

**Turtle-Flambeau Flowage & Trude Lake
Property Owners Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 631, Mercer, WI 54547

January 25, 2018

TO: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

On behalf of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. (TFF-TL POA), I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for us to comment on the proposed ATV amendments to the Master Plan for the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA). The mission of our Association is to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the Flowage and its surroundings for the collective interests of both our members and the general public. We currently have over 170 members who own property on or near the TFF or Trude Lake.

Our Association is opposed to any amendments to the Master Plan that would allow for new ATV trail development within the TFSWA. We oppose such amendments for two primary reasons.

First, the results of recent surveys taken both of our members and of residents and key stakeholder groups of Iron County clearly show strong opposition to such development. The results of a 2014 survey of our members are available here - [TFFTL-POA Survey 2014](#). Our survey found that **80% of our members opposed new ATV trails within the TFSWA**. In addition, **over 50% of current ATV users also opposed new ATV trails within the TFSWA**. The survey also contains details on the nature of concerns expressed by many of our members – e.g., environmental and aesthetic impacts.

Beyond the scope of just our members, a recent county-wide assessment of outdoor recreation had results to almost identical to ours. The 2016-2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan for Iron County can be viewed here - [Iron County Plan](#). The plan includes the results of a survey conducted in 2015. The plan points out that Iron County already “boasts Wisconsin’s largest ATV system”. And the survey indicates that **80% of the respondents did not support additional ATV trail development**.

Second, the TFSWA is recognized as a unique and special area of the state. The main goal of the Master Plan is to “preserve the scenic qualities of the TFSWA; protect plant and wildlife communities, especially endangered and threatened species; provide interpretive and educational information; and accommodate compatible recreational opportunities for the general public”. Under this goal, the #1 objective is to “protect, maintain and enhance the generally wild and undeveloped scenic beauty...” We believe that an amendment to this plan to allow for additional motorized trail

development would radically alter the entire scope of the management plan and go contrary to the #1 objective.

We would also like to point out that the intent of the Master Plan amendment is “to create linkages in the larger regional trail networks”. We are not aware of any new proposed trail that would create such a linkage. The only new ATV trail that has been discussed with us for the TFSWA would simply connect two sections of a semi-circular road (Popkos Circle) that currently serves as an ATV route and is already connected to itself.

We intend to stay involved with this process, and would appreciate being notified of any related activities or developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Malison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jeffrey Malison, President

TFF-TL POA Board Members: Tom Mowbray, Jim Kohl, Bill Stewart, Jim Moore, Randy Schubert, Diane O’Krongly, Ed Hryciuk, Jean Burns