

Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2021

PROJECT TITLE: Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountains Mountain Bike Trail

PROJECT MANAGER: Tim Kennedy

AFFILIATION: Superior Cycling Association

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 1032

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Grand Marais, MN 55604

PHONE: 218 370 0955

E-MAIL: tkennedy@boreal.org

WEBSITE: superiorcycling.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$350,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$350,000

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0.00

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Superior Cycling Association in partnership with the US Forest Service and Cook County designed and built 16 miles of purpose built mountain bike trails connecting existing trail clusters at Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains to address the need for more sustainable mountain bike trails in Cook County.

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 aps 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.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan Final Report (Main Document)

Today's Date: January 11, 2021

Date of Status Update: January 11, 2021

Final Report: January 11, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 17, 2019

Project Completion Date: December 1, 2020

PROJECT TITLE: Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountains Mountain Bike Trail

Project Manager: Tim Kennedy

Organization: Superior Cycling Association

College/Department/Division:

Mailing Address: PO Box 1032

City/State/Zip Code: Grand Marais, MN 55604

Telephone Number: 218 370 0955

Email Address: tkennedy@boreal.org

Web Address: superiorcycling.org

Location: The Townships of Lutsen and Tofte, Cook County, Minnesota

Total Project Budget: \$350,000

Amount Spent: \$350,000

Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

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.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT: This project is intended to expand a system of mountain bike (MTB) trails in Cook County, creating a regional, national and international destination for beginning to advanced MTB enthusiasts. Through implementation of this project, the Superior Cycling Association (SCA) will achieve its goal of constructing a 15.9 mile, purposefully designed and sustainably-built single-track mountain bike trail experience, connecting existing MTB trail clusters at Britton Peak (Tofte) and Lutsen Mountains (Connector). When completed, a network of over 35-miles of single-track MTB trails will be available, enhancing Cook County's reputation as a multi-use recreational destination, supporting the County's tourist-based economy, and beckoning to those whose sense of exploration and adventure is enticed and enhanced by riding a bicycle on Cook County's expanding, wilderness MTB trail network.

The SCA has already established an effective, productive, and cooperative working relationship with Cook County, the United States Forest Service (USFS), the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Visit Cook County, and other local and regional interests. These relationships come as the Cook County Mountain Bike Trails Master Plan unfolds, defining the County's short- and long-term recreational mountain biking goals. From that Plan, the design, development, construction, maintenance, and marketing of mountain biking in Cook County will truly change the recreational, North Shore landscape.

- This project is necessary because of the demand for high quality, environmentally designed and constructed, and well maintained single-track MTB trails. Cook County's MTB trails offer some of the most scenic and enticing mountain biking experiences in Minnesota, and beyond.
- The Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System has been designated by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission for inclusion in their regional parks and trails system.
- Thousands of trail users are already drawn to Cook County to experience established MTB trails, providing a necessary boost to our tourism economy.
- This innovative project uses sustainable design and construction standards, implemented and overseen by professional trail builders.
- The SCA and our partners have already generated \$458,000 in funding, dedicated to the 2018 start-up of Connector construction.
- Sustainable trail construction and maintenance are critical components of the Cook County MTB system.
- The purpose of this project is to meet the growing demand for one of the fastest growing (and exhilarating), recreational activities in Minnesota.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES: (See Below)

Amendment Request as of 08/06/2019

The Superior Cycling Association requests that the fiscal agent for this project be Cook County. Cook County has acted as fiscal agent for the three other grants (Federal Recreational Trails, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Funding, and Iron Range Resources Board) that are funding this project. The Superior Cycling Association has a cooperative project management service agreement with the County for this project which is attached.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR August 20, 2019

First Project Update February 10, 2020

Amendment request: We are requesting an extension to December 1, 2020 to allow us to complete the project. The Work Plan called for completion of this project by the end of the construction season in 2019. However,

due to wet conditions in the Fall of 2019, work had to be suspended and will begin again in the Summer of 2020. It is expected that work will be completed on this project by the end of the 2020 construction season and the trail will be open to the public for riding by mid Summer 2020.

Second Project Update September 1, 2020

Final Report between December 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021

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.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Construction of Phase 2, a 5.0 mile section of a 15.9 mile single track mountain bike trail connecting the existing Britton Peak trailhead with Lutsen Mountains.

Description: Activity 1: Construction of 5.0 miles of a 15.9 mile sustainably designed and professionally built singletrack mountain bike trail connecting existing mountain bike trail clusters and trailheads located at Britton Peak (Tofte) and Lutsen Mountains.

- Phase 1 of the 15.9 mile trail has been funded by the Federal Recreation Trails Program and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission with construction to be completed in 2018. Phase 2 is the proposed 5.0 mile section which will be completed in 2019 and allows a connection to Lutsen Mountains on existing trails. Phase 3 is completion of the remaining section that completes the entire 15.9 mile trail.
- Trail construction will be done by qualified and experienced mountain bike trail builders that understand how to build environmentally sustainable singletrack trails in challenging terrain. This trail was laid out to minimize impacts to the environment. The US Forest Service conducted an environmental review to assure this trail will avoid sensitive areas. When possible wetlands will be avoided and where necessary to cross wetlands, boardwalks will be built to minimize impacts.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$350,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Construction of 5.0 miles of a 15.9 mile single track mountain bike trail	December 1, 2020

First Update: February 10, 2020

The entire trail has been completed but there are still bridges and boardwalks that need to be completed. Construction of these bridges and boardwalks will occur in the Summer of 2020.

Second Project Update September 1, 2020

Bridges/Boardwalks were completed in Summer 2020

Final Report between December 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021

All work on both Phase 2 and Phase 3 was completed by the end of Summer 2020. This portion of the full project (Phase 2) completed five miles of a 16 mile mountain bike trail connecting Britton Peak mountain bike trails with Lutsen Mountains. Additionally, existing mountain bike trails at Britton Peak were rehabbed to bring them up to current design standards.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Signs at Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains trailhead will acknowledge ENRTF, as will maps, website, any publications, and other public communications. A Grand Opening will be held to acknowledge all trail partners, including the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Prior to beginning construction on Segment 2, an announcement of the completion of Segment 1 will be made. As segments of the trail are completed and open for riding by the public, announcements and public events will be conducted.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update: February 10, 2020

The trail is not open to the public yet. Upon completion in 2020, a Grand Opening will be held, signs will be installed, and any announcements will follow the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Second Project Update September 1, 2020

Bridges/Boardwalks were completed in Summer 2020 and trail signs were installed. However, due to COVID 19 the Superior Cycling Association was not able to hold a Grand Opening. We are expecting to host a Grand Opening in Summer 2021 where The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund along with other grantors and partners will be recognized.

Final Report between December 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021

Bridges/Boardwalks were completed in Summer 2020 and trail signs were installed. However, due to COVID We were not able to hold a Grand Opening. We are expecting to host a Grand Opening in Summer 2021 where The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund along with other grantors and partners will be recognized.

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures: 0

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 0	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 0
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 3500	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 1.7
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding: None

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding: United States Forest Service, land owner

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: : The Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System is managed by the Superior Cycling Association with a partnership agreement with the US Forest Service and in cooperation with Cook County. All trails are located on either US Forest Service or County lands. The Superior Cycling Association has an annual budget of over \$20,000 and annually budgets for trail maintenance to keep all trails open, safe, and rideable.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between December 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet: submitted**
- B. Visual Component or Map: submitted**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet: N/A**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements: N/A**
- E. Research Addendum: N/A**

Attachment A:

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet**

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Art. 4, Chp. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

Project Manager: Tim Kennedy

Project Title: Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountains Mountain Bike Trail

Organization: Superior Cycling Association

Project Budget: \$350,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 5.0 miles to be completed by December 1, 2020.

Today's Date: January 12, 2021



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Cook County has awarded a contract to Rock Solid Construction, LLC through a competitive bid process for completion of Segment 2 of this project-approximately 4 miles of single track mountain bike trail.	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: Federal Recreation Trails Program	secured	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500	\$ -
State: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Funds	secured	\$ 278,000	\$ 278,000	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

