



## **Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget Request**

# Capital Budget Request: Critical Infrastructure Investment

**Replace failing underground infrastructure at a state-owned asset – Giants Ridge Recreation Area.**

**The water line replacement will sustain the facility's recreational operations and provide fire suppression services.**

**\$10.191 million**  
Capital Budget Request

# Giants Ridge Recreation Area: A State-Owned Asset

## Facility Goals:

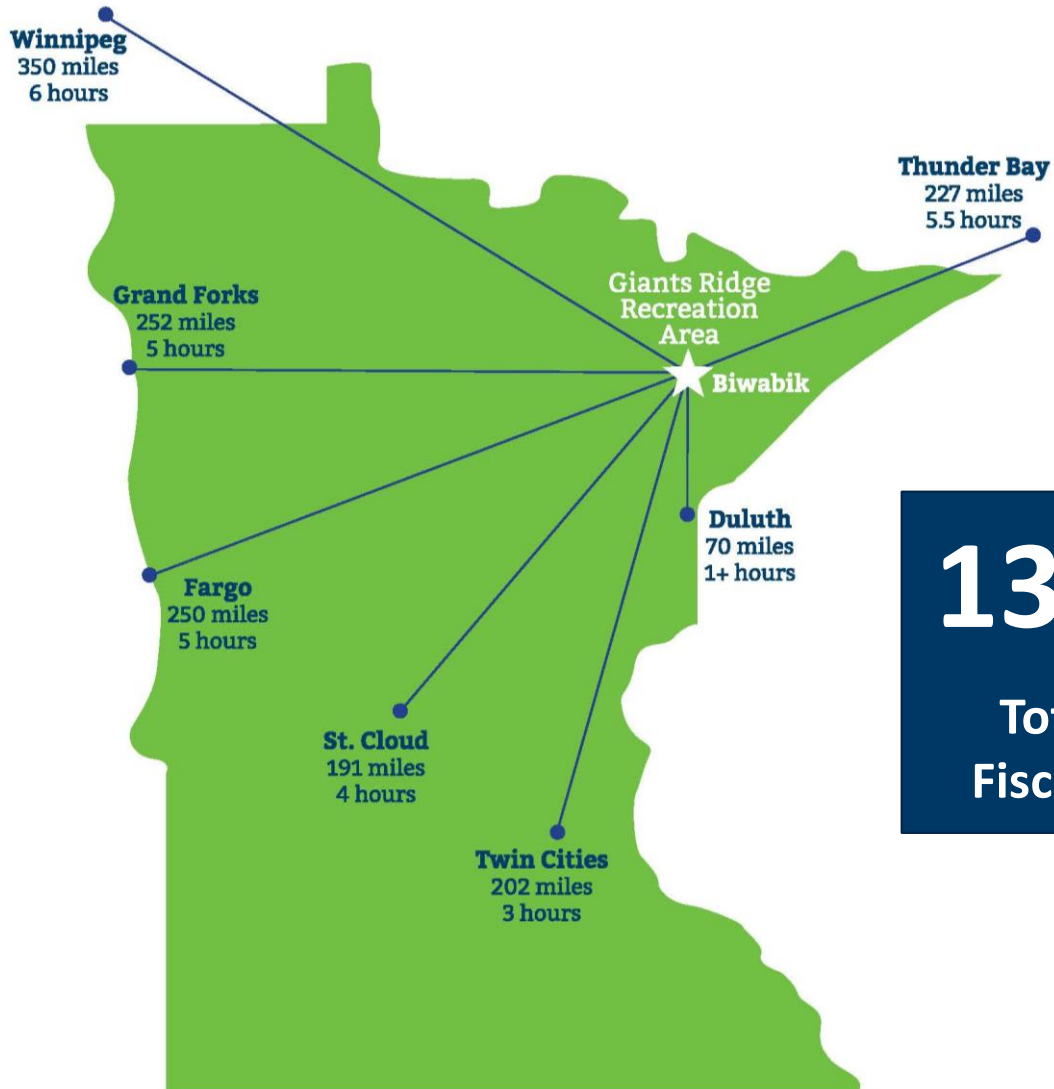
- 1 Create economic impacts in northeastern Minnesota.
- 2 Provide recreational facilities to enhance quality of life for the people of northeastern Minnesota.
- 3 Attract private sector development.
- 4 Operate as a year-round recreation destination.



Giants Ridge attracted over 133,000 visits in FY20 from Minnesota, the U.S. and Canada. Private residential and lodging facilities have been built within the recreation area boundaries which increased the local tax base.



# Project Location, Users & Impacted Populations



Giants Ridge has a substantial impact on the economy and quality of life in northeastern Minnesota. The 2022 capital budget request would impact many population segments in Minnesota and the region.

**133,879**

**Total Visits in  
Fiscal Year 2020**

## Directly impacted populations

- Families & individuals who ski, golf or bike.
- Minnesota state high school athletes.
- Elementary age school children.
- Physically disabled skiers.
- Recreation area employees.
- Facility vendors.

## Indirectly impacted populations

- Residents.
- Homeowners.
- Private local businesses.



# Economic Impacts

**\$55.4 Million**

Average Annual  
Economic Impact  
2017-2019

**179 Jobs**

Recreation & Lodging  
2019



# Critical Infrastructure Investment

## Failing Underground Infrastructure

Existing water line pipes are over 35 years old and have reached a crisis level of corrosion, damage and deterioration. Without this project, the facility cannot make snow to support its winter operations which are key to the region's economy.





# Critical Infrastructure Need: Water Line Replacement

## Water Line Replacement

Replace 90% and automate 60% of the 35-year-old failing underground infrastructure and snowmaking system.

**90%**  
Infrastructure  
Improved

**36,000**  
Linear Feet of Pipe  
Replaced or Upgraded

Snowmaking is the production of snow by forcing water and pressurized air through a "snow machine" on ski slopes. Snowmaking has become critical to smaller ski areas that need to provide consistent snow to remain competitive.

Corroded and deteriorating water line pipes



Damaged underground pipes



Proposed new snowmaking machine



# Critical Infrastructure Need: Water Line Replacement

## Impacts

- 1 Increase efficiencies.**  
Maximizes pump station to capacity and reduces energy and water consumption.
- 2 Cost savings.**  
Reduces repair costs, resulting in decreased downtime caused by equipment failure.
- 3 Improve safety.**  
Improves employee safety through automation by limiting the hazards associated with manual transport, staging and connecting of snowmaking machines.

## Automation & Improved Infrastructure

**30%**  
Reduced  
Water Costs

**40%**  
More  
Energy Efficient



# Fire Suppression: Snowmaking Machines Used to Slow Spread of Wildfires

## September 2021: South Lake Tahoe

Firefighters struggled to contain a 204,000-acre wildfire and prevent hundreds of homes and two of California's most famous ski resorts, Heavenly and Kirkwood, from being destroyed.

Workers at both ski resorts ran dozens of snowmaking machines around the clock to soak buildings and surrounding areas in an attempt to stop the advancing fire.

As our nation experiences more wildland fires, the ski industry is increasingly using snowmaking machines to try and minimize the risk and damage from major fires.



# Thank you!

Preserving Assets for  
**Minnesota's**  
Healthy & Livable  
Communities

