

MINNESOTA ATV PUBLIC VISIONING SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Summary

The Minnesota ATV Public Visioning survey received 1,868 responses of which 1,302 (69%) were complete and 566 (31%) were partial or incomplete. The survey was open from May 31st to September 30th and was taken primarily by Minnesota residents, although it was answered by some non-residents who were interested in providing feedback on their experience with ATV's in Minnesota. The survey was advertised on a variety of platforms including Minnesota ATV social media, the project website, and MNDNR news blasts.

Respondent Demographics

- ❖ **GENDER:** 69% male, 27% female, 2% no response or other
- ❖ **AGE:** 52% of respondents were between the ages of 40 and 60. Respondents between 18-29 years old made up 6% of the survey population, and those 60 and older made up 24%.
- ❖ **RACE:** Respondents to this survey were predominately white (89%). 1% of respondents stated they were two or more races, and 7% of respondents preferred not to give a response. 1.3% of respondents stated their ethnicity as Asian, Black or African American, Native American, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.
- ❖ **INCOME:** 2.6% of respondents reported a household income of less than \$35,000. 17.2% of respondents reported a household income between \$35,000 and \$75,000. About a third of the respondents (38%) reported a household income between \$75,000 and \$125,000. 30% of respondents reported a household income of over \$125,000. 11% chose not to report household income.
- ❖ **RESIDENCY:** 97% of respondents live in Minnesota. The remaining 3% live in Wisconsin, North Dakota, Colorado, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, and Pennsylvania
- ❖ **COUNTY:** Respondents from 82 different counties in Minnesota participated in this survey. The counties most represented were: St. Louis County (20%), Anoka County (6%), Dakota County (4.3%), Koochiching County (4.3%), Crow Wing County (4%), Hennepin County (3.7%), Itasca County (3.7%)

ATV Riders Survey

User Profile

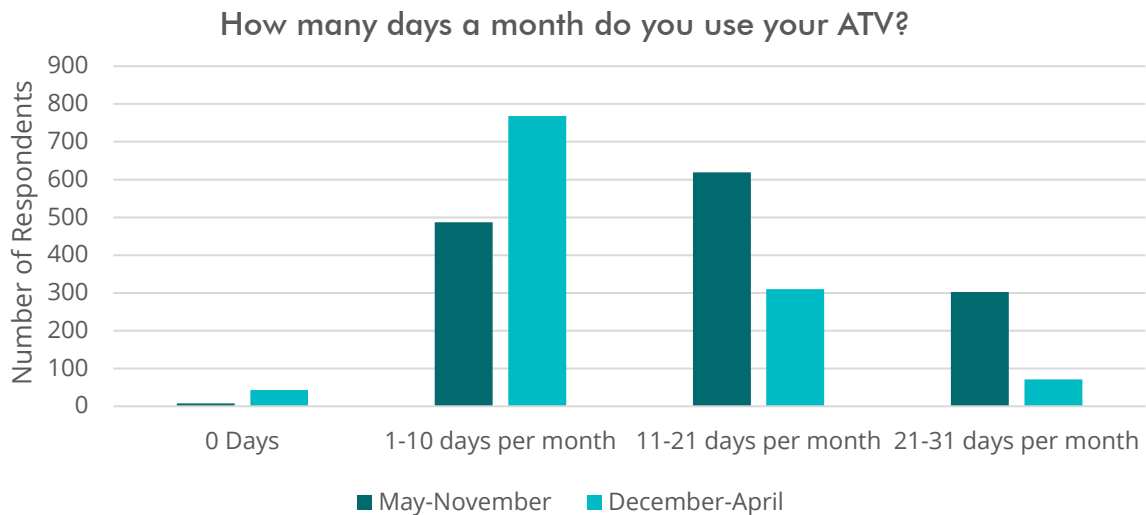
ATV PARTICIPATION: 89% of survey respondents stated they currently use an ATV.

- ❖ 43% of those who currently use an ATV stated they are a member of an ATV club or organization (n=724)
- ❖ Of those who are club members, 69% stated their club maintains trails through the Grant-In-Aid program
- ❖ 21.5% of those who currently use an ATV stated they are not a member of an ATV club or organization but would like to be
- ❖ 38% of respondents stated they own one registered ATV and 35% of respondents own two registered ATVs. 16% of respondents own 3 registered ATVs and 9% own 4 or more.

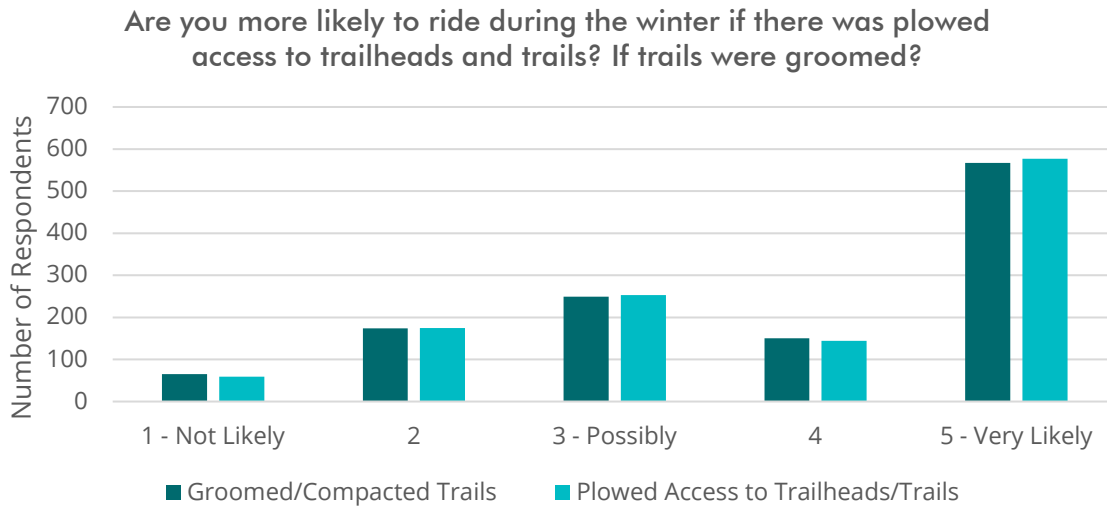
USE FREQUENCY (May-November): Between May and November, 34% of riders reported riding between 1-10 days a month, 43% reporting riding between 11-20 days a month, and 20% of riders report riding between 21-31 days a month. The population average is 14 riding days per month between May and November.

- ❖ 26% stated they off-road weekly, and 16% state they off-road once or twice a summer. Write in comments included interest in going more if trails were closer and that ORV use may be higher during hunting season in the fall.

USE FREQUENCY (December-April): 3% of respondents stated that they do not go wheeling in the winter months, 15% stated they go once or twice. 26% of users stated they ride between 11-20 days per month in the winter, and 5% stated they ride between and 21 and 31 days per month in the winter.



WINTER RIDING: Respondents answered questions regarding their interest in winter riding opportunities. Many respondents (46%) answered they would be very likely to ride more in the winter if there was plowed access to trails and trailheads and if trails were groomed and compacted.



Recreation Experience

EXPERIENCE: The majority of respondents stated they would typically rate their off-roading experience as good (55%), 19% as excellent, and 22% as fair.

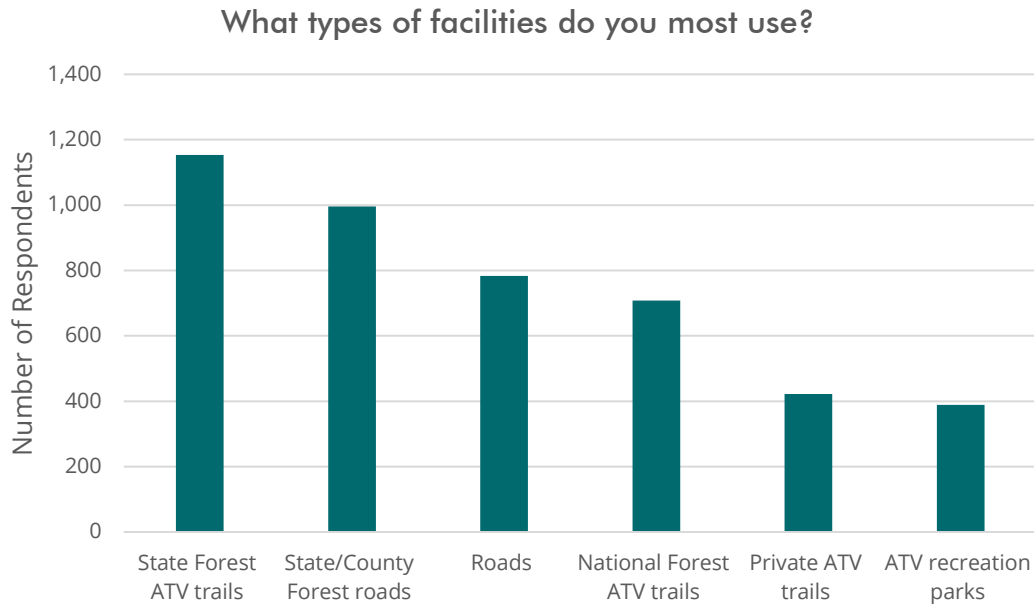
RECREATION LOCATION: Respondents were asked to select where they typically recreate between in-state/out-of-state, public land/private land, and in the county they live/out of county. 89% of respondents state they most often ride in Minnesota, 90% state they ride on public land, and 56% of people state they most often ride outside of the county in which they live. Counties that respondents stated they most often ride in include St. Louis County (23.7%), Cass County (8.5%), Aitkin County (7.4%), Crow Wing County (7.2%), Itasca County (6.7%), and Pine County (6.7%).

How Would You Typically Rate Your Riding Experience?



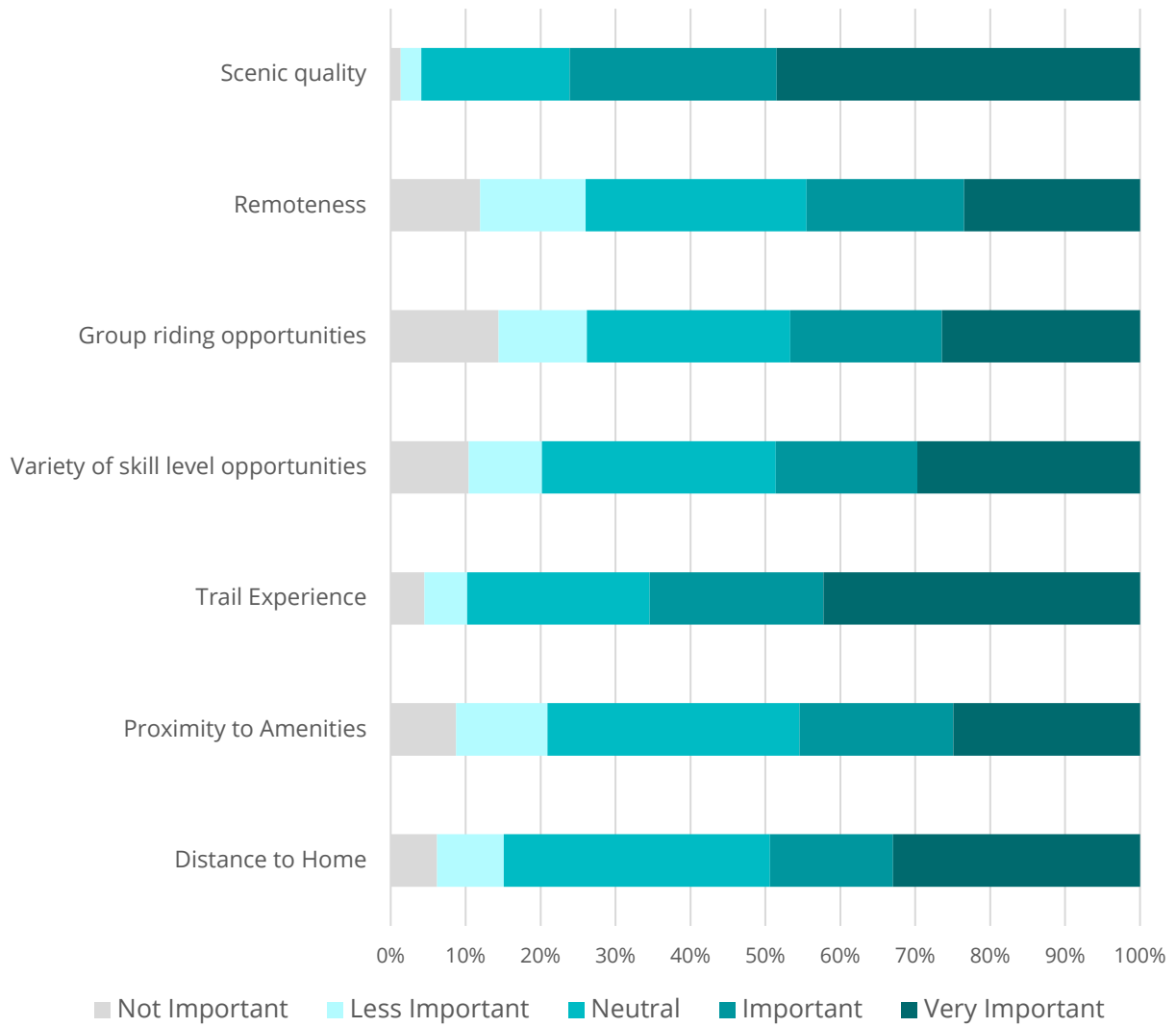
RECREATION FACILITIES: Respondents were also asked what facilities they most used to recreation (recreation parks, touring routes, state forests trails, national forest routes, etc.).

80% of respondents stated they typically ride on state forest ATV trails and 68% of respondents stated they typically ride on state/county forest roads. Other frequently visited facilities include national forest ATV trails (48%). Common write-in answers included logging roads, personal private property, and frozen lakes in the winter.



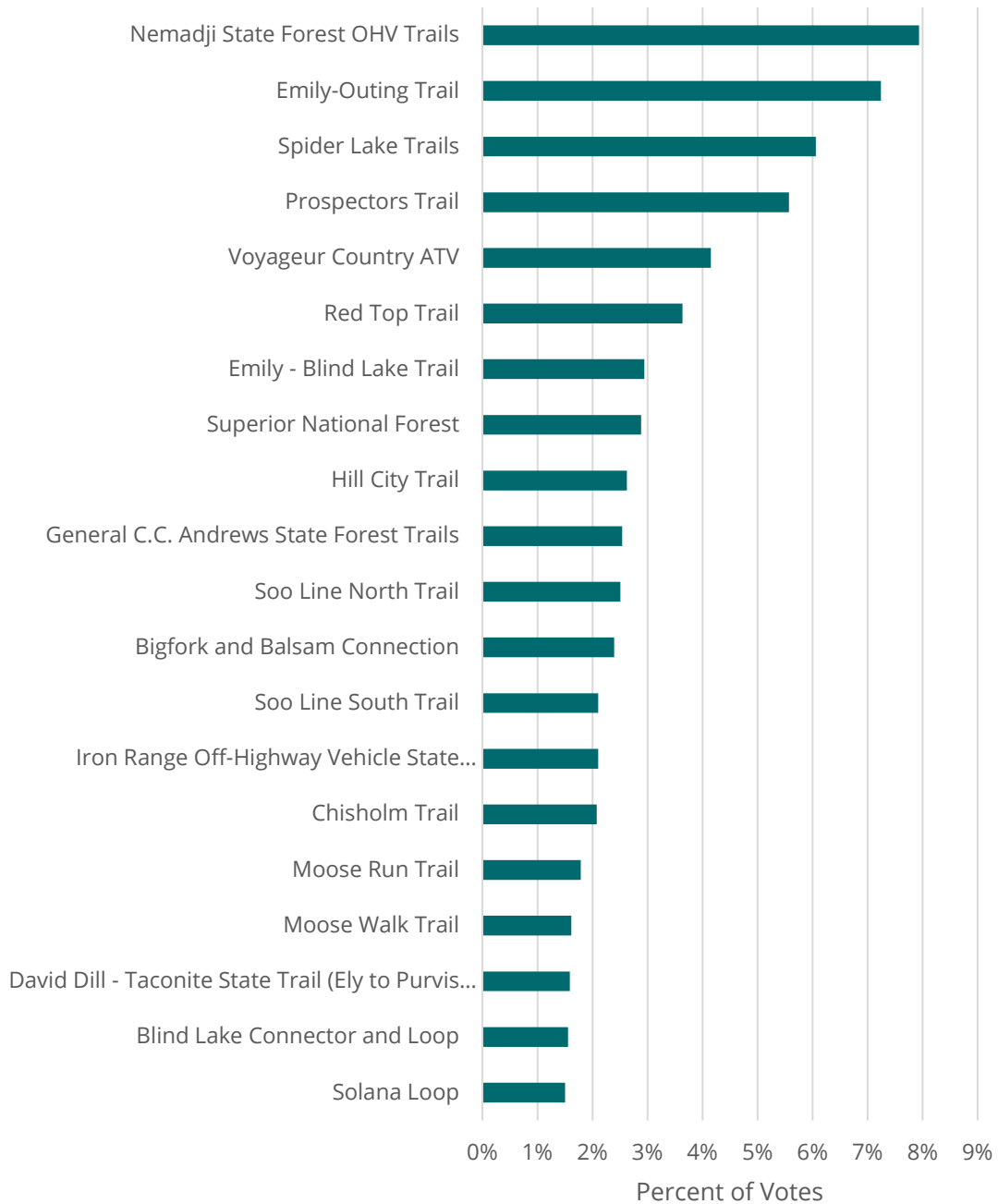
RIDE CHOICE FACTORS: Riders were asked what factors were important when deciding where to ride. Scenic quality (48% of respondents ranked it as very important) was the factor ranked most important followed closely by trail experience (42% ranked it as very important). Group riding opportunities and proximity to amenities (lodging, food, services, etc.) were overall considered less important but still had respondents who ranked them as very important factors.

How important are the following factors when deciding where to ride?



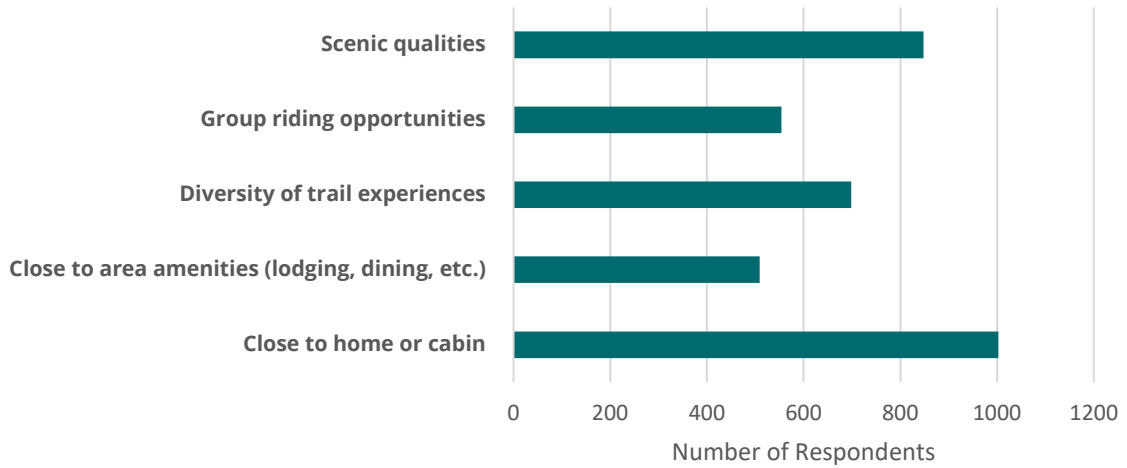
FAVORITE RECREATION DESTINATIONS: Riders were asked where their top three destinations to ride were. For the first choice, Prospectors Trail, Nemadji State Forest OHV Trails, and Emily-Outing Trail got the most votes. When riders top three options were combined, Nemadji State Forest OHV Trails, Emily-Outing Trail, and Spider Lake Trails received the most votes. The chart below displays the top 20 riding destinations. Common write-in answers included Paul Bunyan State Forest and Foothills State Forest.

When ATVing on public land in Minnesota, what are your top destinations



FAVORITE AREA QUALITIES: Respondents stated these were their favorite areas because of the proximity to their home/cabin, diversity of trail experiences, and the scenic qualities of the area. Common write-in answers included the proximity/availability of camping facilities, proximity to friends, and the availability of technical terrain.

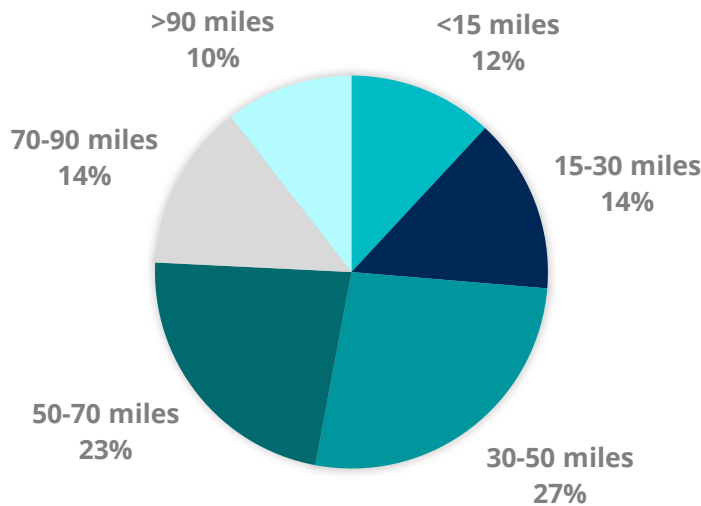
What makes these destinations your favorite?



AVERAGE MILEAGE: 26% of respondents stated they ride approximately 30-50 miles per day. 35% of respondents stated they ride between 50-90 miles on average per day, and 10% stated they ride over 90 miles in a day.

- ❖ 46% of respondents ride for a half day (3-5 hours) and 38% of respondents ride for a full day (6+ hours)

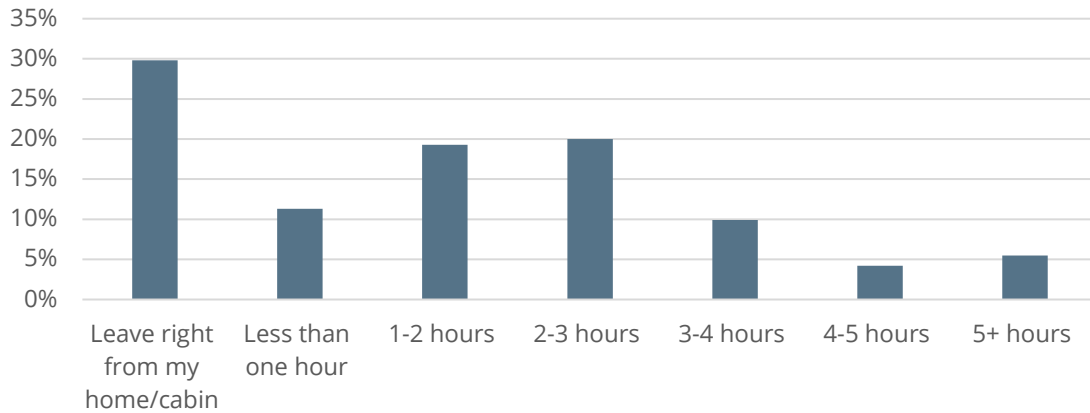
About How Many Miles Per Day Do You Ride On Average?



TRAVEL TIME: 58% of respondents stated they travel over 1 hour to get to an ATV riding area and 40% of respondents travel over 2 hours. 29% of respondents ride their ATV directly from their home/cabin.

- ❖ On average, respondents travel 1.7 hours to visit ATV riding areas.
- ❖ 87% of respondents stated that it is important to them to have ATV opportunities within an hour of their home or cabin.

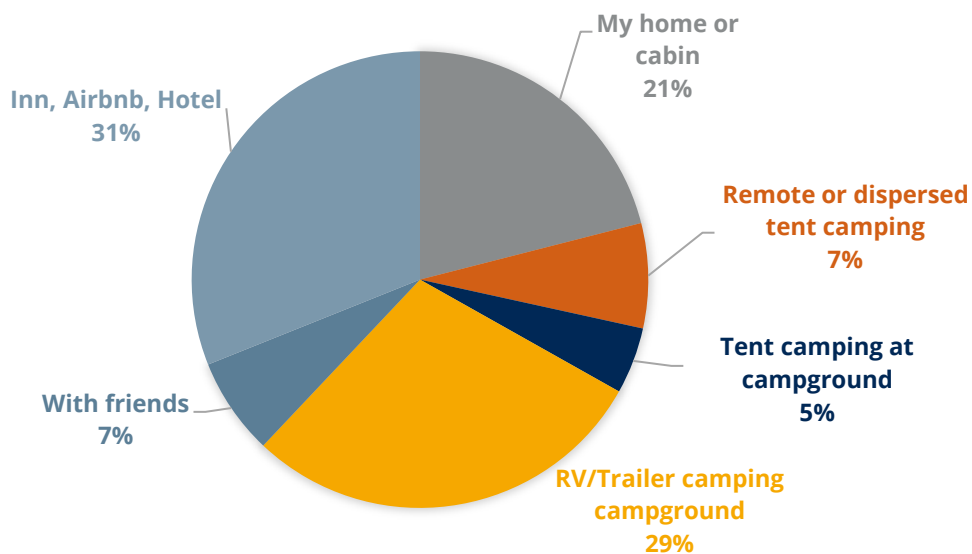
On average, how long do you drive to ride ATVs?



OVERNIGHT TRIPS: 45% of respondents stated they take overnight trips where the primary purpose is ATV riding once or twice a year. 20% stated once a month, and 10% stated twice a month. 22% of respondents stated they never take overnight trips where the primary purpose is ATVing.

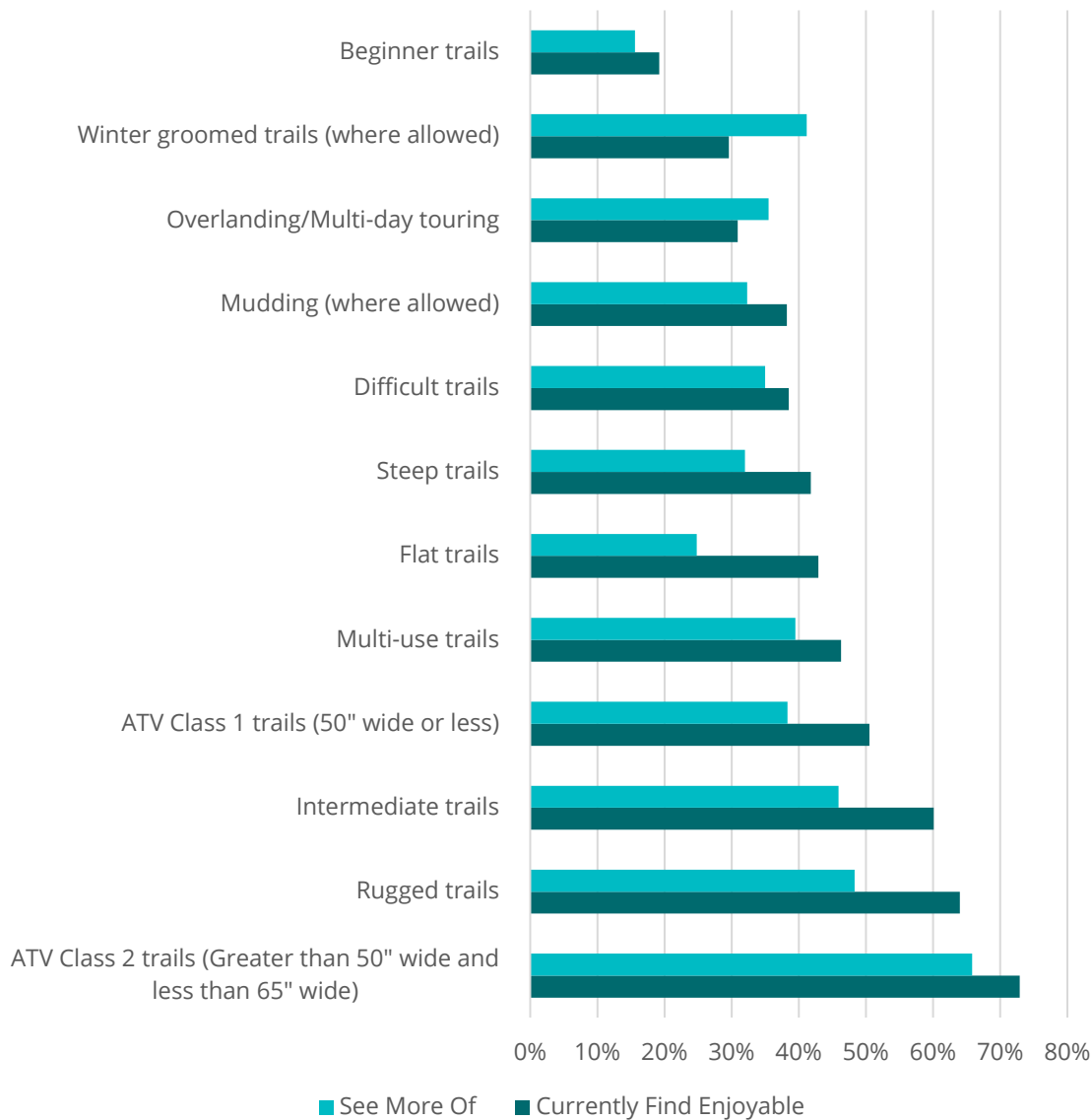
ACCOMODATIONS: When staying overnight, 31% of respondents stated they typically stay in an Inn, Airbnb, or Hotel. 29% of respondents stated they RV/Trailer camp at a campground. 21% of respondents stated they typically stay at their home or cabin.

Where Do You Typically Stay When Taking Overnight ATV Trips?



DESIRED TRAIL EXPERIENCES: Respondents were asked what sorts of trail experiences they enjoyed and what trail experiences they want to see more of. Existing trail experiences that were rated highest include ATV Class 2 trails, rugged trails, and intermediate trails. ATV Class 1 trails and multi-use trails were less popular but still received votes from about 50% of respondents. For future trail development, 65% of respondents wanted more ATV Class 2 trails, 45% wanted more rugged trails, intermediate trails, and winter groomed trails. Common write-in responses included single-use trails, connected trails, forested trails, gravel pits/open riding areas, and scenic trails.

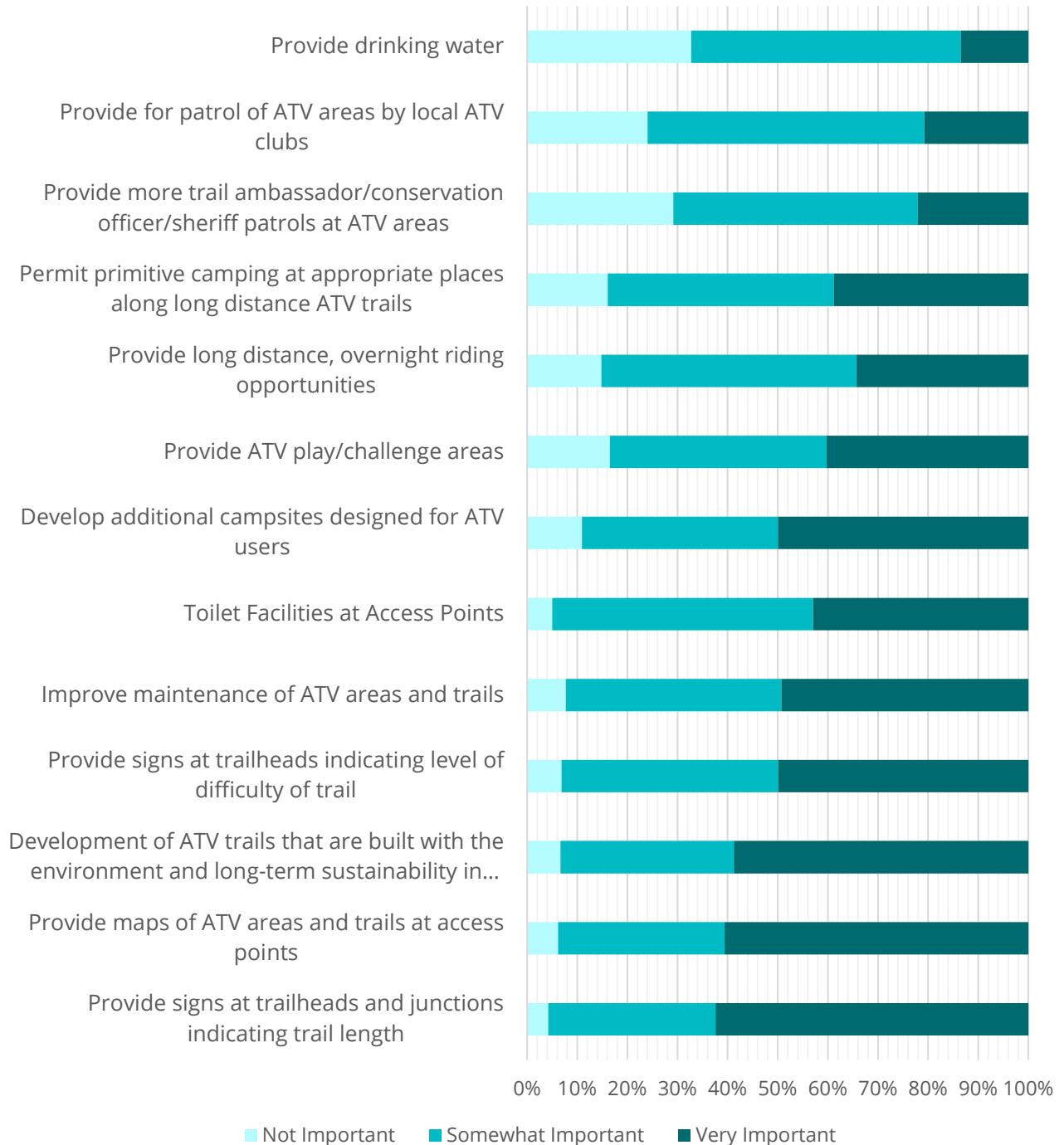
What trail experiences do you find enjoyable? What trail experiences do you want to see more of?



Management Actions

AMENITIES: Investments in signage (on-trail and trailhead signage) and sustainable trails were regarded as the most important management investments. Other highly rated investment options include improved maintenance of existing trails and additional camping opportunities for ATV users.

What specific management investments do you think should be taken to improve existing ATV experiences in Minnesota?



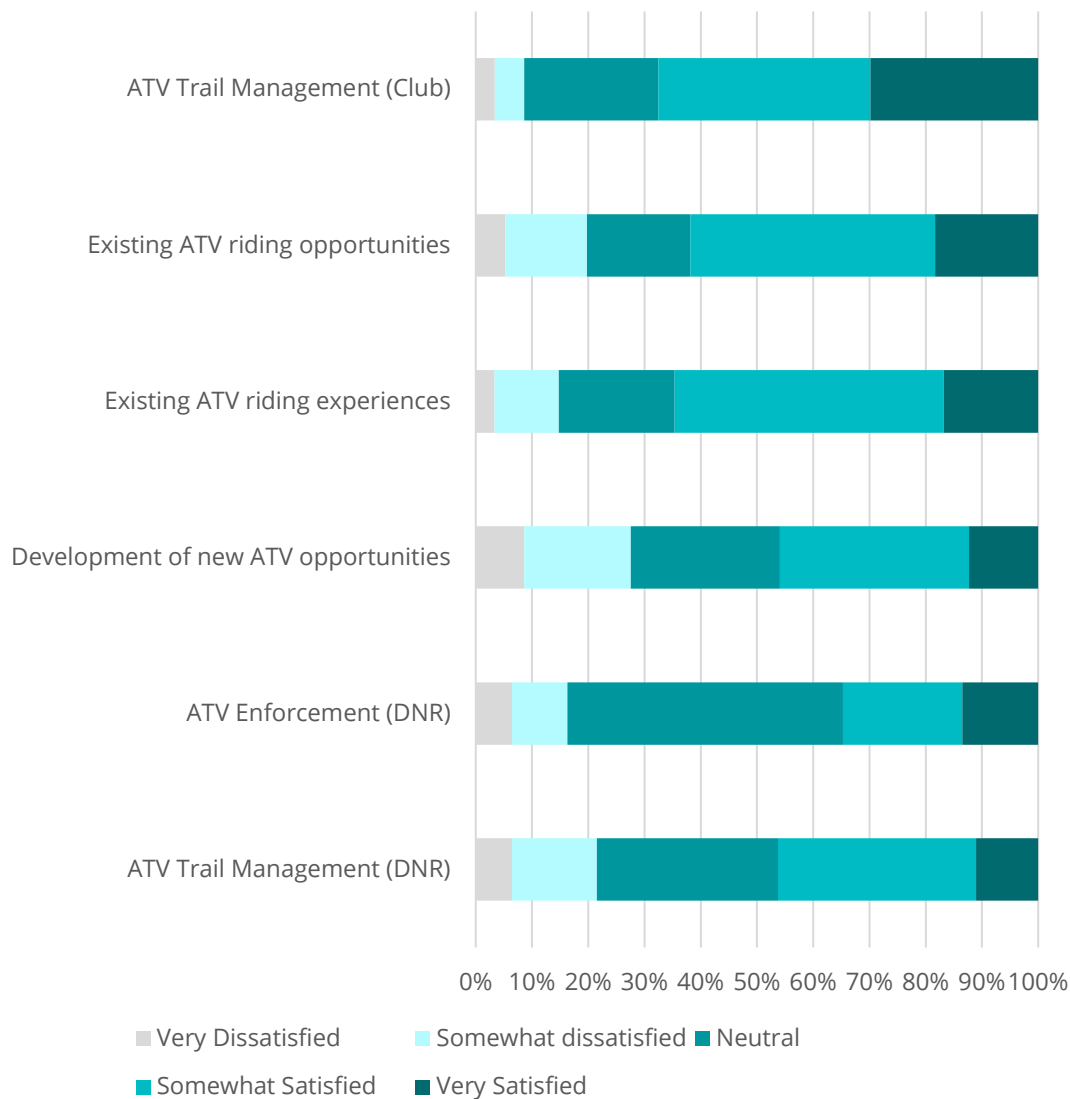
ATV OPPORTUNITIES: 62% of ATV riders stated they are somewhat or very satisfied with existing ATV opportunities. 20% of riders state they are somewhat or very dissatisfied, the remaining were neutral.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES: 46% of riders stated they are somewhat or very satisfied with development of new ORV opportunities. 28% state they are somewhat or very dissatisfied with development of new ATV opportunities.

ATV TRAIL MANAGEMENT: 46% of riders state they are somewhat or very satisfied with ATV management, 15% somewhat dissatisfied, and 6% very dissatisfied.

ATV RIDING EXPERIENCES: 65% of riders state they are somewhat or very satisfied with ATV experiences, 15% somewhat or very dissatisfied.

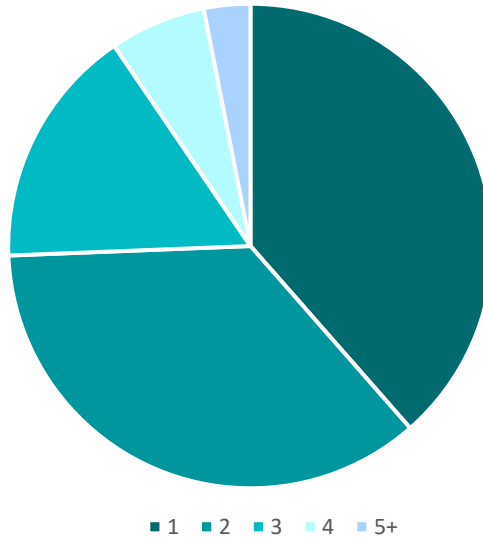
Rate your satisfaction with existing ATV opportunities, management, and experiences in Minnesota



Vehicle characteristics

REGISTRATION: 40% of respondents own 1 ATV that is currently registered with the DNR. 36% own 2 ATV's currently registered with the DNR and 25% own 3 or more ATV's currently registered with the DNR

How many ATV's do you own that are currently registered with the DNR?

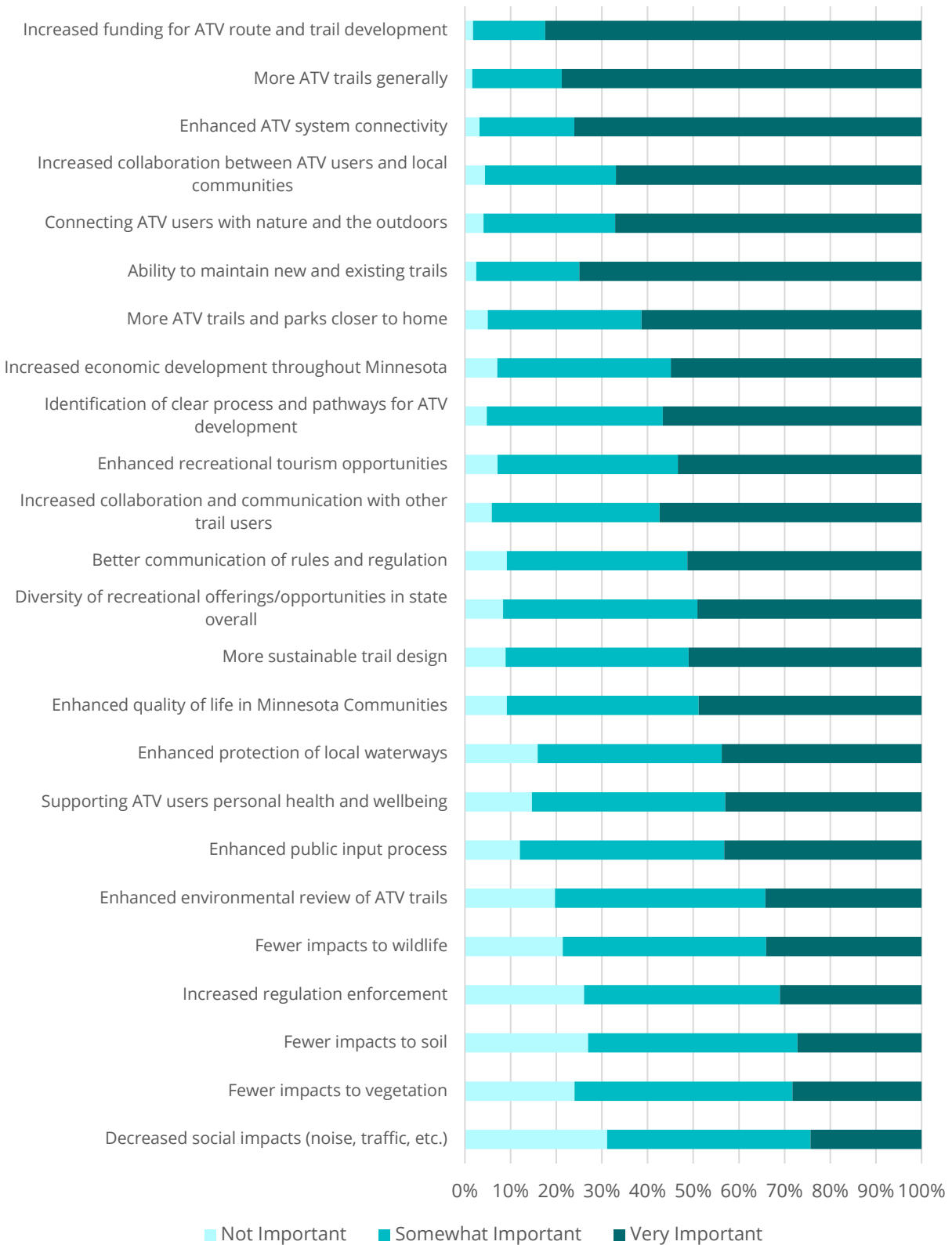


Trip and Vehicle Spending Profile

Trip Spending Category	Average Spend (per person per trip)
Lodging/ Camping Fees	\$40
Food and Beverage	\$62
Transportation (Fuel and Parking Fees)	\$73
Admission/Fees	\$11
Other (clothing, souvenirs, etc.)	\$21
Total	\$207

ATV Spending Category	Average Spend
ATVs purchased	\$5,400
Repairs & Maintenance	\$120
Modifications/ Upgrades	\$78
Insurance	\$63
Other	\$53
Total	\$5,714

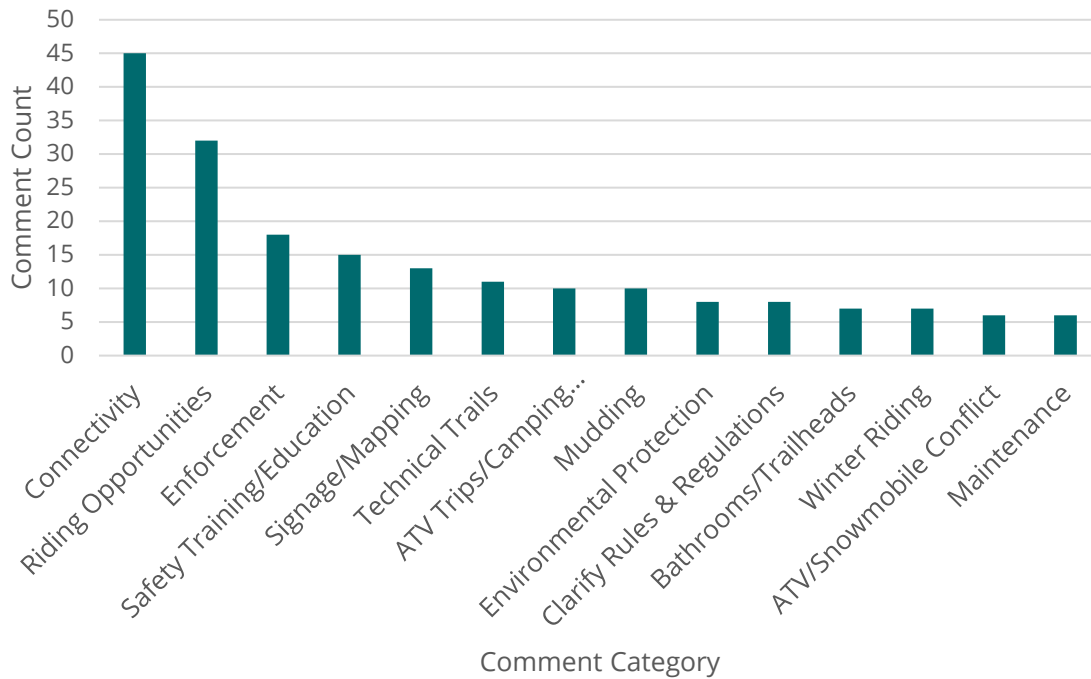
Plan Considerations



Write-in Comments

641 respondents left write in comments to answer the question “Is there anything else you would like this plan to consider.” Responses included strong support for a connected trail system as well as increased connectivity between trail systems and towns/services. A desire for riding opportunities closer to the twin cities and in the southern portion of the state was mentioned several times. The importance of enforcement and adequate safety training/education opportunities was mentioned frequently, especially in light of new riders entering the sport, and the importance of upholding a responsible image of the ATV community. Other common responses included a desire for technical trails and camping opportunities.

Write-In Comment Summary



Non-User Responses

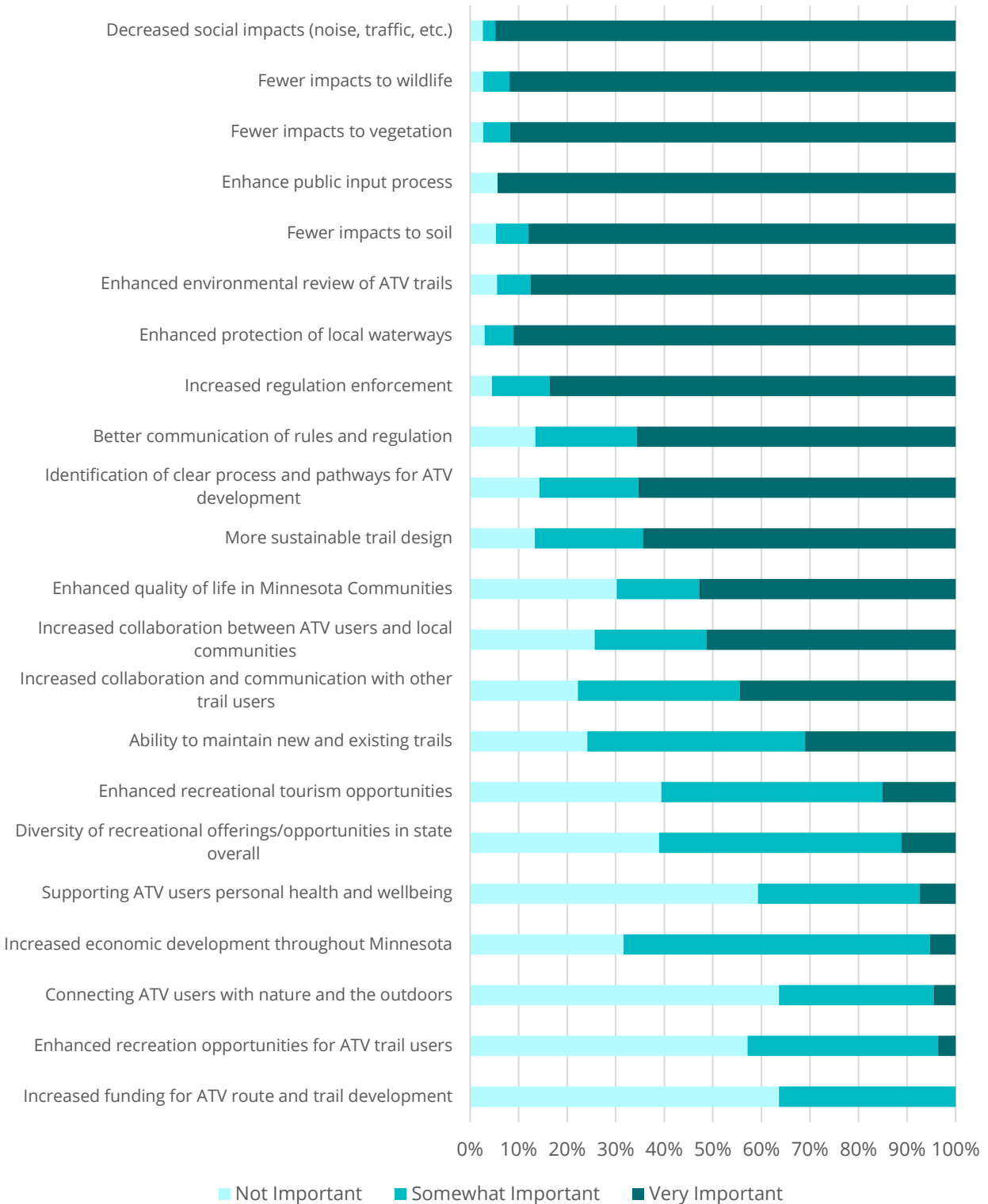
Participation

- ❖ Respondents who stated they do not currently, and have never, used an ATV for recreation cited reasons such as prefer self-propelled recreation (63%), not interested (30%), user conflict concerns (36%), safety concerns (36%) and cost (24%).
- ❖ Write in responses in the "Other" category included comments citing environmental impacts such as noise, pollution, and land degradation.
- ❖ Those who were interested in trying ATVing stated they would be more likely to try if there were more affordable rental vehicles and demo days/intro lessons.

Plan Considerations

- ❖ Respondents in the non-user category felt it was very important that this plan consider ways that existing and future ATV areas could have fewer impacts to wildlife, soil, and vegetation as well as decreased social impacts. Other considerations considered very important include an enhanced public input process and enhanced environmental review of ATV trails.
- ❖ Considerations that fell mainly into the not important category included enhanced opportunities for ATV trail users and increased funding for ATV routes and trail development.

What do you think are the most important elements to consider throughout the planning process?



Write-In Comments

55 respondents left write in comments to answer the question “Is there anything else you would like this plan to consider?” Most write-in comments stressed the importance of considering ATV trail development impacts on communities proximate to proposed development. Other comments related to general environmental concerns about noise, soil degradation, soil erosion, and wildlife impacts. Other common comments related to more regulation and enforcement and the removal of ATV use on public lands.

