

Turkey Time ATV Trail – Loop Trail, St. Louis County, MN Project Summary

Proposer: Carlton County Riders

Sponsor: Carlton County

Project Location: St. Louis County, Phase 1 5.8 miles, Phase 2 10.1 miles, Total of 15.9 miles
Township 50 N Range 19 W

Route type	Approx. Miles Phase 1	Approx. Miles Phase 2	Current or proposed use
County forest logging road	5.8	2.9	Currently open to ATV use
State Forest Access route		1.6	Currently open to ATV use
Township road		5.6	Currently open to ATV use
Total each phase	5.8	10.1	
Total both phase 1 and 2		15.9	

Project Description

The Carlton County Riders Club proposes to sign and maintain a 15.9 mile ATV/OHM GIA route on existing forest road, trail and township road. The project will be phased with Phase One consisting of 5.8 miles of county forest road and Phase Two consisting of 10.1 miles of county forest road, state forest access routes and township roads. ATVs may currently use the entire route, while OHMs may utilize all but 5.6 miles of the route. The proposal will provide a loop from the Fond Du Lac State Forest trails near Cromwell, MN north into the St. Louis County Forest lands and back to the Fond Du Lac State Forest. The trail loop would become part of the club's GIA ATV trail. Bringing the segment into the GIA program will allow the club to improve and maintain the trail.

The Carlton County Riders applied for and received approval to have a GIA trail on county land pending MN DNR GIA trail review from St. Louis. Other land manager or local road authority permissions would follow approval of GIA status.

Trail Maintenance/Construction

The entire 15.9-mile segment currently has a cleared tread way width of 12 to 20 feet. No expansion of this width is anticipated. The treadway will be graded as needed to minimize erosion and wear, and brushed periodically to control woody vegetation. St. Louis County Forestry staff have identified a 150 foot re-route to avoid a historic low water crossing along the current county forest road in phase 1 and additional section of trail within DNR Forestry lands will maintenance to accommodate for a wetland crossing during Phase 2 of the project.

Environmental Review

DNR Parks and Trails has compared the trail segment dimensions to the thresholds in Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410. The 15.9-mile length of trail is shorter than the 25-mile mandatory EAW threshold in Minn. Rules part 4410.4300, subp. 37 B, but longer than the 1-mile rerouting exemption in Minn. Rules part 4410.4600, subp. 27A. EAW preparation is not mandatory.

The proposal may be exempt from environmental review under Minn. Rules part 4410.4600, subp. 2 D, which applies if a substantial portion of the project is completed, so that an EIS would not influence remaining construction.