

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Finn Ryan <finnryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2015 12:00 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Plans

Thanks for sharing the plans for the rec area. Looks great. I love the biking and hiking trails. I will definitely use them.

Thank you!

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Sam Landes <slandes58@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 10:12 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Cc: Newman, Dave; Tim Lins (Sauk)
Subject: Comments on the SPRA Master Plan

John:

Please add my comments for the Sauk Prairie recreational Area.

I have been one of the vocal stakeholders involved and representing the snowmobiler's interests with the Great Sauk Trail for many years.

From the beginning of discussion, we have always been clear that a permanent snowmobile route be placed within the SPRA Property Master Plan and Map. The vast majority of the stakeholders support it, the BOMC recognized it, as well as received support from many local community leaders. The alternative snowmobile route on the eastern edge of the property was an alternative compromise that was asked of our area snowmobilers during the local stakeholder meetings.

As we see it, the location of that route currently on the published SPRA Master Plan map is not clearly and completely located within the SPRA boundaries, and needs to be changed to do so.

Sincerely:

Sam Landes

Convener for the Good Neighbor Trail Subcommittee
Executive Director-Dane County
Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
7353 Springhelt Drive
Dane, WI 53529
608-849-7680
608-513-3591 cell
sqdeal@tds.net



Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Aaron Gallus <agallus@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 7:48 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk prairie recreational area and master plan

Hi John

Could you record my comment on the spra master plan?

"There must be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map."

Thanks,

Aaron Gallus

Member of the Merrimac Snowbusters and Waunakee Winter Wanderers snowmobile clubs.

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Travis Nonn <tnonn@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:38 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

John,

As you know, snowmobiling in Wisconsin has become a huge industry. This is evident by the massive trail system, one of the largest in the country. Preserving this system is becoming increasingly more difficult as our cities continue to spread into the country.

That is why it is more important than ever to secure these routes now and into the future. A permanent snowmobile route within the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA) is the first step in this process. Please consider making a snowmobile trail through the SPRA as part of the Master Plan for the SPRA.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Travis Nonn
Golden Triangle Drifters Club member
262.865.0209

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Jonathan Roosli <rooslj22@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreational Area

Good morning Mr. Pohlman, I just wanted to comment on the Sauk Prairie Recreational Master Plan in hopes that my opinion will persuade the decision makers to include a permanent snowmobile trail that connects to the rest of Wisconsin's great network of trails that so many of us Wisconsinites enjoy. I'm hoping that a trail can be included in both the SPRA master plan as well as the Map for the plan. I'm really hoping we as snowmobilers don't get left in the rain. I think any additional trails we can add to the system would be a great thing for the state and also make it easier for snowmobile traffic to travel into new places.

Thanks for listening
Jonathan

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Jeff <jeff@wisconsinforce.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Schuller, Daniel J - DNR; Schuller, Daniel J - DNR; Pohlman, John D - DNR; Schmelzer, Steven J - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Gentlemen,

It is critical that a small portion of this property be developed with a sport shooting range. This shooting complex should be modeled similar to the other State ranges offering 100 and 50 yard ranges along with a 25 foot range. With proper placement, this complex would utilize a very small percentage of the property.

Shooting ranges have incredible safety records. Injuries are extremely rare, not only at ranges but when firearms are used for hunting, practicing or in self-defense. Although some private individuals have enough land or proper location that can be used to safely discharge firearms, most do not. Ranges are designed to safely allow rounds to be fired on a small amount of land. Ranges offer continual reminders of the proper use of firearms. Being at a range and following the standard operating procedures helps reinforce safety. Hunters that practice marksmanship and safe gun handling on a regular basis at the range will have a safer successful hunt.

Wisconsin FORCE has worked with the DNR on the current State ranges and will be happy to work with Keith Warnke on a plan for this site.

Please feel free to contact me.

Jeff

Teach Freedom
Jeff Nass
Wisconsin FORCE
Executive Director
Phone 920-687-0505

Support our Troops!

"Republic. I like the sound of the word. It means people can live free, talk free, go or come, buy or sell, be drunk or sober; however they choose. Some words give you a feeling. Republic is one of those words that makes me tight in the throat. The same tightness a man gets when his baby takes his first step, or when his first baby shaves, or makes his first sound like a man. Some words can give you a feeling that makes your heart warm. Republic is one of those words". JOHN WAYNE AS COLONEL DAVID "DAVY" CROCKETT (THE ALAMO USA 1960)

--
PK

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Charlie Luthin <charluthin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 9:07 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Draft Master Plan

Hi John,

I finally had a chance to read through the Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area last week. I'd like to commend you and the team for a stellar Plan. I appreciate its acknowledgement of "originating documents" such as the Badger Reuse Plan and the NPS transfer agreement. I believe the habitat restoration goals are ambitious but achievable, if resources are found to undertake the work. Congratulations, John, for your good work!

Personally, I'll be weighing in on rocketry and motorcycles, as I believe they are incompatible and controversial recreation activities, and I'm not happy with a 600-acre special use area in Parcel M that is primarily "for the dogs," and that will exclude citizen access for many weekends of the year. It is one of my favorite places at Badger, and to have no access during these beautiful late summer/fall days would be disappointing.

In any event, I wanted to express my gratitude to you folks for a good plan with many good components. Fine job!

Regards,
Charlie

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Scott A Marty <smarty@trollwayinsurance.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 12:00 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Not So Great Sauk State Trail

Hello:

After attending the meeting I wonder who drafted this proposal that does not include permanent snowmobile trails that generate lots of \$ for the state each year. Because snowmobilers are also taxpayers we need to be sure that we have a PERMANENT route within the SPRA that will connect to the rest of the statewide snowmobile trail system outside of this property. Your master plan is flawed and needs to include motorized vehicles for trail users and all draft and legal language needs to be shown both within the SPRA Master plan and on the SPRA Master plan map.

Thank you,
Scott A. Marty



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Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Leo Schneider <jeeping@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Comments

John,

I am both a snowmobile and off highway (jeep type) trail ride enthusiast. I certainly enjoy the trail riding and rock crawling experience that is currently provided in the Iron Range Off Highway Park in Gilbert MN and would sure love to see our state offer a facility for this type of recreation. It does not appear that any thing of this sort is being considered here?

At the very least, I would hope and expect that the SPRA will provide a snowmobile route that connects to our statewide trail system outside of the park. I would also expect that language describing this route will be included in the SPRA Master Plan and the trail system shown on the SPRA Master Plan Map.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Leo Schneider
3729 Sunny Wood Drive
DeForest, WI 53532

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Clark, Sherri L <SCLARK@amfam.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 7:27 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Master Plan

John,

My husband and I have been snowmobiling in Wisconsin for many years, both here in southern Wisconsin and Northern Wisconsin. It is so nice to be able to connect to so many trails here in Wisconsin to get to point A to point B. When I tell people that do not ride sleds how many miles we have here and that you can ride from Madison up to our cabin in Hazelhurst, they are so impressed and had no idea.

With this being said, I find that it is very important that there be a permanent snowmobile trail shown within the SPRA Master Plan language and the SPRA Master Plan map. If this is shown connecting to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of this property, it would only enhance the love of this sport to be able to continue to connect to point A to point B etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please consider doing this. Thanks for your time!

Dan & Sherri Clark
Oregon Sno-Blazers

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Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Jamie Dahlk <jamied@bio-clean.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreational Area (SPRA) Master Plan

John,

I am a member of the CP Riders Snowmobile Club in Cross Plains. I would like to see a permanent snowmobile trail provided within the SPRA that connects to the statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. The should be written in the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map. Snowmobiling is a very popular sport in Wisconsin and boosts local economies every winter. It is very important that snowmobiling be included in the SPRA to help preserve the Wisconsin trail system.

Thank you,

Jamie Dahlk
2001 Cross Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528
608-798-4198

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Charlie Luthin <charluthin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:26 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA dogs and Special Events

Hi John,

I suspect you've been able to take a breather now that the draft master plan for the SPRA is out! Maybe you're enjoying some late summer R & R and travel?

I have a few questions about dogs and special events at the SPRA that I was hoping you'd be able to answer.

Dogs: There is a proposed 600-acre off-leash area for dogs. I presume that is referencing pet owners. As there are no hiking trails in the Magazine Area, I assume dog owners would simply walk on the proposed bike trails and let their dogs wander/run at will. Might there be bike/dog interactions that wouldn't be favorable? (Some friendly dogs chase bikes, just for fun...). I live not far from Lodi Marsh and visit there often. The property has a "restricted season" for dogs off-leash, but it is not heeded. There are dogs running loose there every month of the year--once a dog owner is in the habit of off-leashing, they never go to the leashed mode! There are also seasonal dog/hunter conflicts there, as Lodi Marsh is a wildlife area. How will these potential conflicts be dealt with at SPRA in light of the limited staff proposed for the property? I'm especially concerned about potential impacts to breeding grassland birds by off leash dogs.

I've had a hard time getting my hands around the concept of a designated special use area where exclusive use can be assigned a group for a short period of time on the SPRA, as a special event. Examples are given, but few criteria are offered to determine which events gets a license and those that don't. How are those criteria established, other than the very general criteria mentioned in the draft plan? There seems to be a great deal of discretion left to the property manager, or am I mistaken?

Here are a few possible special events that might be proposed for the SPRA, in part or in whole. Which of these would be acceptable, and which not? Again, what are the criteria? How will impacts be evaluated?

- BMX bike competition (Magazine area only; SPRA entire)
- Mountain bike trail competition (SPRA entire)
- 18th Century "Rendezvous," (overnight, with primitive camping & campfires)
- a statewide rocketry event (entire Magazine area)
- dog trialing, entire SPRA
- Harley Club rally-- entire SPRA, regular roads only
- antique auto club ride -- entire SPRA, regular roads only
- ATV rally (non-competitive)
- horse event or competition, entire SPRA (all roads & trails)
- snowmobile rally (non-competitive), entire SPRA.

How likely is it that the entire SPRA is used for a special event? If a family travels to the area for a weekend, say from Illinois, planning to bike around the property, only to arrive and learn they are unable to enter the property due to some big event, I imagine they'd be pretty upset.

Well, that's a start. I could let my imagination go further, but I'll leave it at those examples.

Thanks for any clarification you can offer, John. I appreciate it.

Best wishes,
Charlie

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Bruce Roth <beroth@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 10:30 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Blue Mounds State Park Trail

John,

As for the snowmobile trail, there must be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map.

Thank You,

Bruce Roth

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: jsi@chorus.net
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 8:24 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA

Hi John

Just wanted to send a note to you on the SPRA. My concern is that there is a permanent state snowmobile trail through the property to connect to the rest of the Wisconsin State snowmobile trails in the county. As a dealer and a snowmobiler and active club member for over 50 years the Wisconsin trail system is second to none. This will make the trail system better and safer for everyone. Any route must be shown in the SPRA plan and map.

Thank You

Gregg Johnson
Johnson Sales Inc
N1255 U.S. Hwy 51
Arlington, WI 53911
608 635 7381

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Nicole Smithback <smithbackn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 6:42 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Trail system

Dear Mr. Pohlman-

I know you are extremely busy & respect that you may have several competing factors as you consider usage/right of way etc for the blue mounds area. I ask that you continue to include a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map. Snowmobiling is a hard sponsored & I ask that you continue to respect the multisport purpose of our land.

Thanks
Nicole

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Jean Manthe <jmanthe1@centurytel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 7:27 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreational Area

John,

As a responsible member of a local snowmobile club and an active snowmobiler I believe that there needs to be a permanent route within the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area that connects to the well planned and maintained state wide snowmobile trail system on the outside of the property. A proposed route MUST be shown both on the SPRA Master Plan Map and within the language of the SPRA Master Plan.

Respectfully,

Jean Manthe

Golden Triangle Drifters SC

D & J Manthe Forage

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Mike Dahlk <woodydog@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Master Plan from SPRA

Good Morning Mr. Pohlman,
My name is Michael Dahlk and I am a member of 2 snowmobile clubs in Wisconsin.
I am active in both and in looking over your master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area I noticed that there is no plan for a permanent snowmobile trail/route through the SPRA?
This is puzzling to me because through the entire process of planning, I've been told that there would be a trail or trails through the SPRA and all I see on the Master is a trail outside of the area?
The SPRA needs to have a permanent snowmobile trail through the park.
Thank YOU for your attention to this.
Sinceely,
Michael Dahlk
CP Riders and New Tom Sno Fleas snowmobile Clubs.

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Julie Schodin <Julie.Schodin@ppdi.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Master Plan

Hi Mr. Pohlman,

I am writing to you regarding the SPRA Master Plan. I am unable to attend the meeting on Thursday in Sauk due to family commitments but wanted to voice an opinion. I have been an avid snowmobiler my entire life. Having grown up in the Green Bay area and spending our weekends and winter vacations snowmobiling in that area as well as at my parent's cabin in northern Wisconsin, snowmobiling has meant and still means a lot to me. My father is almost 73 years old and he still enjoys snowmobiling. I now live in Dane County with my family and snowmobiling is our favorite past time during the winter months. Since we live in southern Wisconsin, this is where we snowmobile. Both of our children have gone through the DNR's snowmobile safety course and enjoy snowmobiling as much as my husband and I. In fact, we get together at least one weekend a winter season to snowmobile with dad/Grandpa. We are so lucky to be able to do that and our children will remember and cherish those memories their entire life.

There are some beautiful trails and areas to snowmobile in southern Wisconsin, please do not limit what we have. I am a member of two clubs and we work hard to build and maintain trails for the sport of snowmobiling. There should be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map.

As you can see, many clubs and their members are working diligently and passionately together for the sport of snowmobiling.

Thank you for your time and I hope you consider our thoughts and concerns on this topic.

Kind regards,
Julie Schodin

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Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Craig Kittleson <ckittleson@mhtc.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie REc Trail

John

There must be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map.

What a great piece of property to all share.

Thanks, Craig Kittleson

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: aviationinterviews@gmail.com on behalf of Webmaster
<webmaster@snowsnares.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 1:56 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Master Plan

Mr. Pohlman

As an active outdoorsman and snowmobiler, I wanted to reach out to you about the SPRA master plan. It is very important to me that a permanent snowmobile route is provided in the SPRA that connects the existing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the SPRA property. Please include this route in the SPRA Master Plan language AND in the SPRA Master Plan map.

Thank you for your time!
Mike Peters

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: rick sander <rstnt6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 5:55 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA master plan

John, Please consider including a permanent snowmobile route through the SPRA that would connect to the existing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Snowmobiling in Wisconsin has been and always will be a very important part of many families lives not to mention the large amount of revenue it brings into the state. This is a perfect opportunity to enhance a trail system that many can enjoy for years to come. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA master plan language and on the master plan map. Thanks for your time. Rick Sander member of the County Line Sno-Busters snowmobile club.

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Duane <dm11@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 6:36 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Permanent Snowmobile route

John, There must be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map."

Thank you,
Duane Meyers
President DCCDC

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Ron Grosse <rmg@gresproperties.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 11:46 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Comments on Sauk Prairie Recreation Master Plan

Dear John, Regarding the map Weigands Bay #3 area. A group of neighbors recently attended the Town of Merrimac board meeting on Wednesday September 2nd and requested their board support for the below issues and I believe you will be receiving comments in support of that request from Tim McCumber town clerk, the issues we outlined below were our concerns and in which the board showed their approval.

1) The present road is located on the southern line of a 50 foot easement, is a mix of gravel, sand and is in very poor condition, the road width is at best a one lane road with no terrace or shoulder on either side of the roadway, whereby two cars could not pass, off road parking impossible and has very poor drainage.

2) The present one lane road at places extends beyond the easement into neighbors lots to the south and subsequently would require a great many trees to be removed towards the north side and then would ultimately require a great deal of regrading to be done if it were expanded.

3) When the current one lane road was installed in the early forties it was for a service vehicle or two to enter the pump house area, very low usage and or dust from the road and rather compatible with the residential area in the immediate neighborhood, now that the road purpose is changing to a much higher traffic count it would only seem logical to relocate the road further to the north and providing a visual buffer to the existing residential homes.

4) If I Assume the DNR would like to keep the access road to the pump house a rural gravel road, which now thru time has four residential lots adjoining that property line, will the Town require or request the DNR to put an approved Town road in with Blacktop pavement and appropriate shoulders on each side?

5) There currently is a private circular drive at the east end of the easement that is located on privately owned lands and was allowed for the immediate neighbors to facilitate refuse vehicles and what now is believed to be a highly trafficked road, that access or easy turn would have to be eliminated, subsequently forcing a traffic bottleneck for the farthest east residence, Travis and Emily Lukens where both easements intersect.

6) If the road were to remain where it is and in order to preserve some sense of security and perhaps prevent some unwanted intruders I believe that easement line on the south side would need to be chain link fenced, either by the DNR, Town or Neighborhood.

7) I believe we neighbors along with the Town and DNR need to address how we could keep additional traffic from entering or using the small 25 foot easement road fronting in close proximity to our present homes and located further south of the pump house easement.

In closing I would respectfully request consideration of the items above and further request these changes be made to the draft of the Master Plan, as what was noted in the plan that this was a 1-15 year schedule we all would appreciate the noted changes in the plan so as to when it comes to a point of implementation there would be less confusion of what is to be expected. Thank you for this consideration and ourselves along with

my neighbors are generally in support this Master Plan and believe we have a once in a life time to make this a showcase for all future generations to enjoy.

Ron and Andrea Grosse
E 12645 Weigands Bay South
Merrimac, WI
Ph cell 608 225 2660

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: M Scott Statz <scottstatz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Cc: Landes, Sam
Subject: SPRA - Public comment from active snowmobile family

Hello John

We would like to make sure that the Master Plan includes parking for vehicles with snowmobile trailers and trail access that connects with the existing trail system outside the SPRA. Please ensure that the ongoing interests of snowmobiler's access is included in all verbiage and maps of the SPRA Master Plan.

We are members of several local snowmobile clubs in Wisconsin and support the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. Our representative for the AWSC is Sam Landes and we offer him our proxy for any comments or concerns with respect to snowmobiles and the SPRA.

Thanks, John

--

M Scott Statz
608-358-8921 c.
scottstatz@gmail.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Erika Larson <ekplarson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 7:52 AM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation area

Hi folks -

I can't stress enough the importance of having access to the new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area site from the highway 78 side. The folks in Merrimac, the tourists from Merry Mac campground, the ferry traffic, and South Shore visitors need easy access. As a resident of Merrimac, I would use hiking trails several times a week if I have convenient access to them (driving 10 miles around is NOT easy access - if that's the case I would just stick with South Shore and local Ice Age trail heads). As someone who hikes on a regular basis on the amazing trails in this area, I can say it is imperative to the health and use of this space to have parking and trail access from 78.

Additionally, please consider implementing the bike trails/mtn. bike trails - this is a growing sport and a healthy activity for kids. Our middle schooler participates in the newly formed Sauk Prairie Eagles Cycling Team and we are thrilled with this opportunity for the kids and their families. These trails would provide them with another safe place to ride.

We relocated from Illinois just a few years ago and the amazing outdoor spaces were one of the biggest draws to Sauk County. We appreciate the thought and consideration going into this project as you work to get the plans finalized.

Thanks,
-Erika Larson
Merrimac

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Hayes, Brook - SGAG <bhayes@cardinalcorp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Master Plan

Hi John,

I am in favor of providing room for snowmobilers on the SPRA. We need our winter sports and routes to help keep our sanity in the winter. ☺

"There must be a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map." -Email from Sam

Thanks for supporting snowmobiling.

-Brook Hayes

Brook Hayes

Buyer

1301 East Hoxie

Spring Green, WI 53588

Tel: 608-588-3847 | Fax: 608-588-3861

CARDINAL AG

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: lee roberts <pugsy_10@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:16 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Re: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area draft master plan

John

Thanks for the return reply. Growing up on a farm I so much enjoyed tending to both the animals and caring for the wildlife. I really missed it when I went to college but have so many fond memories.

The SPRA is such a unique property that offers so many possibilities. I am glad that master plan is being drafted with public consideration and ideas.

If there is a committee, I would appreciate being considered for any openings. I have been a Hunter Safety Instructor, Conservation Congress Rep. for Columbia County, am on Columbia County Crimestoppers and too have been a WIAA sports official for 45 years.

Thanks again for the reply.

Hope you have a great day.

Lee

From: "Pohlman, John D - DNR" <John.Pohlman@wisconsin.gov>
To: "pugsy_10@yahoo.com" <pugsy_10@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Wilson, Summer J - DNR" <Summer.Wilson@wisconsin.gov>; "Myers, Will M - DNR" <Will.Myers@wisconsin.gov>; "Wallenfang, Kevin B - DNR" <Kevin.Wallenfang@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 2:55 PM
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area draft master plan

Hi Lee --

My name's John Pohlman and I'm the lead planner working on the SPRA master plan.

Thanks very much for taking the time to comment on the draft management plan for the property. I've added your comments to the record and they will be considered as we examine ways to improve the draft master plan.

If you have other questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best,
John

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John D. Pohlman
Planner – Bureau of Facilities & Lands/Land Division
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Phone: (608) 264-6263
Fax: (608) 267-2750
john.pohlman@wisconsin.gov



From: WIDNRCCASTORAGE@wisconsin.gov [mailto:WIDNRCCASTORAGE@wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 6:03 PM

To: Wilson, Summer J - DNR

Subject: 304067398105208 : DNR Website Information Request: General Information

The Referring URL:

<http://get.smarter.com/web?q=On+line+DNR+feedback+form&qsrc=1&o=34601&l=dir&qo=serpSearchTopBox>

I am writing to provide input into the 'master plan' for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. This is a very unique property that the State of Wisconsin is blessed in having. I am hoping that the final plan decision is one for the future for the State of Wisconsin that will benefit ALL. The State of Wisconsin is trying to reintroduce elk to the State with mixed results. The project started over ten years ago with limited success in attempts to establish a health, thriving herd. I see two areas of failure. One getting captive elk from other states with the transporting placing stress on the animal. Once in Wisconsin they have to be quarantined. Once the quarantine time frame has been met they are released in two areas of the State that has a high density of predators (bears, coyotes and wolves) not to mention possible harsh winters in the northern herd. The former Baraboo Ammunition Plant would be an ideal area to raise a productive elk herd within a large secured fenced area that also has a network of roads that would provide DNR personnel to monitor the progress of the herd. As the herd increase numbers, animals can be transported and release in those designated areas. I would appreciate knowing that this email has been received by the DNR.

Contact Information:

Name: Lee Roberts

Phone: 608-712-3120

Cust#: 700-205-008

Reg#:

Email: pugsy_10@yahoo.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: marcy huffaker <marcyhuffaker@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 7:36 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area comments

Dear Mr. Pohlman,

I would like to share my thoughts on the Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

In general, the proposals for restoration are well done, and well-defined. I was pleased to see that a shooting range is not included in this latest draft, but am concerned about the possibilities of rocketry and motorcycles in bicycle trails. These sports seem incompatible with the other proposed low-impact uses of the area.

Some improvements that could be made to the Master Plan are to :

- Develop a full hiking trail network accessing all parts of the SPRA property,
- Develop specific definitions, procedures and criteria for what low-impact activities will be allowed as special events.
- Limit the hunting season in the SPRA , and limit dog training to the approved hunting seasons.
- Create a more equitable balance between recreation and habitat/native community management areas.
- Plan a snowmobile trail around the perimeter of the property instead of on the property.

In additions, here are some larger scale suggestions:

Collaborate with all landowners at Badger to craft a cohesive and comprehensive management plan for all of the Badger lands and plan for a shared visitor center.

Expand the EIS to demonstrate that potential short-term and cumulative impacts of proposed recreational activities have been thoroughly evaluated. A process needs to be identified for mitigating future impacts, including multiple-user conflicts, soil erosion, noise abatement and other similar impacts.

Provide details of the anticipated cost of implementing the Plan and the anticipated funding sources.

Thanks you so much for taking the time to listen to myself and other interested citizens,
Marcy Huffaker

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Brown, Brigit E - DNR
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 8:51 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Cc: Pastula, Lisa L - DNR
Subject: FW: DNR Website Information Request: State Parks and Camping Information

John, I'm guessing this regards SPSRA...

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Brigit E. Brown
State Trails Coordinator -- Bureau of Parks and Recreation/Division of Land
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, POB 7921, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-2183
Cell Phone: (608) 219-1295
Fax: (608) 267-7474
brigit.brown@wisconsin.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Pastula, Lisa L - DNR [Lisa.Pastula@wisconsin.gov]
Received: Wednesday, 23 Sep 2015, 7:51AM
To: Brown, Brigit E - DNR [Brigit.Brown@wisconsin.gov]; Buckler, Daniel C - DNR [Daniel.Buckler@wisconsin.gov]
Subject: FW: DNR Website Information Request: State Parks and Camping Information

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Lisa Pastula
Phone: (608) 266-0866
Lisa.Pastula@wisconsin.gov

From: Ltrsnow@aol.com [<mailto:Ltrsnow@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 6:48 AM
To: DNR Wisconsin Parks
Cc: DNR WEB FEEDBACK
Subject: DNR Website Information Request: State Parks and Camping Information

The Referring URL: <http://dnr.wi.gov/>

I vote YES to more horse trails near prairie du sac. 12 miles near Devils lake would be a plus! Set guidelines to keep park clean and respectable for all.

Contact Information:

Name: Joyce Frederickson

Phone: 920-759-7310

Cust#:

Reg#:

Email: Ltrsnow@aol.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: John Meyer <jwmskm@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 10:45 AM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area
Attachments: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.docx

I have comments regarding the proposed recreation area.

Attention- John Pohlman--

I am very interested in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. My mother's family history in the U. S. starts with Peter Weirich leaving Germany and establishing a homestead in Kingston, Sauk Co. In 1849. In Cole's HISTORY OF SAUK CO. his son, George, remembers harvesting and making stacks of hay in 1851 from the prairie land. In 1884 my great-grandfather, Jacob Weirich, left Heidelberg with his family and moved into the log cabin owned by his cousin, George, for one year. The mentioned homestead ended up being gobbled up by the government in the 1940's. The country school that my grandmother taught at before she was married also disappeared into the powder plant. Our history, including cemeteries, was surrounded by a fence and a guarded gate for years.

I talked to an older farmer who knew many farmers were forced off of land that they had held for many years. That land contained their home, their neighborhood, and their livelihood. How do you replace a farm that you know each field ? How do you replace the relationship established between neighbors? Fifty years later there was still sadness and anger at what had been lost in his family. They never had a chance to celebrate a Centennial Farm. If you read the chapter on the Coming of Badger Ordnance Works starting on P. 195 written by Erhart A Mueller in his book ONLY IN SUMPTER, you may feel some of anger and grief felt by the displaced families.

The people of the area gained jobs and some gained in wealth, but the beauty of the area was spoiled by the powder plant. I believe that the DNR has an opportunity to try to restore some of the beauty and peacefulness of a natural area. The area holds the sadness of people forced from their homes. The area holds the memories of all the material made at the powder plant to kill, maim, etc. another human being. It maybe was a necessary factory, but often in war it is the common man who happens to live in a particular country that suffers from the wars caused by his leaders.

I hope that the plans of the DNR blend well with Devil's Lake State Park that adjoins the area. We appreciate the hiking, swimming, and picnic areas. As a child I stayed for a week in a cottage on Devil's Lake . I now appreciate the traffic areas being controlled and the lack of motorboats and jet skis. It would be wonderful to have a trail that could start in Prairie du Sac or Sauk City and end up at Devil's Lake for hikers. It would be nice to have the birds and wildlife that you could find as you hiked. We would love to have an area that we could easily take our grandchildren.

The history of the area is easily researched using the books written by Erhart A. Mueller and the Sauk Co. history books. The government, the churches, the farming, the sawmills, and the individual people are recorded. It is a promotion for how peoples with different beliefs and history of fighting wars against each other in Europe could move to America and establish a new community. The stories of those people could bring to light immigration in the 1800's.

Hopefully quiet activities would be promoted on this land. I see allowing rockets and motorized bikes on the trails similar to establishing a garden, watering all the vegetables and flowers, and then allowing your four year old twin grandsons to run through it every Sunday afternoon. Our world is full of electrical devices, gas or electrical powered vehicles, and just plain noise. Pat Durkin in a recent article mentioned the effect on the heart rate of black bears when a drone is flying overhead. Why go

to all the effort and expense to set up a prairie only to disturb the entire habitat of the inhabitants with noise and dust? It is good to have an area that you can hike, ride a bike or a horse, or just sit surrounded by sounds of nature. Certainly someplace else could welcome the rockets and the motor bikes. As a tent camper I certainly do not want to hear noise from rockets or motorcycles, when I expect to be hearing birds or chipmunks. In Oshkosh we appreciate how far sound travels when we annually host Country and then Rock USA.

If you want this area to attract people traveling from other states and countries, you don't change the environment from what is promised. If you expect to hike in a restored prairie, you expect the sounds, smells, and air quality to fit that description. We traveled to many of the national parks. We would have been very disappointed if we had driven there only to discover that motorcycles were touring the park such as the gathering in the Black Hills.

I have always felt that the Devil's Lake area could be the Midwest's national park. Hopefully your planning will promote that happening in the future.

Sue Meyer

Oshkosh, WI and Baraboo, WI

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: DAN R ANDERSON <dranders@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 7:53 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Draft plan

I support the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's goals,
and their review of the DNR draft plan of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Area.

Dan R. Anderson
1521 Vilas Ave.
Madison, WI

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Laura Olah <info@cswab.org> on behalf of olah@merr.com
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:18 AM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Cc: Dane Varese/Congressman Mark Pocan; Elyse LaForest/National Park Service; Colas, Grace - LEGIS; Governor Scott Walker; Shawna Bongard/Sauk County; Tawsif Anam/Senator Ron Johnson; Todd Crouch/Senator Baldwin; Tryg Knutson/Jon Erpenbach
Subject: SPRA draft Master Plan Comments - Laura Olah (personal)

Public Comment SPRA:

I am writing to encourage the WDNR to protect the unique population of neotenic Eastern Tiger Salamanders in the reservoirs at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Scientists have discovered that a population is also now developing in the second reservoir as it is no longer chlorinated. The draft Master Plan recommends removing the reservoirs within 2 years and constructing a large parking lot and other recreational amenities. However, scientists who have studied the salamanders all agree that there is much to learn about them. To allow for this, I think it is important to try to maintain the reservoirs for the salamander population for a longer period of time – increasing the opportunity for the DNR to release these animals rather than euthanize them.

Facility-wide, I believe that any available funding be first committed and prioritized for invasive plant species control, not recreational amenities. The cost for draining, demolishing and filling the reservoirs, for example, is more than \$2 M and would exceed the current budget for habitat management, invasive plant control, and the protection and recovery of rare and endangered species – all of which will only cost more and more with each passing year. Prioritizing invasives control will not only result in SIGNIFICANT long-term cost savings, it will make the property much more attractive and suitable for desirable nature-based recreation that much sooner.

And last. I think that should these lands should be correctly designated as a Conservation Area as was originally intended and as has been institutionalized in Memorandums of Understanding, Intergovernmental Agreements, the Badger Reuse Plan, and countless resolutions, public meetings, public hearings, public discussions and public planning processes that have occurred since Badger was declared federal excess property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Olah (personal comments)
E12629 Weigand's Bay South
Merrimac, WI 53561
(608)643-3124



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www.avast.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: AMY BUFFARDI <abuffardi@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:45 AM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: request for SP rec area

I would like to request an access road from hwy 78. I live in Merrimac on 78 and for me to travel 10-15 miles to get to a property that is a mile or so away is ridiculous.

I would also like to request a fenced in off leash dog area. One that doesn't have anything to do with training, just for dogs to get exercise and socialize. Research has shown that well socialized dogs are less likely to behave fearfully or aggressively in new situations which leads to less dog fights and dog bites to humans.

Regarding the multi purpose trails that can also be used by horses I have a comment. If dog owners are responsible for picking up their dog's small pile of feces, equestrians should be liable for picking up the huge piles of their horse's feces on the trails. Nobody wants to step or ride their bike in that! I realize they are riding the horse making it harder to actually pick up but companies do make devices to catch the horse's feces as it falls.

Thank you,
Amy Buffardi

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Tom Kriegl <tkriegl1@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:51 AM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: I am totally opposed to the proposed on/off road motorcycles, ATVs, shooting ranges and high power rocketry on the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands

Sept 24, 2015
From : Tom Kriegl
E13049 County Hwy W
Baraboo, WI 53913
tkriegl1@centurytel.net
608-356-4373

I am writing in **strong support of the ecological restoration, nature-based recreation, community participation, and interpretive and educational activities** described in the recently-released draft Master Plan for the future Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. However, I am totally opposed to the proposed on/off road motorcycles, ATVs, shooting ranges and high power rocketry on the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands, even though these proposals are slightly toned down from previous drafts. .

These uses (on/off road motorcycles, ATVs, shooting ranges and high power rocketry)are also contrary to what had previously been known as option four which was the recommendation of the Badger Reuse committee—a committee that DNR is part of.

I am into my 14th year as a member of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors Representing the township of Greenfield, most of Fairfield and part of the Town of Baraboo. . Even before getting elected to the County Board, I was quite active with the issue of future uses of the BAAP. I have been less active in that effort in the last few years for several reasons. First of all, many other people with the similar philosophy have been active in the issue since the beginning. Secondly, although the process has been longer than most people prefer, it had been heading in the right direction most of the time, allowing me to also work on other issues.

Consequently, I was quite surprised and annoyed at best that despite all the years of meetings and deliberation by many people on the Badger Reuse committee and other roles, that the DNR is promoting uses (on/off road motorcycles, ATVs, rockets, and shooting ranges) that have no significant constituency and that are very incompatible with all of the uses that have been long identified as desirable by hundreds of people over a period of about 15 years of input.

Even at the Sauk County committee meetings on August 5, 2013 which I attended and spoke at, there was little support and much opposition to the shooting range and ATV trails. The DNR staff present claimed that the shooting range and ATV trails had a significant constituency but provided no evidence supporting that claim.

Overwhelming opposition to the shooting range, rockets and ATV trails was displayed also at the September 10, 2015 hearing.

Again, I continue to support what was called Option 4, which is essentially the plan crafted by the Badger Reuse Committee and I urge the decision makers at the WI DNR meet their obligation to accept the recommendations of this very lengthy democratic process.

There are many more details that I could talk about but I know that many of the other people who have been involved in this process for a long time have written thousands of words and many pages to provide those details. Many of these words can be found at the following websites. <http://saukprairievision.org/history>

<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/badger-reuse-plan.>)

I further urge that when the DNR produces a public record of the public input on this decision that they do not redact the names of the people who made the comments. Redacting some contact information may be acceptable but the name and state of residence of the submitter should remain. Otherwise the public record could be dominated by one person being counted many times while others only get their one "vote"

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Laura Olah <info@cswab.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 2:32 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: CSWAB comments

From the public hearing...

September 10, 2015

Public Comments: Draft Master Plan Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Laura Olah, Executive Director
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)
E12629 Weigand's Bay South, Merrimac, WI 53561
(608)643-3124 www.cswab.org www.facebook.com/cswab.org

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight on behalf of Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger.

The Badger property – which contains a mix of grasslands, scattered oak woodlands, and farm fields – currently has some of the largest populations of grassland birds in southern Wisconsin – 103 bird species have been recorded here, of which 21 have critical status in our state.

The bird list is impressive for an area of this size, especially the numbers and diversity of grassland and shrubland birds such as Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Orchard Oriole, Bell's Vireo and many more. Grassland and shrubland species are in more need of management than any other group of birds in Wisconsin, and include most of the critical species found at Badger.

And where there are birds, there are bird watchers! Wisconsin ranks second nationally in the number of people considered birders. Fully one-third of residents 16 and older travel to watch birds and or spend time watching and identifying birds near their homes.

Nationally, there are about 47 million birders or about 20 percent of the population 16 and older. Birders spent an estimated \$41 billion on trip-related expenditures and equipment, generated a total economic impact of \$106 billion, supported more than 600,000 jobs and generated \$13 billion in state and federal tax revenues.

However, all of these positive ecological and economic benefits of bird conservation require a QUIET sound environment. Acoustic interference from noise can hamper the detection of songs by birds of the same species. Noise can make it more difficult for birds to establish and maintain territories, attract mates, and/or maintain pair bonds. This, in turn, may reduce breeding success in noisy environments. Scientific studies have documented a correlation between high urban noise levels and songbird diversity – the more noise, the fewer the number of bird species.

Unfortunately, the draft Master Plan also proposes on/off-road motorcycles and sport rocketry. These particular uses stand apart as inherently loud and disruptive, and therefore undermine the conservation goals for the property to maintain and recover the biological richness of Wisconsin's disappearing native prairies, including grassland birds.

Moreover, these uses are not compatible with other desirable recreational activities proposed for Badger like biking, family picnics, bird watching, snowshoeing, and hiking - including the Great Sauk Trail.

As a result, while there is great public support for the conservation goals outlined for the property, there is great objection to the introduction of these particular uses. Already more than 800 email messages have been sent to the DNR supporting proposed goals for ecological restoration and habitat management but objecting to proposed on/off-road motorcycles and sport rocketry.

Certainly these objections should come as no surprise. QUIET nature-based recreation is in keeping with promises made in the Badger Reuse Plan, reached through the consensus of all levels of government (including WDNR) and the public. This plan is our collective commitment to each other and to the land and to those that will follow.

Together, let's make sure that future generations will hear meadowlarks – not motors – on the great Sauk Prairie. Thank you.

--

Laura Olah, Executive Director
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)
E12629 Weigand's Bay South
Merrimac, WI 53561
(608)643-3124
info@cswab.org
www.cswab.org
www.twitter.com/CSWAB



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Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Frank Olah <olah@merr.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:53 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE; Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA Public Comment

The condition and location of the existing road easement to access the DNR property at Weigands Bay is a major concern. Currently there is just a 50 foot easement that runs from Ruthie Badger Road to the DNR property.

The easement is on what used to be the Clingman property and is now on lands owned by the Town of Merrimac and the DNR. This road was established by the Army to access the pumping station. The Army used to plow and maintain it but that all stopped in the early 80's. Since then it has grown in and washed out to the point of almost being unusable.

At its current location there is no natural buffer or separation from the residential neighborhood. The easement butts right up to the property lines of three private residential properties.

The road needs to be relocated to the north. This would provide a natural vegetation buffer between the recreational activities and auto traffic of public park users to the north, and the private residential neighborhood to the south.

The location and size of the parking lot is also a concern. First it should be located in an area that provides separation and natural screening from the residential neighborhood. Second, the size must be adequate to accommodate the expected use. Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Pewits Nest State Natural Area are examples where local residences have to deal daily with the nuisance and safety concerns of people parking along the highway and on private property, turning around in private driveways and trespassing because there is not adequate parking for the attraction.

When the Clingman property was purchased, the DNR signed an agreement with the Town of Merrimac to develop this property together. There should be future meetings with the Town to discuss what this development will look like. The adjacent private property owners of Weigands Point who will be directly affected by these decisions should be included in these meetings.

Thank You,

Frank J. Olah

Merrimac, WI



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www.avast.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Ben <polaris_bj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 7:36 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR

Hello John,

I have not been able to make it to any of the open houses or discussions about the Sauk Prarie Recreational Area Master Plan due to my work schedule. I am a member of the Marshall Sno-Drifters and would like to ask that SPRA includes the following...

- A permanent route within the SPRA that connects to our current state wide trail systems on the outskirts of the property
- This route should be on the SPRA Master Plan map and in the SPRA master plan language.
- This route should be able to be groomed by our grooming equipment to maintain our trail system and keep it safe for the public to ride.

Thank you for your time on this matter,
Ben Janke

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Tim Hahn <thahnbirder@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 9:00 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Hello Mr. Pohlman,

I write you because I'm concerned that the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area is destined to become something other than what it was intended. As a citizen of Wisconsin and as one who is concerned with our natural environment, I feel compelled to do what I can to make sure that the Sauk Prairie at the old Badger Ammunition plant is maintained as a high quality natural area.

I've heard that there are proposals from some to have part of this property converted into a "medium use" playground for motor bikes and ATVs. I've also heard that it could include a gun range. These are both fine things to have, and I don't begrudge anyone from creating them. My concern, however, is that some are seeing a plot of open land and not considering the implications of their proposals or alternative locations for the facilities they support. Both the bike/ATV trails and the gun range could easily be put in any number of corn fields. Agriculture fields have already destroyed the natural aspect of the land they occupy. Purchasing a small plot of land and installing these facilities in a corn field, or soybean field, or whatever field, would do no further harm to the natural landscape. But to take the pristine prairie at Sauk, and turn it into a playground for heavy use is a waste. An absolute WASTE of time, money, effort, and most importantly would destroy a vital ecological piece of property.

I implore you to please explore other locations for a bike/ATV trail and gun range. The quality of natural area at Sauk Prairie is not found many other places in our state or elsewhere. Species of plants and animals are found here that can not be found in many other places in the state. The work and money that has been put into the property to revitalize the natural space would be wasted if we allow it to be converted into a playground for sportsmen. These facilities can be built in any location where fertilizers and pesticides have already destroyed the natural landscape. Please don't let them destroy a great natural property that is of important ecological significance.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Hahn
Pewaukee, WI
(Waukesha Cty)

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: John <janzen_john@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:02 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Cc: Dane.Varese@mail.house.gov; Elyse_LaForest@nps.gov; Colas, Grace - LEGIS; Governor Scott Walker; sbongard@co.sauk.wi.us; Tawsif_Anam@ronjohnson.senate.gov; Todd_Crouch@baldwin.senate.gov; Tryg.Knutson@legis.wi.gov
Subject: Neotenic salamanders Wi DNR plan

I am writing to express my great concern regarding the DNR's plan to destroy the population of neotenic salamanders at the former Badger Ordinance site near Baraboo. It would be a great loss to eliminate a population as rare as these neotenes. The research and educational values of these salamanders are priceless.

The DNR claim that the pond containing the main salamander population is unstable and leaking is absolutely false. The claim regarding the spread of disease that could be caused by releasing these salamanders is based on limited evidence that is expected to be wrong by at least one directly involved DNR researcher. Wiping out the population and spending 2 million dollars to install a parking lot for an amphitheater which will see limited use seems ridiculous. Saving the main pond and keeping this population would be a wise, beneficial and lower cost option. Please stop this plan.

Thank you

John Janzen
5505 Sunset Trail
Waunakee, WI 53597

Sent from my iPhone

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: R & E Robkin <robkin@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:58 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Second Attempt - Comment on the SPRA Master Planning Process

I forgot to add my name to the previous email.

I am submitting this comment on the Master Planning Process for the SPRA as a private citizen and all opinions, errors and omissions are my responsibility.

For the record I was a member of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors during much of the initial discussions and served on many of the committees that wrote the follow-on documents to the Reuse Report. As a member of the City of Baraboo Common Council I was selected to be the Stakeholder representative for the City of Baraboo to the Badger Oversight and Management Commission. I still serve in that capacity.

From: Eugene E. Robkin
1402 Ash Street
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913
608 356 3539

September 24, 2015

To: John Pohlman - LF/6
WI Department of Natural Resources
P O Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Pohlman:

In 1997 the General Services Administration announced that the Badger Ammunition Plant was surplus to Government needs and would be disposed of by auction. Some individuals recognized that this was a singular opportunity to secure for the people of Wisconsin a unique public place.

It took an effort but the Sauk County Board of Supervisors was brought to recognize the potential value of the Badger property. The recognition set in motion processes that led with the help of Federal Agencies, the State, the County, local municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, private groups and what must be hundreds of dedicated individuals to an agreement with the Federal Government that the Badger lands would be transferred at no cost to the WDNR and the Dairy Forage Research Center and, recently, the Ho-Chunk Nation, under the guidance of the Badger Reuse Report.

The work to bring the values and procedures laid out in the Reuse Report to fruition continues to this day. The value of the Badger lands identified by the Reuse process and codified in the Reuse report ranks with that of Devil's Lake State Park and other public land gems the WDNR holds in trust for the people of Wisconsin.

The official documents submitted by the WDNR to the National Park Service acting on behalf of the Federal Government speak repeatedly of the WDNR's support for the Reuse Report and the process that produced it. This should not be a surprise since they were at every table for every stage of the entire process and the end results resolved their uncertainties and incorporates everything they thought should be included in every document. The WDNR had three of the twenty one seats on the Reuse Committee that wrote the Reuse Report.

Look closely at the Reuse Report and all of the other documents that led to the Park Service action and you will find a central theme that: Any use by anyone for any part of the Badger lands must not interfere beyond a bare minimum with its use by anyone else.

The Report recognized that in law there could be three landowners with their own responsibilities but all of them were part of the process that generated the Reuse Committee Report, all of them had their responsibilities recognized by the Report, all of them contributed to the final draft of the Report and the creation of the documents that followed the issuance of the report. All of them concurred in the idea that the Badger lands must be managed as a whole under the guidance of the Report.

Anything less than full support to the ideas incorporated in the WDNR's application to the Park Service for a no-cost transfer of the lands to the people of Wisconsin is a betrayal by the WDNR of today of the WDNR that was part of the Reuse Process, a betrayal of the dedicated vision of those that brought the Parks application to a successful decision and an unacceptable denigration of the future value of Badger to the people of Wisconsin.

If you think my language is strong it is entirely mild compared to what will be said in the future if the currently ongoing process by the WDNR to write a Master Plan for the property to submit to the Natural Resources Board falls short of what is laid out in the National Parks Service original application. None of this should be compared to a typical political story that flashes to headlines and then fades to rotting files and vanishes.

This story will never fade. It is the stuff of books, articles, theses and all other ways of reporting far into the future. Everyone who participated may be singled out to be the example of how the process succeeded or failed and be judged as to their actions. For want of a better word I will just say that the judging will be intense at levels most cannot envision or understand. Most of the judges are yet unborn and many will be family members of those now involved.

I could elaborate on the possible criteria for the judging but it is not necessary. In examining the final result using all of the information available about the process and its documentation in the end your judges will ask the equivalent of one of two simple questions. "How could they have been so smart?" or "How could they have been so stupid?" Think of that as a wakeup call about the fork before you in the path to the future. Choose.

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Karen/Mike Kroll <mkroll@chorus.net>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 7:33 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: comments on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Importance: High

9/24/15

We want to thank the Wisconsin DNR for the overall time and effort on their part that has gone into developing this Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. There are so many diverse stakeholders circling around this property that we are sure it was quite difficult drawing up a plan to address so many perspectives.

Concerning the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA) Draft Master Plan, we have the following thoughts:

We are very much in favor of the horse trails that are outlined in the proposed master plan. Horse people are generally in favor of multi-use trails and are willing to share with hikers and bicycle riders, as long as the trails are properly built in the first place.

If the horse parking lot were enlarged slightly for up to 15 to 20 trailers, it would enhance the use of the area by horse people.

Limiting horse drawn carts to two weekends a year is not necessary. Riding and Driving are not mutually exclusive. Trails can easily accommodate both users at the same time. In many states, the best trails and most used trails carry both users at the same time.

We don't believe Dual Sport motor bikes or any motorized vehicles should be allowed on the horse/bike trails.

We don't believe rocket launching is a good use of an area like the SPRA.

Potable water, whenever it could become available, would be a good thing to have.

We believe that you would find many and various horse clubs that would be more than willing to partner with the SPRA to build and maintain, provide funding for, and provide workers (sweat equity) for the horse/bike trails that need to be built.

Developing a good, well planned trail system for a non-motorized mix of multiple users makes the most sense for the best possible use of the land. Shared use of trails makes more green space and wildlife habitat available where humans don't tread, but do observe. Shared use is a proven model in many other states and in our own as well. Shared use doesn't necessarily mean shared tread; just a shared corridor. The anti-horse rhetoric we hear so frequently is both seriously outdated and discriminatory. Horse people are good stewards of the land.

It would make sense and a good use of the land if the "outer loop" snowmobile trail could be used by horses, cyclists, and hikers during the many months when snow is not on the ground.

Comments submitted by:

Mike and Karen Kroll
6876 County Road K
Arena, WI 53503

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Mike Schiffman <msschiffman@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA

Dear Mr. Polman,

I would like to convey to you my thoughts regarding a permanent snowmobile route connecting Dane County to Sauk County.

As I'm sure you are aware, there would be several positive things if such a trail was in place. To name just a couple. Snowmobilers would not have to traverse Lake WI or the Prairie du Sac bridge to get from Dane to Sauk County. This in itself would be a great resolve to some safety concerns of traffic interaction or unsafe ice to cross Lake WI. One of the others would also be the tourism gain to both counties and to the state as a whole.

Please count me in as a supporter of a permanent snowmobile trail connecting the SPRA to Dane County.

Thanks for your time,

Michael Schiffman
707 Augusta Drive
Waunakee, WI
608-712-0565
Waunakee Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club
Past President / current member

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: William Hauda <hauda1@hughes.net>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Cc: Brown, Brigit E - DNR; mbsgtmurphy@hotmail.com; Dana Johnson; geoff_snudden@trekbikes.com; info@friendsofbadgerstatetrail.org; Larry D. Nelson; Chic Gladding; Richard Schick jr; Dan Sullivan; Janet Wood; Robertson, Bernie C - DNR; Bill Hauda
Subject: Sauk Prairie Rec Area Comment

Dear Mr. Pohlman:

I am a gubernatorial appointee to the statutory Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Council and serve as its bicycling representative. I am among the council members who unanimously adopted a resolution opposing introduction of on/off road motorcycles to trails proposed for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. The chair of the council has previously transmitted that resolution to you.

Since I also serve as president of the Friends of Badger Trail, I have the luxury of seeing this play out from a local perspective, which I will attempt to provide here. I see no way motorcycles capable of speeds up to 80 (in some cases 100) miles per hour can ever be compatible with bicycle, mountain bike or equestrian trails. My reasons:

One only has to look at Green County's Cheese Country Trail which was rendered useless for other users by the county allowing motor sports. The trail is rough, eroded, dusty and dangerous. While horses can navigate it, horses do not mix with speeding motor vehicles. Bicyclists who have attempted to ride it have posted extremely negative blogs warning others to stay away.

DNR seems to have the idea they can police motorcycle events on trails. With the lack of personnel and financial resources (a condition not likely to go away anytime soon, given the current economic and political climate), there is little enforcement of any rules ongoing today. I bicycle trails with a number of groups and only one single person has acknowledged being stopped for a trail pass check this season. So I question whether any rules applicable to motorcycle use of trails will even be enforced.

Motorcycles will damage trails like nothing else, except maybe ATVs. While use periods are supposed to be set, damage caused will render these trails useless far after the proposed allowed use. Challenged by lack of personnel and finances, DNR is barely capable of keeping up with all of the maintenance now required. Bridge repairs go delayed. The situation is so grave as to even require our Friends group to provide funding so that culverts could be installed to control water run-off in the Monroe area. DNR did not have the money in its budget. How is DNR going to quickly fix the damage that will be caused by motorcyclists tempted to spin their wheels to demonstrate power, as just one example? Where's the money coming from?

Allowing motorcycle use will be a total turn-off to the local mountain bike community (in this area CORP – Capital Off-Road Pathfinders is the major one) that volunteer to build trails using high standards developed by IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association). The mountain bikers were deeply involved in the Southern Unit of Kettle Moraine, building trails for DNR that withstand erosion. They are not going to work on trails that will be quickly degraded by motorcycles, so DNR will not be able to take advantage of this valuable volunteer resource.

The state council has already given you its view of why it opposes this. The bicycle community is barely aware of the proposal. I can guarantee that if this shows up in the final plan, there will be an outcry like none before.

Now, I hunt and shoot. I like shooting ranges. But, like motorcycles, they have no place in the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Both shooting and motorcycling create high noise levels, which are highly disruptive of and conflict with other silent activities that will take place at Sauk Prairie.

That's why I highly recommend the approach taken by DNR to eliminate the shooting range issue from the Master Plan for separate consideration. I suggest DNR do the same for the proposed introduction of motorcycles on trails. This is a highly controversial activity, with lots of questions and serious ramifications that ought to be deliberated in a separate venue. Perhaps there is a way motorcyclists can be given an opportunity to cycle trails, but it should be somewhere other than the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

Sincerely,
William Hauda
Bicycling Representative, Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Michael Putnam <michael.putnam887@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:43 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Cc: Michael Putnam
Subject: Comments on DRAFT master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Dear Mr. Pohlman,

Thank you for this chance to comment on the draft master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I appreciated your visit to the River Arts Center and willingness to listen to public input.

As a conservation biologist and invasive plant specialist, I whole-heartedly support DNR's proposal to do widespread restoration and management of two of the most endangered habitats in the world - tallgrass prairie and oak savanna. These should be the center piece of the entire plan and for the entire property. Any recreational activity that might impede, degrade or undo these efforts should be excluded from the plan. For example, rocketry poses a risk of unplanned fires in these fire-prone habitats. While controlled burns are a necessary and useful tool in your plan for these habitats, uncontrolled fires will create a public relations nightmare for DNR and will impede the rightful use of controlled burns in habitat management.

Similarly, putting horse trails through the prairies and savannas is incompatible with the restoration and management of these valuable ecosystems. Horse trails consist of disturbed and bare native soil. This is an ideal situation for the introduction of invasive plants that will threaten these native habitats. Further, horses pass viable seeds of invasive plants through their digestive systems and deposit them with their manure. For example, sweet clovers (white and yellow) are used as livestock forage yet are invasive species in prairies and savannas. It seems having horse trails throughout these native plant communities will lead to the degradation of these endangered habitats. Therefore, remove horse back riding, wagons and buggies, mountain bikes and any other activity that creates and maintains bare soil.

Similarly, off-road motorcycles disturb the soil and leave it in a bare condition. Hence, off-road motorcycles should be removed forever from the master plan.

I strongly urge DNR to use only two land classifications at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area: native community management area and habitat management area. Further, DNR should remove the designation of "recreation area" and change it to "Sauk Prairie Re-creation Area" or "Sauk Prairie Conservation Area" to better reflect the unique opportunity to restore two of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Clearly, DNR needs another type of property designation that better fits the opportunities for ecological restoration, education and recreation afforded by the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant and should be a model for other areas in Wisconsin and around the nation.

The master plan should align seamlessly with the Badger Re-use Plan which DNR and other state agencies were disproportionately involved in creating. For example, the master plan should call for the permanent ban on a shooting range. The Badger Re-use Committee reviewed 24 proposals for re-use of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. The proposal for a shooting range came in dead last. Why is DNR trying to resurrect this lousy proposal? Instead, permanently prohibit a shooting range from the property immediately.

I oppose the dog trial area for several reasons. First, it would permit dogs to roam off-leash in an area that DNR conservation biologists identified as one of the most important areas (Area M) for declining grassland birds.

Similarly, having off leash dogs as well as errant rockets, will create hardships for your neighbors, the Dairy Forage Research Center. The master plan rightly notes how the perimeter fence would prevent dogs from leaving the property and entering private lands. But, there are no fences to keep these dogs from entering important habitats for grassland birds or onto the DFRC properties. No doubt owners of errant dogs and rockets will trespass onto DFRC property to retrieve their dogs and rockets. This can be avoided by removing rocketry and any off-leash dog uses from the master plan.

The master plan seems to still want to promote recreational activities and other uses that are high impact and at odds with the Badger Reuse Plan. Instead, DNR should favor only recreational and educational activities that promote the restoration of prairie and savanna, or, at a minimum, don't interfere with their restoration and management.

The master plan seems to conflict in several ways with DNR's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2011-2016, SCORP clearly demonstrates the most commonly practiced forms of outdoor recreation are quiet, low impact activities. For example, walking, viewing and photographing nature, wildflowers, birds and wildlife, visiting nature centers, biking, gathering of wild fruits, nuts and fungi, cross-country skiing and trail running, all of which could be practiced at SPRA, are enjoyed by more than 22 million participants. In contrast, mountain biking, hunting, off highway driving of all types, small game hunting, horseback riding of any type and horseback riding on trails account for approximately 3.2 million participants. The latter activities are noisier or more disruptive of the activities of low impact recreationists. For example, the master plan notes that horses might well be spooked by bikes on share trails. Therefore, for safety prohibit horses from the property.

As an aside, rocketry does not appear in the list of recreations cataloged by SCORP and the National Association of Rocketry lists only 5 clubs in Wisconsin, all of which are over an hour drive from Sauk Prairie. This minority recreation which poses a fire-risk should be excluded from the property.

Further, several of these higher impact recreations, such as hunting and horseback riding, are declining in participants while most of the low impact recreations are stable or increasing. For example, SCORP reports that 6 of the top 10 growing recreational activities are low impact (viewing wildlife, walking, biking, day hiking, running/jogging, viewing birds). These are the primary activities the master plan should promote as these 6 activities alone have over 12 million participants.

In addition, permitting helicopters to use DNR land is not in keeping with the low-impact uses and should be discontinued as quickly as possible. Further, why has DNR permitted this activity without first consulting with the National Park Service?

In summary, make the restoration, rehabilitation and management of ecosystems and species of greatest conservation concern the centerpiece of the master plan and only allow recreational activities that do not impede, complicate, degrade or undo these efforts to restore the globally endangered ecosystems of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna. For these reasons, exclude horses, rocketry, off-road motorcycles, mountain bikes and off-leash dogs from the master plan.

Adhere religiously to the Badger Re-use Plan. To that end, permanently exclude a shooting range from the property.

Be a good neighbor to the Dairy Forage Research Center and prohibit any activity that will interfere with their activities. This is especially important since they gave up valuable agricultural lands they had been farming to further DNR's land request. Please return the favor, be a good neighbor and prohibit off-leash dogs, rocketry and other activities that will interfere with their work and mission.

Instead, work with your neighbors, especially DFRC and the Ho-Chunk nation to jointly manage the land of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. DFRC has been willing to allow ecological restoration on some of its land and this is a important component of the land request of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Please work in conjunction with these neighbors to achieve the largest possible restoration of prairie, savanna and woodland.

The Sauk Prairie Re-Creation Area offers DNR an unprecedented opportunity to restore its reputation as a conservation leader if it makes the restoration of the endangered tallgrass prairie and oak savanna the heart and lifeblood of its master plan and then follows that plan.

Sincerely,

Michael Putnam

101 Mound Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: kdlins@merr.com
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:47 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Cc: johnpohlman@wisconsin.gov
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Draft Master Plan from a former BAAP Reuse Committee Board member

----- Message Forwarded on Sep 25 -----

From: kdlins@merr.com
To: johnpohlman@wisconsin.gov
Subject: Comments on Draft Master Plan from a former BAAP Reuse Committee Board member
Date: Fri, 25 Sep 2015 09:21:27 -0500

I was a member of the Badger Reuse Committee and participated in all the meetings and a majority of the subcommittee meetings that were held to determine the future use of BAAP. This committee was faced with the task of creating a plan that would be unanimously supported by all of its members - not just a majority.

Many proposals were considered - from converting unused (but new) chemical buildings into a chemical park to giving the land back to the farmers who once lived there. All these proposals were talked about and considered, but it became clearly apparent that they did not have the unanimous support of the board.

The only plan that the board could fully endorse was to bring the land back to what it WAS (prairie) - not to what it could be (new uses)

This is what the community wanted. Our community spoke back then and they are speaking now (if you listen to them) - bring this land back to what it was.

New uses (gun range, off road motorcycles, rocketry) will conflict with the original Reuse Plan which had the full backing of all the board members representing the community and the DNR.

The Reuse Plan is not outdated (as some have said it needs fine tuning) It is the only plan which will bring harmony back to this land and the people who live near it.

Please follow the Reuse Plan. It was right back then. It is right for now and into the future.

Kendall Lins
E11575 County Road Z
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

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Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: ornerg1@peak.org
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:41 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Feedback on Draft Master Plan

Public Comment SPRA,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area (SPRA) Draft Master Plan. I am excited about the wonderful conservation, research, and recreational activities that will result from the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) transitioning to the DNR. The current draft master plan is much improved from the previous draft. It is apparent that you have listened to feedback from the public in drafting this plan.

In particular, I appreciate that the draft plan recognizes the research and educational value of the unique population of neotenic salamanders present in the reservoirs. I feel that these salamanders are one of the real treasures of the SPRA. The Preliminary Vision Statement for the SPRA emphasized the importance of "providing interpretive and educational opportunities focusing on natural history, restoration efforts, and the impacts of human uses". The neotenic salamanders are a wonderful example of an unintended consequence of the BAAP operations- showing how nature can adapt to unusual circumstances. Their story has fascinated many people ranging from visitors on public tours of the BAAP property to researchers trying to learn about the rare process of neoteny. It would be extremely short-sighted for the DNR to destroy this unique population, and forever lose the opportunity for further research and education.

I strongly encourage the Department to leave the reservoirs (or at least the more intact East Reservoir) in place as long as possible. The East reservoir was never exposed to the harsh chlorination that probably led to the premature failure of the West reservoir. It is quite possible that East reservoir will remain in good condition for many years to come. In addition to the neotenic salamander presence, the reservoirs themselves will continue to be of interest to many visitors who are fascinated by the history of the former BAAP site.

As noted in alternative #7, the safety and security concerns of leaving the reservoirs in place can be addressed with only a modest investment. The reservoirs are already enclosed in two fences with life rings. This, plus the possible addition of a few strategically placed ladders, should ensure the safety of even the most determined trespasser.

In addition to preserving the rare BAAP neotenic salamander population, alternative 7 is also the most cost-effective option. In these difficult financial times, our master plan should acknowledge the limited funding likely to be available for park improvements and prioritize based on the greatest need. The estimated cost to simply drain, demolish, and fill the reservoirs is \$2.3 million dollars! That's well over half of the total proposed budget for recreational facilities across the entire site. If funds become available, I'd rather they be spent on habitat management, invasive species control, conservation, and limited visitor amenities.

I don't think that the reservoirs and bluff day use area are mutually exclusive. Indeed I believe that the reservoirs will enhance the visitor experience. This is a great location for a small parking lot and picnic area. But, I think the size of the proposed day use area and parking lot should be greatly

scaled down. While the overlook is beautiful, this is a remote part of the park that will be at the end of a narrow one-way road. Surely this isn't the best place for a 50 vehicle paved parking lot, a massive picnic shelter, and an amphitheater. That's almost half the number of parking spaces proposed for the entire park, and more than twice the number proposed for the visitor center-which is intended to not only serve the visitor center but serve as the major starting point for hikers and bikers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gayle Orner, PhD

ornerg1@peak.org
5221 Old Middleton Road
Madison, WI 53705

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: William F. Wenzel <wfwenzel@orionls.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR; DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: SPRA (Badger comments)

Hi John,

Please include my comments about the Badger lands.

Bill

My name is Bill Wenzel, and I'm from Prairie du Sac.

Since 1997, I have been elected to the Sauk County Board of Supervisors. Some of my committee assignments have been Planning & Zoning (past Chair), Sauk County Development Corporation, Executive & Legislative (past Chair), Finance, Management Information Systems (past Chair), Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Land Information Council (Chair), Law Enforcement (Chair), and Judiciary (Chair). From 2004 - 2006 I was County Board Chair.

I have also represented the Village of Prairie du Sac on the Badger Restoration Advisory Board for the last 14 years or so.

I have keenly been interested in the Badger Army Ammunition plant from its surplussing in 1997. Since so much time has passed and so much change happened on the Sumpter - Merrimac lands since 1942, the central question was, and still is, "Just what could be the best outcome for the property and the local and larger community?"

The area saw the formation and short-lived Klug Commission that failed to include the community, and also the Welch Task Force, which I was asked by then-Senator Bob Welch to serve on and did. It became apparent that the community wanted the land returned to it as a public holding.

In spring of 2000, I was asked by the County Board Chair, Mel Rose, to initiate contact with then-Governor Tommy Thompson, meeting Ron Woods, Jeff Schoepke, and Dave Schmedicke of his staff in his office in the Capitol. We spoke for an hour and a half, and they were enthusiastic. I wrote a letter dated July 10, 2000 urging him to request ownership of all or part of the lands. That resulted in the State's interest in the Badger Lands.

I was appointed by Sauk County to the Badger Intergovernmental Group (BIG), and the Badger Oversight & Management Commission, which I chaired from 2005 - 2014.

In 2000, I was also appointed by the Sauk County Board to the Badger Reuse Committee which endeavored to come up with a plan to integrate the contaminated facility back into the community. The Committee was made up representatives from the federal government, the Ho-Chunk Nation, State government, including Jeff Schoepke, and Dave Schmedicke from the Governor's office, and DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell. It also included representatives from County Government, Town Governments, Village and City Governments; former landowners, area businessmen, and conservationists.

At the end of 9 months of heavy schedule of open meetings and public hearings, we developed the Badger Reuse Plan, which was to be the blueprint for the Badger property. Part of the property was already owned by

USDA-Dairy Forage, who does forage research in cooperation with the UW-Madison Extension. The Ho-Chunk Nation was interested in lands there as well. The Badger Reuse Plan was subsequently approved and passed by the Sauk County Board. Even the GSA, normally uncomfortable with a process and outcome like this, was moved to concede that this was "The Highest and Best Use".

As a result of the Badger Reuse Committee's efforts, a Memorandum of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreement was developed as a framework for the implementation of the Reuse Plan. It was signed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Out of the Memorandum of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreement came the Badger Oversight & Management Commission, which had its first meeting in 2005. The BOMC mission was to collaboratively implement the Badger Reuse Plan. I chaired the Commission for every meeting until April 2014.

I have spent between a third and a fourth of my life on the effort to bring the Badger lands back to the community from where it was taken. I don't say these things for any sort of recognition, but only to underscore the work and trust I and others placed in DNR. As a result of those efforts, and that of many more visionary people, the DNR now has ownership of part of the Badger lands, roughly half and a somewhat fragmented half at that. It needs to manage those lands in concert with Dairy Forage and Ho-Chunk Nation.

The Reuse Committee saw the obvious advantage in multiplying the awesome opportunity that represented, and so the First (both arrived at and in order of importance) Value of the Reuse Plan is this:
/The Badger property is managed as a single unit. The managers and owners of land and activities have an affirmative, formal obligation and written agreement to manage the property collaboratively and holistically, and to empower local stakeholders in identifying, discussing, and influencing major management and long-term use decisions. All stakeholders, especially local interests, support the long-term reuse vision and management activities at the Badger property.// / That ensured that the property would benefit the community and owners to the maximum possible extent. Instead of being one of a group of smaller parcels, it would look, and act, as if it were much larger. In fact, many elements of the management could be shared as well.

/

//Criterion 1.1: Any and all owners/managers of the Badger property will operate within the framework of the Badger Reuse Committee's values and criteria for management and use of the property.// //Criterion 1.3: Authorize establishment of an oversight and management board, that will be representative of the Badger property's future owners/managers and local stakeholders, to oversee implementation of a reuse plan that is consistent with the values and criteria./

These criterion have suffered recently as DNR has regrettably developed the Master Plan completely invisibly and internally and without the collaboration of the BOMC and its members, of which DNR is a voting Commissioner. That has happened despite their signing the Reuse Plan, the Memorandum of Understanding and the Intergovernmental Agreement, as well as their application to the National Park Service that got their land with the promise of those formal agreements and the community, organizations, and people that supported their application under the Federal Lands To Parks program.

"Many groups with varying interests in Badger share a common goal with WDNR to convert it to a recreational property with low impact recreation (hiking, picnicking, primitive camping), prairie, savanna and grassland restoration, environmental education and cultural/historical interpretation with potential for an education center."

(from 2004 DNR's application for lands at Badger under the National Park Service's "Federal Lands to Parks" program)

No satisfactory answer has been given for those actions. Instead, some DNR personnel even referred to the other BOMC members as mere "interest groups" and refused to include them as partners of any kind.

Well, without the support that was given to DNR throughout the process, it is doubtful that they would have ended up with the sponsorship of the National Park Service and resulting ownership of the lands. Certainly, they wouldn't have had mine.

DNR has a strong MORAL OBLIGATION (and in my view, is legally bound) to keep its word and keep its Values and Criteria and Mission that it help develop. It hardly bears repeating that trust is the foundation of civilization, not to mention of government.

Accordingly, it needs to keep its promises that it made over the years to the many, many people and organizations that supported it with uncountable hours, meetings, and donated work of all descriptions. We are all willing to continue that donation - IF - the DNR in turn keeps its promises that got them their land in the first place.

I am mystified that the professional planning structure of DNR could produce the Draft Master Plan it presented. I have served on the Board of Sauk County Development Corporation for 11 years, and it is one of my delights that we have the Jewel of the Wisconsin State Park system, Devil's Lake State Park, into our county. The Park brings in 2 million visitors per year that in turn add \$170 million dollars to our local economy, most of it from out of the county, some even internationally.

Our share of the sales tax alone from that takes \$850,000 off the tax levies of Sauk County residents, and adds much more to the local economy. In fact, Sauk County is the 3rd highest tourism county in the state, and the highest if you discount convention centers. We are where people want to go. If done right as DNR promised, it would fit neatly in with and add to the Park, and in fact, if the Badger lands were a park itself, it would be even better. We were told at the time that the reason it couldn't be designated as a park is that some of the things the Reuse Plan called for wouldn't be allowed under the State Park structure, hence the proposed name, "Sauk Prairie Recreation Center". In retrospect, that seems disingenuous and even suspect. I propose "The Great Sauk Prairie". It once encompassed some 15,000 acres from the northern boundaries of the Badger lands through Cassell Prairie, most of the Township of Prairie du Sac.

If Devil's Lake had the incompatible uses that are proposed in WDNR's Draft Master Plan, it is doubtful that it would be nearly as successful as it is. Bong Recreation Area would be more like it, with its low-quality experiences, incompatible and competing users, all adding up to calls for more and more staff to mediate problems. Maybe that's the best that can be done so close to a major population center, but the Sauk County Place has a different brand. We are the home of Wisconsin Dells, one of the natural wonders of the world, Baraboo Bluffs, Lake Wisconsin, and also the home of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, the Baraboo Bluffs, and International Crane Foundation. We will soon host the Great Sauk Trail, linking Madison, Mazomanie, Sauk Prairie, through Badger, Devil's Lake, Baraboo, North Freedom, Rock Springs, and Reedsburg to the 400 Trail and on to the Mississippi River.

Badger is a precious opportunity and priceless vision that we can either embrace now or it will be ruined. The Reuse Plan vision is the once-only opportunity to not only see, but to visit - forever - the single largest block of prairie landscape that will ever come to us. It has an immense, immeasurable value that really belongs to our children and our grandchildren. This gift - a restored, large scale prairie landscape will only be more and more valuable as time goes on. The Sauk Prairie, as seen by our first explorers and pioneers, will come alive once again.

It will be, in the Heart of Sauk Prairie, a World-Class attraction that coupled with Devil's Lake State Park, will draw people from around the world.

We also have a right to demand Excellence. Seldom is that word heard in the context of government, but we all worked hard to create it here, for we knew that Badger is a critically important product and Best Outcome that we have an obligation to make as good as we can.

Please, honor your words and promises, and the decade of work that has enabled you to stand where you do today, the owners of 3800 acres of lands that once were the farmlands of the pioneers of Sumpter and Merrimac, and before them, the home of our brothers, the Ho-Chunk and Sauk Nations. You also stand on their shoulders. You can best recognize your, and our, debt to them by respecting and including your partners and respecting their work. We stand on the threshold of judgement by our own children and grandchildren. Let us not disappoint them, nor disparage ourselves as well.

Badger needs to be (and already is) part of the local fabric of landscape, preservation, education, recreation, and economic development. It is important to note that of the 7400 acres of Badger, only 3800 (in two pieces) are DNR lands.

My specific comments on the Master Plan:

First, I have read the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance's comments, and I agree with them.

1: It is the only opportunity to transition from Deep Woods habitat to Oak Savannah to prairie that will be possible on any sort of meaningful scale in Southern Wisconsin.

2: It is the only opportunity to manage big block habitat (important to grassland birds and pheasants) that will be possible on any sort of meaningful scale.

Any other uses that detract, or worse, conflict with, that can be done on other, smaller places. That includes rocketeering, dual-use motorcycles, and a shooting range. Compatible uses need to be low-impact.

From the /Draft Regional and Property Analysis:// /*/ /**/§Maximize the potential for grassland and oak savanna restoration and public recreation./**/ /**/ /**/§Preserve and enhance the transition zone between the Baraboo Hills and the Badger prairie lands./**/ /**/ /**/§Preserve and enhance the ecological corridor from the Baraboo Hills to the Wisconsin River./*

You got this exactly right. This should be the over riding blueprint for the Master Plan.

The proposed non-compatible uses of high power Rocketeering and off-road motorcycles will inhibit the uses of the Badger Prairie by others. The motorcycles plan to utilize not only any areas assigned to them, but to also use the hiking and horse trails as well during their time of the year. 10 miles of hiking trails, up to 15 miles of bike trails and 15 miles of horse trails are mentioned in the plan. The proposed Rocketeering intends to use the site south of the proposed visitors center, just a mile east of the Highway 12 S-curves and too close to the Lake Wisconsin residences. Incredibly, it is also in the northern flight approach corridor to the Sauk Prairie Airport!

The multitude of trails are predator vectors that inhibit the bird populations (including game birds) from naturally propagating successfully. Think Big Block habitat.

I feel that equine use should be low-impact and individual rather than event-scale. Events raise the impact threshold past the point that the land can carry comfortably.

Dog Trials: I was amazed that DNR is proposing dog trials at Badger.

North of Mazomanie is a 6 mile strip of vast DNR lands that abut the Wisconsin River bottoms and include the Mazomanie Wildlife Area, which itself includes a former pheasant hunting and dog area that is now overgrown with invasives and succumbed to the lack of habitat support for its own facilities, and common complaint about the Department. I suggest rather that DNR clean and take care of that facility rather than try to shoe-horn yet another use in at Badger, simply because it lacks the will and/or resources to care for what it already has elsewhere.

Shooting Range proposal:

The Merrimac Conservation Club range is only 3 miles to the east, and gets most of its revenue from rifle shooters. It is a community range and would likely suffer greatly from the competition at Badger. Worse yet, since the Club is grandfathered in, and if it is lost, it may not be replaced if the proposed Badger range finds itself changed by future events, such as those that cost the Deerfield Range its existence. There are many other rifle ranges in close proximity to Badger, including Baraboo, Winnequah, and North Freedom. There are also trap ranges at Sauk Prairie, Roxbury, Mazomanie, and Merrimac. The area to the east of Badger is heavily populated along the Lake Wisconsin shore, with many expensive homes at risk for stray rounds and noise. The area is simply too populous to site a range at Badger.

While I understand the desire to share in the DNR's newest property for a "public" range, there simply are better choices to enhance shooting opportunities in the area. Chief among these should be partnerships with local gun clubs, which are actually public in the sense that they allow the public to join, but require them to follow range rules and pay nominal dues (Merrimac is \$30). The up side to that is you know who's shooting next to you. There are actually many gun clubs in the immediate area. I have yet to talk to anyone at my ranges that would like to shoot with the general public, me included.

The moneys for the ranges is proposed to come out of the Pittman - Robertson Fund. That fund has recently been re-purposed to include shooting ranges, but at the expense of habitat which we all need for hunting uses.

These uses directly contradict the Badger Reuse Plan, which states that uses in Badger "should be low-impact in nature and should be compatible with other uses...and should have no detrimental impacts on the cultural and natural features of the property".

The one exception to motorized sports is to continue the snowmobile trail along the northern, eastern, and southern boundary of Badger. The clubs each year make agreements with local landowners to continue their trails, and would feel more comfortable if they ran just 40 feet over, inside the Badger lands. Also asked for a short stub route to the Overlook area as an attraction. Their request was brought before the Planning and Land Use Committee of the BOMC, and the BOMC itself and was approved. We felt that their footprint would be negligible. Their track record of cooperation in Sauk County has been exemplary.

The Badger Lands have a rough history, from forcible relocation of the Sumpter - Merrimac farm families to 50 years of chemical contamination.

Now we need to realize that context and start the healing process that, fortunately, will also maximize the economic benefit to the Sauk County Community.

The Department needs to do the right thing and honor the Badger Reuse Plan it helped write, along with its unprecedented list of partners at Badger.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill Wenzel
Prairie du Sac

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Timothy Myers <acoladecustoms@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:41 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA

Hi John,

I was disappointed that I could not take the online survey tonight. Your dead line doesn't specify a ending time so I would have assumed it would be 11:59 pm. Regardless I found your email so here is concern. I would hope there is a permanent snowmobile route provided within the SPRA that connects to the continuing statewide snowmobile trail system outside of the property. Having snowmobile trail access routes through this public use property will provide critical and permanent arteries crucial to our areas snowmobile trail system. I'm sure your aware of the impact snowmobiling has on our states winter tourism, and it's support of many local businesses. Furthermore any route must be shown both within the SPRA Master Plan language and on the SPRA Master Plan map. I hope the mater plan is inclusive to all public land uses and interest. I feel these areas should have access for all interests to enjoy and not just cater to certain special interests.

Thank you,
Tim Myers

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Craig Schlender <craig Schlender@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:16 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Plan

John,

Sauk County Pheasants Forever has been a stakeholder in the BOMC for the past three years we were nominated to join by a member of the DNR.

We agree totally with Mr. Bill Wenzel 's comments on the Master plan. Bill has more time in the reuse plan than any one person.

The DNR has an obligation to follow the reuse plan as a low impact recreation area.

There are much better isolated areas in the southern part of the state to locate shooting ranges , rocketry, and motor cycles.

Wisconsin has gone from 700,000 CRP acres in the mid- 1990s to 263,000 acres last year. These acres are mostly on private lands but it has caused a sharp decline in grassland bird populations.

The DNR has a chance to help this out by preserving these lands without mixing in uses that degrade the quality of the habitat.

Our neighboring states have put their resources into preserving all the grasslands that they can please join them in doing this at Badger.

Badger is the perfect area for having wild bird releases for pheasants, quail ,and sharp tail grouse.

Put and take birds are costly and only a few release following hunters have success with basis all no carry over.

Sauk County Pheasants Forever and we are 300 members strong ask you to please follow the reuse plan in spirit and drop the motor cycles, rocketry, and future consideration of a shooting range at Badger.

Craig Schlender Sauk County Peasants Forever Chapter president

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Marybeth Lorbiecki <marybeth.lorbiecki@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 11:43 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Sauk Prairie Recreation Area comment

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Dear Mr. Pohlman,

Thank you for your work collecting comments on the Sauk Prairie Restoration Area. As it is still September 25, I hope you will accept my feedback as a Wisconsin Citizen.

I am amazed at the process that has gone into this Master Plan and the citizen perseverance of more of two decades that has brought it to this stage and the many diverse partners who have come together. Those two factors show that this is a model of citizen participation and caring. In this day of instant gratification and citizen apathy, what greater testimony can there be of the rightness of this plan for a mixed use area of sustainable nonmotorized restorative care and use and enjoyment than this?

It speaks to the great heritage of this state, of the Native peoples and pioneers who cared for this land and wildlife, for Aldo Leopold and John Muir who had such influence here in caring for the land and spurring your own profession, and of the incredible spirit of the women and men who have led this campaign to restore these lands after so much damage from pollution as an amunitions plant.

Not only will this be a model of citizen participation, and a place of recreational enjoyment, but one of hope, one that proves that we can as citizens work in cooperation to take something ruined and out of it, bring back not just the wild citizens but the domestic human ones in a spirit of community joy, art, and enjoyment of the land and water.

I do not have specific feedback other than to say that I love that horses, hikers, birds and apple pickers, prairie dogs and sunflower, musicians and pow wows and barn dances and dairy cows may all be welcome here, and maybe bison again some day...whatt greater achievement could there be for a natural recreation area than all of this?

Please say yes to nonmotorized mixed use and continued partnership building. I was watching the pope speak yesterday to Congress about the American spirit of cooperation for the common good and this seems to speak of that deeper spirit, and the passing on of something to our children and their children and grandchildren that speaks of who we are and what we have aspired to. This is the signature that we write upon this land, as Leopold said.

Just say yes.

Thanks for your service again,
Marybeth Lorbiecki
Hudson, Wisconsin

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Karl Lang <karllang2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 3:10 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: SPRA master plan

Hello John !

Thank you , and Paul for getting a copy of master plan to Madison central library, August 20 A robust and carefully crafted document !
I have unfortunately missed the Sept 25 deadline for comment to it , and am e mailing to ask if I could still do that (?) I read that much of the implementation will be 15 years and ongoing into the future , but my excuse is other writing projects that absorbed my time.. one , also tardy , taking three weeks , and I am not a multi tasker

I would very much like to input , and I believe from a somewhat unusual and interesting perspective.. I have been hiking in Badger since 1975 (night hiking while the army was there *) and afterwards became increasingly familiar with the settlement history , and some archeology of the nw corner Additionally , my knowledge of the war years when Badger was part of "the arsenal of democracy" is rather incisive Not to rival in any way , good Verlyn Mueller's knowledge of the plant , but simply to reveal the contribution to the desperate year 1942 I believe , John , that some of all of this history should appear for visitors to SPRA , and not just recreational uses and ecological restoration.. although we can begin with one of the earliest observations , that looking down from the north hills , was onto a prairie "sea of constantly changing color"

If I could still input the historical information , I would feel quite happy about the sharing.. In my hiking now thru the beauty of the hills and prairie , I also feel the past and the hope so like our own , of those entranced to live there

*

They had a security company that did two runs around the perimeter , after nightfall and at dawn , so easy to avoid , unlike the women motorcyclists who were maybe roaring around continuously during the war years (!)
One Nov night ,I had the remarkable good fortune to walk thru the plant under an astonishing display of northern lights , a kaleidoscope of color arcing over the entire sky between about 1 and predawn, and

apparently never before recorded so far south

I hope and affirm you and your work are well !

Karl Lang also at 244-6555

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: David Serafy-Cox <serafycx@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:22 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Comments on the DNR Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

From: David Serafy-Cox
1614 Redwood Lane
Madison, WI 53711

To: John Pohlman – LF/6
Wisconsin DNR
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

My Comments on the DNR Draft Master Plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area:

For the past 15 years, since just before the Badger Reuse Committee began its deliberations, I have been involved with the issue of what should become of the land formerly composing the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. The reasons for my involvement are several: my growing-up years spent on a hilltop farm with a sweeping view over a broad valley surrounded by mountains; my life-long interest in the out-of-doors, expressed in angling, hiking, camping, and photography, resulting in my college degree in fisheries science, and my continuing self-education in ecology and land-use issues, including (after my move to Wisconsin) land restoration; and my understanding of the Christian faith as involving peace-making and renewal. The 7,350 acres of land at Badger, and the long-term fate of that land, has thus been a place where the full range of my interests and passions have found a compelling focal point.

And of course, the fate of the Badger lands has been a long-term involvement for many other people, the most well-known example of which is the Badger Reuse Committee and its Final Report, commonly known as the Badger Reuse Plan. This document was created through an exceptionally broad range of input from community and regional stakeholders, and local, state, federal, and Native governmental agencies, one of which was the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as a signatory of the final document. This committee made its decisions by consensus in open public meetings, and achieved a vision for the Badger lands that was widely embraced at the time, and which has continually revealed its relevance as the long process of implementing its vision has unfolded over the decade and a half since.

In addition to the individuals, agencies, and organizations that made up the Badger Reuse Committee, through the years there have literally been thousands of people involved at Badger in one way or another, inspired directly or indirectly by the Badger Reuse Plan and its land-use values and opportunities for inter-group collaboration: school children and their teachers visiting the site for environmental education; prairie restoration volunteers; students of Badger history; birdwatchers and prairie gazers; graduate students in various disciplines, whose research has been based at Badger; and the many folks who have spent years and years promoting and advocating for the land-restoration, collaboration, research, quiet low-impact recreational and peace-making values of the Badger Reuse Plan.

A major contributor to the "Badger Process" has of course been the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Dept., as mentioned above, was a key participant in the Badger Reuse Committee; the Dept.

has collaborated with non-profit organizations, both before and after its actual ownership of land at Badger, in such activities as tours, educational events, and land restorations work; the Dept. has been a participating member of the Badger Oversight Management Commission, along with the other stakeholder and landowner members of the Commission; and the Dept., on behalf of all Wisconsin citizens, very explicitly embraced the Badger Reuse Plan and the land-use values and collaborative management process embodied therein, when it signed the Land Transfer Agreement with the National Park Service, the agreement by means of which the DNR has received its portion of the Badger lands at no cost. The Badger Reuse Plan is thus the basis on which the State of Wisconsin has possession of these 3,800 acres at Badger, land for which the State of Wisconsin has accepted the legal responsibility of managing in a manner that fulfills the vision of the Badger Reuse Plan.

The current step in the "Badger process" which the Dept. has undertaken, is that of a Draft Master Plan for its portion of Badger.

The criteria by the Draft Master Plan must be evaluated is of course whether the proposed Plan is consistent with the Badger Reuse Plan, and whether it fulfills the State of Wisconsin's agreement in the WDNR's Land Transfer Agreement with the NPS, to manage its portion of the Badger lands by the values and criteria of the Badger Reuse Plan.

To keep my comments short, I make the same evaluation of the Draft Master Plan as does The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance in its Cover Letter and Comments documents, recently sent to the Department:

- The Plan contains many positive features concerning land restoration, low-impact recreation, research, education, and some degree of commitment to collaborative management. For these, the Dept. is to be commended

- However, there are a disappointingly high number of features of the plan which clearly violate the Badger Reuse Plan and the Transfer Agreement with the National Park Service. Rather than my enumerating and explaining those multiple features here, please refer to the detailed comments sent by The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance --- I agree with them all!

As my final comment, Badger is a very special place in Wisconsin because of its association in history with the removal of Native peoples and European farmers; its association with global warfare, environmental pollution, and land degradation; the conflicts, wounds, and deaths associated with this land; and now, through the efforts of a great host of impassioned people in recent years, there has come about a great potential on this wounded land for renewal and healing of both the land itself, and of the human community related to it --- the Badger lands can serve as a concrete example of how it is possible for people to bring about an unexpected symbol of peace and well-being from former destruction and degradation.

We are so close to the realization of that potential please do not disappoint those who have worked so hard to bring about so much progress, progress which the DNR has itself helped bring about. Please do not disappoint those who come after us by squandering this opportunity, which once missed, will almost certainly not come again in so perfect a fashion.

Thank you for considering my comments.

David Serafy-Cox

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Anna Pidgeon <apidgeon@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:14 PM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: comments on Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan

September 25, 2015

Dear Mr. Pohlman,

I would like to share some thoughts on the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Draft Master Plan.

Human activities affect nature virtually everywhere on the planet. Taking opportunities to manage natural habitat in ways that minimize human impact and maintain natural ecological processes and vegetation communities where these opportunities present themselves, is, I believe a key responsibility of the DNR. It is therefore exciting to me to see the habitat preservation and low impact recreation opportunities that are planned for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant.

I applaud the plan to manage for large blocks of grassland and oak opening habitat, and I commend the DNR for eliminating the ATV activity that was formerly considered as a possible recreational use .

Motorcycles in SPRA have the potential to cause great destruction and disturbance to plants and animals alike. Their presence, if allowed in SPRA, should be limited to the times of year that would affect wild species least. This can mean 1)when wild species are least vulnerable, or 2)when, during the annual cycle, the fewest number of individual animals would be affected. I think motorcycle use is not appropriate during the season when vulnerable young are present (for the majority of species, this is April – mid July). Populations are at their lowest size at the end of winter, while, by November, most species have finished migrating or have found suitable hibernation sites for the winter. Therefore, I suggest that the rocket and motorcycle activity be restricted to the months of November - February.

I strongly oppose razing the reservoirs, which are habitat for an unusual form of the Tiger Salamander, for two reasons. While it is true that the tiger salamander is thought to still be relatively common, it is also true that virtually all amphibian species have declined in abundance, including the leopard frog, a development that was virtually unthinkable just a few decades ago. The plan to euthanize an entire population of any declining should be considered with extreme caution. However the fact of this population's rare life form is an additional reason to reconsider the planned razing of the reservoirs. The existence of this population of neotenic Tiger Salamanders in the reservoirs at SPRA is a rare phenomenon across its range in North America. The population's unique history and isolation provides at the least, opportunity for gaining scientific knowledge about landscape genetics, genetic drift, and perhaps even incipient speciation. Given this, and the cost of destroying the reservoirs, which is fully half of the half estimated cost of developing all recreational facilities, adopting a conservative attitude toward this population and their reservoir habitat is the prudent approach. This is certainly true from a fiscal perspective, and from a scientific perspective, but also, and certainly not least, from an educational perspective. The presence of this population also presents a unique opportunity for public education through interpretive programs and interpretive signage. With the neotenic population preserved in place, visitors would be able to witness a natural phenomenon they cannot see anywhere else. The salamanders provide an opportunity to educate not only about neoteny and this specific population, but more broadly about amphibians and reptile s native to Sauk Prairie, about conservation of amphibian and reptile habitat, and about the global plight of amphibians. It seems to me that preserving and educating Wisconsin citizens about their natural heritage, in all its unique life forms, is a responsibility of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and that the presence of this neotenic salamander population presents an unparalleled opportunity for carrying out this work, in a way that is more fiscally conservative than the current proposed plan.

Thank-you for allowing me an opportunity to share my thoughts on the SPRA Master Plan.

Anna Pidgeon, PhD
Mazomanie, WI

9/25/2015

John Pohlman – LF/6
WI Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Pohlman,

Thank you for your dedication to the master planning process, and thanks also to the entire Sauk Prairie Recreation Area master planning team for their expertise and hard work in developing the draft master plan. I would like to commend the DNR for its particular attention to the value of partnerships in the future management of a site with such a complex history, and in the face of significant ecological management challenges.

As has been raised in many meetings and letters over the past two decades of “Badger Reuse,” the great value of the Badger property is in the opportunity it provides to conserve and interpret its unique natural and cultural history – and to do so at landscape scales. The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area is one important piece of this whole, and I appreciate the efforts that DNR staff have made to communicate the necessity of collaboration with the adjacent landowners, and with other partners who will build DNR’s capacity to manage and interpret the landscape for the public.

The vision described in the draft plan for habitat restoration of declining ecosystems like grassland and oak openings is critically important to conservation of a diversity of species which live (and are in decline) in southern Wisconsin. It is also consistent with a strong legacy of conservation work on the property, and the values described in the Badger Reuse Plan. Similarly, the interpretive opportunities described in the plan will provide a valuable public service in sharing the property’s unique human and land use history with visitors. These interpretive opportunities build on the painstaking work of the Badger History Group and others to document this historical record. It is a great responsibility to be stewards of the stories of the Native Americans, white settlers, Plant workers, and local citizens who have all had an impact on that landscape over the past 200 years and beyond. Sharing these stories was also a key part of the vision of the Badger Reuse Plan. I support emphasis of conservation and interpretation of these cultural and natural resources as the primary goals for the property.

While the draft master plan does a great service to stewardship of the SPRA’s cultural and natural resources, my primary concern with the draft master plan as written is the inclusion of high-impact recreational activities (e.g., rocketry, dual-sport motorcycles) which hold no connection to past agreements regarding land use and the difficult consensus-based process which generated the Badger Reuse Plan. I respect the rights of citizens to advocate for a variety of uses on public lands, but feel that in the particular case of this property, the responsibility to protect its cultural and natural resources – its story – outweighs the benefits of including recreational uses which could be accommodated on other state- or privately-owned properties.

I'd like to close by encouraging the DNR to continue building a foundation for strong land management and interpretive partnerships now – the funding and personnel constraints, and the challenges ahead, will require creative thinking and an adaptive approach to decision-making. Local agricultural producers, our excellent University of Wisconsin system, nonprofit organizations, educators, the adjacent landowners (USDA-Dairy Forage and Ho-Chunk Nation), and the community at large all have the potential to contribute expertise and access to new funding resources. I am optimistic about the future of this property, and its legacy for future generations of Wisconsin residents. Thank you for your contributions to this process.

Sincerely,

Alison Duff
Baraboo, WI

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Margaret Kraege <ilovestrike@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:52 PM
To: DNR SAUK PRAIRIE
Subject: Sauk Prairie master plan comment

Dear DNR Staff,
thank you for including horses in the draft master plan for the Sauk Prairie Recreation area. I would like to add a couple of additional comments concerning horses on this property. Would it be possible to see horses added as a shared use on the snowmobile trails? Having an area for parking 10 truck & trailer rigs is wonderful but could it be added that there could be possible expansion of that area in the future? Given the size of this property I would hope that at some point the horse area could be expanded to include camping. Many equestrian groups have access to additional funding for improvements like ones done at the Southern Kettle Moraine SF. Camping fees would also bring in additional revenue. You may already know that most horse trailers have water storage areas for the horses and humans so we don't see a lack of potable water as an immediate problem.

I heard, during the draft master plan presentation, public comment period, that there was a concern from some people about horses spreading invasive species. I would like to share some information from a study done at the University of Wisconsin on this matter that shows this is not a big problem as many have been led to believe;

December 28, 2006

Prepared by

Dr. Stith T. Gower

Department of Forest Ecology and Management 1630 Linden Drive

University of Wisconsin

Madison, WI 53706 608-262-0532 (office phone) 608-345-4780 (cell) 608-262-9922 (fax) stgower@wisc.edu
(email) <http://forestecology.forest.wisc.edu>

Project Summary

Non-native plant species pose a serious ecological and economic threat to managed and natural ecosystems; therefore, there is a great need to identify major sources for the introduction of non-native species and develop management plans to reduce or eliminate their introduction. Horses have been suggested to be an important source for the introduction of non-native plant species along trails, but the data to date has largely been anecdotal. In this study, horse hay, manure and hoof debris samples were collected from 12 to 24 horses at five endurance rides in North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. One sub-sample of each material from each horse was sown in pots and grown under ideal conditions to determine if horse hay, manure and hoof debris samples contained seeds from non- native species. A second sub-sample of each material from each horse was placed back on their respective trail to determine if non-native seeds would germinate and establish on the trails. Vegetation surveys were also conducted along 50 m transects perpendicular to horse and hiking (horses not permitted) trails at three of the five sites to compare species composition of native and non-native plant species. On average, non-native plant species germinated in 5.2% of the hay samples in the pots, but non-native species did not germinate from the manure or hoof debris samples. However, only 3 of the 288 ($\approx 1\%$) hay, manure, and hoof debris plots established on horse trails at the five sites contained native plants at the end of the first growing season and no live plants were observed at the end of the second growing season. Non-native species composition and percent of total plants species did not differ between horse and hiker trails, and non-native plant species were only found within one meters of the trail. The results of this and other studies demonstrate that horse hay and manure contains seeds of non-native plant species, but native and non-native

plant species rarely become established on horse trails because of the harsh environmental conditions. Opportunities to reduce the risk of horses introducing non-native plant species in natural and managed ecosystems are discussed.

Thank you for all your effort to create a good mix of recreation and natural habitat for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan.

Margaret Kraege, President of Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association

Pohlman, John D - DNR

From: Buckler, Daniel C - DNR
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 7:50 AM
To: Ltrsnow@aol.com
Subject: Equestrian Trails at Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

Hello Joyce,

Thank you for your comments regarding proposed horse trails at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. I will forward your note to the planner. If you hadn't seen it already, please visit the Saul Prairie master plan Web page [here](#).

Thanks again,

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Daniel Buckler
Trail Program - Bureau of Parks and Recreation/Division of Land
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St., Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Phone: (608) 261-4933
Daniel.Buckler@wisconsin.gov



From: Ltrsnow@aol.com [<mailto:Ltrsnow@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 6:48 AM
To: DNR Wisconsin Parks
Cc: DNR WEB FEEDBACK
Subject: DNR Website Information Request: State Parks and Camping Information

The Referring URL: <http://dnr.wi.gov/>

I vote YES to more horse trails near prairie du sac. 12 miles near Devils lake would be a plus! Set guidelines to keep park clean and respectable for all.

Contact Information:

Name: Joyce Frederickson
Phone: 920-759-7310
Cust#:
Reg#:
Email: Ltrsnow@aol.com

Pohlman, John D - DNR

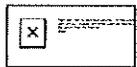
From: Hannah West <hannah@allanimals.org>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Pohlman, John D - DNR
Subject: Fwd: TIME SENSITIVE - Can your GROUP sign on? (Letter supporting conservation and quiet rec at Badger)
Attachments: Prairie is Forever Joint Letter 2015.pdf

Hi John,

Alliance for Animals and the Environment would like our name added to the attached letter.

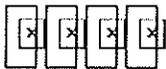
Thank you,

Hannah



Hannah West

Executive Director, Alliance for Animals and the Environment



Phone: (608) 275-6333

Website: allanimals.org

Website: madisonvegan.com

Website: veganfest.org

Accessible by email 11 - 1, M - F

Accessible by phone 9 - 5, M - F

After-hours: hannah.elizabeth.west@gmail.com



Free veg recipes!: [Simply Vegan E-Newsletter](#)



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Olah <info@cswab.org>

Date: Mon, Sep 28, 2015 at 10:28 AM

Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE - Can your GROUP sign on? (Letter supporting conservation and quiet rec at Badger)

To: Hannah West <hannah@allanimals.org>

Thanks Hannah! Your support means a lot.

There was a comment deadline and so we sent in the final letter on Thursday evening.