

Special Committee on State Trails Policy –

Committee Make-up

After learning of the makeup of this committee, the lack of diversity is of great concern. If this committee is charged with recommending a comprehensive policy for trails in this state, one would expect to find the entire gamut of trail users, developers, maintainers, and patrollers represented. That would not look like the current lineup of 5 legislators, (one of whom is on the Governor's Forestry Council, another involved in snowmobile legislation, and a third who has 2 additional committee members from his county here (one a snowmobile club president, and the other a County Board Member), and only 5 other citizens. These 5 consist of 2 Silent Sports people, one person from the Horse Council, a Track owner who promotes Snowmobile and ATV racing events in a county totally without ATV trails, and a person from the Univ. of Wisconsin, the educational institution most closely aligned with the DNR. Who speaks for the family ATV trail riders, numbering in the thousands, whose growing numbers desperately need miles of trails to allow them to spread out safely as they enjoy our forests? Who speaks for the clubs who represent thousands of riders (for example, over 500 in Langlade County alone who give of themselves with hours of trail maintenance work, trail patrolling, and teaching safety classes)? This work, I might add, is done with no financial compensation to the individuals donating their hours, and in many cases, not even being reimbursed for their travel expenses, unlike the members of this committee.

If they were not to be allowed on the committee (even though they asked to be included) we would certainly have expected to hear invited testimony from them. There are many ATV clubs with active officers and Trail Patrollers who could give vital information on how the current system is or is not working. We would highly recommend you get input from a more varied group of trail users.

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