

MODIFIED VARIANCE TO THE Tuscobia State Trail MASTER PLAN

<http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/mb/handbooks/22101/22101.pdf> Ch 41

- Variance
 Amendment

Property Name: Tuscobia State Trail

Date the Current Master Plan Approved: 1984

Proposed Change to the Master Plan: In March of 1987 the Master Plan was amended to allow for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use.

In March of 2010 the State authorized a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Pilot Program for operation of UTVs on designated ATV trails and road routes.

This plan variance authorizes UTV use until June 30, 2012 on that portion of the Tuscobia State Trail that is authorized by the Master Plan for use by ATVs and as posted by the Department. A trail segment may not be posted open for UTV use unless the county has passed a resolution for the county to participate in the pilot program. If any county withdraws from the UTV pilot program prior to June 30, 2012, authorization for UTV use on the segment of the Tuscobia State Trail is discontinued at that time.

Approved:  **Date:** 5/28/10
Laurie Osterndorf, Administrator, Division of Lands
(Note: a plan amendment must also be approved by the Natural Resources Board.)

Variance/Amendment Initiator or Author: Kathy A. Oginski

Job Title: Property Manager, Tuscobia State Trail

Supporting Approvals

Tom Watts Date: 05-26-10
Department Master Planning Manager, LF

Kathy A. Oginski Date: 05/10/10
Property Manager

WA Smith Date: 5/12/2010
~~Regional Director~~

Pat Schulla for Pat Schulla Date: 5/26/10
Program Bureau Director

Others with a special interest:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____

Supporting Information:

Purpose and need for the plan change:

In March of 2010, the Governor signed a UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) pilot program into law, effective through June 30, 2012.

Due to the increasing number of UTVs being developed and purchased, there is a growing demand for riding opportunities for these vehicles. This 2010 variance would allow UTV use on the Tuscobia State Trail.

How the proposed plan change is supported by or is inconsistent with the property vision, goals and objectives or other plan provisions:

Goals of the Master Plan is to make available a 74-mile state recreation area trail for year-round use, which will provide safe two-way travel and to preserve the resource for present and future generations.

Objectives within the Master Plan are to provide the trail with necessary improvements that will accommodate the users. Included in these are the proper design, construction, signage and management of the trail facility.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change:

Provide a seamless connector for UTV operators from the Tuscobia State Trail via County Forest lands and local township road routes to the Wild Rivers State Trail and trails beyond.

Additional anticipated benefits:

With a large population segment aging but wanting to remain active in the outdoors, UTVs offer a comfortable alternative to ATVs. An increase in UTV recreationists will benefit the communities that serve the trail through additional tourism revenue.

Unavoidable adverse impacts:

No unavoidable adverse impacts were noted on the Tuscobia State Trail based on the 2008-2009 UTV pilot program survey.

Summary of any alternatives considered:

The other alternative is to not allow UTV use on the Tuscobia State Trail. This decision, if implemented, most likely would have a negative impact on the Department as well as the local economies supported by the motorized recreationist.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:

For purposes of this variance, UTVs will adhere to the established rules and regulations defined for ATVs.

Federal aid limitations

There are no federal funds involved with the management of the area covered by the proposed variance.

Public review process used:

Public review was not used.

Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal:

N/A