

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

1. Submission Date: 12/17/13

2. Name of project: West Side Mt Bike Trail Proposal

3. Description of location: West of Racquets River and east of Brookfield Penstock from Colton to Brown's Bridge

See attached map

Property owner(s) **Brookfield Renewable Energy**

4. Contact Person (Name): James Akins

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5. Person completing this form (if different from above)

6. Short Description of proposed project:

A 3.1mile of narrow beginner and intermediate mountain bike trail (single track) in a North/South direction West of the River and East of the Brookfield Penstock. The trail will be deigned to be ridden in either direction. The North start/end of the trail will end near the log pile just south of the power transfer station near Brown's Bridge. The south end of the trail will start/end just past the walk way bridge over the penstock just north of Colton.

This mountain bike trail will consist of new single track. The single track will be designed to be ridden in either direction. This trail will be created similar to IMBA's twist-and-turn design of trail building (<http://www.inba.com/resources/trail> building/ twists and turns). There will also be aspects of a "flow trail" added into the descents that will allow for both beginning riders and seasoned riders to enjoy the same terrain. The trail will be mostly beginner with some sections that will be intermediate in

difficulty in terms of the IMBA trail rating chart (<http://www.imba.com/resources.maps/trail-difficulty-ratings>) The nature of this trail will be curves, bench cut, rock surfaces, mellow descents with rollers and berms. Most obstacles will be very small. Larger obstacles will also have an easier alternate route to allow for riders of various ability levels to enjoy the same trail system. Rollers and berms will be installed to provide descents with entertaining features for both new and experienced riders. These features can also be utilized to mitigate erosion. Bridges constructed with eco-friendly treated lumber will cross a number of drainage creeks flowing from the penstock area to the river.

7. Estimated starting date: June 2014

8. Estimated completion date: November 2015

9. Materials to be used (Wood, metal, stone, etc.): Pressure-treated lumber, chicken wire, soil and rock

10. Description of signage to be installed (per SVCRA sign guidelines, see Management Agreement Appendix 11) A brown and yellow sign at the south and north end of the proposed trail, Mt bike trail marker (color to be determined)

11. Equipment required to complete (especially machines, power tools): hand trail tools and gas powered chain saws (to clear large downed trees that block trail construction)

12. Estimated Cost of The Project: \$1200, donated labor

Proposed source of funding or supplies: \$900 from RRAC for bridge material, \$300 from RRAC for signage and trail markers

13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management)

Saint Lawrence County Mountain Bike Association and other individuals will perform work. Trail design and layout for this trail project will be supervised by SLMBA with approval from Brookfield Renewable Energy

Construction work on this trail will occur as sanctioned SLMBA trail work. All SLMBA safety protocols as described in the IMBA: Trail Solutions manual, pub. 2004 will be followed, including participants reading and signing the SLMBA waiver. Crew leaders (yet to be determined) will conduct a safety briefing prior to all work sessions. Objective hazards such as safe working distances between work members while swinging tools will be among topics discussed. When appropriate, helmets, gloves, and safety

glasses will be worn. **Chain saw use will be restricted to SLMBA members who have completed a NYS certified chain saw safety course.**

14. Sustainability, or expected life use of project:

All new trail work and maintenance will be performed with the goal of 20-year longevity. Rock materials will be favored over wood. If wood is used for water bars, stairs, or other structures, then cedar, hemlock, or environmentally friendly treated wood will be used.

Estimated annual maintenance requirements and associated cost:

Social or unapproved trails or impacts from ATV trespass will be brushed in to mitigate further impact to soil and vegetation.

Invasive plants along the trails will be identified and reported to St Lawrence Co Soil and Water

Trails with erosion exceeding 4' in depth as measured with a string across the width of the tread will receive priority for maintenance or new trail construction

Who will monitor and maintain:

Members of SLMBA and brief reports periodically communicated to Brookfield Renewable Energy will monitor trail conditions regularly.

Equipment and supplies needed to maintain:

Hand tools, replacement signs and lumber (bridge repair)

15. Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals of Agreement; check all that apply

_____ Healthy and abundant natural resources for timber, hydropower,
And recreation

____xxx Public has access for allowed activities

_____ High scenic values of forested landscape and river flow

____xxx Mitigate conflict among users and owners

_____ Biological diversity, with emphasis on native species

_____ Interpretation and protection of geologic and historic features

Elaborate on each impact checked above:

Public has access: this trail adds a significant length of dedicated bike trail to the SVCRA while also adding additional multi-use non-motorized trail.

Mitigate conflict among users: one conflict could result from such a trail: collision of cyclists at the beginning/end of the bike trail, which serve other users: trail users such as hikers and other bikers. To mitigate collisions, SLMBA will sign the beginning/end with caution

16. Management Objectives of Agreement addressed by Project:

- ☒ Enhance public information about SVCRA
- ☒ Maintain / improve access to SVCRA and related spaces
- ☒ Minimize/reduce and mitigate human impact
- ☐ Increase public awareness of Leave No Trace ethics and land use policy
- ☐ Enhance public safety
- ☒ Deal with invasive plants
- ☐ Gather and report user statistics
- ☐ Promote tourism

Elaborate on each objective checked above:

Public information: SLMBA intends to publicize this new trail to mountain bikers

Improve access: this greatly expands the mileage of dedicated mountain bike trails, and also increases the mileage of multi-use non-motorized trails

Human impact: Monitoring will look for erosion or spread of the narrow trail, accumulation of trash, occurrence of social (unplanned) trails

Invasives: SLMBA trail monitoring will include identifying and reporting invasives along the trail

17. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Area:

- ☐ Provision of emergency services
- ☐ Persons with disabilities, minorities, or elderly
- ☐ Local tax base
- ☐ Adjacent land use (outside SVCRA)

Elaborate on each category checked above:

18. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area

- ☒ Soil
- ☒ Vegetation, trees
- ☐ Streams, rivers
- ☐ Groundwater aquifers
- ☒ Runoff or runoff patterns
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Fish and wildlife
- ☒ Significant habitat areas
- ☒ Rare, threatened or endangered species

Elaborate on each category checked above:

Soil: following the principals of grade reversals will create Erosion and water control. While this area is mostly mild in gradient, where sections become steep grade reversals will be utilized to control erosion

(<http://www.imba.com/resources/trail-building/easy-way-toughen-trails>) Social (unplanned) trails will be indentified and brushed out to prevent expansion of trail's impact and confuse visitors

Soil and vegetation: Bench cuts will be dug down to mineral soil with the duff layer removed. These cuts will have a slight camber for drainage.

Switchbacks will be brushed in to prevent hikers and other visitors from cutting across them.

Sapling stobs (trees 3" and less in diameter) will be completely removed from the trail rather than cutting the off (which risks tripping injury)

Run off/patterns: Bridges will be built to cross the drainage creeks that flow from the penstock area to the river

Habitat/rare plants: The trail will be kept to its mostly two-foot width and unplanned trails removed to minimize impact on the ground cover.

19. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Cultural or Historical Characteristics of the Area

- ☐ Cultural or historical features

Elaborate on impacts:

20. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on
Pollution Potential of the Area:

- _____ potential for hazardous wastes
- _____ effects from solid waste
- _____ noise impact
- _____ air quality
- _____ motor traffic patterns and safety

Elaborate on each category checked:

Submission of this form to the Stone Valley partners is for coordination only and does not constitute an approval process. Applicants still must acquire written permission of the property owner(s).