

M.L. 2019 Projects

[MN Laws 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 4](#), Article 4 Section 2 (beginning July 1, 2015)

Visit [the LCCMR website](#) for the most up-to-date project information and reports

Subd. 03 Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

Improving Statewide GIS Data by Restoring the Public Land Survey

Subd. 03m \$135,000 TF (FY2020)

Patrick Veraguth

Minnesota Association of County Surveyors

526 Willow Drive, PO Box 398

Alexandria, MN 56308

Phone: (320) 762-2964

Email: patv@co.douglas.mn.us

Web: <http://macsinfo.org/>

Appropriation Language

\$135,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors to conduct a pilot project with Grant County to remonument and certify the public land survey corners in Lawrence Township. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Project due to be completed: 12/30/2020

[Work Plan](#)

Managed Aquifer Recharge

Subd. 04t \$150,000 TF (FY2020)

John Bilotta

U of MN - Water Resources Center

173 McNeal Hall

1985 Buford Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: (612) 624-7708

Email: bilot002@umn.edu

Web: <https://www.wrc.umn.edu/>

Appropriation Language

\$350,000 the first year is to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, Water Resources Center, for a comprehensive study of the economic benefits of managed aquifer recharge and to make recommendations to enhance and replenish Minnesota's groundwater resources. The study must include, but is not limited to:

- (1) examining the potential benefits of enhancing groundwater recharge in water-stressed areas;
- (2) assessing the relationship to changing seasonality and intensity of precipitation on groundwater recharge rates;
- (3) reviewing the approaches to manage recharge in geologically appropriate areas;
- (4) identifying policy options, costs, and barriers to recharging groundwater; and

(5) assessing the economic returns of options for groundwater recharge.

In conducting the study, the Water Resources Center must convene a stakeholder group and provide for public participation.

Project due to be completed: 12/30/2020

[Work Plan](#)

Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountain Bike Trail

Subd. 09i \$350,000 TF (FY2020)

Tim Kennedy

Superior Cycling Association

PO Box 1032

Grand Marais, MN 55604

Phone: (218) 370-0955

Email: tkennedy@boreal.org

Web: <https://superiorcycling.org/>

Appropriation Language

\$350,000 the first year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Cycling Association to create a sustainably designed single-track mountain bike trail connecting trail clusters and trailheads between Britton Peak in Tofte and Lutsen Mountains as part of northeast Minnesota's effort to become a national recreation destination. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

Recreation demands for mountain biking in Minnesota, especially Northeastern Minnesota, have grown to require more sustainably designed and purpose built mountain bike trails. The Cook County Mountain Bike System masterplan prepared for the Superior Cycling Association by the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission calls for development of clusters of mountain bike trails at Britton Peak in Tofte, Pincushion Mountain in Grand Marais and Lutsen Mountains in Lutsen with a connector trail between these three clusters. This project completed the Jackpot and High Climber trails between the existing trail clusters at Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains, approximately 16 miles. The Superior Cycling Association in partnership with the US Forest Service and Cook County built these mountain bike trails to the highest sustainable trail design standards to minimize environmental impacts while utilizing the relief and geologic features found along the North Shore.

This project is part of a growing number of destination mountain bike trails to be found in Northeast Minnesota, including the City of Duluth, Cuyuna in Crosby, Giant's Ridge, Redhead in Chisholm, Toiga in Cohasset, and more in the works. Recreation trails are a driving force to bring visitors to these areas of the state and make significant impacts on the local economy.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this trail was opened for use unceremoniously with no major announcements or Grand Opening celebration. However, riders did hear about the trail on the Superior Cycling Association, Visit Cook County, and other website as well as on trail apps that riders use. Response from riders echoed a similar sentiment, "this is the best trail in the State...I'll be back".

When COVID restrictions are over and large gatherings are again allowed, the Superior Cycling Association will be holding a Grand Opening which will invite riders, media, partners, and local businesses to celebrate this mountain bike trail resource.

Project Completed: 12/30/2020

[FINAL REPORT](#)

Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail

Subd. 09n \$400,000 TF (FY2020)

Bruce Beste

Voyageur Country ATV

Box 414

Crane Lake, MN 55725

Phone: (218) 391-5108

Email: voyageurcountryatv@gmail.com

Web: www.VoyageurCountryATV.com

Appropriation Language

\$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with St. Louis County in cooperation with Voyageur Country ATV Club to designate and improve a wooded trail from Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls to accommodate all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile users. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Project due to be completed: 10/30/2020

[Work Plan](#)

