

[November 2, 2006]

I am unable to attend the public hearing of the Special Committee on State Trails Policy being held on November 10th in Merrill, but as a citizen of the State of Wisconsin and user of the Wisconsin trailway system, I would like to voice my opinion on opening bicycle/hiking trails to ATV's. Bicycles, hikers, and horseback riders do not mix at all with ATV's on the trail system.

For years it was the goal of the State and Federal governments along with silent sports enthusiasts concerned with the safety of the citizens with reference to public recreation, to separate non-motorized recreation from traffic and motorized vehicles. This must continue to be a top priority.

Picture your children or grandchildren enjoying a Saturday morning trail ride on their bicycles when an ATV comes roaring over a hill or around a curve at 40 MPH or even 25 MPH if it is posted and they are obeying the posted limit. The children wouldn't have a chance. Hopefully it is one of the trails marked with GPS coordinates for speedy rescue.

What I am saying is keep motorized vehicles off bicycle/pedestrian trails. This is truly a life threatening situation.

Thank you.
Richard Lamb
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