

ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

November 27, 2020 Newsletter

-Action Alert-

**Please Comment Today On Projects
Adding Hundreds More Miles of ATV Trails**

Every Comment Counts!

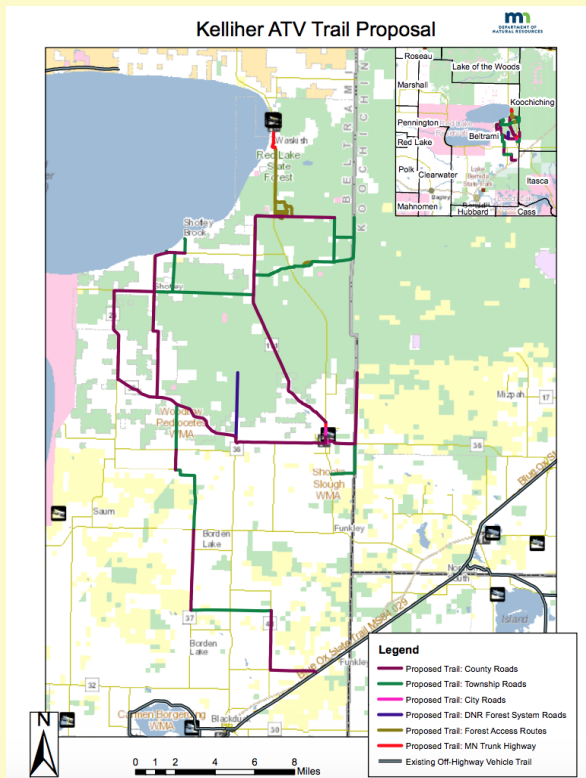
Thanks for taking a few minutes to read about and comment on these 3 projects. Your input during public comment periods is extremely helpful to move ATV-related projects forward. Please submit your positive comments, including any facts about your knowledge or experiences related to each project. Include your name, phone and email address, Thanks and watch for updates in future newsletters.

2) USFS Seeks Public Comments on Projects in the Superior National Forest. Deadline: Nov 30

*From Tim Engrav, Assistant Ranger,
Superior National Forest, LaCroix and
Laurentian Ranger Districts*

Various recreation site and trails deferred maintenance projects are proposed for funding on the Superior National Forest. The Forest Service is taking public comments on the proposed projects this week. Repair and improvement projects to

**1) Kelliher ATV Trail Proposal in Beltrami County: 100 miles
Deadline: December 23**



DNR Seeks Comments on Kelliher ATV Trail Project

The Minnesota DNR invites the public to review and comment on a proposal by the city of Kelliher to obtain Grant-in-Aid funding for an all-terrain vehicle trail in Beltrami County.

The off-highway vehicle (OHV) Grant-in-Aid program is a partnership between the DNR, a local government sponsor and an OHV organization to provide funding for trail development and maintenance.

The trail, known as the Kelliher ATV Trail, would provide approximately

trails like Johnson Lake/Franklin Lake/Maude Lake/Astrid Lake/Long Lake ATV Access Trails on the LaCroix District as well as Sturgeon River Trails and the Deepwater Lake ATV Access Trail on the Laurentian District are included in the proposal. There are also a lot of maintenance projects proposed for recreation sites and Forest Roads across the Forest. **(Press release is below)**



USDA Forest Service Invites Public Feedback on Proposed List of Deferred Maintenance Projects for Fiscal Year 2022

Milwaukee, WI (November 20, 2020) – The USDA Forest Service Eastern Region is seeking public feedback on a proposed list of deferred maintenance projects selected for Great American Outdoors Act funding in fiscal year 2022.

The Eastern Region’s project list can be found on the Eastern Region Great American Outdoors Act Projects webpage. These projects aim to address the agency’s \$5.2 billion deferred maintenance backlog and improve public access and quality of visitor experience through repair and restoration of roads, trails, bridges, recreation sites, and other facilities. The proposed projects were selected based on seven criteria:

- Reducing deferred maintenance
- Promoting management of America’s forests
- Improving visitor experience
- Contributing to rural economic development

98.8 miles of trail within Beltrami County. The route would follow existing roads and access routes. Maintenance would be provided by the Tri-County Dirt Devils ATV Club and the city of Kelliher.

The DNR will accept written comments until 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 23. Comments may be submitted: 1) Via email to

david.schotzko@state.mn.us .

2) Via mail to Dave Schotzko, area supervisor, Parks and Trails Division, Minnesota DNR, 3296 State Park Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601. A map of the proposed trail segments is on the project page of the DNR website. For more information, call Dave Schotzko at 218-308-2367.

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Supporting Facts You Can Use In Your Comment:

-This proposed 98.8 mile ATV trail system is an important addition to the ATV trail system in northwestern Minnesota.

-This route will connect Waskish and Kelliher to the Blue Ox State Trail, as well as to Blackduck and Bemidji and northeast up to International Falls.

-This route will connect the Blue Ox State Trail system to the south shore of Red Lake and provide important business and service connections.

-While much of this trail system will use public roads, because of the wetlands, private lands and tribal lands in this area, few other options exist.

-This new ATV Grant-in-Aid system will help move us closer to being able to connect the different regions of the

-Improving visitor access
-Ensuring health and safety
-Leveraging partner contributions and resources

“We want to hear from our visitors and stakeholders about what matters most to them and what they think is needed to improve their experience,” said Gina Owens, Eastern Regional Forester. “This effort to improve our infrastructure is the largest investment in a generation, and we want to make sure we wisely use it to meet our visitor’s needs and modernize our offerings.”

Signed into law this summer, the Great American Outdoors Act provides funding that will enable federal land managers to take aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects on national forest and grasslands through 2025.

The Forest Service is working closely with all interested publics to ensure the selected projects continue to meet local needs and maximize the benefits experienced by millions of Americans who visit and use their national forests and grasslands.

The public has until Nov. 30, 2020 to review and provide feedback on the proposed list. For more details on how to submit your feedback, visit The Great American Outdoors Act Virtual Sensing Opportunity at:

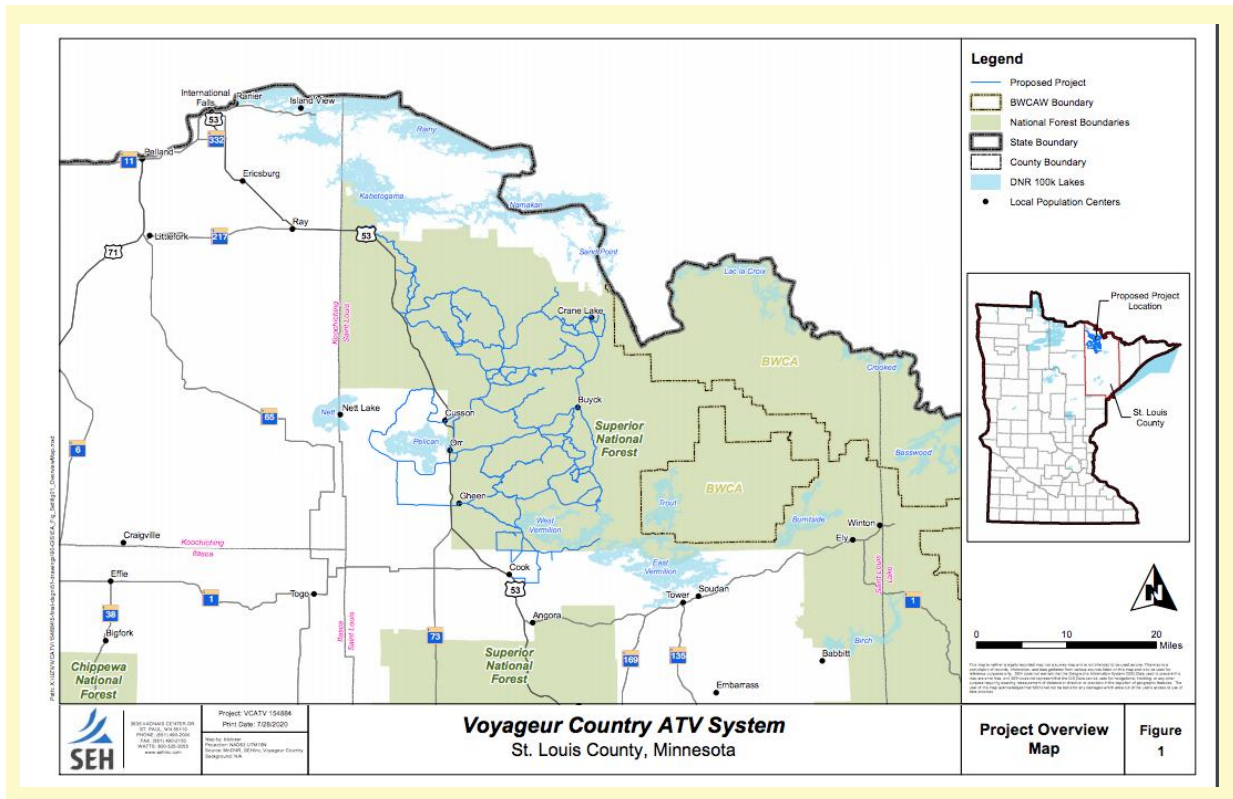
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=NP-2650>

state by legal, signed and maintained routes.

-Include a thank you note. Example:
Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposal. My ATV Club (club name) and its members support this project proposal and hope it can be funded and included in the ATV Minnesota Trail Assistance Program (Grant-in-Aid).

*For more information on the Tri
County Dirt Devils ATV Club visit
their Facebook page.*

3) Voyageur Country ATV Trail System Project
Connecting trails to towns
Deadline: December 16



From Voyageur Country ATV:

Attention members of our club and ATV Minnesota!

We need your input. The DNR has published our Club's trail worksheet for public review. This is great news for our club and we are hoping everyone can share some positive feedback with the DNR. Please send the DNR a comment that you support the EAW by December 16th when the public comment period will end. Thanks!

Supporting facts to include in your comment:

- This is another example of a positive relationship between the Superior National Forest and local clubs promoting safe, responsible motorized recreation.
- The project connects the towns of Cook, Orr, Ash River and Kabetogama, providing benefits to riders, businesses and communities.
- The routes are a combination of natural surface trails and gravel roads.
- The EAW includes a fire tower, overlooks and other destinations, with amenities to provide healthy outdoor recreation for local and visiting riders.
- Add your own thoughts on how this trail system will enhance the ATV riding experiences of you and your family.

Press release from the Minnesota DNR:

DNR seeks comments on environmental assessment worksheet for proposed Voyageur Country ATV System project

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comments through Dec. 16 on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for a proposal to expand and improve the Voyageur Country All-Terrain Vehicle System in northern St. Louis County.

The Voyageur Country ATV club is proposing to include 386.51 miles of paved, gravel, and native soil roadway and natural surface trail for motorized ATV use in its trail system. The trail system would connect several communities by adding 2.54 miles of newly constructed trails, designating and improving 69.83 miles of existing trail to allow for ATV use, and connecting to 314.14 miles of existing trails.

The EAW is available on a project page of the Minnesota DNR website. (*Editor's note: Do an internet search for "MN DNR OHV Voyageur Project."*) A copy of the EAW may be requested by calling 651-259-5115. The DNR is accepting written comments on the EAW through 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Comments should be submitted to the attention of Cynthia Novak-Krebs, project manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.

Comments may also be sent by email to environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us with "Voyageur ATV Project" in the subject line.



**MINNESOTA
WINTER ATV TRAILS**

ALWOOD - SQUAW LAKE TRAIL	IRON RANGE OHV/REG AREA
APPLETON OHV PARK	MATTHEW LOUREY TRAIL
BEMIS HILL TRAIL	MOOSE RIVER TRAIL
CHENGWATANA ST. FOREST	NEMADJI ST. FOREST
CHISHOLM TRAIL EAST RANGE TRAIL	SAGINAW GRADE TRAIL
FOND DU LAC ST. FOREST	ST. CROIX ST. FOREST
GANDY DANCER	SOO LINE NORTH/SOUTH CARLTON COUNTY
GENERAL CC ANDREWS ST. FOREST	WARROAD/ROSEAU TRAIL
GENOA TRAIL	SPIDER LAKE TRAIL

! BE SURE TO ALWAYS CHECK THE MINNESOTA DNR WEBSITE FOR CLOSURES.



ATV MINNESOTA

"Your Voice To Ride"

Dedicated Volunteers
Building Fun & Sustainable ATV Trails
For The Riding Public

Invite friends and family to join today!

See the mailing label on your ATV Minnesota magazine for the renewal date of your membership. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form to receive newsletters. And send renewals to ATVAM's mailing address: PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future of ATV riding in Minnesota.

As a family or individual member for just \$20 you receive:

- A subscription to the ATV Minnesota magazine (6 issues per year)
- Twice monthly newsletter by email with the latest news and information
- Membership card and bumper sticker
- Invitation to events, including our Legislative Summit and Vision Meeting in the spring, and the ATV Minnesota Ride & Rally in the fall, as well as general membership meetings
- Discounts with many of our business members
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward important bills that help provide funding for new trail systems

As a business member, for \$75 you receive:

All of the above, plus:

- Your business name, address, phone number, email address and website listed on the ATV Minnesota website
- Discounts on advertising in the ATV Minnesota magazine
- An official ATV Minnesota membership certificate for display in your business

To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.

ATVAM

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