

Wisconsin DNR Trail News 04/11/2008
There are four news items in this message.

Additional DNR Rule Proposals

The second item in the 3/27/2008 edition of Wisconsin DNR Trail News ([archived here](#)) detailed upcoming public hearings on access to stewardship lands. There are two additional sets of proposed public rules that may be of interest to trail users and managers:

1. Proposed Opening of Ice Age Trail Properties to All Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Three public hearings will be held regarding a proposed DNR rule ([link here](#)) to open State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATAs) to hunting upon acquisition. Hunting and firearms discharge would not be allowed on the actual traveled portions of the Ice Age Trail ([link here](#)) (i.e. the tread) or in an area extending 50 feet from the center of the trail. SIATAs are state-owned properties purchased specifically for the Ice Age Trail, usually with funds that designate the Ice Age Trail as the property's primary use. At this time, SIATAs fall under the classification of State Parks, which are closed to hunting unless opened. The rules would allow for the possibility of the Department to exclude hunting on all or portions of the SIATAs for hunting in order to protect public safety, protect a unique plant or animal community or accommodate usership patterns (all three of these to be defined by rule).

The proposed rule would additionally change an existing law requiring hunters to case firearms and bows when crossing any state trail to allow firearms and bows to be uncased but would require them to be unloaded.

Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted by April 25, 2008 via U.S. mail to Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Post Office Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. For more information or a copy of the proposed rule and fiscal estimate contact Scott Loomans at (608) 267-2452. The hearings will be held:

April 15, Fitchburg - 5 p.m. in the Glacier Room, DNR South Central Region Hdqrs.,
3911 Fish Hatchery Road

April 16, Wausau - 3 p.m. in Room 218, UW-Marathon County, 518 South 7th Ave.

April 24, Milwaukee - 5 p.m. in the Auditorium, Havenwoods State Forest Environmental
Awareness Center, 6141 N. Hopkins St.

2. Proposed Expansion of Deer Season

There are two new rules that will potentially impact trail users which will be heard by the Natural Resources Board at its April 23rd Board Meeting. The first is a Secretary's order ([item 3. B. 2.on the April NRB agenda](#)) which deals with non-chronic wasting disease (CWD) areas. The new rule would create an early October four day gun deer season (formerly Zone T) that will run from October 16th to October 19th in 2008. There will also be a permanent December four day hunt.

In the second rule package, ([item 3. B. 1. on the April NRB agenda](#)) a new CWD proposal would allow for rifles to be used in the CWD zones which are currently shotgun only.

There is no written comment period for the October gun hunt order; and the written comment period on the rule proposal from the chronic wasting disease stakeholders group has ended. However, citizens can share their opinion on both of these new proposed rules with the individual board members listed [here](#), or by speaking at the Natural Resources Board meeting in Madison on 23rd. Those looking to address the board in person need to register by calling 608-267-7420 by 4 p.m. on April 18. More information on public participation regarding Natural Resources Board items is available [here](#).

3. Update on Proposed Legislative Study Committee on Non-motorized Trails

A proposal to convene a Legislative Study Committee on non-motorized trails has been forwarded to members of the Joint Legislative Council as one of the recommended study committees for 2008. Legislative members of the Joint Legislative Council will now be submitting their votes on the proposed committees. A public announcement is expected within the next two weeks on which committees have been selected. Information about the Joint Legislative Council, including a list of members, and about study committees established by the Joint Legislative Council is available [here](#).

4. WSPS Trail Crew is Hiring

The Wisconsin State Park System Trail Crew will soon begin its second year, and we're looking to hire! The first project for the crew will be finishing up a horse and snowmobile trail reroute at Governor Dodge State Park in Dodgeville. More details are available from the job posting: http://dnr.wi.gov/x87201/employment/lte/q207lted.asp?v_request_id_seq_no=5260.

END Trail news, 04/11/2008

This is a subscription service for trail news from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Subscribers to this service will receive e-mails periodically from DNR about upcoming Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council (STC) meetings and other trail news. For more information about Wisconsin State Trails or the STC, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/index.html>.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this list, please visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/listserv.asp>.