

Emily-Outing ATV Trail System GIA ATV Trail Proposal Project Summary

Sponsor: Cass County

Proposer: Cass County
Over the Hills Gang ATV Club

Project Name: Emily-Outing ATV Trail System

Trail Administration: DNR Area 1A Supervisor in Bemidji, MN

Partners: Over the Hills Gang ATV Club; Cass County; Crow Wing County; Townships of Crooked Lake, Beulah, Thunder Lake, Smoky Hollow, and Emily; City of Emily, City of Outing, MNDOT, MN DNR.

Trail Location: Cass and Crow Wing Counties

Crooked Lake Township, Cass County: T139N-R26W, sections 1, 13, 23, 24, 26, 34-36
Beulah Township, Cass County: T139N-R25W, sections 2-12, 15, 18, 21, 22, 28-32
Thunder Lake Township, Cass County: T140N-R26W, sections 25, 26, 36
Smoky Hollow Township, Cass County: T140N-R25W, sections 26, 28, 30-36
Emily Township, Crow Wing County: T138N-R26W, sections 1-3, 9-11, 14-16, 21, 22, 27, 28

Miles of trail by type:

Total mileage of the proposed ATV GIA trail is approximately 56 miles, including:

- 1.8 miles of State forest minimum maintenance road
- 23.5 miles of State forest unit trail
- 6.5 miles of State Highway Right-of-Way
- 1.2 miles of County Road Right-of-Way
- 6.9 miles of Township road
- 12.9 miles of County-managed forest road
- 2.6 miles of Municipal road
- 0.3 miles of trail on private land

Project Description:

Cass County identified connecting communities with managed all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails as a priority in its Resource Management Plan. This grant-in-aid (GIA) ATV trail proposal will provide connections between: the cities of Emily and Outing; the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System; the Moose River trail system in Land O' Lakes state forest; multiple vendors of fuel/food/lodging, and concentrations of ATV enthusiast residences.

In accord with Cass County policy, the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club has obtained resolutions of support from all local units of government with land traversed by the proposed GIA Trail.

Over the Hills Gang ATV Club proposes to sign and maintain this trail for use by Class 1 and 2 ATVs from May 1-November 1 of each year, unless otherwise authorized or prohibited by the DNR, Cass County, or other public land manager. Portions of the proposed trail system, including the Moose River trails, will be subject to seasonal closures due to wet soil conditions. The proposed ATV GIA route will bring ATV riders into towns for services such as gas, food, and lodging and provide connections between managed ATV riding areas.

Administration of the trail will follow: guidelines provided in the State of Minnesota GIA OHV Program Manual; requirements of the trail sponsor, Cass County, and requirements of the towns and cities through which it travels.

The trail will be operated, maintained, and managed by Cass County with assistance and support provided by the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club. The cost of maintenance is eligible for up to 90% reimbursement through the GIA program. The sponsor and the DNR will share monitoring responsibilities. The trail will be monitored by the DNR Parks and Trails Area Office 1A located in Bemidji, supplemented by the DNR's Trail Ambassador program. Volunteer Trail Ambassadors promote safe, environmentally responsible operation of OHVs through informational and educational contacts and on-trail monitoring.

Trail Route Description:

The Emily-Outing Trail System has three main trail sections which connect lake property owners, local towns, businesses, and other trail systems while providing access to the scenery of the area. At any time, the trail user may observe wildlife such as deer, bear, fox, wild turkey, grouse, turtles, rabbits, ducks, geese, porcupine, wolves, and many bird species.

Section 1 starts at the town of Emily, in Crow Wing County. This section of trail is located in the road ditch along Trunk Highway 6, and it connects to the town of Outing with businesses such as the Wigwam Motel, Granny's Restaurant, and Heartland Motor sports. In both Outing and Emily the rider will find additional businesses that offer food, lodging and gas as part of their destination.

Section 2 provides a connection to the Soo Line North Corridor Trail. Approximately one mile north of the City of Emily this trail section splits away from trail section 1 and travels northeast. Beginning at the Ruth Lake public access, the trail travels through dense forest where the rider can observe wild raspberry bushes, mature red pine and hardwood trees. The trail continues northeast, passing by Smokey Hollow, Lawrence, Morrison and Reservoir lakes and eventually meeting up with the eastern side of the Moose River Trail and Pikus Forest Road where it crosses into Aitkin County and connects with the Northwoods Regional Trail system. Along this trail section, the rider will find rolling hills, large glacial rock deposits, scenic overlooks, and beautiful lakes. The trail also passes through the historic All-Pine Inn and campground. This trail connects the counties of Crow Wing, Cass and Aitkin and allows the rider to travel between the towns of Remer and Cass Lake to the north and Moose Lake and Onamia to the south.

Section 3 travels north from the town of Outing along Lake Roosevelt to connect to the Moose River Trail system. The 25 miles of Moose River Trail is within the boundaries of the Land O' Lakes state forest and provides riding opportunities for both the novice and experienced rider. These trails travel through dense forests, along small lakes that offer campgrounds, shelters, and trailheads for parking. Sections of this trail are rocky and hilly and other sections along the Ben Draper Forest Road are flat and open. Due to the hills, some sections of the trail may hold water during wet weather, which could result in trail closures to avoid damage to the trails.

Public Review:

The DNR invites written public comment on the proposal from April 4, 2013 to May 6, 2013. Copies of the proposal are available on the DNR website (www.mndnr.gov/input) as well as at the DNR Bemidji Parks and Trails office. Written comments on the proposal may be e-mailed to David.Schotzko@state.mn.us, faxed to 218-755-4063, or mailed to Dave Schotzko, Area Supervisor, DNR Parks and Trails, 3296 State Park Rd. NE, Bemidji, MN 56601. For more information, or to request a printed copy of the proposal, please call Dave Schotzko at 218-308-2367 or the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR (toll free).