

# Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake POA

## Recreational Use Survey

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### OVERVIEW

The 2014 Recreational Use Survey (“the survey”) was conducted during July and August of 2014. The survey was initiated by the Association’s Board of Directors in order to obtain measurable input and opinion from members on the topic of potential new or expanded recreational activities inside the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA). Survey results were analyzed with oversight from a (retired) professional survey analyst. Survey results will allow the Board to more clearly represent the interests of members.

Surveys were mailed to 181 members in early July 2014, with 134 completed surveys returned by August 25th. This is a return rate of 74%. This response rate is a significant sample of our membership and it is reasonable to conclude that the results are an accurate reflection of member opinions.

Included in the full Survey Response packet are the following items:

1. Executive Summary
2. Results Copy of Survey Questionnaire
3. Appendixes:
  - A - Details of Concerns by Trail Type (Question 9)
  - B - Detailed Analysis of Question 22 Responses
  - C - Listing of Member Comments on Questions 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 21
  - D - Listing of Member Comments at End of Survey

#### ANALYSIS

**Section One** of the survey covered general topics including member demographics; current recreational activity, interests and concerns; and also covered several fishing related issues. Survey responses were geographically diverse. Thirty-nine percent of responses came from full-time residents who vote locally, 61% were from seasonal members. Seventy-five percent of respondents have owned local property more than 10 years. Top responses to why property was purchased were fishing, scenic beauty, peace and tranquility and wildlife. Only 6% cited silent sports and 4% indicated motorized sports as important to purchasing property.

When asked about their top 5 recreational activities in the TFSWA, fishing, boating, hiking/walking, hunting, and canoeing/kayaking were top responses. Top responses regarding what new trails were wanted were hiking (19%) and cross country skiing (13%). Next were hunting, ATV and snowshoe trails, all at 10%.

On Question 9, noise and wetland damage were top concerns if new trails were proposed. Dust, trespass and overcrowding were next. Invasive species spread, water quality and user conflicts were near the bottom of member concerns on Question 9. It should be noted that when asked to indicate what type of trail respondents had concerns about, ATV trails were mentioned most frequently on 7 of 8 different types of concerns.

*Also, please see Appendix A which has detailed charts of top concerns and related trail types.*

The last part of Section One dealt mostly with several fishing related issues. Only 2% of members said their favorite type of fishing was motor trolling; Walleyes were the favorite species to fish for, and only a small

number (12%) of members had interest or participated in fishing tournaments. Finally, in Q14, 92% of respondents felt that views of seasonal residents should be considered when conducting local planning.

**Section Two** of the survey was intended to measure member views on recreational ATV use in and around the TFSWA. Questions 15-20 were for current ATV users.

Of those who ATV, 72% have property that borders on or has direct access to a current ATV route or trail. The vast majority (80%) do not trailer their ATV to a designated route or trail. More than 70% said that ATV routes were good or excellent, and 67% rated ATV trails as good or excellent.

Question 21 asked all respondents for their views on ATV use in general. Top responses were concerns about environmental (16%) and aesthetic impacts (15%) and concerns that ATV's would stray from designated trails/routes (15%). In the middle of responses to Q21 were those who enjoyed ATV riding (8%), used ATV's ice fishing (7%) or work (7%) and those who had safety concerns regarding ATV's (7%). Only 5% of respondents indicated they wanted to access local businesses via ATV and 4% of respondents indicated they wanted more ATV trails.

It is interesting to compare the responses in Q21 with those in Q16/Q17. In Q21 there were 20 responses wanting new ATV trails. This is less than one-half of the current number of ATV users (55) shown in Q16/Q17. Another way of viewing this is that more than one-half of those responding as ATV users *did not* indicate they wanted more ATV trails.

**Section Three** of the survey (Questions 22-25) asked if members supported the Association's position opposing new ATV trails inside the TFSWA, asked about support for other types of new recreational trails, and asked if members had received enough information to answer survey questions.

On Question 22, 80% of respondents supported the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA. This support was geographically widespread with Lake Bastine being the only area with less than 75% support for the Association position. *For a detailed analysis of Q22, please see Appendix B which shows a break down by geographic area of property, and a breakdown by those who are voters in Mercer and Sherman.*

Again, please review responses to Q22, and then review the number of responses to Q16/Q17. On Q22 only 25 members did not support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV trails inside the TFSWA. On Q16/17, fifty-five (55) members identified themselves as current ATV users. *One logical take away is that a little over half of respondents who are current ATV users support the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV trails inside the TFSWA.*

Q23 asked about development of other types of trails inside the TFSWA. Heavy support was shown for new Canoe/Kayak portages and new Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe Trails. Medium support was shown for new Bike and Dog Sled Trails, with lower levels of support for Horse and Snowmobile trails.

In Q24, over 90% felt they had enough information to respond to the survey and about one-half indicated they would be willing to attend or speak about recreational use issues at a public meeting.

**Closing** – First, thanks to everyone who responded to the survey and special thanks to those who took extra time to add their individual concerns and thoughts. Please see Appendix C and D for a complete listing of these concerns.

The survey was, in part, intended to supplement previous member surveys in 2001 and 2009 and was also designed to solicit member feedback about potential new recreational trails inside the TFSWA. Survey results give the Board measurable member input from members and will guide the Board's thinking about development of new recreational opportunities inside the TFSWA.

Prior to this survey the Board had received some negative feedback about taking a position on the potential new ATV trail without a survey of member opinions. These survey results clearly indicate the vast-majority of respondents support the Association continuing to oppose development of new ATV trails inside the TFSWA project boundary.

Please note that the Board **has not** taken any position on development of new ATV trails or routes **outside** of the TFSWA project boundary.

Finally we ask that all members keep in mind the Mission Statement for the Association. This is something that the Board takes seriously. It was developed back in 1996 when the Association was first formed, has been in our Bylaws since inception, and has been printed on the back cover of our newsletter for the last 8-9 years. The Mission Statement reads:

***“The purpose of the Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interest of members and the general public.”***

# Turtle Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake Property Owners Association

## Recreational Use Survey

### **RESULTS COPY OF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

The goals and activities of the TFF-TL POA (the Association) are guided by our mission statement and by input from our members. The best way of obtaining measureable member input is through a survey. We previously conducted membership surveys in 2001 and 2009 and are now asking for your input again.

During the past year a number of questions regarding new or expanded recreational activity inside the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA) have come to the attention of our Board. These include the Motor Trolling proposal, ATV Trail proposal, Fishing Tournament expansion, and new recreational uses like winter biking, dog sledding, etc. In order to more clearly represent the interests of our members, we are asking for your opinion and thoughts.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey. Summarized results of the survey will be available later this year.

*Please circle your answers. Only circle one answer unless otherwise instructed. If a question does not apply, please skip it and go to the next question that does.*

- **Results are listed using percentage order of responses** (*alphabetical order used to list choices for initial survey questions*)
- **Number of Responses for each question is shown using a format of:  $N = xx$**

#### **SECTION ONE – RESULTS**

##### **1. Which area most closely identifies the location of your property (or your membership status)?**

Lake Bastine	(32)	24%	<b>N = 132</b>
Springstead Landing	(29)	22%	
Norway Point/Merkle Lake	(26)	20%	
Sturgeon Bay Landing	(15)	11%	
Horseshoe/Townline	(9)	7%	
Trude Lake	(9)	7%	
4-Mile Creek	(7)	5%	
Special Member	(3)	2%	
Rat Lake	(1)	1%	
Murray's Landing	(0)	0%	

##### **2. Where do you vote?**

Other	(75)	61%	<b>N = 123</b>
Mercer	(33)	27%	
Sherman	(15)	12%	

##### **3. How much time do you spend at your Flowage property each year?**

9-12 Months	(45)	35%	<b>N = 127</b>
1-3 Months	(44)	35%	
Up to 1 Month	(20)	16%	
4-8 Months	(18)	14%	

##### **4. How long have you been at your Flowage location?**

Over 20 years	(47)	36%	<b>N = 130</b>
16-20 Years	(26)	20%	
11-15 Years	(25)	19%	
6-10 Years	(22)	17%	
0-5 Years	(10)	8%	

**5. If you are a part time resident, when do you to spend time at the Flowage? (circle all that apply)**

Summer	(86)	28%	
Fall	(85)	28%	<b>N = 303</b>
Spring	(77)	25%	
Winter	(55)	18%	

**6. What characteristics most attracted you to purchase property on or near the TFSWA? (circle all that apply)**

Fishing	(112)	16%	
Scenic Beauty	(111)	16%	<b>N = 681</b>
Peace & Tranquility	(102)	15%	
Wildlife	(97)	14%	
Wild/Rural Character	(88)	13%	
Hunting	(54)	8%	
Silent Sports	(42)	6%	
Availability of Public Land	(35)	5%	
Motorized Sports	(26)	4%	
Other	(14)	2%	<i>(See Appendix C)</i>

**7. Please circle your primary recreational activities when in the TFSWA (circle top 5 activities)**

Fishing	(110)	22%	
Boating	(84)	17%	<b>N = 509</b>
Hiking/Walking	(52)	10%	
Hunting	(49)	10%	
Canoeing/Kayaking	(41)	8%	
Snowmobiling	(39)	8%	
Bird Watching	(34)	7%	
Bicycle Riding (on-road)	(21)	4%	
ATV Riding	(20)	4%	
Snowshoeing	(17)	3%	
Cross Country Skiing	(15)	3%	
Camping	(6)	1%	
Mountain Bike Riding (off-road)	(5)	1%	
Personal Watercraft Riding	(3)	1%	
Sailing	(2)	0%	
Other	(6)	1%	<i>(See Appendix C)</i>
Dog Sledding	(1)	0%	
Horseback Riding	(1)	0%	

**8. What types of recreational trails would you like to see MORE of in the TFSWA? (circle all that apply)**

Hiking Trails	(43)	19%	
Cross Country Ski Trails	(28)	13%	<b>N = 223</b>
Hunting Trails	(27)	10%	
ATV Trails	(23)	10%	
Snowshoe Trails	(23)	10%	
Canoe/Kayak Portage Trails	(16)	7%	
Other	(16)	7%	<i>(See Appendix C)</i>
Interpretive Trails	(14)	6%	
Snowmobile Trails	(12)	5%	
Mountain Biking Trails	(11)	5%	
Winter Biking Trails	(5)	2%	
Dog Sled Trails	(3)	1%	
Horseback Riding Trails	(2)	1%	

9. **If new recreational trails were proposed for creation inside the TFSWA, what concerns would you have? (circle all that apply and specify trail type)**

**A. OVERALL CONCERNS**

<b><u>Concern Type</u></b>	<b><u>Total Responses</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>	
Noise	(78)	20%	<b>N = 381</b>  <i>This chart shows number of members who indicated a concern, by concern type.</i>  <i>Example, 78 members indicated a concern with noise if new trails (of any kind) were proposed.</i>
Damage to Wetlands	(55)	14%	
Dust	(42)	11%	
Trespass on Private Land	(42)	11%	
Overcrowding	(41)	11%	
Spread of Invasive Species	(32)	8%	
Impacts on Water Quality	(30)	8%	
No Concerns	(28)	7%	
User Conflicts	(27)	7%	
Other (See Appendix C)	(6)	2%	

**B. CONCERN BY TRAIL TYPE**

***See Appendix A for details of Concerns by Trail Type***

10. **If you fish, what is your favorite type of fishing?**

Traditional "Hook & Line" Fishing	(125)	82%	<b>N = 152</b>
Ice Fishing	(18)	12%	
Fly Fishing	(6)	4%	
Motor Trolling in a Boat	(3)	2%	

11. **What fish species are you most interested in fishing for?**

Walleye	(106)	45%	<b>N = 233</b>
Panfish	(41)	18%	
Musky	(35)	15%	
Smallmouth Bass	(34)	15%	
Northern Pike	(12)	5%	
Other	(5)	2% (See Appendix C)	

12. **Are you interested in or do you participate in fishing tournaments?**

No	(115)	88%	<b>N = 131</b>
Yes	(16)	12%	

13. **If yes, for what species? (circle all that apply)**

Walleye	(12)	38%	<b>N = 32</b>
Musky	(9)	28%	
Bass	(7)	22%	
Panfish	(4)	13%	

14. **Do you think it is important to take into account the concerns of seasonal residents as well as full-time residents (voters) when conducting local planning?**

Yes	(108)	92%	<b>N = 118</b>
No	(10)	8%	

## SECTION TWO – RESULTS

Due to a potential proposal to develop new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA project boundary, the following section will help us to better understand member views on recreational ATV use in and around the TFSWA. *Questions 15-20 are for current ATV users. If you do not ATV, please go to question 21.*

Please note the difference between an ATV **Route** and an ATV **Trail**. Routes are generally on public roads specifically designated as such by a local ordinance. Trails normally are in an off-road corridor specifically designed for ATV use.

**Questions 15 through 20 were answered only by those who are current ATV users.**

**15. If you own or rent an ATV, where do you ride your ATV? (circle all that apply)**

On my own property	(39)	36%	<b>N = 107</b>
Designated ATV Routes	(33)	31%	
Designated ATV Trails	(28)	26%	
Other Private Property	(7)	7% (w/ permission)	

**16. Does your local property border on or have direct access to a designated ATV Route or Trail?**

Yes - Route	(25)	45%	<b>N = 55</b>
No	(15)	27%	
Yes – Both	(14)	26%	
Yes – Trail	(1)	2%	

**17. Do you use a trailer to transport your ATV to designated ATV Routes or Trails?**

No	(44)	80%	<b>N = 55</b>
Yes	(11)	20%	

**18. What months of the year do you ride the most?**

Fall (September - November)	(29)	36%	<b>N = 81</b>
Summer (June - August)	(29)	36%	
Winter (December - March)	(12)	15%	
Spring (April - May)	(11)	14%	

**19. How do you rate the existing system and availability of ATV ROUTES in Iron County?**

Good	(26)	54%	<b>N = 51</b>
Fair	(13)	27%	
Excellent	(9)	19%	
Poor	(3)	6%	

**20. How do you rate the existing system and availability of ATV TRAILS in Iron County?**

Good	(24)	51%	<b>N = 47</b>
Fair	(13)	28%	
Excellent	(9)	19%	
Poor	(1)	2%	

**21. What do you think about ATV use in general? (circle all that apply)**

I am concerned about environmental impacts of ATV's in TFSWA	(76)	16%	<b>N = 464</b>
I am concerned about the aesthetic impacts of ATV's in the TFSWA	(71)	15%	
I am concerned that ATV's will not stay on designated Trails and Routes	(69)	15%	
I enjoy recreational ATV riding	(37)	8%	
I use ATV's for Ice Fishing	(35)	8%	
I use ATV's for Work	(33)	7%	
I am concerned about safety regarding ATV's	(31)	7%	
I use ATV's for Hunting	(30)	6%	
I would like to have more access to ATV Routes (on public roads)	(23)	5%	
I would like to be able to access local businesses via ATV	(23)	5%	
I would like to have more ATV Trails	(20)	4%	
Other (See Appendix C)	(16)	3%	

**SECTION THREE – RESULTS**

The TFSWA is managed by WI-DNR according to provisions of a Master Plan finalized in 1995. The Master Plan, in section H(6), states that “No new snowmobile or ATV trails are planned”, and in section H(5) states that that “Secondary roads not needed for public access will be closed to motorized vehicles to eliminate potential conflicts between recreational users.”

Based on the Association’s mission statement, Master Plan language (above), concerns about wetland damage, erosion and runoff at stream crossings and the potential for spread of invasive species on ATV tires, the Association has opposed new ATV Trails inside the TFSWA.

**22. Do you support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV Trails on public land inside the TFSWA project boundary?**

Yes	(100)	80%	
No	(25)	20%	N = 125

**See Appendix B for Detailed Analysis of Question 22**

**23. Please indicate your position on new development of other types of recreational trails inside the TFSWA project boundary.**

	<u>Support</u>		<u>Oppose</u>		
Canoe or Kayak Trails (portages)	(82)	82%	(18)	18%	N = 100
Bike Trails	(71)	69%	(32)	31%	N = 103
Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe Trails	(85)	83%	(18)	17%	N = 103
Dog Sled Trails	(50)	56%	(39)	44%	N = 89
Horse Trails	(32)	39%	(51)	61%	N = 83
Snowmobile Trails	(39)	40%	(58)	60%	N = 97

**24. Has the Association given you enough information about recreational use planning to respond to this survey?**

Yes	(114)	91%	
No	(11)	9%	N = 125

**25. With what you know about recreational use planning issues would you feel comfortable attending or commenting at a local meeting such as the Conservation Congress, Town or County Board, WI-DNR public meeting, etc.?**

Yes	(54)	47%	
No	(61)	53%	N = 115

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the space below (or an additional sheet) to express other concerns or opinions.

**See Appendix D for Listing of Concerns/Opinions expressed by Members**

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by August 11, 2014 using the pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelope.**

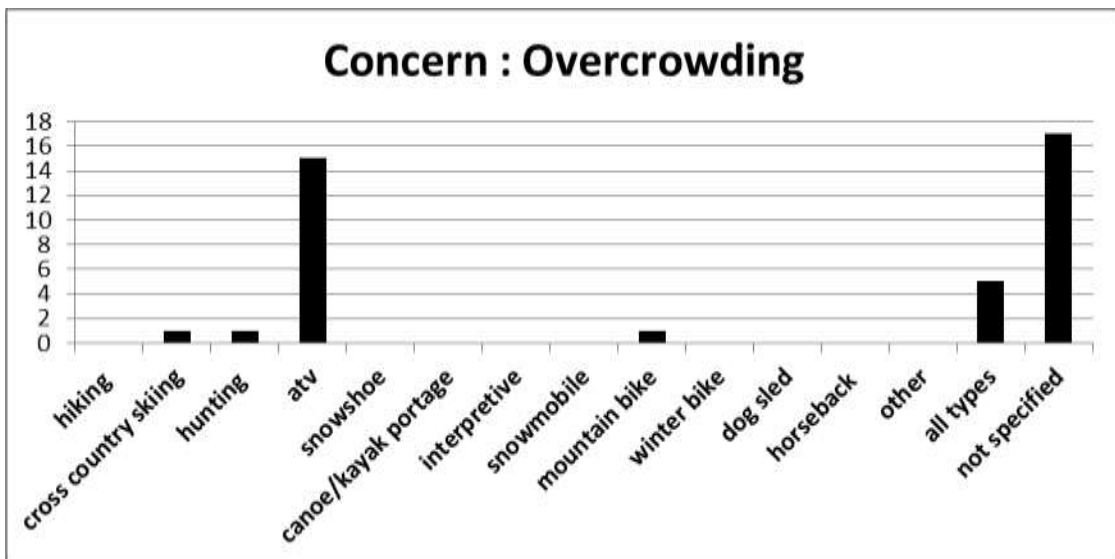
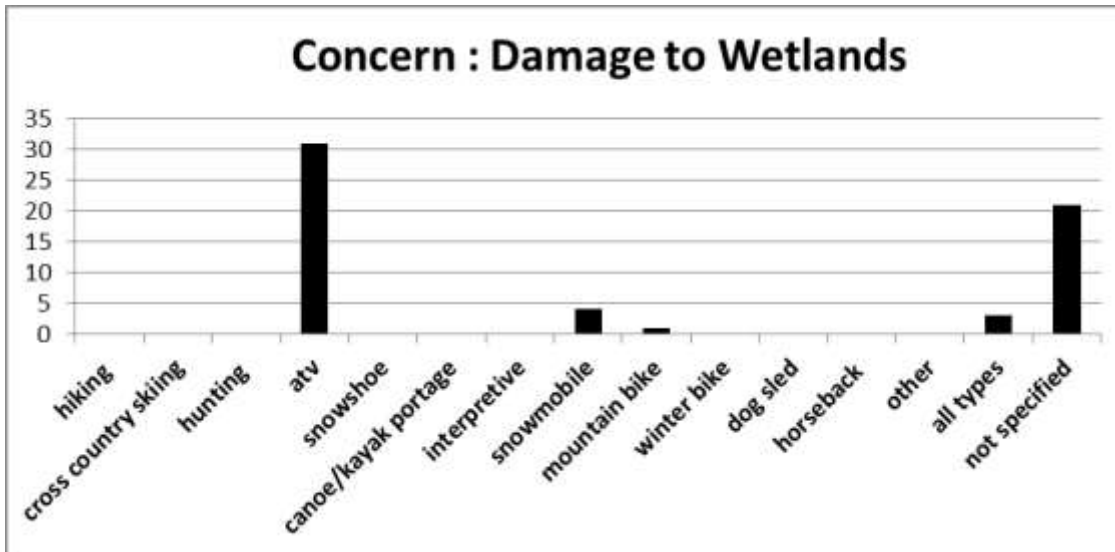
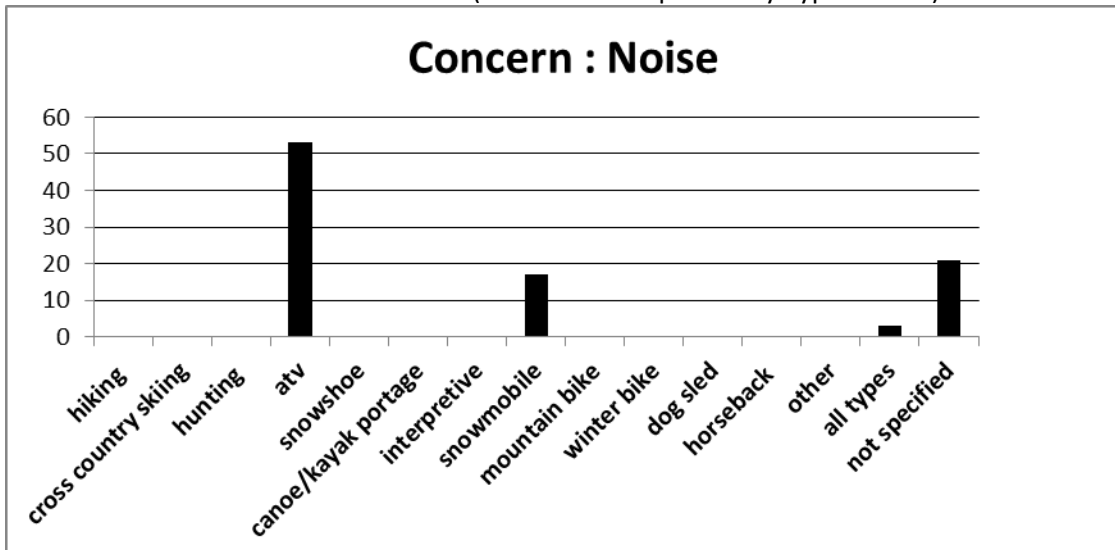
(If return envelope is lost/misplaced, please return the survey to: TFF-TL POA, PO Box 631, Mercer, WI 54547)



## **APPENDIX A**

### **Question 9 (B) - Member Concerns if new Trails were proposed for inside TFSWA**

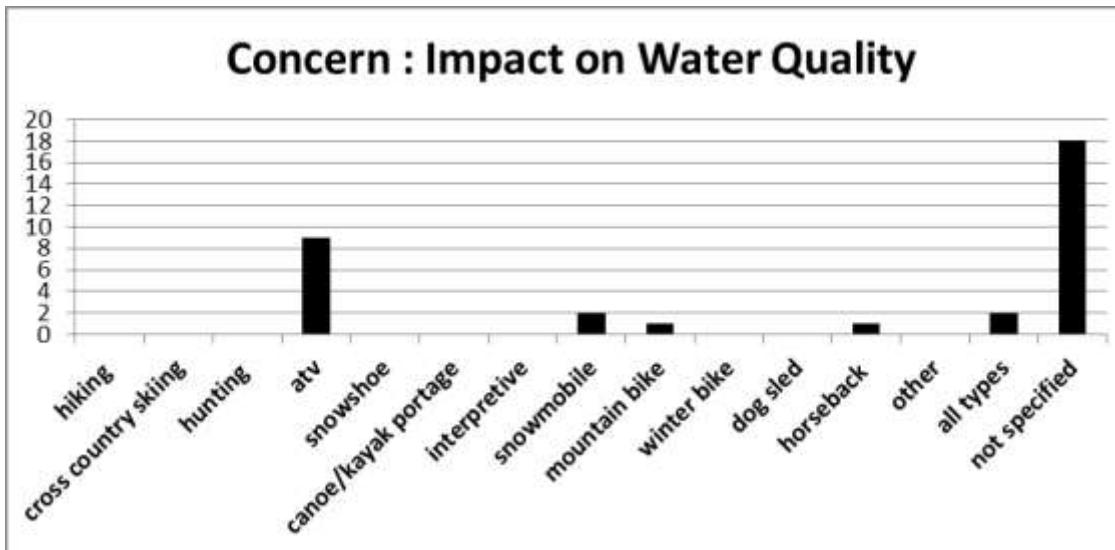
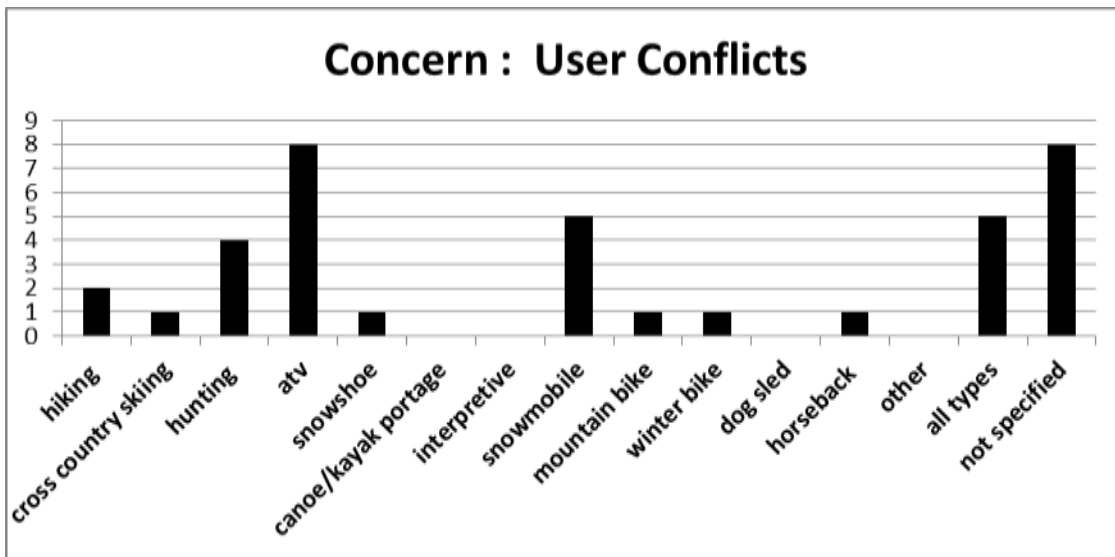
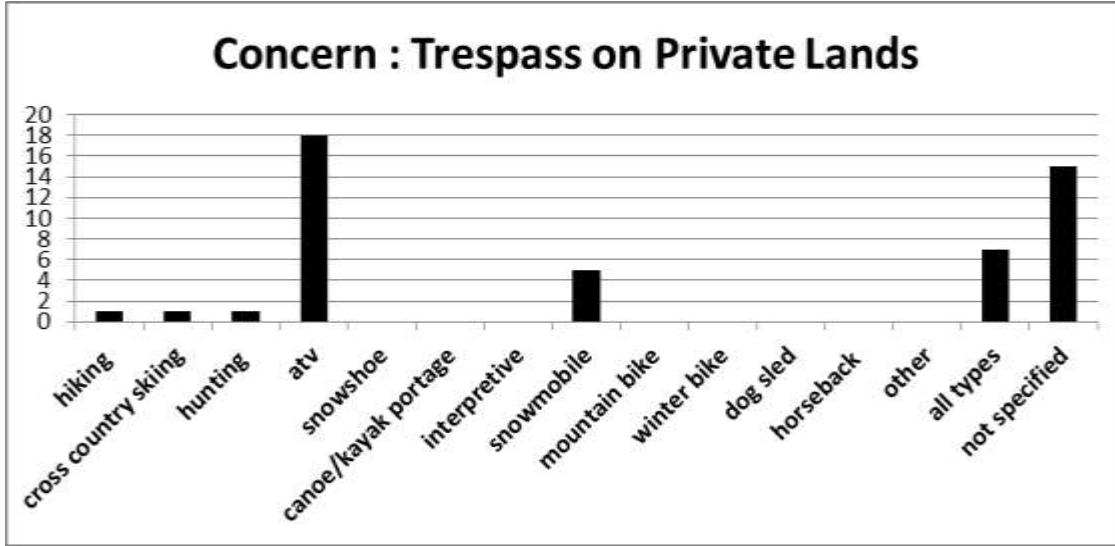
(Number of Responses by Type of Trail)



## ***APPENDIX A***

### Question 9 (B) - Member Concerns if new Trails were proposed for inside TFSWA

(Number of Responses by Type of Trail)



## **APPENDIX B**

### **Detailed Analysis for Question # 22 (which read):**

**“Do you support the Association continuing to oppose new ATV Trails on public land inside the TFSWA project boundary?”**

<b>RESPONSES BY PROPERTY LOCATION</b>				
<b>Letter</b>	<b>Area of TFSWA</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Not Answered</b>
A	Sturgeon Bay Landing	11	3	1
B	Lake Bastine	22	8	2
C	4-Mile Creek	6	0	1
D	Norway Point/Merkle Lake	19	5	2
E	Springstead Landing	23	3	3
F	Horseshoe/Townline	7	2	0
G	Rat Lake	1	0	0
H	Trude Lake	8	1	0
J	Special Member (not prop owner)	1	2	0
	No Property Location Given	2	1	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>

Note: No members had property near Murray's Landing (Letter I)

<b>RESPONSES BY VOTING LOCATION</b>				
<b>Letter</b>	<b>Voting Location</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Not Answered</b>
A	Mercer	22	10	1
B	Sherman (Springstead)	13	1	1
C	Other	58	12	5
	No Voting Location Given	7	2	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>

## **APPENDIX C**

This is a listing of written responses when “OTHER” was selected as an answer for Questions 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 21. Comments are not shown in any particular order.

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### **Q # 6: What characteristics most attracted you to purchase property on or near the TFSWA?**

1. Master Plan saying no new motorized trails.
2. Trapping
3. Waterskiing
4. Not too many people
5. Business
6. Be near family
7. Proximity to Mountain Bike Trails (Hayward/Cable)
8. Snow
9. In my blood – started at grandparent’s cabin in 1941 & have owned a cabin since 1966. Most of the above apply.
10. Family vacations

### **Q #7: Please circle your primary recreational activities when in the TFSWA**

1. Hanging Out
2. Working around the cabin/property. Enjoying family activities, visiting surrounding towns.

### **Q # 8: What types of recreational trails would you like to see MORE of in the TFSWA?**

1. None (11 different members made same comment)
2. None, it means more traffic, more noise and more people.
3. None except biking trail from Mercer to Manitowish Waters.
4. Bike trail connecting to trail by Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters, etc.
5. Love to have nice bike trail along FF and Popko Circle – bicycle trails by roads not on them.
6. Connect Frontier Inn to Springstead Road.
7. Running trails

### **Q # 9: If new recreational trails were proposed for creation inside the TFSWA, what concerns would you have?**

1. Safety
2. Safety – we’ve noticed a marked increase of ATV’s on County FF since Popko Circle was opened as a route.
3. Since Popko Circle was opened to ATV’s Nokomis Road & Charlotte’s Way have become a “site seeing” route. Unappreciated when you bought property for tranquility!
4. Trail surface damage by horses, ATV, Snowmobiles
5. Trash – ATV’s

### **Q #11: What species are you most interested in fishing for?**

1. All (5 different members made same comment)

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Q #21: What do you think about ATV use in general?**

1. There should not be an ATV route on Popko Circle. Right now this is being used a trail.
2. Purchased property after reading Master Plan saying no new Motorized Trails.
3. ATV's & Jetski's are totally inconsistent with a wilderness setting. More trails, ATV's and traffic will destroy the character of the Flowage area.
4. I have already experienced excessive noise due to ATV's being allowed on Popko. Also a group went down my road from Popko yet it's not designated as ATV approved.
5. Noisy & obnoxious, they are usually speeding.
6. No worse than high HP boats.
7. I would enjoy riding an ATV for quiet easy riding which actually seems almost impossible because others would take advantage in a negative way. We have seen hunters shooting grouse on ATV's. This is unacceptable!
8. We have more ATV trails in Iron County than any other county. Why do we need more! Is this a push by local business for more trails? Businesses need to use marketing, advertising, and customer service to attract customers, not ask local government for favors to benefit them solely.
9. Noise
10. ATV is another sign of the technology of taking. We don't need it or want it.
11. Should not be allowed on paved roads.
12. There are more ATV's registered than snowmobiles so there has to be some designated routes for their use. I would recommend being able to use the side of a street in order to connect with established ATV trails.
13. Speed limits not observed.
14. This is not the place for ATV's.
15. When I drive to Hurley I see the rutted trails and the trailers full of mud covered ATV's. What a noisy, muddy mess!
16. No real opinion on topic
17. There is enough trails/routes

## **APPENDIX D**

**This is a listing of concerns and opinions expressed in the Comment section at the end of the Survey. Comments are not shown in any particular order.**

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1. Our property is on W. Camp Nokomis Road (Trude Lake). We are concerned about ATV's driving up & down our road, into our driveways & disturbing the tranquility of our area. They can come right off of Popko Circle onto our road. We are concerned about noise levels. This is supposed to be Loon Country, not an ATV Track.
2. I think this is absolutely wrong that the Association is trying to impose a negative view on recreational trails on county/town roads! How did the Association come up with the assumption that the Association should oppose the ATV trail when I, as a member was never asked, nor was any vote taken. Is this the president pushing her views & taking advantage of her position to voice her own agenda? There's room for everyone.
3. Thanks for being a watchdog and advocate for the beautiful TFSWA!
4. We expect ATV's to be respectful of other people's rights and peace and tranquility. That should also apply to our president of the Association. She does not slow down when she drives by you with her boat (50'-75') away. Very rude for somebody who should set an example!
5. Let's keep it natural and unspoiled.
6. I think ATV'ers should use Popko Circle and town roads not trails in the woods
7. I am not a fan of the noise and dust generated by ATV's.
8. Thank you for all who took the time to out this survey together and will analyze the returned completed forms. Lots of work, but something that needed to be done to best represent all our paying members, especially those who reply. How can we eliminate Jetski's and big high HP motors and inboard/outboard and all inboard motors?
9. I did not appreciate the fact that the ATV issue was discussed at a city board meeting after the summer residence people had left for the season and were unable to attend the meeting and voice their opinions.
10. We are near rental property, Turtle Flambeau Dam Road. The ATV route is used more as a trail (back & forth) with no speed limit observed.
11. We are usually not available to attend meetings.
12. I just sold my condo at Lake Bastine. I don't know if ATV's were allowed on Flambeau Dam Road, but they are buzzing up and down the road at all hours. I live near the Tuscobia Trail, a popular ATV route. Lately I have noticed that many of the ATV's have removed the mufflers and go with straight pipes. Very noisy and they get bigger every year.
13. I would like a "NO ATV'S" sign at the beginning of all roads that lead off Popko where these roads are not approved for ATV use.
14. Thank you for all the work you do. I wish I could be more active in the Association, but right now I can't. Maybe in the next 1-1.5 years. I am retired DNR: Fisheries, ER, Forestry, Master Planning ...
15. I am not happy with the way the "2 year trial period" for ATV's was approached. I feel a 3 or 6 month trial period would have been more appropriate & all residents should have been notified via mail. I did voice my opinion in a letter, but it obviously was already going through.
16. Iron County already has the largest ATV trail system of anywhere in WI. No need for more inside the TFSWA Project Boundary.

## **APPENDIX D**

17. I don't feel the Association supported the opposition of the ATV route on Popko Circle. The same issues that affect the land also affect Popko Circle. Let's keep the Flowage a wild and scenic area it was meant to be.
18. Part-time residents contribute significantly to the tax base without consuming tax paid services at the same rate as full-timers. This is an economic plus for the taxing bodies. To not include part-time residents in discussions about recreation (which is why most of them are here) is, at least, disrespectful.
19. We would like to see a fishing tournament maybe 1 time a year or have contests on larger fish.
20. 30 years ago I said we should raise walleye for re-stocking like Minnesota.
21. The Master Plan was done in 1995 when ATV use was still in its infancy. Things have changed dramatically and I feel there can be equal balance between locals and part-timers. I feel locals have and will be against any more ATV/UTV access period.
22. I am not a property owner. However we have been coming several times a year for the past 46 years, so I almost feel like a resident. Many things have changed over these 46 years and will continue to do so as the generations change. We can't go back and time does not stand still. It will never be the same again. Property owners, full-time residents and frequent visitors must work together for the whole.
23. If motorized vehicles are banned on the Flowage and TFSWA do you think tax base will remain the same? Does the TFF-TL POA think any tourists will come to Iron Country if bans on motorized vehicles are initiated?
24. We have many acres of land owned by the public. There is no reason it can't have more usage. The roads to the boat landings do not need to be closed to ATV's or snowmobiles. The main connection needed is to get to town and other trails that exist.
25. Development including new trails, additional campsites, improving existing campsites or trails are counter-productive to the very reasons most of us located on the Flowage. Peace, quiet and at least a hint of what wilderness is all about will not be encouraged by building a bunch of new trails. We used hear Whipporwhills, Hermit Thrushes and many other birds—not in the last 10 years. How often does anyone see baby loons?
26. The Turtle-Flambeau area is different than the Minocqua & Eagle River areas. Let's keep this area primarily for those wishing for a more remote area to enjoy outdoor activities. The damage done by ATV's to the environment is very evident in other areas of our state.
27. I favor lower smallmouth size limit – make room for more walleyes.
28. I appreciate what the Association does. Thank you! Sure can't beat communication and you help keep us informed.
29. I would like to see trolling, by electric trolling motors only, be allowed on the TFF. No gas motor trolling and limit lines to one.
30. Stop shocking the Flowage and killing off crawfish or crabs, no food for fish. Don't keep the flowage so full - it's washing out the banks. The path where we walked 35 years ago is now gone – over 4' washed out. An island near us had 3 big pines trees that stood there forever are now in the Flowage. All of the islands are getting smaller and the Flowage is getting bigger. Time to come you will have buildings in the Flowage.
31. We all pay taxes – the Turtle Flowage should be open for all people with all sports.
32. Although I am a seasonal/part-time resident, I would welcome trail development along the 182 corridor to help resorts and businesses. I see the ATV trails in Hayward and the numbers using them. That kind of activity along 182 would do wonders for business. This corridor is also somewhat removed and therefore resident concerns would be greatly minimized.
33. See attached full page of typewritten member comment.

## **APPENDIX D**

To: The TFF-TL POA Board of Directors

RE: Comment requested on ATV Trails and use of public lands within the TFF Scenic Waters Boundaries

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate my opinions and ideas on this topic. Property owners fortunate enough to own land within the boundaries of the TFF Scenic Waters area certainly have a large stake in how the public resource is used and managed. I have been a long time Special Member of your Association and have been fortunate enough to have spent a large portion of my free time in and around the TFF since I was a child. I view the TFF area as one of the biggest success stories and efforts of the WIDNR. I view the ongoing management and control as critical to everyone's enjoyment of the area today as well into the future.

I appreciate all efforts to protect the area from harm and to sustain the "wildness" of the area from development. I also support the use of the public land for public use. Fortunately the area is diverse in size and terrain. I always observe the "quiet areas" of the flowage in respect for those seeking peace and quiet. They deserve a place to go as much as I do in my motorboat. Likewise the opportunities hunt, fish, and explore are numerous in the TFF area. I am all for having these lands And waters open to responsible use for all to enjoy in the ways they choose.

ATV's and other motorsports can have a very polarizing effect on public opinion. Those of us who enjoy riding ATV's want to have access to quality trails and riding areas. Business that would like to have ATV riders as customers is certainly understandable. **I am in favor of allowing business(s) to create an access trail across undeveloped state lands within the TFF area.** Of course the protection of the surface waters, and proper maintenance would be a condition of the access point. I do not believe the public should have to pay for this trail or the maintenance of it. The access trail should be paid for by the business owner or the local ATV club/trail funds.

**I am not in favor for the creation of a trail system within the boundaries of the TFF area.** Allowing access to businesses within the designated TFF area to the surrounding trail system is different than creating new trail systems within the states property. I feel the trail system that surrounds TFF area to be quite large and well maintained. Having some feeder/access trails to existing businesses would only enhance what is already in place.

I am fortunate enough to own property within two miles of the TFF scenic waters area that is on an existing ATV route. I feel it enhances my property value, is another form of recreation, and the ability to reach business that offer fuel and other supplies via ATV trails would be a great thing if managed and created properly.

Please consider taking a proactive position on the ATV trail issues you are currently facing. Compromise and respect for everyone's use of the resources and local businesses could be a real positive. Enhancing everyone's use of the TFF area while protecting the resource can be achieved with common sense and understanding.

Thanks in advance for considering my ideas and suggestions. I am confident that all of the leaders in the TFF-TL POA will ultimately do what's best for the TFF area and all of us who enjoy it in ways we all like.

Sincerely,