

Submitted on:

1/31/2014

Managing Entity:

**NDPRD
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58503**

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Trail Project Name:

**Pembina Gorge
Armoring Project**

Description of Proposed Project:

The Pembina Gorge Armoring Project will address erosion issues in drainages on the existing trails in the Pembina Gorge. With increased ditching and drain tiling on adjacent farmland, we are seeing faster flowing and higher volumes of water per rain event crossing our trails.

By addressing this early, we will be able to minimize erosion issues we will be facing in the future.

Property Location Information

Urban or Rural Development: **Rural**

Address Line 1: **101 5th St**
Address Line 2: **Walhalla**
City: **Walhalla**
County: **Cavalier**
State: **ND**
Zip Code: **58282**
Township: N **163.00**
Range: W **58.00**
Township Section: **14**
Length of New Trail: **0.00**
Length of Total Trail if Project is an Extension: **0.00**

General Funding and Property Information

Total Cost: **75,000.00**
Fund Amount: **60,000.00**

Is this Project an Extension to an Existing Trail Project?

Who Holds the Title to the Project Land?

The state of ND holds title to the Project Land.

Estimated Start Date: **6/1/2014**

Estimated End Date: **10/31/2014**

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:

Does the Project fall substantially within a federal highway right-of-way? **No**

Federal Funding Sources

Local Funding Sources

Project Description – Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is currently in ongoing development of a multiuse trail system in the Pembina Gorge area near Walhalla, ND. The department has taken on this project to address the needs of local land owners, state agencies, and Off Highway Vehicle owners in the state. The OHV industry over the past decade has grown significantly in North Dakota, as well as across the country. Without designated riding areas, OHV owners have sought riding areas on their own, often creating problems with land owners and land managing state agencies. The NDPRD is addressing this issue by identifying riding areas around the state and working to develop safe and sustainable trails. To date, we have constructed or enhanced existing trails to build a system of approximately 22 miles of multiuse trails in the Pembina Gorge. This project is designed to reinforce susceptible areas in the system so we can continue to provide access to the Pembina Gorge for trail users of all kinds. To do this, we will install rock throughout the drainages along the trail system. This will require minor excavation, hauling and installing of 4-6 inch rock, backfilling and blending of surrounding trails. By providing the solid rock base for the water to flow across, the trails will require less maintenance in the future since we will see less channeling in high flowing areas.

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 Pembina Gorge Armoring Project is an enhancement to the existing trail system. The Pembina Gorge, being a river valley, is composed of many drainages along its corridor. With increased ditching and drain tiling on the adjacent farm land, we are seeing a greater volume and faster flowing water cross our trails. We want to take a proactive approach and armor the locations along the trail that are more susceptible to erosion, thereby protecting them and ensuring that our trail system remains open to trail users.

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

The goal of this project is to ensure that the trails are able to withstand any major weather events and spring run off without having major damage which would delay or impede opening in a timely fashion each and every year. The user groups who benefit from this project are all trail users of the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area including hikers, bikers, equestrian, off-highway vehicles, birders, etc.

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).

The total for the project will be \$75,000. The costs associated with this project include armoring materials, equipment usage, and labor. The armoring materials will be six inch to eight inch rock sourced locally. The approximate cost for materials will be \$10,000.00. There will be sites that require culvert installation at an expense of \$5,000.00. Equipment usage and labor will be the bulk of the cost at approximately \$60,000. That will include delivery of material, hauling to each site, excavating, setting and backfilling.

4. Evidence of local/area support (e.g., council resolutions, minutes of public meetings, letters of support, etc).

Project sponsors that fall into one of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations' jurisdictions must provide evidence that their project is in compliance with the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

For Fargo area: <http://fmmetroco.org/>

For Bismarck-Mandan area: <http://www.bismarck.org/index.aspx?NID=133>

For Grand Forks area: <http://www.theforksmo.org/>

Local and area support has been great for this project. The city of Walhalla recently went through a strategic plan building process. The project was called Beginning Again North Dakota (BAND). Through this process, goals of the city were identified as to what needs to happen for Walhalla to survive and prosper. One of the goals identified was to “Increase Tourism in Area”. According to their plan one way to do that was to develop natural resources as a way to bring in tourists to the area. The Pembina Gorge Recreation Area was at the top of their list to reach this goal. The adjacent land owners understand the importance of building, maintaining and patrolling a trail system throughout the Pembina Gorge as a way to control the use of the gorge and manage it responsibly. Refer to the Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Gorge areas. (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>).

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.

Matching funds will be available and provided by the State of North Dakota.

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

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will be legally responsible for this project.

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).

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department’s plan for developing and maintaining the project includes on-site management. The Pembina Gorge Project Manager is stationed in Walhalla and is responsible for managing the lands associated with the trail project. The manager is also responsible for enforcing the laws associated with the trails.

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

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.

The Pembina Gorge provides a picturesque riding opportunity in North Dakota. The existing trail system traverses over a variety of terrain. The Pembina Gorge contains the largest, continuous, undisturbed forested land in North Dakota, which provides for a very unique riding experience in North Dakota. The trails have been built according to sustainable trail standards and are suitable for riders of all levels. The installation of armoring at the drainage points will further enhance the sustainability of the system and reduce repairs necessary to ensure the trails are safe and open for the users.

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?

The benefit of this project is that it will reduce maintenance costs over the long term and reduce damage to the trail system. As more farm fields are ditched and drain tile is installed, the run off from the spring melt and each rain event is getting off the fields quicker and collecting at higher volumes in the drainages that pass over our trails. By armoring the drainages, we will be able to minimize the impacts of the runoff. If we can reduce the impacts, it will lead to less closures and more people will be able to use the trails.

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?

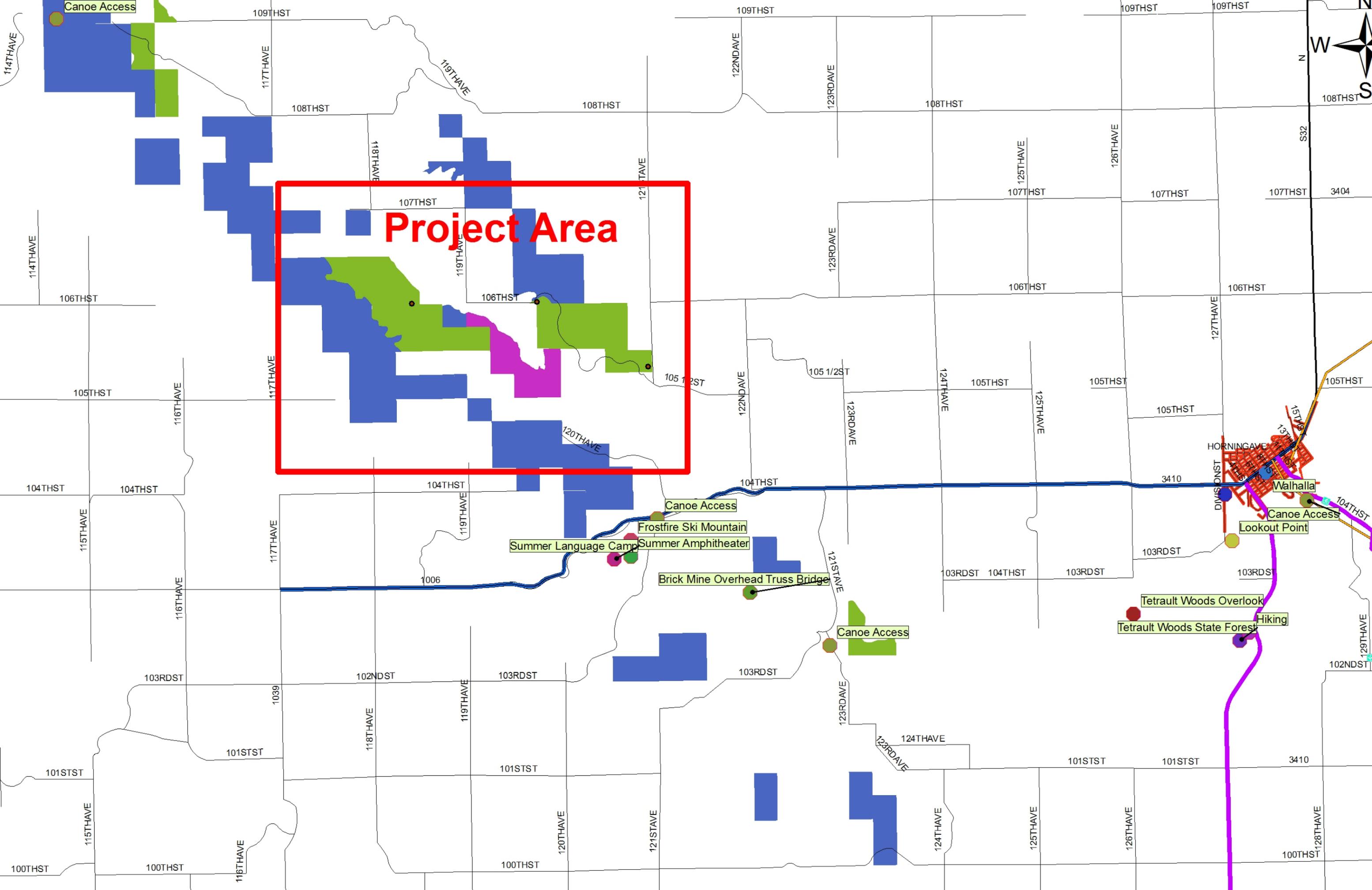
The Pembina Gorge Recreation Area was identified in the Master Plan for Trail Development in the Turtle Mountain and Pembina Gorge (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/planning/trailplan.pdf>) which outlines the need for managed trail systems in North Dakota. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified trails and trail development as the number one priority for recreational development. This project will support the development of trails according to this plan.

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.

This project is an enhancement to an existing trail system. Armoring will protect the trails from the water flowing through the drainages, thereby reducing surface erosion, which in turn reduces the sediment load carried by the water. It basically keeps the trail materials on the trail. The trail system received a Class III cultural survey and there were no findings of significance (See attached letter).

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?

The impact on adjoining landowners would be positive. By keeping the trail system in good condition and open, it would decrease the traffic in all other areas of the Pembina Gorge. By giving people a place to ride, it keeps them in areas suitable for riding and off of private land and ecologically sensitive areas where they aren't welcome. This has been a problem for the land owners in this area. They have experienced a great deal of destruction to their property by irresponsible riders and the problem is getting worse with the increase in OHV sales in the state and more people learning about the Pembina Gorge. Our goal is to provide a responsible and safe place to ride while maintaining the integrity of the area.



Project Area

Canoe Access

Canoe Access

Frostfire Ski Mountain

Summer Language Camp

Summer Amphitheater

Brick Mine Overhead Truss Bridge

Canoe Access

Tetraut Woods Overlook

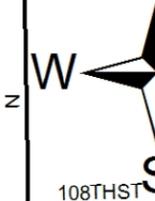
Tetraut Woods State Forest

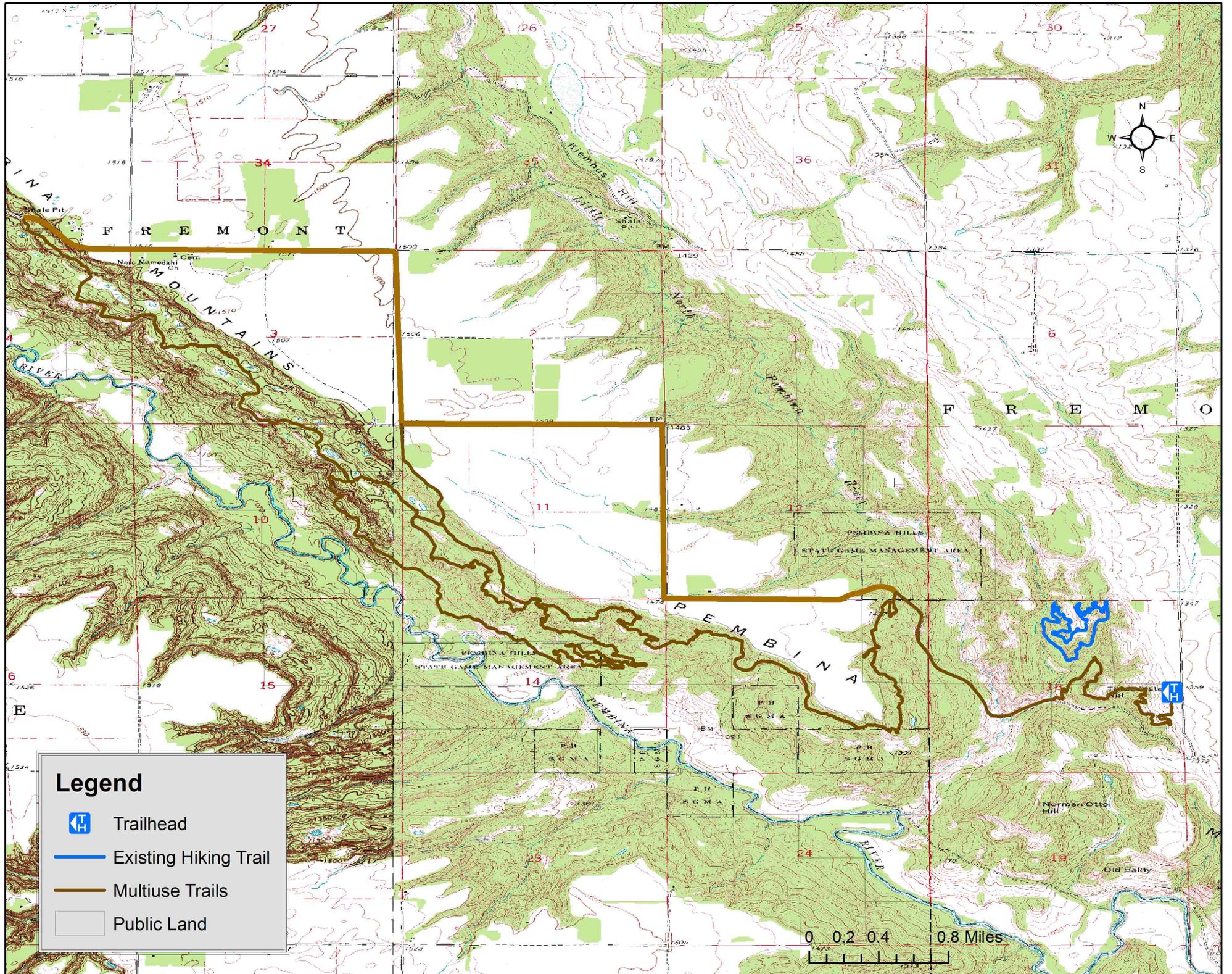
Hiking

Canoe Access

Lookout Point

Walhalla





Legend

- Trailhead
- Existing Hiking Trail
- Multiuse Trails
- Public Land

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles



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Director

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August 20, 2010

Mr. Mike Duerre
North Dakota Parks & Recreation
101 5th Street
Walhalla ND 58282

ND SHPO Ref.:10-1242 ND Parks & Recreation Dept. Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Build a multi-use trail system through the Pembina Gorge in portions of [T163N R57W Section 18 and 163N R58W Sections12-14] Cavalier County, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Duerre,

We reviewed ND SHPO Ref.:10-1242 ND Parks & Recreation Dept. Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Build a multi-use trail system through the Pembina Gorge, and the associated report by Damien Reinhart "Pembina Gorge: A Class III cultural Resource Inventory for a Proposed Multi-Use Path in Cavalier County, North Dakota," and find it acceptable. If consulted by a federal agency we would concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination for this segment of the trail as depicted and mapped in the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project segment. If you have any questions please contact Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701) 328-3576, e-mail squinnell@nd.gov

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
and Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota