

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System

Park ID: 16-036D Funding Application #: 16-044F

Date Designated: 2016-08-20 District1

Lead Organization: Cook County

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Project Name: Britton Peak-Lutsen Mountains Connector Trail

Project Description:

The Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System proposes to develop a new 15.5 mile connector trail from its current trailhead and system of single track trails at Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountains Ski Area and its system of trails and access to the Lutsen 99er race course (Action Steps D5, D6). Local matching for this project has generated \$176,925 of funding to build 7 miles of the connector trail and funding is sought for Phase I, the remaining 8.5 miles, to complete the trail. Upon completion, the trail will create a long distance scenic wilderness single track riding experience that will be unique to the sport of mountain biking. Along the route, trail users will encounter exposed bedrock features, diverse forest ecosystems and panoramic vistas of Cook County's north woods. The trail will be technically easy but physically moderate in difficulty due to its length. Short optional routes will be offered to utilize the rugged terrain and provide challenges for more skilled riders. This format will allow beginner to advanced riders to both use and enjoy the unique wilderness trail experience. The trail will meet International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) trail construction standards for difficulty and environmental sustainability. Trail routing, bridges, boardwalk, rock armoring and weather related trail closures will be used to protect fragile landscapes that must be crossed. Trail signage will provide trail difficulty rating and mileage information in conjunction with more frequent trail blazes to mark the 15.5 mile route. The Britton Peak-Lutsen Mountains connector trail will continue the already established arrangement between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Superior Cycling Association (SCA) for construction and maintenance of single track trails on USFS property. Cook County will also create a similar agreement with SCA to manage trail construction and provide trail maintenance (Step IMS3). After completion of the connector trail, the next phase (Phase II) in the Cook County MTB Trail system will further develop the trail clusters at the ends of the Britton Peak-Lutsen Mountains connector trail by adding 6 miles at Lutsen Mountains and 5 miles at Britton Peak (Steps D4, D5). Trailhead development and kiosks will also be a component of Phase II. The Britton Peak-Lutsen Mountains connector trail

would be part of the larger North Shore Traverse Trail that will also connect trail clusters at Pincushion Mountain near Grand Marais and eventually to trail clusters in Lake County and Duluth, MN.

Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: Construct 8.5 miles of single track mountain bike trail, including boardwalks and bridges, to complete the connection between Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains.

\$276,250 Signage \$2,000 TOTAL \$278,250 Additional funding for completion of the connector trail from Britton Peak to Lutsen Mountains will come from a Federal Recreational Trails Program grant of \$140,625 with matching funds from the following sources; Lutsen 99er Bike Race, \$20,000, Lutsen Tofte Tourism Association, \$10,000, and Superior Cycling Association, \$6,300. This 7 mile portion of the connector trail between Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains will begin in 2017 at a cost of \$176,925. The completed project of developing two clusters of single track mountain bike trails, one at Britton Peak and the other at Lutsen Mountains, with a connector between them will be completed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be 15.5 miles of single track creating the connection between the existing trails at Britton Peak and Lutsen Mountains. This project will be completed no later than December, 31 2018. Phase 2 of the project will be the addition of 6 miles of new single track trails at Lutsen Mountains and 5 miles of new single track trail at Britton Peak plus two trailhead kiosks, and signage at a total cost of \$370,500. The total mileage for Phase 1 and Phase 2 plus the existing trails will be 33.5 miles.

Grant Funding Request: \$278,250

Local Match: \$140,625 Funder: Federal Recreational Trails Program

Local Match: \$20,000 Funder: Life Time Fitness, Inc.

Local Match: \$10,000 Funder: Lutsen-Tofte Tourism Association

Local Match: \$6,300 Funder: Superior Cycling Association

Local Match: \$0 Funder:

Total Funding: \$455,175 Percentage of Local Match: 38.9%

Completion Timeframe: 18 months