

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 4/14/2003

LRB Number	03-1543/2	Introduction Number	AB-174	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Use of all-terrain vehicles by hunters on department of natural resources lands					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Bill Summary: This bill would allow anyone who is 65 or older, or the holder of a Class A or Class B disabled hunting permit to operate all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on land under ownership or control of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or on any roadway through that land for the purpose of hunting and retrieving game. Current law allows holders of a Class A or Class B permit to operate ATVs or other motorized vehicles on specified roadways or trails on DNR lands to access areas open to public hunting.

Fiscal Estimate: This bill would significantly expand the number and the use of ATV's on Department property and potentially on lands under easement by DNR. Under this bill ATVs could be used while legally hunting and retrieving game species. Essentially this would result in year round use since some hunting seasons are open continually. In addition ATVs would not be restricted to trails and could be operated anywhere on DNR lands that are open for hunting. This extensive ATV use throughout properties would have the potential to damage areas of critical wildlife habitat or disrupt sensitive species. ATV use would occur in areas that are not capable of holding up to this type of use because of on site conditions such as unstable soils, wet areas, dikes and steep slopes, causing erosion and damage to properties. The resulting damage would require an expensive ongoing maintenance program to repair and restore areas not designed for this type of use. Properties such as state natural areas, parks, streambank protection areas and other sensitive habitats that are not currently open to ATV use would be opened with no use restrictions.

Since this bill also would allow those 65 and older to operate ATVs anywhere on state properties for hunting, it is expected that ATV use on DNR properties would dramatically increase as a result. It is estimated there are about 70,000 resident and nonresident hunters age 65 or older that would be able to operate ATVs on DNR lands under provisions of this bill.

Implementation of this bill would require a substantial increase in enforcement efforts to monitor those using ATVs on the properties and to respond to inquiries regarding that use. There are approximately 600 state properties that would be affected by the provisions in this bill. Additional Law Enforcement and Property Management efforts are estimated to be 10 hours per property, or approximately 6,000 hours total (3.0 FTE). At an estimated cost of \$50,000 per FTE in salary in fringe, the total FTE costs is estimated to be \$150,000.

One-time costs of up to \$500,000 would be expended to post all state properties to notify users of the ATV use opportunities.

Management costs would also be incurred to modify property access control gates to allow this ATV access. Property access gates would need to be either left open or modified to accommodate ATV use. No cost has been estimated for modification of gates although it could be significant. It is important to note that leaving access gates open could cause abuse and damage of properties by those not authorized to access the property by motorized vehicles.

This bill may jeopardize federal wildlife restoration funding to Wisconsin which is approximately \$6-7 million dollars annually. Federal funding is used for management and maintenance of wildlife properties. Under federal funding restrictions no uses may be allowed that interfere with the primary purpose for which the property was acquired and managed. Since state wildlife areas are managed for hunting and protection of wildlife habitat, widespread ATV use may conflict with that purpose.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

ATV registrations are increasing significantly each year and the population is aging at the same time. Under the

provisions of this bill the numbers of those 65 and older using ATV's on DNR properties will expand. For the long term this could require substantial maintenance costs.

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2003 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Subject			
Use of all-terrain vehicles by hunters on department of natural resources lands			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
Up to \$500,000 for property posting and gate modification			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes		\$150,000	
(FTE Position Changes)		(3.0 FTE)	
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
TOTAL State Costs by Category		\$150,000	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S		150,000	
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes		\$	\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
TOTAL State Revenues		\$	\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
		<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS		\$150,000	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE		\$	\$
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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