

[October 15, 2006]

Dear Dennis Leith, Robert Dall, and the Stakeholder's committee;

I have read the recent proposal to run an ATV trail route along Circle Lily Road and the Manitowish River.

I am sure that many people have discussed with you concerns about the wetlands areas that will certainly be disturbed even if only 1 percent of ATV'ers decide to use their machines as advertised and "go mudding".

I wanted to raise another concern.

The mandate of the Stakeholder's group is to find trails that do not interfere with other users of the forest. The Manitowish river, and in particular that segment of the Manitowish river, is a special gem. I take guests of ours down that stretch to enjoy the peace and quiet, listen to the birds, and hear the wind in the trees.

Even if every ATV user rode quietly and with unmodified mufflers, canoeists and kayakers would experience a deterioration of their use of the river.

Of course, from our experience with snowmobiles, we know that a certain percentage will modify their mufflers to be even louder, and race along the trails.

Simply put, you cannot place the trail as proposed without interfering significantly with a previously established use group and violating an important part of your mandate. I fully expect that this issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mark Haag