AP — The state wants to turn back the clock and replace a thousand miles of abandoned railroad corridors with traits for borseback riding and hiking, an official said.

Plans for the Discover Michigan Trail, which would link cities along the coasts of both peninsulas, were drawn up last year, said Robert Tyler, trails coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources.

state Department of Natural Re-sources.
Officials had boped to complete
the 1,000-mile trail by 1997, but
problems with gaining title to tracks
have delayed the project, he said.
Another site under consideration
is between Jackson and Lakeland, in
Jackson and Washlenaw counties.
"I think we will be somewhat successful," Tyler said. "But we will
need a lot of support from a lot of
people."

ance, a coalition of trails organiza-tions.
"It's a challenge," Alliance presi-dent Judy Class said of piecing to-gether the trail. "I say to myself, I want to ride my horse that entire trail. It may take me 10 years, but eventually TII dolt."
The trail, a Michigan Sesquicen-tennial project, would add to 7,310 miles of trails the state operates through its forests and parks, includ-ing 4,200 miles just for snowmobiles, Tyler said.

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between Kalamaroo and South Ha-ven, he said.

Money to purchase the corridors would come mostly from the state Natural Resources Trust Fund, which uses money earned from the said of state mineral rights, Tyler said.

THE STATE has first shot at ac-quiring an abandoned railroad track, and it must pay the railroad the ap-praised value for the property, but

that's the easy part, Tyler said.

Complex land titles often make it next to impossible for the state operchase the land, and adjacent property owners untally want the saind.

Once the trail is developed, DNR Director Gordon E. Guyer said he would like to turn the project over to a private management company. Those using the trails would pay a fee to cover the cost of maintenance.

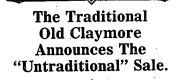
Pro tem Anderson at Oakland court

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