John.

We have concerns regarding the ATV Trail Expansion. Please see the attached.

Jean & Marty Burns
DNR

Re: ATV Trail Expansion

It would be shameful to abrogate a carefully crafted legacy left to the citizens of the state by a visionary governor who wanted to safeguard a very rare and natural sanctuary, The Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

While ATV riders may try to argue they have every right to enjoy the outdoors as they chose, it can be more persuasively counter-argued that they have more than their fair share of this mode of outdoor recreation with 250 miles of trails traversing the northern recreational lands. To continue to allow their trail expansion efforts to invade the sanctuary of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area would seriously disrupt the uniquely wild character of this treasured area, again an area so unique that Governor Thompson was driven to preserve and protect it.

There is no legitimate reason to sacrifice the wildlife of this area. Moreover there is ample reason not to cave to those seeking just to ride furiously thru the wilderness with little concern for the endangerment of the wildlife. This endangerment to the wildlife will undoubtedly deprive future generations to quietly walk among the wildlife as intended by Governor Thompson.

The residents who have settled in the northern area as permanent residents should be consulted on whether the original master plan for the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area should be strictly upheld. Why not set up a website for surveying the citizens by zip code and publicize the survey being taken on public radio?

If anything should be proposed in considering an expansion of ATV trails, it should be to strengthen the current restrictions designed to insure the natural settings are protected long into the future for generations to come. Surrendering to money interests will be regretted most of all when years from now a grandparent attempts to explain to a grandchild how special The Turtle Flambeau Flowage once was when people quietly lived among the wildlife in their natural habitat before ATV’s were allowed to invade the area which scared off the wildlife.

We urge those who will evaluate this decision will not be shortsighted. Please carefully consider the legacy of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area as it was envisioned by Governor Thompson.

Jean & Marty Burns
4610W Camp Nokomis Rd
Mercer, WI 54547
Hello John- My name is Ken and I have had a cabin on the flowage since 1985-also a property owner since 1976. I've have seen the many changes in the area come & go. To open more wild areas around the flowage for atv's-utv's and whatever else they can ride will only decrease the wildness & the magic that that land give us. You know damn well the atv's will go out of bounds, (off trail), go from bar to bar, (maybe drinking a little?) contribute a tremendous amount of excess noise, and of course destroy existing trails & plant growth. Let them stay on the blacktop and gravel roads. After spending the last week at the cabin, I observed 2 very serious snowmobile accidents with a short distance of my cabin, as you know their has been quite a few more in the area recently. Is this what the state wants? More uncontrolled drunks tearing all over on their machines? I prefer to walk in and walk out and leave everything the way it was before I got there. It will be a tragedy to allow anymore “recreational vehicle” traffic than there already is. I'd much rather hear the call of the loon, and the howl of the wolf than the noisy, gas fume stinking, out of control recreational vehicles. Thanks for listening- I hope smart decisions will be made. The land is too fragile for this type of abuse and the effects it will have on so many people that use it peacefully. Thanks for your time- Ken Koutnik
Gentlemen,

We write to you to express our opposition to the proposed amendment of the Master Plan of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Water Area to allow new ATV and snowmobile trails.

In 2011, after extensive research of our great state, we bought a lot on Trude Lake based on the fact that it was within the boundaries of this great Master Plan. We decided it was worth the extra dollars for the lot because the area was so surreal and tranquil. We are hoping this can be the case in the future for many generations.

It appears to us that this subject keeps arising because a few business people feel it will greatly help their business without regard to how it will change our investments. It also begs the question, are there also some large corporate political donations by the snowmobile and ATV companies looming in the background putting pressure to build more trails.

Please consider preserving one of Wisconsin's last big wilderness areas of the north. Give consideration to the wildlife, wild plant species, hunters, campers, silent sport enthusiasts and future generations. Please look at the past surveys of the people of the TFFTL Association and the Iron County survey which point to the overwhelming message of no needs for further trail expansion. We would also ask that you talk to the people in the area affected by the new trail proposal and ask them what they think of the action of the Mercer Town Board, last year, opening Popko Circle East & West. Ask them how well that is going with snowmobilers and ATV’s regularly traveling down the center of the road, some high speed travel. We experienced a snowmobiler and ATV doing donuts in front of our vehicle last month from Kein Road to the Trude Lake Bridge. You may want to ask the Town Board how well the snowmobilers are handling the new paved bike trail in Mercer which is supposed to be off limits to snowmobilers.

Please help keep our Scenic Water Area tranquil!

Your professionalism is much appreciated, as is the entire DNR of Wisconsin. We are happy to have you and the wonderful things you do to let us enjoy our beautiful State!

Henry & Janice Carstens  
4518 W Charlotte’s Way  
Mercer, WI 54547

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Dear Mr. Pohlman-

I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed amendment to the Master Plan of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) that would permit construction of new ATV trails.

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is a unique ecosystem in the upper Midwest, with one of the best fisheries in Wisconsin and excellent opportunities for hunting and outdoor activities. I am concerned about the potential degradation that may be caused by any further construction of ATV trails in the area.

Iron County already has Wisconsin's largest ATV system, and the construction of this proposed trail at Hadley Rd. would simply provide a shortcut between Popkos Circle, a road which is already connected to itself. Recent surveys that I believe you are aware of show that even the majority of ATV users in the area oppose the construction of this trail.

I hope that you consider all of the comments that will be submitted on this topic before making a decision. It seems to me that this is a project that doesn't solve any current problem and that is opposed by the majority of the people who would benefit from this trail. Thank you for your time.

Chris Prechel
Dear John and Brett:

I am writing to provide some comments on the proposed ATV trail for the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area which is currently under consideration for a master plan amendment. I am a resident of Mercer and have property on Popko Circle (the north side of the flowage) as well as on the Horseshoe section of the flowage. While I have been active with the lake association for many years, I am writing as a private citizen.

You are both probably aware of how divisive this proposal has been in the local community. As is often the case, these kind of trail questions tend to create conflict between non-motorized and motorized user groups. The issue for the Scenic Waters area is further complicated by the geology and landscape which includes many wetlands, rocky geological features, as well as streams and the lakes themselves. There are some trail alternatives that have been discussed that cross private land and already have roads and uplands might be good candidates for the trail. Regrettfully, even some of the main trail proponents who own resorts nearby have not wanted to allow access on their own lands for this use.

The elephant in the room is always the potential impacts created by occasional ATV riders who do not follow the rules and create problems by trespass, impacting wet areas, etc. While the Town of Mercer and County have allowed ATV routes to be established on Popko Circle and parts of County FF, the local roads are very curvy and pose traffic hazards, thus making county officials less than enthusiastic about additional ATV/UTV use. I have also heard bike riders comment on increased gravel from ATV’s on roads creating hazards. Correspondingly I have heard complaints from local residents that bike riders slow traffic and create hazards.

The two major concerns of local citizens opposing the trail seem to be the noise and disruption that can be caused by ATV and UTV riders, and the potential impacts on sensitive resources such as wetlands. The opening of Popko Circle and FF as an ATV route does not seem to have resolved the concerns of area residents related to noise, nor the interests of riders who apparently still prefer a trail to a route. I am sure that you have been informed on the various public surveys on needs for ATV/UTV trails that were conducted by the lake association and county during its recent recreation planning effort. Those surveys did not show a large amount of support for additional ATV/UTV trails. That said, it seems clear that political forces are likely to force the DNR to develop a trail regardless of overall public sentiment. I believe a majority of recent public input for the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest did not support increased ATV trails but that trails will be developed regardless.

I would urge the department to try to bring parties together to find a win win solution for this situation. First, however, the WDNR guidelines on establishment of trails should be followed, sensitive areas avoided, and impacts to local residents and non motorized users minimized. If a trail can not meet the department guidelines, for example on wetland protection, then the trail should not be built. However if a route is determined to have negligible environmental impacts, perhaps there is a way revisit the Roughed Grouse area and consider ways to incorporate additional non motorized loop trails as a benefit to offset the impacts on local residents who will shoulder the burden of the increased noise and disturbance. Perhaps some fat tire/winter biking trails along the lines of the WinMan trails in Manitowish Waters could be developed, or loop cross country ski and hiking trails in the Ruffed Grouse area. Perhaps a loop bike trail could be established along Popko Circle and FF. I think that Big Island would be another excellent location for loop fat tire or cross country ski trails. I also would urge the department to consider hiking or cross country ski trails in the Springstead section of the Scenic Waters Area. There is also the issue of possible impacts on Lake of the Falls County
park. Perhaps some partnership could be developed with the county to reduce erosion already occurring at that site and to provide equipment to prevent invasive species issues which can be carried on ATVs.

Thank you for considering my comments on this topic.

Sincerely,
Terry Daulton
3310 N Kein Rd
Mercer, WI 54547

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Terry Daulton
3310 N Kein Rd
Mercer, Wi 54547
715-476-3530
715-776-0081 cell
tdaulton@centurytel.net
To the Wisconsin DNR:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any alteration of the Master Plan for the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area that would expand access to motorized vehicles. In the first place, Iron Country is abundantly provided with trails for ATVs and UTVs. There is, so far as I know, no doctrine of "manifest destiny" that says every trail in the county must connect with every other one. We are already sharing the roads with them: must we share PROTECTED woodlands and wetlands as well? Of course not, and it is your job to make sure that doesn't come to pass. Secondly, the TFSWA is a unique environmental resource—a place where serious research has taken place and still does take place, a place where people can camp without hearing boom boxes or televisions, a place where one can find quiet and solitude even on a July afternoon. Serious environmental values were at play when the decision to purchase the property was taken, and they were publicly invoked throughout that process. To run an ATV trail through the property would be an act wildly at variance with those values—values, I might add, that are in the citizen-driven Master Plan under which the flowage now operates. Third, I want to counter the claim, sometimes advanced by the gas and rubber crowd, that preserving wilderness serves only elitist interests. How many big semi-wilderness properties does the state have? Don't some of Wisconsin's outdoor enthusiasts deserve a place that is a little bit different, a little bit harder to access, and a great deal more rewarding to get to know, than the bulk of state properties? Fourth, I know, and you must know, that this is the nose of the camel under the tent. The gas and rubber crowd will be back in short time, urging expansion of trails throughout the TFSWA. They know no compromise.

This issue is of particular importance to me. In a few weeks I will be publishing a history of the TFF, entitled: An Accidental Jewel: Wisconsin's Turtle Flambeau Flowage. This is not a coffee table book full of scenic pictures. It is a scholarly study—years in the making—of the origin and evolution of the flowage—with, I might add, extensive coverage of WDNR activities. I am attaching two excerpts from the proof of this book—one on the purchase, the other from the epilogue. I respectfully ask that you read these attachments. I sincerely believe they provide perspectives that will assist you in making the right decision—the decision that protects and preserves the TFF.

(If you pull them off onto your desktop, they can easily be rotated into the correct position. I am terrible with computer formatting.)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hittle
4606 Timber Row
Appleton, WI
The two parties affixed their signatures to the MOU on August 23, 1990. On the same day, the Natural Resources Board, at a meeting in Dodgeville, approved the purchase of the flowage. The price was set at $9,121,000 with payments to be made over a two-year period (half in 1990 and half in 1991). An interest payment to the CFIC in the amount of $190,200 brought the total purchase price to $9,321,200—somewhat short of $1,300 per acre. The press release indicated that the state would be acquiring 244 miles of mainland shoreline, 143 islands, 11,125 acres of water, 8,477 acres of woodland, and 3,700 acres of wetland. The total, 23,572 acres, would make this the largest purchase of recreational land ever by the state. (The master plan of 1991, for reasons unknown, sets the purchase at 24,512 acres.) Some 260 private owners and 11 resort owners would retain full ownership of their property—which amounts to somewhere between 3 to 10 percent of the mainland shoreline. The purchase did not cause any reduction in tax revenues for the towns of Mercer and Sherman for the simple reason that the CFIC was exempt from paying municipal taxes. Instead, the CFIC, which was classified as a "conservation and regulatory company," paid to the state an ad valorem tax (meaning "according to value") on its flowage property. This money went into the state's general purpose revenue, some of which found its way back to the municipalities under its shared revenue program.

Just two days later, Governor Thompson and Secretary Kaslowsky traveled to Mercer to formally sign the deal with the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company. In his remarks, the governor invoked a phrase that has become associated ever after with the flowage, even though he made clear that the phrase is inadequate. "One of Wisconsin's Crown Jewels ... A Nature Lover's Joy." These are the descriptions that this magnificent territory has evoked in various observers of the past few months. Seeing it now, and especially after that rare trip on the Flambeau, I don't believe they are adequate. No description is adequate to convey the beauty and magnificence of these trees, these lakes, this wildlife. The only sufficient response to it is to preserve it for future generations so that they do not need to rely on descriptions. The governor then went on to mention some of the flowage's iconoclastic wildlife, from eagles and ospreys to muskrats, and to hail the boaters, campers, fishermen, and "explorers of every variety who use the flowage. Before finishing, he graciously thanked the people who have maintained this area before us ... On behalf of all the people in Wisconsin today and generations to come, I applaud you all and recognize the efforts of the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company, the many nearby landowners, and the people of Iron County for watching over this special place." With these words, a government with a modest environmental record turned over to the protection of the state, on behalf of our children and our children's children—to preserve ... to honor ... and to cherish," a flowage once reviled by conservationists for the damage it had done to pristine headwater country. The "Crown Jewel," seared in a string of historical treaties, now belonged to the citizens of Wisconsin. It was a good moment for the governor, for the residents of the flowage locale and nearby communities, and for the citizens of the state.
But as the flowage grew into something other than a big pool of water in private hands, more and more individuals, groups, and government agencies stepped forward to advance their interests in this resource. Today, the flowage finds itself at the center of a complex spider web woven by an ever-growing assemblage of institutions. At the anchor points of this web one finds the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company, the state-chartered owner of the dam; Xcel Energy, the actual operator of the dam; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; the Wisconsin Chippewa bands; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the towns of Mercer and Sherman; the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department; and the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trade Lake Property Owners’ Association. Also at play in this web are local promotional organizations, such as the Mercer and Park Falls chambers of commerce and the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Association. When some issue arises that affects the flowage, the interested parties scuttle to the center of the web to defend threatened interests or advance favorite agendas. Negotiating this web requires patience and great political skills—polices here understood in the broadest possible sense. Mother Nature, of course, has had a lot to say about the character of this flowage and will no doubt continue to do so. But it must be remembered that human decisions brought this body of water into being in the first place, and they have modified its character ever after. It would be foolish to think that the future will be otherwise.

The story of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage lends itself to some broader kinds of observations about our world. First, sets describing natural systems do not necessarily impose a death sentence on these systems. They are surprisingly resilient and capable of reshaping themselves in response to disruption. Second, as much we may have tried to separate in our minds the “natural” and the “wild” from the “civilized” when thinking about or experiencing a location untouched by human development, we often overlook both overt and subtle connections between these two ideal realms. For no “natural” setting, once society encounters it, can remain pristine, or wholly apart from the humanly constructed world about it. This means, in turn, that our sense of the wild, if fully thought through, is necessarily touched by compromise. Third, over the course of time, as society itself grows in complexity, so too does the relationship between the natural and the civilized.

Slightly reconfigured, these observations lead directly back to the flowage and to a striking double dose of irony. In the first instance, human intervention, in an effort to tame the wild, inadvertently brought into existence this beautiful scenic area, one known and loved for its “natural” and “wild” character. And second, and perhaps more telling, this natural and wild environment is not wholly self-sustaining, if by that one means keeping it pretty much as it is. As paradoxical as it may seem, continuing human intervention of a purposeful and knowledgeable kind will be needed if the flowage is to maintain its “wilderness” character into the future, even as it undergoes the kinds of changes that are inevitable for any naturally evolving ecosystem.

And what of the prospects for the future? One moment in the history of the flowage brings sharply into focus the element of pre-eminence that haunts our efforts to conserve the natural world. In October of 1964, August Frey, the state’s research director, and James Formany, attorney for the agency Frey headed up, visited the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. For Frey, this was a bittersweet return to hallowed ground. Well before the flowage had come into being, he and a handful of friends had built a camp along the banks of either the Turtle or Flambeau Rivers (the account of this moment
does not specify which). When Sherry was securing lands for his proposed reservoir, these owners chose to sign away flowage rights up to the high-water mark in return for a cash payment and the retention of their unflooded land. As it turned out, though, this decision was followed by an unanticipated outcome: the waters of the flowage began their inexorable rise and lapped up within a few feet of the buildings. What now lay before Frey’s eyes was a veritable nightmare: “Gaunt dead trees up to their necks or up to their waists in water. Their bark has rotted away, their trunks are bleached white, and their fallen branches are afloat on the waters. Mile after mile of desolate shore is covered by this driftwood.”

As I have argued earlier, these conditions, while deplorable in the eyes of some, were thrilling, even enticing, sight for others. Frey’s misgivings, however, had a different referent, as this was the time when the state was considering buying land along the Flambeau River from below the Turtle-Flambeau Dam downstream to Hawkins. Frey’s research department had opposed the purchase, in no small measure because of his experience with the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. His worry, in short, was simple: what if the state acquired the land along the Flambeau River and then a power company put in a dam? A possible response to this concern had been put forward earlier by Judge Asa Owen of Phillips. Americans need, Phillips asserted, “faith in their democratic institutions. They must trust that if a state forest is built on the Flambeau, the Conservation Department and the Public Service Commission will protect it.” Frey remained a skeptic, and could imagine approving the project only if ironclad guarantees against its exploitation were written into any agreement.

Today, of course, we look out on a flowage of great beauty and natural richness—even if many an angler would find it even more alluring if some substantial portion of the lost driftwood were to reappear. But the same kind of concern that tormented Frey cannot help but creep into the back of one’s mind. The state’s purchase of the flowage rendered the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources the long-term protector of the flowage. This situation is all well and good provided that the WDNR is a healthy institution with a proper measure of independence. Yet recent years have seen the department undergo severe budget cuts, reductions in scientific staff, and interference from hostile legislatures; and an initiative to depose the Natural Resources Board (the state agency that sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources) of its independence was only narrowly beaten back. More troubling still, plans to completely dismember the WDNR have circulated through the halls of Wisconsin government during the past two bienniums. One cannot help but question the capability of a diminished and demagnetized WDNR—to say nothing of a disaggregated set of resource agencies were the WDNR to be broken up—to freely articulate a land ethic (to borrow a term central to Aldo Leopold’s thinking) and to actively defend natural resources under challenge. That it be able to do both is absolutely critical if the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is to retain its special character into the future.

Judge Owen would no doubt counsel us to have faith in our institutions, and Frey, one suspects, would mostly fret about the future. But neither sitting back and trusting nor being paralyzed in anticipation of the worst, it seems, is a suitable posture. We might, instead, look to history, which can indeed teach lessons. Here we have seen that the intricate interplay—sometimes in cooperation, sometimes in conflict—of industry, government, Chippewa tribes, natural resource professionals, and an interested citizenry has shaped the character of today’s TFFWA. The lesson for all is both clear and admonitory: to expect the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, in all its richness, to persist well into the future without actively working on its behalf would be
to ignore the very dynamic that brought it to its present state. Inactivity on the part of those who have responsibility for and a deep interest in the borough would represent a dangerous indifference to history and could well imperil this storied and treasured resource.
Dear DNR,

I am writing to you to let you know our opposition to the proposed amendment to the Master Plan for the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. This proposal would allow for the construction of new ATV trails in the wilderness area.

We purchased and improved a cabin on the shore of Trude Lake (which is attached to the Turtle Flambeau Flowage) expressly for the reason that this was a state designated wilderness area that was to be protected as such. Besides enjoying the cabin ourselves, we have rented it out to visitors for many years who come here for the beauty and solitude of this natural area. We keep a log book at the cabin that solicits our guests' comments and virtually everyone has commented on how much they enjoyed the quiet and solitude of this wilderness area. They come back year after year because of the special area this is. These quiet sport tourists spend significant dollars in the community also. This proposed slow destruction of the wilderness area also degrades the value of our property and the reason we located and invested here. We have purposely kept natural cover between our cabin and the water so we would have as little impact as is reasonable on canoeists and boaters enjoying the beautiful natural shoreline. We know our actions are aligned with most DNR employees' feelings about how they would like lakeside property owners to maintain the shoreline. We try to personally be good stewards of the land that we all enjoy as citizens of the state.

We are dismayed that the proponents of more ATV trails are pushing to open up the main wilderness tract of land to these noisy and polluting vehicles. This would be a tragedy since this area is one of the last remaining large wilderness areas in Wisconsin. It is home to many species of free roaming animals that would be harmed by allowing noisy ATV trails into this area. These animal species include eagles, bobcats, loons, wolves, fishers, otter, snowshoe hare, mink, beaver, deer, and the occasional moose. This area is enjoyed by many quiet wilderness sport enthusiasts such as hikers, birders, cross country skiers, snow shoers, canoeists and campers who come here to enjoy the area with as little impact on the environment as possible. Hunters and fishermen will also be disturbed by the roar of ATVs going up and down the trails in this wilderness area. The introduction of ATV trails into this area is totally incompatible with why this land was purchased by the state to begin with and would be disruptive to the multitude of people who live and visit here primarily because of the wilderness.

This area was purchased in 1992 and recognized by Republican Governor Tommy Thompson as a protected wilderness area. That is what our tax dollars were supposed to be purchasing for the state of Wisconsin out of a fund established for that purpose. This is a truly wild area of forest, wetland and river. The 180 mile shoreline of white pine and birch surrounds the 14,000 acre flowage. There are only a few areas like this left in Wisconsin. It is a true Wisconsin treasure.

The proponents for opening up more ATV trails represent a small minority of the citizens and landowners in Iron County and the immediately affected property owners. ATV clubs have been politicking for putting ATV trails in all over Iron County. Iron County already has more ATV trail miles than any other county in the state. Iron County surveyed its citizens who overwhelmingly said the county had enough ATV trails already. There are some areas that have private homes and cabins surrounding the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. They have a very active lake association, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake Property Owners' Association (TFTLA), that works hard to protect the flowage and the surrounding land from environmental damage. They volunteer hundreds of hours of work to get rid of invasive species,
do water testing and work to keep the area as wild as possible. There are approximately 180 private parcels of property on the flowage. The lake association has an active board of directors and has a membership of around 200 members regular members. Most have properties on the flowage and some are special members (most of these have properties near the flowage). The Lake Association performed a survey of its members, who were overwhelmingly opposed to putting new ATV trails through this area.

So the bottom line is that based on surveys conducted by Iron County and the local Lake Association, the significant majority of the state's citizens in the area are strongly opposed to adding any more ATV trails in the area. This opposition is also in line with the purpose of the state's original purchase of this public land as evidenced by the Master Plan for the area. We would ask that if the DNR is going to seriously contemplate ruling against the majority of people who live in the area and the county who do not want anymore ATV trails, to at least conduct public hearings in the area, perform an extensive environmental impact project with report (since this is a state designated wilderness area which was intended to remain as such for perpetuity) before moving forward with any decision. Most importantly, please keep an open mind and make sure that all the citizens' opinions are heard and please listen to what the majority of residents have said via two surveys conducted by two respected organizations.

One last thing...........We have always admired the work of the DNR to protect our natural resources for the enjoyment of our citizens now and in the future. The DNR and its dedicated employees have a long history of doing what is right for our citizens and our natural environment. We have always felt good about paying the fees for permits and stamps for fishing and hunting because we know that it goes to support the DNR's efforts to preserve our land and waters and wild animals for generations to come. We know there is a lot of pressure on the DNR from politicians who have their own agendas. The DNR has tried as much as possible to take a scientific and long-term approach regarding the protection of our natural lands and waters. Politicians come and go and are often very short-sighted and pander to small groups for various political reasons. It takes courage to stand for what is right for the long-term benefit of our great state. I hope the DNR and its staff is able to be brave, exercise leadership, and stand up for what is right for our state. This is why most DNR employees went into this profession and have joined the WI DNR. We hope this commitment and mission doesn't change for the worse in the future.

Thank you in advance to listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Millard and Mary Johnson
RR 4670 W Camp Nokomis Rd.
Mercer, WI

Millard's cell ph number: 608-220-0450

On Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:04 AM, Jeffrey Malison <jimalison@wisc.edu> wrote:
To the Wisconsin DNR:

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the proposed amendment to the Master Plan for the Turtle Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) that would permit the construction of new ATV trails in the area. We oppose the development of new trails in this area for several reasons.

1. We built our retirement home specifically adjacent to the TFSWA because of the intent and the #1 objective of the current Master Plan, which is to protect, maintain and enhance the generally wild and undeveloped scenic beauty of the area. New ATV trails are clearly incompatible with this intent. We sold a home in the Eagle River area and moved here because of the relatively undeveloped nature of this area, and of the increasing development and noise in Eagle River.

2. An overwhelming majority of our neighbors in this area agree with our opinions. Surveys conducted by our Property
Owners Association and Iron County demonstrate this fact. Most of us opposed the opening of Mercer Town roads as ATV routes. But the town board, bullied by the interests of ATV clubs, voted against the opinion of residents. The opening of our roads to ATV traffic has greatly increased the noise and disturbance in our area, and new trails in the TFSWA will only exacerbate this problem. Many of us feel that our property values will decline as a result of this increased noise and disturbance.

3. New ATV trails in the TFSWA will greatly increase the risk of various forms of environmental damage, including the spread of invasive species. Again, such new trail construction will run counter to the expressed goal of the Master Plan, which is to “preserve the scenic qualities of the TFSWA; protect plant and wildlife communities, especially endangered and threatened species”.

We recognize that public lands should be available for multiple user groups, and that appropriate ATV use on these lands should be included. We are, in fact, owners of an ATV ourselves. But we ask you to consider the fact that Iron County already has over 250 miles of ATV trails, more than any other area of the state. Most residents here feel that we do not need any additional motorized trails.

Many local residents like us spend a significant amount of money as well as countless volunteer hours assisting both county and DNR personnel on helping meet the goals and objectives of the current Master Plan. We work on providing water quality data, monitoring and controlling invasive species, and assisting with fish management projects. I believe that our enthusiasm and input into these projects will wane if the DNR refuses to strongly consider the opinions of local residents on issues, such as new motorized trail development, that will have such a great negative impact on the very nature and character of this special area.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey and Leann Malison
4536 W Charlottes Way
Mercer, WI 54547
Cell 608-444-2769
E-MAIL jmalison@wisc.edu

"Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere we believe the great state University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found.” - UW-Madison committee, 1894.
Mr. Pohlman,

My understanding is that you are collecting public comment regarding changes to the TFSWA Master Plan, including the construction of ATV trails, or the expansion of ATV use in general. Thank you for undertaking this challenging task. I think I speak for many that the area has ample ATV and other motorized access and activities and expansion is not warranted or wanted. As a long-term owner and user of the area, I have first-hand knowledge of changing use patterns, and I know that the we're past balanced use. The frequency and numbers of riders are already detrimental to other compatible recreational uses and are inconsistent with the objectives of the 1995 Master Plan.

For background, I've owned and recreated in the TFSWA boundary area since 1983 where I currently own two cabins on two lots in the TFSWA boundary area and I am also partial owner of a third parcel of 20 acres that is directly adjacent to State Land. I grew up hunting on the state's land within the boundary and have walked, canoed, snow-shoed, hunted, berry-picked, shed hunted, and fished countless miles of trails. I still have the newspaper article my dad gave me in the 80s when State purchased the flowage, extolling it as "the jewel of the Northwoods" and Wisconsin's Boundary Waters. He's dead now, but he loved the Flowage and was so proud of Wisconsin for purchasing it and prioritizing its wilderness feel.

First, thank you to the State of Wisconsin for having the foresight to preserve wild areas and to the Department of Natural Resources for being the best neighbor one can imagine. Second, thank you for maintaining the balancing act set forth in the 1995 Master Plan on state lands that envisioned a wide range of compatible recreational uses consistent with the "wild, undeveloped scenic beauty" of the area. My "public input" is simple: additional access of ATVs is detrimental and not necessary. Expanding their use comes at the expense of other compatible uses: It deters and lessens use and enjoyment by hikers, foot hunters, foragers, back-country fishers, and even just kids exploring. It benefits the few to the detriment of the many. There are plenty of ATV access areas already and their omni-presence degrades attributes of the TFSWA that the non-ATVers seek. I have used ATVs and snowmobiles to recreate and I understand their allure. But, it's too much of a "good" thing. Snowmobiles are enough by themselves. There is hardly a time from 10 AM to 3AM when the woods aren't alive with their whirring, and they streak by constantly on the flowage back and forth, back and forth destroying the amazing wilderness experience of ice fishing a huge, undeveloped body of water. In summer and fall, we experience a modicum of peace, although that's already curtailed since the County opened multiple roads and trails for their access (an action that within a week resulted in an alcohol-related 4-wheeler accident just down from my cabin). Even from just a definitional perspective, today’s ATVs can barely be considered outdoor recreation, as they are increasingly heated and plexiglass encased. They already have the roads and plenty of trails; please don't take away more recreational opportunities from the non-ATVers.

Over 35 years, I've brought in countless visitors to enjoy the area, from all manner of places to experience the Flowage area. This year alone, visitors from Florida, Connecticut, Virginia, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, Oregon, and a bunch of "down staters". The primary draw is the wilderness-like experience and feeling of solitude. We drive the economy, but we don't drive ATVs. We spend freely in bait shops, taverns, grocery stores, gas stations, hardware stores, and restaurants. We buy propane, rent equipment, get equipment fixed, and employ plumbers, masons, painters, roofers, and tree guys (that's just this year). I have a local insurance agent, lawyer, and real estate agent, and, of course, my taxes stay local. Today, I'm trying to show my two children the value of public lands to wildlife, fish, and people, teaching them to enjoy the woods and waters of the TFSWA. We do it on foot, and that enjoyment is ruined when
you've walked three miles into the woods and yet another ATV drives up behind you. There needs to be places where folks can get lost and be by themselves; places to go where the hunter/fisher/forager is rewarded by solitude when they go further in. That is what makes the TFSWA, Iron Co, and Wisconsin great. The original TFSWA Master Plan valued those aspects. Please don’t further degrade non-motorized uses by further by expanding ATV access.

Thank you for opportunity to provide input.

Karl Gustavson
To the Wisconsin DNR:

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the proposed amendment to the Master Plan for the Turtle Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) that would permit the construction of new ATV trails in the area. We oppose the development of new trails in this area for several reasons.

1. We built our retirement home specifically adjacent to the TFSWA because of the intent and the #1 objective of the current Master Plan, which is to protect, maintain and enhance the generally wild and undeveloped scenic beauty of the area. New ATV trails are clearly incompatible with this intent. We sold a home in the Eagle River area and moved here because of the relatively undeveloped nature of this area, and of the increasing development and noise in Eagle River.

2. An overwhelming majority of our neighbors in this area agree with our opinions. Surveys conducted by our Property Owners Association and Iron County demonstrate this fact. Most of us opposed the opening of Mercer Town roads as ATV routes. But the town board, bullied by the interests of ATV clubs, voted against the opinion of residents. The opening of our roads to ATV traffic has greatly increased the noise and disturbance in our area, and new trails in the TFSWA will only exacerbate this problem. Many of us feel that our property values will decline as a result of this increased noise and disturbance.

3. New ATV trails in the TFSWA will greatly increase the risk of various forms of environmental damage, including the spread of invasive species. Again, such new trail construction will run counter to the expressed goal of the Master Plan, which is to "preserve the scenic qualities of the TFSWA; protect plant and wildlife communities, especially endangered and threatened species."

We recognize that public lands should be available for multiple user groups, and that appropriate ATV use on these lands should be included. We are, in fact, owners of an ATV ourselves. But we ask you to consider the fact that Iron County already has over 250 miles of ATV trails, more than any other area of the state. Most residents here feel that we do not need any additional motorized trails.

Many local residents like us spend a significant amount of money as well as countless volunteer hours assisting both county and DNR personnel on helping meet the goals and objectives of the current Master Plan. We work on providing water quality data, monitoring and controlling invasive species, and assisting with fish management projects. I believe that our enthusiasm and input into these projects will wane if the DNR refuses to strongly consider the opinions of local residents on issues, such as new motorized trail development, that will have such a great negative impact on the very nature and character of this special area.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey and Leann Malison
4536 W Charlotte's Way
Mercer, WI 54547
Cell 608-444-2769
E-MAIL jmalison@wisc.edu
John, I am very much in support of the new proposed ATV and hopefully snowmobile access trails in Iron county. I plan to retire there and currently own 100 acres on Lake of the Falls and 2 lots which I will be building on at Trude Lake on Camp Nokomis Rd. as retirement approaches. We own 1 UTV and 2 ATV’s (all registered) and closely follow the guidelines and rules for the usage of them. The new trail from Popko Circle would be scenic, as we have used the hiking trails there, and would be much shorter (and safer) for us to us to get to Mercer. It would cut down on noise and tire wear too! I applaud your efforts in this and will be encouraging my friends and family in the area to support them as well.

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Hi John

I’m writing you in regards to the Master Plan Amendment for the Turtle Flambeau Flowsage Scenic Water Area for an ATV/UTV trail off of Hadley Brush Pit Road. The DNR has, or will be shortly, receiving a letter from the Turtle Flambeau Trude Lake Property Owners Association expressing opposition to the new trail. They are going to quote numbers of our membership from a 2014 survey that indicates over 80% of our membership is against the trail when this trail wasn’t even under consideration or part of the survey. I am a member of this association and have been a property owner for almost 30 years and am in total support for this trail as are many members. If you ready this 4 year old survey, the questions are very slanted against ATV usage and the numbers are outdated. Not only will this trail be enjoyed by the public, it will also cut down on possible conflict usage for Popkos Circle and make it a bit quieter which is what the association complains about.

The leadership of the association is trying to steer the membership instead of letting out voices be heard. Thanks in advance for your consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely
Joe Vlasak

Joseph Vlasak
Director of Customer Technical and Equipment Service - Silgan Containers
Office - 262-569-5230
Cell - 414-870-2020
Fax - 262-569-5226
E-mail - Jvlasak@silgancollectors.com
Gentleman,

My name is Scott O'Sullivan and I wish to voice my personal support for the Hadley Road Trail in Iron County. My wife and I own a vacation home in close proximity to the Hadley Road proposed ATV/UTV use trail. We are frequent users of the Popko Circle route to both utilize dining at the establishments in the area as well as a route to access Swamp Creek Road and trail systems in that area. One of downsides of this route is the amount of black top riding that is incurred, at times shifting our decision to head in that direction. The Hadley Road Trail would help eliminate a portion of this, keep some of the slower moving Atv and Utv traffic off the that portion of the road, as well as eliminate some of noise for homeowners along this route.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Scott O'Sullivan
To the Wisconsin DNR:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake Property Owners Association. Please find the attached letter expressing our opposition to the proposed amendment to the Master Plan for the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area - [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/NorthwoodsAmendments/](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/NorthwoodsAmendments/). Feel free to contact me with any questions or further information.

Jeffrey A. Malison, President, Board of Directors, Turtle Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake Property Owners Association
Cell 608-444-2769
E-MAIL: jmalison@wisc.edu

"Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere we believe the great state University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found." - UW-Madison committee, 1894.
TO: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

On behalf of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. (TFF-TL POA), I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for us to comment on the proposed ATV amendments to the Master Plan for the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA). The mission of our Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Flowage and its surroundings for the collective interests of both our members and the general public. We currently have over 170 members who own property on or near the TFF or Trude Lake.

Our Association is opposed to any amendments to the Master Plan that would allow for new ATV trail development within the TFSWA. We oppose such amendments for two primary reasons.

First, the results of recent surveys taken both of our members and of residents and key stakeholder groups of Iron County clearly show strong opposition to such development. The results of a 2014 survey of our members are available here - TFF-TL-POA Survey 2014. Our survey found that 80% of our members opposed new ATV trails within the TFSWA. In addition, over 50% of current ATV users also opposed new ATV trails within the TFSWA. The survey also contains details on the nature of concerns expressed by many of our members – e.g., environmental and aesthetic impacts.

Beyond the scope of just our members, a recent county-wide assessment of outdoor recreation had results to almost identical to ours. The 2016-2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan for Iron County can be viewed here - Iron County Plan. The plan includes the results of a survey conducted in 2015. The plan points out that Iron County already "boasts Wisconsin's largest ATV system". And the survey indicates that 80% of the respondents did not support additional ATV trail development.

Second, the TFSWA is recognized as a unique and special area of the state. The main goal of the Master Plan is to "preserve the scenic qualities of the TFSWA; protect plant and wildlife communities, especially endangered and threatened species; provide interpretive and educational information; and accommodate compatible recreational opportunities for the general public". Under this goal, the #1 objective is to "protect, maintain and enhance the generally wild and undeveloped scenic beauty..." We believe that an amendment to this plan to allow for additional motorized trail
development would radically alter the entire scope of the management plan and go contrary to the #1 objective.

We would also like to point out that the intent of the Master Plan amendment is "to create linkages in the larger regional trail networks". We are not aware of any new proposed trail that would create such a linkage. The only new ATV trail that has been discussed with us for the TFSWA would simply connect two sections of a semi-circular road (Popkos Circle) that currently serves as an ATV route and is already connected to itself.

We intend to stay involved with this process, and would appreciate being notified of any related activities or developments.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Malison, President

TFF-TL POA Board Members: Tom Mowbray, Jim Kohl, Bill Stewart, Jim Moore, Randy Schubert, Diane O'Krongly, Ed Hryciuk, Jean Burns
Hi John,

My wife and I own a 2nd home on Trude lake which is part of the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. Specifically our parcel number is 0848-1100. 4660 Camp Nokomis Rd is the address. We've owned this property 10 years. It's come to our attention through the TTFTL Property Owners Association there is a proposal to add ATV Trails.

We are 100% against this.

We specifically sought out this area due to the TTF area being (as the DNR describes in the master plan change proposal): Today the flowage’s 100+ miles of wooded shoreline and 195 islands are viewed as a unique recreational resource and one of the state’s premier wilderness settings.

This is to say that this area is very different than Eagle River or Minocqua or even the Manitowish Waters area. We very much enjoy the profound 'silence' that you are able to experience at times. If you haven't been able to experience this I would invite you to stay at our place so you can experience it (we don't rent it out but we do let a lot of people use it as we built it to share).

I'm not an ATV'er and I certainly don't know a lot about the trail system but I understand Iron County already has the most miles of ATV trials of any county in the state. I'm sure you are aware that the town of Mercer recently approved the use of ATV's on any town road which includes Popko Circle...so it seems to me that because of that the ATV's ALREADY have access to the trail system. What that has done has already increased the noise in the area...Example: I thoroughly enjoy sitting on my dock after dark and star gazing and listening to the loons. This last year on multiple occasions after 10 pm I was able to hear multiple ATV's for many miles. People are using them to go to and from the bars. I realize that not all ATV's are loud but some certainly are.

Thanks for reading and I sincerely hope this change does not take place.

Thank you.
Chris Ederer

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John thanks for the note but this is still not right? You say there is more interest in bike riding and hiking then snowmobiling or atv ???? You better regroup and send the right survey. The only reason you do not have more atv and snowmobileing respondind is that there are no trails for atv your fault not the atv people. as for snowmobiling we do have trails there thank god we had them before you took that away from us. I have been in business for 35 years here and you guys wont work with the local people only the new people that move here and think they know better. We should have a combo atv snowmobile trail that all can use on your state land. Remember the people up north pay for that land too in taxes. Not happy with your thinking Bob weinkauf
John,

Good to talk with you this afternoon.

Attached are the results of the survey work our Property Owners group did in 2014. The issue of proposed ATV trails inside TFSWA boundary was a major topic of and one of the reasons for this survey to be done.

As I mentioned on the phone, the original issue for my call, Xcel Energy needing a Master Plan amendment for a dike improvement project, is likely moot. Sounds like their needs can be addressed with a variance process rather than a full blown plan amendment.

Please review the survey results and feel free to contact me with any questions. I am sure you will be getting lots of Survey Monkey responses from our members on this issue, and know the POA will send a letter concerning this matter.

Tom Mowbray
715.583.4523
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW
The 2014 Recreational Use Survey (“the survey”) was conducted during July and August of 2014. The survey was initiated by the Association’s Board of Directors in order to obtain measurable input and opinion from members on the topic of potential new or expanded recreational activities inside the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA). Survey results were analyzed with oversight from a (retired) professional survey analyst. Survey results will allow the Board to more clearly represent the interests of members.

Surveys were mailed to 181 members in early July 2014, with 134 completed surveys returned by August 25th. This is a return rate of 74%. This response rate is a significant sample of our membership and it is reasonable to conclude that the results are an accurate reflection of member opinions.

Included in the full Survey Response packet are the following items:
1. Executive Summary
2. Results Copy of Survey Questionnaire
3. Appendixes:
   A - Details of Concerns by Trail Type (Question 9)
   B - Detailed Analysis of Question 22 Responses
   C - Listing of Member Comments on Questions 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 21
   D - Listing of Member Comments at End of Survey

ANALYSIS

Section One of the survey covered general topics including member demographics; current recreational activity, interests and concerns; and also covered several fishing related issues. Survey responses were geographically diverse. Thirty-nine percent of responses came from full-time residents who vote locally, 61% were from seasonal members. Seventy-five percent of respondents have owned local property more than 10 years. Top responses to why property was purchased were fishing, scenic beauty, peace and tranquility and wildlife. Only 6% cited silent sports and 4% indicated motorized sports as important to purchasing property.

When asked about their top 5 recreational activities in the TFSWA, fishing, boating, hiking/walking, hunting, and canoeing/kayaking were top responses. Top responses regarding what new trails were wanted were hiking (19%) and cross country skiing (13%). Next were hunting, ATV and snowshoe trails, all at 10%.

On Question 9, noise and wetland damage were top concerns if new trails were proposed. Dust, trespass and overcrowding were next. Invasive species spread, water quality and user conflicts were near the bottom of member concerns on Question 9. It should be noted that when asked to indicate what type of trail respondents had concerns about, ATV trails were mentioned most frequently on 7 of 8 different types of concerns.

Also, please see Appendix A which has detailed charts of top concerns and related trail types.

The last part of Section One dealt mostly with several fishing related issues. Only 2% of members said their favorite type of fishing was motor trolling; Walleyes were the favorite species to fish for, and only a small
number (12%) of members had interest or participated in fishing tournaments. Finally, in Q14, 92% of respondents felt that views of seasonal residents should be considered when conducting local planning.

**Section Two** of the survey was intended to measure member views on recreational ATV use in and around the TFSWA. Questions 15-20 were for current ATV users.

Of those who ATV, 72% have property that borders on or has direct access to a current ATV route or trail. The vast majority (80%) do not trailer their ATV to a designated route or trail. More than 70% said that ATV routes were good or excellent, and 67% rated ATV trails as good or excellent.

Question 21 asked all respondents for their views on ATV use in general. Top responses were concerns about environmental (16%) and aesthetic impacts (15%) and concerns that ATV’s would stray from designated trails/routes (15%). In the middle of responses to Q21 were those who enjoyed ATV riding (8%), used ATV’s ice fishing (7%) or work (7%) and those who had safety concerns regarding ATV’s (7%). Only 5% of respondents indicated they wanted to access local businesses via ATV and 4% of respondents indicated they wanted more ATV trails.

It is interesting to compare the responses in Q21 with those in Q16/Q17. In Q21 there were 20 responses wanting new ATV trails. This is less than one-half of the current number of ATV users (55) shown in Q16/Q17. Another way of viewing this is that more than one-half of those responding as ATV users did not indicate they wanted more ATV trails.

**Section Three** of the survey (Questions 22-25) asked if members supported the Association’s position opposing new ATV trails inside the TFSWA, asked about support for other types of new recreational trails, and asked if members had received enough information to answer survey questions.

On Question 22, 80% of respondents supported the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA. This support was geographically widespread with Lake Bastine being the only area with less than 75% support for the Association position. For a detailed analysis of Q22, please see Appendix B which shows a break down by geographic area of property, and a breakdown by those who are voters in Mercer and Sherman.

Again, please review responses to Q22, and then review the number of responses to Q16/Q17. On Q22 only 25 members did not support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV trails inside the TFSWA. On Q16/17, fifty-five (55) members identified themselves as current ATV users. One logical take away is that a little over half of respondents who are current ATV users support the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV trails inside the TFSWA.

Q23 asked about development of other types of trails inside the TFSWA. Heavy support was shown for new Canoe/Kayak portages and new Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe Trails. Medium support was shown for new Bike and Dog Sled Trails, with lower levels of support for Horse and Snowmobile trails.

In Q24, over 90% felt they had enough information to respond to the survey and about one-half indicated they would be willing to attend or speak about recreational use issues at a public meeting.

**Closing** – First, thanks to everyone who responded to the survey and special thanks to those who took extra time to add their individual concerns and thoughts. Please see Appendix C and D for a complete listing of these concerns.
The survey was, in part, intended to supplement previous member surveys in 2001 and 2009 and was also designed to solicit member feedback about potential new recreational trails inside the TFSWA. Survey results give the Board measurable member input from members and will guide the Board’s thinking about development of new recreational opportunities inside the TFSWA.

Prior to this survey the Board had received some negative feedback about taking a position on the potential new ATV trail without a survey of member opinions. These survey results clearly indicate the vast-majority of respondents support the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV trails inside the TFSWA project boundary.

Please note that the Board has not taken any position on development of new ATV trails or routes outside of the TFSWA project boundary.

Finally we ask that all members keep in mind the Mission Statement for the Association. This is something that the Board takes seriously. It was developed back in 1996 when the Association was first formed, has been in our Bylaws since inception, and has been printed on the back cover of our newsletter for the last 8-9 years. The Mission Statement reads:

“*The purpose of the Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interest of members and the general public.*”
RESULTS COPY OF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

The goals and activities of the TFF-TL POA (the Association) are guided by our mission statement and by input from our members. The best way of obtaining measurable member input is through a survey. We previously conducted membership surveys in 2001 and 2009 and are now asking for your input again.

During the past year a number of questions regarding new or expanded recreational activity inside the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) have come to the attention of our Board. These include the Motor Trolling proposal, ATV Trail proposal, Fishing Tournament expansion, and new recreational uses like winter biking, dog sledding, etc. In order to more clearly represent the interests of our members, we are asking for your opinion and thoughts.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey. Summarized results of the survey will be available later this year.

Please circle your answers. Only circle one answer unless otherwise instructed. If a question does not apply, please skip it and go to the next question that does.

- Results are listed using percentage order of responses (alphabetical order used to list choices for initial survey questions)
- Number of Responses for each question is shown using a format of: \( N = xx \)

SECTION ONE – RESULTS

1. Which area most closely identifies the location of your property (or your membership status)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Bistine</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springstead Landing</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway Point/Merkle Lake</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgeon Bay Landing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe/Townline</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trude Lake</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Mile Creek</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray’s Landing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Where do you vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How much time do you spend at your Flowage property each year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-12 Months</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 Months</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1 Month</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8 Months</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How long have you been at your Flowage location?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 20 years</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20 Years</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15 Years</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 Years</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-5 Years</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. If you are a part time resident, when do you to spend time at the Flowage? (circle all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>(86)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>(85)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>(77)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>(55)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. What characteristics most attracted you to purchase property on or near the TFSWA? (circle all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>(112)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Beauty</td>
<td>(111)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Tranquility</td>
<td>(102)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>(97)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild/Rural Character</td>
<td>(88)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>(54)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silent Sports</td>
<td>(42)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Public Land</td>
<td>(35)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorized Sports</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(See Appendix C)

7. Please circle your primary recreational activities when in the TFSWA (circle top 5 activities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>(110)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>(84)</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking/Walking</td>
<td>(52)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>(49)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing/Kayaking</td>
<td>(41)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Watching</td>
<td>(34)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Riding (on-road)</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Riding</td>
<td>(20)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>(17)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Skiing</td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Bike Riding (off-road)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Watercraft Riding</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Sledding</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(See Appendix C)

8. What types of recreational trails would you like to see MORE of in the TFSWA? (circle all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Trails</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Ski Trails</td>
<td>(28)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting Trails</td>
<td>(27)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Trails</td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoe Trails</td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/Kayak Portage Trails</td>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Trails</td>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Trails</td>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Biking Trails</td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Biking Trails</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Sled Trails</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding Trails</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. If new recreational trails were proposed for creation inside the TFSWA, what concerns would you have? (circle all that apply and specify trail type)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. OVERALL CONCERNS</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>(78)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to Wetlands</td>
<td>(55)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dust</td>
<td>(42)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trespass on Private Land</td>
<td>(42)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcrowding</td>
<td>(41)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spread of Invasive Species</td>
<td>(32)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on Water Quality</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Concerns</td>
<td>(28)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Conflicts</td>
<td>(27)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (See Appendix C)</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 381

This chart shows number of members who indicated a concern, by concern type.

Example, 78 members indicated a concern with noise if new trails (of any kind) were proposed.

B. CONCERN BY TRAIL TYPE

See Appendix A for details of Concerns by Trail Type

10. If you fish, what is your favorite type of fishing?

| Traditional “Hook & Line” Fishing | (125) | 82% |
| Ice Fishing                      | (18)  | 12% |
| Fly Fishing                      | (6)   | 4%  |
| Motor Trolling in a Boat         | (3)   | 2%  |

N = 152

11. What fish species are you most interested in fishing for?

| Walleye                         | (106) | 45% |
| Panfish                         | (41)  | 18% |
| Musky                           | (35)  | 15% |
| Smallmouth Bass                 | (34)  | 15% |
| Northern Pike                   | (12)  | 5%  |
| Other                           | (5)   | 2%  |

N = 233

12. Are you interested in or do you participate in fishing tournaments?

| No                               | (115) | 88% |
| Yes                             | (16)  | 12% |

N = 131

13. If yes, for what species? (circle all that apply)

| Walleye                         | (12)  | 38% |
| Musky                           | (9)   | 28% |
| Bass                            | (7)   | 22% |
| Panfish                         | (4)   | 13% |

N = 32

14. Do you think it is important to take into account the concerns of seasonal residents as well as full-time residents (voters) when conducting local planning?

| Yes                              | (108) | 92% |
| No                               | (10)  | 8%  |

N = 118
SECTION TWO – RESULTS

Due to a potential proposal to develop new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA project boundary, the following section will help us to better understand member views on recreational ATV use in and around the TFSWA. Questions 15-20 are for current ATV users. If you do not own an ATV, please go to question 21.

Please note the difference between an ATV Route and an ATV Trail. Routes are generally on public roads specifically designated as such by a local ordinance. Trails normally are in an off-road corridor specifically designed for ATV use.

Questions 15 through 20 were answered only by those who are current ATV users.

15. If you own or rent an ATV, where do you ride your ATV? (circle all that apply)
   - On my own property (39) 36%
   - Designated ATV Routes (33) 31% N = 107
   - Designated ATV Trails (28) 26%
   - Other Private Property (7) 7% (w/ permission)

16. Does your local property border on or have direct access to a designated ATV Route or Trail?
   - Yes - Route (25) 45% N = 55
   - No (15) 27%
   - Yes – Both (14) 26%
   - Yes – Trail (1) 2%

17. Do you use a trailer to transport your ATV to designated ATV Routes or Trails?
   - No (4) 80%
   - Yes (11) 20% N = 55

18. What months of the year do you ride the most?
   - Fall (September - November) (29) 36% N = 81
   - Summer (June - August) (29) 36%
   - Winter (December - March) (12) 15%
   - Spring (April - May) (11) 14%

19. How do you rate the existing system and availability of ATV ROUTES in Iron County?
   - Good (26) 54% N = 51
   - Fair (13) 27%
   - Excellent (9) 19%
   - Poor (3) 6%

20. How do you rate the existing system and availability of ATV TRAILS in Iron County?
   - Good (24) 51% N = 47
   - Fair (13) 28%
   - Excellent (9) 19%
   - Poor (1) 2%

21. What do you think about ATV use in general? (circle all that apply)
   - I am concerned about environmental impacts of ATV’s in TFSWA (76) 16% N = 464
   - I am concerned about the aesthetic impacts of ATV’s in the TFSWA (71) 15%
   - I am concerned that ATV’s will not stay on designated Trails and Routes (69) 15%
   - I enjoy recreational ATV riding (37) 8%
   - I use ATV’s for Ice Fishing (35) 8%
   - I use ATV’s for Work (33) 7%
   - I am concerned about safety regarding ATV’s (31) 7%
   - I use ATV’s for Hunting (30) 6%
   - I would like to have more access to ATV Routes (on public roads) (23) 5%
   - I would like to be able to access local businesses via ATV (23) 5%
   - I would like to have more ATV Trails (20) 4%
   - Other
     (See Appendix C) (16) 3%
**SECTION THREE – RESULTS**

The TFSWA is managed by WI-DNR according to provisions of a Master Plan finalized in 1995. The Master Plan, in section H(6), states that “No new snowmobile or ATV trails are planned”, and in section H(5) states that that “Secondary roads not needed for public access will be closed to motorized vehicles to eliminate potential conflicts between recreational users.”

Based on the Association’s mission statement, Master Plan language (above), concerns about wetland damage, erosion and runoff at stream crossings and the potential for spread of invasive species on ATV tires, the Association has opposed new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA.

22. Do you support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV Trails on public land inside the TFSWA project boundary?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>N = 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(25)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Appendix B for Detailed Analysis of Question 22*

23. Please indicate your position on new development of other types of recreational trails inside the TFSWA project boundary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canoe or Kayak Trails (portages)</td>
<td>(82) 82%</td>
<td>(18) 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Trails</td>
<td>(71) 69%</td>
<td>(32) 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe Trails</td>
<td>(85) 83%</td>
<td>(18) 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Sled Trails</td>
<td>(50) 56%</td>
<td>(39) 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Trails</td>
<td>(32) 39%</td>
<td>(51) 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Trails</td>
<td>(39) 40%</td>
<td>(58) 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. Has the Association given you enough information about recreational use planning to respond to this survey?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>91%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>9%</th>
<th>N = 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(114)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25. With what you know about recreational use planning issues would you feel comfortable attending or commenting at a local meeting such as the Conservation Congress, Town or County Board, WI-DNR public meeting, etc.?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>47%</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>53%</th>
<th>N = 115</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(54)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(61)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the space below (or an additional sheet) to express other concerns or opinions.

*See Appendix D for Listing of Concerns/Opinions expressed by Members*

Name (optional)

*Please return by August 11, 2014 using the pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelope.*

(If return envelope is lost/misplaced, please return the survey to: TFF-TL POA, PO Box 631, Mercer, WI 54547)
APPENDIX A

Question 9 (B) - Member Concerns if new Trails were proposed for inside TFSWA
(Number of Responses by Type of Trail)

Concern: Noise

Concern: Damage to Wetlands

Concern: Overcrowding
**APPENDIX A**

**Question 9 (B) - Member Concerns if new Trails were proposed for inside TFSWA**

(Number of Responses by Type of Trail)

**Concern: Trespass on Private Lands**

**Concern: User Conflicts**

**Concern: Impact on Water Quality**
Detailed Analysis for Question #22 (which read):

"Do you support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV Trails on public land inside the TFSWA project boundary?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSES BY PROPERTY LOCATION</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Not Answered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Sturgeon Bay Landing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Lake Bastine</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 4-Mile Creek</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Norway Point/Merle Lake</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Springstead Landing</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Horseshoe/Townline</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Rat Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Trude Lake</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Special Member (not prop owner)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Property Location Given</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No members had property near Murray's Landing (Letter I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSES BY VOTING LOCATION</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Not Answered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Mercer</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Sherman (Springstead)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Other</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Voting Location Given</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**APPENDIX C**

This is a listing of written responses when “OTHER” was selected as an answer for Questions 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 21. Comments *are not* shown in any particular order.

**Q #6: What characteristics most attracted you to purchase property on or near the TFSWA?**
1. Master Plan saying no new motorized trails.
2. Trapping
3. Waterskiing
4. Not too many people
5. Business
6. Be near family
7. Proximity to Mountain Bike Trails (Hayward/Cable)
8. Snow
9. In my blood -- started at grandparent’s cabin in 1941 & have owned a cabin since 1966. Most of the above apply.
10. Family vacations

**Q #7: Please circle your primary recreational activities when in the TFSWA**
1. Hanging Out
2. Working around the cabin/property. Enjoying family activities, visiting surrounding towns.

**Q #8: What types of recreational trails would you like to see MORE of in the TFSWA?**
1. None (11 different members made same comment)
2. None, it means more traffic, more noise and more people.
3. None except biking trail from Mercer to Manitowish Waters.
4. Bike trail connecting to trail by Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters, etc.
5. Love to have nice bike trail along FF and Popko Circle – bicycle trails by roads not on them.
6. Connect Frontier Inn to Springstead Road.
7. Running trails

**Q #9: If new recreational trails were proposed for creation inside the TFSWA, what concerns would you have?**
1. Safety
2. Safety – we’ve noticed a marked increase of ATV’s on County FF since Popko Circle was opened as a route.
3. Since Popko Circle was opened to ATV’s Nokomis Road & Charlotte’s Way have become a “site seeing” route. Unappreciated when you bought property for tranquility!
4. Trail surface damage by horses, ATV, Snowmobiles
5. Trash – ATV’s

**Q #11: What species are you most interested in fishing for?**
1. All (5 different members made same comment)
APPENDIX C

Q #21: What do you think about ATV use in general?
1. There should not be an ATV route on Popko Circle. Right now this is being used as a trail.
2. Purchased property after reading Master Plan saying no new Motorized Trails.
3. ATV’s & jetski’s are totally inconsistent with a wilderness setting. More trails, ATV’s and traffic will destroy the character of the Flowage area.
4. I have already experienced excessive noise due to ATV’s being allowed on Popko. Also a group went down my road from Popko yet it’s not designated as ATV approved.
5. Noisy & obnoxious, they are usually speeding.
6. No worse than high HP boats.
7. I would enjoy riding an ATV for quiet easy riding which actually seems almost impossible because others would take advantage in a negative way. We have seen hunters shooting grouse on ATV’s. This is unacceptable!
8. We have more ATV trails in Iron County than any other county. Why do we need more! Is this a push by local business for more trails? Businesses need to use marketing, advertising, and customer service to attract customers, not ask local government for favors to benefit them solely.
9. Noise
10. ATV is another sign of the technology of taking. We don’t need it or want it.
11. Should not be allowed on paved roads.
12. There are more ATV’s registered than snowmobiles so there has to be some designated routes for their use. I would recommend being able to use the side of a street in order to connect with established ATV trails.
13. Speed limits not observed.
14. This is not the place for ATV’s.
15. When I drive to Hurley I see the rutted trails and the trailers full of mud covered ATV’s. What a noisy, muddy mess!
16. No real opinion on topic
17. There is enough trails/routes
APPENDIX D

This is a listing of concerns and opinions expressed in the Comment section at the end of the Survey. Comments are not shown in any particular order.

1. Our property is on W. Camp Nokomis Road (Trude Lake). We are concerned about ATV’s driving up & down our road, into our driveways & disturbing the tranquility of our area. They can come right off of Popko Circle onto our road. We are concerned about noise levels. This is supposed to be Loon Country, not an ATV Track.

2. I think this is absolutely wrong that the Association is trying to impose a negative view on recreational trails on county/town roads! How did the Association come up with the assumption that the Association should oppose the ATV trail when I, as a member was never asked, nor was any vote taken. Is this the president pushing her views & taking advantage of her position to voice her own agenda? There’s room for everyone.

3. Thanks for being a watchdog and advocate for the beautiful TFSWA!

4. We expect ATV’s to be respectful of other people’s rights and peace and tranquility. That should also apply to our president of the Association. She does not slow down when she drives by you with her boat (50’-75’) away. Very rude for somebody who should set an example!

5. Let’s keep it natural and unspoiled.

6. I think ATV’s should use Popko Circle and town roads not trails in the woods.

7. I am not a fan of the noise and dust generated by ATV’s.

8. Thank you for all who took the time to out this survey together and will analyze the returned completed forms. Lots of work, but something that needed to be done to best represent all our paying members, especially those who reply. How can we eliminate Jetski’s and big high HP motors and inboard/outboard and all inboard motors?

9. I did not appreciate the fact that the ATV issue was discussed at a city board meeting after the summer residence people had left for the season and were unable to attend the meeting and voice their opinions.

10. We are near rental property, Turtle Flambeau Dam Road. The ATV route is used more as a trail (back & forth) with no speed limit observed.

11. We are usually not available to attend meetings.

12. I just sold my condo at Lake Bastine. I don’t know if ATV’s were allowed on Flambeau Dam Road, but they are buzzing up and down the road at all hours. I live near the Tuscobia Trail, a popular ATV route. Lately I have noticed that many of the ATV’s have removed the mufflers and go with straight pipes. Very noisy and they get bigger every year.

13. I would like a “NO ATV’S” sign at the beginning of all roads that lead off Popko where these roads are not approved for ATV use.

14. Thank you for all the work you do. I wish I could be more active in the Association, but right now I can’t. Maybe in the next 1-1.5 years. I am retired DNR: Fisheries, ER, Forestry, Master Planning ...

15. I am not happy with the way the “2 year trial period” for ATV’s was approached. I feel a 3 or 6 month trial period would have been more appropriate & all residents should have been notified via mail. I did voice my opinion in a letter, but it obviously was already going through.

16. Iron County already has the largest ATV trail system of anywhere in WI. No need for more inside the TFSWA Project Boundary.
17. I don't feel the Association supported the opposition of the ATV route on Popko Circle. The same issues that affect the land also affect Popko Circle. Let's keep the Flowage a wild and scenic area it was meant to be.

18. Part-time residents contribute significantly to the tax base without consuming tax paid services at the same rate as full-timers. This is an economic plus for the taxing bodies. To not include part-time residents in discussions about recreation (which is why most of them are here) is, at least, disrespectful.

19. We would like to see a fishing tournament maybe 1 time a year or have contests on larger fish.

20. 30 years ago I said we should raise walleye for re-stocking like Minnesota.

21. The Master Plan was done in 1995 when ATV use was still in its infancy. Things have changed dramatically and I feel there can be an equal balance between locals and part-timers. I feel locals have and will be against any more ATV/UTV access period.

22. I am not a property owner. However we have been coming several times a year for the past 46 years, so I almost feel like a resident. Many things have changed over these 46 years and will continue to do so as the generations change. We can't go back and time does not stand still. It will never be the same again. Property owners, full-time residents and frequent visitors must work together for the whole.

23. If motorized vehicles are banned on the Flowage and TFSWA do you think tax base will remain the same? Does the TFF-TL POA think any tourists will come to Iron Country if bans on motorized vehicles are initiated?

24. We have many acres of land owned by the public. There is no reason it can't have more usage. The roads to the boat landings do not need to be closed to ATV's or snowmobiles. The main connection needed is to get to town and other trails that exist.

25. Development including new trails, additional campsites, improving existing campsites or trails are counter-productive to the very reasons most of us located on the Flowage. Peace, quiet and at least a hint of what wilderness is all about will not be encouraged by building a bunch of new trails. We used hear Whipporwhills, Hermit Thrushes and many other birds—not in the last 10 years. How often does anyone see baby loons?

26. The Turtle-Flambeau area is different than the Minocqua & Eagle River areas. Let's keep this area primarily for those wishing for a more remote are to enjoy outdoor activities. The damage done by ATV's to the environment is very evident in other areas of our state.

27. I favor lower smallmouth size limit – make room for more walleyes.

28. I appreciate what the Association does. Thank you! Sure can't beat communication and you help keep us informed.

29. I would like to see trolling, by electric trolling motors only, be allowed on the TFF. No gas motor trolling and limit lines to one.

30. Stop shocking the Flowage and killing off crawfish or crabs, no food for fish. Don't keep the flowage so full - it's washing out the banks. The path where we walked 35 years ago is now gone – over 4' washed out. An island near us had 3 big pines trees that stood there forever are now in the Flowage. All of the islands are getting smaller and the Flowage is getting bigger. Time to come you will have buildings in the Flowage.

31. We all pay taxes – the Turtle Flowage should be open for all people with all sports.

32. Although I am a seasonal/part-time resident, I would welcome trail development along the 182 corridor to help resorts and businesses. I see the ATV trails in Hayward and the numbers using them. That kind of activity along 182 would do wonders for business. This corridor is also somewhat removed and therefore resident concerns would be greatly minimized.

33. See attached full page of typewritten member comment.
APPENDIX D

To: The TFF-TL POA Board of Directors

RE: Comment requested on ATV Trails and use of public lands within the TFF Scenic Waters Boundaries

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate my opinions and ideas on this topic. Property owners fortunate enough to own land within the boundaries of the TFF Scenic Waters area certainly have a large stake in how the public resource is used and managed. I have been a long time Special Member of your Association and have been fortunate enough to have spent a large portion of my free time in and around the TFF since I was a child. I view the TFF area as one of the biggest success stories and efforts of the WIDNR. I view the ongoing management and control as critical to everyone’s enjoyment of the area today as well into the future.

I appreciate all efforts to protect the area from harm and to sustain the “wildness” of the area from development. I also support the use of the public land for public use. Fortunately the area is diverse in size and terrain. I always observe the “quiet areas” of the flowage in respect for those seeking peace and quiet. They deserve a place to go as much as I do in my motorboat. Likewise the opportunities hunt, fish, and explore are numerous in the TFF area. I am all for having these lands And waters open to responsible use for all to enjoy in the ways they choose.

ATV’s and other motorsports can have a very polarizing effect on public opinion. Those of us who enjoy riding ATV’s want to have access to quality trails and riding areas. Business that would like to have ATV riders as customers is certainly understandable. I am in favor of allowing business(s) to create an access trail across undeveloped state lands within the TFF area. Of course the protection of the surface waters, and proper maintenance would be a condition of the access point. I do not believe the public should have to pay for this trail or the maintenance of it. The access trail should be paid for by the business owner or the local ATV club/trail funds.

I am not in favor for the creation of a trail system within the boundaries of the TFF area. Allowing access to businesses within the designated TFF area to the surrounding trail system is different than creating new trail systems within the states property. I feel the trail system that surrounds TFF area to be quite large and well maintained. Having some feeder/access trails to existing businesses would only enhance what is already in place.

I am fortunate enough to own property within two miles of the TFF scenic waters area that is on an existing ATV route. I feel it enhances my property value, is another form of recreation, and the ability to reach business that offer fuel and other supplies via ATV trails would be a great thing if managed and created properly.

Please consider taking a proactive position on the ATV trail issues you are currently facing. Compromise and respect for everyone’s use of the resources and local businesses could be a real positive. Enhancing everyone’s use of the TFF area while protecting the resource can be achieved with common sense and understanding.

Thanks in advance for considering my ideas and suggestions. I am confident that all of the leaders in the TFF-TL POA will ultimately do what’s best for the TFF area and all of us who enjoy it in ways we all like.

Sincerely,
John Pohlman  
Wi: DNR  
Madison, Wi

Dear Sir:

Jewel of the North!
The "Jewel" should be left alone - no development!
Why is there a need to add more trails, aren't there enough?
Looking back in years how many Areas have been ruined by development?
Visitors want to come and enjoy the North woods, but do they really respect the Area?
Does making trails near the Flowsage add to the local economy?
I don't think so. A price to pay!

Sincerely,

Deana Byrne  
Merced, Wi

715-476-0341
John Pohlman  
Lpf/6, WI DNR  
Po Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  

N. Schmitt  
6536 W Flamboro Dam  
Butternut, WI 54514  
January 30, 2018  

Dear Mr. Pohlman,  

I just recently became aware that the area, I live in, which is the Turtle Flamboro Flowage, is being considered to permit construction of new ATV trails. The Turtle Flamboro was dedicated in 1990 as a Scenic Waters Area.  

Unfortunately the business of making money now prevails over protecting our lands and water. I, and my husband, state that we are not in favor of motorized trails for vehicles, especially in what is considered quiet and scenic.  

I ask that you not allow the construction of new ATV trails in this area: The Turtle Flamboro Flowage.  

Sincerely,  
Nancy Schmitt  

Nancy Schmitt  
6536 W Flamboro Dam Rd  
Butternut, WI 54514-8309  
715-996-9184  
nschmitt@centurytel.net
Public input form on the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area and a potential amendment to the master plan.

The DNR has received requests to provide access for motorized recreational vehicles (specifically ATVs and UTVs) across about 0.5 mile of the property near Hadley Road. Providing this access would enable a connection between trails and routes to the east and west of the property. This access is not currently authorized by the property master plan. In order for the potential route or trail to be constructed, the master plan would need to be revised to allow this use.

This form is intended to gather your ideas and perspectives about the recreational uses in general at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area and the potential change that the department is evaluating.

**Thank you for providing your input!**

1. Have you visited the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [x] No (If No, continue to Question 4)

2. How many days did you visit the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area in the past 12 months?
   - [ ] 1-2 days
   - [ ] 3-5 days
   - [ ] 6-10 days
   - [ ] 11+ days
   - [ ] None

3. What are your favorite activities to pursue at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area? (check all that apply)
   - [ ] Fishing
   - [ ] Hunting
   - [ ] Hiking
   - [ ] Boating, canoeing, kayaking
   - [ ] Camping
   - [ ] Other: ____________________________

4. What changes would you like to see (if any) in the recreation opportunities provided at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?

   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________

5. The DNR has been asked to consider developing a linking ATV/UTV trail or route across about 0.5 mile of the property. The intent would be to provide a connection between the trails and routes on the east and west sides of the property.

   What is your level of support for this potential use at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area? (circle one)
   - Strong support
   - Support
   - Neutral
   - Opposition
   - Strong opposition

6. What issues or concerns do you think the DNR should address in the development of the potential amendment for the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?

   ______________________________________
   Preserve its natural
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

7. What is the zip code of your primary residence?  54235
DNR

Re: ATV Trail Expansion

It would be shameful to abrogate a carefully crafted legacy left to the citizens of the state by a visionary governor who wanted to safeguard a very rare and natural sanctuary, The Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

While ATV riders may try to argue they have every right to enjoy the outdoors as they chose, it can be more persuasively counter-argued that they have more than their fair share of this mode of outdoor recreation with 250 miles of trails traversing the northern recreational lands. To continue to allow their trail expansion efforts to invade the sanctuary of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area would seriously disrupt the uniquely wild character of this treasured area, again an area so unique that Governor Thompson was driven to preserve and protect it.

There is no legitimate reason to sacrifice the wildlife of this area. Moreover there is ample reason not to cave to those seeking just to ride furiously thru the wilderness with little concern for the endangerment of the wildlife. This endangerment to the wildlife will undoubtedly deprive future generations to quietly walk among the wildlife as intended by Governor Thompson.

The residents who have settled in the northern area as permanent residents should be consulted on whether the original master plan for the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area should be strictly upheld. Why not set up a website for surveying the citizens by zip code and publicize the survey being taken on public radio?

If anything should be proposed in considering an expansion of ATV trails, it should be to strengthen the current restrictions designed to insure the natural settings are protected long into the future for generations to come. Surrendering to money interests will be regretted most of all when years from now a grandparent attempts to explain to a grandchild how special The Turtle Flambeau Flowage once was when people quietly lived among the wildlife in their natural habitat before ATV’s were allowed to invade the area which scared off the wildlife.

We urge those who will evaluate this decision will not be shortsighted. Please carefully consider the legacy of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage area as it was envisioned by Governor Thompson.

Jean & Marty Burns
4610W Camp Nokomis Rd
Mercer, WI 54547
Master Plan Amendment:
Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (Iron County)

Public input form on the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area and a potential amendment to the master plan.

The DNR has received requests to provide access for motorized recreational vehicles (specifically ATVs and UTVs) across about 0.5 mile of the property near Hadley Road. Providing this access would enable a connection between trails and routes to the east and west of the property. This access is not currently authorized by the property master plan. In order for the potential route or trail to be constructed, the master plan would need to be revised to allow this use.

This form is intended to gather your ideas and perspectives about the recreational uses in general at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area and the potential change that the department is evaluating.

Thank you for providing your input!

1. Have you visited the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?
   - ☒ Yes
   - ☐ No  (If No, continue to Question 4)

2. How many days did you visit the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area in the past 12 months?
   - ☒ 6-10 days
   - ☐ 1-2 days
   - ☐ 3-5 days
   - ☐ 11+ days
   - ☐ None

3. What are your favorite activities to pursue at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area? (check all that apply)
   - ☐ Fishing
   - ☒ Hiking
   - ☐ Boating, canoeing, kayaking
   - ☐ Camping
   - ☐ Other: ____________________________

4. What changes would you like to see (if any) in the recreation opportunities provided at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?
   - See attached letter

5. The DNR has been asked to consider developing a linking ATV/UTV trail or route across about 0.5 mile of the property. The intent would be to provide a connection between the trails and routes on the east and west sides of the property.

   What is your level of support for this potential use at the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area? (circle one)
   - ☐ Strong support
   - ☐ Support
   - ☐ Neutral
   - ☒ Opposition
   - ☐ Strong opposition

6. What issues or concerns do you think the DNR should address in the development of the potential amendment for the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area?
   - Preserve native plant and wildlife
   - Communities - keep area non-motorized
   - For majority of users

7. What is the zip code of your primary residence? 54557

Please send this form to:
John Pohlman – LF/6
WI DNR
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
January 28, 2018

John Pohlman
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Subject: Proposed ATV Trail Extension in the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA)

Dear Mr. Pohlman,

It has come to my attention that the WDNR is not listening to the desires of those who use or live in the TFSWA and oppose expansion of ATV trails in this area. When government institutions and officials ignore the input of their citizenry, it becomes a concern for all residents of the great State of Wisconsin.

As The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. (TFF-TL POA) has already pointed out to you, 80% of their members oppose ATV trail expansion in the TFSWA and 50% of current ATV enthusiasts also oppose this proposed plan. Yet you fail to heed the voices of these groups.

My wife and I have lived in the TFSWA since 2000. We came here because we love the solitude, beauty, wildlife, and wilderness here. The TFSWA is one of the last places in the State where natural wilderness remains. We would like to keep it that way.

Nobody, out of the groups surveyed, wants the proposed ATV trail expansion. Why are you not listening? Why do you continue to push this issue? Surely there must be something else for you to do with your time. Spend your time on other important matters where the citizenry is screaming for WDNR action. Such is not the case in the TFSWA.

The TFSWA must be left as pristine and natural as possible. ATV noise, dirt, destruction, trail garbage and its impact on the wildlife that live here must not be disturbed.

Please drop this matter thus serving the wants and desires of the citizenry that employ you.

Sincerely,

Scott and Mary Reed
4250 Fawn Lake Rd.
Park Falls, WI. 54552
(715) 350-2933
To: WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I AM A MEMBER OF THE TURTLE FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE AND TRUDE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE MASTER PLAN THAT WOULD ALLOW NEW ATV/UTV TRAIL DEVELOPMENT.

I AM OPPOSED TO THIS PLAN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT. AS WAS THE CASE IN 2014 WHERE 80% OF THE LAND OWNERS OPPOSED THE NEW ATV/UTV TRAILS.

LET US KEEP THIS LAND PRISTINE AND NATURAL. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ATV'S/UTV'S ROARING AROUND AND DISTURBING NATURAL WILDLIFE.

AGAIN I VOTE "NO" TO NEW ATV TRAILS WITHIN THE TFSWA.

THANK YOU,

HAROLD E. CLARK III
4251 W. CLARKE LN
PARK FALLS, WI 54552
Concerning: WDNR Master Plan Amendment to: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters; Upper Wolf River Fishery Area; Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

From: Sue Drum, 11384 CTH B, Presque Isle, WI; home phone: 715-686-2655; email: adrum@centurytel.net

Dear John Pohlmans,

All three scenic areas where an Amendment to the Master Plan is being considered in order to allow ATV/UTV and other motorized, off-road vehicles, currently allow no motorized recreation except for snowmobiles. In general snowmobiles do not conflict with the major recreational users who arrive in spring, summer and fall (SSF). The placement of new motorized trails in these scenic areas will strongly conflict and diminish the natural experience of all “SSF” recreation users.

The majority of users “walk for pleasure” (87.7% - SCORP 2011-2016) which includes viewing wildlife, bird watching and nature photography. Large groups also enjoy camping, paddling, swimming and fishing. The majority of users come to these natural settings to relax and get away from traffic noise. Why must they be disturbed by a small group (ATV/UTV) of motorized users?

My husband and I chose to settle in Presque Isle, Vilas County, and invest our money and time in neighboring small towns because we like the many wild lakes and abundance of wooded public land. ATV/UTV’s have no place in nature. We have walked their trails in neighboring counties and and witnessed severe erosion with constant widening of the trail as the machines tear up the edges. ATV/UTV’s also damage trees, under story plants and river and lake shores.

Quiet, undisturbed nature has been proven therapeutic to the human mind and spirit, yet wild ecosystems are rapidly disappearing. Outstanding Resource Waters, like the upper Wolf River, and undeveloped shorelines are becoming rare and more valuable. Please do not motorize these few remaining wild areas.

ATV/UTV trails are already abundant in all northern counties except Vilas and Door. Wisconsin boasts over 4,000 miles of these trails and routes. All northern counties are connected except for Vilas. Vilas began to allow ATV/UTV routes through many towns after the County Board dismissed the 2004 referendum where 64% of Vilas voters rejected ATVs.

I am aware that the WDNR has been directed by Wisconsin legislators to increase motorized access on state lands through the Recreational Opportunities Analysis and the Motorized Access Statue. The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest has already amended their Master Plan to open 202 miles of existing roads to ATV/UTV’s. Our current Wisconsin legislature seems obsessed with weakening the WDNR and dissolving regulations that protect our natural resources.

This sell-out to motorized sports will not stimulate northwoods economy. It may have the opposite effect. When Vilas County was the only northwoods county without ATV’s, it ranked 10th in the state in tourism dollars (2010 report). This was way above all northern counties that had ATV trails. Most of the counties ranked above Vilas in tourist dollars had no ATV trails. Silent sport enthusiasts and nature lovers outnumber ATV/UTV trail riders four to one (SCORP 2011-2916). The large non-motorized group buy lake front homes in Vilas and their real estate taxes pay 77% of local income. As motorized sports increase, non-motorized sports and new residents decrease.
A multi-use trail that includes both motorized and non-motorized users, like the Cheese Country Trail in southern Wisconsin, quickly deteriorates into a primary motorized trail. Non-motorized users want a motor free experience, to hear, see, and smell nature. It is also very unsafe to combine motors with quiet users.

The amendments proposed that will allow motors into these three wild and scenic areas are just the beginning of a plan that will destroy the natural beauty, sounds and solitude only non-motorized nature can offer. Please consider the needs of the large majority of users and the even greater need to preserve our unique, natural resources. Be true to the WDNR original objectives to keep these places wild.

Sue Drum

[Signature]
John Pohlman
LF/6 Wi DNR
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Pohlman;

It has come to my attention that the DNR is looking to broaden the number of ATV trails permitted for Iron County. Atv's already have access to nearly all roads in the county. Iron county already has the largest trail system in the state. As a resident on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, could you make sure that additional trails are far away? After 40+ years in Ojibwa, WI we moved because the year around noise from the Tuscola system was just intolerable. Kids doing donuts on our road, taking off the mufflers and jacking the throttle just added to the annoyance. I think the behavior of these operators is well documented. John, will there be no place left in Wisconsin to escape the noise of all these machines? I was fishing last fall on a beautiful fall day when the din of ATV's could be heard. They have been allowed on Popko Rd. Did it wreck my day, no....but I thought why? Why can’t there be one quite place.

Sincerely
[Signature]
John Peterson

John Peterson
6066 W Dam rd
Butternut, Wi 54514