

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Ruth Sproull"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 07:49:30 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Hi,

I'd like to throw my support behind Judy Swank's suggestion that the Cassian/Woodboro forest block have no further development involving motorized vehicles, setting it aside for additional silent sport development in the future. She said that motorized and non-motorized uses of the forest should be separated since they are incompatible. Should the county wish to increase motorized use of the forest, it should happen near existing areas for this use in the other two blocks.

I am writing my support of Judy's proposal as her friend, and not in any official capacity, because I think it is a reasonable idea.

Ruth Sproull

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Jim Dyreby
Date: Tue, 10 Feb 2009 22:00:56 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: Katy Dyreby

I support Judy Swank's position re the Cassian/Woodboro block.

Thanks.

Jim Dyreby MD
7310 Long Lake Rd.
Crescent Township
Land owner in Woodboro
Rhinelanders

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: David Nelson
Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2009 14:27:34 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

I have reviewed the 2009-2013 Outdoor Recreation Plan and have the following comments.

Table 6 on page 51 shows a total of \$35,000 to expand and pave the parking lot at Perch Lake Park. I believe that paving the parking lot is not needed and that the cost to expand the lot is overstated.

You should add in about 2 kilometers of new ski trail to make the Washburn Lake trails easier to ski now that the major trailhead appears to be at Perch Lake. Ski trail construction costs about \$2,000 per kilometer with the use of volunteers and probably double that if it is all contracted. It would also be well to invest in new grooming equipment and stop placing cable gates on the ski trails.

I have lived in Rhinelanders for about 2 1/2 years. In that time much of the road and parking areas at Almon Park have been gated closed. The park is very nice but the continued closure is hard to explain.

David Nelson

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Tom Rulseh
Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2009 17:44:22 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: Courtney Peterson

Please include the following projects in the 2009-2013 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

1. A pedestrian route to connect the Towns of Three Lakes and Sugar Camp along County Highway A using the old Highway A roadbed for much of the 9 mile long route. This would be both a recreational trail and a viable alternative transportation route. This route would serve to connect the Sugar Camp Pre-K through 6 School with the Three Lakes School. Both schools are in the Three Lakes School District. It would also allow Residents of Sugar Camp to access the existing Three Eagle Trail which connects Three Lakes to Eagle River. The route has been researched by a team of Sugar Camp and Three Lakes citizens. Funding is the major obstacle to be overcome in completing this project.

2. A pedestrian route to connect the Three Eagle Trail Sundstein Road Trailhead with Ripco Road in the Town of Sugar Camp. This would be a woodland trail through private property. It would be about 3.7 miles long and provide a link to the north end of the Three Eagle Trail for the residents of Sugar Camp. This would also facilitate access to the City of Eagle River from Sugar Camp along quiet town roads and the connecting woodland trail. Completion of this route would depend on gaining the cooperation of land owners along the proposed route as well as funding the cost of constructing the trail.

Thank you,

Tom Rulseh

7006 West School Street

Three Lakes, WI 54562

715-546-8032

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Andy & Carrie Boettcher"
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 2009 09:32:25 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Please seriously consider not expanding motorized vehicle use in the Oneida County forest block. Specifically, Cassain/Woodboro.

The limited public space that is not drowned out by motorized vehicle use is a rare commodity.

As evidenced in Vilas county, tourists seek these areas out, and interest in them grows steadily as word spreads amongst silent sport enthusiasts.

These areas have seen a growth, and have potential growth for hiking, skiing, off road bicycle use, and geocaching. All of which draw visitors and encourage the health and well being of our community.

Andy Boettcher agboettcher@gmail.com

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Terry Cummings"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 20:27:19 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ORP.

I am concerned with any potential expansion of areas opening up to motorized use in the County's Forest. This past fall I attended a Forestry Committee meeting, and a member of Mr. Bilogan's staff, I believe Paul, presented some enlightening information. With the exception of some wetland, I believe he said Black Spruce, the majority of the forest is already accessible within ¼ mile to motorized users. Also in the presentation, I learned that loggers prefer areas that have not been torn up by ATVs for timber harvests.

The ORP in its current form appears to be a good plan. I urge you to resist pressure to increase access to motorized users. I fear that three members of the current Forestry Committee do not have the best interest of the Forest at heart. Besides having no respect for the health of the Forest, I fear they will ignore the cost to the County for removal of gates and berms and also the added expense to timber harvest in favor of increasing motorized access. Also, I fear that they have no regard for users of the Forest whose activities would be impacted by expanded motorized use.

Respectfully,
Terry Cummings
Rhinelanders

Comments on FLORD

Subject: Comments on FLORD
From: arf@frontiernet.net
Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 15:54:54 +0000 (GMT)
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

1. In general, we don't have enough hiking trails in our area. People need more exercise and hiking wooded trails is so much more interesting than paved streets. Mowing ski trails once or twice during the summer season would add some needed hiking trails.
2. Make the Cassian-Woodboro County forest block non-motorized with exceptions to the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.
3. Extend the Cassian-Woodboro ski trail west from its current turn-around end point to an access trailhead on Beaver Lake Rd.
4. Paving Perch Lake Park parking lot doesn't seem necessary when good gravel and grading would seem to take care of the needs and would be more in line with conservation guidelines.
5. Why abandon Townline swimming beach? I haven't seen much monitoring activities there recently. I've sometimes seen large family groups gathered there, perhaps people from nearby rural areas who look like they really enjoy a low-key place to hang out on a hot day. Instead, why not assess some issues of water quality with shoreline improvement, perhaps a demonstration area for shoreline restoration and replace those toilets with a single nice one.
6. We need more bike trails in town and between town and off-road bike trails. Encouraging people to use bikes for transportation is a great idea.
7. This may not be part of your planning area but I've always wanted to see a pathway along the Wisconsin river in Rhinelanders to encourage walking, strolling etc. along this scenic feature. Thanks for your efforts at maintaining our natural resources and providing quality recreational opportunities. In general, I would ask that non-motorized activities be stressed since this encourages healthful lifestyles and promotes a quieter interaction with nature and reduces emissions and noise pollution.

Sincerely, Anita Foss, resident of Rhinelanders WI.

Oneida County ORP Comments

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: RuthJaeger

Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2009 20:04:05 -0600

To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

1. Make the entire Cassian-Woodboro County Forest block non-motorized with exceptions to be made for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access. (and current town and county roads, obviously).
2. "Complete" the Cassian-Woodboro 2-way trail by extending it west from it's current turn-around point approx 1 mile to an access with parking at Beaver Lake Rd. This is approx 1.5 mile from Hwy 47 off of Fawn Lake Rd(1 mile north of McNaughton) so it would be a good access for Newbold and Lake Tomahawk folks. It would also alleviate some parking issues for neighbors of the trail where it crosses Sheepranch Rd.
3. Establish a mountain bike route on the Cassian Woodboro trail, routing to the snowmobile trail or town roads as needed to bypass the low area near Goodyear Lake. This would link to the Perch Lake trail head and Judy Swank Shelter. Also- complete the bike trail along Hwy 47, linking to Fawn Lake Rd which would allow a nice large trail/back road loop safely accessible by bike from town and much of the population of Newbold. Maintain for biking(mow Cassian-Woodboro trail occasionally).

In the plan Cassian reports hearing often from a small interest group about biking- Perhaps the same small group of people make frequent contact but bicycling is a very popular activity and I think that those people represent a large, active community of cyclists in the area and potential for tourism to the area!

Ruth Jaeger
6259 Black Lake Rd Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-277-2493

Oneida County ORP Comments

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: RuthJaeger

Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 21:17:28 -0600

To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

On page 37 of the draft plan I read that surveys were distributed for input to Outdoor Recreation Clubs. At first I wondered why neither of the clubs I belong to seemed to have sought input from members. Then I noticed in the attachment that the only non-motorized club that received this survey was Oneida County hiking and Biking Trails Council. Why were the Northwoods Nordic Club, Northern Paddle and Trail Society not included in this distribution? Members of these groups form RASTA, instrumental in the Perch Lake shelter project. These are groups active in promoting outdoor recreation in the area. They have been represented at hearings and forestry committee meetings and should be known as organizations of interested people. There may be other interested organizations as well. I hope that in the future more effort will be made to equitably obtain input from the many people who participate in biking, hiking, hunting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, etc as well as the ATV and snowmobile clubs listed.

I do recognize that public meetings were announced but direct contact is more effective than media.

Ruth Jaeger
Newbold

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Joel A. Flory"

Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 08:00:55 -0600

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

I recently read the 5 year plan for Oneida County recreation and had a few comments:

1) The impacts of silent sport participants are far less injurious to the landscape and associated flora, fauna, water quality, etc. than motorized sports. In addition, the health benefits are far superior. I would like to see a continued focus on silent sport recreation on county lands. I recognize that there are existing trails/networks for ATV's and snowmobiles, but would like to see these maintained only with no increase in area. The aesthetics of being in the woods are easily destroyed for me and many others by the noise created from these machines.

2) On Page 40 there is a chart indicating the largest recreation issues as they relate to survey respondents. One of the major issues indicated is ATV trail creation. Based on the distribution list provided in the plan, this would be expected. It appeared to show a strong bias toward ATV association/clubs. Maybe I am misreading who was actually provided the survey. It may also be that by their very nature silent sports participants are naturally less vocal and more prone to work independently rather than organizing as many of the ATV/snowmobile participants do. That does not mean, however, that their needs and desires are any less important in my mind.

3 On Page 42 it notes that ATV use brings \$\$ into Oneida Co. That is true, but any trip into a local ski/sport shop during the winter will provide you with a broad cross section of the public that has traveled up to Oneida Co. to enjoy the many QUIET ski or snowshoe trails that exist. They bring in their fair share of \$\$ as well and any increases in motor sports in areas these folks frequent will likely cause them to travel elsewhere to spend their money.

4) On Page 56 there is a short note regarding ATV/snowmobile routes and their associated noise and human hazard. Please give this serious consideration when planning for the future of Oneida Co.'s excellent forests.

Please keep the needs of the silent sports participants in the forefront. It will be best for our natural resources and health of our residents!

Thanks,
Joel

Joel A. Flory
3131 Pleasure Point Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
joelflory@frontiernet.net
715.490.3039

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Kirk Reese
Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2009 14:20:05 -0600
To: Fred Heider <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: OCWBTC

These are comments from the Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Counsel, Inc.

The Counsel members suggested the following bike routes be implemented:

1. McNaughton to Woodruff - Start at end of Newbold Trail and use as much of the existing rail corridor as possible.
2. McNaughton to Bearskin Trail - Start at end of Newbold Trail to Fawn Lake Road.
3. Rhinelander to Bearskin Trail - Start at Rhinelander City limits and use or follow County Highway K. This should be off-road to the largest extent possible. Could use or follow Forest Lane, Velvet Lake Road, Co N, and Washburn Lake Road.
4. Rhinelander to Crandon - Start on old Hwy 8 to Lake George Road and use old rail corridor to Monico and on to Crandon.
5. County Hwy K to Tomahawk - Start at Bearskin Trail and continue to where trail ends at Lincoln Co. line.
6. Co. Hwy D from Lake Tomahawk to Hwy 51 at Hazelhurst. Providing access to the Bearskin Trail from LT.
7. A route to connect the Towns of Three Lakes and Sugar Camp along County Highway A using the old Highway A roadbed for much of the 9 mile long route. This would be both a recreational trail and a viable alternative transportation route. This route would serve to connect the Sugar Camp Pre-K through 6 School with the Three Lakes School. Both schools are in the Three Lakes School District. It would also allow Residents of Sugar Camp to access the existing Three Eagle Trail that connects Three Lakes to Eagle River. A team of Sugar Camp and Three Lakes citizens has researched the route. Funding is the major obstacle to be overcome in completing this project.
8. A route to connect the Three Eagle Trail Sundstein Road Trailhead with Ripco Road in the Town of Sugar Camp. This would be a woodland trail through private property. It would be about 3.7 miles long and provide a link to the north end of the Three Eagle Trail for the residents of Sugar Camp. This would also facilitate access to the City of Eagle River from Sugar Camp along quiet town roads and the connecting woodland trail. Completion of this route would depend on gaining the cooperation of landowners along the proposed route as well as securing funds to construct the trail.

In the Financial Assistance Section: Mark Ratty is listed as the DOT North Central Regional Bike/Ped Coordinator. That's incorrect. The coordinator is Dave Meurett, 1681 Second Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-4768.

Comments on Recommended Plan:

Attachment A – I find it upsetting that the only non-motorized organization that was contacted was the Oneida County Biking & Walking Trails Council (OCBWTC), and the contacts for that organization have not been involved for several years. Given the availability of the appropriate names of the members of the OCBWTC, and the other non-motorized organizations, I do not believe that the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has done an adequate job of gathering information from non-motorized organizations. At a minimum, official requests should have been sent to the Paddle and Portage Group, Wisconsin Lakes Association, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, The Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, birding groups, to name a few. Efforts should be made to obtain comments from these organizations and include them in the development of this plan.

Without these organizations, there is limited, if any, input from silent sports and gives the illusion that the authors of this rec plan may have steered clear of these organizations. It is ironic that seven of the nine symbols on the front of this document deal with silent sports activities and yet the appearance is that they have not been involved with its development.

Page 19-20 – There is a significant mention of snowmobile and ATV trails not maintained by the FLORD on these two pages. Yet, on the preceding pages there is no mention of the many miles of mountain bike, skiing, hiking trails in the county not maintained by FLORD. To mention a few: Northwoods Nordic ski trails and Rhinelander Public School ski trails; and the Hansen Lake and Crystal Lake/Mudd Lake mountain bike trails.

Page 23- The Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan in 2002, is currently being updated by the OCBWTC (and the NCWRPC would have found that out if they had contacted the OCBWTC) and will be completed in approximately 6 months. This updated plan should be noted in this plan and adopted in its entirety when finished.

Page 24 – As indicated above, the Rhinelander school maintains a cross-country ski trail in the City of Rhinelander.

Page 26 – The correct name is Northwoods Nordic Trail, not Northwoods Golf Course. It is not maintained by the City of Rhinelander, but by the Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, which also maintains the Rhinelander School ski trail.

Page 27 – The Cassian Trail is maintained by the FLORD and should not be listed in this section.

Map 2 – The on-road bike route has now been extended from Crescent Road to the Perch Lake Shelter on Washburn Lake Road.

General Comment – There is one comment at the end of the public meeting regarding the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation's Sustainable Business Park that is currently being developed to the west of Rhinelander. This business park will provide hiking trails in a "sustainable" environment and promote this unique business park in northern Wisconsin. Discussion in this REC plan should be evaluated.

General Comment – There is no mention of the desire to make the Cassian-Woodboro forest a non-motorized corridor (from Nose Lake-County Trail to Washburn/Perch Lake County Trail to Cassian County Trail). With the development of the Perch Lake Trails and Shelter, this area has the potential to become a destination for mountain bikers, skiers, snowshoers, and hikers. By designating it as a non-motorized area, it would greatly enhance the marketability of this area to silent sports persons. How about making that recommendation part of this plan?

Tom Rulseh has articulated our goals and purpose in his statement to the Forestry Department, which is on page 42 of the recommended Plan.

Thank you.

Kirk Reese

President Oneida County Biking and Walking Trail Counsel, Inc.

Subject: RE: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Terry Cummings"
Date: Fri, 20 Feb 2009 19:57:46 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Sirs:

I wish to add some comments to my previous contact from February 17th.

I attended last night's meeting, and apparently it is a foregone conclusion that motorized trails will be expanded in the Oneida County Forest. I did not know going into the meeting that the Forestry Department was an advocate for increasing ATV trails. With that in mind, I have the following comments to add.

- The majority of the testimony from the ATV clubs and dealerships (conflict of interest?) assumed that ATV riders stay on the trails. I did catch that the fellow Lake Tomahawk admitted that riders went off on their own as a "backlash" to not getting their way on the NHAL decision. The fellow from the Harrison Hills area admitted that riders made their own trails along power lines until they got what they wanted. That is the constituency you are dealing with. I have no doubt that the club representatives that testified were sincere; however, they are only one segment of ATV riders. The machines are not called trail riding vehicles. They are All Terrain Vehicles and are often used as such, legally or illegally. Also, the claim that ATV riders are self policing is overstated.
- I do not frequent ATV trails, so I have no experience with legal ATV use. Trails will, however, open up more areas for riders to venture off on their own. Lincoln and Langlade Counties were cited as models. Here a few of my experiences in Lincoln County.
 - a. While I was fishing the Big Rib River on County Forest and State property, 2 riders decided to use the trout stream as a wallow. They didn't simply ford the river, but spent a prolonged time period going back and forth across the river. After that they proceeded to a slough where an intermittent stream entered the river. Since the stream bottom consisted of deposited silt, they had a great time tearing things up. If you doubt me, contact Conservation Warden Frederick Peters who was able to follow their tracks and mud trail to catch them.
 - b. While I was fishing the dells of the Prairie River on County and Merrill City Forest property I observed the results of a rider's attempts to ford the river. This is steep terrain. The tracks indicated a couple of attempts before an illegal successful ford was accomplished leaving the bank at the exit completely collapsed.
 - c. During our recent extended drought, the Wisconsin River has become quite low. I have observed ATV riders in the river and on Menard Island.
 - d. While berry picking in the Menard Island area as a mentoring activity with my match from the Kinship program, 2 ATV riders nearly hit us as they were returning back along an abandoned trail that had been bermed.
 - e. An ATV owner constructed his own ford and approach across the Prairie River onto land that was not his in the Prairie River Fishery Area just upstream from Dudley.
- Based on the circumvented gates I've observed in the Nicolet side of the National Forest, ATV riders have not acknowledged the closure there.
- Several testified of the economic value of ATV trails citing the ability of riders to use the streets in Park Falls and having 30 or more ATVs parked outside of a tavern in Langlade County as ideals. Please note that some citizens might not share this idea of economic progress.

Therefore, since expanded ATV trails are almost inevitable, I am appealing to the Forestry Department and Forestry Committee to take on the measures necessary to ensure that ATV riders remain on the trails. If they end up impacting the health of the forest, including the ability to efficiently harvest timber, I'm afraid we will all have been duped, again.

I will go away now.

Sincerely,
Terry Cummings

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Scott"

Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 19:24:15 -0500

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Northern Paddle & Tail appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Northern Paddle & Trail is a outdoor recreation organization based in Oneida County.

Recreation Priorities

The top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County are

- 1) Preserve silent sports opportunities in Oneida County
- 2) Provide long term planning for the expansion of hiking, biking, x-c ski, and snowshoe trails,
- 3) Development public water access and water trail opportunities.

Recreation Recommendations

- Northern Paddle & Trail recommends expanding the Washburn Silent Sports Area north to include the Cassian Ski Trail and to create a Nose Lake Silent Sports Area at the Nose Lake Ski Trail.
- Designate the Cassian/Woodboro County Forest block as a non-motorized area with exceptions to be made for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.
- Develop additional hike, bike, x-c ski, and snowshoe trails within the Cassian/Woodboro County Forest block.
- Provide water access opportunities and water trail development. Consider public access opportunities to waterways during bridge upgrades and culvert replacements. Seek opportunities to purchase property along waterways for public access and use.

Facility Improvements

- **Washburn Trail System:**
 - Add "easy" bike/ski/hike trail routes from the Perch Lake trail head to the Washburn Trail System. Create an easy trail loop north of the existing Perch Lake access trail. Add easy connection trail from Perch Lake to the eastern trail loops ("Judy's Loop").
 - Add snowshoe loops from Perch Lake trail head. Mark designated snowshoe trails.
- **Cassian-Woodboro:**
 - Establish a mountain bike/hiking route along existing Cassian ski trail system. Avoid wetland areas by routing summer trail to existing snowmobile trail. Link the bike/hike route to the Perch Lake trail head.
 - Extend the Cassian-Woodboro ski trail west to Beaver Lake Rd. Located 1 mile south of McNaughton, the Beaver Lake trail head will provide improved access to recreation uses traveling from Newbold and Lake Tomahawk.
 - Designate an additional section of winter ski trail open to dogs, similar to the designation at Nose Lake.
- **Nose Lake Trail:**
 - Relocate the trail head and parking lot at the Nose Lake Trail to Hancock Lake Road. Create a loop trail on the west side by tracking the ¼ mile blazed connection to the existing ski trail. The Hancock Lake trail head and parking area will provide better road access to the trails and eliminate the need to cross Hancock Road twice to complete a ski loop.

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Willowweb@aol.com
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 10:00:30 EDT
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

Dear ;

Thank you including the Willow Region Sportsmans Club for participation in your Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Survey.

After review of your survey at our recent meeting, our club submits the following responses to the survey questions.

1. Please list the group represented.

Willow Region Sportsmans Club

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?

1. ATV trail expansion and access

2. Improvement of existing and additional boat landings on the Willow Flowage particularly the west side.

3. Development of additional camp sites surrounding the Willow Flowage.

3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?

Designate additional ATV trails.

Improve and build more boat landings with regard to the west side.

Develop more camp sites.

4. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORD managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.

NA

5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?

If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?

Add camp sites to the Willow area.

Improve and build more boat landings with regard to the west side.

Discontinue any less used or abandoned previous projects.

Charge a users fee or supplemental fee for use of the new facilities.

6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

None

Thank you,

Willow Region Sportsmans Club

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Bikes And Boards"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 16:31:00 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Oneida County Representatives,

I'm writing with some concerns about discussions that have gone on at the County board table regarding taking down barriers and opening the silent trails areas to motorized traffic (Four-wheelers) There are many people in Oneida County that are outraged at the thought of mixing two totally different sport groups has even been considered! Thousands of people vacation in the Northwood's to get away from noise and enjoy the peace and quite of our wooded areas. These Motorized and silent sports should never be mixed! Keep the Washburn/Cassian/Nose Lake areas silent sports only areas!

There has also been talk of a connecting bike route from the City of Rhinelander to Washburn/Perch Lk. and Bearskin trail systems, this could be easily, safely and affordably done by signing existing low traffic roads that parallel County K and putting in an off road pathway from Velvet Lake road to County N.

Thank you,
Al Jozwiak
Rhinelander

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Susan"
Date: Sun, 1 Mar 2009 16:57:57 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Oneida County Board,

Here are some suggestions for the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

1. Extend the Cassian 2-way ski trail west from its current Northern most turn-around point to an access with Parking at Beaver Lake Rd. This is approx 1.5 mile from Hwy 47 off of Fawn Lake Rd, 1 mile north of McNaughton. And/or develop the existing shelter at the north end of the Cassian Trail as a warming shelter like the Perch Lake shelter but with only wood stove heat with shared car parking facilities for snowmobilers, skiers, hikers, or bikers.

2. Establish a mountain bike route on the Cassian Trail, routing to the snowmobile trail or town roads as needed to bypass the low area near Goodyear Lake or build strategic low bridges. This would link to the Perch Lake trail head and Judy Swank Shelter.

3. In addition to the dogs-allowed Nose Lake Ski Trail, establish another dogs-allowed ski trail or identity the existing northern third of the Cassian trail from Sheep Ranch north to allow dogs. Dog lovers appreciate having outdoor recreation areas where we can bring our dogs. The Shepherd Park dog park is also an excellent idea for a safe, fenced-in area to exercise and socialize dogs from Rhinelander and also for visitors/tourists who usually bring pets and need a place for them to run.

4. Allow color-coded circles, triangles, whatever to be painted on the trees of the Washburn-Perch Lake snowshoe trail to allow removal of the plastic flagging and prevent confusion about where the trail and loops go. It is a fun trail, but can get confusing.

5. Designate the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest block as non-motorized except for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.

Thank you for extending the comment period and for the good work you have been doing on the Washburn area trails and the Judy Swank Shelter. It is much appreciated!

Susan Watson

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Virgil Davis"
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 08:01:12 -0500
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

These are personal comments from Virgil Davis at 2700 Range Line Road

The job of trying to wade through 66 pages of a plan on screen are somewhat intimidating and I certainly have not read it all but here goes –

The counties formal recreational facilities require three different phases. Construction, maintenance and operation. The county does an excellent job in the first two phases of the process. The construction of the facilities that I am familiar with are usually well thought out and done. The maintenance which has to be a monumental chore is well executed and the county can be proud of the condition of the facilities. It seems like when it gets to the operation and advertising of it that it doesn't quite measure up to the other two.

I will give you an example. I live on one of the two roads that are generally used to access the Almon Recreational facility which includes the Buck Lake Beach. I hate to see spring come because of the parties, loud stereos and speeding traffic that I know is just around the corner. Quite frankly, I have never seen any law enforcement present at the area. Maybe the law enforcement folks always come in from the Lassig road entrance but it seems like once in a while they would happen by the other access route. When I sit in my living room, I can hear my house windows rattle from the 1000 watt base speakers that fill the trunks and pickup beds. They travel so fast past the house that it isn't possible to get license numbers so it really doesn't make any sense to report it.

The point is if you are going to develop and maintain formal recreational opportunities, they need some ongoing supervision. You can't just provide the facility without some policing provisions. A few people always find a way to drive up the cost for all those well behaved people that the facility was designed and constructed for.

We are fortunate and sincerely blessed to have the county forest lands we have in Oneida County. I would guess it is the only department in the county that actually makes a profit for the county. Please make sure that the focus stays on keeping the forest a working forest producing pulp and lumber. The formal recreational aspect of the facilities in the plan should be relegated to a fringe benefit of a working forest. There are also many informal activities such as hunting, fishing, snowshoeing and cross country skiing that take place that are equally as important as the formal ones and they cost the county very little and we need to protect that access.

Virgil Davis
3/16/2009

Oneida County ORP Comments

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Hausserman, Dr. Sue"

Date: Mon, 2 Mar 2009 09:03:13 -0600

To: "fheider@ncwrpc.org" <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, "jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us" <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

I suggest that the Oneida County Health Department's 5-year "Healthy People Oneida County" plan also be listed as part of existing plans that impact this outdoor recreation proposal. The focus on healthy and active lifestyles is essential to the health of our citizens.

I recommend that we prioritize silent sports in this plan, including biking, hiking, and cross-country ski trails. These activities minimize impact on the environment and maintain the pristine nature of our Northwoods.

I further recommend that we eliminate any ATV expansion in our county forest, similar to the Northern Highland State Forest's plan. ATVs are intrusively loud and polluting, and they wreck havoc on the environment by scaring away wildlife and eating up the trails.

Oneida ORP

Subject: Oneida ORP

From: "Guy and Carole Hansen"

Date: Fri, 20 Mar 2009 16:34:28 -0500

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>

CC: "John Bilogan" <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Mr. Heider,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Oneida County Five-year Outdoor Recreation Plan. Please let me know if I need to send these by U.S. mail.

Guy Hansen

Oneida County
Outdoor Recreation Survey Comments
from RASTA were attached to this email.

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY COMMENTS

1. From the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA)—silent sports enthusiasts promoting the responsible use of public lands for the enjoyment of all
2. The top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County.

A. Improve and increase outdoor silent sport recreational opportunities to:

- Accommodate/promote healthful outdoor activities
- Provide safe, convenient places for Oneida County residents to recreate
- Attract visitors from outside the county to help improve our local economy.

How and Where?

1. Develop, map and sign additional snowshoe/single track bike trails in response to the increased popularity of both sports (e.g. from the west, south and north of Washburn Ski Trails.)

2. Work with the Highway Department Director and/or local user groups to provide a safe road bike link from the Judy Swank Shelter at Perch Lake to the Bearskin Bike and Snowmobile Trail. Accomplish this by developing an off-road trail along County Trunk K between Washburn Lake Road and Horsehead Lake Road. Bikers can then take Harshaw Road to the Bearskin Trail. Much of this potential trail is already available on old highway right-of-way.

3. Use the 'land purchase fund' to purchase land with water frontage (adjacent to existing county land, if possible). This should be done with the long range objective of creating a campground with access to a lake or river. Townline Lake is a top priority, but all other suitable, available waterfront should be considered.

4. Manage hiking/hunting trails and wildlife plots/openings for maximum wildlife productivity. Insure 'walk only trail' access and use is maintained.

5. Develop designated water trails by providing safe, light-water craft access at convenient put-in and take-out points. The Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers should be top priorities.

6. Maintain/improve existing boat landings to provide lake/river access for fishing (e.g. Town Line, Perch, Timber and Bass Lakes).

7. Designate, sign and manage existing asphalt roads (such as the road from the Almon Recreation Area parking to the walking trails) for sports enjoyed by younger park users such as roller skating and roller blading.

8. Upgrade Townline Lake Park to improve appearance and usability by replacing the toilets, repairing the road and parking lot and restoring the eroded shoreline.

B. Increase use of silent sport areas and trails to:

- Improve the general physical and mental health of Oneida County residents
- Increase county residents' appreciation of/for the forest land that their tax dollars help support

- Increase revenue through trail use fees
- Improve the local economy by bringing tourists to the area.

How and Where?

1. Work with local media and user groups to promote county park and trail use by Oneida County residents through infomercials, advertising and special events (e.g. feature the excellent Almon Park bog trail).
2. Work through Chambers of Commerce, Oneida County Tourism Council, internet web sites, etc. to promote county park and trail use to potential users throughout the Midwest.
3. Cooperate with other 'trail managers' in Oneida County to promote the many excellent town, county, state, federal and commercial trails in the county as a recreation destination.
4. Increase 'year round' hiking and biking use of winter trails by more frequent mowing to make trails more inviting and usable.
5. Develop or modify trails to incorporate special features that will draw users (e.g. vistas, bridges, benches, trail signs).
6. Develop trails that are less technical/difficult for beginning/young skiers.
7. Install large, attractive direction signs along main highways and side roads to make parks and trails easier to find and more likely to be used.

C. Preserve and protect the Oneida County Forest and the unique and valuable outdoor recreational opportunities it provides. Recognize 'the forest' for the valuable resource that it is.

How and Where?

1. Resist all efforts to sell any portion of the forest or to reduce its acreage or change its overall purpose.
2. Increase the designated silent sports acreage in the Cassian-Woodboro block of the forest to 1400 contiguous acres with the long-term objective of designating the entire Cassian-Woodboro block of county forest a silent sport recreation area (excluding existing motorized trail use within this forest block).
3. Manage timber harvest in trail areas to avoid excessively compromising the character of the trail being affected.
4. Repair/replace/maintain existing gates and berms to ensure that some portions of the county forest road and trail system are set aside for non motorized use as intended.
5. Insure that all new roads/trails developed for logging county forest land are properly blocked after the timber sale is completed.
6. Contract with park neighbors, volunteers or user groups to help monitor and maintain parks and trails (e.g. increase park security and reduce vandalism and inappropriate behavior by monitoring park use, restrict night-time park use and assist park users as needed; construct and/or maintain mountain bike/snowshoe trails in the county forest per IMBA guidelines).

March 20, 2009

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Please make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet to be **postmarked by March 20, 2009** to:

Oneida ORP
NCWRPC
210 McClellan St Ste 210
Wausau, WI 54403

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2009

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Please list the group represented.

Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, Inc.
P O Box 105
Rhineland, WI 54501

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?

1. Maintain the integrity of the existing silent sports trails by enforcing the exclusion of all motor-vehicle traffic. There is a need to construct new barriers such that year-round access to these trails by all types of motor-vehicle traffic does not exist. We consider all skiing, biking, snowshoeing and hunter-walking trails as silent sports trails. Silent sports and motor-vehicle traffic **do not mix**.
2. The County should invest in better equipment (like a Tidd Tech G2 groomer or the YST Ginzu groomer) to groom the ski trails. In addition, the skiers would benefit if the groomers were sent to a grooming clinic like that offered at ABR trails near Ironwood MI. The quality of the classic track is often mediocre, largely due to outdated equipment.
3. Year-round maintenance of all the trails is necessary. A rotational system should be set up to mow **all** the double-wide trails at least once every two years and twice annually on the higher-use trails.

3. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORD managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.

Expanding the current Washburn silent sports trail block to include an additional snowshoe trail northeast of the new Judy Swank Shelter and a new easy ski loop around the shelter for beginner skiers. In addition, it would be nice to connect the Nose Lake ski trail to the Washburn Lake ski trail. This additional trail would remove the need to transport the grooming equipment between the two trail systems and create a single larger system increasing the appeal as a destination ski system by our ski tourists.

5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?
If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?

No

6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

THANK YOU FOR SEEKING OUR PARTICIPATION!

*Sue Lutz for
Board members of NNSC*