRP which was officially endorsed by numerous entities and agencies including the WDNR's Natural Resource Board. Specifically, the WDNR plan for SPRA addresses these ideals through recommendations for land restoration, outdoor recreation and educational activities. However, my family and I take exception to and are deeply disturbed for the potential introduction of high <u>impact activities</u> that are designated for use in the "Special Use Zone". Specifically the WDNR's plan opens the door for the use of motorized vehicles such as A.T.V.'s and power rifle activities including the shooting range and paintball use. Additionally, we were disappointed that the WDNR's recommendations <u>did not include agricultural research and sustainability</u>.</p> <p>The introduction of high impact activities and lack of recommendations for agricultural uses outlined above for the SPRA completely contradicts what I and many others believe to be the true spirit of the original BRP. Specifically, Badger Land was designated to integrate several broad categories that were identified as "appropriate use" which include restoration, agriculture, education and research all with an emphasis on <u>low impact</u> environmental activities.</p> <p>Besides contradicting the spirit of the BRP's original intent and the agreement that the WDNR made with the National Park Service, implementation of high impact activities and the neglect of agricultural uses would negatively impact the Badger Land community through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not providing the originally targeted Badger Land users with the experience envision by the creators of the originally endorsed BRP. b. Reduction or elimination of critical habitat for grassland birds and other wild life. c. Diminished effect of certain land features unique to Badger Land such as the remnant prairie-savanna that the property encompasses and the drainage channel of glacial Lake Merrimac. <p>For these reasons, it is my hope that the WDNR will re-evaluate its recommendations for the SPRA and re-align these recommendations to be consistent with the original intent of the BRP. We should not lose sight of the fact that the parameters that are outlined with in the original BRP are the basis that allowed the WDNR to acquire the SPRA in the first place. It is important to me as a private landowner and citizen that the WDNR honor its commitments to the original BRP, the National Park Service and most importantly to the citizens of Wisconsin by supporting the implementation of Draft Conceptual Land Use Alternative #4, as proposed by the Badger Oversight and Management Commission.</p>
187	<p>I am writing to comment on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and the reuse process which I have watched unfold for many years. I have not been an active participant in this process, but feel a duty to voice my concern that the DNR has not integrated the importance not only of the Badger Reuse Plan in its own planning, but of the process itself. The Badger Reuse process is an excellent example of local coordination and participation and it is imperative to respect these bottom-up initiatives. I do appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature based recreation, community participation and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in Alternative 3, specifically the motorized use and shooting range, are incompatible with the aforementioned uses. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>The opportunities that Badger presents for the people of Wisconsin with its unique geographical context, natural resources, and sheer scale are a rarity in southern Wisconsin. It is imperative that we, and in particular the DNR as stewards of the public trust, get this right. The planning should integrate research and sustainable agriculture and the DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin and other Badger stakeholders and more fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>The potential for Badger to provide an example of how agriculture and conservation can and must work together based on local involvement for the good of Wisconsin's Land, water, wildlife, people, economy, and future should</p>

	<p>not be undervalued in an attempt to appease incompatible forms of recreation. I say this as a sportsman who values the opportunity to safely shoot and one who appreciates a place for ATV's as well.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing the voice of a Wisconsin native who takes pride in the great state of Wisconsin, including the proud heritage of the DNR and the process of public involvement .</p>
188	<p>I have already sent a note on the DNR website regarding planned use for the Badger Ordinance property near Sauk Prairie. I have just seen Plan #4, written and offered by the Badger Oversight Management Commission. This is the choice I wanted (and many other people wanted), but that was not offered by the DNR. As someone on the commission said, this is a rare opportunity and the property needs to stay intact and used for low-impact sports only. I have nothing against rifle ranges or four wheeler trails, but this is not the place for them.</p>
189	<p>When I read the article in the paper this morning, I was quite concerned regarding the possibility of a "Long - Range" rifle shooting range at the Badger Ammunition Plant. My opinion is that this would not only disturb the families living in the area, but the fact that there are so many birds that have recently thrived on this site. I like the name of the "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area". To me this signifies peace and quiet!!</p> <p>I live at Paradise Island, Lodi and frequently have to listen to the sounds of gunshots from the shooting range at w10219 Larson Drive, Lodi, WI 53555. It is usually in the morning when my husband and I are reading the paper. I have gotten somewhat use to the sounds, however, it seems very close. I have also heard from our neighbors that it is annoying.</p> <p>Please leave this beautiful area "AS IS". Compare the number of SHOOTERS to the number of people living close and the natural, quiet to be enjoyed by all.</p>
190	<p>When the army returned the Badger Munitions property to the state, many of us eagerly anticipated the restoration of Badger to a national area. Multiple groups and voices have been active for years in this process. The Badger property is a rare opportunity to provide habitat for endangered grassland birds as well as other flora and fauna. It is a lovely place for hiking and observing the natural world.</p> <p>Shooting ranges and ATV trails may have their place on lands less valuable. They are incompatible and inappropriate for the Badger property.</p>
191	<p>Please find attached Resolution #08-13-2013(e) which was adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 13, 2013, in regards to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. By this resolution, the Village Board is making their preference of Alternative 4, as suggested by members of the Badger Oversight Management Commission, known. The Board asks that the Department of Natural Resources accept and consider this resolution as it moves forward with the master planning for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
192	<p>Please give consideration to the option proposed by members of the Badger Oversight Management Commission. I believe that this is the strongest proposal for this land. I ask that motorized recreational vehicles and a shooting range are not included in plans. These activities would seem to be a poor fit for this land and the surrounding area.</p>
193	<p>Please make this a low impact recreational area for the public, as originally planned!</p>
194	<p>We strongly urge the DNR to select an option for the Badger Site that includes restored prairie and oak opening and is open to general non-motorized recreation including hunting, hiking, XC skiing, trapping, and other motorless recreation.</p> <p>ATV trails are absolutely not appropriate for the site and they were not part of the original, extensive citizen input.</p> <p>Shooting ranges are good for conservation and outdoor recreation but need to be sited where they do not interfere with other recreational pursuits and not in an area dedicated to environmental restoration. I'm sure DNR, working with local partners can find an appropriate location for a shooting range in the Baraboo Area.</p>
195	<p>I just wanted to add my opinion on putting a shooting range on the old badger ordinance grounds by Devils lake area. I think it is a good idea to add a shooting range in the area. As there are not enough shooting ranges around for people to safely practice the art of shooting to become more proficient with their weapons.</p>

196	no gun ranges or ATVs in the Badger ammo plant site, please
197	<p>We would like to see some ATV trails, or better yet multi-use trails, put into Badger. As ATV owners we pay a fee annually to use trails and help establish new trails. Even though the trail would be short it could provide an outlet for a lot of people to horseback ride, hike, bike ride or just plain walk the trails. It is done at the Cheese trail in southern Wisconsin and works quite well. We ride it a lot.</p> <p>Please consider our opinion in making your decision,</p>
198	<p>I favor adherence to the original 2001 plan for low impact usage. We don't need another rifle range and we certainly don't need the noise pollution from ATV trails.</p> <p>A deal is a deal. Lets stick to the original deal.</p>
199	<p>I read the editorial by Dave Tremble, Laura Olah, and George Meyer in the Wisconsin State Journal and have been following the developments concerning the Badger Ammunition Plant area. I have been a Wisconsin resident all my life and have lived in Dane County for over 30 years. I have visited the area and would like to voice my opinion and vote for the BOMC alternative four plan. These key people are most knowledgeable in their fields and have been of service to Wisconsin residents for many years. After much research of the area and community needs and opinions, they and their committee members have developed what I believe to be the best plan to meet the needs of the most interested parties, while keeping the health of the environment intact. Please join in supporting their efforts in your position as a DNR planner.</p>
200	<p>We agree with Terry Turnquist, who wrote in today's Wisconsin State Journal, that room should be set aside for ATV trails at the old Badger Ammunition Plant. We also pay licensed fees to ride our ATV, and around our area there are no trails to ride on.</p>
201	<p>Please register me as supporting option 4....the low impact recreation use for this property.....without a rifle range and vehicles! There are plenty of places where those activities can take place. To ruin such an incredible place with these plans which are in direct conflict with the 2001 final Badger Reuse Plan would be a disaster.</p> <p>Let me know if or how I need to further register my opinion. My family had land near the plant with my father growing up on a farm within a mile of it. Now that it is cleaned up relatively well, it would be a shame to wreck it again.</p>
202	<p>I found your story in the W.S.J. on Friday very interesting. My thought to this is a question, why can't some of this land be put back into agriculture use again? With the millions of starving people in our country why not use this land as it was before the government came and took all the farms for the badger plant? I would think with 7000 acres we could raise a lot of food, be it vegetables, meat, grains or feed for cattle of any kind, this is more important than having a large number of hiking trails, hunting areas or atv trails, the DNR should look at this picture from the view that recreational use of the land that could put food on a table is not as important as a large playground for all ages versus feeding the hungry in our country. Take the land that is not useable to produce food, hills, swamps, wet lands, and woods and use this area for your sporting areas. You can't eat hiking, atv or other use trails, but can always eat, and food is always in demand.</p>
203	<p>I am writing to comment on the plans for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I support the 2001 final Badger Reuse Plan which was worked out over many years in consultation with various interest groups. The problem I see with a firing range and trails for motorized vehicles is that it precludes the use of surrounding land for peaceful solitude in nature. There are plenty of places open to shooting and loud motorized (and environmentally destructive) activity. I am already unhappy that so many state parks have been opened to long hunting seasons impinging on my ability to seek solitude there. In addition there are negative environmental consequences of these activities. I support the Wisconsin State Journal editorial which recently urged use of this area for low impact recreation. I urge the DNR to return to protecting our environment.</p>
204	<p>I think it is the stupidest idea to turn a newly restored natural habitat which was restored for the purpose of a peaceful and beautiful place for people to enjoy into a place with the awful sounds of gunfire. That would completely destroy the purpose for which it was restored!!</p>
205	<p>I am an intern at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). From the moment I arrived on the ICF campus, I heard stories about Badger Army Ammunition Plant and the local, collaborative effort to restore this property. I am a student of conservation and am particularly interested in value-based environmental decisions. It has</p>

	<p>become clear that to solve those complex environmental problems that characterize the modern world, a melding of multiple perspectives and disciplines is required, including the incorporation of the community's perspectives and values. For this reason, I was thrilled to learn about the Badger Reuse Committee (BRC) and its efforts to design a management strategy that worked not only to improve the natural condition of the property, but to also suit the desires and needs of the community (from Ho-Chunk, to farmers, to outdoor enthusiasts). The BRC was so successful in its integrative approach that its plan received widespread endorsement including the National Park Service. It is my understanding that it was the efforts of this committee that resulted in the DNR's acquisition of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (now the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area).</p> <p>It has recently come to my attention that one of the Wisconsin DNR's proposed land management strategies includes disturbing language implying that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area would be suitable for "non-traditional recreational uses" including ATV trails, long-range rifle ranges, and paint-ball competitions. It disappoints me that the DNR would seriously present these suggestions considering that such development directly contradicts the explicit recommendations of the BRC to restrict recreational uses to "low-impact" activities which are "compatible with other uses," and "have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property." Not only would such activities negatively affect the natural surroundings, they are inappropriate seeing that there is agricultural research that would be hindered and a cemetery that locals still visit located in the area in question.</p> <p>I have personal experience living and working in one of the Golden Gate National Recreation Areas outside of San Francisco. In this case too, the community decided to convert formerly military property into a protected, recreational space. This network of parks sees a large influx of visitors by hosting educational and public restoration events, opening the old missile site to tours, and providing low-impact recreational activities that are very popular; they successfully combined several interests into one marketable package attractive to individuals of all ages and perspectives! I have no doubt that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area would be able to achieve a similar result by capitalizing on its current assets, even without all the "bells and whistles" associated with the high-impact activities the DNR has suggested.</p> <p>To conclude, I would like to emphasize my feelings regarding the current land use proposals for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I strongly support Alternatives 2 and 3 because of their emphasis in ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and education activities (excluding, of course, the provision of a "Special Use Zone"). · Although Alternative 2 is closest to what the BRP recommended, I ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses while also incorporating the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. · I oppose the development of a "Special Use Zone" (mentioned in Alternative 3) specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" as these developments run counter to the BRP's recommendations and are highly inappropriate for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area; activities such as those outlined for the "Special Use Zone" would negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the property and unjustifiably threaten the natural integrity of the land. These high-impact recreational uses should be <i>removed</i> from the proposal. · I urge the DNR to include sustainable agriculture and research potential into the proposed strategies as originally suggested by the BRP. · The DNR made promises to the people of Wisconsin, the Sauk community, and to the other "Badger" stakeholders and I expect such a respectable organization to uphold said promises by fully implementing the BRP in its planning. <p>Thank you for the time – I hope you will consider and listen to the voices of the community appealing to you,</p>
206	<p>We are writing to say we support conservation and low impact recreation at the Badger Ammo . We are against the ATV tracks and the Shooting Range.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in this matter.</p>
207	<p>Do not permit a rifle range in the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area. The Badger Reuse Plan was implemented to</p>

	<p>restore the area to prairie and oak savanna. The state does not need any more rifle ranges. The DNR should work to preserve and restore natural areas, not add rifle ranges and cater to the NRA.</p> <p>The NRA should not be allowed to run the DNR.</p>
208	<p>Please do not allow ATV trails at the Badger site. let it return to nature.</p>
209	<p>[I] just read Terry Turnquist's comments in WSJ's Your Views. I agree with him. We are ATVers, hikers, fishermen(women), hunters, etc.</p> <p>At present when we want to ATV we must drive at least an hour to an hour and a half. Mineral Point or Lyndon Station.</p> <p>At present there are 26 natural areas in Sauk County. At present there are 10 natural areas in Columbia County. At present there are 15 natural areas in Dane County. At present there are 7 natural areas in Iowa County.</p> <p>At present Sauk, Columbia, Dane and Iowa Counties offer ATVers no trails.</p> <p>We bring revenues to the cities and counties we visit.</p> <p>We pay our property tax, user fees for licenses and permits and our Counties get a portion of that. However, nothing has ever been put into trails for ATV's.</p> <p>I would encourage everyone to look at Washburn, Burnett and Sawyer counties. We have the most wonderful trails there. We share them with many different types of outdoors people. Bikers, Equestrians, Hikers, ATVers, Rollerbladers, Skateboarders. Amazingly we are all able to co-exist. Everyone has a true appreciation for these trails and take nothing for granted. It is not surprising that the area has economic benefits that are realized from us ATVers. We would expect that as we believe in paying our way. Sauk County certainly needs a boost in their economy. Not everyone wants to be a freebie hiker. We live in a great state and don't mind paying for it.</p> <p>As far as the "preservationists" needing all of BAAP all I can say is "when is enough enough?" They also have all the state parks, county parks, etc. in addition to the existing natural areas. In the Baraboo Bluffs alone, the nature conservancy continues to gobble up land which is then posted and very few people can enjoy these lands. If that's what the "preservationist" want then they should make a financial commitment and join a group such as a conservancy because I don't think the taxpayers of Sauk County owe them any more freebies. Is that the future of Badger? The Badger lands were taken from our early settlers and ancestors and now should be available for everyone to enjoy not just an elitist group hell bent on denying all peoples a right to enjoy the land we own. There is enough greed in this world. I hope it is not given the opportunity to flourish & grow in our Sauk County.</p>
210	<p>Thank you for soliciting comments and opinion on the next steps for planning public Use at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. After reading though the alternatives suggested by the DNR, it was disappointing at the least to see that many years of planning by a diverse set of constituents (those making up the Badger Reuse Committee, and many others) was almost completely ignored and a new set of uses was drawn up for consideration in the Master Planning Process. With regards to the three uses outlined in the DNR Master Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. ○ Alternative 2 is the closest to what the Badger Reuse Plan recommended. I would ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. ○ The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. ○ I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. ○ The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger

	<p>stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>As such, I would recommend that those in the DNR Master Planning Process fully consider the land use plan as put forth by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, that it be considered as a template for wise use of BAAP property. This plan incorporates reasonable recreational and educational activities, ecological restoration of habitat critical to the Wisconsin landscape, and preservation of a significant cultural resources, all based on low-impact uses. I believe this is the best possible scenario for this property, which is a once-in-a-lifetime gift to the people of Wisconsin. This gift should not be squandered.</p> <p>Thank you again for your consideration.</p>
211	<p>My family would love to see horse trails here. We have very little, other than to ride on the roads, as far as nice trails in the Baraboo area. This would be close and beautiful area to experience a trail ride on horse back. I know of many horse owners that would use these trails. Hope this is something that you can make happen!</p>
212	<p>Thanks for accepting comments from our Sierra Club members this week on the management of the Sauk Prairie Recreation area.</p> <p>I'm attaching a report of those who have responded so far to make it easier for you to tally and respond to those concerns, if necessary. [attached report listed names and addresses of 174 members that indicated support for low impact use]</p> <p>Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter will also send you our formal comments by the Aug 30 deadline.</p> <p>Hope this is helpful, but please let me know if you have questions or need anything else.</p>
213	<p>We are writing to support the original Badger Reuse Plan that was adopted by all the interested parties in 2001. We feel that a rifle range and/or ATV use in the park would be foolish and would ruin the special nature of this property for everybody.</p>
214	<p>I have reviewed the proposals for the future of this wonderful site. In May 2012 I had a tour. Until recently, I thought that the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area had been determined. Now, I am surprised that incompatible activities such as a shooting range and motorcross are being considered. These activities involve a very small number of individuals who apparently have a strong political lobby. If these activities are permitted, I am unlikely to return. I would not enjoy visiting a site with such noisy activities, not to mention that motorcross destroys a habitat that should be restored.</p> <p>Wisconsin has a unique opportunity to restore a grassland and an oak savanna. It should do so. To my knowledge, there is no other such site of similar size present in Wisconsin. Having reviewed the several proposals, I urge adoption of BOMC Alternative #4. This proposal provides for the largest number of users. If motorcross and a shooting range are allowed, the number of users will greatly diminish. Few people will enjoy a leisurely bike ride or hike with these incompatible activities near by.</p>
215	<p>I support option 4 for Badger Ordnance.</p> <p>A shooting range is an inappropriate use of the land and is too close to livestock and private homes. The ATV track will be situated on top of the most contaminated soil. I don't think ATV riders would want to wear a mask to protect them from poisoned soil. Does the DNR want to be responsible for some adult or child, for that matter, being poisoned? Why spend money on a wash down facility? I would think that any ATV user would avoid this track at all costs! It is like proposing an ATV track on the radioactive soil of Chernobyl.</p> <p>We should stick with the proposals made by the Sauk County Conservation Alliance. They are the best fit for all.</p>
216	<p>I would like to strongly voice my opposition to the concept of a rifle range and ATV trails at the Badger Site. The Baraboo Hills and Devils Lake State Park is a prime location for quiet and non-evasive recreation. We have been losing too much land to development. I support the Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative #4.</p>
217	<p>We ask that that former Badger Ammunition Dump not be used for a shooting range. It should be used for recreational purposes. It is time we tried to preserve the environment rather than destroy it.</p>
218	<p>I has come to my attention that the DNR is proposing to create a rifle range at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. This seems like an excellent idea considering that this area is 7400 acres and it would seem to me that with that kind of area, having a rifle range would fit nicely with the overall idea of a recreational area. I know</p>

	<p>some people think this use would not fit in with the hiking trails etc. but with the amount of land available multiple uses should be the prime focus. Considering that the DNR is funded primarily with shooting sportsman's fees it would seem to be a no brainer that some of the area should be used in a manner that is related to the shooting sports. Thank you for your time. Hopefully you will consider this position when determining the end use of the area.</p>
219	<p>I am writing to comment on the proposed plans for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant/Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to having a rifle range included as part of the plan. I'm also concerned that the 2001 final Badger Reuse Plan that was developed after many meetings with an excellent cross section of people representing many different interests is no longer being followed.</p> <p>There are many opportunities already in the area for shooting weapons. A rifle range would disturb the wildlife, the neighbors and those who are trying to enjoy the quiet of the land. The noise from all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles would also disturb wildlife, the neighbors and those interested in a quiet hike through the area. I am also strongly opposed to allowing ATVs and motorcycles on the property. None of these ideas were included in the 2001 plan. Why are they being considered now?</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to the last two items listed in Alternative 3: Outdoor Recreation Emphasis (shooting range and motorized recreation use). If I had to choose between Alternative 2 and 3, I would choose 2. However, if Alternative 3 is chosen, I would favor biking, hiking and cross-country skiing over hunting and trapping. I would strongly oppose a shooting range and motorized recreation use.</p> <p>The plan I favor the most is the 2001 final Badger Reuse Plan with its emphasis on low impact recreation for the public.</p> <p>Please consider my comments when deciding which direction to go.</p>
220	<p>I really would like to see badger ordinance open to the public. I find no reason as to why badger shouldn't be open to the public, especially for nature activities like walking/hiking/bicycallkng. I think that from the number of people around the area that have atvs, atv trails wouldnt go unused. If atv trails were put in, I would think the trails should have their own area of the park, not all over the park so that the sounds of motors arnt heard from absolutly everywhere. If horse trails were put in the park, I suggest that they have their own path away from the hiking/walking/biking paths so the horse poo doesnt get everywhere. I would really like to see the badger ordinance area open for public use of all kinds. The area of badger is so big, why not have a road(s) going through it and split the park into areas so that all of the people get what they want.. just not the whole park being their way.</p>
221	<p>I urge the DNR to follow the leadership of the Badger Reuse Plan and the desires of the BOMC, USDA-DFRC, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the local residents, towns, villages and stakeholders who will have to daily live with the plan implemented by the DNR on the DNR holdings within Badger. Combine the good elements of Options 2 & 3, as they are in the BOMC Option 4, for the future DNR use of the SPRA. This will be of greatest benefit to the local communities and stakeholders, as well as making this property an asset to all people of the State of Wisconsin.</p> <p>Given that Mark Aquino stated at the joint meeting of the Sauk Co CPZ and the DNR, that ATVs and shooting ranges were not specifically requested by interest groups for the Badger site, and that those groups have had at least 12 years of opportunity to voice their interest in such activities at this property and have not chosen to become involved, then please allow this property to be used for Reuse Plan concepts of restoration, education, low-impact recreation, conservation agriculture, research and remembrance/reflection. There are in the teens of shooting ranges within 25 miles of Badger and plenty of ATV trails that people can make into loops if they like. We don't need those disturbances of soil and quiet space at Badger. They are high-impact recreation activities that are inconsistent with the NPS agreement that allowed the DNR to have access to this land at the onset.</p> <p>This is a unique property that DNR can help make into an asset to the region (through BOMC Option 4), or that the DNR can turn into a headache of inappropriate uses that demand greater amounts of staff time for policing/enforcement and complaints (DNR Option 3) as compared to appropriate uses. Since state budgets continue to be cut, it is most logical to create a plan for the SPRA that demands as little staff time as possible while making the property activities reflective of the Reuse Plan goals.</p> <p>Let's put the Prairie back into the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area; not tear or shoot it up.</p>

222	<p>Please add me to the list of those would like to see the Badger Plant site revert to something closer to the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>A rifle range? With the sound of gunshots audible over a wider range than the sound of ATV's? I don't think so.</p>
223	<p>I have been tracking re-use plans for the former Badger Army Ammo Facility between Sauk City and Baraboo for many years. As you know, this is a key parcel of land in being so large and contiguous / co-extensive with Devil's Lake State Park, TNC land in the Baraboo Hills providing a mosaic of forest and savanna / prairie habitats, and the Wisconsin River Corridor. This provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to knit these three areas together with additional natural and semi-natural lands to create a unique array of natural and semi-natural habitats to support native ecosystems and low-impact recreational activities. Under Alternative 4, these would include hiking, skiing, biking, hunting, outdoor education, and conservation agriculture, and other family and wildlife- and environment-friendly activities.</p> <p>I understand Devil's Lake State Park to be our state's second most popular state park, clearly demonstrating the huge public demand for semi-natural recreational land in this region and strong support for more low-impact recreational activities. We would gain here a very special chance to inter-connect paths for hiking and biking among these public and private lands protected from development. Alternative 4 would also provide the most favorable habitat conditions for wildlife and natural communities - again large and connected in a way that we now know is critical for wild species. Such species include grassland birds, among the fastest declining of wildlife species, wide ranging mammal species, and those species sensitive to disturbance and edge habitats. The Wisconsin River DNR lands already provide a remarkable corridor for wildlife and plant species. Adding much of Badger to this mix will slow the declines of many native species that other ecologists and I have documented as occurring in the region.</p> <p>Fragmenting this plan by including a 500 acre high-impact recreation zone with ATV tracks, a gun range, and the noise, traffic, and pollution that go along with those activities is antithetical to both the public interest and the needs of wildlife species present in this area. Although Badger is large, it is not large enough to isolate these intrusive activities from surrounding lands. Furthermore, including these high-impact activities will act to significantly reduce the popularity of the area for a broader range of low-impact recreational activities as well as its attractiveness for wildlife.</p> <p>I support Alternative 4 and strongly urge the DNR to do the right thing by this land. We see a deserved outpouring of public support for this that now includes all the local towns and cities as well as the Ho-Chunk Nation. Please listen to this public sentiment as well as the voices of informed professionals like myself and implement a plan that we can all be proud of in the future.</p>
224	<p><u>My Recommendations</u></p> <p>I favor the option of restoring the area to a natural setting similar to the UW Arboretum, with accompanying educational facilities, and as an extension of Devil's Lake State Park. It deserves to be rehabilitated, not exploited and help relieve the pressure on other state parks and likely to be supported by Wisconsin tribes.</p> <p><u>Reasoning</u></p> <p>Hunting and a shooting range are very inappropriate and potentially dangerous uses of this area. The possible lethal effects on hikers, nearby residential areas or even to cars on adjacent roads is clear. Because of the effect of noise on wildlife and terrain damage, ATV's and cross-country motorcycles should not be co-users of this space. Both the diminishing numbers of hunters, as well as motorized off-road vehicles have other existing places to go without creating unnecessary friction here. Speaking of the diminishing number of hunters, what distorted logic would use this area to artificially prop up this unappealing activity?</p> <p>The DNR Board should be cognizant that much of the global species extinction is due to hunters: a proud legacy.</p> <p>Thank you for bringing my comments to the DNR Board. We have a rare opportunity to create a place that current and future generations will enjoy and treasure. Now that is a proud legacy!</p>
225	<p>I support alternative 4 for Badge Ordinance.</p>
226	<p>This is a note to register my support for the alternate 2 plan because it is a low impact plan. Let it go natural with paths and trails for the enjoyment and education of the public without the noise of ATVs and guns.</p>

227	<p>Would like the DNR planning to consider Alternative 4 for B.O.W. My family was born and raised and farmed in that area, and it seems the most reasonable use of the land.</p> <p>Our family farm was at the corner of Hwys. [REDACTED], we donated land for Badger Village, and my Great Grandma's farm was where the Powder Plant's Admin. Bldg. settled. It's been a lifelong dream of mine to see this land restored to best possible usage and condition!</p>
228	<p>I am a lifelong state resident and have been fortunate to utilize many local, county, state and federal public properties for recreational use throughout the state over the past 57 years. A recent opinion piece in the Wis State Journal indicated that plans for future use of the former Badger Ammunition Plant property are not yet finalized and public comment remains open.</p> <p>I reviewed the DNR site on the topic and read most of the 141 Pages of comments that are posted. As an avid outdoors person I want the DNR to take the broad view of developing the property for multiple recreational uses. The acreage is large enough to accommodate many different uses for many different users. Each user group is very passionate about their own expectations. Please do not close off this large parcel as a single purpose wildlife sanctuary with little or no public access. I have toured the property several times over the years.</p> <p>We love to watch animals and birds, like to bicycle and paddle, hike and camp. But we also like to drive vintage vehicles, both on rural rustic roads and off-road. We like to target shoot and watch hunting dogs in the field. All these activities could be accommodated. And as tax payers we should be allowed increased access not less.</p> <p>The comments from advocates of making Badger a closed wildlife habitat seem quite vocal in previous comments. Please do not let the loud comments of any single group overshadow the desires of all of us. There are plenty of state owned lands in the same region including Devils Lake and others nearby that support quiet sports. And many others that support wildlife restoration throughout the state. When I read the previous public comments I wondered how many have every traveled outside Dane County Wisconsin or have any understanding of the overall Wisconsin DNR and Federal land opportunities in the rest of Wisconsin.</p> <p>Finally, as a long time target shooter, I would advocate for including a well-developed public access outdoor target shooting facility in the Badger property. It is needed in the region. Modern ranges designs can be built on a relatively small parcel with proven safety designs and minimized noise effects. A safe public shooting range should be integrated into the overall recreational use plan. The public range facility at Rib Mountain in Marathon County is an excellent example how to build and manage a publicly owned and operated outdoor shooting facility within a larger multi use recreational area. Facts will support safe use. Please do not be deterred by loud emotional cries of danger and disaster voiced by people with no firearms experience, no facts and narrow views.</p> <p>We all want to share the Badger property. Please continue to develop the third option, multiuse recreational.</p>
229	<p>I'm writing in support of the Alternate #4 proposal as related to the remediation and redevelopment of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I would also like to register my strong opposition to the WDNR-proposed gun range and ATV track for this same site.</p>
230	<p>I would like to express my support for BOMC Alternative #4. Noise and commotion produced by ATVs and Gun use would take away from the enjoyment of other users of the area, as well as the adjacent Devil's Lake State Park, and the Wisconsin River corridor.</p>
231	<p>I am contacting you to voice my support for keeping the Badger Army Ammunition Plant a quiet, tranquil space where people come to enjoy the natural beauty of the site, which I have traveled by many times.</p> <p>I am extremely opposed to the proposal to allow ATVs and to set up a rifle range on this site. Aren't there many many other places for rifle ranges in Southern Wisconsin?! Why would anyone want to propose a place of much natural beauty for a rifle range?</p> <p>As for the ATVs, here again, why a place of great natural beauty for this noisy and destructive activity? This doesn't make any sense. They say they deserve it because they pay license fees for their vehicles. I pay a license for my car, but that doesn't mean a road needs to be built wherever I want it.</p> <p>So, I urge that this site be left for people to enjoy in peace, as close to what was its natural state as possible.</p>
232	<p>The plan for a rifle range and shooting opportunities, other than hunting on the old Badger Ordinance land are a bad idea.</p>

	<p>Between requiring staffing, maintenance, safety concerns, abuse , noise, conflicts and etc. there is no need for a range on that site.</p> <p>Local membership clubs, that are encouraged to have access to the public can satisfy that need. Improving established ranges makes sense, and possibly competing with other ranges, doesn't make sense.</p> <p>The plan should be to return it to as natural area as possible, with multiple uses, hiking, hunting, trails and etc.</p> <p>Please work to stick with the earlier plan and take the rifle range out of the picture. Providing a "hunting camp, with an area to site in deer rifles, would work. This could be used by Learn to Hunt programs, 4 H, Scouts, Mentor programs and access for Vets and disabled participants.</p>
233	<p>As part of a farm family, I am writing to add my comment to the public response over <u>Badger Reuse Plan</u>. My husband and I support <u>Alternative 2</u> because it was thoughtfully developed in a process that included wide input from Badger Stakeholders -- Alternative 2 represents a significant mix of recreational uses, educational uses, and interpretive activities. We strongly feel that the high-impact recreational uses in Alternative 3 are <u>not</u> reflective of the Badger Reuse Plans recommendations.</p> <p>We personally believe in thoughtful process for developing projects of this magnitude, and the Badger Reuse Plan is an example of integrating both stakeholder input, research, and the needs of sustainable agriculture and environment.</p> <p>We urge you to do all you can support implementation of Alternative 2.</p>
234	<p>I would like to go on record in support of the alternative <u>low-impact</u> plan suggested by the BOMC for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The WSJ editorial on August 15, 2013 noted, "Badger doesn't need rifle range" and I agree. I hope it is apparent to the DNR that a shooting range would have effects far beyond the immediate surface area of the range itself and is conflict with other uses for the area that have been planned since 2001.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this plan.</p>
235	<p>I am writing to comment on the reuse plans for the former Badger Ammunition Plant The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I request that the WDNR stick with the Final Badger Reuse plan as it is and not consider placing a rifle range on the property. Please keep the property as planned with passive recreational opportunities for the public.</p> <p>A rifle range would not be conducive to the publics enjoyment of the area. I do favor the plans yseuse of lands for hunting, fishing and trapping, bird and wildlife watching. I would hope that portions of these lands would have access and be made available for persons with disabilities to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>Please do not add a rifle range to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
236	<p>By way of quick introduction, I was the Naturalist at Devil's Lake State Park from 1966-1996. I'm writing in support of a low impact plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I'm writing really not for myself so much as I am for generations yet to come. I'm retired and likely won't see what I'm supporting, but I'm hoping that people not yet born will be able to experience restored prairie and savanna and a host of wild creatures in a quiet and peaceful landscape. This is my dream: for people to experience an area that early settlers described in glowing terms. It is possible, if we implement Alternative Plan 4.</p>
237	<p>I am writing you today to ask that you please support Alternative 4 for the Badger Ammunition Plant Reuse. We need to save our green spaces in a time when corporations are going mad with destroying the environment and our future in an attempt to make more money.</p> <p>Please help Wisconsin be apart of the solution and support a low impact use of the former Badger Ammunition Plant. I will look forward to taking my daughter there so she can appreciate it.</p>
238	<p>I have had many people voice opinions to me on this topic of atvs in the old badger plant and all of them are for it.</p>

	<p>our thoughts have been have run it sorta like dyracuse put a one way trail in maybe around a vast part of the part would not have to run near the fences.. and make it a fairly large loop and be wide enuff to run the 64" SxS on them so a max of 65" and run a decibel limit on the machines.. also put a riding park in at preferably the north east side of badger so most of any noise will be away from any houses. if you give an area for people to screw off some climb some hills rocks mud go through trees people will not disrupt the trails.. my thought is just one one way trail around the park for motor vehicles.</p> <p>I believe this would bring in a lot of revenue into the area from people coming in for gas and some lodging like camping.</p> <p>I also think some hiking and horse riding trails would be a benefit mostly the horse trails as currently we have plenty of hiking in the area. and you will not draw any new hikers in so much as just pull the current ones from the other places.</p> <p>atvs could have a \$10-20.00 a day fee to ride and a season family pass of 200 for a family of 2 adults 2 kids or 125 a single person. I personally know of at least 50-75 people who would by a family pass immediately upon the sale of them as we atv riders have no local areas to ride. I also highly suggest to allow dirtbikes also. as many familys have some dirt bikes and some atvs.</p> <p>I think offering a parking lot to access off 78 near the uw farm at the newer entrance built about 8 years ago, that lot would be near the atv park and allow atv/ horse trailer parking in the lot on hwy 12 and then the atvs could follow the trail around to the park.</p> <p>I also know there is multiple atv clubs in the area that would donate time and equipment to help get all this started as many individuals like me who would donate many nights and weekends for trail prep and maintence.</p> <p>also you can dedicate many acres of land into strickly wildlife preservation/bird watching. and I think starting to allow bow hunting by permit only would be a good idea also.. as years back you could apply and hunt with bow in the plant.</p>
239	<p>I was excited to hear that you are accepting ideas form the comunity for the future use of the former Badger Army Amunition Plant. I would like to see some horse trails. Horses have been a large part of my life for so long and it would be wonderful to have a trail that is close to home (Baraboo). I ride on the side of buisy roads three or more times a week. Traffic is always a concern for me and many people do not slow down when they drive by. I have gone on many trails in and around the Madison area. When I think about it they have more places to ride that Baraboo. Also people hike, bike, and walk dogs on the same shared trails that horses are be riden. Infact, most people on those trails are excited to see horses and often talk or ask about my horses.</p> <p>Badger could be a nice safe place where I would be able to ride and enjoy a day with my horses. The fact is, more and more people are enjoying their horses out on the trail rather than showing. Especialy in this area! This could be a wonderful oppertunity for the local 4-H club members to have an area for educational meetings (on history of Badger as well as continued horse education) and trail rides. Honestly, I would be willing to be part of a comity or group that helps orginize and maintain trails, if we were able to have some at Badger Army Amunition Plant.</p> <p>Thank you for helping the local comunity have a voice!</p>
240	<p>Please open the Badger Plant land for ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>These high-impact uses are just that - high impact, and will lead to degradation of the property in the long run. Keep Badger open to all future generations for sustainable use and recreation.</p>
241	<p>I would like to see the Badger Ordnance property be used for low impact activities. A fourth alternative that encompasses a balance of bicycling, cross-country skiing, conservation, family activities, hiking, hunting, nature-based recreation and outdoor education seems more in the spirit of the surrounding area. I am an ATV owner, however I don't favor the use of these vehicles on this property.</p>
242	<p>I am writing to voice my support for "alternative 4" for future uses of Badger. PLEASE, no ATVs or shooting range. It is such a wonderfully large and peaceful area and as such it will be a blessing for the people of the state of Wisconsin.</p>

243	Please support ALTERNATIVE 4.
244	I urge DNR to approve Alternative 4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. ATV's would ruin the area for many. We need more quiet in such places.
245	Earlier this evening the Planning Commission of the Baraboo City Council voted unanimously to recommend to the whole Council that they approve Alt 4. This is likely to happen a week from today at the next regular meeting of the Council.
246	Our family wholeheartedly supports low-impact recreation and conservation uses at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area as shown in the Badger Oversight Management Commission's Alternative 4. We oppose changes to the already endorsed plan, changes that would cause harm and disruption. Please respect this plan that took years to develop. Let the land heal.
247	As life-long Wisconsin resident and frequent user of the present recreational opportunities in the Sauk prairie / Devils Lake area, I strongly support the BOMC Alternative #4 land use plan for the former BAAP land. We have an opportunity to do something bold and return this land to its original state before the introduction of farming and industrialization. I think it would be a huge mistake to introduce motorized recreational vehicles into this area.
248	Please do not allow a gun range, paintball battlefield, or all-terrain vehicle trail to be part of the reuse plan for the Sauk Prairie. Grassland, Oak trees, buffalo and other wildlife habitat should be the primary use. Let us not allow this great opportunity slip away.
249	My husband and I own a cabin 5 miles from Devils Lake. We would love to bike, hike, and XC ski through the old ammo plant. We are NOT in favor of rifle ranges, ATV's, and paintball. Quiet sports and recreating the natural landscape are our priorities.
250	I fully support DNR's setting up a "Special Use Zone" with an all-terrain vehicle track, a paint ball battlefield and a long range rifle shooting range. With a total of 7400 acres, certainly there is room for these type of activities.
251	I live in Prairie du Sac, retired in 2007 from the position of Sauk Prairie Middle School Principal and SPMS English teacher (prior to becoming Principal), and have lived here for a total of 40 years. I strongly support Proposal #4 recommended by numerous conservation groups as well as the BOMC because of its habitat conservation, education, restoration, research, and pedestrian emphasis. I want to see to see a public setting that can be enjoyed and appreciated by generations to come. I am strongly opposed to motorized vehicle use and shooting ranges on Badger land. The reasons I am are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I feel that wildlife and bird life will be adversely affected by the noise and high presence of humans. - I feel that animals at the Dairy Forage Research Center will be adversely affected by high noise levels. Also because this land is surrounded by DFRC crops, the wild life and bird life outside of this area will also be adversely affected. -Private properties in the vicinity will be affected by the noise level. -I do not feel that motorized vehicle use and shooting ranges are compatible with conservation and low impact recreation emphasis that was envisioned for this land. -I do not want to see the land eroded by vehicle use on Badger Lands. -I do not want gun noise pollution to affect a serene and valuable resource. As an educator I see all the valuable uses Badger can provide for the education of children, and families. <u>That's why I support, in its entirety, Proposal #4.</u> I feel it contains the best of Proposal #3 <u>without motorized vehicle and gun range usage.</u> <u>Thank you for soliciting input!</u>

252	<p>Having grown up in a semi-rural area of Dodge County and raised my family in similar surroundings in Rock County, I am acutely aware of the depth of knowledge that can be absorbed simply by spending time outdoors observing the seasonal changes in the plant and wildlife populations of our state.</p> <p>Introducing a shooting range and all-terrain vehicles at the Badger Ordnance site will negatively affect the opportunities for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to gain the knowledge they will need to vote intelligently on future issues regarding Wisconsin's natural resources, including their representatives in state government.</p>
253	<p>I wish to give my support to BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger site in Sauk County. Low impact recreation is much preferable to snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, firing ranges, etc that are probably in the minority to hikers, xc skiers, birders, botanizers, landscape watchers. This is special land and should be used carefully.</p>
254	<p>I support Alternative 4...conservation and low-impact recreation consistent with the Badger Reuse Plan.</p>
255	<p>Please do all that you can to assure that the Sauk Prairie recreation area remains a place that is a safe place for animals and people. I oppose any plans to set aside a "Special Use Zone" for ATV's, a shooting range and other noisy and anti-conservation uses.</p> <p>Our goal should be to restore the prairie and enhance the natural area that has been polluted by war preparations and polluting activities for too long.</p>
256	<p>I am very much against allowing Special Use Zone at the ammo pant site. We need the to listen to local consensus; keep it the way it was originally agreed upon. the ATV,s and such do not need any more places to ruin the land.</p>
257	<p>Because of my Village of Spring Green Board responsibilities, I will be unable to attend the planned meeting, but want to share my thoughts regarding the Badger Reuse Plan developed recently.</p> <p>The Badger Reuse Plan was initiated a few years back, after the initial 7,400 acres was decided by the Army decided in 1997, that the land was no longer needed.</p> <p>The "Plan" divided the land between the Ho-Chunk Nation, The Dairy Forage Research Center, and the DNR.</p> <p>Because of the plan, the DNR began to gain possession from the federal government of the 3,400 acres it would own and manage.</p> <p>The Badger Reuse Plan Committee began as a working cooperative committee representing all levels of government, as well as local businesses, landowners, schools, and nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>While the committee's task wasn't easy, but they agreed to the Badger Reuse Plan, which was endorsed by Sauk County, The Ho-Chunk Nation, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>On the DNR Land, the prairie would be restored while allowing for "low-impact recreation uses", which would have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property.</p> <p>As DNR was a party to the Badger Reuse Plan, I hope the state government will not be inclined to go back on this plan.</p> <p>Thank you for your review of my thoughts on this important cultural and natural resource, in the use of this parcel of land adjacent to one of the most popular recreational resources, Devil Lake State Park. The Badger Reuse Plan could make the site of the Badger Ammo site as asset for our state for years to come.</p>
258	<p>To Whom It May Concern -- which means not only those "in power" but the rest of us as well:</p> <p>Please support Alternative 4 and keep the principles and practices of the Badger Reuse Plan. Conservation and low-impact recreation are what we all should be working to put in place. Let us protect wildlife, habitat, and traditional recreational activities. Thank you!</p>
259	<p>I am writing to say that I strongly support the plan for the development of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area as prepared by a local cooperative agreement aimed at protecting the wildlife, habitat and traditional recreational activities.</p>

	<p>I strongly oppose use of this site for ATV use, paint ball battlefield and long-range rifle shooting range. Our great state will have a diminishing number of opportunities to save or enhance pristine natural environments for future generations. Sauk Prairie offers one such rare opportunity. Future generations of Wisconsinites deserve to have access to such natural areas. Because of its proximity to Devil's Lake, Sauk Prairie holds great promise for many people to enjoy this natural resource.</p>
260	<p>Creating a pristine natural environment at the proposed Sauk Prairie recreation area is a wonderful thing. Turning it over to paintball gamers, rifle shooters, and ATV operators is, quite possibly, the worst outcome I could imagine for the use of this public space. A small handful of people making a great deal of noise and with the sound of regular gunfire going off would make it impossible to enjoy this place. Indeed, the gunfire would be so threatening, that many people would refuse to go there just because of that. It isn't fair for the few to ruin the environment for the many.</p> <p>Please respect the cooperative agreement that was developed to protect this environment.</p>
261	<p>I was moved yesterday to read a letter by town of Sumpter residents [REDACTED]. In it, they promoted Alternative 4 as a sound proposal for the Badger site. I have been a staunch supporter of low-impact recreation and conservation initiatives in Wisconsin even prior to the Badger discussion.</p> <p>Knowing that Sumpter and Prairie du Sac, along with the village of Prairie du Sac board, are on record as voting in favor of alternative 4 is important. It is imperative that the wishes of community members be acknowledged and acted upon. The fact that an historical cemetery is on the property makes this alternative even more attractive.</p> <p>Let the Badger land be silent, as the [REDACTED] recommended. With all of the noise in Wisconsin these days, the area could be a real conversation oasis.</p>
262	<p>Hi, a brief note to support the BOMC "Alternative 4," the proposal blends the best of the DNR's alternatives and places an emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses. This alternative complements the surrounding Baraboo Hills, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin Riverway, and rural agricultural landscape — and provides a big boost to the local economy based in the beautiful place that we live.</p>
263	<p>I am writing to express my support for "Alternative #4" as created by the Badger Management and Oversight Committee.</p> <p>I strongly support ecological restoration, agriculture, education and low-impact recreation.</p> <p>I strongly oppose shooting ranges and off-road motorized recreation of any sort on any part of the area.</p>
264	<p>As a proud member of Madison Audubon, I support BOMC alternative 4, which was developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>
265	<p>We are writing to express our concern over the action alternatives (#2 and #3) proposed for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. While we appreciate the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternative 2, there are no provisions for visitor access and compatible recreational uses, or educational and interpretive activities. Alternative 3 meets these needs but adds high-impact recreational uses: motorized use trails and a shooting range. These uses run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; they are inappropriate for family recreation area; and they will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property.</p> <p>We urge the DNR to adopt "Alternative 4," proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>
266	<p>I live in the town of Merrimac and would like you to know I support Alternative 4 of the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>We need to save this land as it is for future generations. We need to use this land for conservation and low-impact recreation such as hiking, biking and observing nature. It is a rare gift and should be preserved as such.</p>
267	<p>I strongly urge the DNR to select Alternative 4.</p>

	<p>BOMC Alternative 4 emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities that "complement each other and those of the surrounding land owners, enhancing the health, culture, and economy of the Badger lands and the surrounding community." It much better reflects the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, an agreement still in effect which was entered into by 21 representatives of local, state, federal and tribal units of government as well as neighboring landowners, businesses, school districts and nonprofits.</p> <p>Grassland/shrubland habitat and grassland/shrubland birds should be the primary focus at DNR's Sauk Prairie Recreation Area within the greater Badger Army Ammunitions Plant (BAAP). Bird species that have been found here include Eastern and Western meadowlarks, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Orchard Oriole, Bell's Vireo, Dickcissel, and Clay-colored, Vesper, Savannah, Field, Grasshopper sparrows, and more. Many of these species are sensitive to habitat fragmentation and need very large blocks of habitat to successfully breed.</p> <p>In addition, climate change may shift the range of many southern shrubland birds into Wisconsin, one more reason we recommend that management of Badger for grassland and shrubland bird habitat be a very high priority.</p>
268	<p>I have read in the paper and seen on the internet that the DNR is considering some new options for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant area, south of Baraboo. I would like to weigh in on the plans.</p> <p>I would like the plan referred to as BOMC Alternative 4. I think the that highest and best use of the area is low impact like hiking and bird watching. I was a bit shocked to see that a shooting range and ATV trails are being considered.</p> <p>Please reconsider the plans and use BOMC Alternative 4.</p>
269	<p>My husband and I are writing to urge the DNR to choose the BOMC Alternative 4 management plan for the old Badger Army plant. It is vitally important that wide swathes of grassland be preserved for native plant growth, but mostly for grassland bird populations.</p> <p>My husband and I often enjoy DNR lands in a variety of ways, including hiking, biking and camping. There are many DNR recreational areas for all those activities and hunting. But it is super super difficult to find large grassland habitats for preserving and viewing grassland birds. We used to see so many more grassland birds in our state. But their population is declining rapidly.</p> <p>We believe that there are plenty of other DNR properties devoted to mixed uses that people may enjoy. Let this one property be preserved for the birds we love and will someday sorely miss.</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration in this matter.</p>
270	<p>Let me introduce myself. I am currently living in Gig Harbor, WA, but prior to moving here I lived in Wisconsin Dells for 30 years and was one of the early founders of the Community Coalition for the Sauk Prairie. The citizens were concerned about the future use of the decommissioned Badger Army Ammunition Plant and a coalition of local organizations met with the commander of BAAP at the International Crane Foundation to begin a dialogue and information gathering, and opportunity for citizen input which has lasted for decades.</p> <p>The Community Coalition for the Sauk Prairie (CCCSP) evolved over the years sponsoring community events and informational programs with opportunity to present various visions for the future of the Badger 7354 acres, the problems associated with cleanup, and the establishment of the Badger Intergovernmental Group. The name of the CCCSP was changed to the one you currently know as The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, Inc. Representatives of the Alliance have continuously and committedly attended all meetings of the Badger Intergovernmental Group and the Badger Reuse Committee. As a result of this, the Badger Reuse Plan came to be a reality and was the major guide for the joint planning committee which was formed and led by DNR representative Craig Carr to develop a master plan for Badger after the transfer of the 7354 acres was made.</p> <p>Now, I understand, the DNR is no longer following the community developed Badger Reuse Plan, and is proposing recreational activities that would be in total opposition to the BRP. This is totally unacceptable based on the extensive input statewide from the citizens of Wisconsin that took place over decades as opportunity for input took place. Member organizations representing ATV riders and other motorized vehicle groups presented their interests in using the Badger property, as well as groups interested in having horseshows, RVs, fish farms, train repair shops, and many other activities ultimately found non-compatible and thus the final BRP came into being with goals of ecological restoration, conservation, education, and recreation. A museum on the periphery was envisioned with interpretive trails and camping facilities along the Wisconsin River landing permitting a corridor from there to Devil's Lake State Park.</p>

	<p>A great deal of work and effort took place regarding the preservation of the 3 historic cemeteries and the Sumpter Community which should be honored and considered as part of the appreciation of all lives lived on the prairie lands by all species then and now. Prairie land is precious and fast becoming lost forever, extinct in all aspects. Please protect these acres. Please consider the destructive activities that would degrade the ecology at Badger and implement a plan that follows the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Another DNR gesture which would greatly Implement the vision for preservation of the Sauk Prairie would be to rename the DNR's inappropriate SAUK PRAIRIE RECREATIONAL AREA. This is a misnomer as it implies that it is a RECREATION AREA. It is not primarily a recreation area but an area of ecological restoration, education, and conservation also. Please consider a more appropriate title such as WISCONSIN'S HISTORIC SAUK PRARIE.</p> <p>Thank you for your work and for gathering information which wil protect the Sauk Prarie.</p>
271	<p>████ and I strongly support alternative 4. This an ecological gem not a gym. Nonconsumptive quiet compatible Nature Recreation and Birding are hugely popular sports. A large magnet location for INCREASINGLY rare birds like Badger will generate a lot of restoration and a lot of money in state and local coffers from visitors.</p>
272	<p>Please respect the local cooperative agreement for use of the former Badger munitions site. A lengthy process of working together created and compromise between owners. The DNR land is to be restored and allow for "low-impact recreational uses that would have no detrimental impacts on the natural features of the property. Currently your DNR planners are considering turning it into a "Special Use Zone" where ATVs, paintball and a long-range rifle range. None of these activities are "low impact" activities. Consideration of such a change in plan goes against all that our state government should be about - representing the wishes of the people.</p>
273	<p>I previously submitted feedback through the on line survey. I communicated my support for alternative 2- ecological restoration emphasis.</p> <p>Of the three alternatives prepared by the DNR, I continue to support alternative 2.</p> <p>Today, I became aware of alternative 4, which was created by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p> <p>Since I previously submitted feedback through the on line survey, I decided to contact to you in order to communicate my support for alternative 4.</p>
274	<p>We support Alternative 4 as the best use of the property.</p>
275	<p>I have seen that the DNR is considering some new options for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant area near Baraboo. I think the plan referred to as BOMC Alternative 4 makes the most sense. Activities such as hiking and bird watching will draw the most people and be the least disruptive. A shooting range and ATV trails will be loud and make a mess as well as could result in serious injuries.</p> <p>Please reconsider the plans and use BOMC Alternative 4.</p>
276	<p>I want to register my very strong support for designating most of this property as a grassland wildlife area. This might include such quiet and seasonal activities as school nature field hikes, general public hiking and bicycling, birding, photography and art painting, deer hunting on a staggered schedule basis during deer season but with some weekends open for the other mentioned activities. I would designate part for a small buffalo herd.</p> <p>Wisconsin has lost most of its grassland birds. It needs to restore some large areas to grass. Most hayfields are now harvested too early for native birds like bobolink or bobwhite or several sparrows to reproduce and fledge young.</p> <p>This is a rare opportunity.</p>
277	<p>Please consider the wise and valuable use of the Baraboo Ammunitions plant becoming a Wisconsin safe area and wildlife habitat. I volunteer for environmental programs for youth and adults, and the healthy enjoyment of hiking, bird watching, snow shoeing, X-C skiing, in habitat friendly green spaces is everyone's favorite that I work and play with. It greatly loses the joy when we have to consider guns sharing any part of the afore mentioned community activities. Some of the groups I chair and share membership with that would enjoy the <u>BOMC Alternative 4</u> are Token Creek Conservancy Committee, Patrick Marsh Conservancy Committee, Madison's Who's New, Sun Prairie Stretch Program (middle school students from 5 churches that work to improve their community and have hundreds of hours of voluntary work on the areas Conservancies, Audubon, Sierra Club, Ice Age Trail, to mention a few.</p>

	Please help to preserve the space for both wildlife and people to share in safe outdoor experiences by choosing <u>BOMC Alternative 4</u> .
278	My husband and I strongly support Option 4 for Badger Army. There will not be many opportunities to conserve and protect such a large area of land in the future. Thank you for your consideration.
279	I would like to submit my request for future planned uses for the Badger plant and basically those uses would be the same as those for Devil's Lake State park where there are no shooting ranges but limited hunting to control deer browsing and no ATV or snowmobile traffic. There are so few places to go in nature that are quiet and I believe it's very important to have this peace and to be able to enter into nature as an equal, not a dominant, disruptive force.
280	Please see to it that the DNR's proposal for ATV use and a shooting range at the Badger site does not come to fruition. You have a wonderful opportunity to keep this land in a relatively pristine condition to be enjoyed by many, many people in a safe and quiet environment.
281	I am writing in regards to options for the Badger Ammunition property. In reading about it, I know one option is to have ATV trails. My family, which owns, 4 ATV's, would be interested in having trails in the area. We live in between Sauk City and Lodi and there aren't any trails in the area. So we travel to find trails. We go up in northern Wisconsin, since there aren't any around here. We have even taken our ATV's and hauled them to Missouri to find a place to ride them. If you goggle ATV trails there aren't many around. So people are willing to drive to them. It means income for the surrounding area. Everyone coming to use the trails will need to buy gas along the way to get to the trails and then gas for their ATV's once they get here. It also means people eating in restaurants and going to area grocery stores and gas stations. And the motels, hotels and campgrounds benefit too. The trails will definitely bring income to the area. Besides bringing income it is a nice things we enjoy doing as a family. Now days when everyone is so busy it's nice to have things to do together that the whole family enjoys. Not only do we go to ATV trails with my immediate family, but I have two sisters and their families that go on the trails up north with us, along with some friends. Again if there were trails here we would all go together close to home. Thanks for taking the opportunity to research this so thoroughly, the community appreciates it.
282	I think the four wheeling trails would be a bonus to the community for all the revenue it would bring in. We drove many a miles to go four wheeling because there is not many places to go around here.
283	I think ATV trails would be a good use of space from The Badger Ammunition Property. I love four wheeling and drive hours away with my family, just to find trails to ride on. This could bring more money into our area. ATVs are not cheap. People will need gas for their ATVs and for their trucks. People will need food and a place to stay. Also some people may buy parts for their ATVs if they break while they are here. I think using the Badger Ammunition Property as ATV trails is a very smart idea.
284	I write to support the low impact use of the former Badger Ammunition Plant property and oppose the Department of Natural Resources ignoring past agreements to allow use of the land for a gun range and by ATVs.
285	I am writing as a resident of Sauk City, Wisconsin, a longtime volunteer of environmental causes and someone who is concerned about what we leave for the generations to come. I attended the open house held July 31st at the River Arts Gallery in the high school in Prairie du Sac. I viewed the three alternative plans for the area of Badger land that the DNR made available to the public. Here are my comments: I strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in alternatives 2 & 3. I support Alternative 2 over alternative 3, if it can be expanded to: emphasis appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational

	<p>and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>I do not support the use of high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3, specifically, the "motorized use and a shooting range". These are not compatible recreational uses for Badger. They will negatively affect neighbors within and next to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I question why the proposed alternatives do not reflect the goals of the Badger Reuse Plan. Why isn't research and sustainable agriculture integrated into the alternative plans?</p> <p>I support the Badger Reuse Plan and encourage the DNR to keep its promise to the citizens of Wisconsin and the other Badger stakeholders to fully implement the Reuse plan.</p> <p>We have an opportunity to do something truly remarkable with the land that was once the great Sauk Prairie. My hope is we don't miss this opportunity.</p> <p>There is an alternative 4 for Badger (attached to this email). This plan is based on the framework provided by the Badger Reuse Plan, which the DNR signed onto.</p> <p>To close, I'd like to quote [REDACTED], Member, Badger Reuse Committee (2000-2001) and Founding member, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance</p> <p>"The potential to share lessons of history, science, and culture at Badger are boundless. Similarly, Badger provides unique opportunities to show how conservation and agriculture can and must work together for the good of Wisconsin's land, water, wildlife, people, economy, and future."</p>
286	<p>Please respect the local cooperative agreement for use of the former Badger munitions site. A lengthy process of working together created and compromise between owners. The DNR land is to be restored and allow for "low-impact recreational uses that would have no detrimental impacts on the natural features of the property. Currently your DNR planners are considering turning it into a "Special Use Zone" where ATVs, paintball and a long-range rifle range. None of these activities are "low impact" activities. Consideration of such a change in plan goes against all that our state government should be about - representing the wishes of the people.</p>
287	<p>I'd like to state my concern about the proposal to include a shooting range and ATV trails at the Badger Ammunition site. I firmly believe this would be a mistake. First of all, this large expanse of land is a precious environmental resource and we have a unique chance to keep it minimally developed. Secondly, I wonder how anyone could even consider undermining the process that went into developing the plan for low-impact recreation.</p> <p>For a number of years, I taught school in the Sauk Prairie school district and know what a unique spot this is and how important it is to the community and the citizens of Wisconsin. Please don't spoil it.</p>
288	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on restoration plans for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo. I favor the second option--restoring the area to grassland with no further development, and restricting access to pedestrians. Outdoor activities should include fishing, hiking, and cross country skiing, but trapping and hunting should not be allowed.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinions on this matter.</p>
289	<p>Please support low impact recreational uses of the former BOW land that do not allow for the "Special Use Zone". We need and enjoy the gentle, peaceful places for our souls.</p>
290	<p>The acreage of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant is a wonderful natural resource of southern Wisconsin. The Badger Oversight Management Commission has recommended a plan that my family enthusiastically supports because of its emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses. We believe that this area, surrounded by the Baraboo Hills, Devil's Lake State Park, the Wisconsin Riverway, and a rural agricultural landscape should not be a place for noisy, high impact activities such as motorcycle and all-terrain trails and shooting ranges. Many stakeholders have come together to arrive at the fourth alternative. Their recommendations are balanced, thoughtful, and respect the beauty and value of this special place.</p>

291	I am writing to support BOMC Alternative 4. Our grassland and shrubland birds are in serious decline. I hope that preservation of the former Badger Ammunitions Plant for them will receive the highest priority.
292	I am writing to you to express my support for the BOMC Alternative 4 for the former Badger Army Ordinance Works land in Sauk County. I have visited the property on field trips sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society and was fortunate to see several grassland bird species that have become rather rare in southern Wisconsin. I believe the opportunity now exists to provide a fairly extensive area of grassland habitat that would benefit these declining bird species. Alternative 4 provides the best chance for these grassland bird species to successfully breed in a relatively undisturbed area. Please consider Alternative 4 as the preferred use of the former Badger Army Ordinance area.
293	Alternative 4 please! No guns, no ATV's, find another place for those noisy activities and let Mother Nature dominate the landscape.
294	Our family of 3 is voting for Alternative 4 (low impact recreation) in developing Badger land. We hope that our voices will be heard.
295	Of the three (3) options given regarding the restoration or management of the former Badger Ammunitions Plant and property. Our family(19),- want to see Alternative 2: Ecological restoration emphasis put into action.
296	I am a big fan of riding my dirt bike on trails. I usually have to head north to find any trails. It would be great to have trails near my home!
297	I support very much the Badger Oversight Management Commission's " forth alternative, the BOMC "Alternative 4" for the Badger property. I know the beautiful landscape nearby and am delighted that the Commission has developed an alternative which fits well in this area
298	I would like to go on record as being in favor of the Badger Oversight Management Committee alternative 4for the creation of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area at the former Badger Army Ammunition plant site. The Badger reuse plan was a truly democratic creation and should be honored. That was what ALL participating groups agreed upon. There is no place for either ATving--high impact, noisy, destructive of an already compromised environment; or the shooting range on this property.
299	I am writing to urge the adoption of Alternative 4 outlined by the BOMC. The overwhelming reason why this seems to me like the best plan is that it preserves the area as a whole, a necessary and most effective way to provide sanctuary for birds and wildlife. These creatures do not flourish in a habitat that is carved up, piecemeal, in close proximity to activities such as the use of guns or ATVs. We have precious little of such sanctuaries for the dwindling bird population and the natural features that are needed to support it--plants, insects and more. The former Badger Army Ammunition Plant property is an opportunity that should not be wasted.
300	Please add my name to those from the Sauk County who support option 4 for the future of the Badger property. The effort put into planning and working toward this option in the past should not be discounted. Consider the public hunting property at the end of Hein Road North and East of Baraboo for the gun range and off road vehicles. A potential win-win situation for everyone?
301	We strongly support the proposal for a fourth alternative for reusing the Badger Army Ammunition Plant property. Nature activities for families should be a priority. Let's not disturb the birds with a rifle range and ATVs.
302	Respect the local cooperative agreement of the Badger Reuse Plan.
303	Peace and quiet, please, at SPRA. This state really does not need another firing range or ATV trail.
304	The DNR should choose Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). The suggested development of a shooting range and ATV use is completely incompatible with the natural uses

	<p>of Badger Prairie.</p> <p>I can't state strongly enough my opposition to any such development.</p> <p>Please keep Badger Prairie for wildlife habitat, natural vegetation and for the enjoyment of nature by people of all ages, for now and always.</p>
305	<p>i am writing to urge you and the DNR to adopt the alternative #4 for the badger prairie use plan. this will preserve the area for birds, wildlife, endangered species, plants and allow the area to return to a natural area, with low impact of human active on this environment.</p>
306	<p>I wanted to weigh in with my opinion on the future direction of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I support what has become known as option 4. Hopefully the bike trails included in option 4 can include paved trails for road type bicycles. My wife and I do a fair amount of biking. She doesn't feel comfortable biking on public roads.</p> <p>My wife and I are 64 years old, retired and 25 year residents of Baraboo.</p>
307	<p>I live across Lake Wisconsin from Badger and have experienced the ongoing and very unsettling blasting during demolition. These blasts shook our house, knocking artifacts off shelves, and worse yet, terrified our dog. She couldn't stop shaking and hid in the basement!</p> <p>Finally that's over and we have the peace and quiet we enjoyed before the blasting.</p> <p>I'm very upset of even the THOUGHT of a rifle range at Badger!</p> <p>I hope the DNR will be a good neighbor and be considerate of it's neighbors.</p> <p>P.S. I am a hunter and an EX NRA member.</p>
308	<p>Please consider this as an official comment regarding the upcoming hearing about the use of the former Badger Ammo area. While I was not a member of the Badger Reuse Committee, I was closely associated with someone who was. I recall how long and hard the committee worked to reach a compromise regarding who would manage the land and how it would be managed. Month after month, for many months, I watched and listened as committee members talked about the difficult compromises being discussed. These people took their task seriously as they struggled to determine the best uses for the former ammo manufacturing site and how to preserve it for future generations. As you know, the end product of the committee's compromise and good will, a Badger Reuse Plan was approved. Because the uses you are now considering were not included within the Plan, it is my belief that the committee purposely did not include them. I do not think they had any intent for the area to become an ATV area or a shooting range. The DNR was allocated the management of a portion of the site, in large part because it was a member of the Reuse Committee and had agreed upon the approved uses for the entire area--including the portion assigned to DNR management.</p> <p>To now propose use changes that are so radically different, from those agreed upon by the Reuse Committee and included in the Plan, is almost criminal of the DNR. It is a slap in the face to those who worked so hard. I am totally opposed to your consideration of changing the approved uses and even more opposed that you would even consider loud, intrusive, and elitist uses such as ATV areas and a shooting range.</p>
309	<p>I enjoyed your editorial in the Baraboo newspaper and totally agree with you. We, too, had to go thru the seemingly endless blasting over the last two or three years and are now once again enjoying our peaceful days. I am totally against a rifle range. I do not believe that we should have to listen to fire arms blasting throughout the days for the rest of our lives. Life should be enjoyed to such a degree that my life choices don't penetrate other people's lives and pleasures. I am a walker, a used to be jogger, hiker, and bicyclist.</p>
310	<p>I've had an interest in this land all my life because my grandparent's family was one of the 80 farm families displaced from Sumpter for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I have relatives buried in the Pioneer Cemetery within the plant grounds. This displacement was a very traumatic event for my grandparents and was with them the rest of their lives. My mother has vivid memories of them having to move their animals and other possessions during three cold winter months. I feel strongly that my grandparents would wish for a low impact reuse of the land -- hunting ranges and ATV tracks do NOT fall in this category.</p> <p>DNR was part of the original community process that developed the Badger Reuse Plan. Alternative #4 most</p>

	<p>closely aligns with the work of that collaborative public process. It honors the land and all its animal inhabitants and provides educational opportunities for current and future citizens.</p> <p>I urge you to implement Alternative #4.</p>
311	I strongly support alternative 4 of the BOMC. Please consider this option.
312	<p>I am in support of Alternative 4 proposed by the BOMC. The Badger property needs healing from it's devastating past. I believe that it will get more use if there is only low impact activity allowed. I would like to see the property managed as a whole unit, not parcels of different activity. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the DNR to restore a large tract of land back to prairie, back to it's original state, for future generations to enjoy. Unfragmented land is very hard to come by, like the Baraboo Hills. The Baraboo Hills support certain wildlife because of that and so could The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>As a neighbor of the property, we have listened to enough loud noise(blasting at Badger)over the last few years to last us a life time. I have been reading about a rifle range that is proposed for DNR land near Portage, isn't that enough for this area? We also have a local range that it would possibly be in competition with.</p> <p>I also oppose the use of ATV's on the parcel that is set aside for their possible use(Parcel M). I have been working at Badger doing prairie restoration in that parcel and would not want to see ATV's in that area. The potential for an expansive prairie is there and should be used for that. ATV use is in the spring, summer and fall when we have our houses opened up and are outside enjoying the use of our property. The noise and dust they create is not welcome. The loud boats on the Lake WI make more than enough noise for our area.</p>
313	I fully support the BOMC Alternative #4 as THE plan for the former Badger Ammunition Plant.
314	<p>I wanted to take the opportunity to state that the idea of having a shooting range and atv range on the badger site is not acceptable.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing my opinion.</p>
315	<p>I am in favor of Alternative #4 and in opposition to the proposals for motorized vehicles (ATVs) and a shooting range. My understanding is that there are at least 17 shooting ranges within a 30-mile radius of Badger. We own an ATV and feel ATV usage is NOT appropriate for use at Badger. I imagine the DNR also knows this given the limited space available for a "trail".</p> <p>I came to these conclusions after:</p> <p>Following the BOMC for many years and its work in the implementation of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan that states low-impact recreational activities would be encouraged.</p> <p>Reviewing DNR's Alternative's 1-3.</p> <p>Attending the open house on July 31 at the River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac.</p> <p>Reviewing "the citizens" Alternative 4.</p> <p>Reading letters to the editor in various newspapers, the Wisconsin State Journal's' Our Opinion" on August 15, hearing from local legislators, and other information that has been disseminated.</p> <p>The Towns of Sumpter, Prairie du Sac, and the Villages of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have opposed ATV's and gun range usage.</p> <p>And lastly, after touring Badger for the third time, I know that the right thing to do is to preserve this site as a much needed peaceful and beautiful nature area.</p> <p>I URGE the WDNR to support Alternative #4.</p>
316	<p>My husband [REDACTED] and I are both in agreement that we would like to see Alternative 4 in place for the Badger Reuse Plan. We are very concerned about any high impact use for the area and therefore are for a plan that emphasizes conservation and low impact recreation. Please consider this plan as it is most ideal for the citizens of State of Wisconsin.</p>

317	Please honor the Badger Oversight Management Commission that emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreation not ATV's and a gun range.
318	<p>I am writing in opposition to a shooting range, and free ranging ATV area. These activities are unsupervised, and potentially dangerous. there are people living in the area and bullet travel long distances and have the potential to bounce off of trees, ground, etc. and not remain in the original path intended. There are several " hunting clubs" in the area that can serve this purpose and is controlled.</p> <p>These type activities are also disruptive to those of us in the area, and not fulfilling what was set out by the original Badger Reuse Committee that volunteered many many people hours, and utilized the input of people in the area. They put much thought and consideration to all interests, and approved a plan that also gained the approval of the Sauk County Board. It is disrespectful to ignore the Committee's plan that took all interests into consideration vs. the interests a few minority.</p> <p>Alternative 4 is the right use of this land, and what I support as a resident of the area, and one that has also had the stress of living with a contaminated well.</p>
319	<p>Thank you to the DNR for giving the public the opportunity to car tour the Badger Army Ammunition Site on August 24. I toured the site and it has reinforced my belief about the best use for Badger.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the WDNR's psoposal for motorized vehicles (ATVs) and a shooting range at the former Badger Army Ammunition Site. I strongly urge WDNR to honor the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan that was agreed upon in 2001 ant is still in effect, which emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities. I support Alternative 4 which has been developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission and which is consistent with a conservation/low-impact recreation emphasis.</p>
320	By means of this e-mail, be advised that my husband and I are supporting Alternative 4 for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant land. The Alternative 4 proposal emphasizes conservation and low impact recreation. We are definitely against a shooting range and ATV trails.
321	<p>When I moved to Prairie du Sac 22 years ago, I clearly remember coming down Hwy 12 and seeing the expanse of the ammunition plant.</p> <p>I have followed some of the news reports over the years, and I once ran a road race inside the plant, and I have always looked forward to the day when the area would be open for recreation. I hope to be able to regularly run roads and trails on the property some day.</p> <p>I'm so happy that finally the day is near when the public will be able to enjoy the property. Obviously, there was a lot to clean up, but it really has taken a long time.</p> <p>Now that it is time for final decisions to be made, I want to register my support for BOMC Alternative #4.</p> <p>I hope all the powers- that-be will see this as the best alternative, given the many years of planning and discussion that have taken place. I support conservation, quiet sports and low-impact recreation uses. I plan to be a frequent visitor to the new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
322	This is to voice my opposition to any DNR plans that might include a shooting range or motorized recreational vehicle (ATV) trails. The restored Badger Ordnance property will be a priceless gem...an opportunity to experience nature as it once was. All recreational activities on the property should be consistent with that era and promote quiet experiences such as hiking, bird watching, snowshoeing, x-c skiing, etc.
323	<p>I have just completed the survey about the future use of the land that was the Badger Plant and before that included my grandparents farm. I am attaching the comments I made.</p> <p>My grandparents (██████████), Mother (██████████) and Aunt (██████████) lived on a farm on the site of the plant. They were there until the land was taken. I, my sister and Mother (still alive at 95 and last visited the site on her 90th birthday) request that the land be kept as a tribute to those who gave up so much. It should honor the land, not turn it into a shooting gallery or race track. My grandparents sacrificed for their country, as they were requested to do. It is now time to thank them by creating a respectful memorial.</p> <p>As I noted in my first comment. The farmers who were on the land before the plant were stewards of the land</p>

	<p>and that tradition should be continued.</p> <p>Any recreation should not include a shooting gallery or race track. My mother always said how proud my grandfather was of the farm. The farms in that area were some of the most productive around and considered the most desirable. The history of the river valley land should be retained.</p> <p>The history of the area should be preserved and made available for all to study.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require additional information please let me know.</p>
324	<p>I completely support a facility to shoot as one of the uses. I teach Hunter Safety and it is very difficult to find a place to take the class to shoot a rifle. There are a lot of shotgun ranges, but few rifle.</p>
325	<p>As you consider how to use the land at the former ammunitions plant please pay attention to the agreement to allow for "low-impact recreational uses" that "would have no significant detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property." That means no all-terrain vehicle tracks, no paint ball battlefields and no long-range rifle shooting ranges.</p>
326	<p>Please select Alternative 4 which mirrors the original reuse plan.</p>
327	<p>I disagree with the "Special Use Zone" plan at the ammo plant site in Sauk Prairie. The local cooperative agreement should be respected. I believe it's important to protect the wildlife and habitat of the area.</p>
328	<p>Regarding the future of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. • The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. • The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.
329	<p>I am writing to voice my opinion in regards to the three proposed alternatives for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>I support Alternative #2 because of its emphasis on habitat restoration and low-impact recreation opportunities. I do NOT support Alternative #3 because the many high-impact, non-traditional recreational uses would be detrimental to this natural area and negatively affect the experience of hikers, hunters and other low-impact users wishing to visit the property. However, Alternative #2 could be made better by also encompassing the educational and community participation described in #3, and by continuing to integrate agricultural research.</p>
330	<p>We would like to applaud the DNR's preliminary determination that the pump house property by Weigands Bay is best suited for hiking, fishing, picnicking, and a canoe carry launch and should not be developed into a motor boat launch and parking area.</p> <p>For the protection of adjacent private property owners, we feel the parking area for this location needs to be next to and within the line of sight of US Hwy 78.</p> <p>A parking area next to US Hwy 78 will, in effect, be self patrolling. A parking area deep within this property will require constant patrolling by police and park officials to prevent it from becoming an area for late night partying and possible illegal activities.</p>

	<p>Please consider the safety and protection of adjacent property owners when planing public access to this property.</p>
331	<p>I am writing this email to let you know of my opposition to the firing range and ATV course proposed for use on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>This land should be used to promote camping, hiking, bird watching and other activities in harmony with nature.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
332	<p>I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposal of non-traditional activities (e.g. firing range, ATV course) at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission which promotes the use of this land for activities that are in harmony with nature. This land is a valuable asset and deserves our most careful consideration of how to use it.</p> <p>Again, I vapor Alternative 4.</p>
333	<p>I support only low impact recreation and conservation uses at the Sauk Prairie recreation area as shown in BOMC Alternative 4.</p>
334	<p>I am in favor of a wide range of activities for the renovated Badger Ammunition site. I might suggest a radio controlled aircraft site, a shooting range as well as hiking and other green space activities. I know that the decisions will be difficult and that you have the impossible job of trying to make everyone happy. Since there is so much division between constituents, you'll probably end up having to give everyone something and no one will be entirely pleased. Good luck...</p> <p>Although it is not politically in vogue... let's hope for compromise.</p>
335	<p>I am writing to urge the DNR to honor the original intent of the Badger Reuse Plan for management of the lands once used for the Badger Army Ordinance Plant. This plan is now embodied in Alternative 4 offered by the Badger Oversight Management Commission. It calls for conservation and low-impact uses, and has been endorsed by Sauk County, Sumter and other surrounding townships, environmental groups and many others.</p> <p>This is a large unbroken tract of land, much of it grassland and shrubs. The Audubon Society and DNR biologists have documented the survival there of many species of birds that have lost most of their habitat to agriculture and development. Once this land is broken up and the grasslands destroyed, their populations will rapidly decline here, as they have elsewhere.</p> <p>The alternatives now being proposed by the DNR, including ATV trails, paintball battlefield and rifle shooting ranges are just not appropriate for this land. Those activities can be located on other land that is not so valuable for natural resource conservation.</p> <p>It is almost inexplicable that the DNR would turn its back on a Reuse Plan that was developed through the collaboration and consensus of public and private stakeholders over many years. Please honor their efforts and manage this land for wildlife habitat and minimal or low-impact recreational uses.</p>
336	<p>I am writing to you in response to my recent visit to Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I would appreciate if you would please take the time to read my letter, as I have utilized a great deal of time and effort to learn more about BAAP and the current state of the property.</p> <p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am from central New York. I moved to Baraboo, Wisconsin in March of 2013 and will be working here through November 2013. I am a field ecology intern at International Crane Foundation, and since arriving here, I have heard numerous mentions of Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I was quite curious about it because of all of the work that is being done there, which I was recently made aware of.</p> <p>I took the time to read a multitude of literature pertaining to this property and its prior uses, as well as its proposed uses under the different landowners. Through my reading, I learned about how expansive this land is and the habitat and topography differences throughout it. I also learned that there are cemeteries on site, which I found to be of particular importance when considering land use proposals. incongruous with some of the land use proposals.</p>

	<p>After visiting BAAP for the auto tour this past weekend, I realize that rather than have another recreation area where motorists are permitted, this land provides a truly unique opportunity. If this appreciable amount of acreage were to be ecologically restored to as close as it historically once was, this would be one of the single largest prairies in the country. With the knowledge I've gained about ecological and prairie restoration at International Crane Foundation, I know that with hard work and dedication, this land can be healthy, beautiful and healed as it once was, no longer riddled with poison and negativity.</p> <p>I strongly support Alternative number 2 and all of the restoration that would be done under this proposal, but would also hope to see community participation, nature-based recreation and interpretive and educational activities. I firmly believe that with this alternative, the land and people can work together to grow and positively change.</p> <p>It seems deplorable to me that although these are the types of activities the initial plan agreed upon would have fostered, those ideas have changed and higher impact recreation would be tolerated, further debilitating the land. This also completely disregards the people who currently rest on the property of BAAP. To even consider permitting guns or ATVs to be used in those areas where community members' ancestors are buried is not only unethical, but incongruous with the initial proposals by stakeholders.</p> <p>I am thoroughly disappointed that some of the proposed alternatives do not reflect the ideas originally discussed. Please keep your word to the people of Wisconsin and to the other Badger stakeholders by following through with a low-impact recreation and restoration plan!</p>
337	<p>I am writing in support of BOMC Alternative 4. We have lost and continue to lose grassland habitat. This is a loss to grassland birds and the other species which require grasslands, both large and small to survive. This has been exacerbated by the recent conversion of grasslands to grow corn. Wisconsin needs to take advantage of this unique conservation opportunity.</p>
338	<p>The main focus of this property should be for grassland/shrubland habitat and grassland/shrubland birds. The property should also be managed as a whole. Any proposed recreation must be compatible with grassland bird conservation meaning non-motorized and low impact. Non-toxic ammunition and fishing tackle for hunting and fishing must be requirements. We have an exceptional opportunity to do the right thing for this property and the residents of Wisconsin. Therefore, we support BOMC Alternative 4!</p>
339	<p>As the president of the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Assoc., I would like you to know of our support for some horse trails at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
340	<p>I am sending this email to state my support of BOMC Alternative #4, which emphasizes conservation and the use of low-impact recreational activities at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>I am not in favor of motorized usage of ATVs, etc or a shooting range and I'm not in favor of horses (as we have all the acreage at Blackhawk Ridge for horseback riding.)</p> <p>The Badger Reuse Plan (which is continued in BOMC Alternative #4) has been in place since 2001 and was and is again being voted for and supported by local towns, villages, surrounding land and home owners and citizens, businesses and organizations.</p> <p>I am 100% in favor of BOMC Alternative #4 (which continues the original Badger Reuse Plan.)</p>
341	<p>I support the low impact alternative for BAAP.</p> <p>I am a shooter and have driven ATVs; and I have friends and relatives who own guns and ATVs.</p> <p>There are so few areas in this world in which one can find peace, and the healing solace of nature. Please let the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area be one small shrine to all of us who need those healing places.</p>
342	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative #4 for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. As a native of Prairie du Sac and someone who knows people who lost their farms to the plant, I am sure having ATVs running over a track, their noise echoing in the bluffs, is not the way to honor those who gave up this land including the native Americans. This area is limited in size so that ATV noise or the sound of a rifle range would be heard all over that area. I live miles from a gun range and can hear the gunshots regularly.</p>

	<p>I have also seen the impact regular ATV use does to the vegetation, land and surroundings and feel it would discourage many people from coming to other area of the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area to enjoy quieter activities. I also question the supervision for this. I am well aware of the budget cuts and the limited DNR staff that will have to cover this large area.</p> <p>I feel after 70+ years of the abuse of hundreds of buildings and pollution that has spread beyond the fences of that land, it is time to bring it back to nature and low impact recreation. Give the neighbors some peace. Listen to the majority of citizens.</p>
343	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 which would, I believe, be the most beneficial for the surrounding communities, for visitors to the area, and for the land itself. I had the opportunity to tour the area last fall and am very excited about the possibility that it could become a place to be visited year round and explored. Please do not put noisy/disruptive ATV trails and shooting ranges on this land. When will such a parcel ever become available again? Maybe never...do it up right!</p>
344	<p>I would like to register my opposition to some of the proposed activities at SPRA - a firing range and ATV course. I would much rather see Alternative 4 of BNOG put in place. The sound alone from these activities would destroy the tranquility of the area for both humans and animals. Extending the natural protected area of Devils Lake State Park is the ideal solution. The survival of much wildlife, plant and animal, requires extensive protected areas.</p>
345	<p>We are concerned citizens of Prairie du Sac, WI and urge the DNR to support the alternative 4 plan for low impact and educational focus of the former Badger Ammunition plant site, rather than the high impact of plan 3 to allow ATV's and rifle range activities. The latter two especially Would detract immensely from the tranquility & beauty of this special area that we look forward to sharing with our four grandchildren.</p>
346	<p>I strongly support BOMC Alternative 4, The conservation/low impact recreation emphasis.</p> <p>Since I would generally be accessing the site from Columbia county I am hoping there would be access in the northeast side of the site (hwy 113).</p>
347	<p>I am writing to say that I support Alternative 4 for reuse of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I live across highway 12 from there and after listening to explosions for YEARS, I like the idea of quiet, wildlife-friendly activities a lot more than noisy ATVs and gun shots. I live several miles north of a gun range and can hear it all the time. I don't need more of that to listen to.</p>
348	<p>I believe the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area is large enough to accomodate a "Special use Zone" which would allow an all terrain track \, a paint ball battlefield, and a long rangerifle shooting range. The remaining area(the majority of acres) would still remain for "low impact" use.</p>
349	<p>I am from Sauk Prairie, and about 5 years ago a group of individuals were looking at trying to get a rec center is Sauk Prairie. It was put on hold at that time because the Prairie du Sac library was building, and then the Hospital was fundraising for their building next. All these large projects take a huge part of the locals donation budget and the timing wasn't right.</p> <p>So many area communities have great rec centers that are used for so many things, and our area would really benefit by having one here. Our concept was to have it hold both indoor and outdoor uses such as baseball fields, soccer fields and indoor courts to host volleyball, basketball etc. and inside winter soccer. Keva in Middleton is a good example of an indoor facility that is used all the time and gives kids and adults an opportunity to stay fit and stay out of trouble!!!</p> <p>At our last Chamber meeting it was asked how we felt about it being a quiet or a noisy recreational area. I answered both, Badger is large enough to accomodate biking and hiking trails on the bluff side, and 4 wheeler trails etc. on the Prairie du Sac side. In the area were the bulk of the buildings had been would be a great location for a rec complex. This would benefit both the Sauk Prairie Area and the Baraboo Area.</p>
350	<p>I was an environmental engineer at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant from 1988 until 2006, and managed the environmental engineering group at the facility since 1990, including the laboratory towards the end. For my last two years at the facility, I was Program Manager, in charge of all 250 plant employees for the contractor. What seemed like an old west ghost town came to be a great source of pride and history over the 18 years that I worked there. I appreciated not only the workers but the amazing natural habitat and our opportunity to restore it. Many people outside of the plant saw Badger as a huge evil. We didn't – we saw it as a war-time necessity, and</p>

	<p>people who worked there were proud to have served their country in its time of need. The methods of disposal that took place were no different than what happened commercially during those same years – only some of the residual chemicals were. Instead of abandoning their responsibilities like corporations, however, the Army and Olin Corporation (replaced in 2004 by SpecPro) stayed and cleaned (and are still cleaning) everything up.</p> <p>I played a supporting role in the development of the Badger Reuse Plan. It greatly concerns me to see what is now being proposed. The Army and Olin have stayed true to their word over a period of decades, and here it is, just a few years after signing the Reuse Plan, and the WDNR seemingly wants to turn their back on it? Nowhere in the plan are ATV trails or shooting ranges discussed. In fact, it is just this type of activity that was discussed in the meetings leading up to the final Reuse Plan and heavily discouraged. In addition, the Army JUST finished spending a lot of hard-earned tax-payers money on cleaning up the shooting ranges on the facility and you are going to create more on what has clearly been identified as a major migratory route for songbirds in the U.S.?</p> <p>This is an opportunity to take what was perceived as a negative legacy and make it a positive one. There are stretches of virgin timber, oak savannah, prairie (and by the way, the original Commander's Representative, David Fordham, was restoring prairie at Badger in the '70's, when it was unheard of) and other ecological microcosms that are considered rare wonders. These should be enhanced and expanded, not left in a dusty plume of acrid smoke by a group of ATV drivers, who in general have no appreciation for the time and effort that went into the cleanup or conservation of the property.</p> <p>According to reports I've read, Mark Aquino has stated that the BRP was "not a contract". This may or may not be true, as I've been misquoted by reporters myself. If it is, though, this is the kind of language used by people when they do not want to honor something they've signed, and I take issue with the statement. It is INDEED a contract between all of the parties that have signed. Now it is time to honor it.</p> <p>Leave the ATV trails and shooting ranges OUT. I support hiking and cycling options as well as a visitors center as outlined in the BRP.</p>
351	<p>When I moved to Wisconsin 40 years ago it was a beautiful state; today, not so much. Natural regions are being systematically developed, rivers, lakes and streams are polluted by factory farms, and power plants belch ash and mercury into the atmosphere and Co2 into the stratosphere leading to the severe weather that is crippling Wisconsin's agricultural production.</p> <p>Now after endless discussion and negotiation, the planning for reclaiming the natural environment once occupied by the Badger Army Ammunition Depot is nearing the final stages and more than 50 organizations have urged the DNR to adopt the Alternative 4 Proposal to reclaim the land in order to convert it to a low recreation-use area that emphasizes conservation. Building a shooting range on the land in question and a ATV tract is not consistent with reclaiming the land, but instead is wholly consistent with the high impact degradation that Wisconsin has experienced during the past 40 years.</p> <p>I am writing to you to express my support for the Alternative 4 proposal for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area and urge you not to proceed with a shooting range and an ATV tract in reclaiming the land that was defiled by the Badger Army Ammunition Depot.</p>
352	<p>I completed the primary survey. Felt it was minimal, at best, so am sending this narrative to you.</p> <p>We attended the information meeting on July 31st. It was well planned and had large explanatory graphics that were easy to understand and showed the various alternatives. Staff gave excellent answers to questions.</p> <p>My wife and I went on the bus tour of BAAP in 1992. We had her sister and husband with us on the 2000 tour. My wife and I went on the motor tour last fall. We made stops at the major points like the cemetery, reservoir and Nitro area. This year my main purpose was to take photos of areas we drove by last fall.</p> <p>We took the long route first and got the photos I wanted. Then we went back around and took the short route. Since there was little traffic on the short route I was able to take some pictures without interruption or "dust." Out there I was taken by a sense of quietness. Numerous birds were present. A perfect area for a prairie.</p> <p>After picking up a pamphlet describing the BOMC Alternative #4, I feel that this is the best guideline for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I would hope that a visitor center similar to the one at the Kickapoo Valley Reservoir would be built to include all cultural and industrial facets of the area's history.</p>
353	<p>I understand that you are looking for public input with regard to the future use of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I am happy to share my thoughts and recommendations. It would be my hope that you would</p>

	<p>listen to the people that have worked hard over so many years. I am referring to the Badger Reuse Committee and the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance.</p> <p>I am writing in support of what has become known as OPTION FOUR (4) for the future of the former BAAP. I am also very concerned about the last minute inclusion of ATV trails and shooting ranges into alt. 3. These should have no place in the future of this sacred land if it will have the opportunity to survive. This land has had a difficult (recent) past but we can give it the chance to heal. A low-impact resolution will make this bright future a reality.</p> <p>Finally I have to say that I am an artist and rest assured I will create some artwork with respect to your decision about this land. I would like it to be a positive piece about a wonderful outcome about this land.</p> <p>Again please make the low-impact choice in OPTION 4.</p>
354	<p>I represent the Dairyland Driving Club, an organization of 125 families and individuals in the Southern Wisconsin area who engage in recreational driving of our horses. We endorse the inclusion of equestrian trails as part of the development of the new Sauk Prairie Recreation area. We feel this activity fits well with the low impact use goals of the property and fits the role of the traditional use of the area when it was farmed by horses and horses were the primary means of transportation.</p> <p>I feel I can speak from personal experience in this issue as I am a retired State Park Manager and was manager and Assistant Manager of Devil's Lake State Park in the 1980's. I truly envy Ryder Will in his assignment of Manager of the area.</p>
355	I am voicing my support for the BOMC alternative #4, the Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis.
356	My wife and I strongly support option 4. there is no need for any ATV usage in this area. I am a hunter and fisher.
357	As a hunter safety instructor, I see a need for a facility that we could use for the field day portion of internet based classes. Our group hosts conventional classes, and has only hosted 1 field day for the internet hunter safety course, but I suspect that demand is only going to increase, and the old ammo plant site would be close enough to draw students from as far as Milwaukee, if our field day was an accurate model. A shooting range would be vital, as well as a shelter/bathrooms. ATV courses could be held there also. A model facility may be the Dyracuse setup near Rome. With the building/parking lot between the shooting range and the ATV area, multiple uses could coexist. I would think that the best place for a shooting range would be on the North end of the property, so that the bluff would serve as an additional backstop. I know the groups that prefer no "nasty" ATV's or "gasp" firearms, are much more vocal and better organized than those sharing my viewpoints about access, please keep us (silent majority types) in mind during the planning process.
358	<p>I'm am writing to express my disgust with a proposal to turn a portion of the Badger Ammunition Plant property into an ATV track and rifle range. Rifle ranges are common throughout the state (I use them myself), and ATV trails already destroy the peace and quiet of much of the state. A property like that at the Badger Ammunition Plant, so close to the Baraboo Hills, should be spared from this type of development. I support an emphasis on ecological restoration for the property.</p> <p>The DNR should be committed to restoring and preserving what few natural areas we have left, not working to turn them into noisy and destructive theme parks.</p>
359	<p>Since DNR was involved in developing the Re-use Plan, I hope that the agency can hold that process and plan up as a model for a land use decision-making process and working effectively with partners. By embracing Alternative Plan #4, the current administration can take credit for the Master Planning process while acknowledging the process that so many partners where involved in, making it a win-win decision for everyone.</p> <p>Eco-tourism IS a strong economic force. In Sauk Prairie alone, we see 45,000 people come to town in January and February each year and they spend over \$1,000,000, according to surveys conducted by the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council. Sauk County is a goldmine for eco-tourism and the full potential of this is largely untapped. For example, the Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce only recently formed a committee to start developing eco-tourism more, despite the long-time presence of wintering eagles and the town's position as the gateway to Sauk County. If the DNR's business division could shift its focus more in that direction and start assisting chambers of commerce in this area, that would be far more lucrative job-wise, and less controversial, than ATVs and shooting ranges. As many ATV and gun owners have stated, there are plenty of opportunities for those activities in non-ecologically sensitive areas.</p> <p>If done right, developing the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area as a premier destination for the majority of the</p>

	<p>population that enjoys nature in a quiet, non-consumptive way will have far-reaching benefits. And it would help to save face for the very embattled DNR. A broad public, not just locals, cares deeply about this property and wants it to be treated with care and respect. Alternative 4 would be the best way forward. It reflects politics at its best, incorporating a very respectable and strategic democratic process, and offers an exciting future for this nationally-significant property.</p>
360	<p>We toured the plant site on Saturday. Thank you for that opportunity. My 98 year old Dad was a great guide for us.</p> <p>We would like you to consider horse trails and camping. You might even consider leasing to a stable for rental horse riding like at Gov. Dodge. I am sure there would be trail ride enthusiasts who would be willing to form a friends group to help put in the trails and maintain them.</p> <p>There is plenty of interesting land for good riding.</p> <p>If ATVs are allowed, I would hope that they would be regulated and not able to disturb wild life and others in the area.</p>
361	I strongly support BOMC Alternative 4.
362	Thank you for your consideration of including Horses and Horse trails in the planning of this wonderful public land.
363	<p>I am writing to comment on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area plan. I understand that after much input from the public and other sources, you are now suddenly proposing to add an ATV track and a rifle shooting range to the mix.</p> <p>I would like to voice my disapproval. When you plan for and design a natural area preserve, activities like ATV use and rifle shooting degrade the experience for all other users. The noise pollution from these sources can not be avoided, and is highly undesirable for many people (such as myself) when they are hiking. In addition, ATVs are harsh on the environment. They dig up the ground when users ride on trails during wet weather.</p> <p>In short, this is simply not an appropriate use in a restored prairie area. There are many other opportunities around the state for folks who enjoy riding ATVs. There are also numerous opportunities for shooting a rifle. I would prefer not to be subjected to this noise when I am enjoying the serenity and beauty of nature.</p> <p>There are very few opportunities near Madison to enjoy peaceful natural environments. The Arboretum is right off the Beltline. Token Creek has constant traffic noise. We need a place where we can get away from the sounds of civilization and hear nothing but the songs of birds and the rustle of plants.</p> <p>Please do not impose ATVs and rifles or other guns onto the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.</p>
364	<p>We support BOMC Alternate 4. We support low impact recreation and conservation uses for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>There should not be ANY ATV TRAILS OR SHOOTING RANGES.</p>
365	<p>I have taken the time to fill out the questionnaire in regards to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area for horse trails as an individual person.</p> <p>I also want to let you know that as the Wisconsin Buckskin Horse Association (WBHA) Secretary and Wisconsin State Horse Council Director for WBHA, Upper Midwest Buckskin Horse Association (UMBHA) Vice President, and Adams County 4-H Horse Resource Leader that ALL of these clubs/associations support having horseback riding trails at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
366	<p>I'm writing to express my support of Alternative 4, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, as the preferred option for the redevelopment of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant site. This plan, developed over the course of 9 years, is an agreement between numerous groups, including the Ho-Chunk tribe, local governments, businesses, landowners, and the DNR itself. Alternative 4 is preferable since it would return the land to its natural state while allowing public access for low-impact recreational activities. These activities will improve the site's natural biodiversity, while allowing the site to be used by both people and wildlife.</p>

	<p>The DNR's last minute attempt to add higher-impact activities like ATVs, paintball, and long-range rifle shooting. These activities are completely antithetical to the goal of restoring the native prairie on the site and will harm efforts to increase the site's accessibility to both people and wildlife. The site's proximity to Devil's Lake State Park means that these nuisance activities should be even more discouraged. The DNR's attempt to subvert the long process that led to the agreement on Alternative 4 is disrespectful of the many stakeholders who contributed over 9 years to its development.</p> <p>I therefore oppose the DNR's effort to add these high-impact activities to the plan, and strongly support Alternative 4 for the site.</p>
367	<p>I would like to weigh in on the future use of the Badger Army Ammunition plant land. I am in favor of Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission. I would like to see it preserved and used for camping, hiking, natural animal habitats restored or developed, bird watching and other activities in harmony with nature and the WI landscape. I am opposed to development that would allow ATV use, firing ranges.</p>
368	<p>I am writing in support of Option Four for the future on the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. However, I oppose the last minute inclusion of shooting ranges and ATV trails. What I refer to as option four is the recommendation of the Badger Reuse committee—a committee that DNR is part of.</p> <p>I am going into my 12th year as a member of the Sauk County Board. Even before getting elected to the County Board, I was quite active with the issue of future uses of the BAAP. I have been less active in that effort in the last 5 or 6 years for several reasons. First of all, many other people with the similar philosophy have been active in the issue since the beginning. Secondly, although the process has been longer than most people prefer, it has been heading in the right direction most of the time, allowing me to also work on other issues.</p> <p>Consequently, I was quite surprised and annoyed at best that despite all the years of meetings and deliberation by many people, that the DNR is promoting uses (ATV trails and shooting ranges) that previously had no significant constituency and that are very incompatible with all of the uses that have been long identified as desirable by hundreds of people over a period of about 15 years of input. Even at the Sauk County committee meetings on August 5, 2013 which I attended and spoke at, there was little support and much opposition to the shooting range and ATV trails. The DNR staff present claimed that the shooting range and ATV trails had a significant constituency but provided no evidence supporting that claim.</p> <p>Again, I continue to support what has become Option 4, which is essentially the plan crafted by the Badger Reuse Committee and I urge the decision makers at the WI DNR accept the recommendations of this very lengthy democratic process.</p> <p>There are many more details that I could talk about but I know that many of the other people who have been involved in this process for a long time have written thousands of words and many pages to provide those details. Many of these words can be found at the following websites. http://saukprairievision.org/history https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/badger-reuse-plan.)</p> <p>I further urge that when the DNR produces a public record of the public input on this decision that they do not redact the names of the people who made the comments. Redacting some contact information may be acceptable but the name and state of residence of the submitter should remain. Otherwise the public record could be dominated by one person being counted many times while others only get their one "vote"</p>
369	<p>On behalf of almost 200 members of Hags on Nags Saddle Club. We are a Wisconsin based saddle club. We support horse trails at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Please include horse trails in the planning for this new recreation area. We are a saddle club that that actively utilizes Wisconsin trails almost daily.</p>
370	<p>Sauk Prairie "Rec. Area" should be exclusively dedicated to natural preservation, with at most low-impact recreational use. Allowing violent, noisy, destructive "sport" activity would violate the spirit of the intended reclamation and be a desecration of all that's holy. And God help us if frac sand is discovered there.!</p>
371	<p>I live on Cty Z just south of Badger. I am the co-chair of the RAB at badger. I do not believe that a shooting range and an ATV trail are the best use of land at Badger especially in the settling ponds area. Contaminants remain in this area and it is too close to residential development and also the proposed pedestrian & bike path. I</p>

	support alternative 4 that the BOMC has proposed. This is the best use of the former Badger plant and will allow future generations to enjoy the natural beauty that this area has to offer.
372	This is to let you know that I am requesting the DNR and any other agencies involved to select BOMC Alternative 4 for the development of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.
373	<p>I represent several land use organizations: Pheasants Forever, Badger SW Resource Conservation & Development, & Wisconsin Environment Education Foundation and in discussions all would disapprove of option 3 in favor of option 2 but I would suggest option 4 which is go back to the original Badger Reuse Plan which has been developed over the years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. • Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. • The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. • I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
374	This is my request to the DNR that they select BOMC Alternative 4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.
375	I'm writing today to urge you to support BOMC alternative #4. With disappearing grassland at an all time high, it's vitally important to preserve what we have left as low impact recreation.
376	<p>My vote for the use of the Badger Ammunition land is to go with option 4 - the low impact and quieter alternative.</p> <p>Thank you for letting us voice our opinions!</p>
377	Support BMOC Alternative 4 strongly re: Badger Army Ammunitions.
378	I vote for an Ohv Park
379	<p>I am writing to <u>oppose</u> the radical modification of the Badger Reuse Plan to create a so-called "Special Use Zone."</p> <p>I have been looking forward for years to enjoying the public areas being opened up at the new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I applauded the hard work of the Badger Reuse Committee and their wise and balanced plan. I am very excited by the prospect of low-impact uses that allow the public to enjoy the restored beauty of God's earth in the SPRA.</p> <p>Therefore I <u>strongly oppose</u> carving out a high-impact area for noisy and obtrusive activities that surely will impact negatively the experience and enjoyment of the rest of the SPRA. There are plenty of other places available for ATV users, paintball competitors and rifle enthusiasts which would not impinge on the enjoyment of public spaces by others. The SPRA is no place for these high-impact, noisy activities in the vicinity of the restored natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>I strongly encourage the DNR to respect the local cooperative agreement, to protect the wildlife, habitat, and traditional recreational activities, and to reject attempts to impose high-impact activities after the fact on this settled agreement.</p>

380	The Chippewa Valley Trailriders (70 members) support inclusion of horseback riding trails in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.
381	I am writing in support of the Badger reuse alternative #4, put together by the Badger Oversight Management Committee. The other alternatives either contain uses with too high an impact on both the people enjoying and the creatures (grassland birds, for example) inhabiting the SPRA. The noisy and destructive alternatives such as ATV trails and shooting ranges would jeopardize state ownership/management of the property, since the Park Service signed off on the property being used exclusively for research, education, restoration, and <i>low-impact</i> recreation. In order to maintain public support for the property, recreational access is needed, so the alternative stressing restoration only, while attractive, is unrealistic; there is always more need for areas in which to reconnect with nature, and the presence of trails and at least some interpretation makes that possible without destroying the very areas which are being restored. Thank you.
382	<p>I am writing in support of the Badger Oversight Management Commission land use alternative #4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I support this option because it emphasizes both conservation and low-impact recreation. I also support it because it was the result of hard work by many stakeholders to come up with the best possible plan for the site. None of the alternate plans offered by the Department of Natural Resources is acceptable.</p> <p>The number one goal of the management plan should be habitat restoration for grassland species. This is a unique opportunity to help our rapidly declining grassland species by restoring a large unbroken area of grassland and shrubland. Any proposed recreation must be compatible with grassland bird conservation. I have hiked and birded in areas with ATV trails. It was not a good combination. Including ATV use and a shooting range on the property is not compatible with grassland bird conservation or low impact recreation and should not be part of the vision or plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
383	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a lifetime Wisconsin citizen who wishes to express my support for BOMC's <u>Alternative 4</u> for the SPRA owned by the state of Wisconsin. • I am opposed to non-traditional high impact activities such as ATV's and shooting ranges. • I support the use of this extraordinary land for hiking, bird watching, camping, biking, cross country skiing, etc.
384	<p>I oppose non-traditional use of SPRA and ask that you favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC).</p> <p>Thank you for your effort to insure a green future for this extraordinary 3500 acres of Wisconsin land.</p> <p>Please continue to give people around the world and across the country a reason to visit the vast Wisconsin wilderness.</p>
385	I feel the badger plant site should not be used for a firing range or ATV course. It would be more utilized, valuable, and environmentally friendly as a hiking and nature preserve.
386	<p>I am here to express my support for the Badger Oversight Management Commission's (BOMC) proposed Alternative 4, which I believe best fulfills the long-range vision for these lands.</p> <p>During our own lifetimes we have all seen large blocks of land divided into smaller parcels under private ownership—the management of each reflecting the independent motives of the landowner— and the widespread development of formerly natural land into new homes, businesses, and roads. The result has been the continuing decline of natural habitats and their dependent plant and animal species, ecosystem destabilization, and reduced citizen opportunities for low-impact interaction with nature.</p> <p>What has become rare— and, importantly, will become increasingly so—are blocks of land under management for long-term maintenance of natural communities dependent on large areas of grasslands; the opportunity at Badger being almost unique. As reflected in Alternative 4, this primary goal can be melded with low-impact recreation, ecological education and historical-reflection opportunities that do not reduce these natural values and management</p>

	<p>aims: for instance well-designed trails, wildlife watching/monitoring/research, and a visitor center.</p> <p>As human populations and resource demands continue to increase, wise, long-vision planning for land use becomes even more critical, and deciding what use is appropriate and most valuable to meet overall long-range needs on a case-by-case basis, paramount. Many of the other proposed uses for this land, high-impact ATV areas, for example, can be sited in many other places where the particular opportunities that exist at Badger for meaningful, large-scale ecological restoration do not exist. In contrast, the chance to incorporate a large-as-possible restored natural area into the greater Devil's Lake State Park/Wisconsin River ecosystem is unique and best not squandered.</p>
387	<p>I support Alternative #4 as presented by the Sauk County Badger Oversight Management Commission to the public and WDNR. This is why:</p> <p>Value 1: There were no “<i>additional stipulations</i>” reached by consensus during the reuse process. The guiding philosophy behind Value 1 was the landowners and stakeholders, through the Badger Oversight Management Commission, would review and discuss future proposals (“<i>additional stipulations</i>”) weighing them by the values and criteria of the Badger Reuse plan signed by the stakeholders and supported by the Sauk County Board by resolution. The process designed, established, implemented by The Reuse Committee Stakeholders evaluated 24 proposals to demonstrate its effectiveness before the Reuse Plan stakeholders gave their thumbs up and the Sauk County Board signed the resolution of support.</p> <p>The property is to be collaboratively managed as a single unit. It doesn't matter how many acres one landowner has; honoring each other's mission is the vehicle. Proposed <i>additional stipulations</i> should be presented to the Planning and Land Use Committee for discussion and then taken to the Badger Oversight Management Commission. Any reuse should go through a public Proposal Process, if only to help inform the other landowners and allow questions; the process serves to present issues that compromise a landowner's mission. WDNR was part of this entire process. They gave input and signed on. They participated in the process that evaluated those 24 proposals.</p> <p>Value 6: This is an agricultural county in an agricultural region. The mission of the USDFRC is to do research and sustainable agriculture is important to the agricultural community's economy, as well as globally. Research has had national and global impacts. Furthermore, DF gave up valuable crop land during the Reuse process to allow for the wildlife corridor. They must have uninterrupted access to their agricultural fields and their livestock and their farm operation should not be impacted by WDNR recreational activities and road closures. USDFRC did inform WDNR of their needs and why well in advance.</p> <p>Value 7: High priority grasslands and shrublands were identified and a map made public in 2012; numerous wildlife studies and inventories have been completed indicating this property provides habitat for threatened and endangered species – plants, birds, reptiles, insects, amphibians, mammals. A joint project done by the WDNR and several ecological, conservation, science-based entities indicates grassland birds – the ones already identified in the inventories – are declining in the Midwest and the recommendation is to preserve and restore contiguous, continuous, expansive spaces. Like its Wild Cards, the WDNR makes their 2009 poster of this project available to the public.</p> <p>If the mission of the WDNR is to manage and preserve the state's natural resources – support biodiversity for the health and well-being of this state and the Midwest, it logically follows that if high priority grasslands and shrublands, identified and published on a 2012 map, already exist in an area where declining and desirable resources now exist, then WDNR, based upon the studies in which they participated, will support these recommendations. It will not sacrifice high priority habitat lands for high impact reuses that would be better sited in the Dells-Delton, Juneau County area.</p> <p>Value 8: Open space is becoming less available. Quiet is becoming less available. It would seem if these precious resources are becoming less available, WDNR would do what it can to provide the more populated part of the state with as much quiet, open space as possible. The latest research appears to indicate humans need access to quiet open space for their physical, mental and emotional well being.</p> <p>This piece of land is unique. It seems to me the legal description – The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area – the label – is the problem. WDNR has state recreation areas, state trails, state parks, state natural areas, state wetlands and state forests. There is no reason why they should not have another legal description. It is a unique site. Recognize it for what it is – a state prairie or a state wildlife refuge or state wildlife sanctuary.</p>

This question was asked of the WDNR: should it be offering activities that compete with established entities/businesses also providing that activity. The answer was the WDNR does not compete. But if the WDNR offers a free shooting range, this does directly compete with the existing 20 conservation membership clubs of the area (some within less than 10 minutes of the site). Most do offer day-user opportunities. For years, these clubs have hosted hunter safety classes and mentored youth and women hunters, raised funds for habitat restoration, done habitat restoration and raised scholarship money for area students. They also pay property taxes to their municipalities – funding local road improvements and maintenance, public safety and schools.

Value 8 – second sentence: Reuses would be respectful of all the diverse residents of the area. Beyond the assorted species of wildlife, this includes the neighbors, and because this is a river valley with hard-faced bluffs, the neighborhood extends north along the river and bluffs to portions of Columbia County and south to Spring Green. Sound, especially impact sounds like those from the shooting ranges, as well as fireworks and Civil War cannon-firings are heard by the neighbors north and south who have not objected once a year for a day, an evening, or weekend.

From spring through fall – early in the morning and late into the night - there already is a rumble of motorcycles and such on the highways, especially on weekends and that sound carries up and down the river valley. Along some routes, especially when spring finally arrives, it's a constant buzz like hordes of bees and there are times when it is a loud, persistent growl. Residents of the smaller communities have raised concerns about this noise level on occasion. The local MDA Ride is carefully managed because of what residents of local municipalities have said. We have shift workers, retirement facilities, hospitals, and not every resident should need to stay indoors because of the noise. Those of us who live here know if there is a shooting range or ATV track anywhere at Badger, the neighbors and their livestock would be negatively impacted for months at a time. That is not respectful.

We have also heard when it was recommended such activities be placed at Devils Lake that was not acceptable because of the impact on the campers. Campers spend a few days at the park a year. Residents live here; they pay taxes here. The growing perception may well be WDNR is discriminating against neighbors in favor of campers. A number of area residents believe it's an elected official from out of the region and lobbying groups.

Value 9 states activities will contribute to the area's economic stability and sustainability and have a positive impact on local municipalities. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey indicates Wildlife Watching, one of the fastest-growing recreational activities globally, is done by a huge part of the nation's population; in 2006 nearly one third of the nation's population – one out of every three Americans - was occupied with wildlife watching and the activity grew by 8 percent in five years (2001 to 2006). In 2006, there were 2,039,000 wildlife watchers over age 16. It further means more than \$45 billion was spent by wildlife watchers.(That's as much as people spend on all the spectator sports – football, baseball and such sports, amusement parks, arcades casinos (without hotels), bowling centers and skiing resorts.) Wildlife watching includes: watching, observing wildlife; maintaining at least ¼ acre of habitat, visiting parks to bird or photograph, regularly feeding birds, and participating in habitat restoration projects and maintenance.

Here in Wisconsin, a huge part of the population enjoys wildlife watching. This recreational activity appeals to all age groups and is a multi-generational activity. It can be done any season with little equipment and little training. It's even healthy. Furthermore, wildlife watchers tend to return to sites regularly, some seasonally, and many more frequently.

On the Aug.24 tour, one family shared photos they took of a fox watching them. It was thrilling for them to have that experience. Former plant workers came to see how things have changed and to reminisce. Some were brought by their adult children who were touched by the stories their parents told; workers died here. Some came specifically to see the cemeteries and took time to view the farmers' memorial, some remembering the impacts to their neighbors. They view this site as hallowed ground. In contrast, a few came still thinking they can buy a hunk of that land and they have these development plans that will change the area.

I firmly believe in low impact activities for this site: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horse riding, photography, sketching and painting, star-gazing, occasional prairie jams and concerts near 207, seasonal dog trials, handicapped accessibility to trails with power wheel-chairs or scooters and possibly specifically tagged ATVs well muffled, lots of environmental education for all ages. Students and volunteers have shown habitat restoration is a recreational wildlife watching activity and a bonding experience.

There should be provisions for guided tours for the handicapped and elderly and general visitors – not individuals driving through. Vehicles get parked in the parking lot. Yellowstone and other national parks are now

investigating the impact of traffic noise on their wildlife. It's a point of concern. It's about noise pollution, impacts to the land and litter.

WDNR may not like the Harrington Beach reference, but bringing people and their gear to a node on a transport trail and being able to account for the numbers of people out there is public safety and habitat preservation. From the perspective of the consumer, it was wonderful to be able to ask questions about the site and get answers as we were taken through to a drop and pick-up node. Every visitor we encountered was appreciative of the guided transport service. Our grandchildren thought it was a highlight of their vacation.

I have my concerns about ATVs because of blog postings. Individuals representing ATV users in general urge all ATV riders to lay claim to established state trails – chew them up so cyclists won't use them. Some avid ATV users indicate their premise is they must take the trails. Comments about the Cheese Country trail indicate chamber employees are advising cyclists some trails chewed up by ATVs make for difficult and even unsafe riding by bicyclists. This sort of organized trail-claiming activity is disrespectful, immature, irresponsible. If multi-use trails cannot be shared and maintained respectfully, then the motorized need to organize, purchase and maintain their own spaces. I also firmly believe \$20 is not much for an annual trail pass that can be used on any state trail. But if some users cannot properly share a trail, they should be held responsible and fined because trail maintenance is an expensive part of public safety. Trails are not a given right. Damaging trails should require not only fines but required maintenance – community service.

There are heavy fines for hunters, anglers, snowmobilers and boaters who do not follow the regulations. If ATV riders chew up a trail, cannot be fined for some reason and will not come back to repair the damage, then close access to ATV riders. They need help coming to the understanding that a trail is a privilege and a responsibility – not a right.

Some ATV enthusiasts organized and some purchased property where they put in trails. They now understand what maintenance is all about. They also understand the importance of respect. They charge for use because someone needs to have the proper equipment to repair damage and maintain trails for human safety. There have been nasty accidents, permanent injuries and deaths on public and private trails. Some ATV parks have closed because of the maintenance demand and insurance issues. In northern Wisconsin where there are hundreds of miles of ATV/snowmobile trails, neighbors adjacent to and landowners allowing state trails have begun organizing and bringing complaints to municipality and county leaders about the abuses of trail users. Some are asking for more oversight or just shutting down trails. They are upset enough to take legal action.

From what I've heard from some ATV enthusiasts, they want to open up their machines, see what they can do, off-road. They love the freedom of making noise and going as fast as possible. Pushing the limits is their thrill. They can't wait to roar up Burma Road, raise some dust, find some mud and tear through some water. If they don't get dirty, wet and open up their machines, it's not a good ride. They don't want a track.

I've already heard from the mountain bikers. Some don't see why they can't ride where they want on that land. Existing erosion issues, grassland bird habitat, threatened and endangered species, croplands are not their concerns. They say those things can go some where else. They tell me they have a right to ride; their kids need to ride. Similar comments have been posted by off-road motorcyclists and jeep owners. There may be some responsible and respectful individuals in those user groups, but the most vocal appear to be aggressive.

I have no problem with the snowmobilers having access to a trail that takes them from south Sauk County through Devils Lake as long as they continue to help build, groom and maintain the trails. Members of the local snowmobile associations and clubs so-greatly value their relationships with landowners and neighbors of their trails that when riders from out of the area came in and went off the marked trail, they closed the trail in a year when snow was precious. It took snowmobile enthusiasts years to understand the value of respect for landowners and neighbors, and it required organizing into clubs and associations so they could educate their members. That may be the model ATV users need to emulate.

I am not against having driving events – horse and carriage – on established routes on occasion to raise funds for a cause; some driving clubs work with handicapped youngsters. Hayrides might be a way to provide guided tours on occasion.

I do not have anything against occasional bicycle rallies and races on established routes, timed so as not to disrupt nesting birds; Commanders Representative David Fordham had several out at Badger – and having such events for a cause would be a tribute to David Fordham. That's culture, heritage and community

	<p>building.</p> <p>I also know there are elected officials, some residing more than two hours away from Sauk County, who do not represent this area or region who have been approached by special interest groups. Their proposed uses negatively impact the surrounding ag preservation and exclusive ag zoning. The elected officials from Sauk County here are accountable to their constituents – the stakeholders most impacted by what happens with this land.</p> <p>The towns of Prairie du Sac and Sumpter support Alternative 4. The town of Merrimac stated in a public meeting they would support what Sumpter supports. The village of Prairie du Sac supports Alternative 4. The village of Sauk City will stand with the village of Prairie du Sac. Likewise the Plan Commission for the city of Baraboo discussed Alternative 4 and forwarded their recommendation of approval to the City Council. Sauk County has a three legged economic stool – agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. Sauk municipalities are dedicated to supporting their rural character. Ag is their business. Devils Lake and the Great Sauk Prairie fit into the county’s rural communities. Many believe that’s why Devils Lake is such a popular state park.</p> <p>According to national surveys, wildlife watching – which can attract thousands of watchers annually - is important to rural communities. This area knows that to be true. The Ferry Bluff Eagle Council conducted two surveys 10 years apart to determine the economic impacts of eagle watchers to the local economy. Copies are available in the local libraries for review. The most recent survey indicates eagle watchers spent \$500,000 per month for four months – November through February - in the community. That \$2 million was a welcome winter benefit. Only icy roads limit the numbers of eagle watchers who come annually. It appears more watchers come every year, and they are coming the other months of the year as well. Eagles have begun nesting along the Wisconsin River, that includes close to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
388	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC) as developed for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA). As the BOMC consists of a broad coalition of stakeholders (local, county, tribal, state and federal government as well as other community members), I believe we can trust their judgment as to the best use of this publically-owned land. Their balanced approach of low-impact recreation such as biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing, along with conservation and outdoor education opportunities, represents the best of what Wisconsin citizens can possibly propose for land in their stewardship. It's an extraordinary opportunity to further both nature-based recreation and education. Surely we can do better with this arduously restored natural area than to consign it to shooting ranges and ATV trails.</p>
389	<p>We favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission. We feel it matches more closely what most Wisconsin citizens favor, matches the beauty of the area and, per a letter in this morning's Wisconsin State Journal, is far more fair and respectful to the residents living in the area. Though we live in Verona, we know that we would not want the noise of ATVs or gunfire so close to our peaceful home.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to us, and to the many others who contact you.</p>
390	<p>The members of the Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association have requested that our group go on record as supporting Option 3 of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan. We are an advocacy group supporting recreational trails. While we may focus on trails for horse back riding we support the use of recreational trails by all user groups. We are a strong supporter of proper trail design and construction of non-urban shared use trails that can allow a mix of users within the trail corridor and on the same tread as well. We are the organization that first brought the Trail Design Special's Trail Training course Wisconsin 8 years ago. We have partnered each year with DNR Parks and the Wisconsin Horse Council to offer this education to both volunteers as well as those involved with trails as a profession. Our course this year was held in July.</p> <p>This area provides a unique setting for recreational trails. Many people enjoy riding horses through the planned grasslands to experience what once was in this area. The trails maybe will remind riders of the great grassland horse trails in Nebraska and Kansas.</p> <p>In Wisconsin, horse back riding for pleasure is a mid-aged person past time. Our youth are still involved in various forms of mounted competition as we were when we were younger. Now that we are older we have returned to our passion of the outdoors. However, we find that we are handicapped by bad knees, bad backs and our weight which makes it difficult to hike and bike ride as we once did. Many of us have returned to more rural lifestyle and have brought horses back into our lives. Trail riding allows us to marry our passion for the outdoors with our love of our horses. We find that horse back riding allows us an up close view of wildlife because wildlife view horses as a natural part of environment and the wildlife isn't afraid. We hope that using horses here will allow the same viewing opportunity.</p>

	<p>There are only several minor horse trails in Sauk County. More recreational horse back riding opportunities are needed in the area. Trail riders in Wisconsin primarily come from the rural agricultural sections of our state. Horse back riding has been part of rural life in our state since before the settlers arrived into our area. Horse back riding will be a natural fit to the the planned restoration of this area in Sauk County. Providing horse trail in this area will draw riders from around the state and could be a designation for those wishing to experience this new area from outside our state.</p> <p>We prefer option 3 because it is the best use of the entire property. It is great that the restoration takes place. But access is needed to participate in what the area has to offer. Recreational trails are a perfect way to provide the needed access to designations away from the roadways. Educational experiences can be designed to educate all recreational user groups as they recreate. This option allows for interaction and education with all user groups.</p>
391	<p>I recieved a survey regarding the inclusion of horses in the new recreation area planed for the Badger Ammo Plant. I could not down load the survey but want you to know that I an my family trail ride horses and camp over night and we would really enjoy being able to camp and ride in this new recreation area!!!</p>
392	<p>I met and spoke with you during last Saturday's open house at Badger, and mentioned during the coarse of our brief conversation that my name is also Diane, spelled with one 'n.'</p> <p>My family and I really appreciated the opportunity to tour the former Badger Ammunition property. We have only ever seen it from from the road when we drive to and from Madison. From that vantage point it's hard to imagine the expanse of prairie, it's historical significance, and scope of the clean-up operation that has taken place there.</p> <p>One thing we took away was the unparalleled opportunity we now have to move forward; to make this war-weary piece of land a monument to something more lasting than it's most recent chapter of decommission and decay. It's a place that tells the story of cycles of human habitation and displacement; of wars that defined the last century; of lives lost and interred there - families divided in life, and in death.</p> <p>I wonder if the irony of some of the proposals for future use have been lost on anyone? A great deal of money has been spent on clean up and mitigation of the hazardous waste from the manufacture of munitions. One of the proposals for future use includes adding a shooting range. While I realize the obvious difference between manufacturing ammunition and firing it - the thought of re-introducing it in any form is in my mind, very sad, and very short-sighted. In a mixed land use setting where high power weapons are being fired - it seems like an accident waiting to happen where hiking and other low impact, recreational activities are taking place. I also heard that the state wants to encourage more hunting by opening a shooting range. Really? Whoever used that line of reasoning must not live in a rural area during gun/deer season. It would also be interesting to compile statistics on how many rod and gun clubs already exist in the state. There is one barely four miles from us in the rural area where we live.</p> <p>I was moved by the quiet that is now evident on the former Badger site. What an incredible opportunity to actually restore a prairie - there would be no other place like it. I have noticed a steep decline in the numbers of grassland birds in recent years. To hear a Bobolink in the summer these days is very rare. If I have grandchildren someday - I hope there is a place where they can go to hear and see the birds that kept me company as a child. It would be a shame to give up that future to the noise and intrusion of ATV trails and paintball ranges.</p> <p>I have friends who worked for years on the Badger Reuse Plan. It was achieved through the challenges of consensus and cooperation between a diverse group of citizens - a rare thing today. We ask that you honor that work and their recommendations for the future of Badger.</p> <p>There is still restoration work to be done to insure the integrity of soil and ground water. We can honor Badger's past through remembering its history, and let the lessons learned there give us direction for the future. Instead of war and displacement, how about a monument to peace and tranquility? Instead of careless land use practices resulting in further contamination of limited natural resources, how about going forward with care and consideration for the sake of future generations of humanity, as well as wildlife?</p> <p>We're standing at a crossroads; the intersection of making the most of rare opportunity and succumbing to status quo. Do we do something very special by leaving a legacy that will outlast our time, or, continue down the same short-sighted path of the past. We hope this is a time for the scarred land of Badger to heal and be restored; a time for the spirits of the people who once lived there, and for future generations passing through that land, to be at peace.</p>

393	<p>I grew up in Baraboo and return often. I would be thrilled if this area was kept natural and quiet, therefore, please accept my vote for option 4. Thank you for letting the public vote.</p>
394	<p>I am an older woman whose preferred outdoor recreational activity is horseback riding. I also hike, bike and kayak. As I age, I find that riding is more and more the best way for me to access more remote natural areas where my own legs can no longer realistically carry me. When riding my horse along a trail, my experience is that of "equine assisted hiking"...I hope that the development plans for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area will allow for horseback riding. There are very few places near my Verona home with such potential for truly getting away from it all in the company of my horse. I believe there are many other aging riders who feel the same.</p> <p>As ever expanding development limits options for informal riding, creation of riding opportunities on publicly owned land is very much needed. I and my fellow riders are conservation-minded individuals who deeply respect the natural landscape and support ecological restoration activities of all kinds. Equestrian use is entirely compatible with keeping the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area quiet and natural, while offering a new and wonderful riding destination for the large horseback riding population in the greater Madison area.</p> <p>Please convey these comments through the proper channels to the planning decision-makers.</p>
395	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I understand this proposal is a balance of low-impact recreation, conservation agriculture, and outdoor education, and does not include high-impact ATV and gun range use. This unique ecosystem and wildlife needs protection and far reaching oversight for future generations of all species.</p>
396	<p>I am writing to support Alternative 4 as the best option for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The plan is well written and faithful to the decade-long planning process.</p> <p>I oppose the option of including a shooting range and ATV trail in any plan for the area. That option is not consistent with Value 5, Criterion 5.3 of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, which specifies allowing only low impact recreational activities.</p> <p>I am a home owner directly west (primarily downwind) of, and across Lake Wisconsin from, the proposed shooting range site. No sound study has been done at the Sauk Prairie site, but Keith Warnke of your agency was kind enough to provide a copy of the more recent of two sound studies which were performed at the privately managed McMiller range in the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit.</p> <p>That study and news accounts dating from the 1990's regarding the McMiller range document a long history of valid noise complaints from residents living up to two miles from the range. Response from the WDNR has been slow and ineffective to date.</p> <p>Despite assurances regarding a better design and smaller size of the proposed Sauk Prairie range, the track record at McMiller suggests that noise control will be the lowest priority, and that operating hours and size of the operation will increase with time.</p> <p>I also oppose recreational ATV use in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. ATV trails kill vegetation and are not compatible with the goal of restoration of the land. Rates of soil erosion on ATV trail slopes have been reported at 0.11 cubic meters (3.88 cubic feet) per square meter of surface area per year. Dry "fly" would also disrupt the contaminated soil at the proposed site and increase wind erosion. Ultimately, the contamination will end up in Lake Wisconsin, which, like the Badger site, still suffers from decades of poor environmental stewardship.</p>
397	<p>I have been reading about this area since the Federal government returned it to the state. I know there have been a number of suggestions for use of the land over the years - most aiming at restoring the beauty and quiet of the area. Because I like to go to Devils Lake through the year, I was looking forward to this as another place to enjoy this beautiful area - hiking, biking, fishing, cross country skiing, picnic area, family park etc..</p> <p>Please do not include a gun range and ATV area. The noise will ruin the area for all those other activities - creating an uncomfortable and jarring environment. From what I have read there are already private gun ranges. Besides the fact that a range doesn't mix well with those trying to enjoy the area I think it is unacceptable competition with those private ranges.</p>

	<p>This is potentially wonderful piece of public land that should be allowed to be what it was intended to be at the beginning of the restoration plans - a place for low-impact recreational uses.</p> <p>I would be happy to pay an extra fee on the state park sticker for some of these other uses.</p> <p>Thank you for registering my opinion.</p>
398	<p>Just wanted to inform you that horseback riding trails would be a great addition added to the property transformation on hwy 12 the old ammunition plant area. It would bring horseback riders from all over along with friends and family to enjoy the history of the land.</p>
399	<p>We strongly urge the DNR to support Alternative 4 for the Badger Ammunition Plant site and to reject a shooting range and other foul blights on the land, wildlife and people living near and visiting the site.</p> <p>Please respect the dedicated efforts of the principled stakeholders who seek to restore this site and hear the voice of the people. Consider the natural legacy of Wisconsin, for which the DNR should be an advocate.</p>
400	<p>I just wanted to let you know that I am in favor of Alternative 4 for the Badger Prairie site. I don't think ATV's and a shooting range are appropriate in Badger Prairie. Lets bring back the birds and bees. There is enough noise pollution in this world as it is. Let Badger be a place for quiet.</p>
401	<p>Thank you very much for your help and here is the e-mail. I am very much in favor of Alternative 4, and thank you for all your work on this!</p> <p>As a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and a taxpayer in the State of Wisconsin, I must strongly protest the idea of turning 500 acres of prairie into a paint ball site/ATV track/shooting range. Grassland birds need more, not less, prairie habitat in Wisconsin. The Baraboo Range and the nearby areas comprise critical habitat for many species of birds. High impact activities such as an ATV track are a poor choice for this area and make a mockery of the years of planning that went into the plan for the former Badger Ordinance plant. Alternative 4 is the only reasonable choice.</p>
402	<p>I would like to make you aware of my opposition to non-traditional use of SPRA and that I favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC).</p>
403	<p>My wife, [REDACTED], and I want to register our support for Alternative #4 for the Baraboo project. We feel that the lands should be dedicated to the "silent sports" and not be used for vehicular or firing range usages.</p>
404	<p>I select Alternative 4 as prepared and presented by the Sauk County Badger Oversight Management Commission. I also highly recommend the WDNR change the legal description of the property now known as the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area to the Sauk Prairie Wildlife Sanctuary. This is why.</p> <p>Sound: Sound has energy. Sound is necessary for communication. Noise is defined as unwanted sound, an environmental stressor, a nuisance, something annoying, an intrusion. There are auditory and non-auditory aspects of noise (vibrations) which have an effect on the health and well-being of living things. Noise pollution produces numerous negative effects.</p> <p>The basics of noise impacts: noise prepares bodies for fight or flight by triggering hormones. Noise impacts humans, their behavior, health and well-being, and it also impacts the behavior, health and well-being of numerous species of wildlife. It's about annoyance, disrupted communication, loss of communication, stress, disrupted rest and sleep, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, triggered hormones, digestion issues, impacts to adrenaline, impacts to endocrine levels, mood changes, performance issues, decreased reaction time, impaired memory, increased aggression, becoming tense or edgy in anticipation or because of the annoyance.</p> <p>Some studies indicate hypertension is related to the impacts of environmental noise and exposure to high noise levels may be linked to psychiatric disorders.</p> <p>Studies of children exposed to environmental noise indicate a negative impact of their ability to be aware, observe, perceive, relate, recognize. The impact of this environmental stressor may be irreversible. Chronic exposure to noise impacts the cognitive functions related to central processing and language</p>

comprehension. Noise-impacted children have difficulties concentrating and greater difficulties with auditory discrimination and speech perception; they have poorer memories, poorer reading ability and poor standardized reading and math test performance. Furthermore, children attending noise-exposed schools also have poorer reading and test performance.

Humans can develop coping strategies, and they may adapt but with health costs. The fact remains - noise impacts humans and wildlife. Is it a human right to make noise or is it a human responsibility to respect the needs of living creatures, including humans, that need peaceful, quiet habitats? Is there a place for quiet? Should the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area be renamed a state wildlife refuge, a state wildlife sanctuary?

Noise impacts wildlife:

Noise negatively impacts bird conservation and community ecology.

Humans bring noise to wildlife: roadside noise, human activity noise. Humans typically introduce high amplitude and low spectral frequency noises into habitats and the landscapes they alter.

Because wildlife depends on the sounds of other wildlife and birds in particular rely on acoustical communication, they are vulnerable to the *noise* humans introduce into their habitat. Wildlife, in particular birds, tend to reproduce less in noise-altered habitat. Why? Because they cannot hear predators; they cannot hear mating calls, warning calls, their young calling; they cannot hear the insects they prey upon and need to feed their young. (Once hatched, a Bluebird chick grows from helpless to fully feathered and able to fledge in about two weeks which means that's a lot of berries and bugs. A Bluebird pair can raise three broods in a summer if conditions are right – temperature, moisture, winds, quiet, berries and insects.)

Predation is the major cause of nest failure (includes other bird species competing for nest sites); next is abandonment; third is parasites – wasps, black flies, cowbirds. In controlled studies, nest predation increased where noise levels increased. That's because some species of birds less tolerant of noise left noisy areas and sought quieter areas.

Some birds may leave a noise-impacted area, but they will need suitable habitat elsewhere or their numbers continue to decline. Where grasslands and shrublands are declining, finding nesting habit is increasingly more difficult for several Midwestern species in decline. Cavity-nesters are also having a difficult time.

Bats are also susceptible to noise pollution because they depend upon echo location to find their food.

Research about the impact of noise on wildlife indicates *impulsive noise* - (shooting, vehicle horns, fireworks, explosions, battles, sirens, church bells, loud music, aircraft, construction/destruction noise such as jack hammers, air compressors, bull dozers, dropping concrete chunks into dump trucks) – startle wildlife as well as humans.

Impulsive noise triggers fight/flight hormones. With nesting birds this causes birds to abandon nests, shatter their eggs and leave their young. Just as with humans, noise makes it difficult to communicate and the tendency is to seek peace and quiet far from the commotion. Just as with humans, young not ready to be independent may also attempt to bolt. If they succeed in leaving their nest, because of the noise, most likely they would not be heard by their parents.

Further noise pollution information:

The greatest non-occupational hazard to hearing is sport shooting.

Numerous studies further indicate noise impacts sleep, senses, performance, communication, blood pressure, digestion, blood chemistry, personal interactions, quality of life. Noise can contribute to hypertension, psychosis, anti-social behaviors. Occupational and environmental noise is associated with hypertension while community studies indicate some relationship between noise and cardiovascular disease. Industrial and community studies indicate chronic exposure to aircraft noise impairs reading comprehension and long-term memory as well as high blood pressure.

As population grows denser, there is more noise. Noise damages the sensory cells of the inner ear.

	<p>Damage is done by decibels, duration of the sound and sound frequency. Low-frequency sounds do less damage. High-frequency sounds are more disruptive.</p> <p>Decibel levels:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="272 319 1055 420"> <tr> <td>Rural noise</td> <td>Agricultural crop land</td> <td>wooded residential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40 Decibels</td> <td>45 decibels</td> <td>50 decibels</td> </tr> </table> <p>Noise can mask important sounds or make communication difficult between individuals. This can lead to accidents, injuries and death. Noise can make communication ineffective, make learning more difficult, negatively impact performance and behaviors for people and wildlife. Noise may have greater effects after than during exposure; there's reduced tolerance for frustration. But expected noises have reduced after effects.</p> <p>No matter what the conditions, noise produces stress, anxiety, shock. Those that feel they are in control of the noise may have a greater tolerance for the noise and experience less adverse behavioral effects.</p> <p>Sources: CDC, university studies, America and European government agencies; Current Biology- Noise Pollution Changes Avian Communities and Species; Acoustic ecology studies – 1970s to 1990s</p>	Rural noise	Agricultural crop land	wooded residential	40 Decibels	45 decibels	50 decibels
Rural noise	Agricultural crop land	wooded residential					
40 Decibels	45 decibels	50 decibels					
405	<p>I support proposal 4; I could even support proposal 2. There is no place in this unique property for a shooting range or ATV trails. Even to suggest such illustrates that the DNR does understand the value of this opportunity to restore native habitat, honor the previous farmers and the plant workers, and provide habitat for important bird species. I am so disappointed in the DNR.</p> <p>Personally, I would also like to see snow mobiles and hunting banned on this property, in order provide a quiet, peaceful atmosphere for all animals (including humans). As an avid hiker, I am very discouraged by the increased access throughout Wisconsin public lands for hunters.</p>						
406	<p>I am very much in favor of upholding the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan and honoring the years of arduous and dedicated collaborative work by local governments, other Badger landowners, immediate neighbors, the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and other non-profit organizations and stakeholders. It is unacceptable to reject the tenets of the 2001 plan, developed through compromise and good will and subsequently endorsed by Sauk County, the Ho-Chunk Nation and other stakeholders.</p> <p>I firmly oppose the high-impact recreational activities proposed in DNR's Alternative 3.</p> <p>I am not in favor of any of the 3 conceptual alternatives offered by the DNR for consideration as they stand alone. I am very interested in the components of an alternative offered by the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance; this would effectively implement the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, including land restoration, education and research, conservation agriculture, and compatible low-impact recreational opportunities.</p>						
407	<p>I strongly urge you to support Alternative 4 proposal regarding the ultimate disposition of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. This proposal was developed after years of discussion by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p> <p>The reasons to support Proposal 4 are many, among them: a variety of recreational outlets for many people, conservation of wildlife, especially grassland birds now in drastic decline in Wisconsin and the US in general; the state has no need for additional recreational areas for high impact activities.</p> <p>This Alternative 4 proposal satisfies both wildlife and human recreational needs. It is in harmony with the longstanding 2001 Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Many stakeholders support this proposal: nearby towns, neighboring landowners, Ho-Chunk nation, Wisconsin Wildlife federation, the US Dairy Forage research center. I urge you to support them and DNR's Alternative 4.</p>						
408	<p>I am a twenty-two year resident of Prairie du Sac, an avid outdoors-man, a runner, a church youth group leader, and a high school history teacher. Badger has been an important part of our history and will continue to be in the future. We have an awesome responsibility and opportunity right now in this time of transition. When future</p>						

	<p>generations look back at the decisions we are making now I want them to be proud. I think the Badger Reuse advisory plan had those long-term interests in mind. I don't believe that a shooting range and/or ATV trail is compatible with that plan. I am a hunter. If there was a rifle range on the property I would probably use it. Nevertheless, I still don't think there ought to be one if we are truly thinking about the public good and future. ATVs have a useful purpose. There is a time and place for them. However, I don't think Badger is the place, and this is not the time. Therefore, I am writing in support of option 4.</p>
409	<p>I believe the area should be for low impact, quiet activities without motorized vehicles and guns. Hiking and nature activities should be the predominant use.</p>
410	<p>I would like to weigh in on the Badger site. I am an atv owner and feel myself and others have paid a good amount of money to the Dnr to develop atv areas in southern Wi. I think the "quiet sports" crowd has numerous areas they can take advantage of. Including the 92 mile,80,000 acre wi. riverway. When will the Dnr and atvers have an opportunity with this much acreage again? With this much area there is ample room for noise mitigation and many other uses.</p>
411	<p>I believe that the state and residents have developed a plan option number 4. Please do not change the plans. These were very well thought out and developed with all stakeholders. To start with new goals is just selling out our heritage.</p>
412	<p>I am requesting that the DNR honor the extensive collaborative process involving local governments, the Ho-Chunk Nation, immediate neighbors, the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and other non-profit organizations and stakeholders and the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan that came out of that process. I am very disappointed that the 3 conceptual alternatives offered by the DNR for consideration do not properly reflect this process and its outcomes.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the high-impact recreational activities proposed in DNR's Alternative 3, which clearly does not reflect the past collaborative work of stakeholders and is an inappropriate use of that land.</p> <p>I support instead the alternative plan offered by the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance that would effectively implement the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, including land restoration, education and research, conservation agriculture, and compatible low-impact recreational opportunities.</p>
413	<p>I would like to register my support for BOMC Alternative #4 and to emphasize the importance of both conserving the land and using sections of it for low-impact recreation. The property has the potential for presenting Nature at its best: please don't miss the opportunity to create a wonderful heritage for future generations.</p> <p>In particular, I would strongly object to a shooting range on the property and feel one could have detrimental consequences. With the Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin nearby, any sound of gunfire will be amplified for all in the area and would be most disruptive to peaceful, neighborhood and small-town settings. My husband and I have a cabin on the Lake and would be extremely displeased to hear gunfire with our morning coffee or evening canoe paddle. Currently we hear the lowing of cows: please respect the pastoral atmosphere. In addition, the intrusion of the sound of gunfire could potentially have a negative financial impact on the area. I don't know of anyone currently living or enjoying recreational time in the area who would view the sound as anything but obnoxious and abrasive: if I were considering purchasing property and knew of the sound of gunfire invading the space, I don't believe I would have any interest in the area. I imagine many others would feel the same way.</p>
414	<p>I support the original low impact re-use plan for the Badger munitions site. I do not believe that a gun range, or ATV trails are compatible with the quiet use of this area by hikers, families, bird-watchers, etc.</p>
415	<p>Thank you for your presentation at the Sauk Prairie High School concerning future options for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. As that property is transformed into the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, I would ask that you adopt Alternative #4 as your blueprint, as proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.</p> <p>As someone who grew up near the Badger site and who visits Devil's Lake State Park several times per week, I feel that we have one opportunity to do the right thing for the Badger land and now is that time.</p> <p>Alternative #4 speaks to my values, providing what I believe is an optimum balance between conservation and land stewardship efforts and agricultural and tourism economic development opportunities. While healing the</p>

	<p>land and providing a healthy home for its natural inhabitants, Alternative #4 would also contribute to the area's economy by offering collaborative agricultural research projects and serving as an appealing venue for low-impact recreation users consistent with the adjacent Devil's Lake State Park.</p> <p>Thank you again for providing multiple opportunities for public input and for considering my opinion on the matter.</p>
416	<p>I write to ask that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area be maintained for native landscape restoration, animal and bird habitat preservation, and for public recreational activities that will be compatible. I support plan 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p> <p>There are plenty of other already ruined and degraded areas where a shooting range or noisy vehicle playground could go.</p>
417	<p>I wholeheartedly support the Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4 plan for the former Badger Ordnance property. It sets out sensible specific activities and uses consistent with conservation and low impact recreation, which I believe should be the objective of the site.</p> <p>I strongly oppose any Special Use Zone that has a shooting range, all-terrain vehicle track, and a paint ball battlefield.</p>
418	<p>In regards to the future use of the Badger Ammo Plant, I support Alternative 4 – the one developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission. I support low-impact recreational uses consistent with activities at Devil's Lake State Park. I would also like to see one or two foot paths through the South Bluff connecting Devil's Lake State Park to the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I DO NOT support use of ANY portion of the property for a gun range, paint ball battlefield, or off-road vehicular use. Those activities and services are rightly provided by private commercial enterprises. Furthermore, those activities are not compatible with the low-impact uses previously agreed upon for Badger.</p>
419	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for "Alternative 4" as the best land use alternative for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. To be clear, I support the plan developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission because it most closely reflects the goals of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan. There is no need or justification for ignoring or modifying that plan at this late date, after it was agreed to by so many stakeholders. And, there is certainly no justification for establishing the types of high impact activities such as a shooting range, paint ball course, and atv trails, that are under consideration. We have a rare opportunity in Wisconsin to restore these lands to something that is unheard of in the midwest - please don't waste it.</p>
420	<p>For more than three years several of us have been asking and organizing people to support a working dog area at Badger Prairie.</p> <p>Many, many people supported our idea of a working dog area. It WAS put to the people of the state in a vote and 70 out of 72 counties approved a little over a year ago in the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. We alone got over 450 people to sign a petition of support at one "Dog Fest" put on by Mounds in Sun Prairie. There is overwhelming support for this kind of place.</p> <p>What our ideas are that people would have a place to bring their dogs to work out, have field trials, and other kinds of activities that working dogs do and compete in,</p> <p>We have asked that areas be available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sled dogs trails skijoring dry land trails carting canicross upland bird dog training area agility course herding dog area (sheep) <p>The area should be large enough to hold national sanctioned events by different clubs.</p>

	<p>A fee could be charged for competition events to help keep the working dog area in top shape.</p> <p>All of these different types of competition are low impact on the park, Most of the roads that are already there could be used for the courses that some of the events might require.</p> <p>If operated along with a camp ground many people would come just to have a place to enjoy their dogs and camping at the same time. Something that is not available in too many place in the state at present. There is nothing like this currently for people of Wisconsin and this is a good time to consider this kind of area. We could be a first and a national model in time</p> <p>Currently there are clubs and individuals that are experts in each of these kinds of sports that are willing to help out with plans and support. Sled Dog Central, Wisconsin Trail Blazers, Tri-state Malamute, Madison Samoyed club, - all the local Humane Societies , Adams, Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Green, Jefferson and Dodge to mention a few, support a working dog area</p> <p>Please give serious consideration to this kind of proposal. Many of us believe it can be a win, win kind of project. It cost would be really low, the impact to the prairie would be low, it would not cause noise pollution, and it would set a place for many peoples with different interest to visit the park.</p>
421	<p>I strongly support ALTERNATIVE 4 (FOUR) for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Loud, high-impact uses such as rifle ranges and off-road motorized vehicle tracks would destroy much of the existing value of the adjacent Devil's Lake State Park. We visit the park regularly to hike, paddle, bird watch, snow shoe, and to renew our spirits. The Baraboo Bluffs, including Devils Lake, are known as a premier birding area and attract birders from all over the country. The constant humming and roaring of motorized vehicles and the startling sound of gun shots would totally destroy the spirit of this place, once known as "Spirit Lake." This area is so special and sacred that Native Americans have buried their dead here in special sacred burial mounds. Another burial site of later residents exists on the Badger property.</p> <p>Those loud sports would also interfere with park visitors intent on enjoying a family picnic or wedding at the park, not to mention the adverse effect it would have on the nearby residents of Bluff View, who would never be able to count on a quiet moment in their own yards. I know, because we live about a mile from the shooting range on Trap Shoot Road in the Town of Fairfield in Sauk County. The sound of gun shots regularly interrupts our days and outdoor gatherings, and we have never entirely gotten used to it.</p> <p>If those arguments aren't sufficient to rule against high impact (LOUD) uses on the restored BAAP property, it pays to remember that Devil's Lake is the most visited State Park in Wisconsin and brings tourist dollars to the area. People are not coming to the park to listen to loud vehicle noises and gun shots. The loud toys of a few would destroy the outdoor experience of the many. Folks interested in loud noises and fast moving vehicles can entertain themselves 15 miles away in Lake Delton and Wisconsin Dells.</p>
422	<p>I'm writing to urge you to support Alternative 4 which allows only low-impact recreation at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Alternative 4 proposes recreational uses (biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.) that complement the conservation goals for the property. It provides for low-impact recreation, family activities, ecological restoration, conservation agriculture and outdoor education that work in harmony with, rather than against, the natural flow of habitat and wildlife native to the area. So many of the beautiful, natural and undisturbed wild places I've enjoyed in my 60 years as a WI citizen are either gone now or buried beneath commercial contrivances. How wonderful it will be to know that we still can and do protect these precious resources for the children of coming generations to enjoy and cherish.</p>
423	<p>My husband and I are very opposed to plans to have the Badger Site include a gun range and ATV trails. The initial low-impact reuse plan had already been accepted by the National Park Service and the DNR. Your idea is not a good one - the reuse plan was a product of 12+ years of negotiations. We urgently ask you to stay with that plan.</p>
424	<p>The Badger Army Ammunition Plant presents us with a unique opportunity to practice sustainable land re-use principles while recognizing strong local preferences for activities on this land. The Sauk City Village Board, Baraboo City Council, Town of Prairie du Sac, Town of Sumpter, Village of Prairie du Sac boards and the neighboring U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center all support "Alternative 4," calling for low-impact, ecologically sound activities at Badger (grassland bird habitat preservation, ecological restoration, hiking, environmental education, family activities, cross-country skiing, etc).</p> <p>Loud, disruptive activities like shooting ranges or ATV trails would not be compatible with such uses, and have been rejected by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>

	Please chose Alternative 4 for this important piece of Wisconsin land, one that reflects an appreciation for our natural heritage and the state animal for which this property is named.
425	Dropping a line to let you know we all love our horse trails, and would love to enjoy that beauty from riding with our horses. Thank you for your time.
426	I would support only a low impact use plan that allows for quiet space and animals and birds to thrive. Let the land heal from all that has gone before and regenerate in a natural way.
427	I had been under the assumption for some time that the plant was to be converted to low-impact recreational use. I grew up in Baraboo, my parents live in Baraboo, I visit Devils Lake frequently, and I am actually considering purchasing land on the top of the bluff near Highway 12 for a small farm. If there is a rifle range and four-wheeler track within hearing distance (which it would be) there is no way I am interested in this property. I would be quite disappointed with the management and decision-making process if alternative 3 were to somehow pass. I strongly support #4, and am adamantly opposed to DNR's plan #3.
428	We are writing to voice a strong opposition to a shooting range and ATV trail at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant land a few miles from me in Prairie du Sac. We have more than enough shooting ranges near us and there is not enough space or interest in an ATV track. Please use option #4 put forth by the Badger Oversight Management Commission in the final decisions on this matter.
429	I am writing to voice my support for the BOMC Alternative 4 plan for the restored Badger Ammunition Plant property. I was a long-time resident of Sauk County and many members of my family still live there. The Devil's Lake area is near and dear to my heart. Witnessing the transformation of the Badger Ammunition Plant from the awful state it was in to its present state is nothing short of a miracle and is due to the hard work and cooperation of many community stakeholders. I have many unpleasant memories of the Plant, that include the terrible smells, the worry about the effects the pollution might be having on our health and welfare, and the terrible state the buildings were in for so many years. There is now an opportunity to implement the BOMC Alternative 4 proposal, which would provide a great balance of low-impact recreation (biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, individual and family activities, conservation, outdoor education (including a visitors center) and other nature-based recreation. The BOMC "Alternative 4," proposal also blends the best of the DNR's alternatives and places an emphasis on conservation and low-impact recreation uses. This alternative complements the surrounding Baraboo Hills, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin Riverway, and rural agricultural landscape – and provides a big boost to the local economy based in this beautiful area. I want to strongly voice my opposition to any plan that would include shooting ranges, ATV's and any other non-traditional activities on the restored Badger Ammunition Plant property. We must preserve a green future for this beautiful land.
430	I'd like to register my support for alternative 4, the low impact land use. I regularly visit and hike at Devil's Lake and I'd like a compatible land use for the adjacent lands so it doesn't destroy the natural peace that can be found there. Devils Lake won't be the same with the sounds of gunshots ringing out.
431	I am writing to ask that you do everything in your power to uphold the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan. Specifically, I oppose the high-impact recreational activities proposed in DNR's Alternative 3. I oppose all three alternatives offered by the DNR. I encourage you to work for a plan which adopts the principals laid out in the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan: land restoration, education and research, conservation agriculture, and compatible low-impact recreational opportunities.
432	I want to express my opinion on plans for reuse of the former Badger ammunition plant in Sauk County. NO ATV or shooting range at BADger. This is an area with a great deal of wildlife including nesting birds which would be disturbed by the noise and perceived threat. I vote in favor of option 4.

433	<p>We would like to express our deep concern for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) proposed new master plan for the 3,800 acres of the former 7,300-acre Badger Army Ammunition Plant, now designated as the <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i>, and our significant disappointment in the WDNR's action regarding this property.</p> <p>First, we feel we shouldn't need to write this letter to respond to a proposed new master plan for this acreage that is, in part, contrary to the <i>2001 Badger Reuse Plan</i>. The WDNR was one of 21 participants of the Badger Reuse Committee that spent nearly 14 years deliberating and collaborating during a fully public process to reach a consensus of how to conserve and manage this property. The WDNR was one of the signers of the Committee's final report, known as the <i>2001 Badger Reuse Plan</i>.</p> <p>Rarely does society see such a diverse group of interests—numerous municipalities, nations, agencies and community stakeholders—collaborate, for more than a decade, to achieve a balanced and united vision for present and future generations to conserve a large tract of unique natural spaces and working lands. Moreover, it is equally rare to witness such a democratic process unfold so successfully. As one of the partners in that process, the WDNR owes it to the people of Wisconsin to honor its participation and signature in the <i>Badger Reuse Plan</i>.</p> <p>Moreover, the WDNR has legal obligation to adhere to the terms of the land transfer agreement in which it entered with the U.S. National Park Service, which include emphasizing conservation and assuring low-impact recreational uses. If the WDNR does not adhere to these terms, the agreement stipulates the Park Service has reversionary interests that can be exercised into perpetuity and could include removing land ownership from the WDNR.</p> <p>Land use planning and long-term thinking cannot exist within election cycles, but must be grounded as deeply as prairie roots in consideration for future generations. I, Nichelle Martin, have served as a citizen volunteer on my rural township's plan commission for eight years during which time I lead the two-year comprehensive land-use plan rewriting process where we had 50 citizens help rewrite our land-use plan in 2006. My husband, Paul E. Martin, attended many of the first Badger Reuse Committee meetings in the early 1990s when he was a Town of Merrimac town board supervisor. We have learned first-hand how we should approach managing our natural resources from a broad and long perspective.</p> <p>Second, we oppose Alternative 3's proposed 562-acre Special Use Zone for off-road sport vehicles and a shooting range within the <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i>, which are incompatible uses to those in the <i>2001 Badger Reuse Plan</i>. Further, these types of recreational uses re incompatible with the existing land uses surrounding the <i>Recreation Area</i>, in particular the residential development near and adjacent that proposed Special Use Zone. There is no justifiable reason we can identify for the WDNR to have included this high-impact-use provision in its proposed master plan for this property, and indeed, it is legally questionable given the previously executed land-transfer agreement with the Park Service.</p> <p>There are numerous venues nearby and in the greater area surrounding the <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i> for shooting sports at long -ago established and locally owned conservation clubs. Further, there are ample opportunities within established infrastructure in northern Wisconsin for recreating with off-road, motorized sport vehicles. There the population and housing densities are lower and this recreational use serves a utilitarian purpose to keep forest roads accessible for managing that habitat.</p> <p>We don't think the numerous homeowners along the west side of Lake Wisconsin, or the campers filling our most visited state park, Devil's Lake State Park, will appreciate or tolerate the noise and dust generated by shooting firearms and people driving recreational vehicles. We have family members who live three miles from our home and when they operate their ATVs and dirt bikes on the trails through their farm we hear them. Sound generated from those types of motors travels readily and far exceeds the decibel levels of agricultural implements used on the same property.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed Special Use Zone includes the highest quality prairie-savanna remnant on the entire Badger property, which supports significant breeding populations of grassland bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need (see http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/profiles.asp). This nearly one-square-mile block of habitat hosts high populations of rare and declining grassland birds including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, Willow Flycatcher, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow.</p> <p>Plus, the proposed area for off-road vehicles includes one of the important pioneer cemeteries within the</p>
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	<p><i>Recreation Area</i>, the Thaelke Cemetery, and a unique geological feature, the drainage channel of glacial Lake Merrimac, which is still visible after 12,000 years. It is beyond belief that anyone would consider it appropriate to drive ATVs over these features!</p> <p>Third, we support only conservation, ecological restoration, education, sustainable agriculture and low-impact recreation in all of the <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i> including the WDNR's 3,800 acres, along side the highest degree of environmental cleanup to ensure these goals and uses are able to be implemented successfully. The <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i> presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become a critical corridor connecting the extensive natural resource of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway to the Baraboo Range National Natural Landmark and Devil's Lake State Park, and to restore the rare prairie ecosystem.</p> <p>Educational opportunities within this property are essential to move people through the process of learning, understanding and eventually desiring to conserve. Unencumbered access for quiet, human-propelled recreation that allows one to move within the landscape as part of the ecosystem is of primary importance to us, and is essential to the educational process.</p> <p>Fourth, we are also concerned that none of the WDNR's proposed three alternatives include agriculture, which has been part the property's recent history and occurs at the adjacent USDA Dairy Forage Research Center and other privately owned farms. The USDA and the University of Wisconsin Madison have collaborated to conduct research and education at the Recreation Area, and it should continue to serve as a research site for the life sciences, offering a living laboratory for how food production and conservation can and should coexist naturally.</p> <p>Finally, rather than the three alternatives of the WDNR's proposed master plan, we support the Alternative 4 proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC), which includes members of local, county, tribal, state and federal government and numerous community stakeholders. This fourth alternative integrates the most appropriate uses in the WDNR's proposed three alternatives that are consistent with the <i>2001 Badger Reuse Plan</i>. Likewise, the BOMC Alternative 4 is a realistic, reasonable, long-term balance of low-impact, nature-based recreation for locals and tourists along side ecological restoration, conservation, environmental education facilitated by a visitor's center, and agriculture. And this mix of uses is compatible and complementary to the adjacent and nearby agricultural working lands, rural residences, Baraboo Range, Lower Wisconsin Riverway and Devil's Lake State Park.</p> <p>We, the citizens of Wisconsin and its elected officials and public employees, must serve as wiser land stewards for the <i>Sauk Prairie Recreation Area</i> than the proposed master plan suggests. We are the current caretakers of this community that doesn't belong to us but to which we belong, as do the generations of humans and wildlife species that follow us.</p> <p>Thank you for your and the WDNR's consideration.</p>
434	<p>I am writing to you today with regard to the DNR's Master Planning Process for the lands acquired from the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant and now referred to as the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Specifically, I would like to comment on the proposed alternatives presented by the DNR for public input.</p> <p>As a matter of background, I was formerly employed by Sauk County as the Planning and Development Director. In that role, I also was the County's sole appointed representative to all things Badger, including the Badger Reuse process, the Badger Intergovernmental Group as facilitated by GSA, facilitated the signing of the MOU between the County, State, Ho-Chunk, GSA, etc, and served as the first chair of the locally created Badger Oversight and Management Commission (BOMC). All told, I had the opportunity to represent Sauk County for more than 6 years in these roles.</p> <p>Now, for the proposed alternatives. I want to begin by thanking you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed plans and for all the work the DNR has put into Badger as well. It has been a long and sometime arduous road for all involved. I also want to thank the DNR, and specifically Mike Degan and Mark Aquino for all of their specific efforts over the years. In terms of the proposed uses, I think that we can all recognize that Alternative 1 would be a tremendous waste of a tremendous resource. The second alternative is moving in the right direction, but not quite there. The vision for Badger has always been to facilitate a connection to that land, its history, and the natural assets and communities that make it such a wonderful addition to Devils Lake, the most visited state park in Wisconsin. However, the third alternative offered by the DNR seems to contradict the more than 13 years of hard work, support and direction of the entire Badger process to some extent. What's worse is that the proposal for a gun range seems to completely ignore the surrounding land uses and future plans for the areas to the east, west and south of Badger including rural subdivisions, future growth areas for the</p>

	<p>neighboring Village of Prairie du Sac, and peaceful enjoyment of Lake Wisconsin. I understand that the DNR is only trying to lay out options, but this single component is somewhat offensive to the very idea and spirit of Badger. I do have fewer concerns about the proposed ATV trail system, but again wonder why someone would suggest to transform high quality prairie savanna to a race track surrounded by agricultural research facilities.</p> <p>I would like to go on record to suggest that perhaps there is a fourth alternative that would lie somewhere between #2 and #3 that would provide for greater access and enjoyment of the property, without completely contradicting the work that has been done in the last decade. I understand that an Alternative #4 may have been developed locally and submitted for consideration. I would only ask that this alternative be given due credit and consideration as well.</p> <p>I would be happy to answer any questions you may have of me at your convenience and wish you well as you prepare to move forward with the planning efforts to make Badger the place it was envisioned to be, and that which is supported by the local communities for which it has provided so much partnering and building. Thanks.</p>
435	<p>Like many, many other Wisconsinites, I am most upset at the recent proposal for the old Badger Ordinance site. Several years ago when the future of the site was first discussed, I was thrilled. Let me tell you why. My daughter (and grandchildren) are descended from the original settlers of that prairie; the Thaelkes and the Kellers. In fact, our daughter's middle name (Lu) was in honor of her Great Grandma LuLu Keller, who was born and raised on that same prairie. Our daughter grew up hearing the stories of how the families were forced off some of the best farmland in the state to build the ammunition plant. After the families were relocated, it was the end of the community. The farm buildings were moved or destroyed and the church where Rev. Thaelke preached is gone. We can never get them back. Neighbors, and even families, had to find new farms, often many miles apart, and so connections were lost. It was a time of great personal sadness.</p> <p>The initial proposals for this area were encouraging. At last, the land would be allowed to returned to a peaceful place. Now, a proposal has come to light that would include a shooting range and an ATV track around the Thaelke cemetery! Talk about a bait and switch! Those ideas were NEVER in the initial discussions, and I've been watching this develop for years. Our family would like to see option 4 (which wasn't even included as an option, although it closely aligns to ideas in the initial proposals).</p> <p>Our family is very interested in genealogy, and the only way we could visit the cemeteries within the plant area was to cut thru a lot of red tape including providing identification (in advance) and making a special reservation within a very limited time-frame. Obviously, we couldn't just stop by to leave flowers or enjoy a peaceful afternoon tidying up the cemetery. We have been looking forward to those simple pleasures. Now we hear we may have to listen the sounds of rifles and ATVs and breathe the contaminated dust which will be kicked up by the ATVs. I wonder how many of the bureaucrats who are supporting a shooting range and ATV track would allow them to surround the cemetery of their own loved ones?</p> <p>This land has been taken from the Native Americans, the original European settlers and ultimately from the descendants of both groups. The soil has been contaminated beyond repair and the water is unsafe to drink far beyond the borders of the plant. Please, let us do the right thing while we still have a chance. Let us make amends. Allow the land to heal by practicing appropriate conservation methods and let the citizens of the state enjoy a prairie free from the sound of rifles and ATVs. Vote for option #4.</p> <p>Thank you for listening; this is something that is personal to my family and me.</p>
436	<p>I would like to express my strong support for Alternative #4 for the Badger Ammunition Plant which proposes recreational uses that complement the conservation goals for the property and provides for low-impact recreation (biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.), family activities, ecological restoration, conservation agriculture and outdoor education.</p> <p>Allowing high-impact motorsports and a shooting range would significantly alter the nature of the site and harm the environmental, recreational, and historic significant of the area.</p>
437	<p>I hope I understand correctly that this is where I can submit my comments regarding the future use of the former Badger Ammunition land.</p> <p>I am a resident of Baraboo, and have three things that I hope will happen with the land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Restrict the use of firearms (preferably no hunting at all, and certainly not a gun range) 2) Have whatever trails that are established be for silent sports - walking, mountain biking, horseback riding etc.

	<p>3) The paths that are establish not be paved, but rather be gravel or dirt. 4) Exiting rail lines be kept in tact in the hope that there will be future passenger rail lines 5) There be a way to enter the badger lands via the Wisconsin river - so people on boats can land their boats either at a dock or even just some sandy entrance point.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this far...</p>
438	<i>I want you to know that I support BOMC Alternative 4</i> , developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission
439	<p>Wisconsin, as a community, has a unique opportunity to recreate a space that was polluted and damaged. There is a plan to replace it with habitat for birds and animals and, a much needed retreat for people. The Badger Reuse Committee recognized this need when, over a period of 9 years of work, they developed a plan of low impact activity that is compatible with the needs of the land and the various uses it envisioned. It appears now that the Wisconsin DNR is preparing to set aside this plan and replace it with other priorities, including incompatible uses.</p> <p>It is true, elections have consequences. However, to set aside the work of a diverse, non-partisan citizen group, who have labored to develop appropriate and meaningful recommendations, can only be considered political opportunism, at best.</p> <p>I urge the approval of Alternative 4, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>
440	<p>Please enter my comment on the Badger Plan. I support Alternative #4 Conservation Use and Low Impact Recreation for the areas. It is a remarkable opportunity to preserve, maintain and utilize habitat to support migratory birds and natural plant communities while providing an excellent environment for public low impact usage and interpretation of both the natural world and local history. This Alternative makes great environmental and economic sense. Included is the description of the activities and planned supports I find beneficial under this Alternative. #4.</p> <p>Conservation and Low Impact Recreation: Implement plan elements specified in the Badger Reuse Plan;</p> <p>Restore large, unfragmented tracts of grassland, wetland and shrubland (Habitat Management Zone)* to support native and migratory birds and wildlife;</p> <p>Restore remnants of native natural communities and the species they support (Native Community Management Zone)*; limit access to pedestrian use;</p> <p>Provide low-impact porous non-paved recreation trails that complement the topography and resource management;</p> <p>Preserve and enhance key vistas through vegetation management;</p> <p>Selectively site and construct (through community partnerships) a new visitor center with interpretation and educational opportunities;</p> <p>Provide interpretation and education opportunities about this property's history and geographic location, acknowledge Ho-Chunk Nation history and Euro-American histories and displacements, and the design, operation and decommissioning of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant;</p> <p>Provide facilities such as a classroom, parking area, staging area, wash station and bathrooms near the Visitor's Center in the Habitat Restoration Zone;</p> <p>Identify and improve primary auto access roads through the property and deconstruct roads no longer needed. Limit vehicle access;</p> <p>Provide interpretation and education opportunities for schools and universities;</p> <p>Use volunteers to promote community participation in education and to help restore natural communities;</p> <p>Provide outdoor research opportunities for ecologists, scientists and students;</p> <p>Develop parking, picnic areas and viewing areas in the Expanded Recreational Zone* and to a lesser degree in the Habitat Restoration Zone*;</p> <p>Develop a fishing pier, canoe/carry-inboat access, and picnic area at the Lake Wisconsin parcel;</p> <p>Provide a multiple use trail connecting the Sauk Prairie area, Merrimac area, and Devil's Lake State Park via Burma road consisting of hiking and biking and a seasonal snowmobile trail on an agreed upon route;</p> <p>Designate parcel "M" and "M1" as a Habitat Restoration Zone*;</p> <p>Remove any unwanted infrastructure, buildings or debris that remains on the property, with the exception of infrastructure that may provide bat habitat and support bat research.</p>
441	I am writing to urge the adoption of Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4, which emphasizes conservation and low impact recreation. This is a plan that has been worked out with the collaboration of many groups over many years and will protect habitat for grassland birds while providing educational and recreational opportunities for generations to come.

442	<p>I am a resident of Fitchburg, Wisconsin and I would like to provide you with my preference for the various options being considered for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area. I have been a responsible, avid off road motorcyclist for many years. I ride single track trails through wooded areas that are just wide enough for a motorcycle to pass through. At the present time there are no public single track trails to ride on within a two hour drive from Madison. The closest location for this activity is Black River Falls.</p> <p>I am hopeful that Option 3 is approved for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area that would enable the development of a network of trails such as what I am describing. Local clubs will maintain these trails and there is very, very little negative impact on the environment. We have been riding the Black River Falls trail system for years and there have been no issues with erosion, tree health, etc.</p> <p>Thank you for registering my input for this site plan. Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.</p>
443	<p>I would like to register my strong opposition to opening up the Bader Ammunition Preserve to motorized vehicles and gun ranges. There are plenty of other facilities available in our state for people to pursue these loud, polluting, and often ecologically destructive activities. The original intent of the Badger Ammunition Preserve was to create a refuge for people and wildlife from these very activities. We have enough noise, air pollution, and human disruption on our public lands as it is. I cannot understand the wisdom in disrupting one of the few remaining public preserves that has been dedicated to stewardship of our land and water resources without excessive human intrusion.</p> <p>Therefore, I believe the state of Wisconsin should adhere to the original goal and understand between the original stakeholders that the Badger Ammunition Preserve be a place for ecological restoration, wildlife habitat, and passive human recreation. At the rate we are going, there will be no public lands remaining in our state where one can take a simple walk in the woods or prairies without the roar of ATVs and the sound of gunshots echoing across the landscape.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.</p>
444	<p>I am contacting you about the land use alternatives for the Badger Ammunition Plant. I have read the three alternatives proposed by the DNR and believe that there needs to be a fourth alternative. The Badger Oversight Management Commission's proposal to allow recreational uses that complement the other conservation goals for the property sound like the best alternative to me. This proposal provides for low-impact recreation, family activities, conservation agriculture, ecological restoration, research and outdoor education. I believe this alternative best reflects the goals of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Also, there is a broad community consensus for Alternative 4 within the Oversight Commission, plus local town and village boards have passed resolutions supporting conservation and low impact recreation. And adding to that, local land owners have written letters supporting these goals.</p> <p>As the Badger Plant demolition projects end, the future use of the Badger properties needs to be based on community consensus and common sense. Alternative 4 is the best alternative.</p>
445	<p>I am writing in strong support of "Alternative 4" of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). This alternative, which has been developed with broad based participation of community stakeholders, will provide wonderful low-impact recreation, e.g. biking, hiking. Cross-country skiing, and a variety of family activities. This restored Badger Ammunition Plant property should not be used for such activities as shooting ranges and ATV's.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts in protecting this beautiful land.</p>
446	<p>For most of my twenty-plus years in Baraboo, the future use of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant has consistently been <u>the</u> dominant land-use issue in Sauk County. I cannot begin to estimate the number of hours that local citizens and elected officials have dedicated to the hard work of crafting a consensus vision for the future of this property.</p> <p>Consistent with the vision outlined by the Badger Reuse Committee and the Badger Oversight and Management Board, I support a future for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area that takes advantage of the parcel's unique size and location to enhance, restore, and maintain the natural resource, wildlife, and landscape values which are becoming so rare in our increasingly fragmented and developed state.</p> <p>The SPRA's greatest value lies in its position as an ecological corridor from the shore of the Wisconsin River to the forests of Devil's Lake State Park. Spanning prairie, savanna, and wetland, this gradient holds swaths of natural communities that are simply not available elsewhere in southern Wisconsin. And as ecology has taught</p>

	<p>us, many of our threatened and endangered species—such as our rapidly disappearing grassland birds—need these large, undisturbed, and unfragmented tracts in order to thrive.</p> <p>Within this overarching goal, low-impact human activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, or cross-country skiing would be compatible, provided they do not disrupt the landscape or introduce new sources of noise or disturbance. I do not support the introduction of highly-disruptive activities such as ATV trails or a shooting range at the site.</p> <p>From the media reports I have read, it appears that the DNR may be bowing to political pressure during these final stages of planning for the SPRA. I sincerely hope that is not the case, and that you and your colleagues will respect the hard work of those who have devoted so much effort and creativity to imagine a sustainable future for the Badger property.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments.</p>
447	<p>I'm a resident of southwest Wisconsin writing to voice my support for the Alternative 4 proposal to transform the former Badger Ammunition grounds to a place for low-impact recreational activities and habitat conservation. Alternative 4 is an excellent compromise that takes into account the needs of nearby residents and visitors alike. All forms of life, now and in the future, will benefit from preserving this space while making it available to light recreational use.</p>
448	<p>We <u>strongly oppose</u> the ATV and shooting range proposal. We support a low impact recreation and conservation use plan that is also the desire of the public majority.</p>
449	<p>Our family firmly supports BOMC Alternative 4. Please forward this information to the proper entity.</p>
450	<p>We are writing to express our concern over the action alternatives (#2 and #3) proposed for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. While we appreciate the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternative 2, there are no provisions for visitor access and compatible recreational uses, or educational and interpretive activities. Alternative 3 meets these needs but adds high-impact recreational uses: motorized use trails and a shooting range. These uses run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; they are inappropriate for family recreation area; and they will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property.</p> <p>We strongly support the BOMC ALTERNATIVE #4.</p> <p>Forty years of being landowners here has enabled us to appreciate the beauty of the land at Badger and the need to safeguard this major land tract for our children and grandchildren. Thank you.</p>
451	<p>My father's family has deep roots in the Mazomanie - Sauk City area. I have a number of close relatives who worked at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant during WW II and Korea, and the farmer who is my neighbor in Westby where I now live worked there during Vietnam. A close friend of my maternal grandparents in Shell Lake was the chief surveyor who laid out the plant when it was built. Some of my earliest memories involve driving past the plant during WW II enroute from Madison to Baraboo. I am a Vietnam veteran, a Field Artilleryman, and I have no doubt that much of the powder that we fired in support of the Marines besieged at the famous battle of Khe Sanh was produced at Badger. I was fortunate enough to have toured Badger in the early 1990s on the first ever public tour of the plant.</p> <p>I am also an avid outdoorsman. I am an organic farmer, have planted over 30,000 trees on our farm, and hunt.</p> <p>I have watched with interest as the plant was declared excess at the end of the Cold War and has been dismantled. I am supportive of returning the land as much as possible to its original native state for the enjoyment of all. I am not supportive of opening the land to use by 4 wheelers, snowmobiles or shooters (I am a competitive shooter as well as a hunter.)</p> <p>This is a truly unique, once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve a LARGE amount of land, located close to populated portions of Wisconsin and also close to very popular tourist destinations, and create a nature reserve with prairie, oak savannah and habitat for endangered bird and plant species. In my lifetime I have seen the virtual disappearance of the Meadow Lark and Whippoorwill. What an opportunity to create a habitat for them!</p> <p>BUT, I am most concerned that I have heard very little about preserving the important role that the BAAP had in our nation's and state's history. As a member of the Badger History Group, I urge that the state plan include a role for this group, which by itself is unable to fund a building to house and display the impressive collection of photographs, documents and artifacts from the farm families that lived there prior to WW II, the construction and operation of the plant, the men and women who worked on the homefront to support the millions of American</p>

	servicemen and women who fought in WW II, Korea and Vietnam, and the families who lived in the housing area during and after WW II - many of them students who commuted to and from UW-Madison. This is an important part of the Wisconsin story and it must be preserved. There is a plan to build a welcome center - I urge that you work with the Badger History Group to make this a joint facility to present the TOTAL history of this 7,354 acre plot and an interpretive center.
452	██████████, Madison, wishes to be on record as opposed to inclusion of ATV trails or a shooting range in the Sauk Prairie Rec Area master plan. She conditionally supports snowmobile presence suggesting that they be limited to designated areas and speed limits. She is in support of Alternative 4 as proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission.
453	This email is to let you know that we oppose non-traditional use of SPRA and favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). We have been given information about the details of what is being planned and are both surprised and concerned about the impact of such moves on the environment, particularly regarding the green space that would be lost. We just visited the area around Baraboo and Devil's Lake with relatives from North Carolina. We were so proud to show them around, and they appreciated our state's beauty. Any impact that would alter these lush and natural surrounding areas certainly should not be lost to a firing range and an ATV course. We have lived in by the Ozarks and in Texas. Go-cart tracks and other blemishes on the landscape come to mind, are ugly, and a blight on such beautiful places, not to mention the environmental consequences. Wisconsin should strive to preserve what we have given the development that has already taken over some beautiful, natural environments in our state. Planners need to take seriously environmental trends and concerns.
454	Please do not spoil this restored area by allowing rifle shooting and nosy all-terrain vehicles to be part of it. Who would want to hear guns shooting and the noise of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles when you visited it? It should be a place for people to go to enjoy nature and a safe haven for birds and animals. We are crowding out wildlife everywhere. This would be a way to preserve some land for them. This should be for the majority of public use and not for a selected few, who already have plenty of places for their sports.
455	I support the "Alternative 4" plan. It is in alignment with the Badger Reuse Plan. There are fewer and fewer areas for wildlife, particularly larger areas. Uses such as a shooting range and ATV tracks will not only make the area less attractive to wildlife, but will also destroy the experience for people who are there to enjoy nature.
456	I just wanted to add my personal endorsement for Alternative 4 as the appropriate guide for the WDNR to use for the next steps in your process for the SPRA.
457	I would like you to know that I do not like any of the proposals that you have given us. The one I think is the best is Proposal or Alternative # 4. It gives us lots of great things to do, and they are good for the environment, and for the area and for families and peoples of all ages. They are safe, and will not harm anyone. I hope you will make Alternative # 4 one of the options available for people and the DNR to choose from, and I hope you decide to pick Alternative # 4 as the best one for everyone involved. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.
458	Please be sure that my comments go on record to support the guidelines recommended by the Badger Army Ammunition Plant Reuse Plan. This plan stresses the need to manage the property collaboratively as a single unit, and it focuses on protection and enhancement of the natural features found on the site. Conservation and compatible low impact recreational uses have been advised. I vote that Alternative 4 be adopted and that all parties involved move forward in a spirit of cooperation. Thank you for forwarding my comments to all concerned parties.
459	I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's alternative #1, is basically do nothing; Alternative #2, is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track. The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's

	<p>website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at Badger is highly inappropriate! Our children travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. How crazy to have a high-powered (or low-powered, for that matter) rifle range anywhere near an area where we send our children to learn and discover. An ATV trail would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area.</p>
460	Just adding my support for Alternative 4 regarding the former Badgers Ammunitions Plant.
461	<p>Just for the record, I support Option 4 for the Badger re-use plan.</p> <p>Thanks for all you do for us and our State.</p>
462	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 land use plan at Badger. The original land use proposal for Badger was for low-impact recreation and I believe that plan should be honored. Badger's critical habitat areas should be preserved and areas that are contaminated should not be disturbed.</p> <p>The DNR's proposal for a shooting range and an ATV trail do not fit the low-impact plan that was first agreed to. Also, this proposal is opposed by the surrounding local communities as unnecessary and not in keeping with recreation that respect the animal and plant life of this significant area.</p>
463	<p>I grew up in Sauk Prairie and, although I live in Madison now, I continue to spend a good deal of time enjoying the unparalleled natural beauty of the Sauk Prairie area. I am writing to note my support of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and the Badger Oversight Management Commission's Alternative #4 for the future of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's Alternative #1 is basically to do nothing; Alternative #2 is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track in an area that is home to the best and largest remnant prairie at Badger.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a fourth alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed over many years by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It includes low-impact recreation (hunting, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.), family activities, conservation agriculture, ecological restoration, research and outdoor education</p> <p>It is my understanding that the cities of Baraboo and Sauk City, the village of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, the towns of Sumpter and Prairie du Sac, and the Ho-Chunk Nation support Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use alternative. These are the local governments that represent the people most directly impacted by the future of Badger and their voices should be respected. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at a beautiful natural area like Badger lacks vision and common sense. Kids travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. There is simply no reason why a pristine natural setting like Badger, adjacent to one of Wisconsin's most beautiful State Parks and home to an unrivaled collection of grassland birds, should be home to a rifle range. The same goes for an ATV trail -- it would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area, as well as the animals and birds that live there.</p> <p>I encourage the DNR to adopt Alternative #4.</p>
464	I have been involved in planning for townships, counties and regions in Wisconsin. It is work that carries responsibility and obligation. The individuals creating the plan are typically chosen in part because they have demonstrated a high level of integrity to their relationships with the people they represent. That was, that

	<p>continues to be the case, regarding the individuals on the Badger Reuse Committee who worked so hard gathering strong public support for the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>That the DNR would at this point step in with three specious and callow suggestions each of which disregards the work done prior is shameful, disrespectful, rude and entirely out of line. None of the options presented by the DNR are acceptable.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>Do whatever you can to make Alternative #4 a reality.</p>
465	<p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's alternative #1, is basically do nothing; Alternative #2, is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>We absolutely should NOT have a rifle range at Badger! How crazy to have a rifle range of any sort near where hikers, bikers and children on class outings are present. Furthermore, the Sauk County area has NUMEROUS trap shoots and opportunities for hunters. I know, as I am from a family of 7 hunters and none of them has ever complained of a shortage of places to shoot or hunt. An ATV trail (or any other intrusive and loud activity) would be disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area.</p> <p>My one further suggestion would be to include a herd of bison! What a wonderful thing it would be to bring native species of animals and plants back to the prairie.</p>
466	<p>I support the fourth alternative, known as "Alternative 4," as it provides for low-impact recreation: biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, family activities, ecological restoration, conservation agriculture and outdoor education. This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. We have a chance to preserve important grassland animal and bird habitat, our namesake prairie, oak savannas, geological features. Please help us hold on to something that is fast becoming very rare, and hopefully restore this precious area back to its former glory with both plants and animals so our future generations can enjoy a safe and beautiful piece of Americana.</p>
467	<p>I concur with the opinion below that was submitted earlier by [REDACTED]. The idea of an assault-weapons rifle range disturbing.</p> <p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's alternative #1, is basically do nothing; Alternative #2, is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4".</p>

	<p>This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at Badger is highly inappropriate! Our children travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. How crazy to have a high-powered (or low-powered, for that matter) rifle range anywhere near an area where we send our children to learn and discover. An ATV trail would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area.</p>
468	<p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's alternative #1, is basically do nothing; Alternative #2, is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, of which I used to be a member, and who had a major hand in developing the original "Agriculture and Conservation Together" proposal, developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4".</p> <p>This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at Badger is highly inappropriate! Our children travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. How crazy to have a high-powered (or low-powered, for that matter) rifle range anywhere near an area where we send our children to learn and discover. An ATV trail would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area.</p> <p>There are 1,000's of square miles where these other activities can be enjoyed. There is only one place that is the Sauk Prairie and the unprecedented opportunity we have before us. Dont blow it.</p>
469	<p>Comments on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan draft proposal of July 2013.</p> <p><u>Statement.</u> The draft Master Plan has many excellent elements, including its mission and goals. Among the 3 alternatives I favor Alternative 3, but without the shooting range and ATV trails, and with only a single visitors' center located near Hwy 12 near the former Army Administration building and current Bldg 207 (and no major infrastructure in the "Special Use Zone". My views are consistent with Alternative 4, as proposed by the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and Badger Oversight Commission, which is the best of all alternatives. DNR should maintain and even strengthen its commitment to the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p><u>My background.</u> I have a long experience with the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) and its environs. I grew up in Baraboo and now live in nearby Leland. I conducted my graduate work and several subsequent studies on birds and their habitats in the Baraboo Hills (including the South Bluff and Pine Glen immediately north of BAAP), studied birds, amphibians and small mammals in the Hills, the nearby Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Merrimac Preserve, Leopold-Pine Island Important Bird Area, and various prairie remnants, agricultural and urban lands within 10 miles of the plant. When the Plant was announced as excess in late 1997, I began my close association with the plant itself—taking part in the many community conversations about reuse, and organizing and chairing the Badger History Group. Among the many projects of the BHG, I investigated former farmsteads, the operation and structures of the plant, and directed the group's many recorded interviews with former residents, workers and historians; as well as co-producing a video documentary "Powder to the People", directing a professional photographic exhibition "Inside the Fence", and serving on the Badger Reuse Committee. I conducted studies of the birds, small mammals and amphibians of BAAP, including an intensive bird survey in 1998, repeated in 2012, and provided the data and interpretation that led to BAAP's status as one of the state's 90 Important Bird Areas. As an ecologist for WDNR and other agencies, I have also studied wildlife and land use statewide and in the Michigan U.P., and co-authored the book "Managing Habitat for Grassland Birds: A Guide for Wisconsin". I directed research and management of the unique population of neotenic tiger salamanders in the raw water reservoir and its relationship with natural amphibian breeding ponds within and</p>

outside the SPRA. I now serve on the technical committee for the WDNR master plan. For both the Reuse Plan and the Master Plan, I gathered and evaluated information on the historical, ecological and cultural significance of BAAP.

The most important elements and opportunities of BAAP and SPRA. I feel that the master plan should follow the letter and spirit of the Badger Reuse plan, and encourage the following (most of which are detailed in various documents already presented by myself and others to DNR):

Grassland and savanna plant-animal communities. This is one of the most important grassland ecosystems in Wisconsin, and has been recognized for its grassland-shrub-savanna bird communities by Important Bird Area status. It requires significant management to realize its full potential. It can incorporate native prairie and savanna, and fields of non-native grasses, which might also be grazed, or cut for hay after 15 July. Large expanses and contiguity are essential components, and these should not be fragmented by woods, hedges, pine plantations or infrastructure.

Coordinated management of the former BAAP as a whole, among DNR, Ho-Chunk Nation and DFRC. One area with special need for this is the DFRC land surrounding the "Special Use Zone" (parcel M, M1). Rather than consider this DNR parcel as isolated by the DFRC property, DNR should work with DFRC to replace woody vegetation on their non-ag tracts (e.g., kettles, hedges, woodlots) with more open habitats dominated by grass, savanna or grass-shrub, which would help link all grassland tracts and improve their suitability for grassland wildlife, especially birds, small mammals and herptiles.

Experimentation and demonstration with conservation agriculture, especially as part of a grassland management plan for the SPRA. Use DFRC, UW and local farmers; develop economically feasible techniques on these public lands that can be exported for use by farmers on the regional landscape to help provide habitat that will support grassland wildlife. These grassland birds and mammals will continue to decline despite habitat restoration on public lands, unless we can once again provide habitat on the greater rural landscape.

Low-impact recreation that encourages visitors to enjoy the wildness and quiet of this area, while appreciating and learning about its history and natural resources. This might include hiking, hunting, nature study, x-c skiing, road and mountain biking; horseback riding, trapping, and snowmobiles are also worth considering.

A natural transition between the BAAP grasslands and the extensive forest and woodland of the Baraboo Hills along the South Bluff. This affords a very rare opportunity to recreate a dynamic ecotone that would have been common prior to EuroAmerican settlement but is now nearly gone. A natural transition between large, high-quality grassland and forest habitat may occur nowhere else in eastern North America. It would also provide critical habitat for some rare savanna and woodland plants and reptiles that rely on such transitional zones. Fire would be one but not the only technique involved in recreating and maintaining this transition.

A creative interpretive program that incorporates a visitors center near Hwy 12, and use of electronic media to interpret and integrate culture, history and ecology on the landscape, including former farmsteads, Native American history, BAAP production, geology, habitat management, native and surrogate plant-animal communities, conservation agriculture, contamination and mitigation issues, etc. Significant among the site's history are the decision-making processes involved with its re-use.

Control of invasive species. This is the most immediate need and must be aggressive and long-term, incorporating a range of management options including fire, cutting, mowing, chemical treatment, grazing, browsing, and cultivation.

Appropriate watershed management along the north boundary of BAAP that accentuates the wildlife value of shallow wetland scrapes and ponds, and allows water from the two inflowing streams to spread naturally into the grassland. This is apparently the natural condition here, prior to ditching by farmers and the Army. It would help alleviate flooding issues along Otter Creek and provide habitat diversity. This is a critical part of managing the rare ecotone between the grassland and woodland.

Involve the local and regional community in development, management and interpretation of the SPRA.

Comments. I feel that intensive recreational uses such as ATVs and a shooting range are not good uses of such a valuable tract. Its large size—rather than arguing for a multitude of isolated, often mutually incompatible uses (such as a shooting range vs. hiking/biking, or ATV use vs. pastureland) that fragment the tract—makes SPRA all the more valuable for certain uses and values that require large expanses of unfragmented habitat, so rare in

	<p>southern Wisconsin. For instance, the grassland of the proposed "Special Use Zone" is all the more valuable because of its proximity to the extensive grasslands in the DNR and Ho-chunk parcels to the north. That nearly 1 sq. mile grassland would be seen as very important grassland bird habitat anywhere else in southern Wisconsin, but here it is even more valuable because of its importance to declining, area-sensitive wildlife that fare much better in large tracts (e.g., >1000 acres) than in smaller or more fragmented remnants. Put in terms of human economics, for grassland wildlife the Special Use Zone is extremely valuable real estate, due to both its quality and its location.</p> <p>Many people involved in the Badger Reuse Plan have spoken and written eloquently and perceptively about the significance of that plan and the process by which it came to be. I have heard their statements characterized as "emotional", and their perspective as "biased", "limited" or "merely local". In truth, they reflect the wisdom of a process that was entirely transparent and inclusive, that brought together people with local, state and national perspectives for an honest and difficult dialogue. The process inspired the committee and its larger community to question and articulate their values, and realize the considerable meaning that this place holds—both tangible and symbolic—regarding their home and the conflicts of national and international scale that were played out on it over the previous 160 years. These people eventually came to consensus about its future—a task that had seemed impossible two years earlier.</p> <p>People not involved in this process often fail to comprehend it. I would ask them to watch the video documentaries, read the history, view the photographic exhibits, listen to the stories of those who do understand some part of it, visit the farmstead ruins, listen far out on the grassland to the uninterrupted pastiche of bird song that has survived since the days of the original Sauk Prairie—one of the many delayed and unintended gifts of the Plant's coming in 1942.</p> <p>These experiences are compelling, they honor those who have gone before us, and touch universal themes about our relationship with land and with each other. They teach us how these relationships are reflected in our land-use decisions and recorded in the land itself. The SPRA has the rare opportunity to teach these lessons on-site, and to engage us and future generations intelligently and creatively in the process of building our future land, our home, whether it be the Sauk Prairie or elsewhere.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my letter, or the documentation of the cultural, historical and ecological significance of BAAP and SPRA.</p>
470	<p>I have lived in the Sauk Prairie area my whole life. I grew up along the Wisconsin River. I attended school in Prairie du Sac and graduated from Sauk Prairie High School. I was privileged to teach social studies in the Sauk Prairie School District for more than 30 years. In addition, my father worked for at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant for Olin Corporation for many years so it has been an important part of my life, too. The Wisconsin River and its bluffs, the Baraboo Hills and the Sac Prairie are all places that I cherish and I want the WDNR to protect it.</p> <p>I would ask the WDNR to please listen to the people and governments in the Sauk Prairie area. It seems very plain that Alternative 4 has gained the most support from the local citizens and governments. As many have already stated, this is really a rare chance to return a fairly large piece of land to its natural state. I truly feel that Alternative 4 represents the best choices for the land and the people of Sauk Prairie. Please do not allow a shooting range and an ATV track to mar and disrupt what could be a peaceful wildlife area. The attraction of this area lies in the low impact recreational activities that would be supported by Alternative 4 as well as the unique educational opportunities that a restored prairie would provide.</p> <p>Please show the people of Sauk Prairie that the WDNR listens and responds to the majority rather than an edict from politicians to "develop shooting ranges and ATV areas". Many people in our state have lost faith in the government and DNR. They believe that money and power pull more weight than the will of the people. The WDNR has a chance to prove that they do listen and respond to the wishes of the people. In this case the people of Sauk Prairie have shown overwhelming support for Alternative 4. Please adopt Alternative 4 to create a Sauk Prairie Recreational Area that would be beneficial to the people of the Sauk Prairie area and an attraction that all the citizens of Wisconsin could enjoy.</p>
471	<p>Please put horse trails and camping at badger ordinance. It is so beautiful back in there and it would be a good fit! Thank you for the electrical hookups at wild cat too.</p>
472	<p>I am writing to support the all-terrain vehicle proposal for the reuse of the Badger Army Plant.</p> <p>I have been wanting to purchase an off-road dune buggy for recreation purposes and have held off on moving forward with this due to the lack of available public recreational areas in Wisconsin for off-road vehicles. I live in</p>

	<p>the Madison area and I cannot find a regional location where I could drive an off-road dune buggy on weekends during the summer.</p> <p>I have found the Tri-County Trail but it appears to be primarily for ATV's and dirt bikes and may not be suitable for larger off-road vehicles. I would support public areas that the state can set aside for vehicle recreation uses that would provide space for larger off-road vehicles.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
473	<p>I write in support of alternative 4 for the Master Plan for the SPRA. Rather than reiterate what many others have written I will say that there is little reason to have a shooting range or ATV trails at this site. There are plenty of places to shoot guns, including your own back yard apparently. The shooting mentality should not prevail at Badger. ATVs are destructive.</p>
474	<p>As property owners in Merrimac, near the Badger site and residents of Madison, we have followed the planning for the future of the site for fourteen years. We appreciate how the DNR is carefully weighing multiple alternatives. We respectfully add our endorsement of Alternative 4, which emphasizes low-impact recreation, family activities, conservation, agriculture, ecological restoration, research and outdoor education.</p>
475	<p>I've been going through that valley to Devil's Lake for well over 50 years and always was saddened by the destruction of that entire area by the munitions plant. Now that it is being reused I strongly feel that it should be for low impact, quiet activities.</p> <p>I trap and plink varmints on my own property outside Madison and live well over a mile from the Sugar River and the Military Ridge Trail and about ½ mile from a private shooting range. There's no way the sounds from ATVs and gunfire are going to stay in that 500 acre set aside and not contaminate the entire valley with noise. A shotgun or even louder muzzle loader is very disruptive at ½ mile and any report from a rifle larger than a .22 also travels well. That's just one guy shooting, multiply it by a dozen or so guys and it's going to sound like a war when they are all cutting loose. It's not appropriate for the best use of that unique portion of the earth.</p> <p>The snowmobiles on the MRT have gotten quieter now that they are mostly 4 cycle engines, but I still hear them roar at well over a mile away. Having them going around and around in less than a square mile is going to also destroy any sense of peace and tranquility which that area deserves after its dreadful treatment.</p> <p>Shooting ranges and powered off road transportation will destroy the experience for anyone else on that prairie. Low impact only.</p>
476	<p>I am writing in support of the Badger Oversight Management Commission's Alternative 4 plan for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands. As a member of this community, I have watched with anticipation as plans developed for the use of this land. I am very disturbed and disappointed to find that, at this late date, a plan has been introduced which would allow disruptive and incompatible uses such as motorized recreation and shooting ranges. I support a plan that emphasizes conservation and low impact recreation, uses that enhance the attractions of the beautiful Baraboo Hills, both for those who live here and for the thousands who come to visit each year. I support a plan that includes restoration of grass land and wetland habitat, enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities, fishing, hunting, farming, walking trails, education and research.</p>
477	<p>For 15 years I have followed and participated in the reuse planning efforts for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant and the creation of the Badger Reuse Plan. The Department of Natural Resources played an integral role in crafting this fine and visionary document that is a vital and wise now as when it was first written. In fact, this plan and its guidance were evident in the Department's application for land to the National Park Service, who is also a signer of the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>I reject Alternative One because it does not adhere to the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>I give lukewarm support to Alternative Two which emphasizes many but not enough of the uses envisioned by the Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>I reject Alternative Three because of its inclusion on high impact recreation such as rocketeering, a shooting range, and a track for off-road vehicles such as ATVs and motorcycles. These uses are completely at odds with the Reuse Plan and run contrary to the wishes of surrounding local communities. Further, the National Park Service is a signatory to the Badger Reuse Plan and they retain the power to take this property away from the Department if it uses for former Badger property deviate from the land transfer agreement. I would be</p>

	<p>disappointed if the Department were to lose this land because it pursued high impact uses on any part of the property. Many in the local community have committed more than a decade of effort to helping the Department secure this land at no cost.</p> <p>Further, the rapid ecological assessment performed on this land by Department scientists demonstrate the ecological value of all the land now held by the Department including area M which is identified for an off-road vehicle track and shooting range in Alternative Three. These uses would degrade, destroy and fragment habitats currently inhabited by a number of species that are of special concern, threatened or endangered. Further, these uses would prevent the most valuable piece of native prairie from being expanded through ecological restoration. This remnant prairie formerly held the Prairie Bush Clover and rehabilitation of this prairie remnant might return this endangered species if the proper conditions are for restored for the germination of any seeds remaining in the site's seedbank. The Prairie Bush Clover is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>I give my full support to Alternative Four put forth by the Badger Oversight and Management Commission. This fourth alternative has widespread community support and has been endorsed by most surrounding communities. I support Alternative Four because it hews closest to the spirit and letter of Badger Reuse Plan. Importantly, I believe that the National Park Service will also support this alternative since it is closest to the Badger Reuse Plan and does not include high impact recreational uses.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft alternatives.</p>
478	<p>Please register my voice in support of Alternative 4 when the DNR makes their final decision on the future of Badger Army Ammunition lands. The many years of diligent work undertaken by the Badger Land Use Commission should be honored. Citizen involvement is the keystone of our democracy. The many dedicated individuals who have worked so hard for so long, through endless meeting after meeting to compile a vision for Badger which promotes low-impact recreational usage should have their work honored. This "eleventh hour" proposal to include a gun range and an ATV track is nothing more than pandering to the NRA, which is, of course, a major donor to this current administration.</p> <p>Recreational dollars will flow into the State Park system in greater amounts when families get together to avail themselves of the low-impact activities which will be present when Alternative 4 is implemented. I have spoken with many parents who would have absolutely zero interest in recreating at the Badger site if firearms and ATVs are allowed to co-exist alongside bicycle and hiking paths. The choice is clear – Alternative 4 is the ONLY choice for a sustainable future at Badger.</p>
479	<p>I would like to offer my support to Alternate 4 for the use of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP).</p> <p>I work for at BAAP from 1989 to 1993 as a design engineer, designing safer and better ways to make ammunition if the plant ever was to go back into production. Fortunately, it did not need to.</p> <p>While working there, I had to know the operation of the plant. I have been to many of the former building and to all portions of the plant, from the storage bunkers, to the actual production area, to the testing area and the water support areas. The plant worked a 4 day schedule (Monday-Thursday) and on Friday, the engineers took turns covering (supervising) the entire plant when contractors were working. In addition, I hunted in the fall, when the plant was open for archery deer season. In the spring, summer and fall, I took a bicycle for short distances and a moped for longer distances when the weather was nice to visit the various project sites throughout the plant. In the summer, during my lunch hour, I swam at the settling pond. In other-words, I became very familiar with the land of BAAP.</p> <p>I often thought as I traveled on the plant grounds, about all the people who had worked here, the farm families that were forced off of their land, about what was made here and the destruction and the lives lost and changed forever because of what was made here. And that it helped provide safety for our country. At that time (89-93), it was a peaceful area, which allowed for reflection including cemeteries of former residents. The variety of life from birds, insects, to lots of corn, to some prairie plant to the occasional hemp plant that still remained after 50 years of neglect all added to the history of the plant and make one reflect on the what was here.</p> <p>I believe that the land should be tribal land and private farm land. Having stated that, I believe, the next best alternative is Alternate 4 which provides a consensus of what should be done at BAAP. (Dairy Forge is going to use the land as farm land, but it is not private farm land.)</p> <p>The area should have minimum impact activities at the site so future generations can know and reflect on the what has occurred here and be able to reflect on that message in relative peace.</p>

480	<p>My husband and I strongly oppose setting up a firing range and ATV course on the Salk Prairie Recreation Area. We strongly favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p> <p>I strongly support Alternative 4 for the Badger site. That alternative is ecologically sound and consistent with the Badger Reuse Plan. I support Alternative 4 because it proposes low-impact recreation (such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and hunting), family activities, outdoor education and research, conservation-minded agriculture and ecological restoration; and it would preserve the integrity of the historic Thielke cemetery. Ecological restoration at the Badger site is especially important as it could help restore declining grassland bird populations.</p> <p>The DNR proposal for high-impact recreational uses such as an ATV tract and shooting range would have a detrimental impact on the wildlife and ecology of the Badger site and is far out of line with the conservation goals for the property.</p> <p>The DNR should work to conserve this unique site and not pander to pernicious outside political pressure. The Badger site is, after all, public land and should serve the public rather than special interests. It's time for the DNR to follow suite and serve the public by supporting Alternative 4!</p>
481	<p>As one who has enjoyed Devils Lake State Park since the 1960s, I remember when motorized boats were allowed on the lake. We tolerated the wakes that were created, the noise of the motors that bounced off of the bluff walls, and the possible, dangerous conflict between a swimmer and a power boat. As one who grew up near a lake and as a power boater myself, I accepted the conditions because that's the way things were. When gasoline powered motors on boats were outlawed, I wasn't sure that I agreed with the decision, but in subsequent years I have found the lake and the whole park much more safe, enjoyable, restful, and inspiring without motorized craft in the mix.</p> <p>I think we can draw a parallel between the bold decision made for Devils Lake and proposed uses of the reclaimed BAAP land. Why introduce motorized recreational vehicles to an area that will compromise its beauty, peacefulness, and enjoyment? I think we learned a valuable lesson with Devils Lake. Let's extend that wisdom for the future use of the BAAP land.</p>
482	<p>I strongly support the ALTERNATIVE 4 plan.</p>
483	<p>Thank you for your effort on behalf of the former Badger Ordinance lands. I ask you to register my support of what has become known as Alternative # 4, that proposal put forth by the Badger Oversight Management Commission and developed with the input of local agencies, groups and individuals.</p> <p>I do not doubt that you have had many contacts supporting this alternative so I will not belabor the points. I will be brief in asking you to consider a point that gets little attention.</p> <p>I hope your Department can use this occasion as an opportunity to introduce an ethic into the conversation that encourages low impact uses because of our twin global threats of diminishing fossil fuel and global climate change. As you are arguably the lead state agency charged with protecting Wisconsin's environment would it not be reasonable to put forth the standard that the Department intends to support outdoor activities that have a minimal deleterious effect on both our State's environment and that of the entire world? Realistically the fuel consuming and green house gas producing ATV has no ethical place on our list of outdoor activities which are appropriate for our new century.</p>
484	<p>As someone who enjoys hiking, biking, birding, etc. and who has a concern about the protection of our natural resources and habitats, I strongly support BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger Army site.</p>
485	<p>Please, please, please use plan 4. It is what most people thought this was all about from the beginning. Motorizing everything is not what we need.</p>
486	<p>Please note that I favor Alternative 4 of the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). We certainly don't need another place for folks who shoot guns or make noise with vehicles running rampant.</p>
487	<p>I am writing to lend my support to those options that have NO ATV or shooting ranges.</p> <p>I support only those options that allow for low impact recreational activities.</p> <p>There are plenty of places in the state for people to run their loud ATVs and shoot guns.</p>

	<p>They don't need to go to Badger and ruin the experience for those</p> <p>MANY MANY people who want to engage in "silent sports".</p>
488	<p>I am forwarding this email to support the building of shooting ranges on the former Badger Ammo plant land. There is very limited land available to build outdoor rifle ranges and pistol ranges and this large area of DNR land would be perfect for building shooting ranges.</p> <p>I fully support building shooting ranges as part of the reclamation project.</p>
489	<p>I am writing to you to offer my support for the option that would restore Badger to a grassland and would NOT allow ATV trails or shooting ranges.</p> <p>ATVs and shooting ranges are loud and would ruin the experience of others visiting Badger.</p> <p>Only "low impact, silent sports" in Badger. We who want a quiet experience VASTLY outnumber the ATV and shooters.</p> <p>We don't deserve to have our experience marred by their noise.</p>
490	<p>I am writing to encourage the DNR to remove the ninth inning considerations to the long established redevelopment options for the Badger Ammunition Plant/Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Specifically, I object to the inclusion of ATV use and paintball areas. This site should be restored to its original pristine condition. The uses should be silent- like hiking, fishing and birdwatching. We should encourage uses that appreciate nature, not be oblivious to it. The non-silent pursuits should be sited elsewhere. Are you aware that that bird enthusiasts spend more per capita than any other activity? Wisconsin with its migratory bird populations would be best served by keeping this area as natural as possible.</p>
491	<p>I strongly support the Badger Oversight Management Commission's option on use of the site. The fourth option has been studied and is the most suitable for this land. It should not include 4 wheelers and guns. This is not the setting for this property.</p>
492	<p>I am a Wisconsin Resident living in Middleton and I support the Audubon option 4.</p>
493	<p>As a resident and Spring Green businesswoman, I'd like to express my strong support of Alternative 4 in regards to future land use at the former Badger Ammunition Plant. The beauty of southwestern Wisconsin brings large numbers of tourists into our area, which in turn supports small business like my own. Many of my customers hike the trails at Devil's Lake, canoe along the Wisconsin River and enjoy the diverse cultural offerings such as Taliesin and American Players Theatre. I truly believe that low-impact recreation such as biking, hiking, cross-country skiing and outdoor education will be an additional draw for tourists into our area. So please consider the needs of small businesses in our area and support low-impact recreation and reject the proposed gun range and ATV track.</p>
494	<p>I would like to add my voice to the opponents of the "Special Use Zone" in the DNR's piece of the former Badger Ammunitions Plant land. By "Special Use Zone" I am referring to the all-terrain vehicle track, paint ball battlefield and long-range rifle shooting range that are proposed.</p> <p>While I encourage the concept of creating a space that can be enjoyed by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts, I am struck by the fact that none of the "Special Use Zone" activities actually require a "natural" space. I appreciate that the presence of real trees could enhance the effect of cruising on an all-terrain vehicle track, and I doubt that the atv enthusiasts are there for the trees. Certainly they are not interested in the sounds of nature. This is also the case with the long-range rifle shooting range: trees, meadows, animals are not a necessary aspect for this. As for the paint ball battlefield, I would encourage you to celebrate a paint ball game with a group of players post-paint ball. I can guarantee that the passions of their discussion will be about the action and not the environment.</p> <p>The larger issue is that while hiking, running, bird watching, etc. would have no ill effect on any of these "Special Uses," the reverse is not true. So by allowing a long-range rifle shooting range, you in effect are disallowing "silent" sports use of this area.</p> <p>Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.</p>
495	<p>Thank you for giving the general public the opportunity to provide comments on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources draft conceptual alternatives for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area. Please find attached a</p>

	<p>personal letter addressed to you outlining my feelings on the current proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I very much appreciate you taking the time to read this and I hope the WDNR and additional stake holders are able to come to an agreeable and appropriate management plan for this very special site.</p>
496	<p>I am writing to add my support for the proposed Alternative 4 for the future use of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Alternative 4 most closely matched the reuse plan that came forth after a long and thoughtful community process that took place more than ten years ago.</p> <p>I served on the village board for the Village of Prairie du Sac during the time that the reuse committee was doing their work. The fact that such a large group of people representing a wide diversity of opinions could reach consensus on a plan was truly remarkable. The plan was comprehensive, honored the history of the land yet addressed current public needs, and minimized any potential negative impacts on people living in the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The reuse plan was excellent back then and remains the best proposal for the BAAP property. I urge the DNR Board to reject the three use proposals that were developed without public input, and to support Alternative 4.</p>
497	<p>Just a quick note to let you know my thoughts on future uses of the Badger land – 3800 acres, if I understand correctly. I think the land already set aside for additional parkland and what has been designated as additional land for the Dairy Forage Research (USDA) is fine and that's not in question, if I'm understanding this correctly as I believe the entire property is around 7000 acres.</p> <p>I can't say that I totally agree with any of the three options presented in the 7/29/13 <i>Wisconsin State Journal</i>. I would prefer to not see more buildings torn down as this is a part of our area's history (whether people like it or not some history should be preserved and noted on site). I do not think use should be limited to only low-impact recreation (hiking, fishing, etc.) but I would rather see a mix of those activities with some motorized vehicle access (snowmobile or ATV) as many Wisconsinites enjoy those activities as well and enjoy doing so in such a beautiful area as the Baraboo Bluffs. While I don't believe excessive development should take place, I do believe that various groups can occupy and enjoy this acreage without bothering each other and can be tolerant of those who enjoy different activities that are not only the types of activities that are already taking place in Devil's Lake State Park.</p> <p>Another thought might be – in conjunction with the USDA land – to designate/set aside several hundred to 1,000 acres for farmland. As we know, just prior to the US government taking the land for munitions production for WWII the land was farmland. This could provide an educational opportunity for some and if there would be any interest it could be organic farming. This land use could coexist easily with the other uses mentioned above.</p>
498	<p>Although I am a Madison resident, I spend a good deal of time enjoying the unparalleled natural beauty of the Sauk Prairie area. I am writing to note my support of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance and the Badger Oversight Management Commission's Alternative #4 for the future of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's Alternative #1 is basically to do nothing; Alternative #2 is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track in an area that is home to the best and largest remnant prairie at Badger.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a fourth alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed over many years by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It includes low-impact recreation (hunting, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.), family activities, conservation agriculture, ecological restoration, research and outdoor education</p> <p>It is my understanding that the cities of Baraboo and Sauk City, the village of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, the towns of Sumpter and Prairie du Sac, and the Ho-Chunk Nation support Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use alternative. These are the local governments that represent the people most directly impacted by the future of Badger and their voices should be respected. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at a beautiful natural area like Badger lacks vision and common sense. Kids travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. There is simply no reason why</p>

	<p>a pristine natural setting like Badger, adjacent to one of Wisconsin's most beautiful State Parks and home to an unrivaled collection of grassland birds, should be home to a rifle range. The same goes for an ATV trail -- it would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area, as well as the animals and birds that live there.</p> <p>I encourage the DNR to adopt Alternative #4.</p>
499	<p>I wanted to write and let you know my views on the proposed use for the Badger land.</p> <p>I have reviewed the three alternatives and appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, community participation and nature-based recreation that are outlined in Alternative 3. However I would ask that this be expanded to emphasize the visitor and educational opportunities that this area can provide.</p> <p>I have strong feelings against providing "high impact uses" such as a shooting area and trails for motorized recreational vehicles. This will negatively impact the neighboring landowners and is an inappropriate use for the Badger property.</p> <p>The Badger Reuse Committee has spent 13 years working toward recommendations for the use of this land, and through their research have developed the Badger Reuse Plan. It is vitally important that their input be incorporated into this land use plan.</p>
500	<p>We sincerely hope that the DNR approves the fourth alternative for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant property and DOES NOT include a gun range and ATV trails. Background noise from a gun range and ATV trails could discourage a large segment of people from utilizing the property, particularly birders and nature enthusiasts, as well as those seeking peace and quiet while hiking, biking and horseback riding. A gun range and ATV trails would detract significantly from the value and quality of the property as a nature destination.</p>
501	<p>I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the proposed uses for the newly decommissioned Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I have been a Wisconsin resident for over ten years now. I hunt, I fish, I bike, I ski, I paddle and I hike. I feel very fortunate to be able to take advantage of the natural resources that Wisconsin has to offer and I appreciate the job the DNR does to be the state-wide steward of many of those resources.</p> <p>I do not appreciate what is being done at Badger, however. In no uncertain terms, the DNR is making a very big mistake allowing a small group of special interests to override a process of consensus-building to negatively shape the future of the land. For years, a small, yet dedicated group of federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders have repeatedly met to come to agree to what Badger could be, what Badger <i>SHOULD</i> be. This process has been long and slow and sometimes unwieldy. But the fact that this process worked, and that a comprehensive plan for Badger was developed by the people who live and work around the borders of its territory is a remarkable accomplishment that should be celebrated as a model for land stewardship.</p> <p>Instead of celebrating this accomplishment, the DNR has decided to ignore the plan that has been developed for Badger by the local individuals, tribal representatives and community organizations that know it best and submit its own ideas for how the land should be used. Included in one of these plans is a proposal to allow a rifle range, paintball and snow mobile/ATV trails on the property; uses that directly contradict the agreement that turned the property over to the state from the federal government. This is not how stewardship should occur. This is top-down bureaucracy responding to lobbying by non-local special interests at its worst and the DNR should be ashamed of itself for kowtowing to these outside interests.</p> <p>Out of the proposed plans, I would like the DNR to adopt plan number two, as it is closest to what was developed by the wide range of stakeholders that know Badger best. It would be wonderful if this alternative was expanded to include some of the educational and interpretive aspects of alternative three. Whatever is decided for Badger, the high impact uses should not be included in the plan for Badger.</p> <p>I hunt and I fish. I can utilize any one of two dozen rifle ranges in and around Dane and Sauk counties. I can't have the opportunity to see a landscape like the one at Badger anywhere else. Please do the right thing. Keep the gun range, the paintball, the ATV's and the snowmobiles out of Badger.</p>
502	<p>I am offering public comment in support of BOMC Alternative 4 for the property in Sauk County known as the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant. Please accept my comments as part of the public record, as they are submitted before the deadline of 5 pm Friday 30 August 2013.</p> <p><i>BOMC Alternative 4, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, is detailed in the</i></p>

	<p>electronic link in this sentence.</p> <p>Compared with the three alternatives offered by Wisconsin DNR (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/SaukPrairie/), BOMC Alternative 4 emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities that "complement each other and those of the surrounding land owners, enhancing the health, culture, and economy of the Badger lands and the surrounding community." It much better reflects the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, an agreement still in effect which was entered into by 21 representatives of local, state, federal and tribal units of government as well as neighboring landowners, businesses, school districts and nonprofits.</p> <p>BOMC Alternative 4 includes an opportunity to manage for grassland and shrubland birds in one of the largest, unfragmented landscapes in southern Wisconsin. These birds, including meadowlarks, Bell's vireo, bobolink, upland sandpiper, dickcissel, and many grassland specific sparrows, are declining at a rapid rate in large part due to habitat losses.</p>
503	<p>I live in Prairie du Sac and am concerned about the proposed use of the former plant for ATV trails and possibly a gun shooting range. I've enjoyed hiking the nearby Baraboo bluffs and Devils Lake State Park and had hoped to be able to hike or bike through this amazing plant, however, the thought of so doing with the noise of the ATVs or the gunshots would put a real damper on the pleasure that I envision.</p> <p>Please keep this as natural as possible without the ATV trails and especially the gun shooting range.</p>
504	<p>I strongly urge the adoption of BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant. In the long run, it will benefit people, plants and animals on the site. Low impact use is imperative if we are to preserve the precious natural habitats that exist and to improve the environment for the future.</p>
505	<p>I'd like to register in favor of Alternative 4 developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission for the future of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I'll keep this short.</p> <p>As an urban forester and naturalist I deal with the loss, degradation and restoration of native grasslands, savanna and forests. I've come to the conclusion that most people place a high value on the few sites that remain or have been restored. Alternative 4 will fulfill many of the needs of wildlife as well as humans and in my experience, will serve a larger audience than the others proposed.</p>
506	<p>My husband and I strongly support alternative 4 for the Badger Army property. Although we agree with the principle of providing recreational opportunities for all of our citizens, land use must make sense in relation to other important principles such as preservation of unique natural resources that are important to all of our citizens.</p> <p>The Badger Army site provides a critically important opportunity to save many species of birds that depend on large areas of undisturbed grasslands. Under alternative 4, citizens will be able to enjoy the property with quiet, low-impact activities. Other public properties are more suitable to activities that are noisy and that result in damage to vegetation and water sources.</p> <p>We hope this unique resource will be preserved by choosing alternative 4.</p>
507	<p>We need more varied opportunities for recreation in our area, such as ATV trails. We already have many areas closeby for hiking & birdwatching. Lets have places for other activities. I am not in favor of a gun range as that could interfere with local clubs, but ATV use would be good. I understand that such an area would be fenced, thus there would be no straying into other areas as has been mentioned by some folks. There is plenty of room for everyone to make use of Badger. ATVers & snowmobile owners pay the state for the priviledge of using their machines and also purchase gas, oil, etc. which helps the local economy</p>
508	<p>I am opposed to the rifle range & ATV trail at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. I live within a fraction of a mile from the south end of Badger in the Windings of Lake Wisconsin. I do not want the noise of a rifle range or an ATV trail. And I am <u>very</u> concerned with the safety issues. Stray bullets can travel a long distance. The proposed area is simply not large enough for a rifle range or an ATV track. We do not need ATV's tearing around stirring up the toxic waste that is still there! The original plan was for a "low impact" use such as hiking and biking. We need to restore our prairie, so that we and future generations can use the land responsibly. That does not include tearing up the wetlands with motorized vehicles and disturbing the wildlife and bird habitat. I support an educational center, hiking, biking, and cross country skiing. Let's make this a safe place for families to visit and learn about our area's history and restore the Prairie to what it originally was. I am in agreement with the Sumpter, Merrimac, & Town of Prairie du Sac Boards and the Village of Prairie du Sac. I support Alternative #4.</p>

509	<p>I am writing to voice my thoughts on the proposal to include a shooting range and ATV path near Sauk Prairie. I feel there are plenty of shooting ranges nearby. The land is not big enough to host an appropriate ATV trail as well.</p> <p>Please consider the BOMC plan #4!</p>
510	<p>For many years the people of the State of Wisconsin have been told that the subject property proposal was for a natural setting. The meaning of natural should not include ATV trails and shooting ranges. When the Federal Government acquired the subject lands there were approximately 80 farm families that were displaced and their lives interrupted. It would seem fitting that these lands are restored to a natural setting that would also pay tribute to the families and their future generations. Somehow it doesn't seem appropriate to allow ATV's when tractors and other farm equipment was removed from the heritage of these precious lands.</p> <p>Please support Alternative 4 proposal that would eliminate ATV's and a shooting range on the Badger properties.</p>
511	<p>I am writing in support of the BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger lands. I believe it's focus on conservation and low-impact recreational activities should be the number one priority in deciding the future of these lands. This alternative would great benefit birds and all types of wildlife which see their habitat shrinking.</p>
512	<p>I writing due to my concerns regarding the proposed gun range and ATV use area in the decommissioned Badger Munitions site. I'm concerned that due to the very loud and noisy nature of these activities, that the dual use of this site will not truly be possible. Gun noise and ATV exhaust will mitigate the possibility of a serene experience in the rest of the site for everyone else. Not to mention the destruction of natural habitat that will certainly transpire due the high impact nature of these activities. It is simply not right to let the recreation of a few, destroy the opportunity for nature to flourish and be witnessed by those to chose to due it quietly. Please roll back this misguided proposal</p>
513	<p>Having spent a lot of time in the past photographing this facility, I can without reservation say that the fourth option is the best use of the land. The other options are wholly or partly not in keeping with the spirit of the land, its past history or appropriate usage.</p>
514	<p>We support BOMC alternative #4 because it emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities, and allows for the management of grassland and shrubland birds, species that have little remaining unfragmented habitat in southern Wisconsin.</p> <p>These species of birds are declining faster than any other groups of birds in Wisconsin, and need the help of conservation-minded citizens and our resource management agency.</p> <p>Bird species that have been found at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant include meadowlarks, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Orchard Oriole, Bell's Vireo, Dickcissel, and a variety of sparrows, and more. Many of these species are sensitive to the encroachment of human beings, and need large blocks of habitat to successfully breed.</p> <p>These birds don't have lobbyists, but if they are diminished, we all are diminished.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our concerns.</p>
515	<p>I support the BOMC alternative number 4, rather than the DNR's 3 alternatives for Badger Ammunition. If this is rejected, DNR Plan 2 would be preferable to # 3. I strongly oppose the addition of high-impact and noisy recreation to the original plan for Badger.</p>
516	<p>I would like to see the site used for low impact recreational purposes such as nature related activities, a nature center, hiking, cross country skiing, birding etc. which is low impact.</p> <p>I do not want to see it used for ATVs and shooting ranges.</p> <p>It is a unique site in a unique environmental area near Devil's Lake State Park. It should be used like an extension of the park.</p>
517	<p>I strongly support BOMC Alternative 4 for the use of land at Badger Prairie. "Silent sports" would be the best use of the land --- things like hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. That was the original plan for the land and it is</p>

	in a sensitive area, not far from Devil's Lake. Many of the other plans would be detrimental to wildlife in the area.
518	<p>I would like you to know that I do not like any of the proposals that you have given us. The one I think is the best is Proposal #4. It gives us lots of great things to do, and they are good for the environment, and for the area, and for families, and peoples of all ages. They are safe activities and will not harm anyone.</p> <p>Thank you for giving us this opportunity to tell you how we feel about this situation. I hope you will take Proposal 4 as a serious alternative, and make it the one that works for everyone.</p>
519	<p>I am writing to give you my opinion of the future of the area known as the Badger Army Ordinance Works. I watched very closely the long process that took place in developing the original plan for low-impact recreational uses and I still support such a plan. This area should be restored as was agreed to by that plan.</p> <p>I DO NOT support an all-terrain vehicle track on the property. I have seen such areas out west and it is obvious that, given the chance, riders soon start to make their own trails. Once one person does it others follow and eventually the whole area is torn up and becomes a destroyed ecosystem. Once it starts to happen there will be no way the Department can limit further encroachment much less stop it.</p> <p>I DO NOT support a long-range rifle shooting range on the property. I am a gun owner of both rifles and shotguns and have hunted. I am a veteran of the Vietnam era. Long range, 50 caliber, rifles are made for one thing that is to kill people. I don't believe, contrary to NRA philosophy, that these weapons should be in the hands of the general citizen. Any weapon that can shoot over a thousand yards should not be permitted adjacent to any area open to the publics use. If the NRA feels these types of facilities are needed then let them, using their vast monetary resources, purchase land and operate such a facility. Let them also assume the liability.</p> <p>I DO NOT support a paint ball battlefield. I think the results of such battles is hideous and a mar on the landscape.</p>
520	<p>I am writing to have my voice counted in the decisions to be made about the use of the Badger area. My understanding is that the Badger Reuse Plan was agreed upon by 21 governmental units of local, state and federal bodies and that it is legally binding transfer agreement (Park Service). Why is this even in question? Let's honor and uphold the agreement as it is.</p> <p>If citizens want more ATV area and shooting ranges, let's find areas for them. The noise to neighbors is always a concern, so how about using electric ATVs and putting silencers on the guns.</p>
521	I oppose the DNR's plan for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Please honor Alternative 4, the proposal that emphasizes low impact recreation and shows respect for the families of all the people buried there.
522	I support BOMC alternative #4. I do not believe it is a good idea to allow ATV's and firearm shooting on this land.
523	<p>What has Badger been? It's been open land, tribal land, farmland and other things we may never discover. What is most need now is to define what it has become.</p> <p>During a time of war, and in order to meet the needs of that war, the occupants of the land were displaced and the land put to the task of providing armaments and supplies for that war. It was dangerous work. People became ill due to exposure to hazardous substances. Some of those substances tended to be a mite unstable and so they would at times exploded. An unwanted legacy of these substances linger still.</p> <p>Two more wars put their claim to the Badger, hence more citizens were sickened, injured and blown to bits. As we are all aware, war is a hazardous undertaking. Many a Wisconsinite paid the price there. Mostly though, it was paid somewhere else.</p> <p>All these facts, occurrences and issues have now ushered the Badger some distance into the category of hallowed ground. It has been agreed among all participating parties addressing the Badger issue over these many years that the park is to be considered a memorial; not so much to war, more so as a representation of human kinds hopes for a lasting peace.</p> <p>I've discussed this issue with members of the original coalition of vested groups and have confirmed the that' its members had indeed declared and confirmed the badger plant site as hallowed and as such, henceforth only low impact uses of the grounds would be allowed within it's boundaries. I ask no more than that you honor that</p>

	<p>unanimous agreement, the designation it confers and the inherent restrictions this places upon all who' are entrusted with her creation and her care.</p> <p>The upper echelon of the current WDNR's staff have repeatedly declared that by their interpretation of existing rules and guidelines regarding this current ongoing process prohibit them from presenting this prior agreement as a settled issue. As you should all be aware of buy this point, those who were the creators of that agreement do not in any way support such a fallacious and tortuous interpretation of this process. I doubt that many in this area, or even the entire state that would side with the WDNRS position on this matter.</p> <p>Only Option number four, an unlisted option, remains faithful to the agreements discussed in the proceeding. Any other choice is an abrogation of your departments credibility as a partner in any future matters involving the natural resources of this state.</p>
524	<p>I would like to voice my support for what is known as Alternative 4, for the lands at the Badger Army Ammunition plant, except for one slight revision. The overall goal which has received much support, is that the emphasis should be on conservation and low-impact recreation, such as hiking, biking, fishing and hunting. My difference relates to there being a rifle range established. It is my understanding there is already a rifle range there or was there at one time. With the proper placement, built in the same manner as the recently completed shooting range at Yellowstone State Park, a shooting range could be considered a low-impact item. There is a real need in this area for a public shooting range and that need could be satisfied with one being built as previously indicated.</p> <p>I do not consider ATV' trails to be a low impact use of the property. Although ATV's serve a viable recreation use, the resulting impact to the lands is almost irreversible. My knowledge and experience comes from seeing what has happened in Clark County where the ATV trails are numerous. I have watched over the years as trails that were originally ground level, have now worn away the sod and left nothing but sand. What has happened to a lesser extent, is what happened when the farmers broke up the sod in the west-central US in the late 20s and early 30s, that lead to the "Dust Bowl" period.</p> <p>Along the lines of Alternative 4, I can envision the Badger lands being developed to provide a tremendous learning resource center. Letting most of the lands go back to what they originally were, with the prairies, oak savannahs etc. would be a major success story. Think of what has taken place at the UW Arboretum in Madison, which you are probably familiar with, and to a smaller extent Owen Park on the Westside of Madison, and add to that the ability for people to camp and hike within the boundaries. The proximity of this property to the major population areas of our state, i.e. Madison, Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin, dictates that the land be developed for the benefit of the majority of the population. Again ATV's do not figure in that calculation.</p> <p>Let us not repeat on a smaller scale what happened to much of our lands when the settlers were moving across the country in the late 1700's and throughout most of the 1800's, when the government basically spoke with a "split tongue" when dealing with the Indians. The government did not understand the connection the Indian had with the land and how the Indian felt he held the land in trust for all generations. The land was a renewable resource to the Indian and they treated the land accordingly.</p> <p>The people have spoken on the most viable uses for Badger. Lets not have the government think they know better and do what not is favored by the majority.</p> <p>I am a 74 year old, lifetime resident of the State of Wisconsin except for the 3 years I served in the military. I was educated in the public school system, including through the University in Madison. I hold several professional licenses. I have enjoyed the outdoors all my life, have hunted small and big game for 62 years and fished for many more. I have made use of and camped all around our state in the various state parks and national forests. As an "elder" I would hope my opinion bears a little more weight.</p>
525	<p>I am a Sauk County resident writing to express my support and desire that the DNR adopt proposal number four, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission. I believe that this fourth alternative, emphasizing low-impact recreational use of the land, best complements conservation goals for the property. Specifically, the opportunities for family activities, conservation, agriculture, ecological restoration, research and outdoor education contained within this proposal reflect land uses that are compatible with the the historical roots of this land, as well as the high regard in which Wisconsinites hold the natural spaces of Wisconsin.</p> <p>I am adamantly opposed to any land use plan than includes ATV trails and / or a shooting range. I feel that there are other properties better suited to these purposes. I live within a mile of a private shooting range, and have twenty years of experience with the noise and disturbance that comes from a shooting range. A</p>

	<p>shooting range within Badger is not appropriate use of this land.</p> <p>I urge the DNR to act in the best interests of this very special piece of land, and do everything in its power to preserve it for future generations by adopting re-use proposal number four.</p>
526	I support BOMC Alternative 4 for the Badger Ordinance land. This alternative is the closest to the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan agreement. This area should be for low impact use. There are other places more suitable ATV's etc.
527	As a member of the Badger Reuse Committee over ten years ago, I urge the DNR to support the so-called Alternative #4, developed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, in moving forward with the planning use for the Badger lands. Alternative #4 best captures the intent of the local population and communities as represented in the original Badger Reuse Plan.
528	<p>The MuirLand Bird Club, headquartered in Marquette County, but encompassing the surrounding 6 counties, wholeheartedly supports BOMC Alternative #4.</p> <p>We feel that this is a great opportunity to utilize this property as an incredible example of the vast prairies that made up much of southern Wisconsin in pre-settlement times.</p>
529	Please know that we support BOMC Alternative 4 100%. We urge you and the rest of the DNR to keep Wisconsin's tradition of exceptional nature loving recreation alive.
530	Please support BOMC ALTERNATIVE#4. We do not need a ATV abd shooting range.
531	Please, PLEASE, the long-term benefits to Wisconsin of having a low-impact "reserve" vastly outweighs any short-term benefits of expanded use. Alternative 4 is the right one for Wisconsin. Remember, it is difficult to undo any bad results from high-impact use; it is always possible to expand uses if alternative 4 does not prove itself.
532	Please note that I support Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4 regarding the options put forth for the management of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant. It is imperative that this unique property be preserved in a way that will reflect thoughtful actions.
533	I am writing to inform the DNR that I strongly support the Alternative 4 proposal. This alternative seems to be the most strongly supported by local groups and governments and seems appropriate considering adjacent land uses. I am strongly opposed to alternative 3 and believe that gun ranges or ATV trails would ruin the experience of nature appreciation in its various forms. I am a retired DNR employee and am hoping the Department can do the right thing and maintain credibility in the honest pursuit of its mission.
534	<p>As a Madison resident, I have a keen interest in the efforts to rehabilitate and re-use the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Although the planning process has been a lengthy one, the involvement of so many different constituencies--including state agencies like yours--speaks well of the outcome.</p> <p>I write, however, to share my concern about the DNR's addition of something called a "special use zone" that would permit more high impact recreational activities such as ATV trails, a rifle range, etc. More specifically, I ask that the DNR set aside Alternative 3 of its plan and adopt Alternative 2, which provides the best fit with the lengthy, multi-stakeholder planning process captured in the final Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Why? Not only does the agency need to honor the hard work that went into that reuse plan--again, with the input of multiple stakeholders--but also the high-impact recreational activities suggested for this special use zone would likely harm the cultural and natural features of the property writ large. That part of the plant property fills each spring and summer with grassland birds (Eastern Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher Grasshopper Sparrow, among others) that have been declining in their ranges for years. I can imagine no more important function for lands like this than to provide habitat for these threatened residents of the state. Low-impact recreational activities in the vicinity will not deter nesting. But off-road vehicles and rifle fire will.</p> <p>Again, please torpedo Alternative 3 and adopt Alternative 2.</p>
535	I strongly support a wide series of low-impact outdoor recreational and educational activities compatible with and integrated with long-term ecological and agricultural research and restoration projects supported by an

educational interpretive visitor center and a system of low-impact interpretive and hiking trails. I listed a series of actions and activities including the following three areas of emphasis, which can clearly be combined in ways to create a unique and extremely valuable opportunity for the people of Wisconsin to experience the special beauty of the prairie grassland and oak-savannahs which once were the main natural systems of much of Wisconsin. And visitors would also be introduced physically into the fascinating saga of the natural and cultural history of this remarkable piece of Wisconsin. And, this special, opportunity invites the active participation and enjoyment in the long-term community stewardship of this amazing and unique Wisconsin landscape.

Ecological Restoration Emphasis: I strongly support restoring tracts of prairie grassland and oak-savannah and their natural bird communities which would include developing ecologically sustainable grassland and savannah grazing systems using cattle, goats, and bison. These ecological restoration and research activities would serve as models for public and students and sustainable agriculture and they would provide educational and recreational opportunities for participation and learning with compatible low-impact nature viewing and hiking trails.

Outdoor Recreation Emphasis: I strongly favor the emphasis on low-impact nature-based outdoor recreation activities—nature viewing and hiking trails, cross-country skiing, bird-watching, nature photography, hunting, and opportunities for public participation for nature conservation and stewardship activities including ecological restoration and bird species censuses as well as assisting in monitoring the award-winning bluebird house trail which has already been established (and which is in the area designated as a Special Use Zone).

Public educational Emphasis: I strongly support selectively siting and construction a visitor center with community partnerships, which would emphasize nature and historical interpretation and educational opportunities including low-impact trails designed to introduce visitors to interpretive viewing points for natural fauna and flora, ecological restoration sites, historical sites, and sacred cultural sites. The visitor center should provide interpretive displays of the natural and cultural history of the entire site and provide space for lectures and workshops on these topics. The visitor center would also help to support and facilitate opportunities for public participation opportunities and educational nature and service learning classes in nature conservation and stewardship activities including ecological restoration.

Please note that the amazing, unprecedented opportunity offered by the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area arose as a product of the unique interaction of public stakeholders, neighboring landowners, businesses, school districts, and local non-profits and representatives from local, county, state, tribal, and federal government units to create the “Badger Reuse Plan”, which embodies the values of all the participants and which established a long-term operational oversight management planning process that includes local and regional public participation along with the officially designated landowners including the WDNR. An unofficial alternative, “Alternative 4”, was drawn directly from the Badger Reuse Plan.

The Badger Reuse Plan emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities. And the WDNR was given the right to manage the largest portion of this land, the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, under the explicit agreement of the National Park Service which also emphasizes conservation and low-impact recreational activities.

High-impact Recreational Activities, NO! Please note that I am strongly opposed to any inclusion of high-impact outdoor activities, such as a shooting range and the use of ATVs and snowmobiles in any part of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Shooting ranges already exist in a number of the local neighboring communities and there are already many areas for the use of ATVs and snowmobiles. These high-impact activities are NOT compatible with the wide array of low-impact outdoor recreational and educational activities proposed for use in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. In addition, these incompatible activities appear to be proposed for the “Special Use Zone”, which is the area where one of the long-term prairie restoration areas has been established through the volunteer participation by a great number of Wisconsin citizens drawn from all over Wisconsin and the site of one of the longest bluebird house trails established in Wisconsin to protect and encourage the survival of this beloved native species –the Eastern Bluebird.

I was a university educator and ecological and conservation researcher who brought many student groups into the field in many sites throughout Wisconsin over 31 years to view natural communities and to observe and identify local animals, especially the diverse species of birds which can be seen in Wisconsin. I learned quickly that the loud noise of shooting ranges and especially of ATVs and snowmobiles carries a long distance. We often visited a number of the Wisconsin designated natural areas, but then ATV or snowmobile trails existed next to these natural areas, it was very difficult to see or hear birds and other animals. Experiencing the beauty, natural sounds, and special quiet of the beautiful natural areas is not possible when high-impact activities are located adjacent to these areas. IF these high-impact activities are put inside the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, then the special opportunities proposed for this unique area would be greatly reduced and denigrated. Including such high-impact activities inside this special recreation area is not a responsible decision and will badly diminish

	and detract from what could have been a landmark model for all Wisconsin and the world.
536	<p>I wish to get my comments in regarding the proposed use of the former Badger Army Ammo plant before the deadline---just.</p> <p>This is a property I am familiar with, and I have followed the development of the issue over the years. Each time there was an opportunity to visit the acreage, I went to see how the destruction of the buildings and the renewal of the habitat was progressing. It has been a most impressive effort on the part of many people and organizations.</p> <p>I stand firmly behind the so-called Alternative 4, that of the Badger Oversight Management Committee, which would result in management that honors the decade-long discussion by interested parties that developed the Badger Reuse Plan of 2001. The focus of this plan is on protecting and enhancing the natural features and the critical role Badger plays in the larger landscape. Diverse parties came together and listened to one another's points of view, finally realizing the best uses respect the past and provide opportunities for enhancing grassland and scrubland habitat for birds that are declining faster than any others. The species that can benefit from proper management of Badger are those that are sensitive to fragmentation.</p> <p>A focus on quiet recreation and outdoor education works well for the communities surrounding Badger and for the species of the prairies so much in need of safe habitat. A shooting range and an ATV trail network do not support any of the values of the communities who have been involved in these efforts over the years. To change the game now is to sneer at the work they collaboratively did. It would make a sham of the idea of long-range planning by groups of stakeholders.</p> <p>I urge you to go with the Alternative 4, the plan that will do the greatest good for the greatest number of people and species over the longest amount of time. The uniqueness of this area is already enhancing local economies, as people find out about the size and compatible recreation possibilities of this Reuse Plan.</p> <p>Thanks for entering my comments in the official record.</p>
537	<p>I thought I sent you comments yesterday however it appears that it did not work so I will try again.</p> <p>I am in favor of large scale grassland restoration to benefit grassland birds at the Badger plant. I am not in favor of ATV trails and a shooting range at Badger. I am fine with an auto trail on existing roads and a visitor center.</p> <p>I support Alternative 4 that was developed with partners including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.</p> <p>I also recommend changing the name from Sauk Prairie Recreation Area to Sauk Prairie Restoration Area or Sauk Prairie Habitat Area.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting these comments.</p>
538	<p>I am writing in regard to the master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I served as a member of the Badger Reuse Committee, representing the National Park Service and U.S. Department of the Interior. The committee represented a diverse array of federal, state, local, and private stakeholders. Through the committee's work, a broad consensus was developed for the future of the property that balanced low-impact recreation and restoration of the prairie ecosystems.</p> <p>In the DNR's draft master plan, Alternative 1—No Action is presented as a baseline and would be completely unacceptable in view of the property's potential as a public resource. Alternative 2—Ecological Restoration Emphasis contains some of the elements included in the Badger Reuse Plan, but it falls short of utilizing the full potential of the site because it does not provide any of the low-impact recreation elements in the reuse plan. Alternative 3—Outdoor Recreation Emphasis would provide for ecological restoration and low-impact recreation, but goes beyond that by devoting a large parcel in the southern portion of the property to intensive, high-impact recreation. Having worked through the process of considering a very wide array of potential uses of the property, through the deliberations of the Badger Reuse Committee, these high-impact activities seem completely inappropriate.</p> <p>I also reviewed the "Alternative 4—Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis" suggested by the Badger Oversight Management Commission, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, and other stakeholders. In my opinion, it more nearly represents the fulfillment of the vision for the property described in the Badger Reuse Plan. I urge the DNR to adopt this scenario/alternative as the "Selected Alternative" in the final master plan.</p>

	Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and input to the master planning process for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.
539	<p>I am writing to express my appreciation and support for the emphasis in the plan on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the Badger Reuse Committee recommended, I support it. Please expand this alternative to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. The "Special Use Zone" and these high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the DNR keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and that it work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
540	<p>I think the difference between Alternative 2 and 3 are very misleading. It seems like nothing to anything goes --- almost no activities to guns and ATV's. As the top priority I think that the unique ecosystems (undisturbed grasslands) should be protected and enhanced. I would like to see the recreational activities of this park limited to those that have low and very low impact. I agree most strongly with the Alternative 4 presented by Badger Oversight Committee. This allows for some development – a visitor center but more importantly it provides for habitat restoration and integration with the agricultural goals. Somehow in all this there should be some overall governance of this whole area. It would be bad if the DNR portion violated the overall sense of the Area. All goals should be in keeping with the original Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>As to recreation, my personal favorite outdoor activity is dog sledding - which is a very low impact activity and occurs in the fall (as dog carts) and the winter. I would like to see some trails designated for dog sledding. Preferably, these trails would have loops of 1, 2, 5 and 10 miles. There should be opportunities for choosing right and left turns. This would allow for training at all levels. A series of posts at the trail heads would be helpful, to tie off the sleds before taking off.</p> <p>I was part of the group that took the issue of a designated place for dog training areas to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. In 2010 Question 92 passes in 70 out of 72 counties. This resolution included all the working dog activities that we could think of, but not "dog parks" where dogs run loose. The idea is to have an area for training, competitions and enjoyment many of these activities. The overwhelming passage of this resolution show how much interest in dog centered activities there is in Wisconsin. The people working on this project are very flexible and would work to figure out how to keep their specific activities from conflicting with any conservation issues. We would like to be a part of the future planning process.</p>
541	We dont need a shooting range or a ATV range.
542	Regarding the reuse of the Badger Ammo Plant, PLEASE, leave the land alone, as much as possible. Coming generations will thank us for a quiet, natural retreat from the encroaching commercial world. "We have enough of the hurry-up, noisy, fast-paced, grab-it-and-go life style. As philosopher Thoreau once said, " I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essentials of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." Let's listen to him and let's preserve some segment of sanctity by choosing the low impact plan for Badger.
543	From DNR Customer Service representative: Customer just called wanting to comment on the above [SPRA]. She wants it remain closed to shooting ranges, ATV use, etc.
544	<p>█ and I are sending an email in support of Alternative 4 of BOMC. Also, we oppose non-traditional activities which include a shooting range, ATVs, and any other non-traditional activities on the Ammo plant property.</p> <p>I have been a Wisconsin resident since 1989. I am proud of the state of Wisconsin's efforts to created green</p>

	<p>space and provide healthy outdoor activities (including biking, hiking ccross-country skiing, etc.) and other nature-based recreation.</p> <p>Let's keep Wisconsin's land and environment healthy!</p>
545	<p>I STRONGLY support Alternative 4 for the use plan. The 2001 Badger Reuse Plan is the only common sense plan. There are so few natural areas left without the noise of powered machines and the heavy use and destruction they cause; gunshots, which are noisy and also extremely unsettling if one wants a nice experience out in nature. The increasing use of guns and traps anywhere and everywhere is distressing. Just use common sense and keep the area as natural as possible.</p>
546	<p>I do not support any of the three proposals outlined by the DNR regarding their vision for the future of Badger. DNR's alternative #1, is basically do nothing; Alternative #2, is pretty much the same as Alternative #1 but has more focus on active conservation interventions; and Alternative #3 includes high-impact uses which will negatively impact the land and other's enjoyment of the land, in particular an assault-weapons rifle range and an ATV track.</p> <p>The Oversight Management Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance developed a 4th Alternative, which includes low-impact recreational uses. This Alternative is posted on Sauk County's website and Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's website and is referred to as "Alternative 4". This alternative coincides with a very thoughtful and cohesive land-use plan developed by the Badger Reuse Committee, which was supported by local communities, as well as local, state, federal and tribal agencies that created it. It is my understanding that Sumpter Township, the cities of Baraboo, Sauk City and Prairie du Sac have adopted Alternative 4 as their preferred land-use Alternative. I fully support Alternative #4.</p> <p>The idea of a rifle range at Badger is highly inappropriate! Our children travel to Badger for field trips to learn about prairie plantings and the natural environment. How crazy to have a high-powered (or low-powered, for that matter) rifle range anywhere near an area where we send our children to learn and discover. An ATV trail would be noisy, stinky and disruptive to those who are there to enjoy the beauty, peace and serenity offered by this beautiful area.</p>
547	<p>Just adding my voice in support of Alternative 4 for the Sauk County Prairie Preserve at the former Ammunitions Plant.</p>
548	<p>I support Alternative 4 at the Badger Ammo Site. Return the greater portion to prairie and have low impact recreation. Mother Earth will be much happier without the noise and pollution.</p>
549	<p>I STRONGLY support Alternative 4 for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, which most closely resembles the original Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>We are loosing our precious and vital natural resources at an alarming rate, and the Badger plant land is the best chance we have at reversing this trend in our area. PLEASE, PLEASE don't let this chance slip away.</p>
550	<p>I support Alternative Plan 4</p>
551	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 land use plan at Badger. The original land use proposal for Badger was for low-impact recreation and I believe that plan should be honored. Badger's critical habitat areas should be preserved and areas that are contaminated should not be disturbed.</p> <p>The DNR's proposal for a shooting range and an ATV trail do not fit the low-impact plan that was first agreed to. Also, this proposal is opposed by the surrounding local communities as unnecessary and not in keeping with recreation that respect the animal and plant life of this significant area.</p>
552	<p>I would like to declare my support for the alternative land use plan proposed by the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BOMC). I am aware that with "Alternative 4", the proposal provides a balance of <u>low-impact recreation (hunting, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.), family activities, conservation agriculture, and outdoor education – including a visitors' center.</u></p> <p>Many years ago when the Badger property was being decommissioned as an ammunition facility, I attended a series of lectures that were being held to educate the community about the wide ranging interests that diverse</p>

	<p>groups had regarding this property. I was so amazed to witness the incredible efforts made on the part of these groups to find a common ground and collaborate for a positive outcome. What came from this very involved process was The Badger Reuse Plan.</p> <p>This was true democracy and cooperation at its very finest! We must continue to uphold the wisdom gleaned from this process of re-visioning this incredible property.</p> <p>BOMC Commissioners include the Town of Merrimac, Town of Sumpter, Sauk County, Wisconsin DNR, and Ho-Chunk Nation. Community stakeholder members include the City of Baraboo, Sauk City, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, Badger History Group, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, UW-Baraboo and others. U.S. Army and U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center are liaison members The Commission is charged with promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Badger Reuse Plan which calls for management of the entire Badger property as a whole.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly declare my support of the work and wisdom of the BOMC, and strongly urge you to uphold The Badger Reuse Plan by voting for Alternative 4.</p>
553	<p>Wisconsin has a rare opportunity to preserve and restore habitat for native creatures. As the human population grows, adequate space for a number of such ecological communities will never be available again. It will be a high-minded and noble decision to maximize Badger's worth for the future by enabling natural communities.</p> <p>The BOMC "Alternative #4" has my utmost support. It represents the best thinking of a large number of stakeholders over a long period of time. A huge amount of energy and commitment went into this plan. It would extremely short-sighted and shallow to allow noisy, machine-based activities to be at Badger at all. There are many alternative locations for noise and human-built entities, but there is NO alternative to have such a large number of CONTIGUOUS acres which is necessary for many species that are desirable at Badger.</p> <p>The value of peace and quiet is rising, and for those who are concerned about how to make Badger be a money-making entity, more and more people will be willing to pay for it. But this should not be a high priority.</p> <p>Please share my comments with the Badger Oversight Management Commission.</p>
554	<p>As a person who lives within 1/4 mile of the south end of Badger plant, I can not imagine having atv's and a rifle range in my backyard. We have been living with the uncertainty of the water contamination and now a high impact recreation area next to us. I support the low impact recreation that was agreed upon with the original reuse committee. BOMC has an alternative proposal which excludes a shooting range & ATV's. I am in agreement with the Sumpter Town Board that alternative #4 fits the land use the best.</p>
555	<p>As a former resident of Wisconsin who cares deeply about the state's natural heritage, I wanted to offer a few comments on WDNR's Land-Use Alternatives draft for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. First, I very much appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive/educational activities described in Alternatives 2 & 3. Alternative 2 is the closest one to what the Badger Reuse Plan recommended, and I therefore support it. I'd like to see this alternative expanded, however, to emphasize compatible recreational uses and to incorporate the educational/interpretive activities included in Alternative 3. At the same time, the high-impact recreational uses described in Alternative 3 for the 'Special Use Zone' (motorized use and shooting range) run contrary to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendations for low-impact recreational uses and are simply inappropriate for Badger – the 'Special Use Zone' and these high-impact activities have numerous downsides and I suggest that they should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>Generally, I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. Clearly, these are missed opportunities to employ an adaptive approach to management and to provide a model for agricultural producers in the region. I implore WDNR to keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin and the various Badger stakeholders, and to implement fully the Badger Reuse Plan.</p>
556	<p>Our grandchildren are seventh generation Sauk County residents. My great-great grandfather came here with his family in 1843 and settled in King's Corners (hence the name on the sign across from Badger) which is now referred to as Sumpter.</p> <p>My family has a long history with Badger. I worked there for a summer and my father was an electrician there at the tail end of his career. We purchased over \$100,000.00 worth of materials from Badger for our construction business when Badger was shutting down.</p>

	<p>Fifteen [REDACTED] family members are buried in Pioneer cemetery. I know scores of families who were uprooted from their homes to make way for the war factory. It's time to return Badger to the people. The land means a lot to us and has for generations.</p> <p>Over the decades we have been involved in Badger's future in many different ways: attending listening sessions and meetings, fighting against the installation of SMES, the super magnetic, miles-wide coil that was at one time considered the best use for Badger, and contributing to entities such as Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger which held the Army's feet to the fire to clean up the super-fund mess it left behind at Badger. We have fought for this land and made our voices heard for decades on Badger in an effort to restore and reclaim this land. Now, at the last minute, the DNR brings forth the idea of a shooting range and ATVs. These are both bad ideas and were not in the plan over the last twenty years.</p> <p>Our family supports Alternative 4 with low-impact recreation. NO ATVs and NO shooting range at Badger, please.</p>
557	<p>Thanks for taking my comments about how to use the old Badger Army Ammunition Plant land. I toured the land last October and was very impressed with the vast acreage of prairie. I believe we should think of future generations and preserve this land according to the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan. Forget long-range rifle shooting, ATV's and other activities that would disturb wildlife, visitors, and neighbors. Here is a chance to preserve a beautiful prairie and oak savanna and 20 species of grassland birds. This is something our children, grandchildren and future generations down the road would be grateful for---and place of beauty and quiet---as the population of the surrounding area keeps on growing.</p>
558	<p>Earlier this morning I emailed you my comments regarding the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I would like to add one more item to my comments;</p> <p>Regarding ATV use. Have you ever biked the Cheese Trail in Southwest Wisconsin? If you haven't and you try it some time, I guarantee that would be your first and last time. ATVs have their place, but they are not compatible with most recreational uses. The Cheese Trail currently is completely undesirable as a bike route. Which is a shame because (a) it is a beautiful trail, and (b) that part of the state desperately needs the revenue from bicycle enthusiasts.</p> <p>ATV users certainly deserve to have their places as well. Please site them in areas that are appropriate.</p>
559	<p>As a lifelong residents of Wisconsin with two young children we strongly oppose the non-traditional use of SPRA. Please help preserve this beautiful land for all, including future generations.</p>
560	<p>For more than 15 years, my friends and neighbors in Sauk County have been working to create a conservation-oriented future for the lands of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). Defining a positive vision for this unique Wisconsin landscape; bringing diverse people and organizations together; sharing information on the natural and cultural history of the Badger lands; organizing volunteers and students to demonstrate Badger's great potential for ecological restoration and research; and working to preserve the "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area" is of great concern to me.</p> <p>As a resident of Baraboo, I feel that the DNR is obligated to follow, as part of its land management responsibilities, the values and recommendations of the Badger Reuse Plan and to fully recognize the conservation of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. However, I would like to see Alternative 2 be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>I disagree with the high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in Alternative 3 and do not want the State to create a 562-acre "Special Use Zone" set aside for motorized recreation and a shooting range. These uses are simply inappropriate, for many reasons, including that it explicitly contradicts the provisions in the Wisconsin DNR's agreement with the National Park Service and it runs counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational use. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>This "special use zone" will have detrimental impacts on neighboring landowners within Badger, neighboring private landowners outside Badger, on other recreational users and visitors at Badger. The impacts of these</p>

	<p>proposed activities on grassland birds and other wildlife has not been documented or analyzed. Also the area in which these uses are proposed includes, among other features, one of the important pioneer cemeteries of Badger Army Ammunition Plant (the Thoeke Cemetery).</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. The alternatives downplay the critical opportunities for education and research at Badger, and make no mention at all of agriculture. These are vital parts of the reuse vision. Badger has already served as a vital research and education site. There is the potential to share lessons of history, science, and culture at Badger with others is boundless. Similarly, Badger provides unique opportunities to show how conservation and agriculture can and must work together for the good of Wisconsin's land, water, wildlife, people, economy, and future.</p> <p>I strongly feel that the Wisconsin DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
561	<p>I am a Sauk County resident, and want to let you know my thoughts on the plans for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant land.</p> <p>I support most the uses mentioned in your Alternative 3---but with the strong exception to the "Special use zone" introducing ATV trails and a shooting range. The "Alternative 4" suggested by the Badger Oversight Management Commission is a good example of what I would like to see there. It is important to keep the spirit of the Badger Reuse plan, and not dishonor the local people who lost their land, those who lost their lives in the wars, and more recently the citizens who worked together to clean up the Plant and create a new Badger for conservation, learning, and low-impact recreation. Please keep your promise for these people, don't seek legal loopholes to bring in noisy and destructive sports.</p> <p>I was struck at the Sauk County planning commission meeting by the opposition of Merrimac and Sumpter townships to the idea that this sort of "recreation" would be included in Badger.</p> <p>The area designated as the Special use zone is large, and is the keystone of the prairie areas of Badger. The grassland birds, which are in decline in Wisconsin as well as all over the Eastern U.S., need vast uninterrupted prairie or savannah areas to successfully reproduce without excessive predation or cowbird parasitism. Birds found at Badger such as the Western Meadowlark, Upland Sandpiper, and the Henslow's, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, are becoming scarce and threatened in Wisconsin because of loss of good breeding habitat. Many Sauk County farmers are taking fields out of the CRP program now that corn prices are high, but here we have the potential of the ideal unbroken grassland for these birds. (and for other animals—including the badger!)</p>
562	<p>A descendant of a displaced land owner and now, a future user of that same land, I have followed the Badger saga closely since the late 1960s. Driving north on the S curve on hwy 12, my grandfather would point to the right toward the land from which his father was displaced. I always thought it would be as it was then, forever. When the Feds announced it's plans to decommission the property, I imagined it would be a natural area and extension of Devi's Lake S.P. I never dreamed there would be a proposal for a dirt track for motor vehicles.</p> <p>Throughout the entire process there was no indication of this type of use on the property. I was disappointed to read in the Sauk Prairie Star, Mark Aquino tell the baap reuse committee that there was going to be a 4wheel area within the property. This was before the public comment meeting had taken place. How did Mr Aquino know how the DNR board was going to vote before any public discussion was heard?</p> <p>The DNR's argument for the high impact use on the property is contrary to the army mandate for low impact use upon transfer of the property.</p> <p>The transfer will be delayed, it will cost more taxpayer money, and I believe the Wisconsin DNR will lose it's case for this type of high impact use.</p> <p>A high impact area also runs contrary to all the other proposed uses of the property. It has now become apparent, that the vast majority of neighbors to the property oppose these high impact uses. It is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. There are a lot of shooting ranges and miles of 4 wheel trails in Wisconsin, there is only one property like the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area in the state, it is unique. I urge the DNR to listen the land use experts that worked hard for over a decade on this issue and enact proposal four for the future use of the Sauk Prairie Recreation area.</p> <p>P.S. If you hold another public meeting at the Sauk Prairie high school, please consider using the River Arts Center theater. Many people could not get in the room to hear the speakers. Thank you.</p>

563	<p>Thank you very much for allowing public comment on the future of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I would like to simply state that I believe that Alternative 4, put forth by the Badger Oversight and Management Commission, is the plan that should be implemented at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. This plan most accurately incorporates the restoration, education, research, and recreation goals decided upon in the Badger Reuse Plan and I believe that implementing this plan is also the best way to pay homage to all of the people that once lived, worked, died, and are buried on this incredibly important piece of land.</p>
564	<p>I have been coming to the Baraboo Hills and surrounding areas for the last 38 years to recreate, learn and work. Since I just celebrated my 38th birthday, this means that this area has been a part of my entire life beginning with my first camping trip to Devil's Lake as an infant. Over the years I have continued to enjoy this area for recreation, for learning in graduate school, as a tour guide for local elementary school students learning about natural history and as an environmental consultant for both a private firm as well as my own independent work on behalf of local citizens. I want to continue to see the sustained beauty of this landscape preserved and enhanced for future generations, including my own two children that are just beginning a hopefully lifelong experience in the area. For these reasons, I strongly urge you and other decision-makers to respect the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan's emphasis on conservation and low impact recreation and endorse the Conceptual Land Use Alternative #4.</p> <p>Since the completion of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan, the need and importance of conservation and low impact recreation lands have only increased. Each year more and more land in this area is developed and increased motorized recreation have made low impact areas even more precious. At the same time Devil's Lake has seen great growth in use by people from all of the state and even the world, and the local flora and fauna have come under new stresses of development and climate change. Endorsement of conservation and low impact recreation principles for the future land use at Badger will serve future generations of humans and wildlife and become a decision that is likely to be looked back upon as one of the most important milestones in the history of this land.</p>
565	<p>I would like to vote for the BOMC ALTERNATE # 4 Conservation and Low Impact Recreational Use.</p> <p>This allows recovery and great use.</p>
566	<p>When I was a girl, my birdwatcher Mom introduced us to Wisconsin's amazing birds on hikes and even on the wires as we drove along. I always knew the silhouette of the meadowlark, even when I couldn't see the splash of yellow on its breast. These birds seemed so common--but now they are not thriving. Meadowlarks and other grassland birds are losing important habitats to intensive farming and development. Their breeding and nesting have been so compromised that one rarely sees the once common bird.</p> <p>The open lands of the former munitions plant near Baraboo have already begun to provide critical habitat for such grassland species. The return of buffalo to these lands and the setting aside of spaces for nature to heal this once polluted acreage form elements of a grand vision on the part of many stakeholders at the local, tribal, state, and federal level.</p> <p>Please honor the commitments made to the U.S. government and to all the cooperating parties when these agreements were hammered out to promote ecological restoration and low impact human usage of this important tract of land. I especially wish to endorse Alternative 4 from the Badger Oversight Management Commission, which provides for wonderful recreational activities yet manages with care the ecological concerns of this site.</p> <p>I am not someone who opposes higher impact sports and activities where they are appropriate. Snowmobiles run a trail just a short distance from my home each winter and form an important part of the local tourism economy.</p> <p>There are less sensitive areas where roads and ATV trails can be established and enjoyed. I hope the Badger site can be spared this destruction and intervention.</p>
567	<p>Please register my opinion on the proposed uses of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>I feel a close family tie to the property. My maternal grandmother, [REDACTED], was bused daily to work at the plant from Oxford, Wisconsin. My paternal grandparents were displaced from a farm in Doylestown by a family displaced from Badger.</p> <p>For over a decade the community has been involved in the re-use of the site. Lots of work was done to bring</p>

	<p>stakeholders together to come up with the best alternative for the 3800 acre site. This involved working together as a community and compromise for the greater good.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the agreement the Wisconsin DNR signed with the National Park Service was predicated on conditions that the future use of the land be low impact. The GSA, the federal agency that finally approved this sale, also stipulated that this transfer would be for low impact land use, and to preserve and enhance ecological restoration and the transition of the prairie with the Baraboo Hills adjacent. I also understand much of the remediation of the soil was done not too deep in the soil, due to the expense, and the knowledge that with low impact usage of the land, with the ecological restoration, this would be sufficient.</p> <p>To have other groups now come in - whom have not been at the table for the last decade, and make demands is to me absolutely unacceptable of the tenants of good planning. If a good planning process has been implemented, than it should stand on its own without question. How the three options from the DNR resulted from the Plan, is also questionable.</p> <p>I would like my opinion added to those supporting Option 4 - which should have been there. Motorized vehicles with snow cover is one thing, motorized vehicles on dirt is a completely different scenario. While understanding that there may be a need for an ATV trail area in southern Wisconsin, there is no logic that connects that need to this area, given the history of the land use of this property and the extensive planning process that this property has been involved in.</p> <p>I also concur with others also that there are plenty of gun ranges in the area - without again, imposing a usage not part of the planning process and which would seriously inhibit hikers, whom overall are not interested, understandably, in hiking in areas where others are shooting.</p> <p>I think it is time to stand with what was the original agreement for the reuse of the land, the vision, and the planning process that went with that vision, rather than second guessing now about including uses not intended.</p>
568	<p>Please....keep it natural. No guns, ATVs, etc. Protect the animals, plants and stay in the traditional rec activities.</p>
569	<p>This correspondence serves as my comment regarding the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area plan:</p> <p>I had the opportunity, as a student attending the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources in the late 1990's, to observe the process for how the lands associated with the Badger Ammunition Plant could be used following its closing. I was extremely heartened to learn of a plan that was agreed upon among many stakeholders - the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan. I was heartened because this plan represented what real collaboration among potential competing interests looked like - collaboration that included the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This plan included recommendations for low-impact recreational uses.</p> <p>The current information regarding the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area on the DNR's website includes a goal statement that reads:</p> <p>Recreation Provide for public recreation that complements and fulfills regional needs while providing opportunities that draw users past significant cultural and natural points of interest as well as aesthetic vistas.</p> <p>This goal statement seems in keeping with the spirit of the 2001 Badger Reuse Plan. Recently, however, it seems that special interest lobbying efforts have successfully persuaded the DNR to significantly alter the notion of what constitutes a low-impact recreational use - advocating for ATV usage, paintball and a shooting range within the area.</p> <p>I wish to express my support for what has come to be know as Alternative 4 for this area, which is much more consistent with the 2001 agreement reached among federal, state, tribal and local landowner groups than the recent ATV and shooting range proposal. I respectfully ask that the state DNR honor its previous agreement and show that this state agency truly is looking out for the many interests of Wisconsin residents and not merely the desires of a few, well connected individuals.</p>
570	<p>I am writing to you on behalf of the Trails Committee of Wisconsin Horse Council (WHC). Several of our committee members as well as other members of WHC have been following the story of how the land at the old Badger Army Ammunitions Plant near Baraboo is going to be repurposed. We are very pleased to hear that the Wisconsin DNR is gathering information on how best to develop their portion of the land as the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>

	<p>Wisconsin Horse Council strongly supports developing shared-use trails in the Recreation Area to include horseback riders and drivers as one of the trail user groups. Our Trails Committee has experience in designing and building trails that are <u>sustainable</u> and ecologically sound for shared use. We would be glad to have one of our members serve on a trail planning committee, working with the DNR. Please let me know if we can volunteer on such a committee.</p>
571	<p>I am writing to let you know that I strongly support horseback riding trails, along with hiking and biking, in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. As a long-time resident of the Sauk Prairie/Baraboo/Portage area, we are in need of good horseback riding trails. This low impact activity will not harm the environment nor interfere with other recreation users in the are.</p> <p>I strongly oppose including ATV trails, a gun range or other disruptive, high impact uses of this recreation area. These uses have no place here. The DNR has made it clear that Columbia County will be hosting a new public owned gun range in the near future thanks to DNR development and funding. We don't need another gun range in Sauk Prairie. Also, ATVs are extremely disruptive and destructive. They don't have a place in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
572	<p>I am writing to comment on the conceptual alternatives as part of the Property Master Planning process for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I have reviewed the three alternatives. I support the Badger Oversight Management Commission Alternative 4 (Conservation/Low Impact Recreation Emphasis). See: http://www.saukprairievision.org/uploadedfiles/File/Alt%204%20Cons%20and%20Low%20Impact%20Recreation (5).pdf</p> <p>The proposals to allow ATV use and to establish a shooting range in the Special Use Zone are not "Low-impact", and are incompatible with the goal of establishing quality grassland bird habitat, and likely violates the state's agreement with the Federal Government. There are ample opportunities for target shooting in south central Wisconsin. Use of the SPRA should be non-motorized. Restoration of quality habitat for grassland birds and other grassland species should be the highest priority. Grassland birds in particular are in decline in Wisconsin and other midwestern states because of the intensification of modern agriculture, so restored habitat is critical. ATV use is incompatible with this goal. I also think that the roads, particularly those open to the public, should be kept to a minimum. Any hunting and fishing uses of the SPRA should only be allowed with non-toxic ammunition/tackle (lead-free). Lead is harmful to birds and other wildlife and should be discontinued. Lead does not degrade in the environment so remediation is not feasible; better to not allow it to be used in the first place. Finally, given the goal of restoration of grassland bird habitat, birdwatching should at least be listed among the recreational activities. This is different than hiking.</p> <p>The SPRA, if done right--with an emphasis on ecological restoration and allowing only low-impact, non-motorized recreation--will become a valuable public asset and gift to future generations.</p>
573	<p>I am writing to express my interest in having OHV trails added to the planning process for the redevelopment of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Sauk Prairie. Having a trail system available for use closer to Milwaukee and Madison would be a great benefit for those of us that live in these areas of the state. Please pass on my comments.</p>
574	<p>Please respect the local cooperative agreement, the Badger Reuse Plan, that was worked out over many years by a broad spectrum of stakeholders on the Badger Reuse Committee. Don't alter it to add a "Special Use Zone" for an all terrain vehicle track, a paintball battlefield and a long range rifle shooting range.</p> <p>90% or more of Wisconsin's population does not use rifles, hunt or use all terrain vehicles. We now have to deal with the safety and noise issues caused by the recent addition of hunting and trapping in some of our State Parks. Please don't ruin the "Silent Sports" experience of hiking, birdwatching and other quiet activities that 90% of us enjoy.</p>
575	<p>We have read the details of Alternative Plan # 4 for management of Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. We strongly urge support of that plan which provides for quiet forms of recreation. It is vital that we provide as much space as we can for grassland birds such as Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Short-Eared Owls since their numbers have been dropping drastically.</p>
576	<p>First of all I would like to thank you for leading up this undertaking. I was at the meeting in July in Sauk and it can obviously be a thankless job presenting situations that are both win-win and no-win at the same time. I was the one who recognized you early Saturday morning as we pulled in. It seemed like you were almost hesitant to take ownership, I'm sure in part because it can be heated.</p>

	<p>I addressed a few points in the survey when I filled it out, but I felt that I could more adequately address a few items in an email. I attempted to get a better quality map that wasn't tilted, but I believe it serves to make my point.</p> <p>I will say that I am both in favor of restoration and also in favor of as much public use as possible. I worked as a tour guide in the Dells for many years and spent a good deal of time sending people not only to Devil's Lake and Mirror Lake, but to Rocky Arbor, Pewitt's Nest, and Dells of the Wisconsin River Natural Areas. These are all areas where I feel public access meets management well. To that end, in general, I like the outdoor recreation emphasis. I would like to comment on the shooting range and proposed off-roading sites. The shooting range concerns me the most, primarily because of the noise being harder to manage. I am not opposed to thoughtful development of off-roading. My biggest concern would be overuse. While I recognize that the majority of people will use the area appropriately and enjoy the access, there seems to be more potential for excessive use or abuse without certain strict regulations and enforcement. I could easily support this portion of the plan if there as a cap to the use to a certain number of users at a time. It is also possible that with a better understanding of how this would be set up that my concerns would be eased.</p> <p>The area slated for this use also includes the area that has had the most restoration by outside groups. I would hate to see this lost.</p> <p>My ultimate point, and the item that I would like to lobby for, is access to this area for road biking (cycling). This is a pastime that has grown in popularity significantly in the last several years. To the credit of the state, there is a phenomenal network of trails. Some of these are even paved and very useful for these bikes. One of my favorite is the Capital City Trail. Most of these, however, are of the rails to trails variety and are fairly flat and generally straight. The existing infrastructure of roadways within the area that the DNR is to have provide an excellent opportunity to promote this activity with minimal expense. I handful of routes could be easily established and would likely require minimal patching to complete a smooth bike path surface. I would recommend that, if realistic, a path be created to join to the river parcel. This may be able to be done with an easement from the USDA for road access.</p> <p>I have attached a scan of the road tour map and roughly drew in some roads/trails that I would like to see preserved. I believe that this would amount to about 15 miles of total trails, with most being existing roadways. This would also make for an excellent scenic detour off of the planned bike route on the existing railroad corridor. When driving the site last weekend, it seemed that at least some of these roads were in useful shape from what we could see.</p> <p>I would like to encourage you to feel free to contact me with any questions or if there is any part of this process that I could be of help with. I hope that my comments have been constructive and useful.</p>
577	<p>As a resident of Sauk County, a lover of the outdoors, and a field ecologist by training, I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3 for the future of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant property.</p> <p>Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the BRP recommended, I support it. We ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3.</p> <p>The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in the Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the Badger Reuse Plan's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands.</p> <p>The DNR should keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and should work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p> <p>There are not many opportunities to come across such a large property that is historically, culturally, and ecologically significant and have the chance to restore it to what it once was. The Wisconsin DNR now has the unique opportunity to consider all of the potential of this property and to decide to do the right thing for the ecological and human community as a whole. In the words of Aldo Leopold, "A thing is right when it tends to</p>

	<p>preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."</p> <p>Please re-consider the high-impact recreational uses on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p>
578	<p>Aldo Leopold surely would have understood the need for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) as it was being developed in the 1940's, but he also surely would have been disheartened to see so many families displaced and so much valuable habitat lost to the needed infrastructure.</p> <p>Leopold was enamored by the abundance of Bobwhite Quail and other grassland birds that pastured on the grasslands of the Sauk Prairie. In his July essay of his seminal book, A Sand County Almanac, he even conjured up a vision of a grassland large enough to support bison and a complete grassland ecosystem. Amazingly that opportunity is upon us and this great responsibility has fallen upon the WI DNR and the citizens of Wisconsin to determine if the Sauk Prairie is converted into a standard recreational area or if its unique and unparalleled ecological and cultural dimensions are fully leveraged.</p> <p>One of their few remaining strongholds for grassland conservation in southern Wisconsin has been the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). BAAP offers a UNIQUE and wonderful opportunity for large-scale grassland protection and restoration, IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO OUR TREASURED BARABOO HILLS, DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK, and LOWER WISCONSIN RIVERWAY. The value of such a restoration would be enormous for the natural diversity of our region, including many species of conservation concern that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has worked to save for decades.</p> <p>For these reasons, the Aldo Leopold Foundation strongly supports "Alternative 2: Ecological Restoration Emphasis" for the proposed Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Furthermore, we feel strongly that some of the activities proposed in Alternative 3 are incompatible with THE FULL conservation vision for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.</p> <p>Even before the Badger Reuse Committee was established in 2000, the Aldo Leopold Foundation was involved in helping the Army consider how to improve the ecological integrity and habitat capacity to further advance regional conservation goals. We were pleased when the BRC was established, included 21 representatives of state, local, federal, and tribal governments, local businesses, landowners, school districts, and non-profit organizations, to more officially advance the site's future. From July 2000 to March 2001 the BRC met dozens of times. Through comprehensive, community-based involvement, the committee developed a consensus Badger Reuse Plan for the BAAP that was subsequently supported and adopted by the many diverse stakeholders at Badger. The BRC report allowed the recommendation to move forward, that the U.S. National Park Service sponsor the transfer of land within the BAAP to the State of Wisconsin, to be administered by the Wisconsin DNR.</p> <p>"Alternative 2: Ecological restoration emphasis" comes the closest to keeping with the recommendations of the BRC, the voices of the people in Sauk County, and the interests of all those involved at the Badger property. WE hope that Alternative 2 will be implemented. WE FURTHER hope that it can be elaborated to include the unique opportunities at Badger—MANY OF WHICH ARE IN FACT INCLUDED IN ALTERNATIVE 3—for appropriate recreational, educational, research, and agricultural activities. This is the only way it can remain a refuge for our grassland birds, while demonstrating how wise land use, healthy local economic development, and preservation of cultural values can work together. There are so many other places near the BAAP where several of the suggested recreational activities are better suited, and where they can be undertaken. Our area contains many private-sector shooting ranges, and other motorized trails in southern Wisconsin provide a better recreational experience than would a small, confined area within Badger.</p> <p>As you probably have seen a new proposal from the Badger Oversight Management Commission (BMO) has developed just such a framework which is being called "ALTERNATIVE 4." This proposal seems to capture the essence of what is at stake and what is possible to insure that the Badger Plant and Sauk Prairie continue to contribute to the ecological, cultural, and economic future of Wisconsin.</p> <p>On behalf of the Aldo Leopold Foundation's 3,000 members we hope you give the utmost consideration to a modified version of Alternative 2, as articulated in the BMO Alternative 4 proposal.</p>
579	<p>Please respect the local cooperative agreement proposed by local citizens and the principals and stakeholders of the area. With so little of our state's land left in prairie land and oak savanna we need to rebuild this to its original state as a prime asset.</p>
580	<p>I believe strongly that the best option for the use of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant property should be a plan that emphasizes conservation, education and in particular, the importance of participating in</p>

	<p>nonmotorized recreational pursuits.</p> <p>In fact, it seems ludicrous to me that our State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is even considering using this land for an all-terrain motorized vehicle track. This kind of use only encourages more frivolous burning of fossil fuels and thus more needless emissions of greenhouse gases, the latter of which have built up in the atmosphere to levels now considered dangerous to humanity.</p> <p>For more information, see www.allthingsenvironmental.wordpress.com.</p>
581	<p>The Badger Project is of special interest to me and I have been following the development for quite a few years. I am writing to express my support for Alternative #4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area as developed by the Badger Oversight and Management committee which includes a mix of ecological restoration, agriculture, education and low impact recreation.</p> <p>I understand there is some interest in adding an area for all terrain vehicles and also a rifle range. Neither of these are in keeping with the original concept for Badger. I strongly oppose both of these ideas.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on the development of this project.</p>
582	<p>I realize that was supposed to have sent this note to you by August 30. I hope you are still willing to accept my input. It became necessary to put my cat to sleep earlier this week, and I have been very upset by this. Even today, I am probably not to eloquent but wanted to at least express my sentiment to you about the possibility of a public rifle range at the older Badger powder factory near Baraboo. I am very much in favor of utilizing some of the space at this facility for a public rifle range. I very much enjoy target shooting and having a purpose built safe facility to enjoy this activity would be very much appreciated.</p>
583	<p>In my opinion the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area should include the "Special Use Zone" for off road vehicle (ATV, dirt bike, bicycle) usage.</p> <p>While we are very privileged to have many local areas that promote nature based outdoor opportunities such as – Devils Lake State Park, Parfreys Glen, Natural Bridge, Pewitts Nest, Mirror Lake and the Ice Age Trail - There are very few opportunities for off road vehicle usage in the southern half of the state of Wisconsin.</p> <p>I believe that both low impact and high impact activities can coexist on such a special property.</p> <p>As a resident, property owner, tax payer and small business owner in the Merrimac area, such alternative usages would bring people of varied interest to our area which would benefit our local business and tax base.</p> <p>Off Road vehicle users pay both registration fees and fuel taxes and would certainly appreciate additional riding areas in Southern Wisconsin.</p>
584	<p>I support Alternative #4 for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I believe this alternative offers the "best of both worlds" with balancing habitat conservation, recreational possibilities, and education outreach. It is critical to protect Wisconsin's native ecosystems and make it possible for many generations to come to be able to learn about and enjoy places like SPRA. I've lived in WI almost all 24 years of my life, and places like this are where I've made some of my most powerful and enduring memories.</p>
585	<p>If a hiking trail, biking trail, and horseback riding trail were going through a wooded area within 100 feet of each other, no one using the trails would know the other one was there. You can't say the same for an ATV trail or a shooting range. If they were 100 feet or even 1 mile away, these types of high impact uses would have a negative effect on the people using the low impact hiking, biking, or horseback riding trails.</p> <p>It's kind of like building a children's playground next to a busy intersection. If there were another playground close by in a quiet neighborhood away from traffic, where do you think people are going to bring their children and grandchildren to play?</p> <p>The Sauk Prairie Recreation area can either be a first class low impact recreation and conservation area or it can be a third rate "little bit of everything" area.</p> <p>I support low impact recreation and conservation uses at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area as shown in BOMC Alternative 4. Instead of attaching the same documents that were sent to you by Brian Simmert for the BOMC, I would like to include these documents to my comments by reference:</p>

	<p>Vision and Goals Alt July 2013.docx Revised Alt4 by BOMC 7_25_13.pdf Alternative 4 landusemap 7_25_13.pdf</p>
586	<p>I would like to formally go on record as being in full support of the BOMC's Alternative #4. I feel that a shooting range and ATV track would be totally inappropriate for this area.</p>
587	<p>I am writing in support of Alternative 4 land use plan at Badger. The original land use proposal for Badger was for low-impact recreation and I believe that plan should be honored. Badger's critical habitat areas should be preserved and areas that are contaminated should not be disturbed.</p> <p>The DNR's proposal for a shooting range and an ATV trail do not fit the low-impact plan that was first agreed to. Also, this proposal is opposed by the surrounding local communities as unnecessary and not in keeping with recreation that respect the animal and plant life of this significant area.</p>
588	<p>I am writing to express my support for alternative 2 at the site of the former Badger Munitions plant. Overall, I appreciate and strongly support the emphasis on ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities described in Alternatives 2 and 3. Because Alternative 2 is the closest to what the Badger Reuse Plan (BRP) recommended, I support it. I ask that it be expanded to emphasize appropriate visitor access and compatible recreational uses, and that it incorporate the educational and interpretive activities described in Alternative 3. The high-impact recreational uses described for the "Special Use Zone" in Alternative 3 – specifically the "motorized use and a shooting range" – run counter to the BRP's recommendation for compatible, low-impact recreational uses; are inappropriate for Badger; and will negatively affect neighbors within and adjacent to the Badger property. These high-impact recreational uses should be removed from the proposed alternatives. I am disappointed that the proposed alternatives do not reflect fully the aims of the Badger Reuse Plan, and in particular their failure to integrate research and sustainable agriculture into planning for the Badger lands. I ask that the DNR keep its promise to the people of Wisconsin, and to the other Badger stakeholders, and work to fully implement the Badger Reuse Plan in its planning.</p>
589	<p>Presently we have a wonderful opportunity to restore and conserve the lands at the former Badger Ammunition Plant, which has the potential to again support the biodiversity that once thrived at this now disturbed site. As I frequently drive up hwy. 12 on my way from Spring Green to Devil's Lake, I often envision what this area must have once looked like prior to European settlement. Our concept of progress is often tied to economic outcomes that are too often short-term endeavors. In the case of land use on this site, I think ecosystem recovery is progress, because over the long-term it will support wildlife, native plant communities and our needs of clean water and a place to find peace and connection to nature in a rapidly changing world.</p> <p>I strongly support the restoration and conservation of these lands and believe that they have the potential to be a beautiful and species rich entranceway into the Baraboo hills. So please, think of the long term ecological possibilities for this site and refrain from putting in a gun range and ATV track. I strongly support the "Alternative 4" plan, which will not only serve our needs, but will create an area that can support and hopefully reverse the declining populations of grassland birds and other impaired native species.</p>
590	<p>I'm contacting you as a elected official of Baraboo Common Council and a 30 year resident of Baraboo. I'm informing you of my support of the recommendation by the Badger Oversight Management Commission's fourth alternative . This recommends a balance of low-impact recreation use excluding a proposed ATV trail and shooting range.</p> <p>The Baraboo Common Council passed a resolution unanimously on 08/27/13 supporting the BOMC fourth alternative. Present at the meeting was Mr. William Wenzel - chairman of the BOMC - and Baraboo Alderman Eugene Robkin. Alderman Robkin is the City's representative to the BOMC.</p> <p>Please support the BOMC fourth alternative of low-impact recreational, land preservation and educational programming for the former Badger Ordnance facility.</p>
591	<p>Although I previously wrote in support of Option Four for the future on the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP), the below news release compels me to repeat that I support what has become Option 4, which is essentially the plan crafted by the Badger Reuse Committee and I urge the decision makers at the WI DNR accept the recommendations of this very lengthy democratic process.</p> <p>The below news release convinces me that the last minute request for a shooting range and ATV trail at Badger</p>

	<p>likely came from the same source that created the scandalous \$500,000 grant ostensibly for a new group with no track record to teach hunting and fishing.</p> <p>This makes me even more supportive of option four than before.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Group with no training record may get \$500,000 over 2 years</i> By Jason Stein and Paul A. Smith of the Journal Sentinel Aug. 25, 2013</p>
592	<p>Please respect the local cooperative agreement that was made about the former Badger ammunition site in Sauk County and protect the wildlife, habitat and traditional recreational activities that could make the site of the former ammo plant an asset for our state for years to come.</p>
593	<p>After following the dust trail and finally reaching our destination as the dust settles I have come to realize you have a difficult job working within the DNR under the present time with all the anti-environmental and anti-science pressures. Keep up the good work. Many friends who have recently retired from your agency have reflected much on their own contributions and still believe the environment and its security is worth the fight even if you don't feel people care out there. We do!</p> <p>I would like to insert my vote for Alternative Plan FOUR concerning the future of the Badger Ordinance Ammunition Plant property. I have a great uncle who is now retired in NC who worked there before enlisting and played cards with now deceased former governor Lee Dreyfus. He had many fond memories of the plant and the work they were doing and also believes out of respect for the veterans of the war and the ammunition plant workers that the site should not turn into another Bong Recreation Area where nothing is limited BUT that the site should be a quiet site for reflection and appreciation of the past and a large band aid for the future. He is quite aware of all the great farmland and family farms that were taken over for the war effort and also believes that these families should be honored by having their former farms and farmlands preserved as a conservation area and run over by the multitudes of recreational interests.</p> <p>Thanks for providing this opportunity to "air my laundry" over the open sky of the grasslands of this former defense plant.</p>
594	<p>Do not approve use of this precious site by ATV's or any gun ranges or other intrusive and loud uses. The people of this region worked for ten years to agree on compatible uses of this area. Please do not ruin this effort. There are many places already offering gun ranges and lots of places for riding ATV's that do not destroy the serenity needed for human contemplation and wildlife preservation. DNR has already destroyed the peace and quiet of our state parks by allowing hunting. Can't there be a few places for humans who really enjoy being in and watching nature unimpeded?</p>
595	<p>I live on Weigands Bay South and would like to ask the DNR to go ahead with the proposed shooting range and the ATV trails for the new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.</p> <p>Shooting Range Many of the opponents to the shooting range believe that there are sufficient opportunities for shooting because the local outdoor clubs have trap and skeet ranges for those that are interested in that shooting sport. For those of us that hunt with rifles, shotguns, and muzzle loaders there are limited opportunities to get to a range where we can practice marksmanship with out joining shooting club specifically for this purpose. In my search there were very few clubs in the area that offer this opportunity at a price one could afford to do this on a routine basis.</p> <p>I would also like to take up pistol shooting and again there are limited opportunities to do this without renting a private space at a facility such as Gander Mountain down by Madison.</p> <p>ATV Trails at Sauk Prairie Again there are very few public access ATV trails in the southern part of the state, so it would be nice to have trails close to the Madison area.</p> <p>By paying tax fee and license fees both gun and ATV owners provide funds that not only support their sports, but also provide ;support for the environment in general. I believe that these two proposed uses would be advantageous for all stake holders and they will also have direct impact on the economy of the area by encouraging new retailers to open businesses that cater to these activities.</p>

596	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I live here in Madison. I have been hearing rumors about setting up a shooting range over at the old Badger Ammo Plant and would like to tell you what a fantastic idea that would be. Besides private ranges, there are Very few places to shoot close to Madison. I love the outdoors and working on and shooting firearms. Having a place to go practice, try out new equipment, sight in optics is needed. Please do your very best to make this a reality. I appreciate your hard work so far and realize that the loudest voices usually oppose anything related to firearms. I have not taken part in any meetings nor have I had opportunities to do so. Please put me on whatever mailing list you need to keep me informed. I would like to be a part of this. I have a brand new daughter and would like to teach her someday to shoot safely at a nice range. I have many friends that turn to me for advice on firearms. Sadly, where to practice or teach is always lacking. If you need a voice, an advocate, or anything else, please feel free to contact me.</p>
597	<p>The low impact recreational emphasis in Alternative #4 is well thought out and will enhance the amount and quality of recreation in the greater Devils Lake area. Please support it</p>
598	<p>I support BOMC alternative #4. I do not believe it is a good idea to allow ATV's and firearm shooting on this land.</p>
599	<p>I am a friend of [REDACTED] and am an ardent lover of hiking, biking, and enjoying the natural trails, prairies and woodlands of Wisconsin. I so fear the idea of allowing this land to be used for shooting ranges, ATV's and any other non-traditional activities; putting all of us who do not use or promote these practices at a disadvantage of no longer feeling safe to enjoy this new natural prairie and recreational area. I also hope there is legislation which forbids any mining or fracing of this area, ever!</p> <p>In short, I wholeheartedly support the BOMC Alternative 4 recommendation of the Badger Oversight Management Commission, which promotes and supports a balanced, low-impact recreation-hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, individual and family activities, conservation, outdoor education (including a visitor center) and other nature-based recreation.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I wish to thank you for your efforts to preserve a green future for this beautiful Wisconsin land for the current generation and those to come!</p>
600	<p>I strongly support Alternative 4 for future development of Badger Property.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noise pollution in this age of noise everywhere should be a primary consideration. The public should have a refuge from noise when do have the opportunity to enjoy nature. This pollution extends to the animal and bird populations when it would disturb nesting and ranges of especially threatened species. 2. Disturbing polluted soils and native vegetation. Unsupervised trails means that ATV's will not stay on designated trails. By their nature they will seek out any hills to shoot over and mud/water to churn through. My understanding is that the settling pond area is not to be disturbed and send dust into the air. 3. A shooting range not strictly supervised is an incident waiting to happen. 4. ATV's coming in from all over with dirty wheels will bring in invasive species. Please don't respond by saying they will wash their vehicles before using the trails. 5. If this high impact clause goes through the DNR will lose many past supporters such as myself because the it ignores the past efforts of so many people and organizations. We all wonder why the DNR would be so intent on trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.
601	<p>Hi Diane- we are writing to comment on the WDNR proposed badger land use for gun range and rec vehicles- we live on grubers bay and are AGAINST the land being used for a gun range etc. we can already hear the shots from the trap shooting range on the other side of Sauk- we are for it being used for wildlife etc. we vote for peace and quiet!!!!</p>
602	<p>I would like my comments to be included as part of the record for the Badger Recreation Area Plan planing process.</p> <p>1) Honor the previous planning process results to restore trust on the Wisconsin DNR. The current open-ended planning process appears to completely ignore all the work that a large number of interested citizens and neighbors in the area of the former Badger Ammunition Plant completed. This apparent throwing aside of extensive recommendations from the earlier planning process has created another breach of trust among a large segment of the Wisconsin populace. I am very curious why DNR would want to create this rift, when the current</p>

	<p>department secretary has continually talked about making the DNR a trustworthy organization. This current stance makes DNR seem very contradictory.</p> <p>2) The Badger property is too close to Devils Lake State Park and other scenic and natural sites to develop a shooting range there. The sound will be very audible from much of the park, as well as Parfrey's Glen, Durward's Glen and other special places where quiet is highly respected and needed. That type of land use belongs in a remote coulee where the sound can be contained. The DNR shooting range in the Wautoma area, for example, is located far from any area of public land that carries with it the expectation of a quiet environment.</p> <p>3) ATVs are an inappropriate use and contrary to the public will expressed more than ten years ago. ATV use creates, noise, dust, the quick spread of invasive species, undue soil erosion, air pollution and other problems. ATV trails are best supplied by the private sector to create trails and jobs, on private land. The negative impacts of ATVs do not belong on public land, which is in short supply, and from which most people expect opportunities to get a break from the incessant spiritual disruptions of urban and suburban life.</p> <p>I hope that you will delete ATV use and the talked-about shooting range from any consideration of alternative uses of this property.</p>
603	<p>Diane, I just come across an article in the Agri-View farm paper looking for suggestions for uses for the Badger Ammunitions land. One idea which a lot of farm equipment exhibitors would like to see is a permanent farm show location for WI Farm Tech Days. It would allow business to put up year around buildings, signage, etc.... The benefits of the location consist of a highway system, adequate lodging, locality to USDA Forage Research Center and if you use the area where the manufacturing building once stood, road for a show site. This would make the WI show one of the best in the nation compared to what we have today. Most state have permanent sites compared to what we do in WI moving from county to county. Free feel to contact me with any questions</p>