

Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/15/2018 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions

RECEIVED  
FEB 15 2018  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Individual providing comments below: ALLEN BOWE

Date: 2/15/2018

Written comments must be received by the Land Conservation & Forest Management Department, 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 not later than Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 4:30 pm. Please submit comments and questions to the Land Conservation & Forest Management Department, 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 or scan and submit by email to [lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us).

Written comments that do not relate directly to the matter currently under consideration may be less-than-helpful. To most effectively inform County Staff and Committee Members, it is recommended that the subject matter for the written comments focus on the following:

1. The pending request to open gates that currently restrict motorized access to a 3.7 mile-long secondary road in the County Forest commonly referred to as the Tealey Creek Game Loop, and
2. The Preliminary LCFM Staff Report: Technical and Operational Considerations Relating to Proposed Frozen-Ground Motorized Access To the Tealey Creek Game Loop. Copies are available for review at:
  - a. Land Conservation & Forest Management Department, 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729, and
  - b. Chippewa County Website on the page devoted to the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

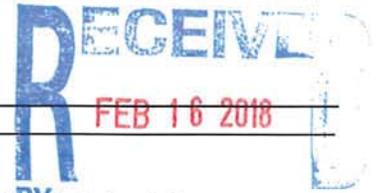
Please provide your written comments in the space provided below. Additional sheets may be attached. Comments received in the form of letter or an email are acceptable subject to the guidance provided above.

I AL BOWE DO NOT THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA FOR THE FOLLOWING

1. IT IS NICE TO HAVE A AREA LIMITING MOTORIZED VEHICLES  
THIS WOULD ALLOW HIKING WITH OUT GETTING RUN OVER
2. A PROCESS IS IN PLACE ALLOWING A HANDICAPPED PERSON  
EXCESS NO NEED TO OPEN IT TO ALL VEHICAL TRAFFIC
3. WHY SPEND MONEY ON A TRAIL WHEN WE  
DONT HAVE THE MONEY TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT  
ROADS
4. LET THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS STAND-  
IN CLOSURE LARRY BRADEN SAID IT THE BEST!  
IT IS NICE TO BE ABLE TO GO FOR A HIKE  
THROUGH THE FOREST

Allen Bowe

Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/1/2018 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions



Name of Individual answering the questions below: Paul Krumerauer  
Date: 2/15/18

Deadline for submitting answers to these questions is Friday, February 15, 2018, at noon. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please return to the Land Conservation & Forest Management Department, 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 or scan and return by email to [lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us).

1. Please identify and describe any benefits (i.e. pros or advantages) you would anticipate if the Tealey Creek Game Loop were opened for motorized vehicle use under frozen ground conditions.

It would allow more users to Tealey Creek Game Loop  
The forest is here for everyone to enjoy whether  
hiking, hunting, bird watching etc.

2. Please identify and describe any drawbacks (i.e. cons or disadvantages) you would anticipate if the Tealey Creek Game Loop were opened for motorized vehicle use under frozen ground conditions.

It has always been requested to keep this area free  
of vehicle use, ATVs, snowmobiles, Autos so that there  
would be an area for the silent group that would  
like to enjoy the outdoors without the noise of  
engines.

3. Please describe how you would be affected if the Tealey Creek Game Loop were opened for motorized vehicle use under frozen ground conditions.

I personally would not be affected, but I have the  
understanding that opening up the area to autos  
puts them on the snowmobile trail which the snowmobilers  
have spent countless hours maintaining

4. Please describe any other specific issues or concerns not addressed above.

By opening this area to motorize vehicles that has been  
a quiet area, what is next, we put ATVs on  
the horse trail or horses on the ski trail, where  
does it stop.



**From:** [Mike Dahlby](mailto:Mike.Dahlby)  
**To:** [lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us)  
**Subject:** FW: Tealey Creek Game Loop  
**Date:** Friday, February 16, 2018 11:53:59 AM

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

From: Scott Bertrand [<mailto:bertscott@charter.net>]  
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 11:48 AM  
To: Mike Dahlby <[MDahlby@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:MDahlby@co.chippewa.wi.us)>; [lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us)  
Subject: Tealey Creek Game Loop

My name is Scott Bertrand, Chippewa Falls, WI.

I hope I never subject future generations to my selfish desires of exploiting the Chippewa County Forest. I'd be embarrassed to say I should have the right to drive down any gated road because it is our ground and is owned by our people. I've lived in Chippewa County all my life and cherish the resources we have available to us in our County and try not to take them for granted.

I envy the older generation that got to see and experience the County Forest prior to all the roads being in there. It sounds like those were their most memorable experiences that the younger generation will never get to see. You would think they would want to preserve what's left for future generations.

My family and I all like to hunt, trap, fish, bike, ski, hike and explore the County Forest. As a hunter, I can't imagine why anyone would want to have vehicle access to the Tealey Creek Game Loop.

It's not that big of an area and is pretty much surrounded by private land. A coyote being chased by dogs could run through it in 5 minutes! It's pretty obvious that most of the game we pursue is on private land. Just listen to the rifle reports during deer season, there's a lot less shooting in the interior of the County Forest with an already ABUNDANCE of vehicle access! WHY would you want to access the few sanctuary's that hold the game we pursue with vehicles and slamming doors only to spook your quarry onto private land that you have no access too!

Our public lands are under extreme pressure.

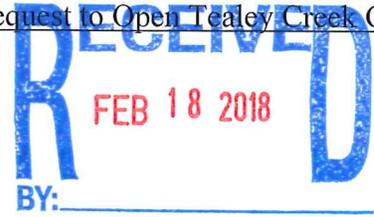
Be stealthy and please consider the future.

Thank You.

Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/15/18 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions.

Name: Alison Sazama

Date: 2//18/18



After listening at both of the public informational meetings about the above titled subject my concerns about opening the Tealey Creek Game Loop to motorized vehicles remain the same:

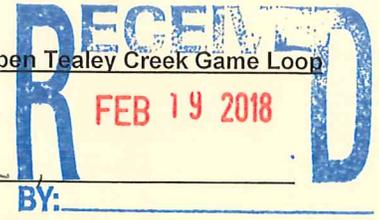
The County Forest needs to be managed in a sustainable way for the health of the forest and its wild inhabitants, along with all of the human user groups, not just a select few. The stakeholder focus group put together by County staff was the correct way to obtain input from all of the user groups. I was extremely disappointed and saddened that it was so rudely and unjustly disparaged by a member of the public at the 2/15 meeting. As the stakeholder groups are also members of the public, it was a useful tool in gathering public input about general usage of the forest. User groups at that meeting were pleased with the outcome.

Trails such as the Tealey Creek Game Loop were originally created with maintenance of the forest in mind. Negative environmental impact on the trail is likely if motorized vehicles are allowed in. This was laid out in the preliminary LCFM staff report. The potential for trash is multiplied. The fact that the trail is in close proximity to wetlands means it is less likely to freeze and increases the potential for damage to the trail and the surrounding wetland and wildlife habitat. The probability for invasive species being brought in is also increased. Monitoring and controlling this will fall on the County as will any repairs, but it is likely that Chippewa County residents will ultimately pay for these efforts.

The current land use plan through 2020 is a document that was put together with much careful thought and consideration and restricts motorized access to the TCGL. To open the loop based upon one individuals request is irresponsible. It would entail amending the current land use plan which then defeats the purpose of the plan and sets a precedent. This action easily snowballs opening the door to more pressure to open other trails that were previously restricted. This is not what is best for the County Forest and those who enjoy it.

I am extremely proud of Chippewa County and how we care for and maintain our beautiful natural resources. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/15/2018 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop  
For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions



Name of Individual providing comments below: Thomas Herrick  
Date: 2-16-2018 - Chippewa Falls

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After attending the Feb. 15th meeting on TCGE and hearing testimony for and against opening this trail I have a few concerns.

① I feel that the cost of creating a trail open for vehicle traffic would be much higher per person than any other trail snowmobile, horses etc.. Having used this trail in winter a couple of times each year I see no one else accessing it at all, as far as leaving tracks or any other sign I feel this area might have more people use it if a road was better but I dont see any major use by anyone in the winter.

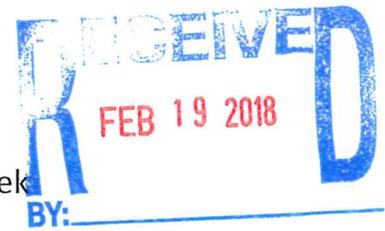
② I'm not a snowmobiler but if I was and only had a limited time to ride each year because of trail conditions I would be very upset to find vehicle tracks on the trail. I feel snowmobilers would get much more use from this trail if it remains the way it is now.

③ In some of the testimony that I heard and read people feel that the land is public that it should be accessible to everyone, and I agree. But just because something can be done does not mean it should be done. I have access to this area through use of disabled permit on an ATV and am thankful that the county allows this. But this access costs the county very little as nothing extra has to be done to the trails. Opening TCGE to vehicle traffic I think would be very expensive and divert money from projects or trails that get much more public use. (over)

Work would have to be done on 300th Av. some cars parked on or near county E because 300th Av. was very rough and they worried about damage to their vehicles. And lastly I could be mistaken on this but I don't believe 300th Av. was even ploughed the last few years. I don't know if this is a county job or a township one.

Thank you  
Thomas  
Henik

Jim & Paula Flater  
30906 Cty Hwy E  
Holcombe, WI 54745 - Town of Birch Creek



### Points regarding opening Tealey Creek Game Loop to Motor vehicle traffic.

We own property adjoining the Chippewa County Forest on the North edge of the county. We are connected to the forest for 0.75 miles along our property line .

We provide on our privately owned property around 2.2 miles of access for public snowmobile trails and 0.85 miles of ATV trail that is connected to the Chippewa County ATV Trail system.

We have used the TCGL for many years for hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and hunting.

#### Reasons we do not want to see TCGL open for vehicle traffic:

We believe there is enough motorized traffic in this section of the forest with the existing ATV and snowmobile trails. It is important to keep some quiet areas for wildlife and users who want to get away from noise and enjoy nature.

This trail is unique as it is a loop that allows users to park at one location and take a 4 mile hike/ ski/ snowshoe, bird hunt, etc. and come right back to their vehicle without having to back track.

If and when plowing is required, it is going to displace the current user group and temporally destroy the beauty of the remoteness of this area .

There are many other hunters (Including Dog Hunters) who currently use TCGL already with no problems.

Snowmobile safety is a big concern. The 0.6 mile stretch of the snowmobile trail that would be used for vehicle traffic is not a 2 lane trail and has hills and curves. Our snowmobile and ATV trail system in this area brings in many tourism dollars. Also keep in mind that it is snowmobiler and ATV registration fees and club member volunteers who made the ATV and Snowmobile trail what it is today. When there is a wind storm that blows trees down on the trail, it is these volunteers who come and clean things up.

It does not make sense to spend the kind of money needed to upgrade and maintain TCGL to make it feasible for vehicle use, for a small number of users. The area is available for their use already, but they want the tax payers to pay for an "easier" way to access the area.

I have read comments about access for "all" to enjoy the scenery. This is a nice area, but as far as scenery is concerned, it is just a trail through the woods and most of the trail looks all the same. The drive from Hwy 64 to the north county line on Cty Rd E has much more beautiful scenery than TCGL and is much safer for the average "vehicle".

Possibility of increased poaching. Being in a remote part of the county and 2 ways out (4 ways if they trespass through our property to the north or take the snowmobile/ATV trail to south ) could invite poaching.

Written Testimony Form Provided at 2/15/2018 Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop for Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions.

Name of Individual answering the questions below: Elizabeth Dempsey  
Date: 2/19/2018

Deadline: 4:30 p.m. 2/19/2018



**Benefits:**

Firstly, it seems to me that there are already motorized vehicles operating on the **Game Loop** that was created as the Tealey Creek Game Loop. They would, it seems to me, be operating illegally already but are obviously approved. When the taxpayers buy or give land for a County Forest or National Forest they expect to be able to visit it and use it. These gates should be open under the appropriate conditions – which understandably frozen ground is for the sake of the environment this loop is in – for public use. We would therefore be able to enjoy this County Forest land for outdoor activities as a more pristine area than some of our forest park land currently is. PUBLIC PROPERTY IS PUBLIC PROPERTY.

**Drawbacks:**

The drawbacks are the obvious ones. We have people wherever we are worldwide who disrespect public or private property. That does not mean that we close it down unless it is a danger to people, the wildlife or the environment. Frozen ground condition accomplishes that although preparation for some of these trails before frozen ground conditions would seem to me to affect the wet land areas that our forest lands here contain. We should not have this become another county park.

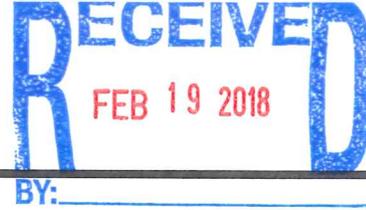
The Tealey Creek Game Trail was suspect from its beginnings, as I, a latecomer to this area, understand it. The speed of the “current motorized vehicles” running on what used to clearly be the rest of the Tealey Creek Game Loop will have to be lowered for the safety of all since the loop is very windy and I would suspect hidden by tree and brush growth. So, of course, those who took that part of the **Game Loop** will be affected.

**How I Would Be Affected:**

I enjoy the scenery of the country wherever I have lived. Whether summer walking the loop or winter riding the loop, I would be able to see a more pristine area of our forest land that otherwise continues to disappear for the use of industry, farming, and homeowners removing our wildlife corridors.

**Other Specific Issues or Concerns:**

The government, whether local, state or federal oversees these given and purchased lands in trust by and for the people (all people). It is quite clear that there are those in our government offices throughout our country that seem to feel **they own** the land. Let’s do remember that the people in the part of the county where these lands are are subjected to a higher tax base since that land is no longer owned by an individual taxpayer. The LOST TAX BASE has to be made up by the landowner in that particular part of the county. These lands should not become a stakeholder’s paradise. They should be open to be enjoyed by all and certainly as much by those closest to them.



**Joan Schemenauer**

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**From:** Richard Smith <rbsmith@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:53 PM  
**To:** lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us  
**Subject:** County Forest Plan Amendments: Tealey Creek Game Loop Proposal (Comments)

**Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/15/2018 Public Hearing Regarding Request To Open Tealey Creek Game Loop For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions**

*Commenter:* Richard Smith  
*Date:* 2/19/2018

The staff report and analysis was superbly done and provides a good review of the issues and possible management mitigation techniques that could be employed to permit the request. The options encompass alternatives which addressed many of the concerns I have and heard articulated at the first public meeting.

My concern with the alternatives is that the department appears to be free to adopt as many or as few as it deems necessary (or has the funds) — there is no assurance which if any of these will be employed. It would be irresponsible to make an open-ended adoption of the requested proposal without assurance that these management tools would be funded and in place. In my view, all of the “options” would be essential to make this plan viable.

The individual making the request has apparently remained anonymous and there really has not been any rationale articulated on his or her behalf to explain his or her reason for the request other than for others to speculate that the use would be hunting coyote, fox, and bobcat, and access by persons of diminished mobility. It appears that a great deal of staff and public time and expense has been devoted to this request, with no indication that a substantial organized user group is in support.

It has become apparent that there are major costs involved both in funds and in staff time to implement this proposal. The report does not attempt to quantify the costs, nor is there any reason to believe there would be funds made available for this. In my opinion, the apparent costs do not justify satisfying an individual desire.

I am extremely concerned about the precedent this would set. The general rule has been that forest trails are for use in a variety of prescribed ways (horse, ski, foot, ATV, snowmobile), but general heavy motor vehicle access is currently limited to improved forest roads, unless for purposes of logging or maintenance. While opening up this loop in frozen ground does not translate into opening all trails, it certainly removes any rationale for closing them in frozen ground conditions. I’m concerned about the idea, expressed by many, of entitlement: that if the land is publicly owned, every individual ought to be able to use it in any way he or she sees fit. Obviously that is a non-starter, but it seems to be the oft-articulated refrain to justify this proposal.

The county forest has a gazillion miles of forest trails. They have been developed for logging access, as well as public use for a variety of designated purposes that are not invasive or destructive and do not compromise either the environmental qualities of the forest or the economic intent of the county forest law. In some cases, considerable public funds have been expended to enhance these trails for wildlife, hunting, or use by various conveyances. Generally the public is respectful of these realities, but in some cases certain members have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record. Examples of these include tire fires on forest roadways, destroyed gates, repeated trespass by unauthorized motor vehicles with attendant damage to trails, vandalism and destruction of signage, dumping, and more. All of these generate costs to the public, safety hazards, and environmental

degradation. Many of these activities occur precisely because the landscape is remote and detection is unlikely. The reality of this element of the population cannot be ignored, and requires the costly management prescriptions articulated in the plan analysis.

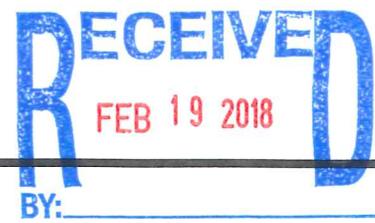
Viewing the map of the location highlights the extent to which the Tealey Creek loop threads its way through a large wetland complex. This would not be an ordinary upland game trail, but one which involves frequent wet and soft soils as well as areas frequently or seasonally inundated. None of this lends itself to an easily or inexpensively maintained motor vehicle route, frozen ground or not.

The fact that the motor vehicles would share a portion of the route with snowmobiles and ATV's further adds to the non-suitability of the proposal. It is generally understood that various trail uses do not mix well, due to safety and design considerations. Others have cited the safety hazards already, and I note that there is no proposal to make the trail daylight only to help reduce the safety hazard.

The county forest is a rare gem of a landscape that has protected a large block ecosystem in a relatively natural condition despite the impacts of logging. It allows for the proliferation of flora and fauna native to the area and especially that which requires the large unbroken forest landscapes that are rapidly vanishing. There are many reasons why this landscape is coveted by so many citizens for so many forms of outdoor recreation, many of which entail solitude, personal challenge, and a chance to connect with nature. To begin to chip away at these by taking the more remote areas (and thereby those most desirable for protection and most difficult to manage) and assigning them the role of motorized vehicle trails seems to me to conflict with all of these positive values that we prize this county asset for.

Joan Schemenauer

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**From:** Katherine Mehls <mehlsm@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 6:45 PM  
**To:** lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony on request to open Tealey Creek Game Loop

I attended the department meeting on February 15th. I appreciate the fine job that was done compiling pros and cons regarding this request to open motorized winter access. I may still be lacking some details as to how the process for such a request is dealt with, but my interest in learning more about the situation stemmed from the possibility that an 'individual' could make a request to increase motorized access and possibly be successful, depending on who is in that individual's "camp." When there is a Land Use Agreement in place until 2020 that states there will be no additional motor vehicle access, I do not understand why this request would be given credence or why valuable hours had to be spent providing the science as to why it is a bad idea. I know our county resources are stretched thin and I can only imagine how much time was spent on this excellent report.

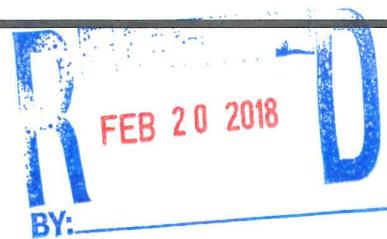
That being said, I have read the report thoroughly, and it seems pretty clear that this is a bad idea on a number of levels. I utilize the County Forest year-round for a variety of non-motorized activities. I am aware of the improvements that the ATV users will be benefiting from in the near future and encounter truck traffic/hunters etc. on a regular basis on the forest roads. We have tapped this wonderful resource quite extensively in the last ten years with both motorized and non-motorized activities that thousands of people can enjoy. But I hope we do not forget that the County Forest is its most valuable, as a series of pristine ecosystems sustaining a variety of wonderful birds, fish and mammals. That is the heritage that we will be passing on. There is a critical need for large spaces where wildlife is not harassed, invasive species aren't introduced through human use and where all God's creatures can experience some peace.

Katherine M. Mehls

## Joan Schemenauer

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**From:** Jack Christenson <jacchrste2017@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:11 AM  
**To:** lcd@co.chippewa.wi.us  
**Subject:** Tealy creek game loop.



1. The only advantage I can think of in opening the loop would be for dog hunters chasing predators. Since this loop is not incredibly long; this distance could be covered on foot, snowshoes, or skis in the winter months.
2. Even under frozen ground conditions, the potential extra traffic can and will effect game animals and game bird species by pushing them out of their natural habitats and movement patterns. B): there is high potential to go off the loop in vehicles to “explore” new areas. There are safety concerns: one being vehicle vs snowmobile since there is shared trail portions. There would be additional noise that may disrupt those seeking solitude on foot. There should be some set aside areas in the county forest trail system that are left for more solitude, peace and quite. C) there will be the additional potential for trespass and littering on the loop and on adjacent private land. D) allowing access deeper in the system makes it easier to be tempted to do illegal activities.
3. I would be affected when I am in that area hunting or tryin to talk a walk without hearing additional noises that are man made.
4. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. I also believe this area was closed for a reason originally. That reason should be brought to light. There are many miles of trail access in the county forest already, having this small section open to winter vehicular traffic may not be desirable to the majority. It seems that all surrounding landowners are in favor of keeping it just the way it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack A Christenson  
Sent from my iPad



Written Testimony Form Provided At 2/15/2018 Public Hearing Regarding Request to Open Tealey Creek Game Loop For Motorized Use Under Frozen Ground Conditions

Name of Individual providing comments below: Mae Willkom

Date: 2/20/2018

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Lined area for writing comments, containing two paragraphs of text.

As a citizen of Chippewa County and recreational user of the Chippewa County Forest, I feel there is no compelling reason to open the Tealey Creek Game Loop to motorized vehicles, even if opened under frozen ground conditions only. Section 735 of the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan clearly states the principle intent of restricted access areas. Among them are the following: to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas; to protect endangered and threatened species; and to provide areas for quiet secluded recreation. All of these are directly applicable to the Tealey Creek Game Loop.

In addition, the county has already incurred significant costs in order to have county employees prepare a technical report and hold multiple public meetings, all to respond to only a single request. If the land use plan is amended, additional costs will be incurred to do so and to install the culverts necessary to prevent damage by heavy motor vehicles. There is very little to be gained by opening up such a small area to large trucks, and much to be potentially lost if it results in damage to a state wildlife area.