

**Nov. 28, 2006**

## **DNR seeking public comment on ATV trail proposal**

Public comment will be accepted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a proposed ATV trail in Olmsted and Fillmore counties until January 2, 2007.

The proposal is to convert an existing 16.5-mile private trail into a grant-in-aid trail one mile east of Chatfield along State Highways 74 and 30. The trail predominantly runs through pasture, field edges, some wooded ravines and includes a scramble area in a sand pit. Both the landowners and the Bluff County ATV Club support the conversion and the City of Chatfield has tentatively agreed to sponsor the project. The ATV club would be responsible for trail maintenance.

The proposal would allow ATV's to operate year-round, except for the month of November and during the spring thaw.

A map of the proposal is posted on the DNR web site under "**Current Plans for Review**" @ <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/plans/index.html>

Comments or questions should be directed to: Craig Blommer, Trails & Waterways Area Supervisor, 2300 Silver Creek Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906. Phone: (507) 280-5061 or email: [craig.blommer@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:craig.blommer@dnr.state.mn.us) . Comments will be accepted until 4:30 PM on January 2, 2007.

**Project Description:** This proposal, if successful, will bring an existing 16 mile ATV trail into the State Grant-in-Aid Program to be partially funded by the money collected from the registration and gas tax on ATV's. The Bluff Country ATV Club from Rushford would be the trail administrator. They would be responsible for the maintenance and operation of this trail system. The City of Chatfield has tentatively agreed to be the trail sponsor.

The trail is located on private land one mile north and east of Chatfield along State Highways 74 & 30. The trail runs through a mixture of pasture, field edges, wooded ravines and a sand pit. The current proposal would open the trail up to the general public. It would be open from sunrise to sunset approximately 11 months out of the year. The trail would be closed during the month of November and again in the spring during snow melt to limit trail damage.