

Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin's Forests



SESSION FORMAT

Champion: Dave Marcouiller
Lead Facilitator: Debbie Yarmark
Total number of participants: 41

Objectives for session

- 1) Develop more proactive approach to management planning and public policy addressing forests that acts to:
 - a) Max. complementary and supplementary recreational uses
 - b) Min. competitive and antagonistic recreational uses
- 2) Encourage formation of alt. recreational stakeholder group coalitions and the sharing of key attributes of conflict
- 3) Management of recreational use conflicts in a manner that engages stakeholder involvement and public participation, in more creative manner
- 4) Forward examples of alternative types of recreational use and how management planning and public policy address inter-use conflict
- 5) Discuss the possibility of additional management planning and public policy

Session Format

I. Dave Marcouiller- Champion (UW-Madison/Extension) Introductions

- Pro-active vs. Re-active Approaches to Recreation
- Intent/Requirements of Pro-active public policy

II. Context of use conflict- Jeff Prey

- ..five years ago geo-caching wasn't even a word..”
- Expanded conflict Model

III. Dealing with conflict on the ground-Tim Miller- ATV issues(motorized)

- Trends, conflicts, user perspectives, regulations
- 3 E's- engineering, education and enforcement
- Criteria based decision making model-“ design, site and maintain trails that provide a quality experience for the user and which are sustainable”
- User Perspectives- ATV groups, NOVIS

IV. Paul Sandgren-Silent Sports/Non-motorized issues (super. Kettle Moraine St. Forest)

- Southern unit Background
- Existing conflict- mt. biker vs. skier/ horse vs. hikers or bikers
- **“Very simple little interactions cause accidents”**-horses vs. hikers
- Hiker vs. biker/ skier vs. hiker
- Hunter vs other users-perceived and potential for safety issues
- Up and coming uses- offroad roller blades/skateboards, CAT ski, Geo-caching

V. Alt. recreational perspectives-user group perspectives

Joel P- Editor, Silent Sports Magazines

- “what we’re watching now is the incredible explosion of atv use..atvs are really hard to deal with..they do destroy trails, they’re hard to control..” ..the question that has to be asked is, do they pay for themselves?” ..silent sport users are being displaced”
- “silent sport users are becoming less silent and you should expect that”

Rob- ATV-

- History of ATVs and programs in Wisconsin DNR
- “we do have our problems, we recognize our problems”
- Economic/ land issues
- Environmental impacts/ Trail care
- Who Pays?- ATV Grants (county, state, or taxpayers)
- Stakeholders-snowmobile community, bikeriders(paved trails melt snow)

Marsha Cooper/Ken Carpenter -Wisconsin State Horse Council

- “What is going right?- equestrians are working with other user groups doing volunteer maintenance”
- Financial benefits for multi-use trails- initial cost of multiuse trail is less than cost of developing many single use trails
- Community/social benefits
- Ecological benefits

VI. Capstone-George Meyer, executive director WWF- Public policy and recreational conflict

- “Many different types (recreational land use)but it really comes down to similar issues over the long term”
- Carrying capacity of the land- “every piece of public land cannot be everything to everyone”
- Responsibility of the land- conservation is a state of harmony between men and land- Aldo Leopold
- Conservation in the broadest sense is a state of harmony between man on the use of land- George Meyer
 - Suggestion-if at all possible conflicts of this nature need to be dealt with at ind. Level/ user level/ owner level; if it gets to legislature level, everyone may lose
- There should be no use allowed that degrades land or water quality
- The ultimate solution is to be pro-active instead of re-active

VII. Wrap-up- Dave Marcouiller

VIII. Small group discussions- Deb Yarmount

- 6 issues derived from state forest plan- recreation
- Participants chose to work on one issue in a small group to determine specified components such as who, what, when, where, how, why
- Ground rules for group work given

IX. Large group wrap-up on small group discussions