

Save up to \$700 annually on home energy costs



News Opinions Columns Sports People Guides Extras Archives CU Ads Classifieds Jobs

Letters to the editor

/ Opinions / Letters to the editor /

« With climate changing, is a...

Many thanks for food pantry...»

- Editorials
- **Letters to the editor**
- Guest Commentary
- Columns
- Blogs
- Polls
- Reader Forums
- An APA reform plan
- SUBMIT letters, commentary

Ads by Google

Map My Ride Official Site

Search Browse & Create Maps of Your Favorite Destinations. Try Today!
www.MapMyRide.com

Adirondack Lodge

A Mini Adirondacks vacation: Skiing just a 5-min. drive to Gore Mt.!
www.adirondackalpinelodge.com

France Cycling Tours

Self Guided Cycling & Hiking Tours 21 years of experience!
www.randonneetours.com/Fr

Lake George NY Lodging

Waterfront & lakeview luxury suites Lovely B&B lodging on Lake George
www.boathousebb.com

Historic Mill/Opera House

Along Great Allegheny Passage in Rockwood. Entertainment, Eat, Shop
www.rockwoodmillshoppes.co

Trail use might be more than expected

March 8, 2011
Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Save |  |  |  | 

To the editor:

Parks & Trails New York, a statewide nonprofit organization, congratulates AdkAction for commissioning the recently released economic impact study comparing the cost and economic impacts of a tourist train and a 34-mile, multi-use trail between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. We are pleased that the study estimates \$1.2 million in annual net new spending associated with the trail. However, we believe that there are several factors not considered in the study that will generate even more spending and benefits from the trail than the study predicts.

The Placid-to-Tupper trail may very well follow the example of the Virginia Creeper Trail in southwest Virginia, one of the trails cited by Camoin Associates as similar in length and environment to the proposed Adirondack trail. A 2004 study found that primary-purpose day users - those who regard the Virginia Creeper Trail as a tourist destination and the main reason they come to the area - represented 78 percent of annual visitation. This was a much larger percentage than Camoin envisioned for the Adirondacks.

When we interviewed Holly Grady, director of the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce, we found a similar situation for another trail cited by Camoin Associates. This is Wisconsin's 33-mile Elroy-Sparta Trail, which also utilizes an old railroad bed. According to Grady, almost 80 percent of the approximately 100,000 persons who use the trail each year reside outside the area.

We question why the Camoin study assumes the Adirondack trail will be used only on weekends in May, September and October. In fact, a multi-use trail is often one of the most important resources a community can have for extending the tourist season by several months, including intensive weekday use. Prime foliage months like September and October can be some of the most attractive months for bicycling tourists.

Our own experience indicates that on longer trips (more than two days) expenditures by cyclists can reach \$200 to \$300 a day. This can add up! A group of five, each spending \$250 per day on a six-day tour, would leave behind \$7,500. Fifty such groups would bring in \$375,000. What's possible? Missouri's 225-mile Katy Trail, one of the nation's oldest multi-use trails, draws 350,000 bicyclists annually.

With the growing popularity of bicycling and the lure of being the only long-distance, multi-use trail within the Adirondack Park, we believe the trail (unlike the tourist train) will be the primary-purpose attraction for a large number of visits because:

- 1) Bicycling is now the second-most-common form of outdoor recreation in the United States, according to a study by the Outdoor Foundation, with 60 million Americans enjoying the activity. More Americans bicycle than golf, ski and play tennis combined.
- 2) According to the U.S. Travel Association, 27 million Americans have taken a bicycling vacation in the past five years.



Saranac Lake, NY
43°F
Extended Forecast
Find Another Location
Data provided by The Weather Channel ©

News, Blogs & Events

I am looking for:

in:

News, Blogs & Events Web



Cycling in New Zealand
Experience New Zealand. Start Here For Travel Info, Packages & More!
 Ads by Google

California bike tour
Superb Coastal Wine Country Bicycle Tour. Premier lodging & tour guides!
 Ads by Google

The economic impact study has demonstrated that a trail connecting the Tri-Lakes region can produce a greater economic benefit than a tourist train. We anticipate these economic benefits will continue to grow as time passes.

Robin Dropkin
Executive director
Parks & Trails New York
Albany

© Copyright 2011 Adirondack Daily Enterprise. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[Save](#) |

[Recommend](#)

One recommendation. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

[Subscribe to Adirondack Daily Enterprise](#)



Adirondack Daily Enterprise

54 Broadway , Saranac Lake, NY 12983 | 518-891-2600

© 2011. All rights reserved. | [Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#)