

DAVID DILL - ARROWHEAD, TACONITE & DAVID DILL - TACONITE STATE TRAILS

Grand Rapids-Ely & Tower-International Falls



MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



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EMERGENCY INFO

In an emergency call 911

Law Enforcement  
State Patrol 218-749-7720  
Itasca County Sheriff 218-326-3477  
Koochiching County Sheriff 218-283-4416  
St. Louis County Sheriff (Virginia) 218-748-7510  
(Hibbing) 218-262-0132  
\*Evenings and weekends 218-749-6010

Area Police Departments  
Ely 218-365-3222  
Tower 218-753-6660  
Virginia 218-748-7510  
Grand Rapids 218-326-3464

Medical/Hospitals  
Ely 218-365-3271  
Virginia 218-741-3340  
Hibbing 218-262-4881  
Grand Rapids 218-326-3401

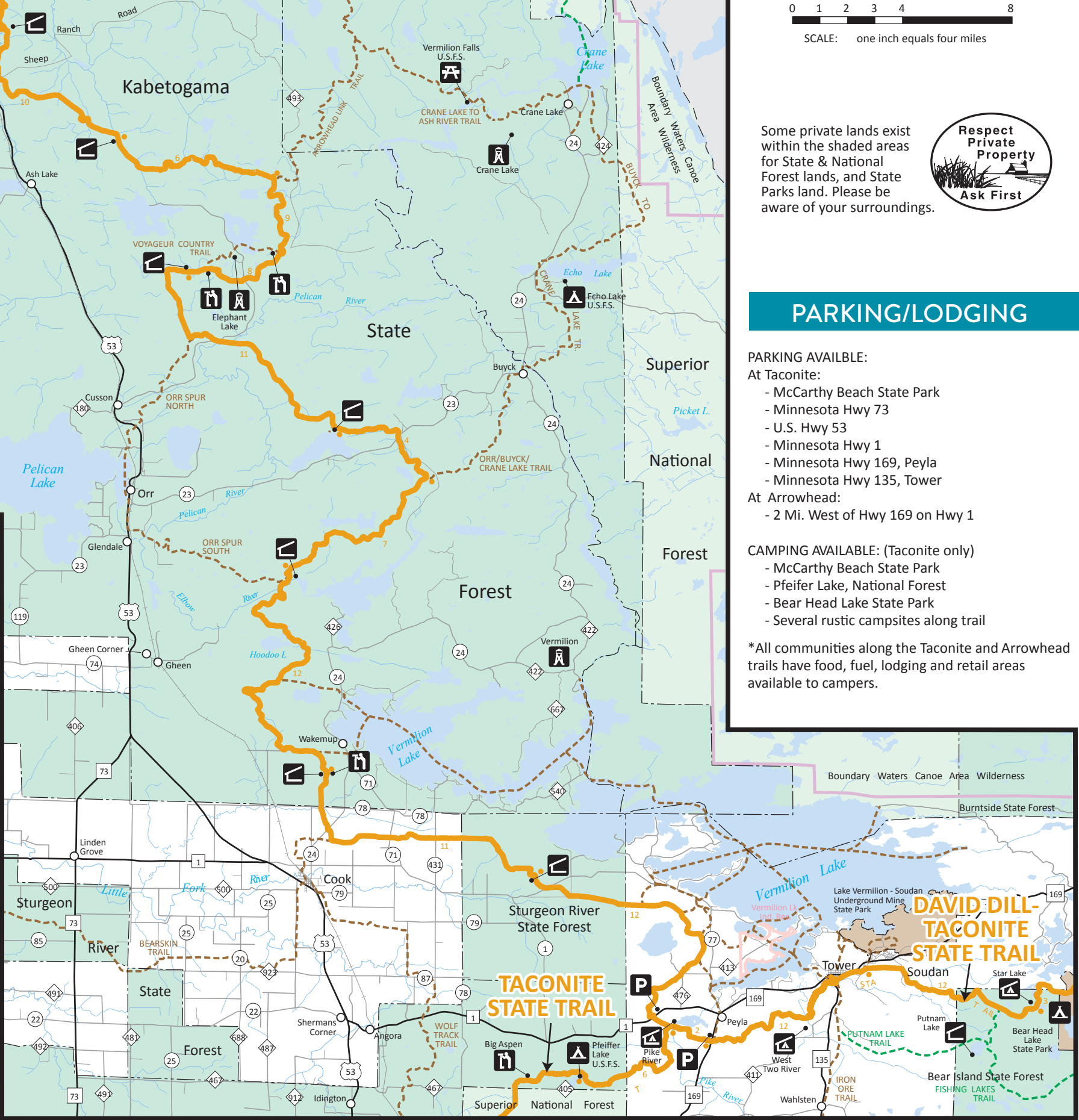
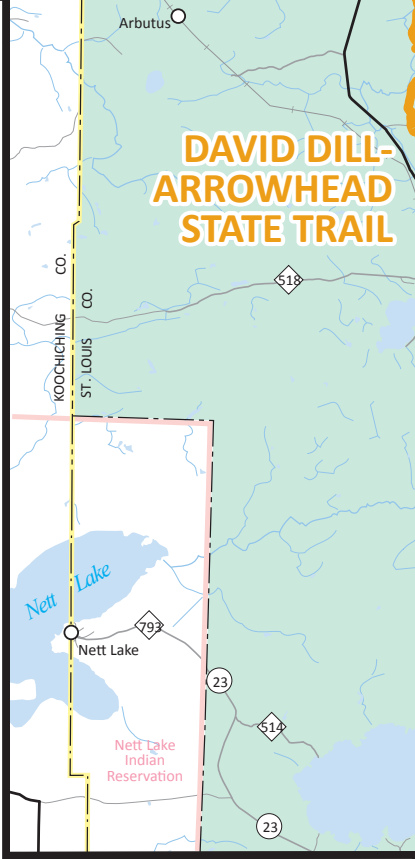
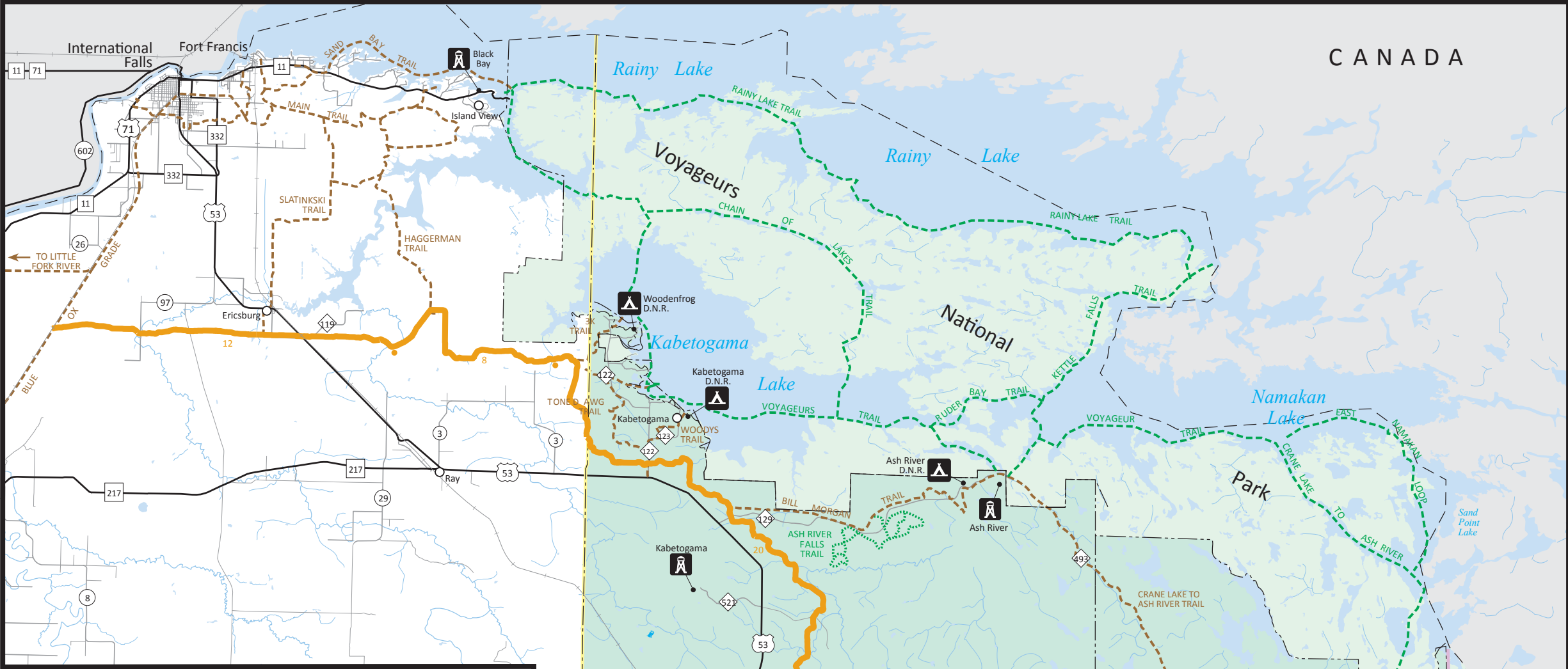


THE ARROWHEAD & TACONITE STATE TRAILS are located in northern Minnesota's Itasca, Koochiching and St. Louis counties. They are primarily snowmobile trails and form the backbone to an extensive Grant-in-Aid trail system. Portions of both trails are suitable for horseback riding, as well as mountain biking, hiking and backpacking in the summer. Call the DNR for specific information.

The Arrowhead State Trail stretches 135 miles, from 10 miles west of Tower at the intersection of the Taconite State Trail, to Ericsburg, 10 miles south of International Falls.



The Taconite State Trail stretches 165 miles from Grand Rapids to Ely and intersects with the Arrowhead State Trail just west of Lake Vermilion. Eight trail waysides and picnic facilities offer scenic vistas of the hills, lakes and rivers of this area.



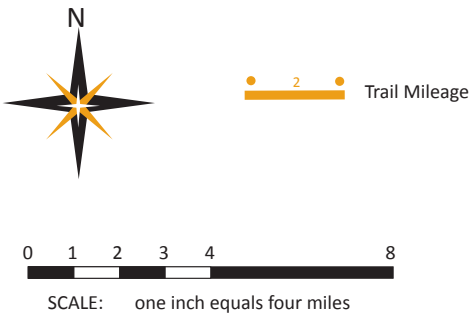
MAP KEY

TRAILS & THEIR PERMITTED USES

- Arrowhead State Trail (Snowmobile, Hiking)
- Forest and Park Trails (Snowmobile, Hiking)
- State Forest Ski Trails (Skiing)
- Grant-in-Aid Trails (Snowmobile)

TRAIL SYMBOLS

- Snowmobile, X-Country Ski, Hiking, Shelter/Campsite, Fire Tower, Parking, Campground, Shelter, Picnic Area, Vista



Some private lands exist within the shaded areas for State & National Forest lands, and State Parks land. Please be aware of your surroundings.



PARKING/LODGING

PARKING AVAILABLE:  
At Taconite:  
- McCarthy Beach State Park  
- Minnesota Hwy 73  
- U.S. Hwy 53  
- Minnesota Hwy 1  
- Minnesota Hwy 169, Peyla  
- Minnesota Hwy 135, Tower  
At Arrowhead:  
- 2 Mi. West of Hwy 169 on Hwy 1

CAMPING AVAILABLE: (Taconite only)  
- McCarthy Beach State Park  
- Pfeiffer Lake, National Forest  
- Bear Head Lake State Park  
- Several rustic campsites along trail

\*All communities along the Taconite and Arrowhead trails have food, fuel, lodging and retail areas available to campers.

THE ARROWHEAD TRAIL  
The southern part of the Arrowhead features rolling hills with numerous lakes and streams. Many of the hills have large areas of exposed rock and enormous boulders. This part is heavily timbered with a mix of hardwoods and conifers.  
This mix of trees on the Arrowhead is spectacularly colorful in autumn. The northern part of the trail is relatively flat between International Falls and the Ash River. The higher ground is mainly forested with aspen; lower ground has a mix of spruce and ash. The trail goes through a number of areas that have standing water in the summer which makes these portions of the trail mostly suited to winter use.

THE TACONITE TRAIL winds through forests of birch and aspen intertwined with pine, leading the visitor by many isolated lakes and streams. From Grand Rapids heading north, you see the impact of the taconite and iron mining industry. Between McCarthy Beach State Park and Ely the terrain is rolling and tree covered as it winds through state and national forest land.

The trail user may see a ridge of solid white pine changing to a ravine of mixed hardwoods, then a ridge of aspen, birch and basswood blended with maples.

The trail links three state parks: Bear Head Lake, Soudan Underground Mine and McCarthy Beach. The landscape in and around Bear Head Lake State Park resembles the BWCAW. The park's land is very rolling and rocky, elevations ranging from 1,450 feet up to 1,590 feet.

Soudan Underground Mine State Park is located on a rugged ridge and contains the historic Soudan underground mine. It is Minnesota's only underground iron ore mine open to the public. Tours descend 27 levels to the bottom of the mine, where there is a constant year-round temperature

of 52 degrees. The park also contains picturesque stands of old-growth white and norway pines mixed with balsam fir and aspen. The lower elevations are dominated by white cedar interspersed with balsam fir, tamarack, black spruce, ash and muskeg.

Native northern Minnesota wildlife is abundant along both trails. Some species to watch for are moose, timber wolf, brush wolf, white-tailed deer, black bear, lynx, porcupine, red fox, snowshoe hare, fisher, pine marten and red squirrel.

Over 100 varieties of birds live in the area. Some birds, like the grosbeaks, nuthatches, chickadees and pileated woodpeckers, inhabit the area year-round. Birds like the snow bunting and snowy owl migrate south from the arctic for the winter; the bald eagle, osprey, warblers and fly catchers migrate north to this area for the summer.

A variety of game fish including walleye, northern pike, trout and smallmouth bass are found in the area's large numbers of lakes and rivers. The landscape of the area is a result of the under-lying geology. The area's bedrock formation known as the Canadian Shield is some of the oldest rock on earth. It was formed by volcanic action approximately 2.7 billion years ago. Later, ancient seas laid down the valuable iron ore that is still mined in the area today. Further volcanic activity swept away the sea and formed two mountain ranges. The advancing and receding of glaciers, and millions of years of erosion have worn the mountains down, resulting in the present rugged landscape found along some parts of the trail.

The Arrowhead and Taconite State Trails provide a great opportunity to explore this area. To preserve this opportunity for the future, please respect the area's plant and wildlife communities.



# HISTORY

The Arrowhead and Taconite State Trails were developed by the DNR with ongoing assistance from the counties, other local governments, U.S. Forest Service, private businesses and trail groups. The trails connect towns and travel past lakes, rivers, resorts, mining sites, logging camps and trappers' shacks.

The earliest known inhabitants of the area, living thousands of years ago, left pictographs (rock paintings) and petroglyphs (rock carvings) north of the present trail area. Many Indian tribes had settled in the area, including the Lakota, Dakota and more recently in history, the Ojibway (Chippewa).

European immigration forced the Ojibway to move west along the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes. They entered present day northern Minnesota in the late 1600s. The lake and forest resources provided the Ojibway with abundant fish and wildlife in spite of the harsh winters. However, continued immigration eventually forced them from most of their land.

Fur trade began in this area in 1679. French-Canadian voyageurs from Montreal and Quebec came west to participate in the fur trade with the American Indians. The trade was dominated first by the French, then British and finally the Americans.

The fur trade era lasted about 175 years. When it ended, many voyageurs and new immigrants turned to logging.

During the early years of logging in the area thousands of acres of virgin red and white pine were cut down to supply the building boom in cities across the country. After the vast stands of mature growth pines were removed aspen forests established themselves. They support a thriving wood products industry which produces paper and building products.

The Arrowhead and Taconite Trails pass though a variety of public and private land ownerships along the trail route. Most of these lands are managed by public and private landowners for forest products.

Timber harvesting is often done in the winter when the ground is frozen which makes it easier to access harvesting sites that would be inaccessible in the summer due to wet conditions.

The major tree species found along the trail include aspen, white and black spruce, norway pine and white pine. Aspen, a pioneer species, is harvested by clearcutting to allow sunlight to reach the roots of the recently cut trees which will then sprout and produce aspen suckers in the first year after cutting.



Black spruce is also harvested in this manner, but it is usually seeded to get new trees on the site. White spruce, norway and white pine are usually thinned a number of times before the final harvest is undertaken when all remaining trees are removed and the site is replanted with seedlings.

Most tree species harvested in Minnesota are used to make paper and waferboard, but larger trees are also used to make lumber, cabinets, and furniture parts.

When traveling near a harvesting site please watch out for logging trucks and other equipment.

In addition to the natural resources provided by the forest, the discovery of iron ore dramatically changed northern Minnesota. The rich iron ore deposits contributed to the industrialization of the whole country. The development of the mining industry created a large demand for labor. This led to a wave of European immigration and to the growth of the "Iron Range" and its associated mining towns. The mining industry started to decline as the rich ore was used up. The industry was reinvigorated for a time by the development of taconite, the mining process that made mining of lower grade iron ore economically viable. The mining industry has experienced ongoing restructuring which results in lower employment levels.

# INFORMATION

## For travel planning information contact:

MN Office of Tourism  
100 Metro Square, 121 7th Place East  
St. Paul MN 55101-2146  
651-296-5029 (metro area)  
1-888-TOURISM (toll free)  
1-800-766-8687 (Canada)

MN Department of Natural Resources  
DNR Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 (metro area)  
1-888-646-6367 (toll free)

DNR provides outdoor recreation information, brochures, maps and snow & trail conditions.

DNR Regional Office  
1201 E. Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744 (218) 999-7920  
\*DNR Taconite Trail Hdqtrs. (Grand Rapids Area)  
(218) 999-7923

DNR Arrowhead/Taconite Trail (Tower Area) Hdqtrs.  
650 Highway 169  
Tower, MN 55790  
(218) 753-2580

# MAP KEY

## TRAILS & THEIR PERMITTED USES

- State Trail
- State Trail - ATVs allowed
- State Forest & Park Trail
- State Park Ski Trails
- Grant-in-Aid Trails
- Other Trails

## TRAIL SYMBOLS

- Snowmobile
- X-Country Ski
- Hiking
- Shelter/Campsite
- Parking
- Campground
- Shelter
- Picnic Area

0 1 2 3 4 8  
SCALE: one inch equals four miles

Trail Mileage

