

[October 17, 2006]

Dear WATVA board, NOHVIS coordinators, ATV advocates & Statewide Trail Committee Lawmakers/Staff:

One of the many committees I am on relates to the state's largest forest, the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. It took us almost 10 years to get the master plan on that property to potentially include ATV trails. Now that we have been able to accomplish that feat, our ATV stakeholder group has been meeting monthly to start planning trails through that 225,000 + acres. In the interest of your legislative council committee, I thought you might find these objections for this one project helpful in grasping what I feel are many times “social issues” wrapped around other challenges we in the ATV community face.

These are the first set of objections for the NH-AL trails.....of particular notice is the “invasive species” comment. FYI, Hank and Rob from our leadership team have been diligently enduring the statewide committee on this important topic and no one group is more invasive than any other, but this article tries to articulate otherwise.

The intent of this message is to provide a spectrum of topics and challenges the *responsible* ATV community faces. There are many, as well as our own problems within the ATV community itself. It may be a larger scope or sphere than some people first think, so it does take research and time to properly assess, plan and evaluate how it all fits together, especially on a statewide basis.

Regards,

Randy Harden

[President, WATVA]