

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 271-G**

Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 455,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

**Summary:**

This project consists of designating and improving a 5.6 mile wooded trail from Crane Lake to the Vermilion Falls to accommodate ATV and Snowmobile users.

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**Name:** Bruce Beste

**Sponsoring Organization:** Voyageur Country ATV

**Title:** Board Member

**Department:**

**Address:** po Box 414

Crane Lake MN 55725

**Telephone Number:** (218) 993-2401

**Email** voyageurcountryatv@gmail.com

**Web Address**

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**Location**

**Region:** Northeast

**County Name:** St. Louis

**City / Township:** Crane Lake, Cook, Orr, Buyck

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The visual show the trail alignment from Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2019 Main Proposal**

**PROJECT TITLE: Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail**

**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.

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. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** Construction of the 5.6 mile trail from Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$455,000

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Project Bid</i>	<i>February 2020</i>
<i>2. Construction Commencement</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>3. Construction Completed</i>	<i>December 2020</i>



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal**

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

Consulting Engineer – Role: Project Design/Construction Administration/Project Management

General Contractor – Role: Project Construction – Hired Through Competitive Bidding Process

**Partners 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

**IV. 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 utilization 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. The 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.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

This project will be completed as proposed in the project activities section of this application.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title: Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail**

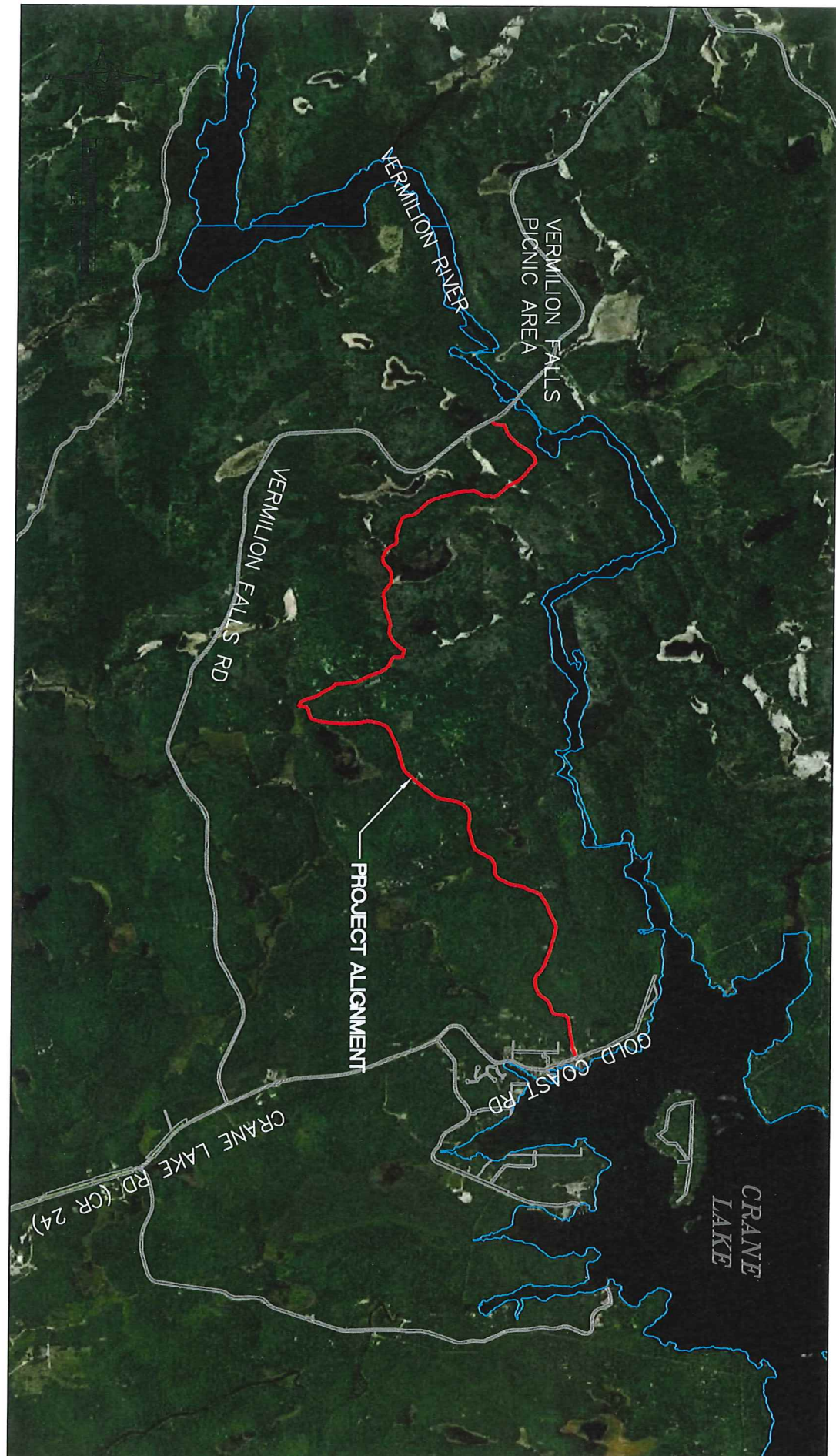
### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [3] years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Construction Cost: clearing/grubbing, 16 corrugated culverts with aprons, riprap, aggregate class 5, trail gate.	\$90,000
Construction Cost: 250' x12' recreation bridge, 10 spans of 25', 42" safety railing. Construction cost includes bridge installations.	\$365,000
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 455,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Federal Recreation Trail Program	\$150,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Crane Lake Trails, Crane Lake Snowmobile Club, Voyageur Trail Society	\$15,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	NA	NA
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	NA	NA
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	NA	NA
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	NA	NA
<b>Other Funding History:</b>	NA	NA

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





## **PROJECT TITLE: Crane Lake to Vermilion Falls Trail**

### **Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

#### **Project Manager Qualifications**

The overall manager for this project will be the Voyageur Country ATV Board of Directors, Trail Committee and club members. The ATV club will be assisted by consulting engineers, contractors, the MN DNR, local communities, other local ATV clubs. Additional support will come from St. Louis County and Koochiching County Boards and staff. The Voyageur Country ATV has completed a master plan that will guide them through the next phases of trail development and construction.

#### **Organization Description**

The Voyageur Country ATV club began in April 2015 with 66 members – primarily using existing wooded trails throughout northern St. Louis County. Over the last three years, the club has grown considerably to nearly 900 members – some of whom are non-residents of Minnesota. The club currently estimates that about 450 addresses, including over 70 businesses, 270 families and 110 individuals.

Annual memberships are open to individuals, families, businesses and include a quarterly newspaper, membership to ATVAM (All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota), and a subscription to Minnesota Off-Road Magazine. Group rides are organized and allow participants to explore all of the routes. Monthly club meetings are held at various locations throughout the trail system area which creates a wide community of involvement and support.

In 2017, along with a nine-member trail committee, the club was structured with a board that includes a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, co-secretary, trails administrator and (3) board members. Voyageur Country is also a member of the ATV Association of Minnesota (ATVAM), an organization that supports the future of statewide ATV usage. ATVAM has helped numerous clubs establish new trails and increase Grant-in-Aid funding. Eighty-four clubs are currently listed as members of ATVAM, including thirty-five in northeastern Minnesota alone.