



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-591

**Proposal Title:** Norpine Association Trail System Upgrades and Maintenance

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Patrick Kindler

**Organization:** Norpine Trail Association

**Office Telephone:** (218) 248-5137

**Email:** patrickkindler1@gmail.com

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** To protect the natural resource of the North Shore of MN, and to continue to expose more people to the sport Cross Country skiing, fat tire biking, and hiking

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$10,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** November 30, 2026

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Small Projects (G)

**Secondary Category:** Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

#### 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?**

In the Future

## Narrative

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

To protect natural resources while nurturing recent popularity in cross country skiing and safe trails the Norpine Trail Association has the need to upgrade many of its trails to address erosion, drainage issues, and erosion from recent increased rainfall. Upgrades to the Trail system would also address the recent increase in cross country skiing popularity.

**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.**

Upgrades include drainage issues, erosion, grading, trail widening, and culvert replacement. We would need to purchase grade fill for some washed out trail areas as well as the replacement of 3 large culverts located on our trail system that were recently washed out from large storms with high levels of rain during short periods of time. We hope the fixes will address future weather with high rain levels that we continue to see on the North Shore.

**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?**

Project Outcomes

1. Increase in usership of the Norpine Trail system specifically from people new to the sport of cross county skiing
2. Increase in environmental awareness and importance of natural resources
3. Decrease in erosion on the Trail system

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Fix/repair trails

**Activity Budget:** \$10,000

**Activity Description:**

The Norpine Trail association if awarded funds will immediately.

1. Hire and schedule local contractors to order and install 3 of the washed out culverts located on the trail system.
2. Norpine Trail Association will work with the local State Parks and DNR to order fill/gravel for the project.
3. Board member and other volunteers will move the fill to the areas in need. This is done with our equipment and volunteers.
4. Complete all projects by the first week in November of 2026.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Fix Repair Trails	November 30, 2026

## 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 Norpine Trail system Association raises funds throughout the year for trail maintenance. We didn't anticipate the amount of damage caused by storms this past year and do not have the funds necessary to cover the required maintenance. We are planning are future fundraising efforts to increase for such events.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Patrick Kindler

**Job Title:** Norpine Trail Association Board member

**Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.**

Patrick Kindler has been the Executive Director of One Heartland Inc. a 501c3 for over 10 years with an annual operating budget of \$1,300,000. He manages 7 year round employees and 50 seasonal employees. Operating a 93 acre Retreat Center and Summer Camping program located in Willow River MN. Patrick has over 16 years of experience at One Heartland managing and reporting on hundreds of grants while in his current position. He is currently a Resort owner with 4 large cabin rentals that sleep 40 people located in Lutsen MN. He is the Vice-Board Chair of the Norpine Trail Association and will be managing this project.

**Organization:** Norpine Trail Association

**Organization Description:**

The Norpine Trail Association is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including maintaining, preserving, and enhancing the historic Norpine Trail System in Cook County, Minnesota, (which includes Cascade River State Park trails, Deer Yard Loop trails and Hall-Massey trails) by:

Building and maintaining trail systems for public use;  
Educating trail users about safe and responsible trail use;  
Educating the public about the values and benefits of cross country skiing;  
Promoting appreciation of and care for public lands;  
Encouraging dialogue between trail users, public/private landowners and other user groups;  
and organizing events that utilize the Norpine Trail System.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Vice Board Chair		Trail Maintenance Manager			0%	1		-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Lamb Construction	Service Contract	Trail maintenance with 3 new culverts installed on the Norpine Trail System				0		\$8,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Tools and Supplies	fill/gravel	For use in securing culverts and filling washed out areas form storm damage					\$2,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$10,000

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
In-Kind	Cascade Lodge	Equipment usage and staff time	Secured	\$1,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$11,000**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes



Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
27-122-1100	Cook	Area where work will be taking place	Conservation Easement	40	35	-	Public	DNR	Has Not Begun
Totals				40	35	-			

## Restoration

**1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.**

That is correct, all land is protected by a conservation easement or public ownership

**2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.**

We are a small organization with 2 main purposes, restoration and maintenance of trails during the of season and grooming, education, and marketing during the winter months. Our organization meets monthly to review all needed works and is a hands on organization dedicated to improving our trails and the number of people using them.

**3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.**

We work closely with the DNR and State Parks, and SNA staff before any works is done on any of our trails. All of our work has already been discussed with the appropriate agency and approved. Because our trail system is located on State Land, Federal Land, and SNL land we have contacts with each necessary agency and follow all requirements when making improvements on the trail system.

**4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.**

Our strategic plan as an organization is to increase the amount of funds we reserve for trail maintenance moving forward given climate change and weather pattern changes. We are also partnering and organizing with other local trail system and Lutsen Mountains for a first ever fundraiser for the trail system on the North Shore to take place at their new event space opening up in 2026.

**5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.**

We will discuss such contracting with our DNR, SNA, and State Parks staff.

**6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.**

We will provide evaluations if we are chosen for funding.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [0947e2a0-898.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Norpine Trail Association Map including 3 areas of improvements in proposal. Lutsen, MN, Cook County...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
Norpine P&L March 2025	<a href="#">5c399516-2cd.pdf</a>
Norpine Balance Sheet March 2025	<a href="#">0b09aa74-070.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
approval	<a href="#">4db43712-0bc.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

Yes: Restoration,

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they 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, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

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?**

No

**Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?**

No

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care,**

treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

**Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:**

Patrick Kindler

**Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements**

Yes, I understand