

April 5, 2022

John Thayer  
SEH Inc.  
418 W Superior St, Suite 200  
Duluth, MN 55802-1512

RE: SEH No ELYMN 163379 31.10  
Prospector Loop ATV Trail Improvements – Phase 2  
St. Louis County  
SHPO Number: 2022-1112

Dear John Thayer:

Thank you for consulting with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the above-referenced project.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed project, we recommend that a Phase Ia literature review and archaeological assessment be completed by a qualified archaeologist to assess the potential for intact archaeological sites in the project area. This research should be done for any areas of new trail construction and along existing trail routes where improvements are needed. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking this type of research and archaeological surveys, please visit the website <http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/preservation-directory>, and select "Archaeologists, Contract" in the "Specialties" box.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR § 800. If this project is considered for federal financial assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, then review and consultation with our office will need to be initiated by the lead federal agency. Be advised that comments and recommendations provided by our office for this state-level review may differ from findings and determinations made by the federal agency as part of review and consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist at [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager  
Environmental Review Program Manager