

Trail News - 11/7/2011

CANCELED: Public Meetings for Proposed Hunting on State Ice Age Trail Areas

Last month, a legislative proposal was introduced in the assembly to address more broadly the issue of hunting in state parks. Assembly Bill 311 and Senate Bill 226 is a statutory amendment being referred to as the "Sportsman Heritage Bill". This bill would open state parks, including State Ice Age Trail Areas and state trails located on lands under the authority of the department, to all hunting and trapping. The bill passed the assembly. The legislative session ended November 3, prior to the bill being voted on by the senate.

The Department of Natural Resources decided to postpone implementation of the administrative rule pending legislative action on the Sportsman Heritage Bill. This includes canceling public meetings scheduled for November 14-17 in New Auburn, Delafield, Lodi, and Stevens Point, and the public comment period planned through the end of November. The legislature will resume session on January 17, 2012.

For more information, see the DNR Weekly News for November 8, 2011: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/weekly.asp>.

RESOURCE

- **Quantified Benefits of Bicycling** University of Wisconsin - Madison researchers recently published a study showing that if people biked half of their trips of 2.5 miles or less (25 minutes or less in duration) during the warmest six months of the year, they would save about \$3.8 billion per year in avoided mortality and reduced health care costs from conditions like obesity and heart disease. The study, titled *Air Quality and Exercise-Related Health Benefits from Reduced Car Travel in the Midwestern United States* (<http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/action?articleURI=info%3Adoi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.1103440>) was published in the scientific journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. The report calculated that these measures would save an estimated \$7 billion in total combined benefits, including 1,100 lives each year from improved air quality and increased physical fitness.

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