

LCCMR Draft M.L. 2026 Request for Proposal Funding Priorities Public Comment

Public comment for the LCCMR draft funding priorities for the M.L. 2026 Request for Proposal (RFP) was accepted from November 15 – December 1, 2024. Submitters were given the option to provide comment on the strategic plan, the draft funding priorities for the M.L. 2026 RFP, or both. Comments were submitted by individuals communicating their personal opinions and individuals representing organizations. Comments are presented in the order received.

See the [2024 LCCMR Strategic Planning page](#) of the LCCMR website for summaries of public input gathered throughout the strategic planning process.

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>Content related to critical minerals, including resource estimation, subsurface characterization, and innovative extraction methods, should be incorporated. These topics are becoming increasingly essential, as renewable energy systems heavily depend on critical mineral resources.</p>	
<p>Both Vision and Mission statements do not mention our forests, wetlands and prairies in the statement. Our forests, wetlands and prairies are the base we need to manage and protect in order to have better, air, water, land, fish and wildlife. Again, Forestry is the only sector to grow and store carbon so one would think that should be a top priority for funding.....the funding priorities do not reflect the importance of our forests.</p>	<p>Minnesota Forestry Association</p>
<p>Informative and easy to read and understand. Reasonable.</p>	
<p>One area I would like to address is the document’s accessibility, particularly its readability for individuals with vision loss or other disabilities. Some sections of the document utilize colors that may not meet the recommended contrast ratios outlined in Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1. This could present challenges for readers relying on assistive technologies or those with low vision.</p> <p>To ensure the final document is accessible to all stakeholders, I recommend performing a color contrast audit and revising any areas that do not meet WCAG compliance. Utilizing contrast-checking tools and adhering to best practices in accessible design will ensure the funding priorities are equitable and inclusive.</p>	<p>Wilderness Inquiry</p>
<p>Related to the design layout of the RFP and in consideration of equal accessibility, the low contrast in colors, specifically on pages with a gray background, impact readability of the document. This could cause unequal access or create an additional burden for those reading the document with vision loss. Should an opportunity exist to increase accessibility and readability of the final draft, some strategies/resources/tools to consider include: - Emphasizing color contrast compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1- Using a contrast checker (many web-based options available)- Conducting a color accessibility audit during the final draft stage</p>	
<p>Please strongly enforce the general prohibition on baseball fields, splash pads and the like. This should be worded more forcefully and held to the highest standard. These types of facilities are not outdoor or conservation related in the spirit of what this money should</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>be used for. This also applies to municipal infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants, under no circumstances should this money be diverted to normally required municipal infrastructure such as water treatment plants or wastewater systems.</p>	
<p>As an educator in a rural area with low diversity, it feels like we would have a very hard time qualifying for funding since it doesn't make sense to focus on DEI so heavily...we focus on education PERIOD, which is open to all. We don't target specific populations. Also, outdoor recreation varies tremendously in its ability to connect people to nature. Hiking, for example, is much more conducive to seeing and appreciating plants and wildlife. Riding ATVs, for example, gives little opportunity for spending time with plants, animals and habitats. OHV groups brand themselves as "inclusive" because some people with mobility challenges can use them, and thus they get funding. But it seems the vast majority of users are not mobility-limited (other than being overweight and would benefit from actual exercise). I have personal experience with the development of an OHV trail, and there was absolutely no attempt to avoid rare bluff prairies, rattlesnake habitat, or other natural features that sorely needed protection. All recreation has impacts and potential educational value, so please be sure these things are taken into consideration. OHV development has high negative impacts, extremely low educational value, and likely gets very few truly mobility-limited people out.</p>	
<p>I was happy to see more detail provided under the Education and Outdoor Recreation funding priority (Section C). However, in contrast to previous years, I was disappointed that this draft has no mention of general information dissemination, and instead focuses almost solely on access to environmental opportunities. Dissemination of environmental information, especially to adult audiences, seems a crucial step in order for all Minnesotans to appreciate the value and benefits of our natural resources.</p>	
<p>We generally support the funding priorities, particularly C and E, but make the specific comments.</p> <p>As noted above, engaging all Minnesotans, particularly the youth, in outdoor activities and providing them recreational opportunities is one of the best ways to ensure that we preserve our natural resources for the long term. Each bullet point listed supports that overall goal and sets forth worthy targets for funding.</p> <p>With respect to the exclusion of certain types of infrastructure, we are hesitant to include playground equipment within that exclusion. Nature based playscapes have become increasingly popular and are an important method for bringing young children in touch with nature. Although the exclusion would seem to allow them if they “improve or enhance natural resources or users’ experience with natural resources”, it is not yet clear how that would be interpreted and would prefer that playground equipment be left out of the exclusion.</p> <p>We also support ensuring that Minnesota’s lands provide long term benefits to fish, wildlife and people. We believe this is one of the primary reasons that Minnesotans support the ENRTF.</p>	<p>Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails</p>
<p>I believe that funding priorities under #5 should be ranked higher. (5.8) design and development of culturally relevant, accessible, resilient, and environmentally friendly</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure — including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters — that create new natural resources-based experiences” as a priority, and for (5.9) supporting expanded trail development. These should rank higher.</p> <p>Here in Minnesota, we all enjoy the outdoors differently. I believe you should identify all trails uses very specifically in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. Non-motorized and motorized.</p> <p>LCCMR/ENRTF dollars should be used to help organizations construct trails (hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV), campgrounds, fishing piers, trailheads, ski chalets, and other projects that get people outdoors.</p>	
<p>The draft plan states that “design and development of culturally relevant, accessible, resilient, and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure — including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters — that create new natural resources-based experiences” is a 5th place funding priority. This should be a #1 priority of this funding. We need to use these funds to connect people - especially kids - with the outdoors. Our Association represents 650 families that are outdoors oriented and recognize the need for this type of support. Please consider this a priority one consideration.</p>	<p>Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association</p>
<p>I would like to see more representatives in the Northern regions for more development in all trail, camping and fishing and tourist needs</p>	
<p>I would suggest funding for "new trail" development be directed for ways to enhance or improve our current trails to connect rural towns, making trails sustainable, and maintainable, such as replacement of old bridges, scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, etc. Direct funds to recreational groups that are working together and not in separate silos. There is an opportunity to use portions of snowmobile trails for summer use ATV trails and or mountain bike trails. Direct funds to make multi-use trails, and not single use. Enhance corridor trails such as the North & South Soo Line Trails, to make them more interpretive, with rest and picnic areas. Look closely at regional significant trail systems, and direct funds to keep these systems " regionally significant". Work with tribal groups to connect tribal lands with other non-tribal trail systems to bring in different cultures and income to rural areas.</p>	<p>Northwoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance</p>
<p>As a supporter of trails (motorized and non-motorized), trailheads, campgrounds, and boating/fishing facilities, I thank the commission for recognizing these projects as funding priorities in the draft strategic plan. I believe, though, that these should be a higher funding priority, as ENRTF dollars should be used to connect Minnesotans to the great outdoors. We all connect differently with the outdoors, so investment in motorized trails should be a priority for LCCMR.</p> <p>Minnesota has a large heritage involving motorized recreation. The industries that have developed as a result of this heritage are vital to Minnesota. Future development consideration should be given to promote this heritage. Responsible motorized recreation should receive the increases of LCCMR funding. Updating motorized facilities can be supportive of the investment already made. New funding should be dedicated to some</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>motorized recreation that showcases the successful investing of previous projects while complimenting the industries that Minnesota has become known for.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure. By supporting the development of recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, and shelters, we can create new opportunities for Minnesotans to connect with nature.</p> <p>We strongly support the expansion of trail development across the state. Minnesotans enjoy the outdoors in diverse ways, and our state's trail system should reflect this diversity. The strategic plan should identify all trail uses, including hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trails.</p> <p>LCCMR has a proven track record of funding these types of trail development projects. We urge the commission to prioritize these activities in the upcoming strategic plan. By investing in a comprehensive trail network, we can enhance quality of life, boost local economies, and protect our natural environment.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the</p>	
<p>Motorized trails need more funding.</p>	
<p>Thank you for the funding that has been provided. UTV and ATV recreation has grown and families are hungry for places to ride and enjoy their new found freedoms. Please consider researching a statewide program for road usage also.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
It is important we invest in outdoor recreation such as atv trails.	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
Prioritize labor and maintenance of current trails not expansion. This should coordinate with the Governors climate action framework. Equal importance on the impact of the environment as it is necessary, along with economic impact and where this money is spent. Further studies on revenue requests not just based on past allocations. We must review revenue is used and tabulation of such funds.	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
<p>Thank you for prioritizing the design and development of culturally relevant, accessible, resilient, and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure (5.8), including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, and shelters. I also very much appreciate the support for expanded trail development (5.9).</p> <p>Minnesotans enjoy the outdoors in diverse ways, which is why we support the commission’s effort to include all trail uses in the strategic plan—such as hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR funding has historically supported the development of these types of trails and should continue to do so in the</p>	Ranger Snowmobile/ ATV Club Hoyt Lakes, MN

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>future. Please consider making these activities a higher funding priority in the updated strategic plan.</p>	
<p>I am an active outdoorsman and so is all my family. We enjoy hunting, fishing (open and hard water), hiking, camping, horseback riding, snowmobiling and atv riding and have a hunting camp up in Cass County.</p> <p>My comments are broken into the two categories-</p> <p>A) Here are 3 areas that I would like to see addressed under "Goals and Strategies for Expenditures from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under Goal #1 and 5 - I support creating more motorized and non-motorized trails. Trails provide users an opportunity to see the outdoors in a multitude of ways and provide access to miles of public lands along the way for all forms of recreation. Without trails many users will not experience the Minnesota landscape in its many forms and seasons! Please make creating more motorized and non-motorized trails a top priority in your new plan. 2. Under Goal #1, 2 and 5 - I would like to see more funding going into our hatcheries that is focused on adding more walleyes to our lakes. Minnesota is well known for walleye fishing (and attracts many visitors to our area) and yet from my experience and other fisherman I talk to the perspective is our walleye fishing is getting tougher and tougher and we need to do a better job of getting our lakes stocked with walleyes. 3. Under Goal #1, 3 and 4 - One of favorite forms of hunting is Grouse hunting. It's a great way to see the outdoors and provides lots of outdoor exercise if you hunt behind a dog like I do. Grouse hunting seems to go in Cycles according to the reading I have done and also it appears that we cannot raise and release grouse like we can do for many other fish/birds. Timber cutting in my experience is the biggest help in bird numbers but is it possible to find ways to improve the grouse hunting in MN and not have the up and down cycles? <p>B) Here is an area that I would like to see addressed under "Goals and Strategies for the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under Goal #1 and 7 - From watching past funding cycles it appears to me that we spend wayyyy to much of our public funding on Research. I am not opposed to research but I have two suggestions. 1) limit the amount of research funded to a fixed percentage of the budget at a rate that is comparable to business spending on R&D (10-15% annually) so that the public gets more direct and timely benefit of the funds used, and 2) eliminate repetitive research spending on the same issue. Taxpayers don't want to see research on the same old issues over and over and over - otherwise the Council needs to have a more stringent policy in terms of setting goals to be much more specific on the goal of the grant so that this does not continue. Maybe consider a fixed percentage of the R&D spending as "ongoing" research on specific issues?? <p>Thank you again for the opportunity to comment!</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure, including recreation areas, trails, boat access, and facilities, that create new natural resources-based experiences. Everyone enjoys the outdoors differently which is why we support the commission identifying all trail use in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to help develop all these types of trails and should be used in the future. Please consider making these types of activities your highest priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>I'm in favor of ML 2026.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	<p>ATV Minnesota</p>
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Don't fund any request for funds that does nothing to enhance the natural resources or user experience with natural resources!!</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Again, my concern is off road vehicles and all trails and all-terrain vehicle trails. The DNR is directed to maintain and protect wetlands. However, an almost mile long trail connection is proposed over a wetland protected only by a boardwalk. This might work for people but to open such a flimsy construction for ATV' and OHV's will most certainly degrade the wetland. I own an ATV. I am appalled at the damage these vehicles cause to trails through the woods and along wetlands and lakes. The chance of invasive species spread- both terrestrial and aquatic- is immense. Besides trail maintenance, another concern I have is the infrastructure in place for search and rescue and fire. Again, I propose that no new OHV and ATV trails be planned until existing trails have sources of maintenance. Fire, search and rescue and show that spread of invasive species will not occur.</p>	<p>Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations</p>
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
Funding for trails will help the state of Minnesota and people to keep moving forward and enjoying what the outdoors has to offer.	Eagle Country Snowmobile and Atv club.
St. Louis County manages and holds almost one million acres of land in NE Minnesota and this land has benefited from the LCCMR funding. The goals and strategies for expenditures from the ENRTF outline investment that balance both the environmental benefit and economic considerations while encouraging innovation, education, and practical solutions to ensure Minnesota's environment are resilient. The goals allow for both active management and utilization of the landscape while protecting the environment long-term, specific emphasis on energy could help to unlock the mineral and forest contribution towards renewable energy. Education through recreation has been a key strategy for SLC through the development of motorized and non-motorized trail networks throughout the county as well as support of hands-on learning in mining and forestry. Lastly, the diverse perspectives and collaboration is key to success in any project and a value shared by SLC. The strategic plan continues to provide for these important areas and creates opportunities for people to connect and understand the value of the natural resources of Minnesota.	St. Louis County
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
<p>Thank you! We sincerely appreciate the projects that you have funded like the overlooks, memorials, etc., on our trails. These are the feelings of everyone that we connect with on these trails.</p> <p>I am not able to use all the hiking trails like I used to, so my family really is thankful for the opportunities that the LCCMR motorized trail project funding provides for us. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>The LCMR must exercise greater scrutiny of recreational trails to discern the truly "recreational", "educational" and "protective" from the "thrilling" and "destructive. Motorized trails are already "over-funded" through perpetual and excessive unrefunded gas tax revenue directed to MDNR to distribute to a small segment of Minnesota public lands users whose choice of recreation is antithetical to nearly all if not all the goals and objectives of the LCCMR's past and proposed Strategic Plans.</p> <p>I have personally experimented with recreation by motor-vehicle including snowmobile, ATV, UTV, and off-road licensed vehicle and find this "exposure" to nature satisfies only my "thrill-seeking" desires while distracting me from the more awesome values of nature that I am immersed in but insulated from. My fellow "motor-aided" recreators share their riding experiences (thrills, spills, near -collisions, getting stuck and unstuck, challenges, both to their machine and their driving skills) far more than the observations (experience) of nature itself. Repeated rides over the same trails, rather than creating appreciation for the ever-changing scene that nature presents to the patient observer, my fellow riders soon become bored by seeing the same trees and same hills and mudholes over and over again. They soon seek new challenges and a change of superficial scenery in which to experience the thrill of the ride rather than the peaceful serenity of a natural setting.</p> <p>To advocate for more public access to natural area by motor-vehicle where the vehicle is the primary provider of excitement (thrills) is exactly the opposite of the desired outcome, nature appreciation leading to protection/preservation and should not be publicly funded or promoted.</p> <p>And using limited supplies of alternative energy to fuel electric OHV's is also ill-advised since alternative (wind/solar/nuclear etc.) will be in short supply even for essential societal uses for many decades to come. Discretionary use for off-highway recreation should fall to the very bottom of the list for available alternative energy uses.</p> <p>The MDNR has failed to conduct a statewide inventory of "all" motorized trails, to included sanctioned trails and unsanctioned, user created trails contrary to a legislative directive. The LCCMR should consider a moratorium on further funding of motorized trails until the adequacy of the existing authorized and unauthorized trail system is complete and an objective (independent) assessment is conducted to determine the long-term wisdom (climate, societal, recreational, economic and environmental effects) of motorized recreation is completed. No such study had been performed to date. The existing system has been piecemealed together by various entities and funding sources without regard to the cumulative effects. The LCCMR should not be complicit in this uncoordinated expansion of a highly questionable activity on public lands. Having several in-state manufacturers of motorized recreation equipment has politically blinded state agencies to the consequences of supporting the direct economic benefits without a clear-eyed</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>assessment of the direct and indirect environmental/ecological impacts. A poorly studied but emerging concern of motorized recreation includes the potential for breeding disrespect for nature by its enthusiasts. Anyone introduced to natural areas while riding on a machine experiences mixed emotional reaction, the most detrimental of which is a feeling of "dominance" over nature that leads to disrespect rather than a sense of "awe" that creates respect and value for nature.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Since everyone enjoys the outdoors indifferent ways because of personal preference or because of physical ability. I would encourage expanded use of LCCMR funds for additional infrastructure and facilities for outdoor uses. Both nonmotorized and motorized trailheads, campgrounds, lake access areas.</p>	
<p>Proposals that might result in damage to wetlands and critical habitat should be discouraged. Multi-use trails that include motorized uses alongside non-motorized should be discouraged as the motorized recreational vehicles pose a safety risk to hikers, bikers, and equestrians. ATV's damage trails and disturb wildlife and other users.</p>	
<p>I appreciate your willingness to recognize how important it is to invest in our outdoor recreational trails and infrastructure to include new trail experiences, improving existing trails, and developing new trails for all types of trails and users. Please consider my comments for making these activities a high priority on your strategic plan.</p>	
<p>The ML 2026 RFP should more specifically prioritize Prairie wetlands and grasslands wildlife habitat improvement and protection on public and private lands in southern and western prairie Minnesota, and also address the need to diversify agricultural operations through integration of livestock grazing on both private agricultural lands and public wildlife lands. Additionally, please consider inclusion of funding ways to improve wind/solar energy project planning and siting coordination with MNDNR, BWSR, and USFWS prior to easement solicitation and purchase from private landowners to avoid sensitive wildlife habitats and lands with high natural resource restoration potential, etc.</p>	<p>Ducks Unlimited, Inc.</p>
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
Continue to fund maintaining existing facilities and infrastructure and develop new recreational trails and opportunities motorized and non-motorized for outdoor recreation. Thank You	
The trail system in the state is one, if not the best in the country. Keep it that way. Let the beauty of Minnesota get seen by as many people as possible.	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	ATV Minnesota
The majority have it right--Strongly agree!	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
<p>Paramount in my view is that human impact to our environments are over a threshold for healthy vibrant habitats and the wildlife they support - above human recreation we must take care of these systems. No more industrial overuse, fragmentation, or paving over green spaces. We have taken too much.</p> <p>Case in point - UNTIL the State has published one master plan of all the motorized recreation trails in the state for agencies and the public to assess cumulative impacts to public lands, all trail expansion should be put on hold. That includes, of course, funding for trail creation.</p>	
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
Please support the building of more trails in the state of Minnesota. ATVers spend a ton of money in our state. We need places to ride. Thank you	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
Areas in northern Minnesota are in need of atv trails especially Grand Rapids, Hibbing areas	Red Rock Riders Pengilly, Mn
Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.	
I support using monies for ATV and snowmobile use for building and maintaining trails.	Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club
<p>FUNDING PRIORITIES for 2026 Proposals</p> <p>FUNDS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE ONLY AND NOT EXPANSION, UNTIL CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO PUBLIC LANDS ARE ASSESSED WITH A MASTER PLAN MAP OF ALL TRAILS</p> <p>The LCCMR CANNOT aspire to effectively protect habitat and wildlife unless we assess cumulative impacts of all trails and set expansion thresholds BEFORE creating more trails.</p> <p>Until the state has a comprehensive master plan of all the trails in the state for agencies and the public to review and comment on cumulative impacts to public lands, all new trail creation should be put on hold. The MN DNR hired a consultant to take an inventory of all known legal Off Highway Vehicle Trail miles in the state which was delivered to MN DNR in December 2022. This information is to be made available to the public for review and comment, but no information has been released to date.</p> <p>What we do know from press reports on trail expansion, is that currently, there are almost 4,000 known legal miles of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails in the state to date.</p> <p>All known legal trails for hiking and biking could be added to the OHV master plan map MN DNR is to release, to assess cumulative trail impacts on public lands.</p> <p>Without assessing this information, the goal of addressing habitat fragmentation and degradation, as well as wildlife protection cannot be effective.</p> <p>RANKING FUNDING PRIORITIES-- MOVE INVASIVES UP ON THE LIST, FOLLOWING WATER</p> <p>Invasive species costs the state approximately \$3 billion annually in damage to forests, prairies, wetlands and agriculture.</p> <p>This is a much higher priority than creating more outdoor recreation opportunities in the state, which is listed ahead of it in funding priorities.</p> <p>Outdoor recreation is in fact one of the contributing factors to the spread of invasives species which is degrading our forests, habitats and harming wildlife-- all things the LCCMR puts forward as protecting and restoring in its strategic draft plan !</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>Keep the priorities for increasing the amount of public hunting and fishing land as well as managing the habitat for wildlife through restoring prairie and wetlands.</p>	
<p>Considering how essential agriculture is, and the food system's significant impacts on the environment, LCCMR should place greater priority on projects related to agriculture, and specifically, include urban agriculture--and/or facilitating access to land for urban agriculture--as a funding priority (It could fit well in A. Resiliency, C. Education and Outdoor Recreation, and/or F. Land.).</p> <p>Growing food and other natural products is a valuable and widespread use of urban or peri-urban land that can collectively have significant positive impacts on conservation and natural resources throughout the state, particularly with climate change. Much work is already occurring in this space, and the demand for resources exceeds current availability. Making this funding opportunity available would help support and expand urban food cultivation, an adaptable practice that can have not only immense environmental benefits, but social benefits as well.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for including the “(5.8) design and development of culturally relevant, accessible, resilient, and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure — including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters — that create new natural resources-based experiences” as a priority, and for (5.9) supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all of these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p> <p>It is imperative that more emphasis be returned to support of motorized sports, as was in the past. Well-funded trail opportunities for ALL sports benefits all Minnesotans and provides diverse uses for differing types of sports. Additionally, money directed to Northern Minnesota provides both local economic benefit, but also enhances recreation opportunity for downstate residents for their travel tourism activities.</p>	<p>Twig Area Trail Riders ATV Club</p>
<p>I support this plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters that create new natural resources-based experience, and for supporting expanded trail development. Minnesotans each enjoy the outdoors differently, which is</p>	

Submitted public comment on the draft funding priorities for the ML 2026 RFP:	Organization
<p>why we support the commission identifying all trails uses in the strategic plan: hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR has been used in the past to develop all these types of trails and should be in the future. Please consider making these types of activities a higher funding priority in the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>Thank you for investing in outdoor recreation and infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Thank you for acknowledging the significance of investing in outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure, such as recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, and shelters, which create new natural resource-based experiences. Your support for expanding trail development is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Since Minnesotans enjoy the outdoors in diverse ways, we endorse the commission's efforts to identify all trail uses in the strategic plan, including hiking, biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and OHV trail development. LCCMR funds have historically supported the development of these types of trails and should continue to do so in the future. We urge you to consider prioritizing these activities in the strategic plan.</p>	