

**Expansion to the Pine Center Grant-In-Aid ATV Trail
PROPOSED TRAIL DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SUMMARY**

**Township 43 Range 28 (Roosevelt Township) sections 4, 5, 35 & 36
Crow Wing County Land Services**

2/21/2020

Summary of Trail Proposal:

Crow Wing County desires to designate an additional 4 miles of existing trails and remove approximately 2 miles of existing Grant-In Aid (GIA) Trails in southeastern Crow Wing County, within Roosevelt Township, as an update to the designated multiple use recreation trail system known as the Pine Center ATV Trail. The majority of the trail will include designated motorized uses by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). All forms of non-motorized recreation uses will be allowed.

If approved by both Crow Wing County and the State of Minnesota, development and maintenance of the expansion to the recreation trail system would be paid for through the MN DNR Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant-In-Aid (GIA) program and the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club. The proposed recreation trail system will be open to recreational motorized use from May 15th thru October 31st.

If approved by Crow Wing County but not the State of Minnesota because of lack of funding in the Grant-In Aid ATV program, the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club may still move forward with all or part of the trail expansion. However, all expenses of trail construction and maintenance will be the sole responsibility of the North Metro Trail Riders or their successors.

Scope of Project:

The proposed trail expansion area encompasses over 240 acres of Crow Wing County managed public land and 480 acres of State (DNR) managed forestland. This trail proposal would expand the current Pine Center Grant-In-Aid from approximately 20 miles to 22 miles.

Currently, of the proposed 4 miles of new trail, 1.3 miles is considered unmanaged and undesignated by Crow Wing County and is considered a minimum maintenance forest trail. The remaining 2.7 miles is designated minimum maintenance and managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Department of Parks and Trails. All 4 miles of the proposed trail expansion are currently used by vehicles for recreation, public access, and forest management purposes.

Of the 2 miles of existing GIA trails to be removed, 1.5 miles is currently located on gravel township roads. The remaining 0.5 miles is on an existing forest road. In addition to the removal of existing trails, one of the existing trail heads will be eliminated and the remaining trail head will be improved and expanded.

Summary of Trail Purpose and Intended Uses:

The purpose of the trail addition and removal of 2 miles of existing GIA Trails, as per the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, is to provide diverse recreation opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open spaces. And, it has been evaluated by professional County Environmental Services Specialists consistent with the process identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan that was approved by the County board on February 14, 2012. For all areas of the trail, the primary and designated motorized use will be for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). The trail system's other uses will include all forms of non-motorized

recreation. And, some segments will be open to highway licensed vehicles, where safe and environmentally sustainable. Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) will not be allowed on any part of the proposed recreation trail system.

Proposed Trail Development Plan:

The following steps will be taken prior to official recognition as a GIA funded recreation trail system:

- 1.) North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club secures local government unit sponsor (Crow Wing County).
- 2.) North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club obtains GIA funding through the State of Minnesota to develop and maintain recreation trail system on State and County administered lands.
- 3.) Crow Wing County issues the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club the trail permit.
- 4.) Trail surfaces on existing forest trails within the trail system are rehabilitated (i.e., hardened, shaped, graded, etc.) to a sustainable and safe condition by the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club.
- 5.) Trails to be removed from GIA will be closed and signs will be removed by the North Metro Trail riders ATV Club.
- 6.) Crow Wing County adds gravel, paves the approach and part of the driveway on the remaining parking lot. In addition, Crow Wing County will also install two gates on the 2 miles of GIA trail segments to be removed to facilitate the existing GIA snowmobile trail while blocking all other forms of motorized traffic.
- 6.) North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club installs appropriate safety and regulatory signage as per “Forest Access Signing and Placement Guidelines (2005)”. Also, club installs other infrastructure as identified in project plan (i.e., trail head kiosks, etc.).
- 7.) North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club, Crow Wing County and the Minnesota DNR create brochures and other paper and electronic literature for trail use (i.e., safety, informational, advertising).
- 8.) Expansion to the Pine Center ATV Trail is officially complete.

Trail Signage Plan:

The County will utilize the MN DNR signage guidelines as identified in the “Forest Access Signing and Placement Guidelines (2005)”. The safety and regulatory signage will provide useful and necessary information to trail users in a consistent manner.

All trails will be identified for the intended uses to ensure users have a safe experience and the natural resources are protected. The County and the North Metro Trail Riders will mutually agree upon the placement of regulatory and directional signage for the trail expansion.

Crow Wing County will establish locations for new safety signage, aka “mile marker locations “, needed for the trail expansion consistent with other Grant-In-Aid ATV Trails. Crow Wing County will pay the initial costs for safety signs but the installation and any replacement signs will be the responsibility of the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club.

All other signs will be paid for by GIA funding (if applicable) and the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club. All signs will be installed by the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club.

Enforcement:

Currently, both the Crow Wing County Sherriff’s Office and DNR Conservation Officers respond to and enforce violations in Crow Wing County. The Sheriff’s Office receives funds to monitor County recreation ATV use from the Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Grant provided by the State of Minnesota. If the proposed recreation trail expansion is approved by Crow Wing County and possibly receives GIA funding, it will be periodically patrolled by Conservation Officers and the Sherriff’s Office based on trail user counts and incidences reported. Also, the Minnesota DNR’s Trail Ambassador’s Program will be initiated. Ambassador volunteers are responsible for greeting fellow outdoor enthusiasts, educating trail users, giving minor aid in emergencies, and providing useful information about responsible OHV use on public lands. Additionally, Ambassadors provide valuable trail user data to the County and State. An information kiosk at the proposed trail head informs trail users about safe, responsible, and legal recreation trail use practices. As part of the Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan’s “Trail Monitoring and Enforcement Plan”, the proposed recreation trail will be tracked on an annual basis by the Sherriff’s Department for recreation related complaints and incidents. Also, on a weekly basis, Crow Wing County will review Conservation Officer reports from the Minnesota DNR. And, as per the Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, a number of other measurables will be tracked on the proposed trail including:

- Review of Trail Ambassador Reports
- Meetings with DNR and enforcement partners regarding trail management coordination
- Tracking of Public Feedback and Trail User Comments
- Specialized Seasonal Trail Enforcement
- Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Trail Maintenance Agreements and Management
- Specialized Seasonal Trail Monitoring

Based on the monitoring information generated from those reports and meetings, Crow Wing County may realign, make use changes, and temporarily or permanently close portions of the trail at any time.

Proposed Trail Maintenance Plan:

NOTE: All maintenance will be performed by the North Metro Trail Riders ATV Club.

April – October: Trails are monitored and cleared of deadfall and debris as needed.

July - September: Where necessary, trails are mowed to improve visibility and reduce fire hazards.

May – October: Signage is inspected and/or replaced for user safety and enjoyability.

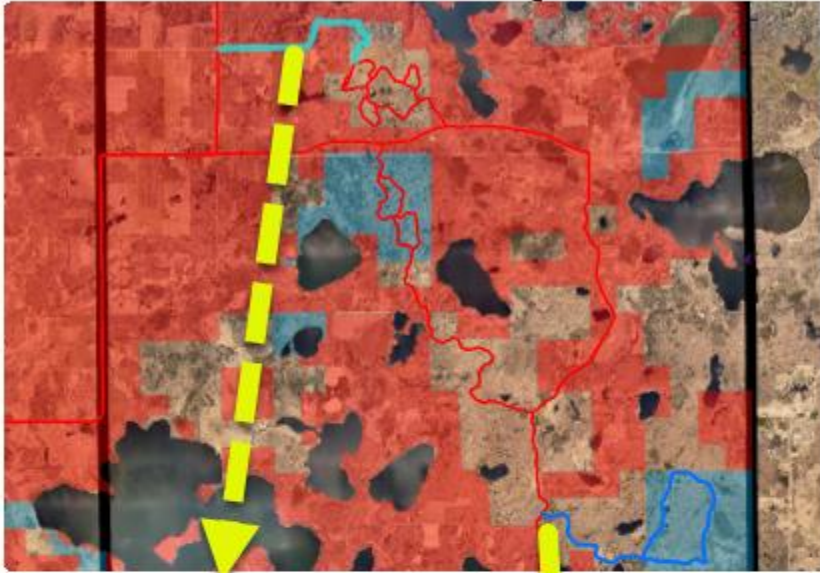
May – October: General maintenance and monitoring of the trail surface including blading, grading, and/or resurfacing as needed.

The proposed trail maintenance plan schedule is identified below:

Trail Maintenance Plan Schedule (ie. mowing, clearing, signage, blading etc.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clearing				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mowing							X		X			
Signage					X	X	X	X	X	X		
General Maintenance					X	X	X	X	X	X		

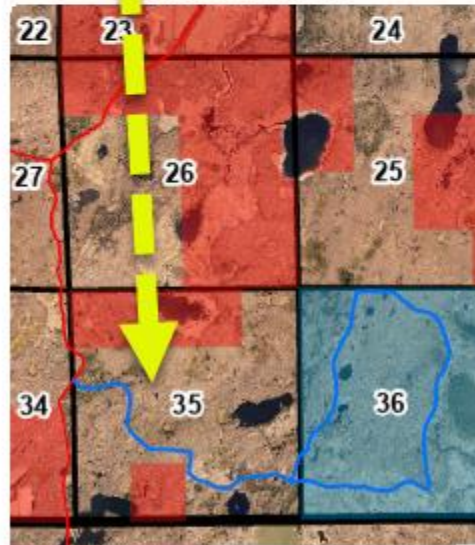
Pine Center Trail Expansion



Existing trail to be removed



New Trails



- Ownership**
- County
 - Private
 - State (DNR)
 - Federal
 - Municipal

Land Services
322 Laurel Street, Suite #15

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218-824-1010