

Submitted on: **1/27/2014**
Managing Entity: **North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Avenue, #3
Bismarck, ND 58503**
Contact Information: **Matt Gardner
1600 E. Century Ave. Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503
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Trail Project Name: **Turtle Mountain State Forest**

Description of Proposed Project:

The Turtle Mountains State Forest Trail Project will implement sustainable trail building and armoring techniques to improve access, user experience and resource protection. This will be accomplished by rerouting trails around sensitive areas, repairing resource damage areas and building connecting routes to expand access (2 miles). Results include trail armoring, re-routing trails to more suitable areas, implement water mitigating techniques such as culverts and boardwalks and correct trail slopes to promote sheet water flow across the trail and limit the effects of erosion. This project would also improve trailhead information centers, user access points and overall trail signage to accurately direct users to create a positive recreational experience.

Property Location Information

Urban or Rural Development: **Rural**

Address Line 1: **#2 Lake Metigoshe State Park**

Address Line 2:

City: **Bottineau**

County: **Bottineau**

State: **ND**

Zip Code: **58318**

Township: N **0**

Range: W **0**

Township Section:

Length of New Trail: **2.00**

Length of Total Trail if Project is an Extension: **11.00**

General Funding and Property Information

Total Cost: **90,000.00**

Fund Amount: **72,000.00**

Is this Project an Extension to an Existing Trail Project?

Who Holds the Title to the Project Land?

North Dakota Forest Service

Estimated Start Date: **10/1/2014**

Estimated End Date: **2/1/2015**

Classification of Land:

State **Federal** **Local** **Private**

Check all of the uses the Project impacts:

Walking/Hiking **Bicycling** **Horseback Riding** **Cross-Country Skiing**

In-line Skating **Snowmobiling** **ATV Riding** **Off-road Motorcycling**

4x4 Trucking Other: Snowshoeing, birding & hunting access

Does the Project fall substantially within a federal highway right-of-way? **Yes**

Federal Funding Sources

Local Funding Sources

Source Name	Amount
State Funds	\$18,000.00

Requirement-

Each application must address each of the following requirements in the order they appear below:

1. A project description sufficient to understand the project. Indicate prominently whether this is primarily a maintenance request, an enhancement to an existing trail, new development, acquisition, length of trail etc. Please explain if the application is for one or more phases of a multi-phase project.

The Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail Project is primarily an enhancement project to an existing trail system with new trail development. The water table in the Turtle Mountains is raising, resulting in many trails becoming flooded or saturated with water. In effect, creating unsustainable sections of trail with multiple loop systems closing. This project will use trail armoring and water mitigation techniques in applicable areas to return the trails to sustainable standards. In other areas the trails must be routed around these flooded areas to connect section of existing trail to open the entire trail system.

2. Clearly defined goals for the project (with a delineation of which user groups would benefit from the project).

The goals of the project include: enhancing use and access to recreational opportunities, connect people and out-of-state visitors with nature, construct sustainable trails that protect sensitive habitats and natural resources. The project will provide access to public lands for hikers, bicyclists, equestrian use, snow shoeing , cross country skiing and even sportsmen; Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems by re-routing trails away from sensitive areas.

3. Costs associated with the project (with estimates of the following components: material/service purchases including hardware, paint, lumber, sand/gravel concrete, landscape materials, signs, design/engineering services and contractor services).
 - a. **Recreational Trail Program Grant**
 - i. Contracted Labor – Construct 2 miles of trail. Additional expenses for hourly equipment rates for culvert installation and trail armoring. - \$82,500
 - ii. Trailhead Improvements
 1. Signage – \$2,500
 2. Gravel and materials for trailheads – \$5,000
 - b. **NDPRD Provided (Not part of Grant but part of project)**
 - i. Seasonal trail crew – misc. labor
 - ii. MT 55 Walk-behind loader w/operator
 - iii. Trail Layout and Design
4. Evidence of local/area support (e.g., council resolutions, minutes of public meetings, letters of support, etc).

The Turtle Mountains are identified as one of the high priority recreational resources according to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP further identified trails as a primary need facility followed by campgrounds and playgrounds in Region 2 which encompasses the project area. The SCORP pointed out that 68% of households in the area are interested in using trails. Within the project area are a Scenic Byway, ski resort, historical landmark and three campgrounds: Strawberry Lake, Dalen Primitive Campground and Twisted Oaks Equestrian Campground. The trails interconnect these campgrounds while providing a healthy recreational activity to its visitors and to the area. Twisted Oaks is primarily an equestrian campground with the trails in the area being the focus of the destination and the primary activity for its visitors. Restoring and improving these trails will impact a broad spectrum of recreationalists from a large area which serving local interests.

**Enclosed are two letters of support*

5. Availability/access to 20% match for eligible elements of the project proposal. Matching funds must not be from other federal sources such as Transportation Enhancement through the Department of Transportation. A resolution from the sponsor of the project regarding the availability of funds will be required prior to any award of a grant.

State Funds available - \$18,000

6. Identification of the sponsor of the project: This organization or unit of government will be legally responsible for the project.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

7. Evidence of applicant capability (e.g., ability to carry out project, and for development projects, to operate, maintain, and protect trail and facilities when completed).

NDPRD has a proven track record of grant and project management, especially with trails and the Recreational Trails Program.

8. Written Assurances (if applicable). Produce leases or written assurances that the project will be open for public use.

All trails within the project scope are located on North Dakota Forest Service lands which are open to the public.

Evaluation Criterion-

All applications must address the following criteria in the order that they appear. Failure to provide this information may result in the disqualification of this application.

1. Site and project quality: consideration of the needs of the intended trail user group(s); aesthetic quality of the trail location; appropriateness of the trail for the intended or existing uses; clarity, detail, and quality of project plan/design; quality of existing development (if any) on site or in corridor; attention to safety, accessibility and health considerations.

Our statewide planning efforts have shown this area to be of high priority for trails; identified by household surveys and recreational provider input. The restoration and improvement projects completed by this project will improve and protect the overall resources of the area and provide users a gateway into the scenic Turtle Mountain State Forest. This state forest is already home to loose surface trails and this project will stick with the same theme. Trails will be re-routed around flooded areas and placed in sustainable locations ensuring the longevity of the system.

2. Public need for and benefit of project: safety concerns, urgency of action, potential to lose the opportunity, number of people who would benefit from the project when compared to cost. Why should this project be funded? How many people could be expected to use the trail over the course of the year as a result of funding the project?

This project is part of an extensive 11 mile trail systems located in one of North Dakota's special places. As outlined above, currently sections of trail are under water and inaccessible to users. Other areas are experiencing resource damage because of the water issues. This project is crucial in protecting the area and opening the entire trail system to the users.

3. Context of the project in a wider plan: demonstrated compatibility with local/region/area trail plans and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. For proposed facilities, what relationship does the proposed development/acquisition have to other outdoor recreation facilities and trails?

The SCORP identified this region as a high priority for recreational need of trails. This trail system serves the three campgrounds in the area along with day use visitors. This type of recreational activity is perfect considering the recreational nature of the area.

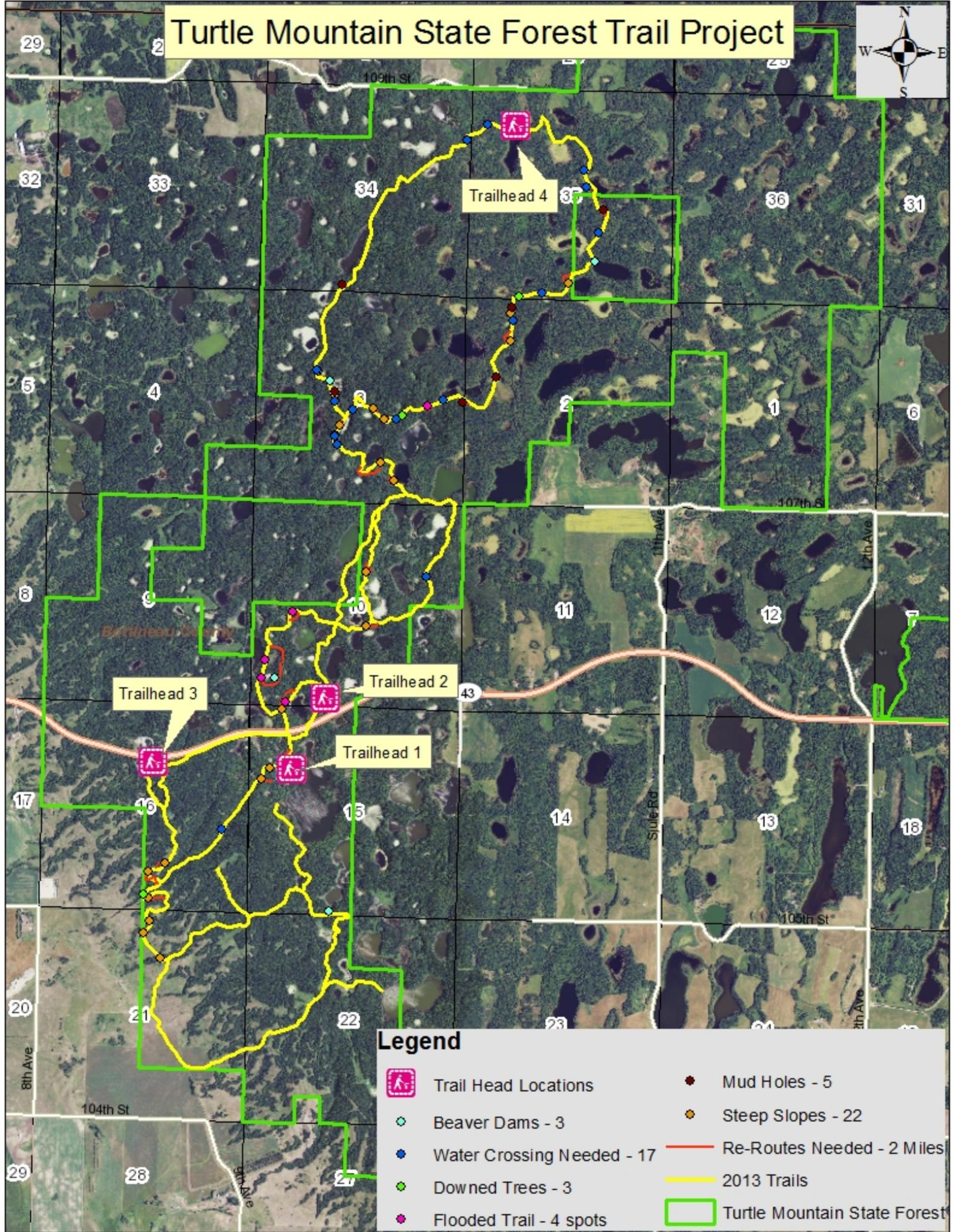
4. Attention to the potential environmental impact of the project and efforts to mitigate adverse effects: Possible areas of consideration include but are not limited to: noise, odors, dust, surface erosion, fish and wildlife populations, damage to wetlands, or other ecologically sensitive natural resources or historical/archeological remains. A cultural review letter or document should be included with the application. All applications are subject to review by the State Historical Society.

A primary goal for this project is to bring the trail system back to sustainable trail standards, reducing natural resource impacts. NDPRD will follow SHPO guidance along with the environmental guidelines outlined in the Recreation Trails Program Manual to maintain compliance during the project.

5. Impact on adjoining landowners in the vicinity of the project: Identify adverse impacts that might be realized as a result of completing the project, and how the project's design attempts to mitigate adverse impacts. How might the project improve conditions for adjacent landowners?

Considering the rural nature of the project no foreseen land owner impacts will occur. There are no private dwelling in the project area. This project will benefit local eco-tourism and provide a healthy recreation activity to area residents.

Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail Project



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Trail Head Locations | | Mud Holes - 5 |
| | Beaver Dams - 3 | | Steep Slopes - 22 |
| | Water Crossing Needed - 17 | | Re-Routes Needed - 2 Miles |
| | Downed Trees - 3 | | 2013 Trails |
| | Flooded Trail - 4 spots | | Turtle Mountain State Forest |

November 21, 2013

Mark Zimmerman, Director
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Mr. Zimmerman,

The North Dakota Paint Horse Club is pleased to support the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program. We believe this project will address trail improvement needs in the Turtle Mountain area and is a favorite recreational site for many horseback riding groups.

Much of the trail system has been closed as the recent wet cycle has flooded many portions of this system. We feel that the initiative provides the necessary mechanism to reroute existing trails and improve the overall resource for visitors to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Ezra

Ezra Aberle, President
North Dakota Paint Horse Club



NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE

"Caring for, protecting and improving our forest resources for future generations."

1/22/2014

Matt Gardner
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Mr. Gardner,

The North Dakota Forest Service is pleased to support the Trail Restoration and Improvement Program. The initiative leverages critical state and federal resources including the Recreational Trails Program administered through the USDOT Federal Highway Administration and the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. We believe this project will address trail improvement needs in the Turtle Mountain area and is a favorite recreational site for many trail user groups.

Much of the trail system has been closed as the recent wet cycle has flooded many portions of this system. We feel that the initiative provides the necessary mechanism to reroute existing trails and improve the overall resource for visitors to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Michael Kangas,
Nursery and State Forests Team Leader
North Dakota Forest Service