

# 70-Mile Trail

## Oversight Committee

Maynard Anonen  
*Beaver Twp – Aitkin  
County*  
Stephen Aysta  
*Itasca Cnty Land Dept.*  
Robin Baker  
*Itasca County Park &  
Rec Committee*  
Rusty Eichorn  
*District 4 Itasca Cnty*  
TJ Gustin  
*Aitkin County Park  
Commission*  
Len Hardy  
*ATVAM*  
Mark Jacobs  
*Aitkin County Land  
Commissioner.*  
Harlan Kingsley  
*Business owner*  
Jon Korpi  
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Township, Itasca County*  
Bob Marcum  
*Salo Twp – Aitkin County  
Supervisor*  
Dave Marshall  
*Assistant Land  
Commissioner Itasca  
County*  
Brian Napstad  
*Aitkin County Board of  
Commissioners*  
Garrett Ous  
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Kim Risen  
*NatureScape News*  
Warren Spawn  
*Township Supervisor*  
Frank Turnock  
*Aitkin County ATV  
Alliance*  
Galen Tveit  
*Aitkin County  
Commissioner.*  
Rick Utech  
*Itasca Economic Dev.  
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Ross Wagner  
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*Project Coordinator, Katie Fernholz, Dovetail Partners/ 612-333-0430, info@dovetailinc.org*

## 70-Mile Trail Project Moves Forward

With input from hundreds of stakeholders and under the direction of a committee that has been meeting since last summer, the 70-Mile Trail Project continues to move forward.

“The project has followed a process that aims to be responsive to public input and the needs of the community,” says Brian Napstad, Aitkin County Commissioner and Committee Chair.

The project includes approximately 70 miles of new ATV/OHM recreational trail to be located in Aitkin and Itasca Counties. The project was proposed by the Land Departments in Aitkin and Itasca Counties and is supported with state funding through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

“The committee hosted public meetings last November and has received input from hundreds of stakeholders,” says Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Commissioner and Committee Member.

A summary of public comments and responses from the committee is available at the project website. ([www.70miletrail.net](http://www.70miletrail.net)) One of the goals of the project has been to take a systems approach to managing motorized recreation in the area.

“Integrating new trails with what’s already on the ground will create systems that users can enjoy,” says Steve Aysta, Itasca County Forest Recreation Specialist and Committee Member.

Based on feedback from the public and preliminary environmental reviews, the committee decided at its January 29th meeting to endorse a phased approach and to prioritize a group of four proposed trails during the first phase. An additional group of trails will be reviewed and alignments will be refined so they can be developed as part of the second phase.

“Taking a phased approach offers a lot of benefits,” says Len Hardy, of the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, and member of the committee. “We can move forward with getting some new trails on the ground while making sure the phase two trail alignments get a closer look to address concerns that were raised from the public and during the review.”

Information and maps related to the project are available at the project website. ★



*Photo Courtesy of Minnesota DNR.*

## Summary of Public Comments Available



The summary of public comments and committee responses is available at the project website. Comments include concerns about specific proposed routes as well as support for the goals of the project. Comments are being used to inform project development.

Visit the site at: [www.70MileTrail.net](http://www.70MileTrail.net)

To join the contact list to receive notices and updates about the project, send an email to [info@dovetailinc.org](mailto:info@dovetailinc.org) and just include "70 Mile Trail" in the subject line. Comments about the project can also be submitted using the form available at the website or by contacting the project coordinator. ★

## FAQs Spotlight: What types of motorized vehicles will be allowed to use the trail?

*"The Aitkin-Itasca 70-Mile trail project will be a well-designed, diverse, sustainable trail system.*

*The ultimate location and alignment of this trail project will need to be well thought out."*

-Mark Jacobs  
Aitkin Independent Age  
3/26/08

*One of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 70-Mile Trail Project is "What types of motorized vehicles will be allowed to use the trail?"*

The trail will be designed for use by ATVs and "dirt bikes" (Off-Highway Motorcycles, OHMs). Other Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), including jeeps and 4x4 trucks will not be allowed on the trail. The committee is considering which segments of the trail will be designed and constructed to accommodate Class I and Class II ATVs.

The final decisions about allowed trail uses will be communicated through trail signs and maps that will help ensure that riders know which uses are allowed. The enforcement and monitoring plans for the project will include guidelines for closing trails and areas that are damaged due to misuse. ★

*A list of more FAQs is available at the project website: [www.70MileTrail.net](http://www.70MileTrail.net)*

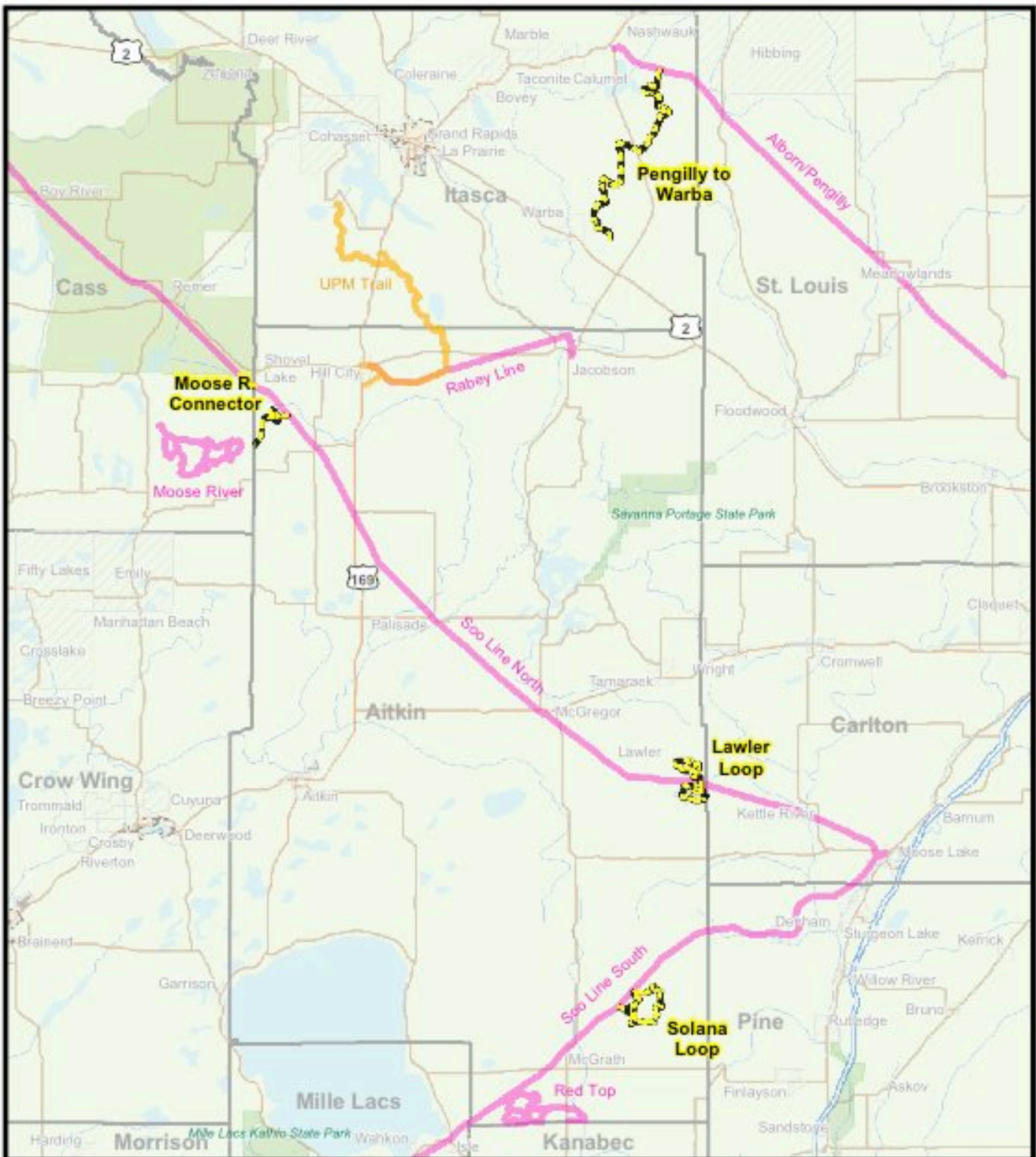


## Phase I Maps Available

Maps of the four proposed Phase I trail segments are available. The overall map is reproduced on page 3 and can be downloaded from the project website or requested from the project coordinator (612-333-0430, [info@dovetailinc.org](mailto:info@dovetailinc.org)).

More detailed maps of each Phase I segment are available at the project website. Phase II of the project includes an additional three segments to create a comprehensive trail system. ★

*Comments or questions are welcome!*



### 70-Mile Trail Project Aitkin & Itasca Counties Existing Trails & Proposed Phase 1 Segments



With a grant from the Minnesota legislature and Dept. of Natural Resources, Aitkin and Itasca Counties are exploring 70+ miles of new trails (yellow) to complete a 500-mile ATV/OHV trail system connecting existing trails (pink). Most of the 70+ miles of new trails follow existing forest and township roads. See [www.70miletrail.net](http://www.70miletrail.net) for more information.

Source: Aitkin Co. trail mapping  
MNDNR trail mapping  
StreetMap USA

Filename: aitkin-itasca-trail\_500-mi\_8.5x11\_29.mxd  
date: 02-15-08

- Existing OHV Trail
- Proposed OHV Trail (under EAW review)
- 70-Mile Trail (Proposed Phase 1 Segment)



## ***Project Coordinator***

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.70MileTrail.net](http://www.70MileTrail.net)

## **Next Steps....**

What to expect as the project moves forward...

*Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)* – This process includes detailed data analysis and a review of the potential environmental impacts associated with the project and proposed trail route. A GIS Committee has been formed and work has begun to collect and evaluate the data for the Phase I trail segments.

*Monitoring and Enforcement Plan* – The grant requires the County Land Departments to develop a plan for monitoring the trail use to ensure damage and negative impacts are controlled. An enforcement plan must also be prepared to outline how safety and legal compliance will be ensured on the trail. Committees that include the land managers and law enforcement agencies have started the development of these plans.

*Phase II Development* - Additional input is being sought in the review of the Phase II trail segments. As these alignments are identified, the Phase II trails will also complete an EAW process.

Additional future steps for the project will include trail design, obtaining the necessary permits, impact mitigations, and final trail construction. The terms of the project grant indicate that construction needs to be completed in 2009.

***Stay tuned! ★***

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