

ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"
October 25, 2020 Newsletter

Bonding Bill Passes, Includes Funds For OHV Trails, Camping



Legislative Update

By Ray Bohn and Tom Hackbarth

The Minnesota Legislature passed and the governor signed into law on Oct. 21, 2020,

**ATV Trails, Funding, Rules & Regulations.
How Do You Want It?**

The Future of ATV Riding In Minnesota Starts at the Legislative Summit on December 12, 2020

The items passed in the bonding bill this month (see article to left), got their start as resolutions at an ATV Minnesota Legislative Summit. The Summit is your ATV club's opportunity to submit resolutions to be prioritized and voted on, giving ATV Minnesota direction and priority on what Legislative issues will be pursued during the 2021 Legislative Session, which begins January 5th.

capital investment (bonding) legislation passed in the 5th Special Session. The bill, HF 1, which passed by large bi-partisan margins in both bodies, included a number of important appropriations and one major policy change for our campground proposal in the new Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

The items that were included in the bill signed into law include: (1) \$5.8 million for the Lake Vermilion-Soudan State Park OHV campground; (2) \$1 million for the Camp Ripley/Veterans State Trail; (3) Ely Regional Trailhead Development; (4) Silver Bay Trailhead Development; (5) St. Louis County Voyageur Country ATV Trail; (6) Policy language requiring the Minnesota DNR to manage the Lake Vermilion-Soudan State Park campground south of Hwy 169 as a secondary unit designated as a state recreation area. This change allows ATVs and other motorized-recreation ingress and egress, into and out from the surrounding park.

No floor action was taken on our policy issues (including removing "low pressure tires" from the ATV definition) in the House & Senate Environmental Finance bills, due to a disagreement on spending LCCMR funds for wastewater treatment. Unfortunately, no compromise was worked out, so the bills died without any floor action by either body. ATV Minnesota will need to revisit those issues in the 2021 session.

We would like to thank, on behalf of ATV Minnesota, all of the legislators who authored and or supported our legislation during 2020. It has been a tough year legislatively, especially having to deal with the COVID-19 issue. Special thanks to Sen. Tom Bakk, Rep. Rob Ecklund, Sen David Tomassoni, Rep. Dave Lisle, Rep. Dan Fabian, and Rep. Josh Heintzman.

We anticipate at least two more uneventful special sessions (November & December) which will take us up to the next regular session beginning in January 2021.

Proposal Opens 7 More Campgrounds To OHV Users In

The next Legislative Summit is Saturday, December 12, 2020, 8am to 1pm, at Running Aces Hotel, 15201 Running Aces Blvd, Columbus, MN 55025, just off I-35, 20 minutes north of I-694. All ATV Minnesota clubs are invited to send representatives. There is no charge to attend.

Bills passed this month dealt primarily with bonding requests. None of the other funding priorities from the 2020 Legislative Summit were dealt with. We will need to review those once again and prioritize them along with new initiatives that are submitted.

All ATV Minnesota clubs have been sent the form for submitting a legislative initiative(s) to be considered at this year's summit, along with the minutes from last year's Legislative Summit so you can see what issues were discussed and were a priority to move forward. We will review those items again this year and any priority issues that have not been resolved will be added to the discussion again this year.

Submission deadline: Dec 4th

We need time to compile all new initiatives along with those from last year, so please submit new initiatives to atvam.office@atvam.org on or before December 4th, 2020. Thank-you!



How To Reserve A Room At Running Aces

Using The Group Code ATVA:

1) Navigate to

<https://www.grandstayhospitality.com/>

Superior National Forest. Public Comments Due Nov 6.

The Tofte and Gunflint Ranger Districts of the Superior National Forest are seeking public comments on their Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) Update projects, which propose to provide additional camping opportunities to the public by opening more campgrounds to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users.

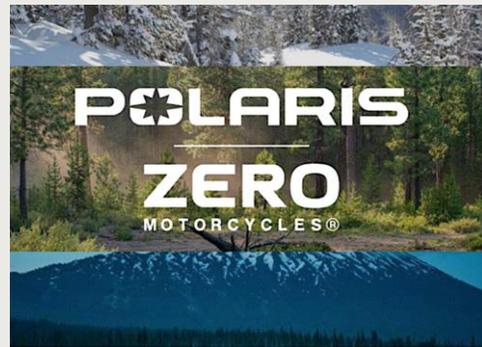
Four of the Tofte District's 22 campgrounds are currently open to OHV users. The plan calls for an additional three campgrounds to be open to OHVs so that members of the public can trailer their OHVs to a campground and go for rides directly from their campsite.

The Gunflint District proposal would open four campgrounds partially or entirely to OHV users; currently none of its 8 campgrounds are open to that use.

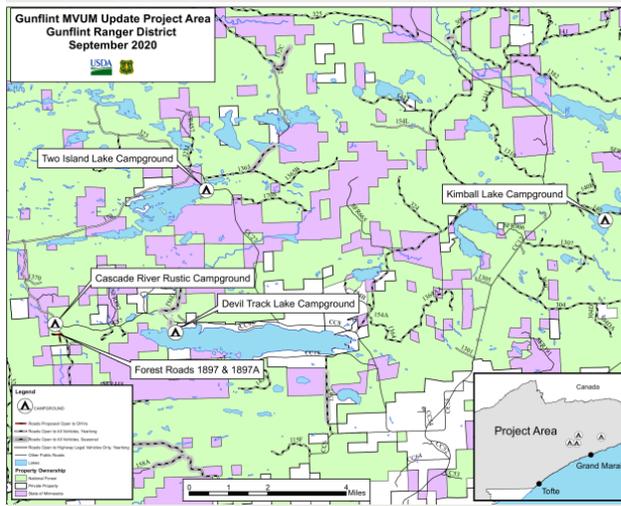
Both projects would be implemented in the next printing of the MVUM and made available to the public by spring of 2021. Forest Service representatives stress that public comments are most useful if they are specific to the activities proposed, rather than general statements, and should be submitted by November 6, 2020. Send your supportive comments, or questions, to Project Leader Cathy Quinn, by email to cathleen.quinn@usda.gov or phone 218-387-3240. Please comment today!

- 2) Under "Where do you want to stay" - Select the Running Aces Casino-Hotel-Racetrack
- 3) Select the appropriate arrival and departure date
- 4) Enter the group code provided
- 5) Click the check rates and availability button.
- 6) Under "King Track View" and "2 Queen Standard" hit view more rates
- 7) Scroll to the bottom, select the appropriate party and click "book now"

More Electric Vehicles Soon



Polaris announced in late September that it has signed a 10-year partnership with Zero Motorcycles, a global leader in electric motorcycle powertrains and technology. The partnership in off-road vehicles (ORV) and snowmobiles is a cornerstone component of rEV'd up, Polaris' long-term strategy to position the company as the leader in powersports electrification. Through rEV'd up, Polaris aims to offer customers an electric vehicle option within each of its core product segments by 2025, with the first vehicle from the Zero-Polaris partnership debuting by the end of 2021.



ATV Minnesota Gear Selling Fast. Inventory Has Been Replenished.

Our new lines of jerseys, hoodies, caps and more are hot and getting hotter. If you were disappointed to see the item you wanted sold out, never fear, we have restocked and everything is currently available. Order your new ATV Minnesota gear today at atvam.org. Wear it with pride on all your rides. Thanks!



www.atvam.org

Two Minnesota Clubs Receive Polaris Grants



Congratulations to the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club, Outing, and the Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club, Bigfork, for receiving \$10,000 grants from Polaris. The OTHG Club will use the funds to help build the Emily/Blind Lake Connector Trail. The Wilderness Wheelers will direct the funds to purchase a dump trailer and flail mower.

The two clubs are among 10 in the latest round of recipients. They join an additional 12 grants that were announced in June, amounting to nearly \$210,000 awarded to 22 organizations in 2020. Since it was founded in 2006, the Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grants program has supported 315 off-road and ATV organizations with more than \$2.7 million in grants. For more information on the T.R.A.I.L.S Grant program and to apply for a grant, follow this link to the Polaris website: <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/trails-application/>.

Save The Dates For 'Vision'

Current plans are for the 2021 ATV Minnesota Vision Conference & General Membership Meeting to be held March 19-21 at the Treasure Island Resort & Casino

Please Change Region Facebook Page Titles To New Area Names

If you are the admin for a Facebook page of one of the old Regions 1 through 6, please change the name of your Facebook page to match the new ATV Minnesota Region areas. Some clubs have changed Regions. Check the



T.R.A.I.L.S. STANDS FOR
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBLE RIDING
ACCESS INITIATIVES LOBBYING SAFETY

ATV Minnesota website to confirm your Region area.



328 more riders have joined ATV Minnesota so far in 2020.

Welcome!

All members should be receiving this twice-monthly e-newsletter, and the Minnesota OffRoad magazine published 6 times a year. If you aren't receiving both, or have comments on either communications, please send an email to atvamoffice@atvam.org. Thanks!



Most State ATV Trails Close Soon. These Are Open Year-Round.

Want to keep riding after the majority of State ATV Trails close in late October or early November? The Minnesota DNR's A-Z list of ATV trails now shows which ones are open during the winter, with total miles and a link to the trail map for each of them. Check it out at this link: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/az.html>.

ATV Minnesota is creating a brochure on all the ATV Winter Riding Opportunities across the state. It will be posted soon, and includes important details on rules and regulations, and trail etiquette when riding dual-use groomed trails open to snowmobiles and ATVs. Before you head out, always check out the DNR's website page showing open/closed status for State ATV Trails and Forest Roads, at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>

MINNESOTA WINTER ATV TRAILS

ALWOOD - SQUAW LAKE TRAIL

APPLETON OHV PARK

BEMIS HILL TRAIL

CHENGWATANA ST. FOREST

CHISHOLM TRAIL EAST RANGE TRAIL

FOND DU LAC ST. FOREST

GANDY DANCER

GENERAL CC ANDREWS ST. FOREST

GENOA TRAIL

IRON RANGE OHV/REG AREA

MATTHEW LOUREY TRAIL

MOOSE RIVER TRAIL

NEMADJI ST. FOREST

SAGINAW GRADE TRAIL

ST. CROIX ST. FOREST

SOO LINE NORTH/SOUTH CARLTON COUNTY

WARROAD/ROSEAU TRAIL

SPIDER LAKE TRAIL

**! BE SURE TO ALWAYS CHECK THE
MINNESOTA DNR WEBSITE FOR CLOSURES.**



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