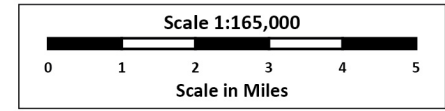


RED LAKE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 1 - Lower Red Lake to Thief River Falls

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Sanford Medical Center (Emergency)
- Rest Area
- Fishing Pier
- Dam
- Drinking Water
- River Level Gauge
- Public Lands
- State Units
- Tribal Lands
- Power Lines
- Hazard Areas
- River Miles



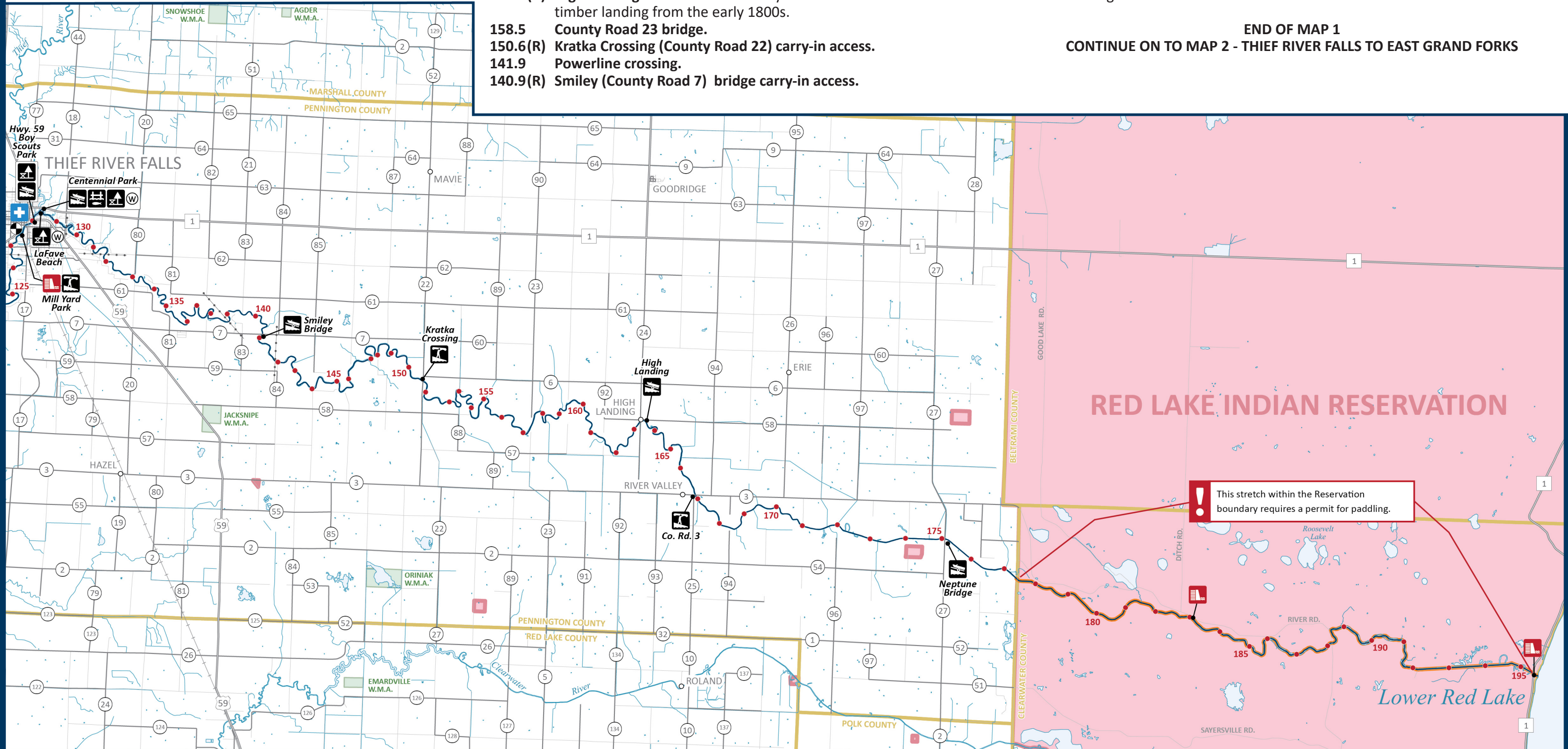
ROUTE DESCRIPTION (RM 195 to 125)

R and L represent banks of the river while facing downstream.

- 195.5** Lower Red Lake Dam at Highway 89. From this point, downstream to 182.5 is located in the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Paddling is prohibited, unless a permit is obtained from the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources (redlakednr.org).
- 188.2** Red Lake Indian Reservation Road bridge.
- 183.1** Dam. Portage right.
- 175.1(R)** Neptune Bridge (County Road 27) trailer access.
- 166.8(R)** County Road 3 carry-in access.
- 163.4(R)** High Landing trailer access. County Road 24. This site is an historic timber landing from the early 1800s.
- 158.5** County Road 23 bridge.
- 150.6(R)** Kratka Crossing (County Road 22) carry-in access.
- 141.9** Powerline crossing.
- 140.9(R)** Smiley (County Road 7) bridge carry-in access.

- 138.8** Powerline crossing.
- 131.8** Powerline crossing.
- 129.3** Powerline crossing.
- 128.6(R)** Centennial Park/Highway 1. Trailer access at the bridge. Park has a picnic shelter, toilets, drinking water, fishing pier and public parking.
- 128.6(L)** LaFave Beach. Toilets, drinking water, and public parking.
- 128.0** Highway 59/Boy Scouts Park. Trailer access and rest area.
- 127.8** Railroad bridge.
- 127.5** Mill Yard Municipal Dam. Carry-in access below the dam. Portage right.

END OF MAP 1
CONTINUE ON TO MAP 2 - THIEF RIVER FALLS TO EAST GRAND FORKS



This stretch within the Reservation boundary requires a permit for paddling.

RED LAKE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 1 - LOWER RED LAKE TO THIEF RIVER FALLS



mn MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Photo Credit: Red Lake Watershed District



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Red Lake River is one of the few state water trails in northwestern Minnesota. It begins at Upper and Lower Red Lake and flows generally westward to join the Red River of the North in East Grand Forks. The river flows past marshy wilderness, flat farmland, towering cliffs and steep, wooded banks.

From river mile 195.5 to 182.5, the river flows through the Red Lake Indian Reservation and past diverse marshlands. Paddling is prohibited here, unless a permit is obtained from the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources. Downstream, trees are sparse along low, grassy banks. Near High Landing, the trees become larger and the river meanders through farmland. Stands of willow, elm and cottonwood are interspersed with fields. You'll find residential development as the river flows past Thief River Falls.

Hazards include several dams, be sure you know the location of portages.



Red Lake Watershed District

Flat water greets paddlers along much of this route.

TRIP PLANNING AND SAFETY



- Plan your trip with a map before you leave. Tell someone your plans, including put-in and take-out times.
- Travel with a companion or group.
- Most people paddle 2-3 river miles per hour.
- River levels can affect your speed and trip safety. Check conditions at mndnr.gov/river_levels.
- Don't underestimate the power of wind and waves, especially on large lakes.
- Be cautious of obstacles in the river and avoid overhanging and dead trees.
- Bring clean drinking water and a waterproof container with a first aid kit, waterproof matches and extra clothes.
- Wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.
- Purchase a license for your non-motorized watercraft if it's more than 10 feet in length. If you're not from Minnesota, check your state's watercraft license laws.

WATERCRAFT CAMPING



- Camp only in designated campsites, which are often available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Riverbed camping next to private property is not permitted.
- Stay off private property. Stop only at designated sites; much of the shoreland is private property.
- Be sanitary! Use designated toilet facilities or bury human waste away from the river.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Smiley Bridge to Centennial Park

- Put-in location: Smiley Bridge (carry-in)
River mile **140.9**
- Take-out location: Centennial Park (trailer)
River mile **128.6**
- Length: **12.3** river miles

Spend the day on a gentle stretch of river that is great for beginner paddlers. Follow the river's meandering path past farmland, residential areas and low trees. This trip ends at a park in the city of Thief River Falls. Centennial Park has picnic areas, drinking water and restrooms.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Wildlife Management Areas

You'll find several wildlife management areas on the landscape surrounding the Red Lake River. Many offer great opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.

mndnr.gov/wmas

PROTECT THE RIVER

Your experience on the river depends on a healthy environment. As you explore the beauty of this waterway, also do your best to protect it.

Protect Your Waters

Before launching...before leaving

- Clean off aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain all water away from the landing.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic

Buffer Protection

The Minnesota buffer law establishes new vegetation buffers along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out chemicals and sediment before they reach waterways.

mndnr.gov/buffers

CONTACTS

DNR NORTHWEST HEADQUARTERS

2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2700

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367
info.dnr@state.mn.us

MEDICAL

SANFORD HEALTH - THIEF RIVER FALLS HOSPITAL



3001 Sanford Pkwy.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-4240

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

More Information

mndnr.gov/watertrails

- River level reporting
- River conditions reporting
- Interactive water trail map
- Recommended routes
- River rapids definitions
- Virtual tours

Search for outfitters at exploreminnesota.com

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting info.dnr@state.mn.us, 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.