

Chisholm to Hibbing ATV Grant-in-Aid Trail Proposal Summary

Sponsor: City of Chisholm

Proposer: Northern Traxx ATV Club

Project Location: T58 R20 Sections 28, 29, 32, 33

Project Dimensions: The total length of the proposed project alignment is approximately 4 miles, 3 miles of which is currently existing road surface.

Surface type	Approx Length (Miles)	Current or Proposed use
Existing Road Surface	3	ATV use/designation proposed
Existing corridor, new trail surface construction	1	Old powerline corridor, ATV use/designation proposed
Total	4	

Project Description: This proposal would establish a 4 mile Grant-in-Aid (GIA) all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail and provide a legal ATV connection between the communities of Chisholm and Hibbing. The proposed alignment is located entirely on land owned/managed by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRRB), St. Louis County (Tax Forfeit land), and City of Chisholm

Due to the fact that the St. Louis County, Chisholm, and Hibbing ATV ordinances allow only for ATVs and *not* off-highway motorcycles (OHM), and considering city ATV routes are the only access points to this proposed route, it would be impractical and confusing to allow OHMs on the proposed trail alignment.

Specific site-level design, construction, and maintenance will be in accordance with the principles outlined in the DNR publication “*Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines*”, including best management practices for trail construction. The one mile of new trail construction has the potential for needing trail design and permitting requirements. The club is working with an engineering firm to identify those needs/requirements and provide assistance in accomplishing them.

Operations, maintenance, and monitoring:

The system will be operated, maintained, and managed by the City of Chisholm, with assistance and support provided by the Northern Traxx ATV Club. Members of the club will accomplish most of the ongoing maintenance. Up to 90% of the maintenance costs will be eligible for reimbursement through the Minnesota Trail Assistance (grant-in-aid) program. The sponsor, the club, and the DNR will share monitoring responsibilities.

Project Need and Beneficiaries:

There is a large amount of ATV use in the communities of Hibbing and Chisholm as well as in the communities beyond. A number of user-created trails have been developed by local riders over the years, namely on the lands surrounding the mine pit south of Chisholm where this proposal is located. One of the goals of this project is to manage that use and give ATV enthusiasts a legal route to use between Chisholm and Hibbing. The northern part of this proposal intersects the Redhead Mountain Bike trail project in a number of places, and managing ATV use through this area is especially needed and important in multi-use areas such as this.

Public Review:

The DNR welcomes public perspectives and comments on the proposal. The deadline for comments is 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2020. Comments may be addressed to:

Joseph Majerus, Area Supervisor
DNR Parks and Trails
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Tower, MN 55790.

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