

ANNOUNCEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Endless Mountains Trail Feasibility Study

The Board of Directors of the Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania (RTC) are accepting proposals for a one-time contract to perform certain professional (consulting) services work for the RTC involving a Feasibility Study for the Endless Mountains Trail in the Montrose area of Susquehanna County, PA. Attached is information relating to submitting a proposal including specific requirements, the organization of the proposal, proposal evaluation criteria, and the proposed contract.

Sealed proposals (two copies) must be received by the Project Manager at the Rail-Trail Council's office at **Rear 334 Main Street, Forest City, PA (changing addresses/office location soon)** no later than March 18, 2010 at 4 PM EST.

If mailed, the proposal should be addressed to Lynn M. Conrad, Project Manager P O Box 123 Forest City PA 18421

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this work or if additional information is needed, please contact Lynn M. Conrad at 570-785-7245 or e-mail trails@nep.net

BACKGROUND

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania seeks to undertake a Feasibility Study for the existing Endless Mountains Trail (formerly called Bridgewater Riding Club Trail). The Rail-Trail Council (RTC) was recently assigned ownership of the 14-mile right-of-way already being used as a trail since the late 1940's but in a state of disrepair, misuse and questionable legal title.

The Rail-Trail Council acquired the property through a quit claim deed from the equestrian group Bridgewater Riding Club (BRC) in 2008.

For many years (since 2001) the RTC was encouraged to take ownership, as the BRC was in default of taxes and were willing to transfer the property to a more viable organization. Trail opposition by a few vocal adjacent property owners caused the county to drop the issue back in 2004. Pro-trail activists continued their pursuit and with an increasing number of encroachments and trail disrepair, the RTC agreed to take title with back taxes, penalties and future taxes being exonerated by the Susquehanna County Commissioners.

This study will focus on the legal status of the trail with an assessment of the steps that should be taken to protect the trail, including potential litigation.

Note: The RTC owns, operates and maintains the 38-mile D&H Rail-Trail in eastern Susquehanna County.

This project is partially funded by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (Bureau). The Bureau has certain requirements and standards that must be met by the Rail-Trail Council and its contracted consultant. This Request for Proposals (RFP) has been prepared to meet these requirements and standards. The Bureau will monitor the project. Certain documents and drafts of documents will be subject to review and approval by the Bureau.

DCNR's grant agreement number is **BRC-RTP-14-282**