Geoblock Reduces Trail Construction Impacts

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Minnesota Counties Demonstrate Low Impact Wetland Crossings

(Aitkin, MN) - The 70-Mile ATV/OHM trail project in Aitkin and Itasca Counties, Minnesota is utilizing geoblock construction materials to reduce impacts associated with wetland crossings.

"The geoblock is installed on the trail surface and allows vegetation to regrow and minimizes impacts to the hydrology and soils," says Mark Jacobs, Land Commissioner for the Aitkin County Land Department.

The geoblock material has been used in other regions, including Alaska, and helps reduce soil compaction and potential negative impacts associated with trail construction. The material is sufficiently low-impact that it is not categorized as fill under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulation.

"This project aims to be environmentally responsible and using innovative construction materials helps address this goal," says Kathryn Fernholz, Executive Director with Dovetail Partners and project coordinator for the 70-Mile Trail Project.

The trail construction and geoblock installation has been accomplished with assistance from the Minnesota Conservation Corps.

For more information, see:
http://www.70miletrail.net