

## **Maintenance of Recreational Trails for Non-Motorized Use (SB 265)**

*The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:*

- **The State of Wisconsin establishes a fund for development and maintenance of non-motorized recreation trails.**

Development and maintenance of trails for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and other non-motorized recreation is important to tourism and recreation in Northwest Wisconsin. In 2008, a special legislative study committee found a lack of consistent funding and maintenance for non-motorized trails, with many trails poorly maintained. The committee report to the Legislature recommended creation of a non-motorized trail funding program in the DNR and a non-motorized recreation and transportation trails council.

Development of this program is important to the future of the many recreation trails in our region of the state. In addition to providing consistent maintenance for trails in state parks and forests, the program could provide funding for the North Country National Scenic Trail and Ice Age National Scenic Trails in our region. Many planned miles of these unique trails have not been developed due to lack of resources. Their completion in Wisconsin depends on future funding such as that proposed in the study report.

Careful planning in the current state budget environment can prepare for good investment when additional resources become available. We recommend the state plan now to find a consistent source of funds for non-motorized recreation trails.

For more information contact:

Peter Nordgren, North Country Trail Association, Brule-St. Croix Chapter Secretary

Telephone: (715) 394-8475

Email: pnordgre@yahoo.com