

ATTACHMENT A

Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area
Proposed Bike Trail Expansion Project EAW

Public Comments Received

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Jeremy Compton <jmcompton1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:21 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: "CCSRA Trail Development EAW"

I do not think they should add bicycle trails.!!. But I do believe that adding to the ATV trails and connection from one to the other in Miller black bear trails would be beneficial to many locals..

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Swan, Mark W. <mwswan@stcloudstate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:47 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: "CCRSA EAW"

All,

As I see more and more state forests commercialized by the DNR I get very concerned of the word "Natural" being in the department title. I don't visualize a lot of "natural" when I read about excavators, kiosks, and event centers. Event centers, large gatherings, etc. are easily accommodated in the city, such as Crosby/Ironton, and may reduce the amount of trash left behind that comes with large groups of humans.

Please keep many of the forests in MN "natural" and practice that to show the department earns this word in their title. Thank you,

Mark Swan

Metzker, Kathleen (DNR)

From: Leisten <leisten@centurylink.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 4:43 PM
To: Metzker, Kathleen (DNR)
Subject: Cuyuna trails expansion question

Dear parks and trails

I Love Love Love the Cuyuna paved trails. You guys have done an awesome job developing the area. I was disappointed to see that there is no expansion of the paved trail in the Sagamore unit. Are you all still working to acquire land so you can go all around the lake on the west end? What about a bridge?

I understand that the paved trail is being continued to Deerwood. It's a needed sidewalk for the folks in Deerwood and Crosby to get to the scenic trails.

But I would really like to see the paved trails expanded to go around the lake in the Sagamore unit. I wonder if there is any government money that would promote handicapped access around the lake? Handicapped and elderly folks don't use the Mountain bike trails. But they could enjoy the area if you put in a paved trail. I am a little bored of going back and forth on the 8 miles of paved scenic trails (not counting the new trail along the road which is practical but not scenic and magical.) Thoughts?

Thank you Mary Leisten

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Patty Kealy <Patty.Kealy@conferencedirect.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 12:14 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCRSA EAW"

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing about the Sagamore proposed plan. I have been visiting there to trout fish, hike and cross country ski. The area is becoming more populated with fat tire bikes, and along with that growth in human population, there has been garbage all along the lake. This pristine area should not be developed into large parking for events, it should remain the pristine remote wilderness for people to enjoy in its natural habitat. I do understand the need for tourism and commerce, but the trails that exist should not impede further into what is now smaller and smaller remote wilderness areas of natural beauty.

I adamantly disapprove of such a project.

Patty Kealy, CDS
Vice President of Global Accounts
ConferenceDirect

29092 Voyagers Pass
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
Phone [\(612\)345-1411](tel:6123451411)
Email patty.kealy@conferencedirect.com

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MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Doug Moan <dmoaner74@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 7:53 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Trails

If there are new trails for bikes they need to be charged for use or a license fee for bike . Like what the snowmobilers pay for license and gas tax , they need to start paying !

Thanks

Doug Moan

"The best way to make children good is to make them happy."

— Oscar Wilde, author and poet

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: ggfisker@uslink.net
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2019 7:25 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

To whom it may concern, I have reviewed the EAW and would like to express my support for this project.

Gus Fisker

email ggfisker@uslink.net

mailing address: 590 Palmer Drive, Pine River, MN, 56474

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: john Savaloja <johnsavaloja@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:54 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA EAW

In EAS p16, pt 9 differs from figure 9 with a proposed trail system south of Maroco placed on indicated iron bearing stockpile? Page 22 of EAW states no additional waste water being produced by new trails & estimated additional biker? Thank you.

John Savaloja 18733 CR 34 Crosby Mn 546441



Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 3

7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425

Office Phone: 218-828-5700

Fax: 218-828-5814

Toll Free: 1-800-657-3971

May 6, 2019

Ms. Kathy Metzker
EAW Project Manager
MN Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: C.S. 1806; R.P. 132.892 (MN 210)
Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development EAW
Crow Wing County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Metzker:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the above-referenced Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and would like to offer the following comments:

1. MnDOT has a State Highway (MN) 210 project that will reconstruct 11 miles of road surface, replace/repair pipes and improve access on MN 210 from the end of the four-lane in Brainerd to Ironton in 2019.
 - a. An element of this project includes changing the existing turn-lane configuration at Crow Wing County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 59 from a left-turn bypass lane to a left-turn lane. The Rural Intersection Conflict Warning System (RICWS), which advises motorists when traffic is approaching the intersection, is planned to remain deployed at this location.
 - b. Additional information on this project can be found on MnDOT's project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/projects/2019/h210/>.
2. The EAW identifies an estimated Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of 5,100 near Crosby and 5,600 near Ironton. MnDOT records also show the AADT of MN 210 near Riverton and the Crow Wing CSAH 59 intersection is 9,700 as recorded in 2017. Higher traffic counts near CSAH 59 are related to the estimated 4,250 AADT of Crow Wing CSAH 12 that connects to Deerwood. MnDOT's interactive traffic data application can be accessed here: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/tma.html>.
3. There is a history of crashes at the MN 210/CSAH 59 intersection due to limited sight distance of the curve and high embankment. We have concerns with increased traffic at the MN 210/CSAH 59 intersection, particularly during special events, as it will increase the risk of crashes at the intersection.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Ms. Kathy Metzker
EAW Project Manager
MN Department of Natural Resources
C.S. 1806; R.P. 132.892 (MN 210)
Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development EAW
Page 2
May 6, 2019

4. The EAW acknowledges two upcoming State Highway projects in the vicinity, including:
 - a. MN 6 pedestrian tunnel to connect the paved Cuyuna Lakes State Trail between Portsmouth Mine Lake and Croft Mine Historic Park in Crosby in partnership with the City of Crosby and the MN DNR. Construction is currently planned between July - August 2019. Additional information on this project can be found on MnDOT's project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/crosby-ironton/trail/>.
 - b. MN 210 in Crosby - Ironton that primarily includes reconstruction from 2nd Street SW to east of 3rd Avenue NE in Crosby and resurfacing from 2nd Street SW in Crosby to west of 6th Avenue SW in Ironton. Construction is currently planned in 2021. Additional information on this project can be found on MnDOT's project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/crosby-ironton/index.html>.
5. For informational purposes, MnDOT accepted project recommendations for Corridors of Commerce program funding prioritization in 2018. Statewide, 173 eligible projects were recommended, evaluated and scored. Among these projects was a two-lane to four-lane conversion project on MN 210 from Pillager to Ironton. This project was not selected during the 2018 Corridors of Commerce scoring process and there is not a schedule or funding dedicated for an expansion project.
6. There shall be no net increase in storm water runoff to the MnDOT right of way from said property. Computations of all storm water directed toward the right of way shall be provided to MnDOT. Contact Rich Munsch, District 3 Permits Supervisor, at 218/828-5778 for additional information.
7. Since the property abuts MnDOT right of way, a permit is required to perform any work in the right of way. Contact the above-mentioned District 3 Permits Supervisor for additional information.

If you have any further questions or comments, please call me at 218/828-5780.

Sincerely,



Jon Mason
Senior Planner

mIn

ecc: MnDOT District 3 Entrance Group
Deb Moynihan, MnDOT Environmental Stewardship Office

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Colin Ryan <cpbeachdub@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 2:11 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCRSA EAW

To whom it concerns,

I am writing in response and in support of further development of the trail system at Cuyuna. My family and I have enjoyed the area immensely prior to the development of the trail system and since the establishment of the trail system around 2011. It has been great watching the old mining pits transformed into a nature playground that fosters development in people in all stages and aspects of lifespan. Not only does the CCRSA promote togetherness and healthy lifestyle, it is also restoring the area of Ironton and Crosby industrially, commercially, and economically. The disruption to the current vegetative growth and nature that has sprung since the closure of the mines is very minimal being the trails are narrow and outdoor enthusiasts like bikers, campers, kayakers, etc have a great respect for nature and doing most minimal harm while enjoying it. We look forward to the continue growth of the trail system and the area.

Sincerely, The Ryan Family

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Meredith Novak <alaskanbackdoor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 11:30 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Future Cuyuna Trails - EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores. It will also bring in riders for different abilities as more challenging trails are added to our system.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by— younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for. It has also brought a healthy high school mountain bike team that will help ground the young people in this area.

As a mountain bike guide and instructor, I see many families with younger children getting active in the outdoors. I also see many people nearing retirement age that are seeking a way to be active getting on a mountain bike. There are more camping facilities and more specialty shops coming to the Crosby area.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Dale Lueck
State Representative
District 10B
Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

May 14, 2019

MN Department of Natural Resources
Ecological and Water Resources
Attn: Kathy Metzker
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Re: Comments on Environmental Assessment Worksheet CCSRA Trail Development

Dear Ms. Metzker,

I find the recently completed Environmental Assessment Worksheet on the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA) trail development project more than adequate.

The trail development project conforms to the long term development goals outlined in the CCSRA Master Plan. Upgrading and adding additional mountain biking trails to the already impressive network is critical to achieving continued growth in the use of the recreational area.

CCSRA has become an integral part of our region's identity and economy. The diverse recreational opportunities provided at the CCSRA help to diversify the local economy.

Expansion of the bike trail network, improving access to Miner's Mountain Lookout, adding parking and other amenities is critical to fulfilling the goals outlined in the CCSRA master plan.

While CCSRA staffing levels isn't covered by the EAW, it is also imperative that the staffing levels be increased to match the impressive growth in visitations to the recreational area. This facility is one of Minnesota's premier outdoor recreational facilities and thus the staffing level must keep pace with the expanding activities at this exceptional public resource.

It is strongly recommended that the EAW be accepted and this project move forward without any further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale K. Lueck", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale K. Lueck
Minnesota House of Representative District 10B

Copy to: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, Parks & Trails Division Director Erica Rivers



MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Ken Baalson <kenlor@emily.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:03 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Mountain Bike

MN DNR

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank you.
Laurel Baalson
21556 Tower Rd
Emily, MN 56447

Sent from Lauries iPhone

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Austin Babler <babler.aust@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:46 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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My family and I moved to the Crosby area almost 3 years ago and the rec area and bike trails were a major factor in that decision. It has been great to watch the community grow and take shape based on the tourism the CCSRA brings in.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank you
Austin Babler
31189 Seemont Rd
Crosby, MN 56441

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: John Berg <bergie49@brainerd.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:03 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA expansion

I would like to voice my support of the proposed expansion of CCSRA mountain bike trails and associated infrastructure. Continuing growth of the mountain bike trails and infrared will provide economic growth, riders pleasure of our beautiful area and interest in preservation of our environment.

John C Berg

Sent from my iPhone

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Denise DeBoer <drdb3@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:09 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: "CCSRA Trail Development EAW"

CCSRA Trail Development,

I am a cabin owner in the area and am very much in support of the proposed 50 mile trail network. My guests and myself have hit every trail several times over the years. What a gem to have in this community! Crosby, Ironton, Deerwood, Cuyuna and more reap the benefits of another family fun activity to bring to the area. Supports the local businesses, new and old.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,
Denise DeBoer-Stutelberg
Deerwood, MN

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Eric Ekstrand <doubleedesigns@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 9:36 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Mountain Bike Trails

Greetings,

My name is Eric Ekstrand, I'm writing to add my name in support of the additional trails to the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network. I live in Minnetonka MN with my wife and two boys (ages 11 and 14). I usually visit the Cuyuna area about once or twice a year - solely for the bike trails. However, I haven't spent the night up there since the trails opened because we can ride all the trails in one day. As it is though, we just booked a rental home for Father's Day weekend, and have talked another family into joining us up there, it sounds like they're planning on staying at Rutger's. I'm sure we'll stop at the brewery for a couple beers (the adults, not the kids), we'll get groceries at the Super One, and get pizza at Jimmy's. I prefer Louie's Bucket of bones, but my older son is afraid of the older women that runs it ;-). Anyhow, this is all money coming into the area that would never happen with out the trails.

And here is the standard boiler plate part of the letter. These trails are an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Best regards,
Eric Ekstrand
Minnetonka, MN

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Emily <mmms@emily.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 12:17 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

I am amazed at what these trails have done for this whole area, not just Crosby and Ironton. These trails have changed my life, my husbands life and my sons life as we all got into mountain biking and we ride several times a week (not always in Cuyuna but we do numerous times a summer and winter).

Marcia Schroeder
21682 Tower Rd
Emily, MN 56447

Marcia

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Mark Gujer <markgujer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:31 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

To whom it may concern:

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. We have already seen evidence of this in new restaurants, housing, real estate sales and merchant shops.

Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by—younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

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Mark W Gujer
23080 Cross Drive
Deerwood MN 56444

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Traci Gujer <tracigujer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 6:32 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA

Good morning,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. This trail system brings in new restaurants, business, housing, economic stability and future new local residents. This is one reason we have stayed locally and continued to be apart of this forward moving area.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this project. Minnesota is great with the help of our DNR and it's great people.

Truly,

Traci Gujer

tracigujer@gmail.com

218-820-0576

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Aaron Hautala <aaron@strateligent.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:02 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Public Comments for CCSRA Expansion

This sender might be impersonating a domain that's associated with your organization. [Learn why this could be a risk](#) [Feedback](#)

We are in full support of and for the CCSRA expansion allowing additional mountain bike trails to be constructed.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Aaron Hautala
22632 Agate Shores Road
Deerwood, MN 56444
218-851-6749

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: RaeAnn Hecker <rnistler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:32 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

To Whom it May Concern,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

On a personal note, my family has been proud residents of Crow Wing County for the past 5 years, and the Cuyuna Rec Area was one of the big reasons why we decided to consider the area. The mountain bike trail system has had an immensely positive impact on the town of Crosby and Ironton that has been simply amazing to watch. The amount of new businesses that now call the area home are largely due to the folks that are coming to enjoy this beautiful area. While looking for our place to call home, we were deterred from the Crosby area due to the reputation of the area at that time. We are now trying to figure out just how we are going to be able to retire in that area to enjoy the beautiful lakes and trails systems that have sparked our love for outdoor recreation.

These trails make a huge difference, and I hope they are around for my kids to enjoy with their own families.

Thanks much for your consideration,

RaeAnn Hecker and Family

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: RaeAnn Hecker <rnistler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:35 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: RE: We have received your comment

My apologies.. I did not include our name and address.

Mitch and RaeAnn Hecker
7961 Ski Chalet Dr.
Breezy Point, MN 56472

Thank you!

RaeAnn Hecker

From: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR) <environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:32:09 AM
To: RaeAnn Hecker
Subject: We have received your comment

Thank you for providing comments on this environmental review document. We will review the comments you have provided. Responses to all substantive comments will be included in the official record. If you have provided your address, you will be included in mailings or electronic distribution of the record.

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: dustin juntunen <ricerod@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10:44 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA TRAIL DEVELOPMENT EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Dustin Juntunen
1513 south 7th st
Brainerd mn 56401

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Mary L Manlick <auntiemary@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 6:51 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

Dear Dept of Natural Resources,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by—younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

I have worked in Crosby for over 30 years and it has only been within the last few years that I have really discovered the beauty that was always out the back door and that I had been missing. I started biking down the paved trail after work, then one day I decided to take the Boot Camp trail back to the paved trail. It was scary, but the most fun I had had in a long time. It was so awesome to see the remains of the mining days and to enjoy the nature around me. I now ride only the mountain bike trails almost every day after work. I take pictures along the way as it isn't just about biking to me. I love the different smells of the woods and stopping to hear the frogs in the spring. I stop to look over a mine pit when the sun is setting or to listen to a loon singing. I have experienced many different animals and have met many different people on my rides. People come from all over to ride at CCSRA. I have met both young and old and everyone is always happy and in good spirits, which is saying a lot in this day and age. There are many things in life that bring stress or sadness, just listening to the news or going to work. I personally use days of vacation to attend doctor appointments with my aging parents and cancer treatments with my Dad. I use mountain biking as my stress reliever. My daily get-a-way. Every day I am grateful for the gift of the existing trails and look forward to more with the expansion. I am also a member of the mountain bike trail crew, so I can help preserve the great trails we have.

Thank you for the wonderful area you have helped create and allow us to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Mary L Manlick

902 12th Ave NE
Brainerd, MN 56401

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Tyler Monda <tyler.h.monda@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 6:37 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

Dear Kathy Metzker,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thanks,
Tyler

Tyler Monda
tyler.h.monda@gmail.com
218-838-9195

14505 Grand Oaks Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Matthew Nelson <bmenelson18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:57 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

To Whom it may concern,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

--

Matthew L. Nelson
17510 25th Ave N.
Plymouth, MN
55447
612.910.3514 (Cell)
BMEnelson18@gmail.com

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Johnny Pugh <UncleFester98@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:16 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Biking Trail Expansion

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

I love the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike trails and I drive up from the Twin Cities 15-20 times a year to ride there. My average stay is 3 days. I am looking forward to more trails in the area!

Thanks,
Johnny Pugh
668 Como Ave
St. Paul MN 55103
651-485-0451



Sleeping Bear Tree Farm

PO Box 242
Ironton, MN 56455-0242

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Attn: Kathy Metzker
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Dear Ms. Metzker:

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Martin C. V. Johnson
Managing Member
Sleeping Bear, LLC

info@sleepingbeartreefarm.com

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Sadie Wunder <sadiewunder@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:46 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

--
Sadie Wunder

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Kelly Ziegler <kziegler102@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 4:18 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Kelly Ziegler
21479 Rabbit Lake Dr
Crosby, MN 56441
218-838-9641

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Alison Swoboda <alisonswoboda@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:57 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

This letter is in support of expansion of the CCSRA Trail system. It has been an integral component to why I, a professional young adult with many employment prospects, have chosen to remain in central Minnesota and provide medical care to veterans at the VA Health Care System.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,
Alison Swoboda, PA-C
VA Medical Center
4801 Veterans Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Sent from my iPhone

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Michael Baetz <mpbaetz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:18 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

To whom it may concern:

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely, Mike Baetz

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Paul Bergren <pbergren@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:45 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

Hello,

I am writing in support of The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trails! I am a seasonal resident of the area (Deerwood to be exact). The mountain bike trails at Cuyuna are a huge part of our area's identity and economy. The Cuyuna mtb trails have already helped existing businesses and the creation of new ones. Furthermore, I believe the proposed 50-mile trail expansion will increase economic impact even more. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails, which increases its appeal to potential visiting riders and duration of their stay to our area. These are highly regarded trails and riders travel to ride them. Expanding the trails increases their appeal as a travel destination.

Also, I believe these trails and their economic impact give a reason for residents to remain in the area and others to relocate here, improving our economic health. Plus, these trails have improved the fitness level of residents! Perhaps this is hard to measure, but some residents of the area got no cardiovascular exercise before these trails were built. Many have discovered a fun and enjoyable way to get exercise.

Please make sure the expansion of the Cuyuna mountain bike trails goes forward.

Regards,

Paul Bergren
pbergren@gmail.com

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Haglund, Gail (MDH)
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:17 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Cc: Hennessy, Steve (DNR); Minerich, George (MDH)
Subject: Comments on the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development EAW

Hello,

My name is Gail Haglund and I am a hydrologist in the Source Water Protection (SWP) Program at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). George Minerich (SWP planner) and I assist the city of Riverton with implementing measures in their wellhead protection plan. The city has specific measures regarding the need to identify and assess potential impacts to the aquifer serving their wells from proposed land-use changes within their Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). In light of these measures, I have reviewed the EAW and have the following comments/corrections:

1. Figure 5 shows the wellhead protection boundaries that transect the Sagamore Unit. As part of this assessment, please also note the location of the city of Riverton's emergency response area (ERA) and DWSMA boundaries. These are important protection areas for the city's drinking water supply. The ERA is equivalent to a one-year travel time estimate, while the DWSMA represents the entire area to be managed by the city. These areas are shown on the attached map called: Riverton Drinking Water Protection Areas. Note that a majority of the proposed trailhead and event space is within the city of Riverton's DWSMA.

The results of microbiological sampling conducted since the establishment of the city's DWSMA has confirmed the vulnerable nature of the city's wells. The central portion of the proposed event space abuts the south side of the ERA boundary. It is our understanding that there will be a parking area(s) within the event space for 80 vehicles, with additional space to accommodate another 350 vehicles during special events. Because of the vulnerable nature of the city's wells and the potential for drinking water contaminants in stormwater runoff from the parking areas, we recommend locating stormwater treatment areas some distance away from the ERA and even beyond the portion of the WHPA that is within the proposed trailhead and event space, if possible (page 23).

2. If a new well is constructed as part of this project, please note that a well construction notification (similar to a permit) along with the appropriate fee must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and not to Crow Wing County as indicated on Table 6, page 12. Some counties in Minnesota have assumed responsibility for regulating well construction through delegation agreements with the MDH, however, Crow Wing county is not currently a delegated program. In addition, the well must be constructed by a licensed water well contractor.

3. If a new well is constructed to serve the public at the Sagamore Unit area, please be aware that it will be classed as a noncommunity public water supply well. As such, the well and public water system will be under the regulatory jurisdiction of the MDH, which will include sanitary inspection and monitoring requirements.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or comments. Thank you! -Gail

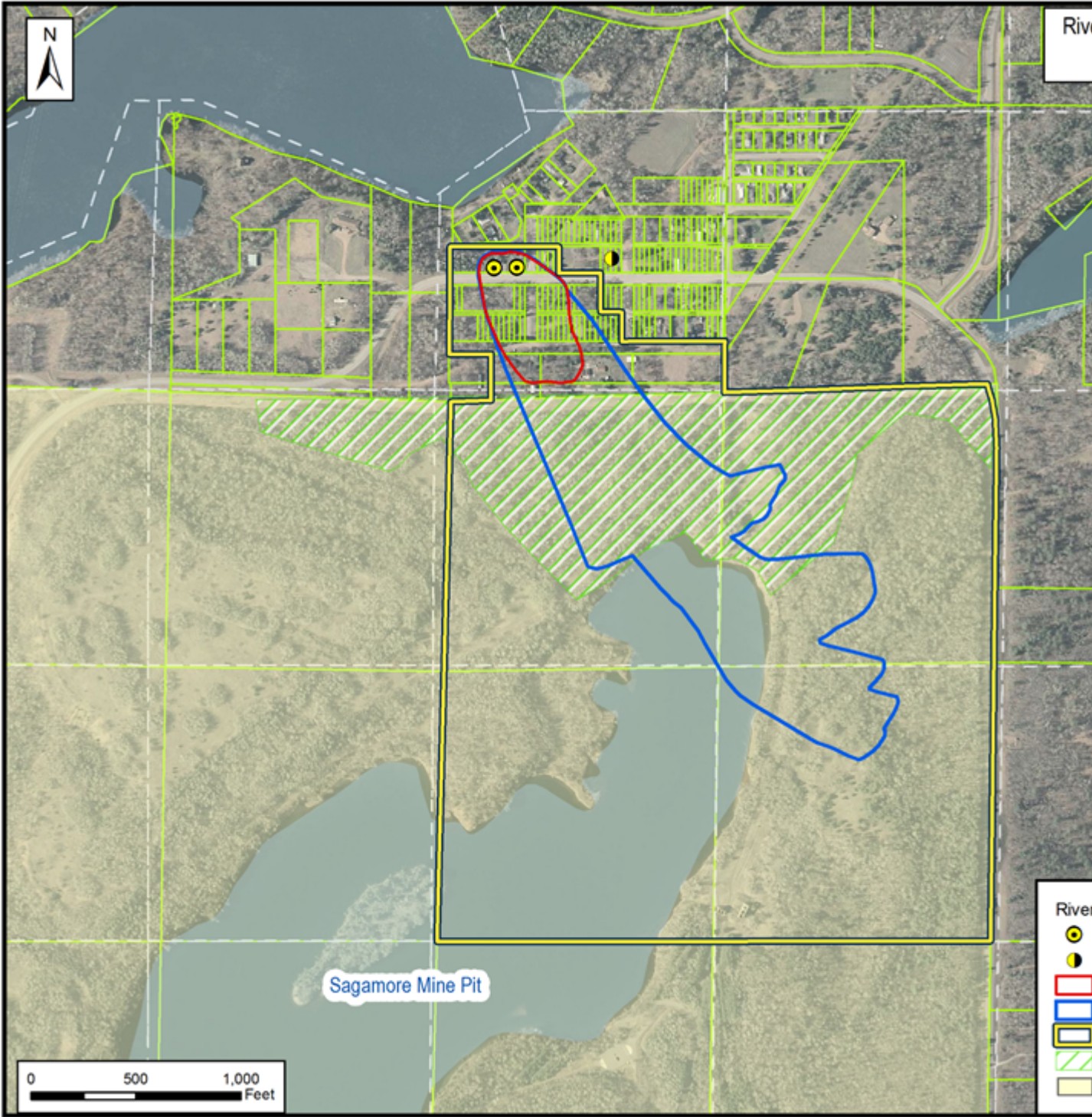
Gail Haglund

Hydrologist | Source Water Protection Unit

Minnesota Department of Health

Office: 651-201-4691





MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Minerich, George (MDH)
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 12:56 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR); Hennessy, Steve (DNR)
Cc: Haglund, Gail (MDH); Dave Neiman (dave.neiman@mrwa.com)
(dave.neiman@mrwa.com)
Subject: RE: Comments on the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development EAW

Hi All:

Please note, if the well is constructed for public use, the well casing will also have to be grouted for its full length by the well driller at time of well construction. I concur with all of Gail Haglund's other comments.

Thank you,

George Minerich

Planner Principal, MDH Source Water Protection

George Minerich
Wellhead Protection Planner
3333 West Division Street, Suite 212
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Minnesota Department of Health

Office: (320) 223-7314

george.minerich@state.mn.us



From: Haglund, Gail (MDH) <gail.haglund@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:17 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR) <environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us>
Cc: Hennessy, Steve (DNR) <steve.hennessy@state.mn.us>; Minerich, George (MDH) <george.minerich@state.mn.us>
Subject: Comments on the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development EAW

Hello,

My name is Gail Haglund and I am a hydrologist in the Source Water Protection (SWP) Program at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). George Minerich (SWP planner) and I assist the city of Riverton with implementing measures in their wellhead protection plan. The city has specific measures regarding the need to identify and assess potential impacts to the aquifer serving their wells from proposed land-use changes within their Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). In light of these measures, I have reviewed the EAW and have the following comments/corrections:

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Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or comments. Thank you! -Gail

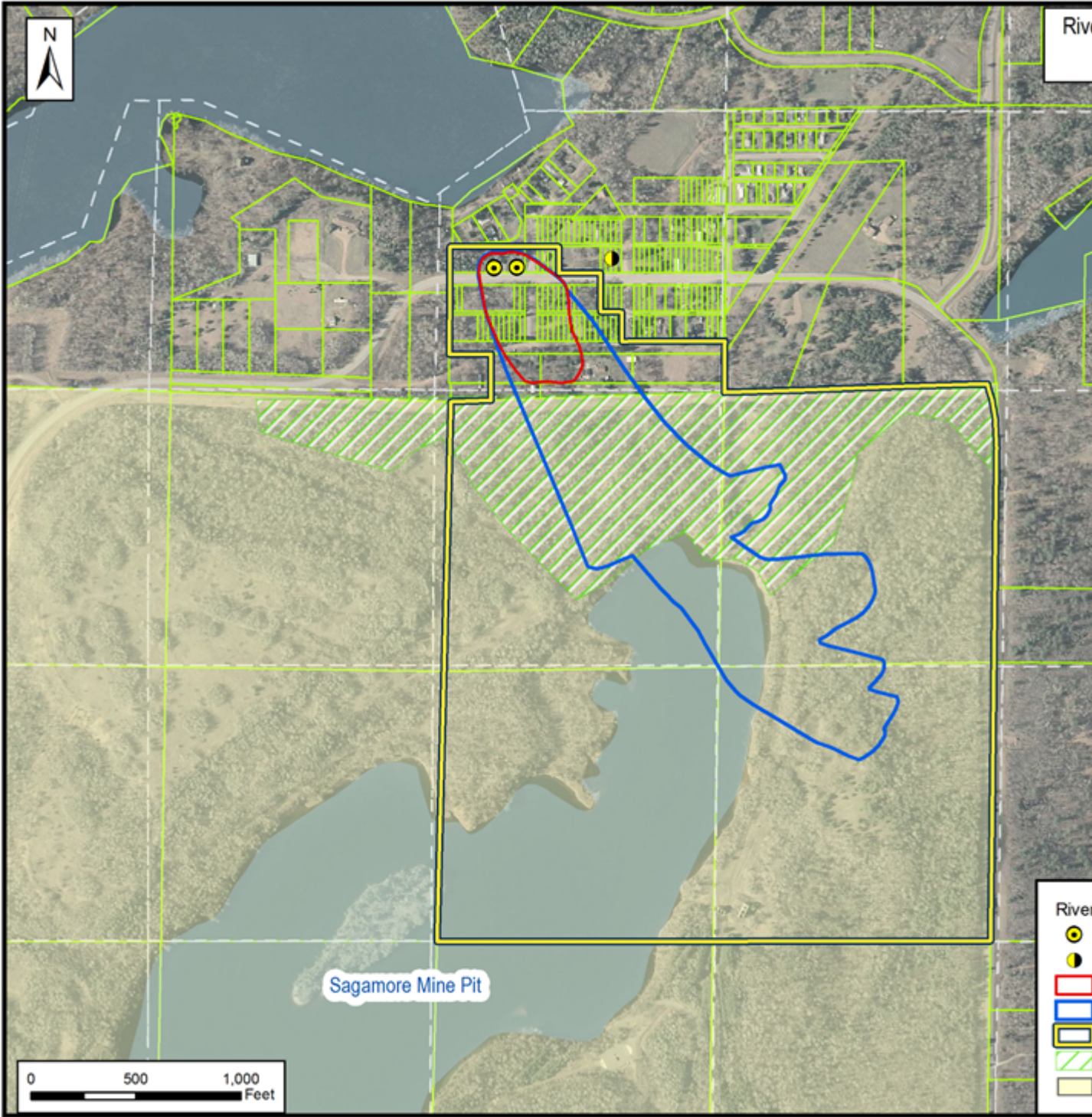
Gail Haglund

Hydrologist | Source Water Protection Unit

Minnesota Department of Health

Office: 651-201-4691







May 17, 2019

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Attn: Kathy Metzker
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

To the Division of Ecological and Water Resources,

On behalf of the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion.

As a voice of business for the Cuyuna Lakes, the Chamber of Commerce seeks to enhance economic growth through partnerships with businesses, community organizations and government agencies to better ensure the region is a vibrant and prosperous place to work, live, and play.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by— younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Respectfully,

Jessica Vukelich
Cuyuna Lakes Chamber
PO Box 23
Crosby, MN 56441
Jessica@cuyunalakes.com

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Laura Huisinga <laura.huisinga@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 1:33 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Laura Huisinga and myself along with my husband, Nick, own Cuyuna Brewing Company in Crosby, MN. Once we chose this location to open our brewery is the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores. These trails are vital to our business and their expansion ensures we will continue to succeed.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by—younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank you,

Laura Huisinga

Cuyuna Brewing Company

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Matt Kilian <mkilian@explorebrainerdlakes.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 4:33 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Cc: Aaron Hautala
Subject: Support for Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

This area, and the emerging sport of mountain biking in general, has become a major tourism asset in the Brainerd Lakes Area. It also enhances our quality of life and helps us attract and retain families to fill an increasing number of jobs. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

The Brainerd Lakes Chamber, which represents 1,000 businesses within a 25-mile radius of Brainerd, has formally adopted the expansion of these trails as a top government affairs priority. Please ensure that the expansion of this world-renowned trails system moves forward, and feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Matt Kilian, President
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce
218-822-7111 Direct | 320-267-1756 Cell

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: ron plinske <bvpbikes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 10:46 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

Hello MN Dnr,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank You,
R. Plinske
8426 Red Pine Circle
Baxter, MN

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Jenny Smith <jennifersmith8183@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 2:29 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Expansion

Greetings,

I am writing in support of expanding the mountain bike trails in the CCSRA. Since the trails opened in 2011 I have witnessed an amazing transformation of the communities on the Cuyuna Range, in particular Crosby. The trails have become our identity and the driving force of our economic renewal. As a business owner of a retail outlet that specializes in outdoor adventure equipment for sales and rentals, I know first hand the dramatic impact the trails have had on our region, not just Cuyuna but the entire Brainerd Lakes area. I have had people in my store from nearly every state and several foreign countries. We have become an international mountain biking destination!! Along with the biking, we have also seen a major increase in kayak, canoe, SUP and snowshoe rentals and sales. The proposed 50- mile expansion of the trail network means more people enjoying all aspects of the CCSRA and patronizing local businesses. Expanding the trails will encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more!

Besides the wonderful benefits the trails and other outdoor activities have on our overall health and well being, it has also provided additional opportunities for our younger residents to find good jobs in the area. The trails have also become a very effective recruiting tool for several of our larger employers, including our local medical center and a major manufacturing facility. We are seeing more Millenials (and Seniors!) moving to the area, or returning to their roots, drawn by the fantastic outdoor recreation that promotes an active, healthy lifestyle.

Please ensure the expansion of the world renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,

Jenny Smith
Owner of Cycle Path & Paddle, local resident, and enthusiastic user of the CCSRA.

Sent from my iPad

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: aaron_starry <aaron_starry@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 8:57 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on

Aaron starry 7809 Gilbert lane brainerd,mn 56401

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Luke Novak <luke.novak.3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 10:40 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

MN DNR:

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,

Luke Novak
7111 Giants Ridge Rd
Embarrass, MN 55732

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: 67polaris <67polaris@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 4:21 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA Trail Development EAW

I am concerned that more trails may lead to more ATV trails. ATV's do a lot of damage to our environment and I hope no new trails will be created. Please do not allow more ATV trails.



**Brainerd Lakes Area
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Corporation**

May 20th, 2019

MN DNR

RE: CCSRA Expansion

The Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp. (BLAEDC) would like to submit a letter of support, in favor of continuing to move forward with the expanded mountain biking trails in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA). BLAEDC is a private non-profit 501c3 organization with a mission to expand business, build community, and grow jobs and is funded by local units of government, businesses, community leaders, and individuals who believe that together we create our own destiny and make a difference in our community.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,

Sheila Haverkamp
Executive Director, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp.

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: kenfogal@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 6:48 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: CCSRA TRAIL DEVELOPMENT EAW

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ken Fogal
24054 Hwy6N
Crosby, Mn

Sent from my iPhone

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: johnschaubach <johnschaubach@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 1:16 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Important Need to Approve the New Trail System in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation.

To Whom it Concerns,

Crow Wing County is in the top tier of Minnesota counties for high revenue and jobs generation from tourism. The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area is fast becoming one of that strongest sources of growth for this economic sector. The expansion of the trail system is critical for this growth. And it is even more important as the source of this growth is driven by our states younger citizens. These trails are the important new attraction that brings young people and families outdoors.

The response to the CCSRA trails has been great already. And our local and regional communities are benefiting. Our economy is strengthening. New businesses are starting up. More families are moving in. More people of all ages are finding new way to be active outdoors.

But the trail are already crowded. Without the immediate and complete build out of the proposed new trails future growth to continue this economic benefit will be stifled.

This is also important for enhancing the brand of Minnesota. The immediate build out of new trails will further strengthen the trail system's national reputation for excellence. And that level of excellence will bring even more visitors from all across the United States and Canada. That kind of tourism growth helps all of Minnesota.

Yes, tourism revenue is important for our state economy. But an equally important result of these new trails will be the jobs that are created. Not just the tourism jobs. The jobs that are created by new businesses seeking and catering to the young energy this type of lifestyle represents.

Just a few years ago the Cuyuna communities represented the worst case story of industry. A failed mining economy. An industrial wasteland. A dead end community. Empty store fronts on main street. For sale signs in front of homes.

Now our community represents the opposite. It is a vital, energetic, growing community. New business are arriving in bunches. Young people want to live here and be a part of creating our new future.

Constructing all of these new trail immediately and at once is critical to continuing to make that happen.

And when completed, the Minnesota Department of Natual Resources will have a provable example of how smart and quality investment in new ways to bring people outdoors revitalizes communities and strengthens their economies. This is important to justify continued support for the DNR's mission and validate necessary funding that requires.

Please see that this expansion is completed as soon as possible. Thank you.

Respectfully,

John Schaubach,
Cuyuna Community Resident,
Cuyuna Community Advocate

PO Box 275, 18562 Nokay Lk Rd
Deerwood, Mn. 56444

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

City of Crosby

2 Second Street SW
Crosby, Minnesota 56441

May 20, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA) mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

Every year we hear more and more about small communities in greater Minnesota struggling to get by—younger residents moving to larger cities and businesses closing their doors. CCSRA contributes to the tourism economy, but it's also a good reason for young families to stay in or move to Crow Wing County. The trails have served as a recruitment and retention tool for regional businesses that need a 21st-century workforce. Outdoor recreation also promotes an active, healthy lifestyle that younger generations are looking for.

The City of Crosby has been fortunate to benefit from the mountain biking trail network as is evidenced by a rejuvenated Main Street that has attracted several new businesses and given rise to refurbishing historic buildings. Additionally, the real estate market has benefited with an increase in property values and quick sales. As visitors are attracted to our City, the increased demand for retail has benefited the residents by creating more opportunities to shop locally.

Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,

Bob Novak, Mayor

Lisa Sova, City Administrator



**Cuyuna Range
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Incorporated**

May 20th, 2019

MN DNR

RE: CCSRA Expansion

The Cuyuna Range Economic Development Inc. (CREDI) would like to submit a letter of support, in favor of continuing to move forward with the expanded mountain biking trails in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area (CCSRA). CREDI is a 501c3 nonprofit Economic and Community Development Corporation, representing the Cuyuna Range and is located in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. The purpose of this organization is to engage in, advance, support, promote and assist the economic wellbeing and development of the Cuyuna Range area of Minnesota.

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Regards,

Eric Charpentier

Cuyuna Range Economic Development Inc

Board Chair

MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Sundquist, Matt <matt.sundquist@graphicpkg.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 7:14 AM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Expansion

I am writing this letter in support of the mountain bike trail expansion in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area.

The CCSRA mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Thank you,

Matt Sundquist

General Manager, Packaging Machinery

Graphic Packaging International 975 Third Street S.W., Crosby, MN 56441

(O): 218.546.2140 (M): 218.838.4916 Email: matt.sundquist@graphicpkg.com



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MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)

From: Mitchell Hecker <mitchellhecker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 2:07 PM
To: MN_Review, Environmental (DNR)
Subject: Expansion of Trails in the Cuyuna Rec Area.

The form letter copied and pasted below has the technical details, but to our family, this has meant a great deal. We moved to the area in 2013 out of the metro. We currently reside in Breezy Point, about 25 mins from the nearest trailhead. I will make the drive over at least a couple of times a week to ride and spend time in the rec area. Sometimes alone, often with my wife and 3 kids, all who are growing as future bikers. As the communities around the trails are growing, we are planning on buying property closer to the trails within the next 5-10 years. It has been very cool watching the locals of Crosby/Ironton/Cuyuna embrace the outdoor, silent sport lifestyle, and we want to continue to be a part of it.

Mitch Hecker
7961 Ski Chalet Drive
Breezy Point MN 56472
218-820-4599

The Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area mountain biking trail network is an integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.



520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300
800-657-3864 | Use your preferred relay service | info.pca@state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

May 21, 2019

Kathy Metzker
EAW Project Manager
Environmental Review Unit
DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Re: Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Kathy Metzker:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Trail Development project (Project) in Crow Wing County, Minnesota. The Project consists of the development of 50 miles of new recreational trails and an outdoor event space. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EAW and has no comments at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. Please provide the notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me by email at Karen.kromar@state.mn.us or by telephone at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Kromar'.

Karen Kromar
Project Manager
Environmental Review Unit
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul
Scott Niemala, MPCA, Brainerd

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Attn: Kathy Metzker
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

May 15, 2019

Dear Kathy,

I am writing to express my personal support for the expansion of the Cuyuna Country State Recreational area mountain biking trail network.

The trail system is integral part of our region's identity and economy. CCSRA has helped diversify Crow Wing County's \$200 million tourism economy, and the proposed 50-mile trail network expansion means more people will enjoy the trails' natural beauty and patronize local businesses. Expanding the trails means longer rides without repeating trails and longer stays for visitors—an extra night in a hotel or campground, another meal at a restaurant, and more supplies from stores.

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Please ensure the expansion of the world-renown trails system at CCSRA goes forward. Our communities are depending on it.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Katzenberger', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Katzenberger
9153 Country Road 23
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401