



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2023-147

Staff Lead: Corrie Layfield

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 12, 2023

Project Title: Grand Marais Mountain Bike Trail Rehabilitation: Phase II

Project Budget: \$200,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Paul Nordlund

Organization: Superior Cycling Association

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

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 22, 2023

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h

Appropriation Language: \$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Superior Cycling Association to rehabilitate and modify existing mountain bike trails at Pincushion Mountain to increase the trail's environmental sustainability and provide better access to beginner and adaptive cyclers.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Rehabilitate existing mountain bike trail to increase environmental sustainability through best trail building practices and to provide better user access through modifications allowing adaptive cycling opportunities.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The Pincushion Mountain Trail System is 2 miles from Grand Marais, MN and hosts 10 miles of singletrack mountain bike trail. These trails are up to 16 years old. Most of these trails were built to old design standards; some were hand built. Modern singletrack is wider and more sustainable. More modern singletrack design has become the standard expectation among mountain biking enthusiasts. Pincushion trails need rehabilitation to continue to provide the highest quality riding experience.

Our trails at Pincushion Mountain have seen a large amount of use in the years since they were built. Much of the treadway have seen some general/typical erosion issues. They need the reestablishing of proper drainages and removal of exposed rocks and roots for better sustainability and safer riding conditions. Boardwalks and tread also need to be widened to accommodate the growing demand of adaptive mountain bikes.

Under performing trail systems do not attract new, or retain, existing riders and result in the loss of financial donations, deferred maintenance, and poor rider experiences/loss of a reputation in the MTB community.

The trails need rehabilitating to correct maintenance burdens, accommodate increased traffic, and add accommodations for beginner and adaptive cycling riders.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The system currently offers trail built for mountain biking with features like exposed bedrock, rock gardens, hand-built trail, bermed descents, and stream crossings. The proposed project will modernize the outdated trail current singletrack standards of design and improve tread drainage, traffic flow and add beginner-friendly trail. Riders will benefit from the proposed project's increased sustainability which will create more rideable days (fewer wet trail closures) and reduce maintenance due to wet trail and vegetation encroachment. Another consideration is the rerouting of many of the trails as one-way, directional trails for rider safety.

The rehabilitation will create optional B-lines that will provide an easy and/or more difficult route choice. This will make the trails appeal to beginner and advanced riders using the same mileage of trail. Another advantage of b-lines is they aid in skills development for beginner riders.

Although not much new trail mileage results from this proposal, the actual mileage of tread will increase at Pincushion Mountain due to B-lines. The proposal seeks to accomplish more rider benefits with the same trail corridors.

The rehabilitation will also reduce the difficulty of winter fat bike grooming which will make for more consistent and better trail surfaces for winter biking.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The rehabilitation will improve drainage, increase safety, and decrease maintenance costs which protect and enhance the natural resource. Additionally, rehabbed trails will reflect current building technologies, and modernize the experience expected by today's riders.

Rehabilitation will result in other improvements like drier trail conditions (fewer wet trail closures), reduced annual vegetation removal expenses, and improved winter grooming and riding.

Although this rehabilitation will not address full ADA standards, we will be replacing all current boardwalk decking to accommodate hand bikes. This will allow us to comply with Superior National Forest rules and guidelines.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Trail Treadway Rehabilitation of Existing Trails comprising of approximately 8000 lineal feet of trail.

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Much of the trail treadway that exists at on the Pincushion Mountain MTB trail system is old and isn't in keeping with current trail standards. The rehabilitation of this treadway is essential to the quality of the trail in terms of sustainability and rideability. A professional trail building contractor will be hired to do this work with the proper machinery and skill to bring the trail treadway up to current best trail building practices.

All of the activities and milestones will essentially happen at the same time. This is linear work. The trail contractor will move through the system methodically and stage the work to be efficient. The total amount of trail affected by this rehab is approximately 8000 lineal feet.

They will be doing some corridor realignment to improve the flow of the trail, building rock armored crossings in wet areas for sustainability, modifying existing boardwalk for accessibility, rehabilitating treadway for sustainability and to improve the rider experience, build alternative lines form the primary trail to give riders features to help them progress their skills, and modifying a section of approved trail corridor to provide beginner terrain for new and progressing riders.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Advertise project for competitive bid	June 30, 2023
Contractor selection	July 31, 2023
Verify results of MN DNR Natural Heritage Review	July 31, 2023
Adjusting trail corridor alignments where needed (5% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Building rock armored drainages (10% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Modifying existing boardwalk to a 48" width. (15% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Rehabilitating trail treadway. (40% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Creating alternative lines for riders to create skills progression features (10% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Modifying a portion of trail to accommodate beginner riders. (20% of total work)	June 30, 2025
Project completion will be upon final inspection with contractor and SCA representative..	June 30, 2025
Weekly inspections with contractor and SCA representative to ensure quality and that budget is on	June 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Cathy Quinn	US Forest Service, Superior National Forest, Gunflint Ranger District	Land Manager	No
Tim Nelson	Cook County	Parks and Trails Director	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

We will continue to post signage encouraging best practices in trail stewardship for all users. We will post signage in accordance with ENRTF Acknowledgment Guidelines. AS with all of our funding partners, we will continue to credit LCCMR and the NRETF for the success of our trail system. We promote "Leave No Trace" wilderness use principles to help educate the user group as to the negative consequences to bad behavior in our wilderness.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System is managed by the Superior Cycling Association with a partnership agreement with the US Forest Service in cooperation with Cook County. All trails are located on either US Forest Service or Cook County lands. The Superior Cycling Association has a budget of over \$20,000 which includes trail maintenance to keep all trails open, safe, and rideable. SCA has over 15 years of experience working successfully with partners to plan, design, build, and maintain our system of 35 miles of mountain bike trails in Cook County.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountain Bike Trail	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$350,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Successful Bidder: Professional Trail Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The contractor who is awarded the bid will provide all of the labor and equipment for the project. They will be charging a daily rate based on crew size. This is to ensure quality of quantity of work. Crew members will be paid prevailing wages.				5		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$200,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$200,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [257e49d6-61e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of trails being rehabbed...

Financial Capacity

File: [a627e991-9f3.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
SCA 2022 Budget	7bc03232-f24.pdf
SCA Balance Sheet	aab88608-a58.pdf
SCA P&L	ab242ec4-dae.pdf
BOARD RESOLUTION LETTER	c2b7d505-bbb.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
USFS LETTER	123bd484-5b3.pdf
COOK COUNTY LETTER OF SUPPORT	9b405538-84e.pdf
Background Check	93d6a848-15d.pdf
MAP	5ca3d04b-809.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

At this time, we intend to move forward as planned. The contractors will follow our work plan outlined in this proposal. There are no changes expected.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Cook County