

**Beltrami County - Northwoods Riders OHV Club
Northwoods/Soo Line GIA ATV Trail Proposal
Project Summary**

Sponsor: Beltrami County

Proposer: Beltrami County
Northwoods Riders OHV Club
Bill Larson, Liaison Officer, Northwoods Riders OHV Club

Trail Location: Beltrami County
T148N-R35W (Buzzle) Sections: 18,19,20,28,29,30,31,32,33,34.
T147N-R35W (Lammers) Sections: 2,3,4,5,10,11,12,13,24.
T147N-R34W (Eckles) Sections: 18,19,20,27,28,29,30,34,35.
T146N-R34W (Grant Valley) Sections: 1,2,12.

Project Dimensions: Total of all trail segments = 35.1 miles, including:

County forest access trail:	14.4 miles
County Soo Line grade:	15.8 miles
Township road:	2.2 miles
County road right-of-way:	1.9 miles
Private road:	0.5 miles
DNR Forestry minimum maintenance road:	0.3 miles

Project Description:

Beltrami County, in conjunction with the Northwoods Riders OHV Club, proposes to apply for grant-in-aid (GIA) funding from the State's Trails Assistance Program to establish and maintain a 35.1-mile long all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail in southern Beltrami County. The proposed GIA ATV trail will follow the County's Soo Line Trail alignment from the junction of the Soo Line and Beltrami County Rd #7 (Adams Ave) to the Beltrami/Clearwater County line at County Line Road. The proposal also includes loop routes off the Soo Line as identified on the maps of the proposed trail. The majority of trail miles are located on County-managed land (both tax-forfeit and County owned lands). The route is currently open to ATV use, although some trail sections in County road right-of-way will be relocated from the hillside to the ditch bottom.

This proposal is the first phase of an effort to create a system of multi-use trails, properly managed and maintained in accordance with the guidelines provided in the DNR's Grant-in-Aid OHV Program Manual, requirements of Beltrami County, and the townships through which the route travels. After extensive study by the Recreational Trails Committee, the County's 2007 Resource Management Plan identified establishment of managed ATV trails as a priority.

During future phases of trail development, the Northwoods Riders OHV Club will work with Beltrami County to develop the Northland Regional Sports Center in Eckles Township.

The Northwoods Riders OHV Club has presented the proposed GIA trail system concept to the townships of Buzzle, Lammers and Eckles, where it was positively received by each township

board. The proposal also has been discussed with the Beltrami County Highway Engineer, regarding the trail alignment in the right-of-way of County Road 22, where the trail will be re-located from the hillside to the bottom of the ditch.

The trail will be operated, maintained, and managed by Beltrami County with assistance and support provided by the Northwoods Riders OHV 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.

The Northwoods Riders OHV Club will sign, map and maintain this trail for use by Class 1 and 2 ATVs from April 1 to November 1 of each year. The route will bring ATV riders into facilities for services such as gas and food. This trail will be considered multi-use, allowing trail use such as equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking, during the normal summer trail use season, and snowmobiling in the normal snowmobile season. The trail will exemplify the concept of managed use on managed trails and be promoted as a safe place for responsible riders.

Parking areas:

Trailhead at junction of Soo Line and Adams Avenue (Section 12, T146N-R34W)

Parking lot at Pete's Place West (Section 27, T147N-R34W)

Northland Regional Sports Center (Section 17, T147N-R34W)

Public Review:

The DNR invites written public comment on the proposal from November 12 to December 14, 2012. 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).