

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
10-17-16	Lucy Mallory	I am a Crow Wing County taxpayer and I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake ATV trail	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	1
10-17-16	Lenny Mallory	I'm definitely in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	2
10-17-16	Karl Shamp	There is no sense wasting time responding or attending meetings. Your dept. has your mind set on making all CWC public land one big ATV system. We will not see any more. Legacy finding here thanks CWCs less than forthright approach to the Miss. Northwoods project. Also before you figure this out it will be too late	<p>Thank you for your comments. The proposed designation includes only two miles of trail construction, no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses. Fourteen miles of the proposed recreation trail system is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). This proposal seeks to better manage existing trails through effective enforcement and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails. The County also manages approximately 55 miles of designated, managed non-motorized trails including four cross country ski trails and 10 hunter-hiker trails. Search the keyword "recreation trails" at the County's website at <a href="http://www.crowwing.us">www.crowwing.us</a> for more information.</p> <p>The Crow Wing County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2004) established a policy of providing "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space." To achieve that policy objective, on February 14, 2012, the Crow Wing County Board unanimously approved the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan. The work to create this plan began in October, 2009, when the board approved contracting with Dovetail Partners to facilitate a public input process to create the plan. This two-year process included the creation of a Citizen Advisory group, which met on nine occasions to provide input on the principals included in the plan. These nine advisory committee meetings were attended by 319 persons. In addition, an online survey was conducted at the start of this project which produced input from 320 respondents. To keep the public informed, 10 press releases were produced and disseminated, resulting in 14 news articles in five area newspapers. A field tour also was conducted as part of the plan creation process, which was posted on the county website. Also, 22 separate updates were sent to an email contact</p>	3

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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			<p>list of 624 interested persons that was developed as part of this project. In addition, three formal public comment periods of 128 total days were conducted to receive input on the plan, which generated 172 written comments. Each comment was addressed in writing and all of the comments and responses were presented to the County Board and published on the county web site.</p> <p>The results of these public inputs resulted in, for the first time, five major recommendations that address recreation needs at the management level. Recommendation #5 (potential trail linkages), specifically identified a summer motorized “<i>...linkage between county lands and Blind Lake in Aitkin County to connect with Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System.</i>” This trail proposal represents tangible evidence that the County is working collaboratively with other partners (i.e., townships, cities, other organizations, etc.) and citizens to fulfill the strategic priorities and objectives contained within the Plan. Also, for the first time, the Plan established a 5-step process to review trail proposals in an objective, transparent, and consistent manner including a feasibility evaluation (Step 2) and public consultation (Step 3).</p>	
10-17-16	Doug Marshall	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments.	4
10-18-16	John Carlson	I am in favor of the proposed Emily to Blind Lake connection. It would be a great connector plus it shouldn't require much work to complete the trail. I think it would be heavily used	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	5
10-18-16	Meri & Jack Lysne	My husband & I are both in favor of the new trail	Thank you for your comments.	6
10-18-16	Elaine LeVoir	I am very much in favor of this connector trail from Emily to Blind Lake. We are avid ATVers, and have used both trails. (Emily and Blind Lake). This would benefit the businesses in Emily	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	7
10-18-16	Adam Stromberg	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail proposal	Thank you for your comments.	8

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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10-18-16	Jay Morschung	<p>Like any of the ATV trails in Crow Wing County, other than those on former mining land or rail road beds, they directly affect land owners. In most cases, these trails or connector trails are ran through the road ditches adjacent to land owner property. Although trail proponents claim this space is the legal easement, one must understand that land owner driveways, field approaches and privacy are effected. To see such effects, one only needs to observe the damage caused along HWY 371 in Crow Wing County. Further, these road ditches and right away spaces are engineered to meet erosion and stormwater management requirements per the MPCA and DNR. Why then would we compromise these areas with ATV damage? Beyond the expansion of trails in former mining land or rail road beds, the tax payers need no further expansion of trails in Crow Wing County</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. This recreation trail proposal is not an expansion, but instead partially fulfills the CWC Recreation Trail Plan's Recommendation #5 (potential trail linkages). 87% of the trail proposal occurs on existing forest trails for which motorized use is already an allowed use. This proposed system of designated, managed recreation trails will provide formal and enhanced monitoring, enforcement, and protection of the natural resources compared to the current condition, so that water quality and other environmental concerns are adequately addressed.</p> <p>Concerning ATV use within the road right-of-way, only approximately 0.5 miles of the proposed recreation trail runs in the ditches of state, county, or local roadways. Another 1.9 miles occurs within the road right-of-way, but is located on either the shoulder or extreme right-hand-side of the actual roadway surface. On those areas where trail use is in the ditch bottom, state statute already allows certain types of ATVs to use the ditch bottom for access regardless if it is designated and managed (MN Statute 84.928).</p> <p>As set forth in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, County natural resource managers performed an objective feasibility analysis as part of "Step 2" of the "Trail Proposal and Planning Process." County natural resource managers used specific criteria to evaluate the proposed designation. The criteria are designed to inform an objective evaluation process with flexibility to address the diversity of situations that exist. The criteria includes both social and environmental impact assessments such as impacts on adjacent private properties, public support, public safety considerations, and opportunities for interpretive information and public education. In total, this trail proposal scored 55 points, which means it was deemed suitable for further planning and development.</p>	9
10-18-16	Roger Iskierka	<p>I highly recommend the approval of the Emily to Blind Lake trail. This opportunistic trail connector, would be a major part to complete a very large multi trail and county trail system. This would benefit the tourism side and the local side as this is another way to experience the great Minnesota forests.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.</p>	10

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
10-18-16	Adam Knoblach	I support this trail connection. Our family has a cabin in Emily and we enjoy riding ATVs in the area as well as other trail systems in the state. Having more interconnected trail systems will improve everyone's ability to experience more of MN's OHV Trails	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	11
10-18-16	James & Dorothy Ross	We support the new trail proposal. They are so needed	Thank you for your comments. See response to #11, above.	12
10-18-16	Rene Demel	YES, YES, YES!!!!!!	Thank you for your comments.	13
10-18-16	Rachael Molstrom	I would like to see this trail go through. The groups in that area take such pride and care of their trails.	Thank you for your comments. Partnerships with user groups are an important component of effective trail management and enforcement. Existing motorized trails in this area presents opportunities to create an improved system of designated, managed trails.	14
10-18-16	Steven Johnson	We just started to ride up there and to connect this trail would be great. Sometime have to go where it is not the safest place to go.	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	15
10-18-16	Jim Revane	I vote Yes to the proposed trail it would provide a safer ride	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	16
10-18-16	Mark Zroka	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments.	17
10-18-16	Rod Wegner	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments.	18
10-18-16	Julene Bistodeau	Yes, I am in favor of this trail	Thank you for your comments.	19
10-18-16	Jeann	ATV riding in this area is such a wonderful way to be outdoors in all seasons. So relaxing to the mind and soul. A wonderful way to bring people to the area to support local businesses	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	20
10-18-16	Cory Iskierka	I vote yes. Over the Hill gang is a great organization trying to promote more people to enjoy the outdoors this can only help	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the	21

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	
10-18-16	Mike Thurk	As a resident of Emily I would like to vote in favor of the Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	22
10-18-16	Sara Smith	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	23
10-18-16	Linda Thurk	As a member of the ATV club and resident of Emily, I am in favor of developing this trail. I feel it would help the businesses in this area. Not only will the ATV's in Spring, Summer and Fall, it would help in the Winter for the snowmobiles. Please pass this proposal for all of our enjoyment	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.</p> <p>Snowmobiles will not be a designated use on this proposed trail system for a number of reasons. See staff response to comment #169 (specifically answer to question #16 within that response).</p>	24
10-18-16	Tracy Gustafson	We need this connection to be made for safer riding, also connecting the loop would be great. We ride into Emily from the south on Dam Road, this connection along HWY 6 from the lower side of Lake Emily into town would be so helpful and so much safer for riders	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	25
10-18-16	Scott Colebank	As an Emily resident and ATV rider, I would like to state that I am in support of the Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail. ATV riding is a sport that the entire family can get out and enjoy. This trail uses just a minor portion of the total area available to all recreational users	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	26
10-18-16	Jack Pollock	Yes	Thank you for your comment.	27
10-18-16	Connie Pollock	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	28
10-18-16	Billie Sayer	I am writing in favor of connection Emily to Blind Lake Trail. There are a number of reasons as to why this would be beneficial. One being the positive economic impact it would create for businesses in Emily. Two, it would obviously increase the amazing trail system that is already in place and thousands of tourist take advantage of year round. Third, the Over The Hills Gang does an amazing job collaborating with land owners and the DNR in	Thank you for your comments. Partnerships with user groups are an important component of effective trail management and enforcement. Existing motorized trails in this area presents opportunities to create an improved system of designated, managed trails. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail	29

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		maintaining the trails and communicating with everyone. So please approve this connection	Proposal and Planning Process.  Snowmobiles will not be a designated use on this proposed trail system for a number of reasons. See staff response to comment #169 (specifically answer to question #16 within that response).	
10-18-16	Terry Wright	I fully support the proposal regarding 14 miles of existing and 2 miles of new trail development as a multiple use recreation trail system, and believe it would greatly enhance the area's recreational "usability" for my family and friends.	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	30
10-18-16	Pam Kastanos	I vote YES for the Emily to Blind Lake Trail. We need more trails for ATV's	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	31
10-18-16	Heather Mitlying	I own property on the southeast side of the Emily State Forest. I am in favor of having this trail go thru. As a business owner, I feel we need to be connected to the communities around us. This trail would bring more opportunities for ATVers in our area and would help out our local economy.	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	32
10-18-16	Scott Rayman	I am in favor of the new trail and hope to use it as soon as possible	Thank you for your comment. Currently, the County is on Step 3 of the trail proposal and planning process. If approved by the Crow Wing County Board, Aitkin County, and the MN DNR (GIA funding), the trail will be ready for development. The development process (Step 6) is likely at least 1 year away.	33
10-19-16	David Steffan	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	34
10-19-16	Bruce Wisner	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	35
10-19-16	Jason & Loren Lambert	Yes, I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	36
10-19-16	Kirk Smith	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	37
10-20-16	Wendell Timmer	I am in favor of this trail. The more we can connect trails the better. Other states have many miles of connecting trails.	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to	38

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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			approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	
10/20/16	Dennis & Janice Krumwiede	This trail is a much needed trail that would make a big difference in the use of the Blind Lake Trail that is a lot of fun to ride. But a pain to get to if you're in Emily. This connection would be a good thing for the town of Emily and the Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	39
10-20-16	George Radke	This trail will not only create a great riding opportunity but will also create a loop ride with access to multiple ATV friendly communities and the amenities and businesses that as an ATV rider that are not only myself and my family is looking for.	Thank you for your comments. See staff response to #39, above.	40
10-20-16	Chris Evans	Please support the proposal to designate the 14 miles of existing and 2 miles of new trail development as a multiple use recreation trail system. I frequently ride Northwest of this area and a new or expanded trail system would bring me down to this area to ride and support the local businesses	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	41
10-21-16	Diane Lindstrom	As avid 4-wheelers, we support the connector trail, Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	42
10-21-16	Tom Cosgrove	I am definitely in favor of the trail extension and would be among a group of family that would be involved in building and maintaining the trail. Our family owns hunting property east of Emily and we would very much enjoy the added opportunity of the proposed trail	Thank you for your comments. Partnerships with user groups are an important component of effective trail management and enforcement. Existing motorized trails in this area presents opportunities to create an improved system of designated, managed trails.	43
10-24-16	Lanny Scearcy	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	44
10-24-16	Jakob Eekhoff	I support the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	45
10-24-16	Dale Carry	As an ATV rider, I would like to thank the DNR for their help in making ATV trails for me, the older rider, and for teaching your riders how to enjoy the great outdoors. When you get older, your legs don't work so well so ATV's are the only way to enjoy the woods. The trail from Emily to Blind Lake would be a great asset to our trail system. Please approve it.	Thank you for your comments. The Minnesota DNR has been and will continue to be a vital partner with designated recreation trails. If approved by both Crow Wing County and Aitkin County, an application will be made to the Minnesota DNR for Grant In Aid funding assistance to develop and maintain the trail system. Some of the proposed trail runs on Minnesota DNR – Forestry land and will be monitored by MN DNR volunteer trail ambassadors. Enforcement will be carried out by both conservation officers with the MN DNR as well as Crow Wing	46

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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10-27-16	Russell Heittola	I'm in full support of this trail proposal. Connecting trails together to make a larger system is what I like to see. By connecting smaller systems together makes a more enjoyable ride. I have ridden all the trails this will connect to, now to be able to make a larger loop is great	County Sheriff deputies.	
10-27-16	Jon Engle, Steven Biwer & Julie Engle	We are fully in support of the proposed trail. Anything that leads to economic and recreational development in the Emily, Fifty Lakes, Outing areas is in the best interest of local businesses and residents. We would also support additional trails linking Emily and Fifty Lakes and connecting our area to the Paul Bunyan Trail system and/or Crosby	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	47
10-27-16	Marvin Johnson	I would like to see this trail connector completed. It would be a great addition for relative to cost. It would probably also benefit businesses in Emily and would allow Blind Lake trail riders access to gasoline, food ect. The only other place Blind Lake trail riders have access to gasoline that I am aware of is Hill City or maybe Palisade. Emily would be closer.	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	49
10-27-16	Darrell Hoffman	I am in support of the proposed Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail	Thank you for your comments.	50
10-27-16	Perry May	Please accept this letter of support for the proposed Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail. As a member of the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club, a Region 3 ATVAM Director, and a Volunteer MN DNR Trail Ambassador, I see the new trail as a vital connection to create destination trails in the State of Minnesota, connecting Cass, Crow Wing and Aitkin County trails. I have observed the increase of ATV recreational riders in all parts of the state including central Minnesota. This has brought new revenue streams to small cities and towns to keep them a vital part of our states economy. New trails attract tourism, and also puts in place a safe, sustainable, and enforceable trail system that protects our lakes and forests.	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	51
10-28-	Kurt Templin	I have a seasonal cabin in Ross Lake Township, I occasionally use the Blind	Thank you for your comments.	52

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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16		Lake Trails, and would enjoy the ability to ATV to Emily and Outing trail systems		
10-31-16	Terry & Julie Sewill	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	53
10-31-16	Jerry Pollock	I am in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	54
10-31-16	Brenda Anderson	I vote YES!	Thank you for your comments.	55
10-31-16	Lori Lindgren	We are very much in favor for the new trail, we have a cabin in Fifty Lakes area and members of the over the hill gang	Thank you for your comments.	56
10-31-16	Steve Otto	I am in favor of the proposed new trail from Emily to Blind Lake	Thank you for your comments.	57
10-31-16	Kory Kindle	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	58
10-31-16	Jon Wimmer	I am in favor of this new trail proposal	Thank you for your comments.	59
10-31-16	Michele Schwingler	Weare in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	60
10-31-16	Ralph Iverson	I'm in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	61
10-31-16	Bill Bernhjelm	I am in favor of the proposed Emily to Blind Lake recreational trail	Thank you for your comments.	62
10-31-16	Mattie Miller	I vote Yes	Thank you for your comments.	63
10-31-16	Kari Johnson	I vote Yes	Thank you for your comments.	64
10-31-16	Kari Huhn	I am in favor of new trail please accept my yes	Thank you for your comments.	65
10-31-16	Roger Kadrlik	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	66
10-31-16	Kevin & Gail Pullis	We are very excited about the above mentioned ATV trail. We are current member of the Blind Lake ATV trail. We believe that this connector opens up the trails for more people to enjoy. One of the downfalls of the Blind Lake connector is that it is a one route trail for much of the trail, meaning that one comes in and then exits on the same trail. With the Emily connector people will be able to make a very large loop or eventually be connected to more trails in Crow Wing County. This also brings consumers to the city of Emily which is an added benefit at the end. Another downside on the Blind Lake Trail is the lack of access to gas or food. With the addition of the new connector riders would have easier access to the necessities. We hope that this trail does become a reality	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	67

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

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10-31-16	Terry Tuckenhagen	My wife and I are members of the Blind Lake ATV club. We think the creation of a trail from Emily to the Blind Lake Trail is a great idea. We also snowmobile and enjoy going to Emily. Often we wish that we could get to Emily in a similar manner when we ride our ATV's	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	68
10-31-16	Gerald Hovde	Being an avid ATVer and land owner near Outing, I request your support to allow the development of an ATV trail in Crow Wing County	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	69
10-31-16	Eric Hillger	I am definitely in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	70
10-31-16	D. Marshall	I'm in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake trails	Thank you for your comments.	71
10-31-16	Jim Keniston	I'm in favor of approving this additional trail	Thank you for your comments.	72
10-31-16	Theresa Meyers	I support the connection of these two trails	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	73
10-31-16	Daniel Buche	As an ATV enthusiast residing in the area (Outing, MN), I am in favor of increasing use of public land, and more specifically I favor the creation of the Emily/Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	74
10-31-16	Bonne Rodriguez	I am a resident of Outing, MN and am in favor of the new Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	75
10-31-16	John Bergstrom	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail proposal	Thank you for your comments.	76
10-31-16	Leonard Lokken	I am in favor of this trail	Thank you for your comments.	77
10-31-16	Dale & Kathy Jones, Mike Gable, Nick &	We come to the Emily and Aitkin area about 5 times a year to go 4 wheeling. We enjoy all the trails you have. We would like to see a connector trail between Emily and the Blind Lake Trail. We have about 15 to 20 people that	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and	78

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	Meagan Spillman, Greg & Julie Lecher, Brad & Jamie Stein, Jill & Grace Gau, Tom & Katie Jones, Evan & Logan Jones	come with us. We stay at the Wig Wag Motel and we spend a lot of money at your bars and restaurants.	Planning Process.	
10-31-16	Kelli Horazuk	Yes, we are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	79
10-31-16	Dawn Meelberg	YES, I am in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	80
10-31-16	Paul & Mary Jeske	We are in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	81
10-31-16	Ron & Linda Hamann	We love riding in the Emily & vote yes to opening this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	82
10-31-16	Angie Dellwo	In favor of new trail	Thank you for your comments.	83
10-31-16	Jo Mcbroom	Yes, we are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	84
11-1-16	Hite Auto Body	I am in favor of this trail big time	Thank you for your comments.	85
11-1-16	Steve Anderson	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	86
11-1-16	Royce Rayman	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	87
11-1-16	T. Trekker	Please accept this memo in support of the trail expansion	Thank you for your comments.	88
11-1-16	Josh Haen	Please support the expansion of the Emily Blind Lake Trail expansion	Thank you for your comments.	89
11-1-16	Jessica Martinson	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	90
11-1-16	Janet Rayman	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	91
11-1-16	Michael Grant	Please approve this crucial expansion to the trail system	Thank you for your comments.	92
11-1-16	Randy Strobel	I am in favor of this trail	Thank you for your comments.	93
11-1-16	Jim Fey	I am in favor of this new trail Emily/Blind lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	94

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
11-1-16	Tim	My family loves riding our UTV in the Emily area. I am in favor of additional trails where ever possible. Minnesota is way behind Wisconsin when it comes to the trails. Our vote is yes for the trail	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	95
11-1-16	Michel Boreen	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	96
11-1-16	Jim & Kat Edmonds	We are in favor of a new trail	Thank you for your comments.	97
11-1-16	Connie Glass	YES, I am in favor of this new trail.	Thank you for your comments.	98
11-1-16	Mike & Julie Rathbun	We vote YES to have that Emily/Blind Lake Trail go through. Nice riding in that area	Thank you for your comments.	99
11-2-16	Alex Hartman	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	100
11-2-16	Patrick Phillippe	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	101
11-2-16	Michael Edmonds	I am in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake Trail. Please allow the trail to go forward	Thank you for your comments.	102
11-2-16	Kevin Jacobson	Please support the Emily/Blind Lake trail expansion	Thank you for your comments.	103
11-2-16	McKena Haen	Please support the expansion of the Emily Blind Lake trail	Thank you for your comments.	104
11-2-16	Mark Nowack	I am the owner of Granny's Bar & Grill and we entirely support the new Emily/Blind Lake ATV Trail proposal. This new trail is very important to our business through the attraction of recreational ATV riders. We also applaud the creation and designation of MN State Grant-In-Aid funded trails that are rider safe, sustainable and enforceable, which also help protect our lakes and forests	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails. Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	105
11-2-16	Dustin Haider	I am the owner of The Pickled Loon Saloon and we entirely support the new Emily/Blind Lake ATV Trail proposal. This new trail is very important to our business through the attraction of recreational ATV riders. We also applaud the creation and designation of MN State Grant-In-Aid funded trails that are rider safe, sustainable and enforceable, which also help protect our lakes and forests	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass,	106

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
11-2-16	Eric Friodcoeur	I am the owner of Lake Emily Resort and we entirely support the new Emily/Blind Lake ATV Trail proposal. This new trail is very important to our business through the attraction of recreational ATV riders. We also applaud the creation and designation of MN State Grant-In-Aid funded trails that are rider safe, sustainable and enforceable, which also help protect our lakes and forests	Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.  Thank you for your comments.	107
11-2-16	Outing Area Chamber of Commerce	Please accept this letter of support for the proposed ATV trail application submitted by the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club from the town of Emily, to the Blind Lake Connector Trail located in Aitkin County. We believe creating new ATV trails promotes responsible ATV usage by improving rider safety, enforcement, and trail sustainability through on-going maintenance and funds provided from the MN Trail Assistance Program. Without new trails, many riders simply look for open areas which can be damaging to our surrounding forests, and increase the safety risk to the ATV rider. Creating new trails provide a legal, safe, enforceable, and fun place to ride. The amount of recreational ATV use in the Emily/Outing area has increased over the past five years, which has greatly benefited local businesses. The new trail proposal will create an additional linkage for ATV riders to connect to the Northwood's Regional ATV Trail System, connecting Cass, Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties and to/from the towns of Emily, Outing, Hill City, Palisade, McGregor and more.	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."  This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	108
11-2-16	Dean Nagorski	Nagorski Holdings, owns 177 acres that butts up to the proposed biking/ATV trail just south and east of Lake Mary and my biggest concerns are as follows: 1.) Trespassing – both hunting and ATV/bike trespassing, 2) Illegal dumping, 3) Soil erosion from ATV/bike overuse, 4) Poaching, 5) Liability & 6) Trail system being on Nagorski Holdings property. I think by creating a better trail system it will only increase the problems I've outlined above. I would also ask that the land be surveyed prior to this trail being passed and open to the public. If this trail does get passed hopefully Crow Wing County or the State of MN will relocate the trail quite a ways south of our property since all that land to the south is owned by Crow Wing County and tax forfeited	Thank you for your comments. Concerning enforcement, a system of designated, managed recreation trails, which includes safety and regulatory signage, maintenance, monitoring, and enforcement will protect natural resources. Trespass, reckless driving, and all other crimes need to be reported immediately to the Sheriff's Office so those who break such laws are held responsible for their actions. MN DNR Conservation Officers and CWC Officers with the Sheriff's Office have full authority to enforce state statutes and state off highway vehicle laws, rules, and regulations on county managed forest lands including non- designated trails. Such enforcement examples would include: 1.) Illegal operation on non-frozen public waters, lands posted closed with gates or signs and lands designated at non-motorized MS 84.773 Subd.1 2.) Disturbance of wetlands. MS 84.773 Subd. 2 3.) Seasonal Use Restrictions: No recreational ATV use during the firearms deer season MS 87.77 Subd 2 4.) Registration required for ATVs. MS 84.798 5.) Operation on Public Road Rights of Way MS 84.928 6.) Litter 7.) Trespass 8.) Helmet law for teenage riders 10-17 9.) Excessive speed,	109

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p>reckless driving etc. The trail system will be periodically monitored by Conservation Officers with the Minnesota DNR based on user counts provided by Trail Ambassadors, who will also monitor the trail system, and by incidence reports as submitted by concerned citizens.</p> <p>Concerning environmental impacts, a system of designated, managed recreation trails will provide formal and enhanced natural resource protection. As set forth in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, County natural resource managers performed an objective feasibility analysis as part of "Step 2" of the "Trail Proposal and Planning Process." County natural resource managers used specific criteria to evaluate the proposed designation. The criteria are designed to inform an objective evaluation process with flexibility to address the diversity of situations that exist. The criteria includes both social and environmental impact assessments such as impacts on adjacent private properties, public support, public safety considerations, soil conditions, slope, and grade, plan for maintenance, and wetlands and public waters. In total, this trail proposal scored 55 points, which means it was deemed suitable for further planning and development.</p> <p>Concerning potential liability, Crow Wing County requires that the recreation club in charge of developing and maintaining the trail system sign both an agreement with Crow Wing County and a permit to develop and maintain the trail system. The agreement requires, in part, that the club <i>"agrees to purchase liability insurance naming the County as an insured, or additional name insured, in an amount at least equal to \$1,500,000 or such amount as the County may require and agrees to provide a Certificate of Insurance or other document demonstrating such insurance has been procured to the County."</i></p> <p>Concerning the trail system being on private property, the County agrees that the proposed recreation trail as it exists in the NW1/4NE1/4 in section 31 of Little Pine Township does appear to potentially trespass onto your property's south boundary line. Crow Wing County will realign and vacate approximately 0.15 miles of that specific segment and re-route the trail farther to the south so that it is removed from potential private property impacts. This will result in a newly created trail segment approximately 0.10 miles in length.</p> <p>Concerning surveying land, Crow Wing County followed the six-step "Trail Planning and Proposal Process" outlined in the County Board</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			approved Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan. Land surveying is not part of that process. To locate approximate ownership boundary locations in the field, the County used existing ownership information from the County's Geographic Information System ("GIS" or "LINK") parcel mapping that is also available to the public at <a href="http://gis.crowwing.us/link/jsfe/index.aspx">http://gis.crowwing.us/link/jsfe/index.aspx</a>	
11-2-16	Janel Wanttaja	We are in favor of creating this new trail.	Thank you for your comments.	110
11-2-16	Renae Rengstrom	I am in favor of the new trail – YES!!	Thank you for your comments.	111
11-2-16	Sheila Roseth	I am in favor of this new trail, we have property in Outing and use the ATV trails quite a bit	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	112
11-3-16	Ken LeVoir	I want to thank Crow Wing County for its efforts in supporting the development of this trail. When completed, the new trail will allow riders to get from the Soo Line Trail to the Blind Lake Trail, then over into Emily. I support the development of this trail and look forward to riding it.	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	113
11-3-16	John Haen	I support the expansion of the Emily Blind Lake Trail.	Thank you for your comments.	114
11-3-16	Jim Campion	I am in favor of this trail	Thank you for your comments.	115
11-3-16	Mike Swinehart	I am in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake Trail. ATVs & UTVs provide me, my family & friends a great way to experience MN's beauty	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	116
11-3-16	Herb & Anita Jacobson	We are in favor of the new Emily to Blind Lake ATV trail. We think it would be another asset to the community.	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	117

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
11-3-16	Michaelle Kostrzewski	I am in favor of the new Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	118
11-4-16	James & Brenda Anderson	We are in favor of this new trail –Emily to Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	119
11-4-16	Jay Linn	Yes on the trail	Thank you for your comments.	120
11-4-16	Amanda Linn	Yes on the trail	Thank you for your comments.	121
11-4-16	Ken Irish	I am requesting that the Crow Wing County Commissioners and the Minnesota DNR to approve this trail connection. ATV riders are looking for trail loop connections to gas, lodging and food. This trail connection will bring new tourism to the city of Emily and the surrounding area. Destination trail connections help promote regional economic growth and safer riding	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	122
11-4-16	Janis Judd	I am in favor of the new Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	123
11-4-16	Wally Barry	I whole heartedly agree with the extension of the trail system to include Emily/Blind Lake. The ATV trails are an important part of the economy in our northland area. A trail system that provides more access encourage riders to come out not only for the great trails themselves but to spend money in our communities by patronizing our gas stations, restaurants, bars, shops and lodging. I VOTE YES to the extension	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.  We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	124
11-7-16	Sharon Leider	We would like to see the ATV trail extended. We have a place on Stark Lake and own several ATV's	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	125
11-7-16	Dave Huml	I am writing to convey my very strong support for approving the new Emily to Blind Lake trail proposed. This expanded trail system would be a great addition and provide safe access to more trails to explore for years to come	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	126

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
11-7-16	Jim Remington	As a full time resident of the Outing, MN area, I am in full support of the implementation of the connection trail from Emily to Blind Lake. These trails are a positive impact on the environment as they are enforced and maintained vs everyone going anywhere.	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	127
11-7-16	Maudeen Pikus	We are both in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	128
11-7-16	Karen	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	129
11-7-16	Paul & Colette McConville	I am in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	130
11-7-16	Andy & Amy Smith	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	131
11-7-16	Kelly – Arrow Glass	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	132
11-7-16	Janet Haen	Please support the expansion of the trail. We enjoy riding in the area and this would provide a great experience for our family	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	133
11-8-16	Mary Schwingler	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	134
11-8-16	Dan Patrin	After riding most of the ATV trails in MN, this is the best area for ATV trails. Please approve.	Thank you for your comments. Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses. Much of the proposed trail system is in forestland and out of road right of ways where recreation enthusiasts can enjoy the County's natural resources while still protecting the environment and wildlife habitat.	135
11-9-16	Gary Tunsky	I am in favor of the Emily/Blind Lake Trails. I vote Yes	Thank you for your comments.	136
11-10-16	Dave Hauser	I support the Emily to Blind Lake Recreational Trail Proposal. This link is very much needed to improve safety and continue a great riding experience. As ATV usage grows due to poor snow fall winters we have more people looking for safe and enjoyable areas to ride. They are riders that spend a lot of money in this area to help the economy. With so much focus being put on	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	137

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		bike paths and mountain biking we all need to support motorized recreation that really does spend money with local merchants.	This is a multiple use trail, which means all forms of non-motorized recreation use will also be allowed.  Snowmobiles will not be a designated use on this proposed trail system for a number of reasons. See staff response to comment #169 (specifically answer to question #16 within that response).	
11-14-16	Kevin Switala	I am in favor of this new trail. My family and friends ride these trails to access local business and build the local economy.	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	138
11-14-16	Larry Schill	Yes, I am in favor of the new Emily-Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	139
11-14-16	Matt Stevenson	I'm in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail.	Thank you for your comments.	140
11-14-16	Ed Anderson	I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail proposal. The Over The Hills Gang, which is working hard to create this new trail, is a very responsible club, promoting safe, responsible ATV riding opportunities in Crow Wing County.	Thank you for your comments. Partnerships with user groups are an important component of effective trail management and enforcement. Existing motorized trails in this area presents opportunities to create an improved system of designated, managed trails.  Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses.	141
11-14-16	David Halsey	On behalf of the Woodtick Wheelers, and our 400+ members, I am commenting in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake ATV Trail proposal.	Thank you for your comments. See staff response to comment #141.	142
11-14-16	Brenda Anderson	Yes	Thank you for your comments.	143
11-14-16	Shannon Sterzinger	I support & votes yes for trail	Thank you for your comments.	144
11-14-16	Rebecca Gromek	We don't object to the trail proposal as we think it will benefit the area and the businesses. However we are very concerned about the speed of vehicles and how it will be monitored. Our road, Dam Road, has many small grandchildren at the ages of 2-12 during the summer out and about on bicycles and scooters. We will need our road closely monitored and excellent signage to help control the speed.	Thank you for your comments. Crow Wing County recognizes and shares your belief that public safety is a top priority, particularly concerning children playing near permanent or seasonally occupied residences along the Dam Road. As such, Crow Wing County will work with Fairfield Township and the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club to post high-visible speed reduction and other safety and regulatory signage on the Dam Road. This designated, managed recreation trail will provide formal and enhanced monitoring, law enforcement, and protection of	145

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			the natural resources than currently exists.	
11-14-16	Craig Wendland	I approve of this trail and hope it will be built	Thank you for your comments.	146
11-14-16	Larry Moses	I support the Emily to Blind Lake Multi Use Trail. It creates a great loop trail ride from Emily through the Moose River Trail System, down the Soo Line Trail to the Blind Lake Connector Trail and back to Emily	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	147
11-14-16	Mark Fossum	I support the proposal for a trail from Emily to the Blind Lake Trail.	Thank you for your comments.	148
11-14-16	Tom Pierce	We for sure want the tail from Emily to Blind Lake	Thank you for your comments.	149
11-14-16	Richard Sergot	I support the Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trial proposal, because connecting ATV trails to each other is a great idea.	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	150
11-15-16	John Grassmann	I totally support this trail since I ATV in the area and would welcome additional opportunities	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	151
11-15-16	Lori Roers	Me and my family come up to Longville, Remer, Hill City and Emily areas to go riding. If you would add this beautiful new trail section and thus connect, Cass, Crow Wing and Aitkin counties it would make this the best ATV Trail System in the US. I feel that the ATV sport is growing and the more trails that are available the bigger the pull to have people vacation in your area and buy area homes and cabins.	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	152
11-15-	David Strock	I support the Emily/Blind Lake Trail	Thank you for your comments.	153

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
16				
11-15-16	Dale Hoogeveen	I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the trail proposal linking the City of Emily to the Blind Lake Trail. I am a member of the Blind Lake Trail ATV Club and have greatly enjoyed riding and maintaining the Blind Lake Trail. I thank you for considering the trail proposal and encourage you to proceed with construction of this trail.	Thank you for your comments. Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the proposed recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses.	154
11-15-16	Kelly Ann Marie	We are in favor of this new trail	Thank you for your comments.	155
11-15-16	Randy Laib	I am the current President of the Blink Lake ATV Club and early this spring several clubs met in Crosby for a meeting to discuss this new trail system from Emily to Blind Lake. There was much excitement and enthusiasm about the ability to connect to the Emily trail system and the town as well. Obviously our entire club is in favor of this new trail and would certainly do our part to see this become reality	Thank you for your comments. Partnerships with user groups are an important component of effective trail management and enforcement. Existing motorized trails in this area presents opportunities to create an improved system of designated, managed trails.	156
11-15-16	Ross Wagner, President Aitkin County ATV Alliance	I am writing to offer the Aitkin County ATV Alliances support for the Blind Lake to Emily ATV Trail. This trail will connect to and loop with the Northwood's ATV Trail system which currently contains well over 200 miles of designated ATV Trails in Aitkin, Itasca, Carlton and Mille Lacs County's	Thank you for your comments. This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75 miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.	157
11-16-16	Laurie Anderson	We have a home in Longville, MN and support the building of a new ATV Trail, connecting Emily-Outing Trail to the Blind Lake Trail.	Thank you for your comments. Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the proposed recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses.	158
11-16-16	Mike McNellis	I really enjoy snowmobiling from Blind Lake to Emily. I look forward to the new ATV trail opening so I can go during the summer as well.	Thank you for your comments. Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".	159
11-16-16	Erik Miller	Island Lake Acres, LLC. received the Crow Wing County Land Services Seek Public Comment on Proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreational Trail Proposal, dated October 17, 2016. Thank you for providing us the opportunity for public comment and the County's willingness to listen to our comments and or concerns.	Thank you for your comments. The "Bass Lake County Forest Road #15" is a prescriptive easement County Forest Road that was approved by the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners on June 10, 2008. While the process to record the County Forest Road followed MN Statute 89.715, the proposed recreation trail's current usage and	160

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>ILA owns approximately 124 acres of land that is described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NE Y. of SE Y. TWP 137, SEC 25, RNG 2, Parcel No. 890024100000009</li> <li>• NW Y. of SE Y. TWP 137, SEC 25, RNG 2, Parcel No. 890024200000009</li> <li>• SW Y. of NE Y. TWP 137, SEC 25, RNG 2, Parcel No. 890021300000009</li> </ul> <p>The proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail proposal will cross our private property in two locations. At this time, we do not support the proposal for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The County's right-of-way to cross our property is provided through a prescribed easement described as Bass Lake County Forest Road #15, Crow Wing County, MN. This easement was adopted by Crow Wing County on June 10, 2008 and recorded on July 15, 2008. Minnesota Statute 89.715 was followed for the recording of this forest road. As such, the intended use of the Forest Road is defined by Minnesota Statute 89.71 and can be generally defined to providing access to tracts of public lands larger than 1,000 acres having no access for the purpose of managing the County and State's forest resources. <b><u>It is our opinion that Crow Wing County does not have the legal authority to authorize the use of the Forest Road as a designated ATV Recreational Trail across private property without the written consent of the property owner.</u></b></li> <li>2. We believe the Proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail should avoid crossing private property wherever possible. Designing the public recreational trail alignment to avoid property will removed unnecessary concerns regarding access, liability, maintenance, etc. and allows the private property owner to continue to use their property as they currently do. We have identified and alternate alignment that will avoid the proposed trail crossing our Parcel No. 890024100000009. Realigning the proposed trail to avoid our private property will be significant in gaining our support for the project. With the realignment, we would request Crow Wing County to vacate that portion of the Bass Lake County Forest Road #15 that crosses this property.</li> <li>3. Access to our property is provided by the Bass Lake County Forest Road #15, more commonly referred to as "Lens Road". The Proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail Proposal plans to use this Forest Road as an ATV Recreational Trail from County Road 106 to east of our property. Based upon the information provided with the proposal it remains unclear what the designated motorized use will be for Len's Road that will allow continuous, unaltered and safe access to our property.</li> <li>4. Crow Wing County has classified Bass Lake County Forest Road #15 as a</li> </ol>	<p>proposed designation is consistent with the definition of a County Forest Road, which is a "...road constructed, acquired, maintained, or administered by the county for the purpose of public access and management of tax-forfeited lands that have been classified as conservation lands under this chapter" (MN Statute 282.041, Subd. 1). That being said, Crow Wing County will agree to re-route all recreation trail usage around your property to the south and east by utilizing 0.75 miles of existing forest trails and developing 0.7 miles of new trail construction. The re-route would then rejoin the original trail proposal at the east end of the pine plantation on County managed forestland approximately 900 feet east of your property. The County feels that in this particular case, it is a reasonable alternative because over half (51%) of the re-route is on existing forest trails that has current motorized use allowed and new trail construction would will not involve impacts to wetlands or rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife species. Re-routing the proposed trail around your property that already has an existing public easement would not legally stop motorized vehicle use and it cannot be gated or blocked to prevent public travel. Instead, high visibility reassurance signage will be installed at key locations indicating where the designated recreation trail route is located.</p> <p>Concerning liability, Crow Wing County requires that the recreation club in charge of developing and maintaining the trail system sign both an agreement with Crow Wing County and a permit to develop and maintain the trail system. The agreement requires, in part, that the club "agrees to purchase liability insurance naming the County as an insured, or additional name insured, in an amount at least equal to \$1,500,000 or such amount as the County may require and agrees to provide a Certificate of Insurance or other document demonstrating such insurance has been procured to the County."</p> <p>Concerning uses on Lens Road in Ross Lake Township, as per the Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail project plan, the majority of the trail will include designated motorized uses by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). Other areas will also include uses by highway licensed vehicles where those uses are currently occurring. All forms of non-motorized recreation uses will be allowed. New trail construction will be developed to support up to a class II all-terrain vehicle (ATV).</p> <p>Access to private properties along the recreation trail route will not be</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>minimum-maintenance Forest Road as defined by Minnesota Statute 89.71. At this time, Crow Wing County is the responsible party for maintaining the Forest Road as a minimum-maintenance road in an adequate condition for the intended use of providing access and managing the forest resources. The Proposed Trail Development Application Summary specifically notes "All maintenance will be performed by the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club". Based upon the information provided with the proposal it remains unclear as to the maintenance specifications and schedule for the Forest Road that is consistent with the intended public use along with providing adequate access to the private properties located along Lens Road.</p>	<p>hindered or altered if the trail system is approved. Currently, Ross Lake Township contract grades the Lens Road several times each year from the intersection of County Road 106 to approximately 1.5 miles east ending at the east side of the property located in the SW1/4SE1/4 of section 4, Ross Lake Township. From there, Crow Wing County contracts out road grading services three times each year for signification portions of Bass Lake County Forest Road. Those road grading maintenance services will continue to occur if the recreation trail is approved as a designated recreation trail system. In fact, if approved by both Crow Wing County and the State of Minnesota, the designated trail will be maintained and monitored to a greater extent than currently, as part of the State Grant in Aid (GIA) trail program. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club will provide consistent and sustainable maintenance as part of the project plan, signed agreement, and trail permit with Crow Wing County.</p>	
11-17-16	Jamie Pauling	The trail plan would be great for the local economy and Minnesota recreation	Thank you for your comments.	161
11-17-16	Miss Nelson	We have a cabin in Remer and atv every weekend in the summer. We are responsible riders who enjoy the beautiful scenery Cass and Aitkin Counties have to offer. We would love to have access to the southern trails. We try to do loops instead of backtracking on trails. Difference scenery is much needed. The Blind Lake Trail is our favorite. Please build this and we will come.	Thank you for your comments. Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the proposed recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses.	162
11-17-16	Chuck Andrews	As a former county resident, I would like to weigh in on the proposed Emily to Blind Lake Trail comments. The Emily area has been home to my family for over 6 generations and I think back to what they saw and developed over their lifetimes. It is beautiful country and a trail like this will let generations to come explore the area as I have done over the years. The multi-use function will let all have access to the area, without regard to physical abilities and bring tourism revenue to those who rely on that business to live in the area. I believe that other areas in the county could use this sort of development as well	Thank you for your comments. Consistent with the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, one of Crow Wing County's policy objectives is to provide, "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space."	163
11-17-16	Darrel Palmer	<p>I am writing to you in support of the Proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail Proposal.</p> <p>I am a landowner with recreational hunting property surrounded in large part by the Chippewa National Forest north of Remer MN and I live in Crow Wing County and own land there also. My family has hunted and enjoyed the outdoors for over 40 years from both a motorized and non-motorized perspective. We are active members of several local atv clubs as well as being</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Crow wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan specifically mentions a "...linkage between county lands and Blind Lake in Aitkin County to connect with Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System" (p. 33 – Major Recommendation #5 - potential trail linkages). We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.</p>	164

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>involved in a local saddle club, Ruffed Grouse Society and MDHA. I am always concerned about the changes in regulations that may affect our ability to use the forests around our property in the fashion we have enjoyed for decades and as such always support these type of trail applications that provide both motorized and non-motorized trails. I am an avid grouse hunter and deer hunter and I spend numerous days each year scouting and hunting. Without logging roads and trails these large tracts of public land would not be used by anyone. Very few individuals like walking cross country through the heavily timbered/brushy/swampy areas.</p> <p>This trail will provide critical links to the Emily to Outing ATV Trail System and portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail and will only require minimal new trail construction. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated ATV trail of approximately 50 miles. From a user's perspective this allows users to start at any point in the trail system to make a loop and this also results in area businesses such as resorts and campgrounds benefiting from these users staying anywhere along the trail or getting gas/food anywhere they can along the trail. Regionally this proposal would connect to approximately 300 miles of designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.</p> <p>Riding ATV's to us is a fun way to see the outdoors and have family time together. In the spring we use the trails and our ATV's to see what logging activities have gone on during the winter. We look for deer sheds, beaver activity, listen for grouse drumming and see new areas as well as visit areas that hold great memories for us of times past. In the fall it allows our families to see the leaves changing, to scout new hunting areas, haul deer hunting stands around, as well as get the deer we harvested out of the woods. If it weren't for ATV's my Dad and uncles would not have been able to hunt in later years because they could not walk far and yet the ATV's allowed them to still hunt, be with people they loved, and be in the outdoors that was so much a part of their lives. I see more and more elderly people riding all the time for these reasons. Our ATV club is mainly made up of people in their mid 60's to almost 80 years of age - ATV's allow them to enjoy the woods. ATV's also allow veterans, who have been disabled in defending our county's freedoms, to still use the woods, and enjoy friends and family and a sport they love.</p> <p>I am Minnesota DNR Certified ATV Youth Safety Instructor and also a volunteer Minnesota DNR Certified Trail Ambassador who monitors the ATV Grant in Aid Trails in Minnesota. In our riding we are observing very little damage and in the initial 2 years that the Trail Ambassador program was in</p>	<p>In 2004, the Crow Wing County Board approved the Comprehensive Land Use Plan which promotes "diverse recreational opportunities that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while preserving the County's high quality natural areas and open space." To achieve that stated policy objective, the Board and recreation user groups have promoted designated and managed recreation trails. These trails are distinctly different from undesignated forest trails and offer an enhancement to the undersigned trail approach. Management goals on these trails focus on the promotion of recreation design and use in order to focus and maximize time and resources (i.e., maintenance, enforcement, funding, and marketing). They offer quality trail experiences and destinations with systematic and predictable monitoring, maintenance, and marketing. They help make Crow Wing County, "Minnesota's favorite place."</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>effect we doubled the amount of volunteers/miles ridden/hours logged and yet the amount of violations we have observed was cut in half from the previous year. ATV riders have gotten organized and have taken on the task of educating and informing riders of the do's and don'ts of riding ATVs and this process is making a difference BUT if you take away the trails/roads that these riders use they will try to find other areas to ride and that will cause more problems.</p> <p>Minnesota is also home to 2 of the top ATV manufacturers nationwide and ATVs continue to grow as an outdoor activity for young and old alike. Minnesota needs them to survive and boom, to support the manufacturers, and the residents in those manufacturing areas as well as bring the economic boost that ATVs provide to the areas they ride in.</p> <p>In summary I cannot see that ATVs are harming this area from an environmental standpoint based on the uses that I have observed in the last 40 years, the trails that are used and maintained by ATVs allow easier access to timber harvest, provide a return on investment to the taxpayers by providing a higher value for the timber harvest, increase the potential for additional tourism to occur in this area which brings significant economic benefits to Minnesota, and allows my family and I, and others like us, to enjoy a family activity together that we have been doing for decades.</p> <p>This trail proposal will satisfy the needs of many users groups in this area, allow people to enjoy the scenic views, provide recreational opportunities for both residents and non-residents, and provide economic benefits to our area.</p>		
11-17-16	Darrel Palmer (Central Lakes ATV Club)	<p>I am writing to you in regards to the Proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail Proposal on behalf of the Central Lakes ATV Club and our members. I am the Trail Grant Manager of the Central Lakes ATV Club and the Region 3 Director of the All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM). The Central Lakes ATV Club has 164 members and our local county atv club membership has well over 1,500 members who enjoy all forms of outdoor recreation with many of us having ridden in the area for 40-50 years. Our organizations are writing to put forth our support of this excellent trail proposal.</p> <p>This trail will provide critical links to the Emily to Outing ATV Trail System and portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated ATV trail of approximately 50 miles. From a user's perspective this allows users to start at any point in the trail system to make a loop and this also results in area businesses such as resorts</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Fourteen of the proposed sixteen miles (87%) of the proposed recreation trail is currently in use by multiple uses, including motorized uses (i.e., ATVs, OHMs, etc.). The proposed designation includes no existing trail widening, and no trail conversions to different uses.</p> <p>Motorized recreation is an appropriate activity on public lands. Currently, ATVs, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are allowed on county trails and roads as long as the trails are not posted "closed to motorized vehicles".</p> <p>This trail proposal would connect to and link together two existing GIA ATV trail systems of regional significance to the north and east. They are: (1) Emily to Outing ATV Trail System [apx. 54 miles] and (2) portions of the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System [apx. 75</p>	165

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>and campgrounds benefiting from these users staying anywhere along the trail or getting gas/food anywhere they can along the trail. Regionally, this proposal would connect to approximately 300 miles of designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.</p> <p>The bulk of this trail is using existing trails and forest roads with only minimal new trail construction. From a suitability perspective this trail proposal has achieved a high score according to the Trail Suitability Analysis provided on the county's website. This area has been utilized for years by all sorts of outdoor users including ATV's and other motorized and non-motorized users and needs to have designated trails to preserve these uses. Due to the type of soil and topography this area has had minimal erosion or maintenance issues even without any type of maintenance provided over the SO years that I have used it. With it now becoming a Grant - in - Aid ("GIA") trail there will be funding available to provide any necessary maintenance to further enhance the long term suitability of the trail and area. This maintenance would also enhance the trail from a safety perspective by helping in eliminating area such as washouts which may cause accidents.</p> <p>From a maintenance perspective the trail system will benefit because there will now be a direct source of funding through the GIA program. The funding for the GIA program is provided by registration fees on ATV's and a portion of the gasoline sales taxes that are allocated to ATV use. This will benefit the county and local residents because their will not be a cost to the county for having this trail system and yet ALL users will benefit.</p> <p>From an enforcement perspective this trail will benefit from 3 areas; a) our area ATV clubs have the highest number of trained MN DNR Volunteer Trail Ambassadors of any county in the state and the designation of this trail as a Grant - in - Aid trail allows our local Trail Ambassadors to ride and monitor this trail system to ensure it provides safe, scenic, and enjoyable riding (of all types) and walking opportunities for all users, b) by being a GIA trail there is additional funding to the MN DNR for additional Conservation Officer ("CO") enforcement directly for this trail system. Currently there is not a CO directly assigned to these trails but with it becoming a GIA system there will be a CO assigned to monitor the trails and work with the Trail Ambassadors to monitor the trails, identify potential problem areas or complaints and resolve them, and c) as a result of the trail being a GIA trail there will be funding for signage to keep riders on the trail system and if there were to become problems in a specific area to provide additional signage, or fencing if necessary.</p>	<p>miles]. This would create a single contiguous loop of a designated multiple use trail totaling approximately 50 miles. Regionally, this would connect to approximately 300 miles of other designated multiple use trails in Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing Counties.</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		This trail plan will satisfy the needs of many users groups in this area, allow people to enjoy the scenic views, provide recreational opportunities for both residents and non-residents and provide economic benefits to our area.		
11-17-16	Bob Grecula	I'm all for the trail I think it will improve the trails & help the business in Emily	Thank you for your comments. The Over The Hills Gang ATV Club received 27 letters of support from northeastern Crow Wing County businesses during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's Trail Proposal and Planning Process.	166
11-17-16	Melissa Lundgren	This will make our ride safer	Thank you for your comments. We believe the proposed trail designation will provide more effective enforcement, management, and natural resource protection than the current approach of undesignated trails.	167
11-17-16	Gary Myhre	I am sending this to express that I am in favor of the Emily to Blind Lake trail. This trail would allow options for riding in the Emily area, making it a destination for multiple trips or multiple days during long weekends. Hotels, Camping sites and restaurants would be benefited by riders like me visiting the area and staying for a longer time. As an ATV rider I am always looking for opportunities to ride in areas with enough trails and not have to trailer to another area. This trail would make this such a destination, allowing for many options and trails to ride. In summary please approve this new trail opportunity.	Thank you for your comments. This proposed trail system attempts to achieve one of Major Recommendation #5 goals, as identified in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan, to provide a linkage trail from northeastern Crow Wing County area to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail system in Aitkin County.	168
11-17-16	Ron & Judi Dick	My wife and I live on the Dam Road in the proposed Emily to Blind Lake Recreation Trail and we have the following questions:  1 Will the ditch (right of way) of the Dam rd be used? Witch side?  2 Will trees be removed? At whose expence?  3 Will parking in the right a way be allowed? how wide is the right a way? Are buildings in the right a way? Why are buildings so close to the road?  4 Will parking restrictions apply to the Emily Resort? Will parking be allowed in the road?  5 How close to the traffic is safe for tents and campers?  6 How close will traffic be to buildings?  7 How often will the road be graded? Who will pay?	Thank you for your comments.  <b>Response to #1:</b> ATVs, off-highway motorcycles, highway licensed vehicles and other forms of recreation are currently a legal use on the Dam Road even in the absence of the proposed recreation trail system. The proposed recreation trail will include, among other motorized and non-motorized uses, ATV use on the right hand side of the roadway surface (both ways). The proposal does not include ATV use in "ditches" along the Dam Road. However, since the road authority on the Dam Road is Fairfield Township, recreation use and riding areas will be a cooperative effort between Crow Wing County, the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club, and Fairfield Township.  <b>Response to #2:</b> No part of the Dam Road will be widened or altered to accommodate the proposed recreation trail system. Therefore, no tree removal will be necessary.  <b>Response to #3:</b> No part of the Dam Road will be widened or altered to accommodate the proposed recreation trail system. Access to private	169

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
		<p>8 Will dust control chems be applied and how often? Who will pay? Is the treatment safe for the lake?</p> <p>9 Where will the signs be placed when near private property?</p> <p>10 How large are the signs? Is the sign at the N W side of the dam an example? What does it mean and why was it placed in it's location?</p> <p>11 Will my property taxes be affected? Will my property value change?</p> <p>12 Will bicycle and horses use the road? Will horsman carry plastic bags for clean up? Do you think it is safe for peds, bikes, autos, trucks, dogs and atvs to use the same road at the same time? Would you want your kids out there?</p> <p>13 The Dam Road is in a flood plain and passes through some low areas. Will changes to the road cause water run off problems? Who is responsible to correct any problems?</p> <p>14 Why not use the bridge on white tail road to cross the river and acces the trail system from the north? Why are the ditches near the bridge covered with cement? Is that legal?</p> <p>15 What problems are expected crossing hwy 6 to access the Dam RD? Will a crossing of some kind be marked?</p> <p>16 Will snowmobiles have access to the trail at some latter date? the snow groomer pulls snow back on to the Dam Road and can hinder traffic. Any restriction in the width of the road is a problem. extra care is needed when meeting another car. The Dam Road is not a full width road.</p> <p>17 What will the speed limit for the dam road be? i live at the east end of the road where the road straightens out and many people exceed the current 20 mph. Do you expect this proplem to be controled?</p> <p>My wife and I do not want the Dam Road used for a recreational trail.</p>	<p>properties and/or businesses along the recreation trail route will not be hindered or altered if the trail system is approved.</p> <p>According to a certificate of survey conducted in 2004 by Westwood Professional Services, Inc., prepared for "Emily Lake Owners" in parts of Government Lot 2, section 3 in Fairfield Township (document #13755), the Dam Road has a 24 foot wide gravel surface township roadway with an additional 6 foot wide winter maintenance easement on both sides of the township road.</p> <p>Importantly, both Fairfield Township and Lake Emily Resort have formally and proactively provided written letters of support for the proposed recreation trail system to the Over the Hills Gang ATV during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's "Trail Proposal and Planning Process". Questions concerning existing parking, buildings (and their locations), and infrastructure within the Dam Road right-of-way are best answered by contacting Fairfield Township as they are the roadway authority. Contact information for Fairfield Township can be found on p. 2 of the following document on the County's website: <a href="http://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/5291">http://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/5291</a>.</p> <p><b>Response to #4:</b> Recreation use and riding areas on the Dam Road will be a cooperative effort between Crow Wing County, the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club, and Fairfield Township. Both Fairfield Township and Lake Emily Resort have formally and proactively provided written letters of support for the proposed recreation trail system to the Over the Hills Gang ATV during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's "Trail Proposal and Planning Process"</p> <p><b>Response to #5:</b> See responses to #3.</p> <p><b>Response to #6:</b> See response to #3.</p> <p><b>Responses to #7 &amp; #8:</b> Fairfield Township is the roadway authority for the Dam Road and as such is in charge of maintaining the roadway for usual public access to businesses and private property along the roadway. This typically involves, among other activities, road grading. Those practices and their funding sources will not change if the recreation trail proposal is approved. That being said, the Dam Road's maintenance and monitoring will be enhanced as part of the recreation trail proposal and will involve a close relationship between the Over</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p>The Hills Gang ATV Club, Crow Wing County, and Fairfield Township. This may include a cost-sharing arrangement for additional road grading or chemical dust control measures as deemed appropriate by routine trail monitoring and usage patterns. For these "enhanced" recreation-related maintenance items as it relates to the trail system, the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club and MN DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Assistance Program (Grant-In-Aid fund) will cover those costs. Any and all roadway treatments will be applied according to the manufacturer's / label's specifications and all environmental best management practices will be followed for any trail development or maintenance actions on the trail system.</p> <p><b>Response to #9:</b> See response to #3. When the specific proposed locations of regulatory and information signage are ready for approval, Crow Wing County and the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club will seek permission from the Fairfield Township Board for their installation and the township board will ultimately decide on appropriate places within the road right-of-way for installation. Fairfield Township and its residents will not be asked to pay for installing or maintaining the signs. They will be paid for in part by the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club and Grant-In-Aid (GIA) dollars through the MN DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Assistance Fund.</p> <p><b>Response to #10.</b> See answer to #9 for questions about the size of signs. They will be professional, custom designed signs in nature commensurate with high visibility in both high and low light conditions and made from materials that are conducive to long-term durability. Examples of such signs can be found on Iverson Road in the City of Trommald and County Road 30 in Wolford Township which provides information about the Miller Black Bear Area Trail.</p> <p><b>Response to #11:</b> The presence or absence of a recreation trail system is not a specific criterion that is incorporated into the property tax valuation process. See "Understanding the Property Tax Process" on p. 2 of the following document available on the Crow Wing County website for more information:  <a href="http://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/9095">http://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/9095</a>.</p> <p><b>Response to #12:</b> The trail proposal is for multiple uses (both motorized and non-motorized) including ATVs, horses, hikers, hunters, and mountain bike enthusiasts. This "multi-use" concept is common and has</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p>occurred successfully on many recreation trail systems in Crow Wing County, the state of Minnesota, and many other states including Idaho, Massachusetts, Maine, Wisconsin, Washington, and Oregon. It has been the experience of Crow Wing County that designated, managed trails that include OHV use continue to experience multiple uses, including non-motorized uses, even after the recreation designation has been made.</p> <p>Monitoring will be performed by the Over the Hills Gang ATV Club, MN DNR Trail Ambassadors, and Crow Wing County Land Services. Recreation related maintenance on the trail system will be performed by the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club.</p> <p><b>Response to #13:</b> No part of the Dam Road will be widened or altered to accommodate the proposed recreation trail system. All proposed trail locations' suitability has been objectively analyzed during Step 2 of the "Trail Proposal and Planning Process" in including plan for maintenance, soil conditions, slope, and grade, and wetlands and public waters. In total, this trail proposal scored 55 points, which means it was deemed suitable for further planning and development. All recreation-related maintenance on the trail system will be performed by the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club.</p> <p>Importantly, as stated in response to your questions #7 &amp; 8, Fairfield Township is the roadway authority for the Dam Road and as such is in charge of maintaining the roadway for usual public access to businesses and private property along the roadway. This includes potential major road improvements to address long term public water influences (i.e., ordinary high water levels) or historic rain events (i.e., flooding).</p> <p><b>Response to #14:</b> In spring, 2013, Crow Wing County began on-the-ground research of this recreation trail system specifically focusing on four key aspects that will result safe and sustainable trails accessible to people of all ages and abilities while protective the natural resources: a.) Direct connection from the "Emily to Outing Grant-in-Aid ATV Trail" to the "Northwoods Regional ATV Trail" in Aitkin County; b.) In-woods / natural environment experiences; c.) minimize new trail construction; d.) minimize private land impacts. Other alternatives were explored, but they failed to maximize these four key aspects altogether. Re-routing the proposed recreation trail to the north through White Tail Drive in the City of Emily would have resulted in increased new trail</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p>creation, impacted more wetlands (i.e., wetland fill), and directly impacted more private property than the current alternative trail alignment.</p> <p><b>Response to #15:</b> Throughout Step 2 of the “Trail Proposal and Planning Process” Crow Wing County has worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) on proposed right-of-way use on MN State Highway #6 in the City of Emily and Fairfield Township. In August, 2015, MN DOT gave written preliminary approval for use in the right of way of the west side of State Highway #6 subject to Crow Wing County securing all relevant legal permits and processes. The County will continue to work closely with MN DOT to establish a safe, sustainable crossing from State Highway #6 to the Dam Road just as the current Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trail is required to do at its Highway #6 crossing opposite the Dam Road.</p> <p><b>Response to #16:</b> No part of the Dam Road will be widened or altered to accommodate proposed recreation trail usage. Access to private properties and/or businesses along the recreation trail route will not be hindered or altered if the trail system is approved.</p> <p>Snowmobile use will likely not be a proposed use at a later date for a number of reasons. First, this trail proposal is being offered as part of the summer motorized trails major recommendation #5 (potential trail linkages) in the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan that includes a “<i>...linkage between county lands and Blind Lake in Aitkin County to connect with Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System.</i>” Increased designated snowmobile trails were not part of that recommendation. Second, there is already an existing groomed, signed, and maintained Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trail that runs west-to-east through northeastern Crow Wing County that is available for snowmobile trail enthusiasts. Third, the proposed recreation trail will be open for recreation use from May 15 thru October 31<sup>st</sup> and closed outside of that time period (except for hunting). Fourth, part of the money used to develop and maintain this trail system, Grant-In-Aid (GIA) dollars through the MN DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Assistance Fund, does not support snowmobile trail maintenance. Finally, in order to minimize impacts to natural resources and reduce costs, the design for new trail construction over wetlands (boardwalks) will likely not be constructed (i.e., width) to support snowmobile trail grooming equipment or snowmobile use.</p>	

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p><b>Response to #17:</b> Crow Wing County recognizes and shares your belief that public safety is a top priority. As described in the project evaluation criteria, proposed mitigations to private residences include the use of safety and regulatory signage, including speed reductions, to help reduce the chances of unlawful recreation riding on the trail system. On areas where there is a local road authority (i.e., Dam Road), Crow Wing County will work with them to establish a speed reduction that helps maintain safe travel. On other areas where the County is the roadway authority, we will establish reasonable speed reductions where necessary. Between January 1, 2014 and November 13, 2015, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office received 62 calls, or less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one-percent of its total incident calls, that were related to an alleged unlawful ATV operation. A system of designated, managed recreation trails will provide formal and enhanced monitoring, enforcement, and protection of the natural resources.</p>	
11-17-16	Judith A Dick	<p>I am writing to you with a comment and concerns about the proposed trail on the Dam Road. I am 75 years old and have been coming to my parent's cabin on the Dam Road since I was 6 weeks old. My Great Grandfather owned a homestead off the Dam Road by "The Little Pine River". As you can see, my roots run deep. My husband &amp; I purchased the homestead of my parents in 1998 from the estate of my parents. We moved here to enjoy the nature and serenity of "God's Country". I am afraid that with the development of a recreational trail not only the serenity, but the safety on the Dam Road will be impaired. In the summer the children ride bikes, and walk to the dam to fish. Many people from the Emily Resort walk their dogs, and many people drive to the dam to "Sight See". This road is well traveled! Another big concern I have is HWY 6. Have you ever seen the traffic on HWY 6 on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday? I find it very dangerous to make a left turn onto the Dam Road coming from Emily. Especially the traffic that is piling up behind your car while you are waiting to turn. We need a bye-pass lane. The cars are coming at 55 mph speed and the ATV's will have a hard time to cross HWY 6 onto the Dam Road. I love living here and do not want to see the Dam Road abused.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Crow Wing County recognizes and shares your belief that public safety is a top priority, particularly near permanent or seasonally occupied residences and areas where high speed traffic is traveling. On the Dam Road, Crow Wing County will work with Fairfield Township to install safety and regulatory signage, including speed reduction signs. No part of the Dam Road will be widened or altered to accommodate the proposed recreation trail system. And, access to private properties and/or businesses along the recreation trail route will not be hindered if the trail system is approved. Importantly, Fairfield Township has proactively provided a written letter of support for the proposed recreation trail system to the Over the Hills Gang ATV during Step 2 of Crow Wing County's "Trail Proposal and Planning Process".</p> <p>Concerning State Highway #6, throughout Step 2 of the "Trail Proposal and Planning Process" Crow Wing County has worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) on proposed right-of-way use on MN State Highway #6 in the City of Emily and Fairfield Township. No recreation use will occur on the roadway surface of State Highway #6, and much of the recreation use will occur in newly developed trails near edges of the road right-of-way. In August, 2015, MN DOT gave written preliminary approval for use in the right of way of the west side of State Highway #6 subject to Crow Wing County securing all relevant legal permits and processes. The County will</p>	170

## Emily to Blind Lake Trail Public Comments & Crow Wing County Responses

Date	Name	Comments	Staff Comments	#
			<p>continue to work closely with MN DOT to establish a safe, sustainable trail and crossing to the Dam Road just as the current Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trail is required to do at its Dam Road crossing point.</p> <p>The entire trail system will be monitored both the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club and MN DNR volunteer trail ambassadors. Enforcement will be carried out by both conservation officers with the MN DNR as well as Crow Wing County Sheriff deputies. A system of designated, managed recreation trails will provide formal and enhanced monitoring, enforcement, and protection of the natural resources.</p>	