

Fort Ripley-Brainerd-Pine Center GIA ATV Trail Proposal

Project Summary

Proposer: Crow Wing County in conjunction with:
Central Minnesota Wheelers ATV Association, Jim Schilling, Trail Administrator
Pine Center Sportsman's Club, Dave Mitchell, Trail Administrator
Central Lakes Riders OHV Club, Darrel Palmer, Trail Administrator

Sponsor: Crow Wing County

Project Location: T43N, R32W, Sections 13 – 15, 22 – 24, Fort Ripley Township
T43N, R31W, Sections 13 – 24, 25, St. Mathias Township
T43N, R30W, Sections 19, 25 – 36, Daggett Brook Township
T43N, R29W, Sections 12, 13, 24 – 35, Platte Lake Township
T43N, R28W, Sections 5 – 8, 18, Roosevelt Township
T44N, R28W, Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, 31, Garrison Township
T44N, R29W, Sections 3 - 6, 10 – 15, Maple Grove Township
T45N, R29W, Sections 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, Nokay Lake Township
T45N, R30W, Sections 25, 31, 32, 36, Oak Lawn Township
T44N, R30W, Sections 1 – 6, 9 – 12, Long Lake Township
T44N, R31W, Section 1, and T133N, R28W, Section 36, Brainerd

Project Dimensions: Total of all trail segments = 52.7 miles.

Anticipated Project Cost: Total Cost Estimate on Grant Application = \$124,300
Total Cost Requested from ATV GIA Program = \$94,195

Proposal Submitted: October 12, 2009

Project Description:

This proposal from Crow Wing County establishes Minnesota Trail Assistance, commonly referred to as Grant-In-Aid, (GIA) program All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trail status to 52.7 miles of pre-existing ATV routes along State and County roads in Crow Wing County. The entire corridor is currently open and available to ATV uses. The proposed trail travels through the Townships of Fort Ripley, St. Mathias, Daggett Brook, Platte Lake, Roosevelt, Garrison, Maple Grove, Nokay Lake, Oak Lawn, Long Lake, and the City of Brainerd.

A breakdown of the 52.7 mile proposal is provided below. ATVs may already use the entire corridor, but bringing the trail into the GIA system would allow GIA funds to be used for trail maintenance, repair, safety improvements, monitoring, and enforcement.

- Township Right-Of-Way (ROW) = -0- miles:
- Crow Wing County Highway ROW = 51.2 miles: Co. Rd. 2 = 9.7 miles, Co. Rd. 45 = 2 miles, Co. Rd. 139 = 11.2 miles, Co. Rd. 113 = 3.9 miles, Co. Rd. 8 = 12 miles, Co. Rd. 24 = 3.2 miles, Co. Rd. 23 = 2.5 miles, Co. Rd. 148 = 4 miles, Co. Rd. 117 = 2.6 miles
- State Trunk Highway ROW = 1.5 miles: T.H. 18 = .5 miles, T.H. 25 = 1 mile

Crow Wing County would be the trail sponsor, operating, maintaining, and managing the trail in conjunction with the supporting ATV user clubs: the Central Minnesota Wheelers ATV Association, the Pine Center Sportsman's OHV Club, and the Central Lakes Riders OHV Club. The majority of the trail would be routed in the ditches along state and county roads, either in the ditch bottom, or on a bench constructed into the side slope. Where necessary to avoid obstacles, the trail will use the road in-slope or shoulder as allowed by state law. The trail is proposed by Crow Wing County to be open to Class I & Class II ATVs seasonally from May 1st to November 1st, subject to County review and approval. The trail will be closed as conditions warrant for safety considerations or to prevent erosion or damage. A GIA snowmobile trail is routed on portions of the trail and snowmobile use will continue from December 1st to April 1st.

This proposed trail will connect the Fort Ripley and Ripley Connection ATV Trails near Fort Ripley with the Pine Center ATV Trail near Pine Center.

Trail Design:

The entire treadway will be shaped and maintained to drain snowmelt and stormwater runoff, as per permit conditions, trail design and water quality Best Management Practices. No wetlands will be filled as part of this proposal. The treadway will be graded and brushed periodically to reduce the encroachment of woody vegetation. Invasive species management will be incorporated into the trail maintenance. Improvements and maintenance will conform to specifications described in landowner permits in accordance with principles outlined in the DNR Trails and Waterways publication "*Trail Planning, Development and Design Guidelines*"

Trail operations, maintenance and monitoring:

The trail will be operated, maintained, and managed by Crow Wing County in conjunction with assistance and support provided by the Central Minnesota Wheelers ATV Association, the Pine Center Sportsman's, and the Central Lakes Riders OHV Clubs. The cost of maintenance is eligible for up to 90% reimbursement through the GIA program. The sponsor, clubs and DNR will share monitoring responsibilities, supplemented by the Trail Ambassador program. Portions of the trail will continue to function as a GIA snowmobile trail for the snowmobile season (December 1st to April 1st). The trail is proposed by Crow Wing County to be open to Class I & Class II ATVs seasonally from May 1st to November 1st, subject to County review and approval.

Project Need and Beneficiaries:

GIA trail status will allow the club to better monitor and repair these existing routes, and to schedule and perform routine treadway and corridor maintenance. GIA funding will supplement current road authority maintenance funding. The additional funds make it possible to improve portions of this trail on road surfaces where appropriate, at driveway crossings, and in the road ditch. ATV riders can access food, fuel, phones, and parking facilities in Fort Ripley, Pine Center, and Brainerd.

Public Review: The DNR invites written public comment on the above proposal from April 4 – May 5, 2011. Copies of the proposal are available on the DNR website, mndnr.gov (mndnr.gov/input), as well as at the DNR Brainerd Area Parks and Trails office (1601 Minnesota Drive), and at the Crow Wing County Land Services Building (322 Laurel Street, Suite 12). Comments on the proposal may be e-mailed to david.clute@state.mn.us, faxed to 218-833-8668, or mailed to David Clute, Assistant Area Supervisor, DNR Parks and Trails, 1601 Minnesota Dr., Brainerd, MN 56401. For more information, or to request a printed copy of the proposal, please call Dave Clute at 218-833-8717 or the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR (toll free).