PROJECT BACKGROUND

PURPOSE:
- To create a new ATV trail that will connect five communities (Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, Soudan and Tower, MN), two state parks (Bear Head Lake State Park and Lake Vermilion State Park) and Lake County Regional ATV Trail.
- The Prospectors Trail Alliance considers the availability of destination travel routes throughout the northland, a key consideration in providing public access through ATV use to many desired locations. Connecting communities with such features as Soudan Underground Mine State Park, Lake Vermilion State Park, Bear Head Lake State Park and a variety of other features within the Superior National Forest is a key component to enabling the use and access of these wonderful attributes that Minnesota has to offer.

TRAIL PROSPECTORS ALLIANCE:
- Is leading this project.
- Consists of the following individuals:
  - Nick Wognum
  - Dan Broten
  - Gene Wright
  - Ron Potter
  - Gary Skogman
  - Larry Fawer
  - Dave Soular
  - Mike Meskill
  - Neil Olson
  - Jerome Weiner
  - Elroy Kuehl
- Have met over the last 18 months reviewing maps to find the best routes for ATVs to travel between the communities.
- Coordinating efforts with clubs in Ely, Babbitt, Tower and Isabella/Finland to gain area trail and ATV insight and knowledge.
- Has located trail routes that avoid wetlands as much as possible and conceptual design has incorporated environmentally friendly concepts to minimize overall impacts to the landscape and surrounding scenic features.
- Is looking at various funding sources that are available for this project.

CURRENT STATUS:
- The Trail Prospectors Alliance has already met with the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the plan, evaluate route alternatives and engage permitting entities with review of the conceptual design. Both entities are in favor of this project and eager for it to start.
- Wetland delineations for the proposed trail area have been completed and approved.
- Field review of routes completed with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Minnesota DNR, North St. Louis and Lake County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Ely and Babbitt have already passed resolutions in support of the Prospectors Loop.
- Plans and maps have been reviewed with DNR.

TRAIL SYSTEM

INFORMATION:
- 130-mile loop will connect the communities of Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower plus the Bear Head Lake and Lake Vermilion State Parks.
- Will tie into Lake County Regional ATV trail system that connects to the North Shore, which includes the Red Dot and Moose Walk Trails.
- Trail will be open to both Class 1 and 2 ATVs, off-highway motorcycles and some segments open to off-road vehicles as well as equestrians.
- A section of the loop will utilize the Taconite snowmobile trail that heads west from Ely to Murray Road. Currently working with the DNR to change the master plan for this snowmobile trail to allow for additional use.
- Will connect to the new Lake Vermilion State Park which has a planned motorized campground for ATVs and snowmobiles.

ESTIMATED COST BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION UNIT COST</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED TRAIL ON EXISTING ROADS OR TRAILS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many miles of the proposed trail will be located on existing roads or existing logging roads that will require very limited effort to construct.</td>
<td>$1,000/mile</td>
<td>200 miles</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit costs for this segment of the trail have been provided by Prospectors Trail Alliance with cooperation from local trail clubs providing as-built costs for similar trail sections. Estimated costs do not include permits or engineering.</td>
<td>$20,000/mile</td>
<td>21 miles</td>
<td>$420,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION OVER WETLANDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An estimate to use three feet of granular fill on geotextile fabric with gravel surface and cross culverts was used to generate this estimate. The estimated cost does not include permits, mitigation or engineering.</td>
<td>$238,000/mile</td>
<td>3.25 miles</td>
<td>$773,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL RATED BRIDGES, FORDINGS AND BRIDGE REDESIGN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An estimate of 375 linear feet of new bridges are required to construct the proposed project. The minimum live load requirements are assumed to be 45 pounds per square foot. The estimated cost does not include permits, engineering, or bridge plans.</td>
<td>$2,800/foot</td>
<td>375 feet</td>
<td>$1,050,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHWAY RATED BRIDGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bridge has been requested to accommodate logging truck equipment and highway loading. The bridge is proposed to cross the waterway at Owen Creek. The estimated cost does not include permits, engineering, or bridge plans.</td>
<td>$5,500/foot</td>
<td>30 feet</td>
<td>$159,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WETLAND MITIGATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland mitigation for impacts minimized through selective corridor alignment are required as a condition of project permitting and planning/land use department with verbal approval of conceptual plans.</td>
<td>$0.75/ft in Bank</td>
<td>175,000 ft</td>
<td>$131,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.50/ft in Bank</td>
<td>Area 2</td>
<td>$132,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAW FUNDING &amp; NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding for the DNR to complete environmental review and construction of route from Ely to Tower.</td>
<td>40 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>280 miles</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,146,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROSPECTORS TRAIL SYSTEM
LAKE COUNTY REGIONAL ATV TRAIL
ELY, BABBITT, EMBARRASS, SOUDAN, TOWER, MN

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