# ABOUT THIS REPORT

During the last week of October 2019, 1,438 surveys were mailed to Spider Lake landowners, taxpayers, electors, and long-term renters. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the people who received the 15-item survey, completed it, and returned it before the deadline. The high return rate – more than double the 424 surveys required to ensure a representative sample – is a strong indication that the surveys we received, are representative of the entire population. The margin of error for this sample was calculated to be 2%. This means that the response rates recorded in this report fall within 2 percentage points of the actual population value 95% of the time.

This report is composed of three sections. Section 1 provides the response rates for all items on the survey (both counts and percentages). Section 2 is a table of issues based on the survey responses to the open-ended item (item 15). The final section, Section 3, is the unanimous recommendation of the ATV Survey Committee offered to the Town of Spider Lake's Board of Supervisors' for their consideration.

# SECTION 1. SURVEY RESULTS – MULTIPLE CHOICE PORTION

| The current town ordinance regarding ATV/UTV use does not permit ATV/UTV traffic on *any* town roads, with these exceptions: approximately 2.41 miles of town roads as part of the Sawyer County ATV/UTV Trail system (portions of Rock Lake Road, Janet Road, Bodecker Road, Telemark Road, Fire Tower Road, and Lake Helane Road) and 6.15 miles of the following Forest Roads: FR 203, FR 328, and FR 204. | YES | NO | BLANK | *n* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The current town ordinance, regarding ATV/UTV access, should not be changed. | 602 | 340 | 20 | 962 |
| | 63% | 35% | 2% | |

| The proposed change to the ATV/UTV ordinance, would open all town roads to ATV/UTV traffic. | YES | NO | BLANK | n |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. I am in favor of changing the town ordinance and opening all town roads to ATVs/UTVs. | 305 | 633 | 13 | 951 |
| | 32% | 67% | 1% | |

| | YES | NO | BLANK | n |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. I own an ATV/UTV. | 371 | 565 | 15 | 951 |
| | 39% | 59% | 2% | |

| **DIRECTIONS**: For items 4 – 8, read each item carefully and **fill in the circle** that best matches your opinion (*Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree*). | STRONGLY DISAGREE | SOMEWHAT DISAGREE | NEITHER DISAGREE NOR AGREE | SOMEWHAT AGREE | STRONGLY AGREE | BLANK | *n* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. I understand what an ATV/UTV is. | 16 | 0 | 13 | 27 | 882 | 14 | 952 |
| | 2% | 0% | 1% | 3% | 93% | 1% | |
| 5. I support designating all town roads as ATV/UTV routes. | 581 | 56 | 5 | 43 | 255 | 13 | 953 |
| | 61% | 6% | 1% | 5% | 27% | 1% | |
| 6. I think that the town of Spider Lake has a unique character that needs to be protected. | 102 | 38 | 132 | 99 | 575 | 14 | 960 |
| | 11% | 4% | 14% | 10% | 60% | 1% | |
| 7. The Spider Lake ordinance concerning ATV/UTV use should remain unchanged. | 260 | 56 | 20 | 50 | 545 | 17 | 948 |
| | 27% | 6% | 2% | 5% | 57% | 2% | |
| 8. I believe that being able to use ATVs/UTVs on town roads to reach hunting lands, neighbors, and/or local businesses would be useful. | 333 | 94 | 90 | 115 | 305 | 39 | 976 |
| | 34% | 10% | 9% | 12% | 31% | 4% | |

| **DIRECTIONS**: For items 9 – 14, read each item carefully and **fill in the circle** that best matches your opinion (*Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree*). | STRONGLY DISAGREE | SOMEWHAT DISAGREE | NEITHER DISAGREE NOR AGREE | SOMEWHAT AGREE | STRONGLY AGREE | BLANK | *n* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. Adding ATVs/UTVs to town roads would make the roads less safe. | 170 | 57 | 67 | 109 | 534 | 12 | 949 |
| | 18% | 6% | 7% | 11% | 56% | 1% | |
| 10. I want the town of Spider Lake to remain a quieter area. | 98 | 59 | 107 | 96 | 463 | 17 | 840 |
| | 12% | 7% | 13% | 11% | 55% | 2% | |
| 11. I favor designating a specific and limited number of town roads as designated ATV/UTV routes. | 378 | 75 | 109 | 189 | 156 | 23 | 930 |
| | 41% | 8% | 12% | 20% | 17% | 2% | |
| 12. Opening town roads to ATV/UTV use will positively affect: | | | | | | | |
| a. My quality of life | 450 | 59 | 141 | 75 | 201 | 21 | 947 |
| | 48% | 6% | 15% | 8% | 21% | 2% | |
| b. Access to hunting/property | 345 | 83 | 145 | 102 | 243 | 22 | 940 |
| | 37% | 9% | 15% | 11% | 26% | 2% | |
| c. Access to local businesses | 374 | 90 | 123 | 100 | 241 | 22 | 950 |
| | 39% | 9% | 13% | 11% | 25% | 2% | |
| d. Connections to trail systems | 318 | 64 | 117 | 124 | 296 | 10 | 929 |
| | 34% | 7% | 13% | 13% | 32% | 1% | |
| 13. Opening town roads to ATV/UTV use will negatively affect: | | | | | | | |
| a. My quality of life | 221 | 40 | 117 | 85 | 480 | 17 | 960 |
| | 23% | 4% | 12% | 9% | 50% | 2% | |
| b. Nature, woods, and wildlife | 201 | 58 | 90 | 103 | 501 | 17 | 970 |
| | 21% | 6% | 9% | 11% | 52% | 2% | |
| c. The condition and costs of roads | 207 | 45 | 113 | 110 | 486 | 17 | 978 |
| | 21% | 5% | 12% | 11% | 50% | 2% | |
| d. Safety on the roads | 178 | 48 | 52 | 100 | 564 | 19 | 961 |
| | 19% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 59% | 2% | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. I support the Town soliciting my opinion on major issues, including proposed ordinance changes, prior to making decisions on behalf of its citizens. | 27 | 2 | 24 | 45 | 839 | 16 | 953 |
| | 3% | 0% | 3% | 5% | 88% | 2% | |

**DIRECTIONS**: Write legibly.

| |
|---|
| 15. The most important thing that I would like the Board to consider regarding the ATV/UTV issue is… |

## SECTION 2. OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

The final survey item, generated numerous comments and suggestions. Item 15 began with the prompt, "*The most important thing that I would like the Board to consider regarding the ATV/UTV issue is…*"

**TABLE 1. List of all issues from open-ended item 15, receiving 5 or more comments**

| Count | Issue | Type |
|---|---|---|
| 243 | Safety all road users, includes alcohol use | No Change |
| 103 | Noise related to ATVs | No Change |
| 82 | Quality of life (purchased land knowing ordinances were in place) | No Change |
| 75 | No change to ordinance | No Change |
| 62 | Access to trails, public lands, and property without trailering | Open Access |
| 53 | Nature/wildlife/pressures on environment | No Change |
| 37 | Open access to all roads | Open Access |
| 37 | Good for local businesses and economy | Open Access |
| 34 | Expense to town (road damage) | No Change |
| 23 | Restrictions: age, license, local permit, safety course, insurance | Compromise |
| 20 | Expense to town (uninsured) | No Change |
| 11 | Limit and control use/areas used/seasons used | Compromise |
| 11 | Survey is confusing or unfair | N/A |
| 10 | Reduce/enforce speed limits | Compromise |
| 10 | Fairness. Equal access for cyclists, walkers, ATVs, etc. | Open Access |
| 10 | Home security/property trespassing/private lands | No Change |
| 9 | Support tourism | Open Access |
| 7 | Enforcement of ordinances is important | No Change |
| 5 | Property values would fall | No Change |
| 5 | No more dangerous than cyclists etc. on roads | Open Access |
| 5 | Works elsewhere | Open Access |

## SECTION 3. UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION OF THE ATV SURVEY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE

The survey committee unanimously agrees that the ATV/UTV survey was designed fairly and that neither side was advantaged nor disadvantaged.

The survey committee agreed on who, in the Town of Spider Lake, should receive the survey and the survey was administered to those people.

The survey committee counted, tallied, and rechecked all of the data from each survey to the best of its ability. As a committee, we believe that the data presented here is accurate and correct, allowing for minor human errors.

Recommendation

Therefore, it is the unanimous recommendation of the ATV Survey Committee that the Board take and consider the data summarized in this survey report as a true and representative sample of the people of Spider Lake.