

Comments being taken on county trails plan

By **MATT ERICKSON**

Staff Writer

The comment period has opened on Crow Wing County Land Services Department's draft recreational trails plan.

Comments are being taken through Jan. 21 by Dovetail Partners, the consulting firm hired by the county. Comments can be mailed to Dovetail Partners at 528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 202, Minneapolis, MN; sent by telephone at (612) 333-0430; faxed to (612) 333-0432; or e-mailed to info@dovetailinc.org.

Major recommendations of the plan include reviewing the trail plan process to ensure a consistent process that is well understood by county staff and the public; identifying benchmark metrics for recreation trails by reviewing existing data to better understand current conditions and trends; develop a decision making matrix for trail planning; and support public access to recreation trails information.

Recommendations for specific forms of recreation trails include summer non-motorized trails, winter non-motorized trails, summer motorized trails, winter motorized trails and water trails.

Katie Fernholz of Dovetail Partners said the recommendations were worked out over the past year and are part of a two-year project.

"This is really the strategic recommendations for the second year of the project," Fernholz said. "These are planning tools for the Land Services Department to us in the long term for managing recreational trails."

The recommendations can be viewed at <http://www.dovetailinc.org/files/CWC113010Presentation.pdf>.

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