

STATISTICS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

The following numbers and comparisons were taken from the DNR 2005 –2010 SCORP Report. (Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)

The average American has 5.1 hours of leisure time/day. 3/4 of that time is spent in front of the TV.

1.7 hours/day is used for recreation

In the top 12 Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities enjoying the peace and beauty of nature ranks highest.

85% walk for pleasure = 3,567,000 participants

67.5% view/photograph natural scenery

65% visit nature centers

50% view/photograph wildflowers, trees

49.3% bicycle = 2,049,000 participants

45.8% swim in lakes = 1,904,000 participants

38.3% visit wilderness or primitive areas

35% day hike = 1,455,000 participants

29.4% run or jog = 1,222,000 participants

32.3% camp- developed

11.4% skiing – cross country = 474,000 participants

23.4% (up from 12% in last years SCORP) ride ATVs off road = 973,000 participants

Jeff Prey (608-2662182) who compiled the numbers said the percentage was based on a survey question for 16yrs plus – “Did you drive an ATV off road in the last year even 1 time.” Many people who didn’t own an ATV had to answer,”yes”

300,000 registered ATVs (2005)

210,000 registered for trail use

90,000 registered for strictly utility – Jeff believes that at least 50% of these are used primarily for hunting and ice fishing.

Scorp divided recreation users into 8 recreation groups with overlapping participation. The % in each group totaled 100%. **This showed 15% motorized**, ATVs, snowmobiles, motorboats with overlapping participants **and 85% non-motorized** – hiking, viewing and photographing nature, biking, sailing, swimming, camping, canoeing, kayaking, etc.

SCORP investigated the personal barriers that prevented individuals from regular physical activity outdoors. #1 – lack of time -----#5 conflicts with motorized users

Environmental barriers to increased outdoor physical activity: #1 – distance/time of travel----#2 – Noise from ATVs and other motorized users

It is well known that regular exercise is important to a person’s over all health and well being.

The percent of overweight and obese Wisconsinites: 61% of adults over 20 yrs.; 24% of Wisconsin H.S. students

The top 5 demands from out of state tourists:

Chicago: 1. Canoeing 2. Hiking 3.fishing 4.downhill skiing 5. Camping

Twin Cities: 1. Fishing 2. Sightseeing 3. Boating 4. Camping 5. Hiking

Northwoods Public perspective on top recreation issues and needs based on 2 survey questions:

1. What recreation issue will be growing in significance in the next 5 years?
2. What barriers are keeping you from recreating outdoors as often as you would like?

The five most common responses:

- a. Increasing ATV usage and associated impacts
- b. Noise pollution from motorized vehicles
- c. Possible loss of silent sport facilities
- d. more biking trails
- e. more hiking trails

Scorp Compatibility and Conflict Study:

ATV riding is incompatible with every other land based activity except snowmobiling.

2/3 of Wisconsin's population lives in urban areas.

Wisconsin Department of Tourism – 2004

Vilas County ranks 11th in Wisconsin for tourism expenditures with \$235,365,515

Oneida County ranks 14th in the state with \$210,641,733

Wisconsin's 27 northern counties rely on tourism to bolster their economy. In this group of 27, DOOR County ranks #1 in tourism spending and Vilas ranks #3. Neither allow ATV trails.

A reliable traffic count for current ATV trails does not exist. My personal observation of ATV trails in Iron, Langlade and Lincoln counties during weekends and peak summer times produced very few riders – only saw between 4 to 10 riders per hour. On the other hand I counted 60 to 100 people per hour this summer on the Boulder Junction bike trail.

How many miles of trails are currently available to ATV riders? The DNR publishes 5,555 miles of state-funded routes and trails. See attached trails list by county. Routes are town roads, many dirt roads, that are often more extensive than trails, so they have to be included in the count.

In June 2006, the Natural Resources Board gave the WDNR permission to explore the possibility of one or more motorized recreation areas in Wisconsin using approximately 2,000 to 7,500 acres of land. This park would accommodate ATVs, and other Off Road Vehicles and 4-Wheel Drive vehicles. Partners in the DNR study are Wisconsin ATV Association, Wi. Off highway Vehicle Asso. and Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Vehicle Asso.