



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: November 8, 2018

Date of Next Status Update Report: September 1, 2019

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: October 2020

Does this submission include an amendment request? ___

PROJECT TITLE: Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail

Project Manager: Bruce Beste

Organization: Voyageur Country ATV

College/Department/Division:

Mailing Address: Box 414

City/State/Zip Code: Crane Lake, MN 55725

Telephone Number: 218-391-5108

Email Address: bruce@cabinsoncrane.com

voyageurcountryatv@gmail.com

Web Address: www.VoyageurCountryATV.com

Location: Voyageur Country ATV is planning to designate and improve a 5.6-mile wooded trail from the resort community of Crane Lake to the Vermilion Falls US Forest Service Picnic/Recreation Area.

Total Project Budget: \$400,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$400,000

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

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.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Voyageur Country ATV is proposing a 538-mile trail system throughout northern St. Louis and Koochiching Counties in order to provide safe and designated routes for ATV riders. The core routes lie between Cook, Crane Lake, Orr, and Buyck, but proposed trails will extend to Ely, International Falls, and other cities.

As part of their proposed master plan, Voyageur Country ATV is planning to designate and improve a 5.6-mile wooded trail from the resort community of Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls USFS Picnic/Recreation Area (See Visual) for ATV/Snowmobile-usage. This route connects the Crane Lake area with the Vermilion Falls overlook and picnic area and is currently a snowmobile trail during winter. The club considers this a priority route within their core trail system since it avoids paved and gravel county roads and instead traverses through the woods, creating a more immersive experience for riders.

Improvements to the trail would include several culvert replacements and new installations, constructing drainage ditches, and installing a 250-foot long pier-supported boardwalk. The boardwalk piers will have significantly less impact to environmentally-sensitive wetland areas versus traditional options such as filling with earthen material. Corrugated metal culverts will be placed in other sensitive areas to provide water flow while allowing ATV traffic. This will help minimize trail rutting and undesired mud holes. The drainage ditches along the sides of the trail are also intending to help keep the trail surface dry and relatively smooth.

The route is already an established trail; however, approximately 1,000 linear feet of trail will need to be cleared as new trail through the woods to avoid an expansive pond. This area is frozen in the winter and does not affect snowmobile traffic; however, there isn't a reasonably feasible or cost-effective way to cross this area on ATV. The new corridor will be cleared at 12 foot width and height to provide adequate space for ATV travel.

The club has used funding from a couple of sources to develop a master plan, conduct environmental assessments (wetland delineations, permitting), design a bridge, and develop engineered trail improvement plans. Potential funding through the LCCMR would help with construction costs associated with the raised boardwalk, culverts, and other construction items. The US Forest Service owns the land affected by this project and has approved of the engineered plans through their NEPA process.

Apart from final environmental mitigation, the Crane to Vermilion Falls' route is ready to be improved. Once the trail is ATV-ready, it will provide a safer, more scenic route through the woods between Crane Lake and Vermilion Falls for tourists and locals.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES: (see below)

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Construction of the 5.6 mile trail from Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls

Description: Trail improvements, elevated boardwalk construction

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 400,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Project Bid	June 2019
2. Construction Commencement	July 2019
3. Construction Completion	September 2020

First Update September 1, 2019

Second Update March 1, 2020

Third Update September 1, 2020

Final Report between project end (June 30) and October 1, 2020

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Voyageur Country ATV makes it a priority to generate positive interest in our growing ATV trail system among our community and local media. We have created a map which includes a focus on the area between Crane Lake and Vermilion Falls. Once this trail is completed, including the elevated boardwalk, the map will reflect this improvement immediately. This trail will also be included on the winter snowmobile map as being a year-round accessible trail. Hundreds of these maps are given out to locals and tourists every season.

Once this trail is completed, we will host an event, inviting community leaders and local media to see this project. Media outlets will be instructed to acknowledge ENRTF support in all stories and coverage of the event. We will invite Destination Polaris and Midwest Outdoors to ride this trail. These two organizations have done filming here within the past year and have great enthusiasm about riding ATVs here in Voyageur Country.

We will post information about this project on social media, specifically our Voyageur Country ATV website and Facebook page. We will send updates to our membership every via the Club newsletter that goes to 450-500 addresses each quarter. In each of these actions, we will acknowledge the support of ENRTF.

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 September 1, 2019

Second Update March 1, 2020

Third Update September 1, 2020

Final Report between project end (June 30) and October 1, 2020

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: Construction costs

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project:	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: N/A
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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:	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: TBD Contractors will supply number of hours worked
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding

St. Louis County will be receiving the appropriation as fiscal agent for the Voyageur Country ATV Club Benchmark Engineering of Mt Iron, MN will contract and manage trail work construction including culvert replacements and new installations, construction of drainage ditches, adding gravel, etc. SEH of Duluth, MN will contract and manage the 250-foot elevated boardwalk construction. Both of these firms were vetted and hired through a fair and competitive bidding process by the City of Orr who acted as Voyageur Country ATV’s fiscal agent at the start of this project.

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Voyageur Country ATV Board of Directors – Role: Project Administration and Funding
 Voyageur Trail Committee – Role: Trail Maintenance
 Other Local ATV Clubs – Role: Future Planning and Project Development
 The All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM) – Role: Trail Marketing and Trail Development

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Long-term activities includes highlighting the regional significance and future development of the Voyageur Country ATV trail system. The trail system currently covers most of northern St. Louis County utilizing several forest roads, county roads and other trails. Future development will include the addition of several miles of new routes and the construction of trail features including bridges and boardwalks. Voyageur Country ATV will be working closely with other area ATV clubs to connect all regional trail routes to enhance the ability to attract more visitors to northern Minnesota.

In order to ensure future funds for trail routing and construction, the Voyager Country ATV will be applying for local, state and regional funds including Federal Recreation Trail Program, DNR Trails Programs, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, State Bonding Bill Funds and Iron Range Resources programs.

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 June 30 and October 1, 2020

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet attached
- B. Visual Component or Map attached
- 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, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n
 Project Manager: Bruce Beste
 Project Title: Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail
 Organization: Voyageur Country ATV
 Project Budget: \$661,740
 Project Length and Completion Date: June 2019-October 2020
 Today's Date: 11-8-2018



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
Benchmark Engineering - trail improvements, culverts		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
S E H, Inc. - Construction of elevated boardwalk		\$ 400,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL				
		Budget	Spent	Balance
OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT				
	Status (secured or pending)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-State: RTP funding	secured	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000
Local Grants, Donations	secured	\$ 37,500		
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind: Club labor to assist in construction	pending	\$ 74,240		
		Budget	Spent	Balance
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent			
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:				

PROJECT SITE LEVEL MAP
(MASTER PLAN ROUTE NO. 40)

