

## Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan & HCVF Evaluation Advisory Group

<i>Name</i>	<i>Recreation Interests</i>	<i>Other Considerations</i>
Alan Steiff	Cross Country Skiing; non-motorized	Forest Advisory Committee; Parks & Trails Committee; lakeshore owner
Bill Keefe	Snowmobile, ATV, fishing, water sports, walking	Model Train Club
Bob Manning	Fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife watching	Historical Society volunteer
Brett Hardy	Motorcycles	
Gail Brecht	ATV, Cross County Skiing, walking, biking, snowmobile	Crow Wing Cnty Parks & Trail Comm. City of Baxter Parks & Rec Comm.
Kathy Bernier	Equestrian trails	Trails and Open Space Planning Committee
Larry Moses	Snowmobile, ATV, fishing, hunting	Forest Advisory Committee
Mary Claire Ryan	Cross Country Skiing	
Paul Thiede	Fishing, Hunting	County Commissioner
Rosemary Franzen		County Commissioner
Russell Heittola	ATV, snowmobile, hunting, boating	
Shawn Roberts	Mountain Biking, skiing, running, hiking	Cuyuna Advisory Council
Tom Whitehead	ATV, snowmobile, bow hunting, fishing	Parks & Trails Advisory Committee

### Advisory Group Member Bios (Updated 5/20/10):

**Alan Steiff:** I moved to the Brainerd Lakes area in 1978 when I started a business here; it has been a privilege to live in the natural beauty of the Brainerd Lakes area. I have enjoyed the forests marshes, rivers, lakes, and meadows by hiking, skiing, biking, kayaking and canoeing here. I have also enjoyed photography and the quiet these places can offer. I have been on the Forest Advisory Committee for two terms (12 years), have assisted in the development of the Wolf Lake Ski Trails, and have helped the County Forester identify some high conservation-value forests. I believe that Crow Wing County has been blessed with some beautiful natural assets and that we need to be stewards of these blessings.

**Bill Keefe:** In 1985 my wife and I purchased property in Crow Wing County. I have been a permanent resident since 1995. My business background is finance and risk management. I retired in 2005 from Grand Casino as their Risk Manager. I am a long time snowmobiler and belonged to a local snowmobile club for 25 years. I purchased an ATV in 2003 and have been going out of the area to ride on developed trails. I am interested in developing a multi use trail system in Crow Wing County for all to use.

**Robert Manning:** Currently I serve as Coordinator of the Unlimited Learning program in Crosby (my hometown). This program was started from a strategic planning process about 9 years ago when lifelong learning was identified as a major goal, along with parks/trails and economic development after much community involvement. This lifelong learning program now serves 800 people annually from a radius of 50 miles from Crosby. I started with this project in late 2002. Before my retirement, I worked in a large public school educational cooperative made up of 13 independent school districts in Hennepin County. My job was to organize, develop and manage a quality delivery system to serve the area's low incidence disabled students. All school districts worked cooperatively to help determine how to serve the students they were not able to serve adequately by themselves. This effort required mutually designing and implementing policy and fiscal issues to everyone's satisfaction. This required a constant process of working with various organizations, boards of different types and jurisdictions in a cooperative manner. Over 50 other MN school annually purchased our services. I spent about 25 years with this operation. Prior to this I was responsible for organizing and managing a similar cooperative educational operation in Morrison County. Before that I worked for the St Cloud and Anoka school districts in various instructional and leadership roles. I spent 3 years in these operations. I chose educational administration rather than forestry for my career path.

**Brett Hardy:** I am an off road riding enthusiast. My family moved to Merrifield when I was two years old and I got on my first motorcycle in 1974. I have served as a club officer with the Northern Lites Motorcycle Club with whom I have been a member since 1982. The Northern Lites MC hosted their first cross country motorcycle race in Crow Wing County in 1964. I currently work at Brothers Motorsports and I am in constant contact with a large variety of recreational land and water users. County land access has always been an important component of my favorite hobby. I have mountain biked, biked, canoed, hunted, hiked, skied, etc, but none of these are what draw me out to the woods, it's being able to enjoy riding my motorcycle thru the woods that brings me to the outdoors. I seldom see other non riders in the woods when I'm riding. I have seen much land closed to riding over the years and most has become housing developments or have fallen to disuse and are no longer used by the public other than hunters. I would like to see some trails protected from "preservation" or development so we and others after us have a place to ride in the future.

**Gail Brecht:** I grew up in Northern Minnesota and grew up to love the environment with an understanding that we all are God's stewards and responsible for taking care of the Earth. I moved to Baxter in 1991 from Eagle River, Alaska. I love being outdoors, whether it is biking, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling or riding an ATV. I think the world around us is big enough to accommodate our diverse interests and there is no reason to favor or exclude the recreational desires any one particular group. I have four boys, two of whom still live at home with us in Baxter and love the outdoors as much as their father and me. I sit on the Crow Wing County Parks and Trails Commission as well as the City of Baxter Parks and Recreation Commission. I am not gainfully employed, but instead I volunteer with literacy programs at Forestview Middle School as well as working with the Social Concerns group at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, the Brainerd Public Library, and the Soup Kitchen.

**Kathy Bernier:** I am an Administrative Secretary by trade, but have been "retired" for many years now. I was on the Trails Sub-Committee for a couple of years until it was disbanded and my main area of interest is horseback riding. I live on a lake and thoroughly enjoy both boating, but not so much fishing!, and the peace and quiet of the woods surrounding us. This does not mean, tho', that I am opposed to ATV's as we have one ourselves.

**Russell Heittola:** I'm an avid outdoorsman. I like Atving, Snowmobiling, Hunting, Boating or just anything outdoors. The main reason I'm getting involved is for my kids. I have been showing them the great opportunities that are out there.

**Shawn Roberts:** I was born and raised in the Brainerd lakes area. After going away to school for a few years I returned to the area to live and raise my family. I have a wide range of outside interests, but those interests specific to trails include mountain biking, road biking, trail running, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. I think successful trail systems improve a community's social wellbeing, health and economy; these reasons motivate me to work toward trail development. I chair the Advisory Council for the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. I am also an active member of MORC (Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists) and IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association). I have been specifically involved in the development of mountain biking trails in the recreation area. Activities include public speaking for the purposes of promotion and lobbying, grant writing and "boots on the ground" trail building. Although I have spent the majority of my time working for the benefit of the recreation area I have seen the value of larger trail systems and the variety it offers user groups. I look forward to continuing to work on these projects at the county level.

**Larry Moses:** I grew up on a farm in the Big Lake-Monticello area. As a boy and youth I spent most of the time in the woods on our farm. We owned 600 plus acres along the Mississippi River. I have always been an outdoors person. In 1963 I started snowmobiling. In 1972 I was asked to help create a snowmobile trail from Big Lake to Zimmerman. This was before the Grant in Aid system and before MNUSA. We had SAM (Snowmobile Assn. of MN ) then MAS ( Mn Assn of Snowmobiles ). I helped develop trails in Sherburne County before moving to Crow Wing County. When I moved up here I started the Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trails Ass, this consists of the twelve snowmobile clubs in the county. I started having meetings in the Fall of 1992 and we were Incorporated in 1993. This group has raised over \$450,000.00 since '93 for trail use. In 2002 one of my sons left his ATV at my place and said " take it for a ride this week " - I didn't do it. A couple of weeks went by and I finally took it for a ride. I was hooked. I joined the Crosby Club because I wanted to support the sport. I latter joined and helped create the Central Lakes ATV Club. I have served on the County Land and Forest Advisory committee, Parks Advisory Committee, Trails Sub Committee And am now on the Parks and Trails Committee. I also just received the MNUSA Unsung Hero Award for trail work.

**Tom Whitehead:** I moved to Brainerd over 25 years ago from a small farm town in southern MN where I grew up hunting, trapping and fishing. My fascination with wildlife and the outdoors has led to a thirty-year sales career in the outdoor industry, most recently as a manufacturer's representative. My passions are bow hunting and competitive bass fishing. I work very hard to teach my three children to enjoy but also respect the outdoors.