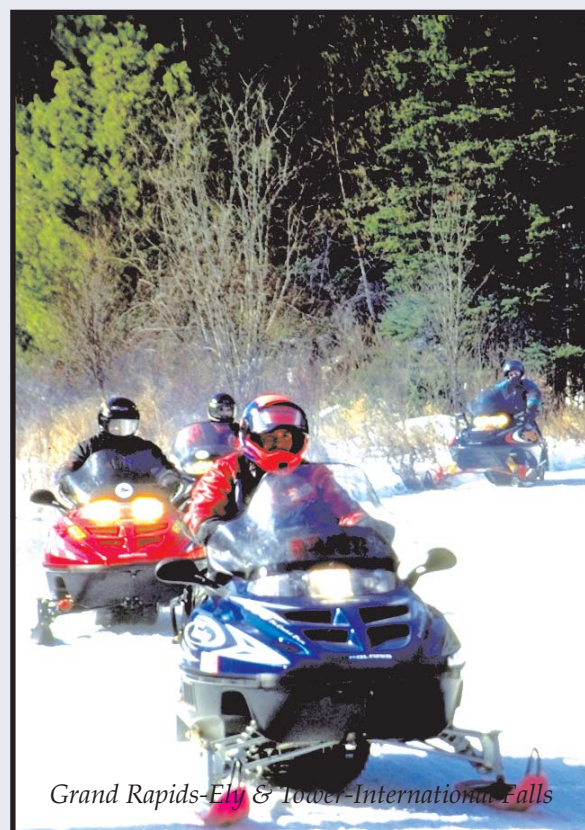


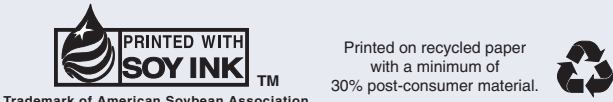
STATE TRAILS



Grand Rapids-Ely & Tower-International Falls



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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 to 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.

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

OTHER INFO

The Taconite and Arrowhead State Trails were authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 1974-5. These long-distance trails were developed primarily for winter use. As a result, sections of these trails may be impassible during warm weather months when the ground is not frozen, due to wet soils and standing water. Mountain bikers and horseback riders are urged to call the nearest Trails and Waterways Area office before leaving for their destination to inquire about local trail conditions and amenities.

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
- Pfeifer 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.

TACONITE COMMUNITIES:

- Grand Rapids
- Tower
- Ely
- Side Lake

ARROWHEAD COMMUNITIES:

- Tower
- Cook
- Orr
- International Falls

NATURAL FEATURES

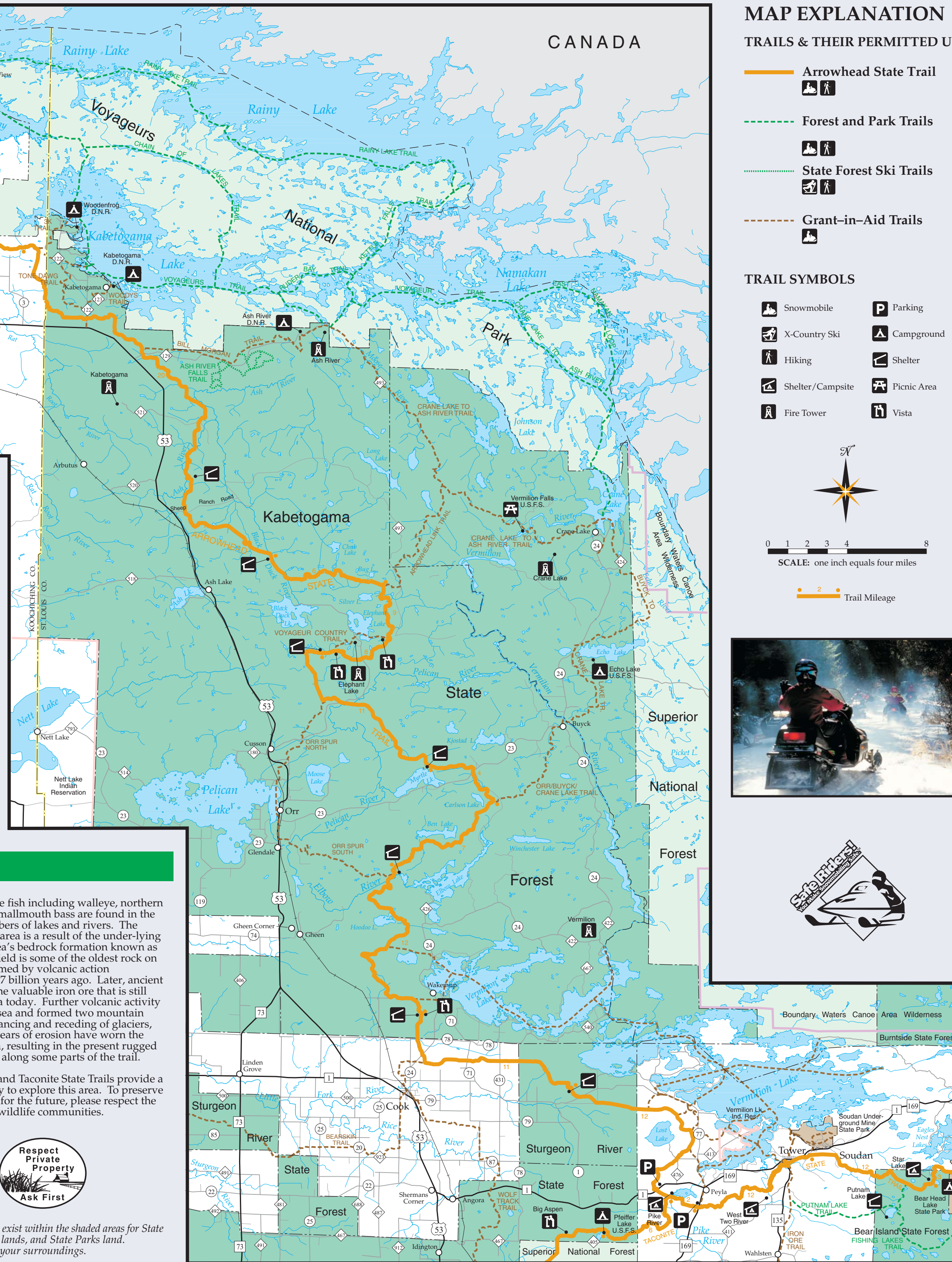
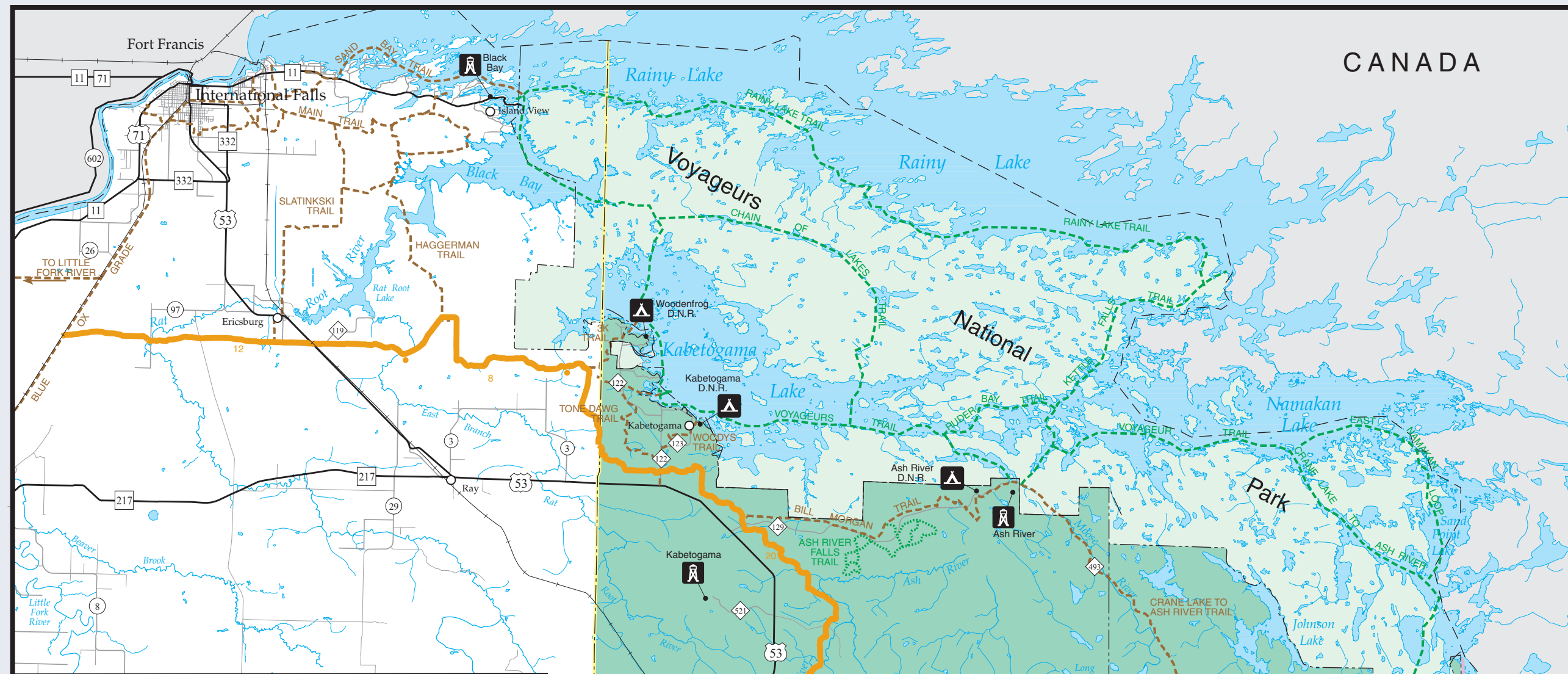
THE ARROWHEAD TRAIL is relatively flat between International Falls and the Ash River. The higher ground is mainly forested with aspen; lower ground has a mix of spruce and ash. The trail goes through a number of areas that have standing water in the summer which makes these portions of the trail mostly suited to winter use.

The southern part of the Arrowhead is very different from the northern part. It 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 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 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.



MAP EXPLANATION

TRAILS & THEIR PERMITTED USES

- Arrowhead State Trail (Orange line)
- Forest and Park Trails (Green dashed line)
- State Forest Ski Trails (Green dotted line)
- Grant-in-Aid Trails (Brown dashed line)

TRAIL SYMBOLS

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



SCALE: one inch equals four miles

Trail Mileage



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 snowbunting, 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 flycatchers 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 underlying 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.



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

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. The only Indians in recent history to be identified with the region are 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. Because aspen are fast-growing they have become the primary tree that is planted and harvested today. They support a thriving wood products industry which produces paper and building products.

The Arrowhead and Taconite Trails pass through 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-MINNDNR (toll free)
651-296-5484 (TTY, metro mrea)
1-800-657-3929 (TTY, toll free)
DNR provides: outdoor recreation information, brochures, maps and snow & trail conditions.

- **DNR Trails & Waterways 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

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped 51 separate areas of the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores. Check out the website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/prim.html>

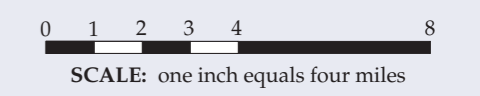
MAP EXPLANATION

TRAILS & THEIR PERMITTED USES

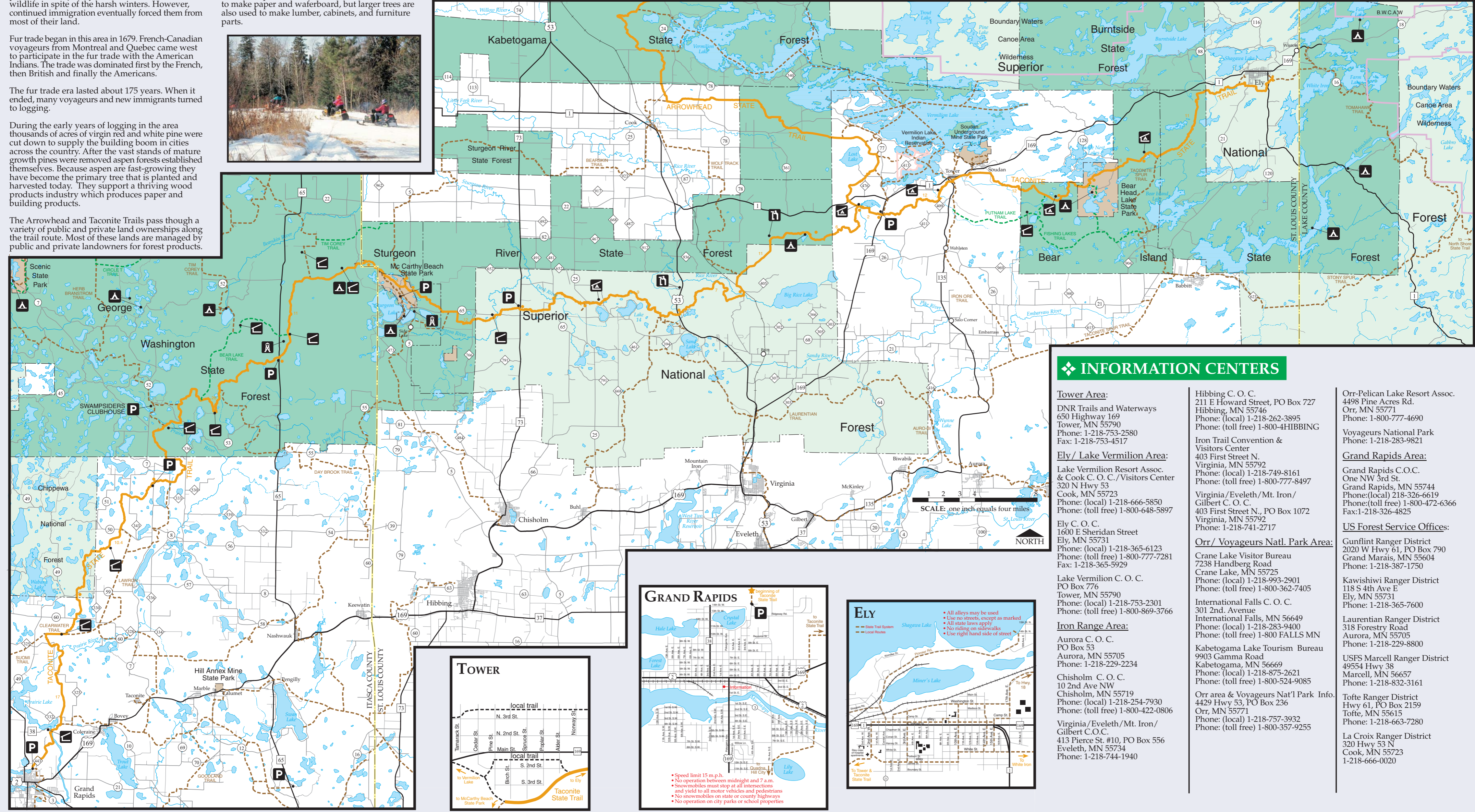
- Taconite State Trail**
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- State Forest & Park Trail**
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- State Park Ski Trails**
[Dotted brown line]
- Grant-in-Aid Trails**
[Dashed orange line]
- Other Trails**
[Dashed black line]

TRAIL SYMBOLS

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



Trail Mileage



INFORMATION CENTERS

Tower Area:

DNR Trails and Waterways
650 Highway 169
Tower, MN 55790
Phone: 1-218-753-2580
Fax: 1-218-753-4517

Ely / Lake Vermilion Area:

Lake Vermilion Resort Assoc. & Cook C. O. C. /Visitors Center
320 N Hwy 53
Cook, MN 55723
Phone: (local) 1-218-666-5850
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-648-5897

Ely C. O. C.
1600 E Sheridan Street
Ely, MN 55731
Phone: (local) 1-218-365-6123
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-777-7281
Fax: 1-218-365-5929

Lake Vermilion C. O. C.
PO Box 776
Tower, MN 55790
Phone: (local) 1-218-753-2301
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-869-3766

Iron Range Area:

Aurora C. O. C.
PO Box 53
Aurora, MN 55705
Phone: 1-218-229-2234

Chisholm C. O. C.
10 2nd Ave NW
Chisholm, MN 55719
Phone: (local) 1-218-254-7930
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-422-0806

Virginia/Eveleth/Mt. Iron/Gilbert C.O.C.
413 Pierce St. #10, PO Box 556
Eveleth, MN 55734
Phone: 1-218-744-1940

Hibbing C. O. C.
211 E Howard Street, PO Box 727
Hibbing, MN 55746
Phone: (local) 1-218-262-3895
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-4HIBBING

Iron Trail Convention & Visitors Center
403 First Street N.
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: (local) 1-218-749-8161
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-777-8497

Virginia/Eveleth/Mt. Iron/Gilbert C. O. C.
403 First Street N., PO Box 1072
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 1-218-741-2717

Orr / Voyageurs Nat'l. Park Area:
Crane Lake Visitor Bureau
7238 Handberg Road
Crane Lake, MN 55725
Phone: (local) 1-218-993-2901
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-362-7405

International Falls C. O. C.
301 2nd Avenue
International Falls, MN 56649
Phone: (local) 1-218-283-9400
Phone: (toll free) 1-800 FALLS MN

Kabetogama Lake Tourism Bureau
Aurora, MN 55705
Kabetogama, MN 56669
Phone: (local) 1-218-875-2621
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-524-9085

Orr area & Voyageurs Nat'l Park Info.
4429 Hwy 53, PO Box 236
Orr, MN 55771
Phone: (local) 1-218-757-3932
Phone: (toll free) 1-800-357-9255

Orr-Pelican Lake Resort Assoc.
4498 Pine Acres Rd.
Orr, MN 55771
Phone: 1-800-777-4690

Voyageurs National Park
Phone: 1-218-283-9821

Grand Rapids Area:
Grand Rapids C.O.C.
One NW 3rd St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone:(local) 218-326-6619
Phone:(toll free) 1-800-472-6366
Fax:1-218-326-4825

US Forest Service Offices:
Gunflint Ranger District
2020 W Hwy 61, PO Box 790
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Phone: 1-218-387-1750

Kawishiwi Ranger District
118 S 4th Ave E
Ely, MN 55731
Phone: 1-218-365-7600

Laurentian Ranger District
318 Forestry Road
Aurora, MN 55705
Phone: 1-218-229-8800

USFS Marcell Ranger District
49554 Hwy 38
Marcell, MN 56657
Phone: 1-218-832-3161

Tofte Ranger District
Hwy 61, PO Box 2159
Tofte, MN 55615
Phone: 1-218-663-7280

La Croix Ranger District
320 Hwy 53 N
Cook, MN 55723
1-218-666-0020