

Petition to the Board of Commissioners, Beltrami County

We the undersigned are opposed to the policy as adopted in Resolution #07-03-11 (20 March 2007) making all trails on County managed public lands open to unlimited OHV use (unless restricted). We urge the Beltrami County Board to undertake the following measures:

- 1) rescind Resolution #07-03-11;
- 2) cooperate closely with the MnDNR, Chippewa National Forest, and Tribal Councils in adopting consistent, enforceable regulations and designating motorized-use areas and trails after appropriate study and public hearings;
- 3) establish preserves 'closed' to OHV use (e.g. significant portions of the Mississippi Headwaters SF, Three Island Park, Movil Maze) again in close consultation with other regulatory agencies and local units of government;
- 4) generally provide for the balanced and sustainable recreational opportunities of all persons as stipulated by the Recreational Trail Plan.

We believe that these measures are required for the continuing environmental integrity of our public lands and waterways, protection of the cultural/historical character of particular areas, the traditional uses of forest and other public lands (e.g. hunting, canoeing) and the sustainability of logging roads necessary to our timber industry. The existing 'open' designation leaves public lands too vulnerable to proliferation of unauthorized motor trails, as well as allowing the County to 'opt out' of DNR planning.

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[Return this form with completed signatures to: Mississippi Headwaters Protection Alliance, PO Box 2003, Bemidji MN 56619-2003]