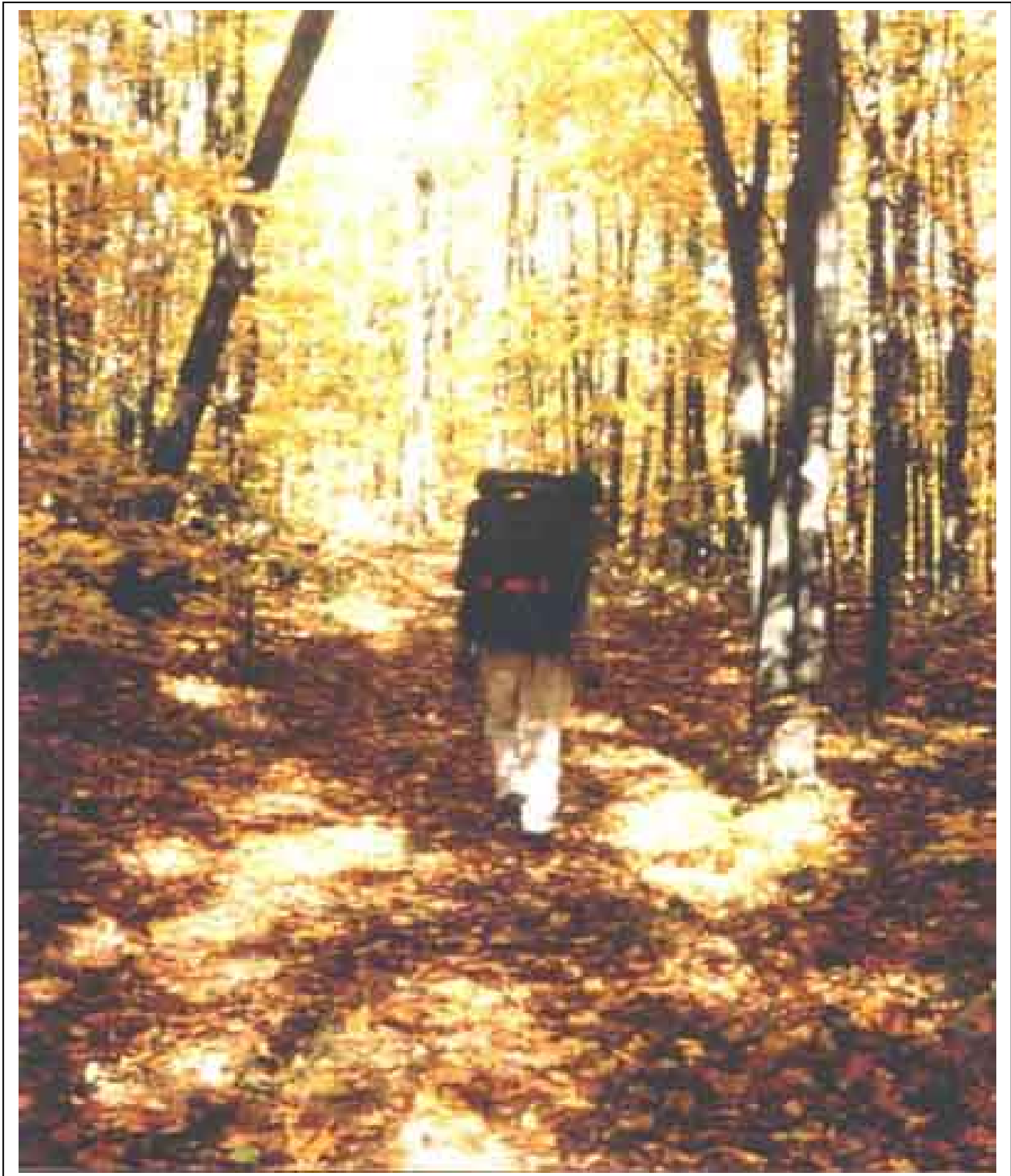


North Country National Scenic Trail
North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York
Draft Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment
And Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Chapter 1 Purpose and Need

1.1 Purpose and Significance of the North Country National Scenic Trail

The mission of the National Park Service is to acquire, develop, operate, maintain, and protect, through public and private partnerships, the North Country National Scenic Trail—a trail that meanders for approximately 4,200 miles across seven northern States, from eastern New York to the Missouri River in North Dakota—for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The purpose of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NST) is:

To establish a trail within scenic areas of the Nation to provide increased outdoor recreation opportunities and promote preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the national scenic and historic resources.

To provide for superlative outdoor recreation opportunities and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the areas through which the trail passes.

To provide a premier hiking trail facility and experience consistent with preserving the landscape in which the trail is established.

To encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management of the trail, wherever appropriate.

The significance of the North Country NST is:

The North Country NST links and showcases a network of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features, as well as communities along its route. Due to its location, it includes a diversity of landscapes including the grandeur of the Adirondacks, the hardwood forests and countryside of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and southern Michigan, the shorelines of the Great Lakes, the glacial carved forests, lakes, and streams of northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and the vast plains of North Dakota.

When completed, the North Country NST will be the longest footpath in the United States. The estimated length in the authorizing legislation was 3,200 miles, but as work to complete it has progressed, it is becoming clear that the actual length will approach 4,200 miles. That will make it nearly twice as long as the famous Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

The North Country Trail provides an opportunity to explore a slice of America at a walking pace rather than at freeway speed, and a place of retreat from the hectic routine of everyday life. It exists as much for the enjoyment of the casual walker as it does for the challenge of hikers who travel its entire length, providing outstanding opportunities for recreation, education, inspiration, solitude, and enjoyment.

The North Country Trail is truly a special recreational resource. While the overall trail is administered by the NPS, very little of it is on lands directly managed by the NPS. It is not built or

maintained by NPS staff. Much of the existing trail is on public lands managed by the USDA-Forest Service, other Federal agencies, or State or local governments. Other portions are on private or corporate lands, where the owners have allowed the trail to be constructed. Many miles of the trail are co-located on segments of trails managed by other regional trail groups such as the Finger Lakes Trail Conference in New York, or the Buckeye Trail Association in Ohio. The trail is truly made possible by the thousands of local volunteers who build, maintain, and use it.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Route Assessment

The purpose of the Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment is to reevaluate the proposed route of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NST) between existing segments of the trail in Jay Cooke State Park (SP) and the Chippewa National Forest (NF) and locate a route that exemplifies the best scenery and variety the North Country of Minnesota has to offer. It will locate a route that provides the most outstanding hiking experience available in northeastern Minnesota.

Significant hiking trail construction has occurred in Northeastern Minnesota since the inception of the National Trails System Act, but none in the corridor identified in the “Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use of the North Country National Scenic Trail” (Comprehensive Plan or CP). More importantly, Minnesota DNR trail professionals and others clearly indicated that the corridor identified in the 1982 plan was not desirable because it did not exemplify the outstanding scenery available in NE Minnesota and was not feasible because of the extensive wetlands and other obstacles to trail development.

In fact, beginning as early as 1987, volunteers and trail professionals advised the National Park Service that the route in the 1982 CP was neither feasible nor desirable. Those professionals and volunteers suggested the alternative route incorporating the three existing long-distance trails that is evaluated in this plan and presented as the preferred alternative.

1.3 Decision to be Made

The NPS has conducted this route assessment in order to determine whether or not to recommend to Congress that it revise the portion of the 1982 Comprehensive Plan that identifies the route for the trail in eastern Minnesota. A revision would abandon the route between Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF shown in the 1982 plan and adopt a new route, looping into Minnesota’s Arrowhead Region, utilizing extensive mileage of three already existing hiking trail systems—the Superior Hiking Trail, Border Route Trail, and Kekekabic Trail. After reaching the end of the existing trail systems at the west end of the Kekekabic Trail, the route would then pass through the “Fernberg” corridor, a non-wilderness corridor mostly on Superior National Forest (NF) lands which generally parallels the Fernberg Road into Ely. From Ely the route would generally head west and south using as much public land and incorporating as much existing trail as possible to McCarthy Beach State Park. From McCarthy Beach State Park the route would head generally south towards Grand Rapids. From Grand Rapids the route would then head south and west to rejoin the existing trail in the Chippewa NF.

No recommendation on the precise route of the trail from the end of the existing trails to Ely and then on to the existing segment of trail would be made at this time for a number of reasons, including the following:

- Additional local and regional volunteer support groups will need to be organized before an actual trail can be precisely located and constructed.
- These volunteers will actually build and maintain the trail, and will do the work of determining the precise location of the trail in consultation with the NPS and state and local citizens, officials, land managers and landowners
- Additional environmental analysis of the effects of trail construction and use may need to take place before construction of new trail. This analysis cannot take place until specific locations for the trail are determined.
- Construction of new trail may not take place for a period of time and unforeseen opportunities for trail locations may arise in the future.

1.4 Scoping and Public Involvement

In one sense, scoping and public involvement for this project began 5 years after the Comprehensive Plan was issued in 1982. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as trail supporters commented about the difficulty of constructing trail through the extensive areas of Black Spruce/Tamarack swamp that the route would require. At an October 1987 meeting of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) held at Lake Itasca State Park, trail supporters urged the NPS to consider the route described in this report as the preferred alternative in lieu of the route in the 1982 CP.

In August 1993, a Minnesota “Summit Meeting” about the North Country NST was held in St. Paul. The participants, including the DNR, Forest Service, NPS, Superior Hiking Trail Association, North Country Trail Association, and other hiking enthusiasts, unanimously agreed that the “Arrowhead Route” was a better route for the trail. In December 1993, the NPS sent letters to the three Arrowhead Region trail clubs soliciting input on the use of their trail systems as a part of the North Country NST. Within 14 months, the three trail clubs had sent letters of support for becoming a part of the North Country NST. In 1995, the NPS requested support from the Superior NF and the Minnesota DNR. Letters affirming this support were received from the DNR in May of 1995 and from the Superior NF in June of 1995.

In 1996 the NPS made contacts with Congressional staff to inform them of the grassroots interest in changing the route of the North Country NST in Northeastern Minnesota and obtain their perspectives. During these discussions, the NPS was advised to undertake a public process to amend the 1982 plan.

In January 1998, the NPS sent letters to Minnesota DNR, Superior NF, Chippewa NF, Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA), the Grand Portage Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Minnesota Rovers Outing Club (ROC), Kekekabic Trail Club (KTC), Itasca County Trails Task Force, Regional Planning Commission, Grand Portage National Monument, and others, requesting input and a representative to attend an initial scoping/planning meeting. This meeting was held on March 10, 1998, and a core planning team, consisting of members from the various Federal and state agencies, trail groups, and interested individuals was formed.

In July 1998, the NPS published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register announcing its intent to study the proposed change in the route of the trail and to prepare an amendment to the 1982 Comprehensive Plan. Also, as part of the public scoping process, letters were sent to planning area counties, cities, agencies, and tribes announcing the study and requesting input.

In 1998, three planning team meetings were held, one each in Duluth, Ely, and Grand Rapids. During 1999, four additional planning team meetings were held. A major purpose of these meetings was to identify possible alternative connections from the end of the existing trail near Ely to the existing North Country NST segment in the Chippewa NF. Once alternative connecting corridors were identified, a series of open houses was scheduled and held in Duluth, Ely, and Grand Rapids in July of 1999. After the open houses, NPS funding for the planning project was curtailed and planning was halted until 2001 when additional funding permitted the NPS to hire additional staff and resume the study.

Once the project was resumed, additional planning team meetings were held in 2001 and 2002 and one more connecting corridor alternative, the Vermillion Lake Route, was identified. Six open house meetings were held in March of 2003 to present all the alternatives and solicit any additional public input on the assessment. Three of these meetings took place in Duluth, in conjunction with the Superior Hiking Trail Association's efforts to determine the route of the SHT through Duluth. One open house took place in Ely, one in Grand Rapids, and one in Bloomington. Well over two hundred people attended these meetings and numerous written comments were received. Comments on the route assessment included support for the far more scenic and varied preferred alternative, encouragement for using the existing long distance trails, concern that the original route was not feasible, and impatience over the delay in changing the route. Overall the comments stressed taking advantage of the resources of the "Arrowhead" region, rather than supporting a specific connecting route.

1.5 Primary Issues and Concerns

During the internal and external scoping process for this route assessment, a number of issues were identified. These issues were raised by the general public, state agencies, trail groups, and other interested people. They were received via e-mail, letter, telephone conversation, and at public open houses during the scoping process. These issues are summarized below.

1.5.1 Impacts on management of existing trails from designation as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail

Many people were concerned that designation of the existing trails would result in changes to the management and uses of the existing trails, and that the local managers and developers of the trails would lose control of their trails.

1.5.2 Impacts on natural resources by trail construction and users

People expressed concern about the impact on natural resources that could result from the construction and use of new trail that would be necessary to complete the project.

1.5.3 Impacts on cultural resources by trail use and by construction of new trail

Impacts on cultural resources that may occur due to new trail construction or increased use of existing trails were considered by some people to be an issue.

1.5.4 Impacts on trail users and communities

Hiking advocates indicated that the route described in the 1982 Comprehensive Plan would not meet with the expectations of a National Scenic Trail for experience or for scenery. Trail groups are looking forward to inclusion of the three long distance trails into the North Country NST.

1.5.5 Cost of construction and operation of new trail

How the trail would be financed was an issue expressed by respondents.

1.6 Impact Topics Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

1.6.1 Environmental Justice

In general, the term “environmental justice” refers to fair treatment of all races, cultures, and income levels with respect to laws, policies, and government actions. In February 1994, Executive Order 12898, titled Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, was issued. This order requires each Federal Agency to incorporate environmental justice as part of its mission. Federal Agencies are specifically ordered to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. In a related memorandum to heads of all Federal Departments and Agencies, released concurrently with Executive Order 12998, the President underscores provisions of existing laws that are intended to help ensure the environmental quality of communities throughout the nation. This memorandum further states that mitigation measures identified in environmental documents should address significant and adverse environmental effects on minority communities and low-income communities. Neither alternative would have adverse health or environmental effects on minorities or low-income populations or communities as defined in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Draft Environmental Justice Guidance (July 1996), as well as Executive Order 12898.

1.6.2 Soundscapes

The NPS is mandated by DO-47 (Sound Preservation and Noise Management) to articulate its operational policies that will require, to the fullest extent practicable, the protection, maintenance, or restoration of the natural soundscape resource in a condition unimpaired by inappropriate or excessive noise sources. Natural sounds are intrinsic elements of the environment that are often associated with parks and park purposes. They are inherent components of “the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife” protected by the NPS Organic Act. Natural sounds may provide valuable indicators of the health of various ecosystems. Intrusive sounds are of concern.

Noise level impacts would be negligible from the user on the trail and would essentially return to their natural condition. Therefore, this topic will not be analyzed in this document.

1.6.3 Prime or Unique Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act requires that consideration be given to Prime and Unique Farmlands in any actions involving significant Federal funding or technical assistance. Prime or unique farmland is defined as soil that particularly produces general crops as common foods, forage, fiber, and oil seed; unique farmland produces specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NCRS), there are no identified prime or unique farmlands associated with the existing trails located in St. Louis, Cook, or Lake Counties. In Aitkin, Cass, and Itasca County, prime and unique farmland has been identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS). However, according to the NCRS construction of hiking trails does not irreversibly convert farmlands to other uses. Therefore this topic will not be further analyzed in this document.

1.6.4 Northeastern Minnesota Air Quality

In general the air quality in the planning area is good. The area contains a full range of human and natural environments from highly developed urban areas such as Duluth to the BWCAW wilderness area. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses annual summary measures of air pollution to gauge compliance with air quality standards established by the Clean Air Act. The standards are framed in terms of different summary measures for each pollutant. There is expected to be no impact to air quality in the region by actions analyzed in this document so the topic will not be further considered.

1.7 Availability of planning record

The complete planning record is available at the Madison, Wisconsin, office of the North Country NST. Other documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan are also available from the North Country NST office. Other information is publicly available from libraries, the internet, and other sources.

Chapter 2 Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

In March 1980, Federal legislation authorized the establishment of the North Country NST as a component of the National Trails System (16 U.S.C. 1241 *et seq.*). It is one of only eight trails authorized by Congress to be NSTs. Patterned after the renowned Appalachian Trail, NSTs are long distance, non-motorized trails that follow major geographic features or pass through scenic areas.

In many ways, the North Country NST is similar in concept to the Appalachian NST. Yet, it is uniquely different as it takes the visitor through a diverse series of landscapes representing the best of the North Country rather than following a distinct geographical feature. When completed, the North Country NST will extend from the vicinity of Crown Point, New York, to Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota. The graphic below shows the current proposed corridor of the North Country NST. (Graphic 1)

Graphic-1 Current Planned Route-Entire Trail



While it was originally thought that the distance required to complete the trail was about 3,200 miles, as work has progressed it is now estimated that the length of the completed trail will be about 4,175 miles.

The National Park Service is responsible for the overall administration of the North Country NST. However the actual physical location, trail construction, maintenance, and management of the trail will be accomplished through the efforts of many cooperating Federal, state, and local agencies; private trail organizations; and the good will of private landowners. When viewed in this manor the North Country NST is truly a cooperative endeavor.

This document will analyze an alternative route for the North Country NCT between the currently existing segments of the trail in Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF. After careful consideration, the NPS and its partners determined that there are two viable alternatives.

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would leave the trail route unchanged from what has been envisioned since the early 1970s. This route proceeds northwestward from Jay Cooke State Park, just south of Duluth, generally following the St. Louis River to Floodwood, Minnesota. From Floodwood, the proposed route heads southwesterly along the Savanna River towards Savanna State Forest (SF) and Savanna Portage State Park (SP). From Savanna Portage SP, the proposed route heads northwesterly again through Savanna SF and Hill River SF. The proposed route then proceeds generally west parallel to SH 200, finally connecting with an existing segment of trail in the Chippewa NF. No trail has ever been constructed on any portion of this route, although it could follow an existing trail for a short distance within Savanna Portage SP.

The NPS would continue to work with the DNR, county, and local governments as well as interested groups and individuals to locate and construct the trail along the planned corridor between Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF. Since there is no known interest on the part of local citizens and volunteer organizations to construct this portion of the trail, it is unlikely that this portion of the trail would be built in the near future.

2.3 Preferred Alternative

The proposed action would amend the route in the 1982 Comprehensive Plan to link the existing sections of the North Country NST in Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF using three existing trails and a connecting corridor. This action would replace the currently authorized route connecting Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF. It would add approximately 400 miles to the total length of the trail and incorporate key scenic and environmental features that typify the North Country. As a substantial change to the route, section 7(b) of the National Trails System Act (NTSA) requires Congressional approval of this change. The preferred alternative would recommend that Congress approve this change.

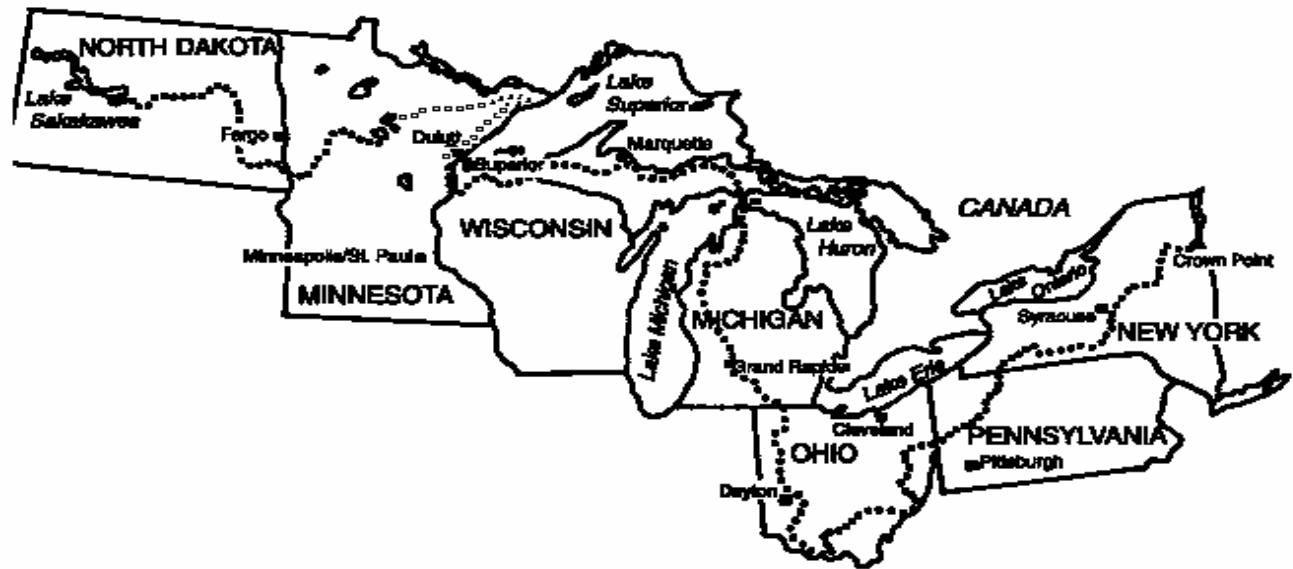
2.3.1 Preferred Alternative Part 1-Designate Existing Trails as the route of North Country National Scenic Trail

The preferred alternative would change the currently authorized route of the trail. This change would include using three existing trails:

1. The Superior Hiking Trail from Jay Cooke State Park north until it intersects with the Border Route Trail.
2. The Border Route Trail west to the Gunflint Trail where after a short walk along the road it would join the eastern end of the Kekekabic Trail.
3. The Kekekabic Trail proceeding west to its western trailhead approximately 18 miles east of Ely, Minnesota.

From the end of the Kekekabic Trail, new foot trail would then eventually be constructed through the “Fernberg Corridor” to Ely. From Ely the trail would eventually be built following a route that would proceed in a generally west and south direction towards McCarthy Beach State Park. From McCarthy Beach State Park the trail would then be constructed in a corridor proceeding generally south to Grand Rapids. From Grand Rapids the trail would again head west and south to rejoin the existing certified segment of trail in the Chippewa NF.

Graphic 2- Preferred Alternative Route



This action would allow the NPS to respond to the expressed desires of state and local agencies, local residents, trail organizations, trail users, and volunteers to use the three existing trails for the route, and to respond to requests for assistance to locate and construct the necessary trail connections to rejoin the certified segment of trail. The change in the trail route as a result of the proposed action is described in the following sections.

2.3.1.1 Jay Cooke State Park through Duluth to Existing Superior Hiking Trail

Several route possibilities exist for the route to go from Jay Cooke State Park through Duluth to the existing portion of the Superior Hiking Trail. The North Country NST would follow a route that will be determined and built by the Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA). Currently the SHTA, in consultation with St. Louis County, the City of Duluth, and other concerned individuals, is in the process of planning and developing this portion of the Superior Hiking Trail.

2.3.1.2 Superior Hiking Trail

The SHT was conceived in the mid-1980s as a long-distance footpath, modeled after the Appalachian Trail and other long-distance trails. It follows the ridgeline paralleling Lake Superior’s North Shore. In 1986, the Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA) was incorporated to support the construction, preservation, and promotion of the trail. In 1998, the SHTA agreed to become affiliated with the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and to build the necessary connecting trail southwestward through Duluth to the Wisconsin border.

The SHT traverses a rich variety of terrain and has gained a reputation as a superlative trail. It is characterized by ascents to rock outcroppings and cliffs, and descents into numerous creek and river valleys, which it may follow for a mile or more showcasing spectacular waterfalls, rapids, and deep gorges. Panoramic overlooks of Lake Superior, the Sawtooth Mountains and inland woodlands, and lakes and rivers are abundant along the length of the trail. At its lowest point, the trail goes along the Lake Superior shoreline, 602 feet above sea level. The high point of the trail is on Rosebush Ridge, a few miles before the Canadian border, at 1,829 feet above sea level. Much of the route passes through public lands including several state parks and state forests and the Superior NF.

2.3.1.3 Border Route Trail

The Border Route Trail extends from Fort Charlotte on the east to the Gunflint Trail (Cook County Road 12) on the west--a distance of approximately 70 miles. The North Country NST proposes to use a portion of this existing route, which is located mainly within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in the Superior NF. The primary private group responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Border Route Trail is the Minnesota Rovers Outing Club.

Towering cliffs, pristine lakes, the call of the loon, and views into Canada are common sights and sounds along this trail. It is known as a rugged trail with rocky ledges, mud and wet areas, trees fallen across the trail, and little marking. This trail is almost entirely within the BWCAW where permits and special regulations apply. The trail would continue to be managed by the Forest Service as a wilderness trail if it is designated as the route of the North Country NST.

2.3.1.4 Kekekabic Trail

The eastern end of the Kekekabic Trail (fondly known as the Kek) begins less than 200 yards from the western end of the Border Route Trail. The Kek is a trail that offers a true wilderness experience for the hiker who understands and appreciates its remoteness and primitive conditions. The Kekekabic Trail Club, the primary private partner involved with the trail, was formed with the goal of making the trail through the BWCAW accessible to the average hiker and making it a safe and enjoyable experience. The Kek continues west for about 40 miles as it passes through the heart of the BWCAW. The western terminus is at the east end of the Fernberg Road, some 18 miles east of Ely, Minnesota. The North Country NST would follow this entire existing route.

The trail offers several scenic overlooks and points of interest such as beaver dams, swamps, bridges, waterfalls, and campsites near pristine lakes. Elevations along the trail range from 1,560 to 1,900 feet above sea level and it takes three to five days to hike its length. Campsites are located every 4-6 miles along the trail. This trail is almost entirely within the wilderness area where permits and special regulations apply. The trail would continue to be managed by the Forest Service as a wilderness trail if it is designated as the route of the North Country NST.

2.3.2 Preferred Alternative-Part 2- Designate Trail Corridor for Connection to Existing Segment in Chippewa National Forest

The preferred alternative includes designating a corridor rather than a specific route, from the Kekekabic Trail to the existing segment of the North Country Trail in the Chippewa NF. A trail would eventually be located and developed within the corridor.

The proposed corridor would extend from the end of the Kekekabic trail to Ely roughly along the Fernberg Road corridor. From Ely, the proposed corridor would connect with McCarthy Beach State Park, then head south to Grand Rapids, and on to the existing portion of the North Country NST in the Chippewa NF. This proposed corridor is based on an analysis conducted by the planning team of several specific alternative route corridors. (see Preferred Alternative Map)

Designation of a broad corridor instead of a precise trail location is based on the reality that it will take years to establish the trail over this distance and land uses could change before any particular portion is constructed. It also recognizes the need to develop a local and regional volunteer base of support for trail before it can be constructed and maintained. These volunteers will actually build and maintain the trail, and will do the work of determining the precise location of the trail in consultation with the NPS, state and local officials, land managers, citizens, and land owners.

This broad corridor designation also allows the routing of the trail to take advantage of opportunities that may arise in the future. A corridor approach for trail location is consistent with the comprehensive plan and will allow the NPS to continue to fulfill its responsibility under the NTSA, Section 7(a) (2), to “... *obtain the advice and assistance of the States, local governments, private organizations, and landowners and land users concerned.*” All decisions on the route between the existing trail segments would be made after consultation between the NPS and local volunteers, landowners, and land managers willing to allow the trail to cross their land.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but Rejected-Specific Routes

The planning team analyzed and mapped a number of potential route corridors using route location criteria which included factors such as long term permanence, minimal wetlands crossings, scenic attractions, large blocks of public land and/or private land holdings, existing trails, consideration of accessibility, linking points of interest, and providing hiker amenities. The planning team considered a number of alternatives that were more specific variations within the preferred alternative.

These specific routes included the “Mesabi Trail” Corridor between Ely and Grand Rapids. Other specific routes connected Ely with McCarthy Beach State Park; these were the “Echo Lake” Corridor, the “Middle Route” Corridor, and the “Vermillion Lake” Corridor. Two variations of a corridor between McCarthy Beach State Park and Grand Rapids were considered; these were the “Suomi Hills” Corridor and the “Trout Lake” Corridor. For the connection between Grand Rapids and the existing certified segment in the Chippewa NF, two possible routes were also considered. For lack of more descriptive designations, these are designated “Grand Rapids Route Corridor 1” and Grand Rapids Route Corridor 2.” All of these corridors are shown on the Preferred Alternative Map and each corridor is discussed in the following sections.

The planning team chose to combine most of the routes into a broad corridor. The Preferred Alternative follows the existing trails from Jay Cooke SP to the end of the Kekekabic Trail and includes all but 2 of the routes mentioned above. The Echo Lake route was dropped because it required construction of too much additional trail. The Mesabi Trail route was removed because it would not provide an outstanding backpacking experience due to paved trail and motorized segments. Broadly defining the corridor allows volunteers and professionals to work with landowners to locate the best route when it is actually time to build the trail. This reasoning is discussed further in the preferred alternative.

2.4.1 Mesabi Trail Corridor

The Mesabi Trail Corridor follows the route of the Mesabi Trail. This trail is managed by the elected members of the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority and will eventually connect Ely and Grand Rapids. When completed, the trail will traverse approximately 132 miles and connect over 25 communities. Currently, there is over 81 miles of completed trail, easily accessible from several entry points. It traverses forests, meadows, rivers, streams and lakes between the east end by the internationally known BWCAW and the great American river, the Mississippi on the west. In between, the Mesabi Trail takes visitors past the edges of the open pit mines of the Iron Range, and areas abundant with wildlife and natural scenic beauty. It also passes through a rich cultural landscape forged by generations of Native Americans, as well as the heritage of early European settlers. This route is being developed as a multi-use paved trail that will permit motorized use on some segments. Since the North Country is generally conceived as a hiking only trail, and since motorized use on some segments would preclude certification of those portions as part of the North Country NST, the Mesabi Trail Corridor was not chosen as a part of the preferred alternative.

2.4.2 Echo Lake Corridor

The Echo Lake Corridor, which generally follows the Echo Trail or St. Louis County Road 116, is a former logging road running north and west out of Ely and providing the primary access to the lakes of the western BWCAW and Echo Lake. This route would be located within the 2- to 3-mile-wide road corridor through the BWCAW. Several river crossings exist along the Echo Trail from Ely to Buyck. From Buyck towards Pelican Lake the terrain experiences more low areas and thus wet conditions. From Pelican Lake the trail would drop south toward McCarthy Beach State Park through the Sturgeon River State Forest. It was determined that this route would require too much additional trail construction and was too far north to be desirable.

2.4.3 Middle Route Corridor

Another possible route is the Middle Route Corridor. This route generally parallels Highway 1/169 westward from Ely. From Ely to Tower the trail is in the Vermillion Range. A viable corridor appears to exist between the wetlands near Burntside River and Twin Lakes. The trail would continue in a southwest direction into Bear Head Lake State Park. From Bear Head Lake State Park the route would continue west toward McCarthy Beach State Park. Portions of this corridor contain terrain which is rolling and tree covered as it winds through state and national forest land to McCarthy Beach State Park, generally parallel to the route of the Taconite Snowmobile Trail. This route is on the southern edge of the proposed route corridor.

2.4.4 Vermillion Lake Corridor

Another possible route proposed by local hiking groups is the Vermillion Lake Corridor which heads west from Ely, skirts north of Vermillion Lake, and then continues west southwestward to McCarthy Beach State Park. This route would lead through terrain very similar to the Middle Route. During public open house meetings, this route seemed to be the most favored alternative for this portion of the connecting route corridor. This route is on the northern edge of the proposed action corridor.

2.4.5 McCarthy Beach State Park to Grand Rapids

Leaving McCarthy Beach State Park and heading west and south towards Grand Rapids, swampland again becomes prevalent. The route would pass through the northeastern portion of the Chippewa NF, where there are two distinct routing options that could use existing trail segments. These are the Suomi Hills and the Trout Lake Corridors. These corridors rejoin and the merged route would again head south towards Grand Rapids, generally parallel to Minnesota Highway 38. Both of these options are included in the preferred alternative corridor.

2.4.6 Grand Rapids to Chippewa National Forest

Once in Grand Rapids the trail would be able to use portions of the city trail system to either circle the town or pass through it. The trail would leave Grand Rapids and head southwest towards the Chippewa NF. Near Willow Lake, two possible corridors would allow for the final connection to the existing trail. Grand Rapids Route Corridor 1 would pass north around Willow Lake then head west, passing near Willow Deer Yard State Wildlife Management Area before heading south to connect to the existing trail. This would cut off about 8 miles of existing certified trail in the Chippewa NF. Grand Rapids Route Corridor 2 would head south around Callahan and Spring Lakes and then parallel the eastern boundary of the Chippewa NF until it rejoins the existing segment of the trail. This route would enable the entire existing portion of the trail in the NF to be included in the alternative proposed route. Both of these routes are included in the preferred alternative route corridor.

2.5 Alternatives Considered but not Evaluated

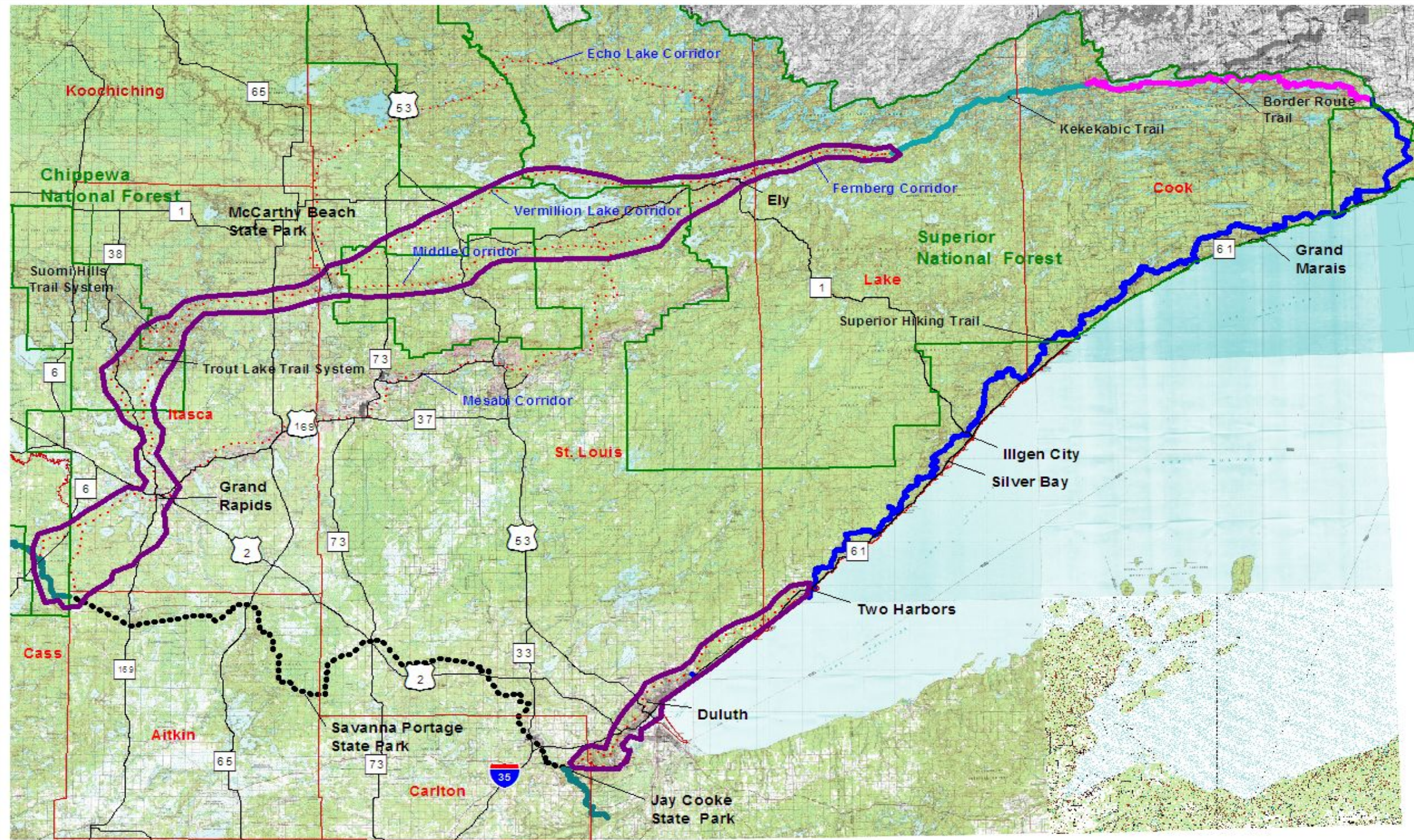
In addition to the original route and the preferred alternative via the Superior Hiking Trail, the Border Route Trail, and the Kekekabic Trail, it would be possible to consider an almost infinite number of other route alignments to link the existing segments of the North Country NST in Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF. However, routing the North Country NST through northeastern Minnesota in a way that does not follow existing trails as much as possible would prevent the NST from taking advantage of the following features of these trails:

1. The many miles of excellent trail already existing.
2. The outstanding scenery of the North Shore of Lake Superior.
3. The opportunity to visit the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
4. The local, regional, and national support for the preferred alternative route.

While other route alignments would have the advantage of less mileage for the North Country NST, they would not have the other, more important, advantages. In the judgment of the planning team, they would not fully meet the needs of the North Country NST and were not evaluated further.

Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment Preferred Alternative Map

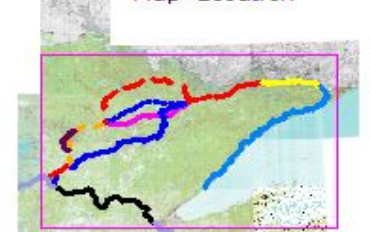
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- County Boundary
- Kekekabic Trail
- Border Route Trail
- Superior Hiking Trail
- Existing North Country Trail
- 1982 PlanTrail
- Alternative Corridors Considered
- U.S. and State Highways
- Connecting Corridor to Existing Segment
- National Forest Boundary

Map Location



This map is a graphic representation. It should not be considered as representing precise trail location.

North Country National Scenic Trail



GIS Team



5 0 5 10 15 Miles



1 : 887,040 1 inch = 14.00 miles

January 14, 2004

Chapter 3 Affected Environment

3.1 Location and Description of Preferred Alternative Route Corridor

The preferred alternative route corridor passes through lands located within Aitkin, Carlton, , Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, and St. Louis, counties in the northeastern portion, or the Arrowhead Region, of Minnesota. It would serve to connect an existing segment of the North Country Trail in Jay Cooke State Park (SP) in Carlton County to an existing segment of the trail in the Chippewa National Forest (NF). The proposed route would use the Superior Hiking Trail (SHT) to go north through Carleton County towards St. Louis County. It would continue north on the SHT along the north shore of Lake Superior through St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties. In Cook County, the route would join with the Border Route Trail, then follow it west through Cook County to its western end at Gunflint Trail (Cook County Road 12) where it would connect to the Kekekabic Trail. It would then follow the Kekekabic Trail to its western end, approximately 18 miles east of Ely in St. Louis County. From this point the trail would use a combination of existing trail where available and new trail where necessary to connect to the existing segment of trail in the Chippewa NF. A number of possible corridors for making this connection were identified by the planning team and no final decision on the location of these connections will be made at this time.

3.2 County Overview

3.2.1 Aitkin County

Aitkin County contains around 1,995 square miles and is located in East-Central Minnesota. The estimated population is around 15,400 people. The county seat is at Aitkin. Aitkin County's agricultural area is drained by the Mississippi River and also by the Willow, Rice, and Sandy Rivers. Important industries include agriculture, timber, and mineral extraction. Public lands include Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Savanna Portage State Park, and Solana, Wealth wood, Savanna, and Hill River State Forests. The proposed alternative may have impacts at the far western boundary of the county, while the no action alternative would require routing trail through the entire county from east to west

3.2.3 Carlton County

Carlton County contains around 875 square miles. It was organized in 1857 and the county seat is Carlton. The current estimated population is 32,000 people. It is bordered on the east in part by Wisconsin, on the north by St. Louis County, on the south by Pine County, and on the west by Aitkin County. Major industries include agriculture, manufacturing, wood and paper products. Public lands include parts of Fond du Lac and Nemadji State Forests. Jay Cooke State Park and Moose Lake State Park are also in the county. Both alternatives would impact Carlton County. The preferred alternative would use trail constructed by the Superior Hiking Association going north to St. Louis County.

3.2.3 Cass County

Cass County is located in central Minnesota and was organized in 1851. It contains about 2,414 square miles with a population of about 27,638 people. The county seat is Walker. It is bounded on the south by the Crow Wing River and on the north by the Mississippi River. The major industries include agriculture, logging, and tourism. Public lands include the Chippewa NF, Schoolcraft State Park, and Mud Goose Wildlife Area. State forests within Cass County include Remer, Land O'Lakes, Foothills, Welsh Lake, Battleground, Pillsbury, and parts of Bowstring. Both the no action and the preferred alternative would require the eventual construction of new trail and the use of existing trail on lands within Cass County.

3.2.4 Cook County

Cook County was formed in 1874. It covers about 3,339 square miles and is located in extreme northeastern Minnesota. The approximate population of Cook County is 5,170 people. It is bounded on the southeast by Lake Superior and on the north by the Canadian border. Major industries include tourism, fishing, and logging. Cook County lies largely within the Superior National Forest and includes parts of the BWCAW. There are seven state parks and state waysides in the county. These are Grand Portage, Judge C.R. Magney, Cascade River, and Temperance River State Parks, and Ray Berglund, Cross River, Kodonce River State Waysides. Grand Portage and Pat Bayle State Forests and part of Finland State Forest are in Cook County. The Grand Portage Indian Reservation and Grand Portage National Monument are also in the county. Only the preferred alternative would impact lands within Cook County.

3.2.5 Itasca County

Itasca County was formed 1849. It covers approximately 2,927 square miles and has a population of around 44,000. It is located in northeastern Minnesota; the county seat is Grand Rapids. The Mississippi River forms part of the southwest boundary. Major industries include agriculture, timber, iron mining, and tourism. Portions of the Chippewa NF are within the county. Other public lands include Big Fork, George Washington, and Golden Anniversary State Forests, and Scenic, Annex Mine, and Schoolcraft State Parks. Only the preferred alternative would impact lands within Itasca County

3.2.6 Lake County

Lake County is located in the Arrowhead Region of Northeastern Minnesota. It was formed in 1866. The county contains about 2,062 miles, with a population of around 11,058 people. The largest city is Two Harbors, which is the county seat. Major industries in Lake County are mining, logging, wood products, shipping and transportation, manufacturing, health care, and tourism. Lake County is rich in cultural heritage with many historical sites and museums to experience. Public lands within the county include Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock Lighthouse, and Tettegouche State Parks, and Bear Island and Finland State Forests. Also portions of the Superior NF, which offers spectacular views, history, picnic areas, and camping, lie within the county boundaries. Only the preferred alternative would impact lands with Lake County. The trail would pass through the North Shore highlands which have been populated by a succession of Native Americans for over 10,000 years. They took advantage of the area's abundance by using the maples along the ridges for sugaring; the forest, thick

with birch and fir trees, for a variety of products including canoes, sleds, and snowshoes; the game for meat and hides; and Lake Superior, inland lakes, and the many rivers, for subsistence fishing, which were especially fruitful during the spring run.

3.2.7 St. Louis County

St. Louis County was formed in 1855, and is located in Northeastern Minnesota. It is the largest county east of the Mississippi, covering about 7,000 square miles from Orr to Duluth, and from Hibbing to Ely. St. Louis County contains parts of the Superior NF and Voyageurs National Park in the north part of the county. Additional public lands include parts of Fond du Lac and Savanna State Forests in the southwest; Kabetogama and Sturgeon River State Forests in the northwest; Whiteface River State Forest in the south; Cloquet Valley State Forest in the southeast; and Lake Jeanette, Burntside, and Bear Island State Forests in the northeast. State parks include McCarthy Beach, Bear Head Lake, and Soudan Underground Mine State Parks. St. Louis County is the home of 200,500 people scattered throughout the area in small mining towns, farm communities, and in busy cities which serve as regional hubs. The major industries in St. Louis County are mining, wood and paper products, shipping and transportation, health care, and tourism. The proposed alternative would use existing trails in St. Louis County, as well as construction of new trail. The No Action Alternative would also require the eventual construction of foot trail within St. Louis County.

3.3 Northeastern Minnesota Land Resources

3.3.1 Landscape

The planning area is located in the Laurentian mixed forest province, as defined by the Ecological Classification System (ECS). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is using the ECS, which is part of a nationwide mapping initiative developed to improve the ability to manage all natural resources on a sustainable basis. This is done by integrating climatic, geologic, hydrologic, and topographic, soil and vegetation data. This system defines the planning area as “the true forested region of Minnesota.” This province lies between the boreal forest and the broadleaf deciduous forest zones and is therefore transitional. Part of it consists of mixed stands of a few coniferous species (mainly pine) and a few deciduous species (mainly Yellow Birch, Sugar Maple, and American Beech); the rest is a mosaic of pure deciduous forest in favorable habitats with good soils and pure coniferous forest in less favorable habitats with poor soils. Mixed stands have several species of conifer, mainly Eastern White Pine in the Great Lakes region, with an admixture of Eastern Hemlock. Eastern Red Cedar is found in the southeast. Pine trees are often the pioneer woody species that flourish in burned-over areas or on abandoned arable land. Because they grow more rapidly than deciduous species where soils are poor, they quickly form a forest canopy; but where deciduous undergrowth is dense, they have trouble regenerating, and remain successful only where fire recurs. Fires started by lightning are common in this province, particularly where soils are sandy and there is a layer of dry litter in summer.

3.3.2 Geology

The foundation of the spectacular scenery of Northeastern Minnesota is the geological processes that the landscape has undergone. Northeastern Minnesota has been affected by several major periods of volcanism, mountain-building, deformation, erosion, and sedimentation throughout geologic time. Billions of years ago, intense deformation metamorphosed many of the volcanic and sedimentary

rocks producing a mountainous landscape. However, by about 1.2 billion years ago, erosion had reduced the area to a low, rolling plain. The Mid-continent Rift System is a feature that extends from the east end of Lake Superior to Duluth, then south along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border to Iowa and on into Kansas. Rifting occurred around 1.1 billion years ago as a result of the North American continent splitting apart. As the earth's crust thinned, a depression formed and fractures allowed magma to work its way to the surface to be erupted as lava flows. The lava flows are well exposed along the North Shore of Lake Superior, and their well-preserved flow features are much the same as those in modern day volcanic rocks such as those found in Iceland and Hawaii. The Lake Superior agate, for which Minnesota is famous, originally formed as fillings in the vesicles of these volcanic basalts. The last major volcanic sequence can now be seen as the "backbone" of Isle Royale and of Keweenaw Peninsula, far across the lake in Michigan. The rift continued to sink for a while, however, and streams washed sand, pebbles, and mud into the slowly subsiding basin. Finally, over a period of 100 million years, the crust stabilized, and the buried sediments gradually hardened into rock.

Within the past two million years (most recently about 14,000 years ago) the Great Ice Age brought new forces shaping the landscape. Great continental glaciers, up to one or two miles thick, built up and flowed from Canada. The ice streams eroded the underlying rock, some of which had become deeply weathered. The Superior Lobe (moving southwestward) carried debris (including volcanic rocks, agates, and sandstone) from the North Shore area as far as the Twin Cities, the Minnesota River and even to Iowa. The ice eroded the sedimentary rock in the middle of the old Mid-continent Rift System relatively easily, and it excavated what was to be the Lake Superior basin well below sea level. As the glacier receded about 11,000 years ago, it uncovered this scoured out depression which filled with water.

3.3.3 Soils

The soils within the area formed as a result of the weathering of unconsolidated materials derived from very deep to shallow glacial and organic deposits. This material has been subjected to climate and organisms as conditioned by relief over the last 14,000 years. The relative proportions of soil types vary dramatically due to the depth to bedrock, slope gradient, geologic parent material and landscape position. The major soils within the area are very deep, nearly level to sloping, on loamy glacial till moraines and nearly level silty glacial lake plains and nearly level muck and peat in bogs. They are well and moderately well drained on summits and side-slopes, somewhat poorly and poorly drained on flat areas, and very poorly drained in depressions and bogs. Natural fertility is moderately high to high. The potential for surface erosion on steeper areas is high. The greatly varying soils include peat, muck, marl, clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders, in various combinations. Spodosols are dominant along the Great Lakes coast; Inceptisols and Alfisols dominate farther inland. The Alfisols are medium to high in bases and have gray to brown surface horizons and subsurface horizons of clay accumulation.

3.4 Northeastern Minnesota Water Resources

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is using a geographically based approach (river basin) to water quality protection and restoration. A basin (or drainage basin) is the area of land drained by a river or lake and its tributaries. Minnesota has 10 major drainage basins. Each drainage basin is made up of smaller units called watersheds, which correspond to the drainage of a tributary or lake system. Lands located in three of these river basins may be impacted by the proposed trail re-

route. These basins are the Lake Superior River Basin, the Rainy River Basin, and the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

3.4.1 Lake Basins

The Minnesota part of the Lake Superior Basin encompasses portions of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis Counties, an area of approximately 6,200 square miles. Major watersheds in the basin include the Cloquet, Nemadji, and St. Louis River systems, as well as the North Shore tributaries to Lake Superior. The Superior NF lands dominate the Minnesota portion of this basin. The headwater areas of most tributary streams occur in the gently rolling interior uplands and their lower reaches are deeply entrenched channels in lacustrine deposits that have steep slopes. This region contains steep topography, with the highest (2,301 ft [697 m]) and lowest elevations (603 ft [183 m] at Lake Superior) in Minnesota in close proximity. Because of the steepness of their lower reaches and their value for trout, steelhead, and recreation, these small streams are important to recreational uses and tourism.

The Rainy River Basin sits on Minnesota's border with Canada and is home to some of the state's finest forest and water resources. The approximately 27,200-square-mile Rainy River Watershed in the Arrowhead Region contains around 1,290,000 acres of the Superior NF. Much of this watershed is forested and unaffected by human activity; the 1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is limited to restricted recreation use. Voyageurs National Park is also located within the Rainy River Basin, as are several of Minnesota's most famous walleye fisheries and many top-notch trout streams. Other prominent uses of natural resources in the basin are forestry, mining, and various forms of recreation. The waters from the Rainy River Basin flow north, eventually arriving in Hudson Bay.

The upper Mississippi River Basin, containing much of the Chippewa NF, is characterized by gentle topography and generally does not exhibit the potential for erosional problems seen in the Lake Superior watershed. From its start at Itasca State Park, the Mississippi River flows south 2,350 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River's first basin is called the Upper Mississippi River Basin, covering approximately 20,100 square miles. The basin stretches from the Headwaters of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca to Lock and Dam Number 2 near Hastings. As the river runs this course, it drains into a mixture of forest, prairie, agriculture, and urban land areas.

3.4.2 Wetlands

Much of the pre-settlement wetlands remain in Northeastern Minnesota. In general Wetland management in Minnesota strives to achieve a "no net loss" of wetland values. The preservation of wetlands is necessary to preserve the multitude of public benefits they provide: floodwater and storm water retention, including reducing the potential for flooding in the watershed; water quality benefits, including filtering of pollutants out of surface water and ground water, using nutrients that would otherwise pollute public waters, trapping sediments, protecting shoreline, and recharging ground water supplies; public recreation and education benefits, including hunting and fishing areas, wildlife viewing areas, and nature areas; commercial benefits, including wild rice and cranberry growing areas and aquaculture areas; fish and wildlife habitat; low-flow augmentation benefits during times of drought; and other public uses. Because of the large amount of wetland losses statewide, Minnesota has placed a high priority on the need to preserve, restore, and enhance wetlands. Wetland protection at the state level is accomplished primarily through the Wetland Conservation Act. The St. Louis

River, Cloquet River, Nemadji River, and other river watersheds are rich in wetlands and water bodies. The vastness of wetlands in Northeastern Minnesota is a major reason for considering a change in the route of the North Country NST. Their extent makes the 1982 route essentially impossible. Even the threading a connecting trail through the corridor between Ely and the Chippewa NF that makes up part of the preferred alternative will be challenging because of the extensive wetlands.

3.4.3 Water Quality

Minnesota's wealth of high quality surface and ground water offer immense benefits to the state's overall economy. The state boasts some 25,000 miles of fishable streams, 15,000 lakes (more than 10 acres in size), 10 million acres of wetlands, and vast quantities of ground water that support a multitude of uses, including shipping, recreation, industry, domestic water supply, irrigation, and hydropower generation. As abundant as these waters may seem, they are not evenly distributed throughout the state; therefore, competition for available supplies can impact both the quantity and quality of available water. Water quality investigations of many Northeastern Minnesota lakes have revealed the presence of heavy metal and chemical contamination. The levels of such contaminants as mercury, copper, lead, DDT, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in Lake Superior appear to be the lowest in the Great Lakes. In an attempt to ensure the health of Minnesota anglers, the DNR and the MPCA collaborate annually to test the water quality of lakes in Minnesota (MPCA 1997). The Minnesota Department of Health then publishes the Minnesota Fish Consumption Advisory booklet to illustrate guidelines for how often fish can be eaten safely. The advisory is not intended to discourage anglers from eating fish, but is used as a guideline for choosing fish which are low in contaminants. There are fish consumption advisories for Lake Superior, the St. Louis River, and about 145 lakes in the drainage area.

3.5 Northeastern Minnesota Visual Resources

Visual resources are those landscape features that are visible to people in the area. These resources in the planning area run the full spectrum of possible settings. The trail corridor would contain urban, rural and wilderness settings. These collective vistas and scenes are the heart of the North Country NST experience. The preferred alternative takes advantage of some of the most spectacular scenery available in Minnesota; scenery and vistas that are the epitome of the "North Country Experience." The route includes vast vistas of Lake Superior as seen from the Superior Hiking Trail, untouched wilderness viewed from within the BWCAW, and the woods, streams and lakes of Northeastern Minnesota which will be visible throughout the proposed corridor. Most of these elements are contained within the corridor, but some are located outside of it and can be seen from high vantage points within the corridor.

3.6 Northeastern Minnesota Biological Resources

3.6.1 Wildlife

A wide variety of wildlife occurs in the project area, including multiple species of fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Some of the well-known species in the area include gopher, mink, bobcat, fox, black bear, moose, skunk, beaver, and muskrat, among others.

3.6.2 Fisheries

There are about 150 species of fish in Minnesota, not all of which would be found in the planning area. Most of these species can be found, at least in some life stages, in forested areas, like those in the planning area. The primary coldwater species include several salmonids. Stream trout include brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Pacific salmon use streams as spawning and nursery sites. The primarily lake dwelling lake trout and corregonines use streams to a limited degree. Sculpins, dace, sticklebacks, and suckers are also widespread in the coldwater streams common to the planning area. Warm water species include the smallmouth bass, various percids including walleye, sauger and yellow perch, darters and numerous species of cyprinids, catostomids, and other centrarchids.

3.6.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

The NPS began informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the following threatened and endangered species are known to exist within the area proposed for the trail re-route.

Table 1 Minnesota’s Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered Species List by County

Minnesota's Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species' County Distribution			
Species	Status	County	Habitat
Mammals			
<u>Canada lynx</u> (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	Threatened	Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis	Northern forested areas
<u>Gray wolf</u> (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	Threatened	Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Itasca, , Lake, St. Louis	Northern forested areas
<u>Gray wolf</u> (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	Critical Habitat	Areas of land, water, and airspace in Beltrami, Cook, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties with boundaries (4th and 5th Principal meridians) identical to those of zones 1, 2, and 3, as delineated in 50 CFR 17.40(d)(1)."	
Birds			
<u>Bald eagle</u> (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Threatened	Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake, St. Louis, Stearns,	Mature forest near water
<u>Piping plover</u> (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) Great Lakes Breeding Population	Endangered	St. Louis County	Sandy beaches, islands
<u>Piping plover</u> (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) Great Lakes Breeding Population	Critical Habitat	St. Louis County	

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Division of Endangered Species
 BHW Federal Building
 1 Federal Drive
 Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056

3.6.4 State Threatened and Endangered Species

Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute (Minnesota Statutes, Section 84.0895) requires the DNR to adopt rules designating species meeting the statutory definitions of endangered, threatened, or species of special concern. The resulting List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species are codified as Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6134. The Endangered Species Statute also authorizes the DNR to adopt rules that regulate treatment of species designated as endangered and threatened. These regulations are codified as Minnesota Rules, Parts 6212.1800 to 6212.2300.

Appendix 1 provides a current listing of State species currently listed.

3.6.5 Critical Habitat

The northern forests of Minnesota include several habitat components which provide critical food and cover for the wildlife in the watershed. These habitats should be maintained or increased [*improved, expanded?*], if possible. They include:

1. Stands of oak, northern hardwoods, white pine, and upland white cedar.
2. Forest openings of upland grass, upland brush and berry patches.
3. Marshy, open water wetlands of cattail, bulrush, or wild rice.
4. Deer winter yards.
5. Heron rookeries.
6. Super-canopy trees for eagle/osprey nest sites, especially white pine.
7. Wood turtle habitat (sand/gravel stream banks).
8. Fish spawning sites.
9. Cold water streams, springs and seeps.
10. Large diameter trees, especially conifers, that overhang the rivers to provide shade, snags, and woody debris.
11. Mixed coniferous/deciduous forests.

3.7 Northeastern Minnesota Cultural Resources

The President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of regulations to guide compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In its Citizens Guide to Section 106 Review the ACHP states: "Section 106 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP an opportunity to comment on Federal projects prior to implementation. Section 106 review encourages, but does not mandate, preservation. Sometimes there is no way for a needed project to proceed without harming historic properties. Section 106 review does, however, ensure that preservation values are factored into Federal agency planning and decisions. Because of Section 106, Federal agencies must assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions on historic properties and be publicly accountable for their decisions."

To successfully complete Section 106 review, Federal agencies must:

- Determine if Section 106 of NHPA applies to a given project and, if so, initiate the review.
- Gather information to decide which properties in the project area are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Determine how historic properties might be affected
- Explore alternatives to avoid or reduce harm to historic properties; and reach agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and, the ACHP, in some cases, on measures to deal with any adverse effects or obtain advisory comments from the ACHP, which are sent to the head of the agency.

Historic Sites exist within the area encompassing the route of the preferred alternative; therefore, the NPS will meet its obligations to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act by following the

direction of the 1995 Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the NPS and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. The NPS will also continue to consult with tribal entities on an individual basis. The NPS will attempt to negotiate a supplemental PA with the Minnesota SHPO, as specified in Part V. Section C. of the PA for activities related to this project, as well as the completion of the trail in the rest of the state. A copy of the PA is in Appendix 2.

3.7.1 Historical Sites and Structures

The northeastern region of Minnesota is steeped in history, beginning when the Pleistocene glaciers receded several thousand years ago although we can only guess about much of this early pre-history. More recent history includes the time when the Chippewa and other native American tribes inhabited the area. European contact began early when the first French explorers saw the Lake Superior region, leading to many years of fur trade with voyagers and other traders who capitalized on the European craze for fashionable fur hats. Even before the arrival of the Europeans the region served as the connection between the Great Lakes and the Great Plains for thousands of years. The period lasted up to roughly the end of the War of 1812 when the border between the US and British North America, what was to become Canada, was settled and the trading post at Grand Portage closed and the Northwest Company moved its inland headquarters across the border to Fort William. The 19th century saw the arrival of loggers, iron miners and settlers who briefly sought to scratch a living from the harsh landscape. Several boomtowns have been built and vanished as the resources that supported them like timber or rich iron ore were exhausted or the farmers gave up their struggle against the climate and thin soil.

3.7.2 Number of Known Historical Districts, Sites or Structures in Project Area- Listed by County

Aitkin County-12
Carlton County-14
Cass County-19
Cook County-13
Itasca County-24
Lake County -20,
St. Louis County-50

A complete list of these sites is available in Appendix 3.

3.8 Northeastern Minnesota Community Resources

3.8.1 Communities and Businesses

Major industrial and manufacturing uses of the planning area occur primarily in the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area, Two Harbors, Silver Bay, Taconite Harbor, and along the St. Louis River in Cloquet. Other industrial activities occur in and near Grand Rapids, Ely, and other communities as well as in scattered locations throughout the planning area. Business activities include manufacturing, saw mill and logging operations, paper mills, mining, retail, agriculture, and tourism.

3.8.2 Tourism and Hiking

Hiking is a key component of regional tourism in the Northeastern Minnesota “Arrowhead” region. Other attractions that draw significant numbers include skiing both downhill and cross country, bicycling, snowmobiling, hunting and angling. The Superior Hiking Trail Association is based in Two Harbors. Two other hiking organizations that have significant impact on hiking resources in the region are based in the Minneapolis metro area the Minnesota Rovers Outing Club and the Kekekabic Trail Club manage and maintain many miles of trail in the region. A specialized shuttle service for trail users has developed along the North Shore of Lake Superior that allows hikers to be spotted and picked up from one way hikes.

3.9 Northeastern Minnesota Land Use and Ownership

A majority of the residents of the region reside within the corporate boundaries of existing communities. In addition there is an increasing amount of scattered residential development throughout the area as a result of the construction of vacation homes and an influx of retired people moving to the area.

3.9.1 Ceded Lands

In 1854 the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Mississippi, signed a treaty with the United States at La Pointe, Wisconsin. This treaty ceded most of the Arrowhead region and created the Fond du lac, Grand Portage, and Lake Vermillion Reservations. The Lake Vermillion Reservation was later also ceded. Some rights were maintained by the bands in the treaty. Nothing in the preferred alternative would have any effect on these ceded rights.

3.9.2 Land Values

The North Country NST should be viewed as life style amenity that may result in additional people wanting to move to the area. The local existence of the North Country NST may be viewed as a positive recreational feature that may result in increased property values. This impact is expected to be small in scale, if noticeable at all.

3.9.3 Ownership

Since there is currently no legal authority for the NPS to purchase land for the trail, there would be no impact to land ownership or tax collection from the preferred alternative.

3.9.4 Land Use

Land owners and land management agencies will continue to manage their properties under their own mandates and as required by their own land management use plans and policies.

3.10 Northeastern Minnesota Recreation Resources

Northeastern Minnesota is a key component of Minnesota's tourism and recreation industry. The combination of significant areas of diverse, undeveloped wilderness, much of which is publicly accessible, and moderate climate, is attractive to residents and visitors alike. Opportunities and facilities, both public and private, abound and provide for a multitude of ways to enjoy the area's resources. Resources are protected, interpreted, accessed, and developed through a number of programs managed by Federal, state and local agencies, private individuals and organizations.

3.10.1 State Parks, State Wayside Parks, State Forests

Preserving natural and cultural resources for present and future generations, yet providing access and recreational opportunities, a number of state parks, state wayside parks and state forests are located within the project area.

State Parks-With existing trail

- Cascade River
- George Crosby Manitou
- Gooseberry Falls
- Grand Portage
- Jay Cooke
- Judge C. R. Magney
- Split Rock Lighthouse
- Temperance River
- Tettegouche

State Parks – May be impacted by new trail

- McCarthy Beach
- Bear Head Lake

State Wayside Parks- Existing trail

- Caribou Falls
- Cross River
- Devil Track
- Flood Bay
- Kodonce
- Ray Berglund

State Forests-With Existing trail

- Pat Bayle
- Grand Portage

State Forests-May be impacted by new trail

- Burntside
- Bear Island
- Kabetogama
- George Washington
- Sturgeon River
- Remer
- Hill River

3.10.2 Superior National Forest

The Superior NF was designated in 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Spanning 150 miles of the United States/Canadian border from Grand Portage to Rainy Lake, the Superior NF contains some of the most beautiful land in the Great Lakes region. Dotted with hundreds of lakes surrounded by majestic forest, the area is a magnet for campers, canoeists, hunters, backpackers, and anglers. To preserve the pristine nature of some of the forest's most attractive areas, the Superior Roadless Primitive Area was established in 1938. It was essentially this area within Superior NF that was to become the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). The Wilderness Act of 1964 designated the BWCA as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System, recognizing its unique history and character, and provided for special management considerations. The BWCA Wilderness Act of 1978 added the "W" and created the BWCAW.

Elsewhere, the Forest Service is committed to a multiple use management approach balancing forest resources and recreational use of the forest. The proposed action would impact the Superior NF by giving national designation to existing trails, and by the necessity of eventually constructing additional trail to connect from the end of the Kekekabic Trail to Ely through the Fernberg Corridor. It would also require the construction of additional trail through yet-to-be-determined portions of the forest to finish the connection to the Chippewa NF. It is anticipated that this additional work would be completed as a part of the normal workload of the forest, in response to public demand and input. The Superior NF would continue to manage the trail on the basis of established Forest Policies and the applicable standards and guidelines.

3.10.3 Chippewa National Forest

The glaciers that sculpted northern Minnesota's landscape 10,000 years ago left behind quite a few puddles in their wake. The Chippewa NF is a water world of wild wetlands, more than 1,300 lakes, and nearly 1,000 miles of trout stream. Chippewa NF is located at the crossroads of Minnesota's three major ecosystems: the aspen, birch, spruce-fir, and pines of the northern boreal forest; the maple-basswood hardwood forests typical in the southern part of the state; and the prairie just west of the forest. The Chippewa was the first national forest established east of the Mississippi. Created in 1908, it was initially known as the Minnesota National Forest. The forest's name was changed in 1928 to honor the Chippewa Indians who first inhabited the forest. The Chippewa NF would continue to manage the trail on the basis of established Forest Policies and the applicable standards and guidelines.

3.10.4 Regional Trail Systems

There are many opportunities for trail use along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Even so, there is growing competition from other types of trail users, and efforts are being coordinated in order to create additional linkages with existing trail systems and provide other uses through the establishment of new systems.

Lake Superior Water Trail: The trail will be created along the Lake Superior shoreline from the St. Louis River in Duluth to the border with Canada and primarily developed for sea kayakers, using existing public lands for designated rest areas. The trail, when completed, will be part of the Lake Superior Water Trail encircling all of Lake Superior.

North Shore State Trail (NSST): The NSST is used primarily by snowmobilers and hikers, but also by backpackers, horseback riders, hunters, dog sledders, skiers, and mountain bikers. The trail extends from Duluth to Grand Marais parallel to the North Shore of Lake Superior, a distance of approximately 235 miles. The NSST is further inland and does not afford the views the outstanding vistas of Lake Superior visible from the Superior Hiking Trail.

Willard Munger State Trail/Carlton-West Duluth Segment: This segment of the Willard Munger State Trail runs along a ridge from the town of Carlton, along the border of Jay Cooke State Park, through a forest of aspen, birch, maple and pine, to the west end of Duluth. Near Carlton, it passes over an old railroad bridge across the cascades of the St. Louis River. From its height, the trail provides great views of miles of rolling forest and the Duluth Harbor, with its distinctive aerial lift bridge. Although the trail is relatively level, there is a light (one percent) grade uphill for nine miles from the Duluth end. *It is a multi use trail which includes motorized snowmobile use.*

Other Trails:

- Eagle Mountain Trail
- Mount Rose
- Lake Superior Vista Trail
- Oberg and Leveaux Mountains National Recreation Trails

3.10.5 Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

The planning area contains key elements of Minnesota's tourism and outdoor recreation industry. The combination of significant areas of diverse, undeveloped wilderness, much of which is publicly accessible, and its moderate climate, is attractive to residents and visitors alike. Opportunities and facilities, both public and private, abound and provide for a multitude of ways to enjoy the area's resources.

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences

Introduction

This chapter presents the probable environmental effects, or consequences, of the no action and preferred action alternatives. Evaluation of environmental effects requires consideration of the intensity, duration, and cumulative nature of effects, as well as a description of any measures to mitigate for adverse effects. Effects are described as adverse or beneficial and level of intensity for each resource topic described was determined.

In discussing impacts, the intensity of effects on natural and cultural resource was determined using the following definitions:

Negligible—the effect is localized and not detectable or at the lowest levels of detection and it is not possible to state if the effect would be positive or negative.

Minor—the effect is localized and slightly detectable but would not affect overall structure of any natural community or is confined to a small area of a cultural resource.

Moderate—the effect is clearly detectable and could have an appreciable effect on individual species, communities, and/or natural processes, or is sufficient enough to cause a change in the character- defining features of a cultural resource.

Major—the effect is highly noticeable and would have a substantial influence on natural resources, including effects on individuals or groups of species, communities, and /or natural processes; or results in a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features of a cultural resource.

The intensity of effects on visitor and aesthetic resources was determined using the following definitions:

Negligible—the effect would not be detectable by visitors and would have no discernible effect on their experience and it is not possible to state if the effect would be positive or negative.

Minor—the effect is slightly detectable by visitors but would not affect overall visitor use and /or visitor experience.

Moderate—the effect is clearly detectable by visitors and could have an appreciable effect on the visitor experience.

Major—the effect would have a substantial, highly noticeable influence on the visitor experience and could permanently alter access, use, and availability of various aspects of a visitor experience.

Duration of impacts

Duration refers to the time period over which the effects of an impact persist. For impact topics evaluated in this document, the duration of impacts across all categories were determined using the following definitions:

Temporary—the impacts would occur during the construction of trail, and end when trail construction is completed.

Continuing—these are impacts that continue after construction, resulting from use, and maintenance of the trail.

Impacts common to both alternatives

The North Country NST is by law a non-motorized trail and is administered by the NPS and managed by many public and private partners as a trail suitable for foot travel only. It is reasonably foreseeable that trail construction for a footpath would eventually take place either within the no action alternative (1982 route corridor) or in the preferred alternative connecting corridor. The environmental impacts on the physical environment would be similar for both alternatives, only the location would change. Trail construction would be expected to have minor and temporary adverse impacts on natural resources located within the construction zone during actual trail building. Cultural resources would be avoided; therefore there would be no impacts on them. Trail use would be expected to have negligible and continuing impacts on the physical environment primarily some increase in foot traffic and periodic maintenance of the corridor. Neither alternative would require actions resulting in impairment of natural, cultural, or social resources.

North Country Trail construction standards call for a 24-inch treadway, with an additional 1-foot vegetation clearance zone on either side. Ground disturbance would be limited to those areas where side-slope benching is required to create a level tread. Total surface impacts are estimated to be less than ½ acre per mile of trail construction. Generally, trail construction and maintenance take place using hand tools and volunteer labor. Resource impacts would be limited by proper trail design and construction standards as called for in the “North Country National Scenic Trail Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance” (see the appropriate chapters on the North Country NST website-- <http://www.nps.gov/noco/pphtml/documents.html>). If trail is established within designated wilderness, more-restrictive wilderness trail standards would apply.

Issues identified and analyzed in this Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment

During the internal and external scoping process for this route assessment a number of issues were raised. These issues were raised by the general public, state agencies, trail groups, and other interested people or are required by law to be considered. They were received via e-mail, letter, telephone conversation, and at public open house meetings during the scoping process. These issues were generally related to construction and use of the trail. The identified issues are listed below along with the section of the analysis that discusses the issue.

- Impacts on natural resources by trail construction and trail use. **This issue is discussed in sections 4.1 through 4.5.**
- Impacts on cultural resources by construction of new trail and continuing trail use. **This issue is discussed in section 4.6.**
- Cost of construction and operation of new trail. **This issue is discussed in section 4.7.**

- Impacts on existing trails by designation as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail. **This is discussed in detail in sections 4.8, 4.9, and 4.10.**
- Impacts on trail users and communities. **This is discussed in detail in sections 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10.**

4.1 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Land Resources

No Action Alternative

There would be no immediate impacts on land resources caused by the no action alternative. No trail construction is expected to be built along the 1982 route corridor in the near future due to the lack of interest on the part of local and regional volunteers in completing this portion of the route. If and when trail is finally built along this route, North Country NST construction standards, discussed above, would be followed. The intensity of any impacts to land resources caused by this alternative would be minor ground disturbance in the narrow tread corridor during actual construction. Constructing the tread would reduce the impact of the trail on the landscape by following a route that minimized potential for erosion and down cutting by foot traffic. The duration of these impacts would thus be beneficial and continuing.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

There are expected to be no immediate impacts on land resources due to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action in the portion of the reroute where existing trails would merely be designated as the route of the North Country NST. The designation of the existing trails as part of the North Country NST could increase use of these trails. The amount of increased use is expected to be minor. The impacts on land resources from any increased use would be negligible. These possible adverse impacts could include some very minor increases in tread wear and trail widening; beneficial impacts could include increased trail maintenance. The intensity of any impacts to land resources caused by this alternative would be minor. The duration of these impacts would be continuing.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

Trail construction for a footpath would eventually take place within the identified connecting corridor. Trail development would be expected to have negligible impacts on natural or cultural resources located within the construction zone. The intensity of any impacts to land resources caused by this alternative would be minor ground disturbance in the narrow tread corridor during actual construction. The duration of these construction impacts would be temporary. Over the long term, impacts of the trail on the landscape such as erosion and down cutting by foot traffic would be minimized by having a properly designed and constructed trail tread. Adverse impacts could include some negligible increases in tread wear and trail widening; beneficial impacts could include increased trail maintenance. Their duration would be continuing.

4.2 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Water Resources

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires Federal Agencies to avoid, where possible, impacts on wetlands. Proposed actions that have the potential to adversely impact wetlands must be

addressed in a Statement of Findings. Soils, hydrology, and vegetation typical of a wetland environment exist within the project area. The NPS would expect that the necessary permits would be obtained before construction of trail with any financial assistance from the NPS.

Trail construction in wetlands is subject to permitting under Federal regulations administered by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. Minnesota State Law also has provisions regulating the construction of trail in wetlands and stream crossings. These provisions are cited in Appendix 4. These provisions would be followed in both the alternatives.

No Action Alternative

There would be no immediate impacts on water resources caused by the no action alternative. No trail construction is expected along the 1982 route, in the near future, due to the lack of interest on the part of local and regional volunteers in completing this portion of the route. When and if trail construction eventually takes place within the 1982 corridor, there would be minor, temporary impacts to water resources, since it would be extremely difficult to avoid construction in wetlands, due to their prevalence throughout this route. This route would require more crossing of wetlands than the preferred alternative and therefore would directly impact more miles of wetlands than the preferred alternative. The intensity of any impacts to water resources caused by this alternative would be minor. The duration of these impacts from trail construction would be temporary. Continuing impacts of trail development, such as building boardwalks or puncheon across wetlands, would be beneficial as it would elevate the walking surface out of wet areas minimizing the impact on water resources.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

There are expected to be no immediate impacts on water resources due to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action in the portion of the reroute where existing trails would merely be designated as the route of the North Country NST. The designation of the existing trails as part of the North Country NST could increase use of these trails. The amount of increased use is expected to be minor. The impacts on water resources from any increased use would be negligible. Possible adverse impacts could include some negligible increases in erosion and stream sedimentation; however beneficial impacts would include improved maintenance, better routing, and construction of additional elevated trail to cross unavoidable wet areas. The expected duration of these impacts is continuing.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

When trail construction eventually takes place within the proposed corridor, there would be minor, temporary impacts to water resources. Trail design and construction would avoid stream crossings and wetlands wherever possible to minimize construction and maintenance difficulties and maximize the visitor experience. The intensity of any impacts to water resources caused by this alternative would be minor. The duration of these construction impacts would be temporary. The impacts from trail use would be negligible and continuing. Adverse impacts could include some minor increases in erosion and trail widening; however beneficial impacts would include improved maintenance, better routing, and construction of additional elevated trail to cross wet areas.

4.3 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Visual Resources

No Action Alternative

The currently authorized route crosses extensive Black Spruce /Tamarack wetlands. This location provides limited vistas and changes of scenery. There has never been any trail constructed along this route as a part of the North Country NST. Hiking trails generally have a limited footprint on the ground with negligible impacts on visual resources. However, construction of trail along the 1982 route would involve many bridges and extensive boardwalks to pass through vast wetlands, leaving a greater than normal visual impact upon the landscape. Whether these impacts would be considered positive or adverse depends upon the sensibilities of the viewer; they would be visible but would also make accessible visual resources that would not otherwise be so. The impacts would be moderate and continuing.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

The preferred alternative would have negligible impacts on visual resources because it would merely designate existing trails. No new trail would be constructed in this portion of the alternative. This alternative, additionally, would provide hiker access to outstanding visual resources which epitomizes the North Country to many people, including numerous vistas overlooking Lake Superior, as well as the opportunity to visit the BWCAW.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

Construction of hiking trail within the proposed corridor would have negligible impacts on the visual resources of the area. Hiking trails generally have a limited footprint on the ground with negligible impacts on visual resources. This alternative would likely require fewer structures to pass over or through wetlands. Any impacts would be minor, generally beneficial, and continuing.

4.4 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Biological Resources

No Action Alternative

No immediate impacts to biological resources are expected due to the no action alternative. If hiking trail is ever constructed in the planned corridor, it is expected that the intensity of any impacts to biological resources caused by this alternative would be negligible. The duration of these impacts, if trail is built, would be continuing.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

No immediate impacts to biological resources due to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action in the portion of the reroute where existing trails would merely be designated as the route of the North Country NST. The designation of the existing trails as part of the North Country NST could increase use of these trails. The amount of increased use is expected to be negligible. Any impacts on biological resources would be negligible and continuing. Trail use will allow hikers access to interesting biological resources, a generally beneficial outcome.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

No immediate impacts to biological resources are expected due to the preferred alternative. When hiking trail is constructed in the planned corridor, there may be some minor disturbance, to biological resources. Once the construction is completed, experience has shown that most biological resources return to pre-construction situation. In addition, regular maintenance minimizes further disturbance. The impacts to biological resources from trail use would be negligible and continuing.

4.4.1 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Threatened and Endangered Species**No Action Alternative**

The NPS began informal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on this project in 2002. As a result of this consultation, the NPS has determined that there should be no effect on threatened and endangered species by the no action alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with this opinion.

Preferred Alternative

The NPS began informal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on this project in 2002. As a result of this consultation the NPS has determined that there should be no effect on threatened and endangered species caused by selection of this preferred alternative. The Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with this opinion. This no effect determination is applicable to both the existing trail and to potential new trail construction and use in the connecting corridor.

4.5. Impacts on Cultural Resources of Northeastern Minnesota

The NPS will seek to develop a Programmatic Agreement with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer on methods for identifying and avoiding impacts to cultural resources when designing and building the trail. Appendix 3 contains a list of known Cultural Resources sites that will be avoided in developing the trail. This list will be updated as additional information becomes available through consultation with the SHPO and other groups and individuals.

No Action Alternative

No immediate impacts on cultural resources are expected due to implementation of this alternative. It is not until actual location of the trail is identified prior to its construction that a potential to affect a cultural property takes place. If and when trail construction is planned within the currently authorized corridor, the NPS would consult with the SHPO, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), and with the potentially traditionally associated or culturally affiliated Tribes on cultural concerns, including archeological sites, ethnographic resources, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the Advisory Council regulations set forth in 36-CFR-800, NPS Management Policies of 2001, Cultural Resource Management Guideline DO-28, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites. The trail can and would be designed and constructed to avoid these culturally sensitive areas. If desired by the SHPO or tribal interests, culturally significant sites could be interpreted. Therefore trail construction, maintenance, and use would be expected to have negligible and continuing impacts on cultural resources.

Trail construction crews would be trained, to the extent possible, to identify both pre-historic and historic resources and would be instructed to immediately stop any disturbance activities until an archeologist or historian can be consulted. If trail construction or an archaeological survey reveals cultural resources, the trail would be relocated or other mitigating measures would be taken in consultation with the Minnesota SHPO and the above mentioned tribes. Crews would also be made aware that ethnographic resources may be present on federal lands and offered guidance on how these resource types are defined (i.e. landscapes, structures, plants and animals, and objects). If ethnographic resources are suspected, mitigating measures will be taken, regional cultural anthropologists will be contacted, and consultation with appropriate Tribal leaders will be conducted.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

No immediate impacts on cultural resources are expected due to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action in the portion of the reroute where existing trails would merely be designated as the route of the North Country NST. The designation of the existing trails as part of the North Country NST could increase use of these trails. The amount of increased use is expected to be negligible. The impacts on cultural resources from any increased use would be negligible, but continuing. Currently the trail directly uses historic structures in Jay Cooke State Park; impacts to these structures are negligible and continuing.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

If and when trail construction is planned within the proposed connecting corridor, the NPS would consult with the SHPO, THPOs, and with the potentially traditionally associated or culturally affiliated Tribes on cultural concerns, including archeological sites, ethnographic resources, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the Advisory Council regulations set forth in 36-CFR-800, NPS Management Policies of 2001, Cultural Resource Management Guideline DO-28, and Executive Order 13007 on Indian Sacred Sites. The trail can and would be designed and constructed to avoid these culturally sensitive areas. If desired by the SHPO or tribal interests, culturally significant sites could be interpreted. Therefore trail construction, maintenance, and use would be expected to have negligible and continuing impacts on cultural resources.

Trail construction crews would be trained, to the extent possible, to spot both pre-historic and historic resources and would be instructed to immediately stop any disturbance activities until an archeologist or historian can be consulted. If trail construction or an archaeological survey reveals cultural resources, the trail would be relocated or other mitigating measures would be taken in consultation with the Minnesota SHPO and the above mentioned tribes. Crews would also be made aware that ethnographic resources may be present on federal lands and offered guidance on how these resource types are defined (i.e. landscapes, structures, plants and animals, and objects). If ethnographic resources are suspected, mitigating measures will be taken, regional cultural anthropologists will be contacted, and consultation with appropriate Tribal leaders will be conducted.

4.6. Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Community Resources

No Action Alternative

The existing planned route lacks significant support in northeastern Minnesota as shown by the fact that no group or individuals have worked to develop the North Country NST along this route since it was authorized in 1980. Availability of the trail could provide additional recreational visitors to the

area. Costs related to construction and operation of the trail on public lands would be a part of the normal budgeting of the specific managing agency. Actual trail construction and maintenance is generally done by volunteers and would not result in a significant economic impact on the planning area. It would be expected that there would be negligible, continuing, and generally beneficial impacts on the communities along this corridor caused by construction and use of the trail as proposed in this alternative.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trail:

Designation of existing trails as part of the North Country NST in this portion of the proposed reroute could bring positive economic impacts to local communities and business along the route.

Designation of these existing trails as a part of the North Country NST should provide a broader pool of potential and actual trail users. This should translate into an increase of visitation to the planning area from outside the region. Costs related to operation and maintenance of the trail on public lands would be a part of the normal budgeting of the specific managing agency. A large portion of the trail maintenance is generally done by volunteers and would not result in a significant economic impact on the planning area, although there may be some additional spending by volunteers while working in the area. In general, there would be beneficial impacts on the communities along this corridor caused by designation of the trail as proposed in this alternative. The impacts would be minor and continuing.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

There is significant local, regional, and national support for the preferred alternative. Availability of a national scenic trail in this region could provide additional recreational visitors to the area accompanied with minor positive economic impacts to local communities and businesses along the route. Costs related to construction, operation, and maintenance of the trail on public lands would be a part of the normal budgeting of the specific managing agency. Most of the actual trail construction and maintenance is generally done by volunteers and would not result in a significant economic impact on the planning area, although there may be some additional spending by volunteers while working in the area. In general, there would be beneficial impacts on the communities along this corridor caused by construction of the trail as proposed in this alternative. The impacts would be minor and continuing.

4.7. Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Land Use and Land Ownership

No Action Alternative

Establishing a hiking trail requires land on which to place the trail. Significant portions of the 1982 route pass through Minnesota state forest and state park lands. Where no public lands exist, arrangements would need to be made with private landowners to cross their lands, either by securing verbal or written permission to cross their lands or by purchasing lands or an easement for the trail. Federal Agencies currently do not have authority to spend funds to purchase lands for the trail, although authority to purchase **from willing sellers only** is the subject of a bill currently before the Congress. Thus, whether by granting permission or possibly in the future by selling lands or easements for the trail, all participation in the trail is voluntary on the part of private and public landowners and land managers. In general, a corridor of land about 200 feet would be secured for the trail, but this width can be narrower or wider depending on circumstances. This amounts to about 25 acres of land for every mile of trail. If the Federal legislation passes and the NPS receives authority to purchase lands for the trail, there could be some minor loss of tax base, which would be offset

initially by payments in lieu of taxes. In general, the impact on landownership from the no action alternative would be minor, but continuing.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trails:

There are expected to be no impacts on land use or land ownership due to the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action in the portion of the proposed reroute where existing trails will merely be designated as part of the route of the North Country NST. This should have no affect on the ownership status of any lands that the trail may cross.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

There are expected to be no immediate impacts on land ownership or land use due to adoption of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is essentially an administrative action, and does not have any affect on the ownership status of any lands that the trail may cross. Eventually, however, establishing a hiking trail requires land on which to place the trail, Significant portions of the connecting corridor route pass through national forest lands and Minnesota state forest and state park lands. Where no public lands exist, arrangements would need to be made with private landowners to cross their lands, either by securing verbal or written permission to cross their lands or by purchasing lands or an easement for the trail. Federal Agencies currently do not have authority to spend funds to purchase lands for the trail, although authority to purchase **from willing sellers only** is the subject of a bill currently before the Congress. Thus, whether by granting permission or possibly in the future by selling lands or easements for the trail, all participation in the trail is voluntary on the part of private and public landowners and land managers. In general, a corridor of land about 200 feet would be secured for the trail, but this width can be narrower or wider depending on circumstances. This amounts to about 25 acres of land for every mile of trail. If the Federal legislation passes and the NPS receives authority to purchase lands for the trail, there could be some minor loss of tax base, which would be offset initially by payments in lieu of taxes. In general, the impact on landownership from the no action alternative would be minor, but continuing.

4.8. Impacts to Existing Land Use Plans

No Action Alternative

There would be no impact on any existing land use plans as a result of the selection of the no action alternative. The National Park Service would work with land management agencies and volunteers to construct, operate, and use hiking trail within the designated corridor in accordance with existing plans. Section 7(a)(2) of the National Trails System Act states: "Development and management of each segment of the National Trails System shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established multiple-use plans for the specific area in order to insure continued maximum benefits from the land." Any impact on land use plans would be minor.

Preferred Alternative

Impacts on existing trails:

Designation of the three existing trails as part of a new route for the North Country NST would not change the management, use, or control of these trails. These matters would remain in the hands of the agencies or partner organizations responsible for their portions of the new trail route. For example, most of the Kekekabic and Border Route Trails are located in the BWCAW. The Superior NF would continue to set the standards for signing, maintenance, and marking of the trail. Where the SHT is routed through state parks, the Minnesota DNR would continue to manage the trail in

accordance with their applicable standards and guidelines. The Superior Hiking Trail Association, the Minnesota Rover's, and the Kekekabic Trail Club would continue to operate their segments of the trail as independent organizations, working within the guidelines of the land managers or owners of lands crossed by the trail.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

There may be some impact on existing land use plans as a result of the selection of the preferred alternative. Existing land use plans for the region in which new trail would be constructed under this alternative have in all likelihood not anticipated this proposed change in the route of the North Country NST. The National Park Service would work with land management agencies and volunteers to construct, operate, and use hiking trail within the connecting corridor in accordance with existing plans. Section 7(a)(2) of the National Trails System Act states: "Development and management of each segment of the National Trails System shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established multiple-use plans for the specific area in order to insure continued maximum benefits from the land." Any impact on land use plans would be minor.

4.9. Impacts on Recreation Resources in Northeastern Minnesota

No Action Alternative

While the no action alternative route currently lacks significant support in the area, it could eventually result in trail being constructed across a portion of the state that has limited hiking opportunities at this time. This would result in a minor, continuing, and beneficial impact on the recreational resources within the area.

Preferred Alternative

Existing trail:

Designation of the existing trails as part of the North Country NST should lead to increased national recognition of the existing trails. Use patterns of other regional trail systems that have been included as part of the North Country NST, such as the Buckeye Trail in Ohio, indicate that trail users would continue to be mostly local or regional residents. It is likely there would be some minor increases of users from outside the region who have been attracted by the national designation. This increased recognition should result in a minor, continuing, and beneficial impact on the recreational resources within the area. In terms of the North Country NST itself, selection of the preferred alternative would instantly add more than 300 miles to the completed miles of the trail.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

The eventual construction of connecting trail resulting from the selection and implementation of the preferred alternative would provide increased hiking trail opportunities in the region. Most users would continue to be local or regional residents. It would be expected that some minor increases of visitors from outside the region would occur. The impacts would be minor, continuing, and generally beneficial to the recreational resources within the area.

4.10. Impacts on North Country Trail Visitor Experience and Expectations

No Action Alternative

Long distance hikers and day hikers expect and prefer to have extensive vistas and scenic variety. The existing planned route does not provide as much of this expected variety as the proposed

alternative. Trail professionals, volunteers, hikers, and others have advised the NPS that this route would not be a particularly attractive trail if and when constructed. Selection of this alternative, when compared to the resources and features of the proposed alternative would have a continuing, major adverse impact on the experience of the user of the North Country NST.

Preferred Alternative

Existing trails:

The inclusion of the three existing long distance trails in Northeastern Minnesota would provide the visitor and user of the North Country NST with access to the North Shore of Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which contain exceptional scenery and hiking opportunities. These areas provide experiences that epitomize the “North Country.” All three trails are nationally recognized as some of the best trails in the United States. Implementing this alternative will immediately provide hikers on the North Country NST with access to more than 300 miles of continuous and outstanding hiking experiences with unique scenery and topography. The impacts of the preferred alternative on visitor experience and use would be major, continuous in duration, and highly beneficial.

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

Eventual construction of trail in this portion of the preferred alternative would result in additional, high quality recreations experiences for hikers. Development of additional trail will expand the opportunity for hiking through areas of outstanding scenery and solitude. This would be a major, continuing, and beneficial impact on visitor experience.

Environmental Consequences Summary Table

Affected Environment	No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative
Land Resources	Due to lack of support, it is unlikely trail will ever be built along this route. If trail is eventually built, every effort will be made to lay out a route that “lies lightly on the land” and requires the least amount of construction and ground disturbance.	Rerouting the trail to incorporate 3 existing hiking trails will result in negligible impacts to land resources. Where new trail is built, every effort will be made to lay out a route that “lies lightly on the land” and requires the least amount of construction and ground disturbance.
Wetlands and Stream Crossings	This route passes through extensive Black Spruce/Tamarack wetlands. Construction of trail tread, bridges, boardwalks, and puncheon to create a dry trail surface along this route would cause minor, temporary, adverse impacts to water resources.	Designating 3 existing hiking trails will result in negligible impacts on this resource. New trail development will avoid wetlands and stream crossings to the extent possible. Any adverse construction impacts to water resources would be minor and temporary.
Visual Resources	This route crosses extensive Black Spruce/Tamarack wetlands and would require construction of many bridges and boardwalks, leaving a greater than normal visual impact on the landscape. Being located predominantly in low areas, this route would have fewer vistas than the preferred alternative.	This alternative would incorporate outstanding visual resources, including numerous waterfalls, vistas over Lake Superior, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. New trail will require fewer bridges and boardwalks. On dry ground, the trail has a limited footprint with negligible impacts on visual resources.
Biological Resources	No impacts are expected due to lack of interest in establishing this route. If trail is eventually developed, construction would have temporary, localized minor impacts. Impacts from trail use would be negligible.	Designation of three existing trails would have no impact on biological resources. Eventual construction of new trail segments would have temporary, localized minor impacts. Impacts from trail use would be negligible.
Threatened and Endangered Species	Based on consultation with the USFWS, there should be no impact on T&E species.	Based on consultation with the USFWS, there should be no impact on T&E species.
Cultural Resources	Any new trail development would be coordinated with the SHPO, THPOs, and others to avoid known cultural sites, unless it was determined that there was value to the site in interpreting it.	Designation of existing trails may result in modest increases in use; additional impacts on cultural resources would be negligible. Any new trail development would be coordinated with the SHPO, THPOs, and others to avoid known cultural sites, unless it was determined that there was value to the site in interpreting it.

Affected Environment	No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative
Socio-economic resources	It is unlikely trail will be built along the current route. Thus, there are no impacts on socio-economic resources. Potential beneficial impacts of additional recreation opportunities and modest spending by trail users would not be realized.	Having a National Scenic Trail route in the "Arrowhead Region" would add to the region's attraction. Modest spending by trail users would have a beneficial effect on communities. Additional trail recreation opportunities would be created. Trail construction and maintenance costs would be borne by agencies through their normal budgeting processes and by volunteers.
Visitor experience and expectations	Hikers expect to experience nationally significant scenic and landscape features along National Scenic Trails. No such features are found on the existing route. Lack of interest in this route suggests that it would never be established.	Nationally significant resources, including the North Shore of Lake Superior shoreline and highlands and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, are unique attractions accessible via this route, epitomizing the scenic character of the "North Country."
Land Use and Ownership	To the maximum extent possible, the trail would be established on public land. Segments through areas of private ownership would only be established with the voluntary permission of the landowner, or willing sale of lands by the owner.	To the maximum extent possible, new trail would be established on public land. Segments through areas of private ownership would only be established with the voluntary permission of the landowner, or willing sale of lands by the owner.
Relationship to existing Land use Plans and Management of Existing trails	It is unlikely there will ever be sufficient interest and support for building a trail along this route. If this alternative is selected, provisions of the National Trails System Act would require that any trail eventually developed harmonize with and complement existing land use plans.	Designation of existing trails would have no effect on land use. All existing land use plans would remain in effect; the trails would continue to be managed according to existing agreements. Where new trail is developed, provisions of the National Trails System Act would require that the trail harmonize with and complement existing land use plans.
Recreation Resources	It is unlikely there will ever be sufficient interest and support for building a trail along this route. There would be no increase in trail recreation opportunities. Any trail eventually developed would be of low scenic quality.	Designation of existing trails as part of the North Country NST will attract additional users. The scenic quality of the North Country NST would be elevated. Where new trail is developed, there would be increased trail recreation opportunities.

Appendix 1- Minnesota Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species List

Key

[Scientific name common name STATUS taxonomic group]

[E = endangered | T = threatened | SC = special concern]

Species

Achillea sibirica Siberian yarrow T vascular plant
Acipenser fulvescens lake sturgeon SC fish
Acris crepitans northern cricket frog E amphibian/reptile
Actinonaias ligamentina mucket T mollusk
Adoxa moschatellina moschatel SC vascular plant
Aflexia rubranura red-tailed prairie leafhopper SC leafhopper
Agalinis auriculata eared false foxglove E vascular plant
Agalinis gattereri round-stemmed false foxglove E vascular plant
Agapetus tomus a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Agrostis geminata twin bentgrass SC vascular plant
Alasmidonta marginata elktoe T mollusk
Allium cernuum nodding wild onion T vascular plant
Allium schoenoprasum var. *sibiricum* wild chives T vascular plant
Alosa chrysochloris skipjack herring SC fish
Ammocrypta asprella crystal darter SC fish
Ammodramus bairdii Baird's sparrow E bird
Ammodramus henslowii Henslow's sparrow E bird
Ammodramus nelsoni Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow SC bird
Ammophila breviligulata beachgrass T vascular plant
Anaptychia setifera a species of lichen SC lichen
Androsace septentrionalis ssp. *puberulenta* northern androsace SC vascular plant
Antennaria parvifolia small-leaved pussytoes SC vascular plant
Anthus spragueii Sprague's pipit E bird
Apalone mutica smooth softshell SC amphibian/reptile
Aphredoderus sayanus pirate perch SC fish
Arabis holboellii var. *retrofracta* Holboell's rockcress T vascular plant
Arcidens confragosus rock pocketbook E mollusk
Aristida purpurea var. *longiseta* red three-awn SC vascular plant
Aristida tuberculosa sea-beach needlegrass SC vascular plant
Arnica lonchophylla long-leaved arnica T vascular plant
Arnoglossum plantagineum tuberous Indian-plantain T vascular plant
Asclepias amplexicaulis clasping milkweed SC vascular plant
Asclepias hirtella prairie milkweed T vascular plant

Asclepias stenophylla narrow-leaved milkweed E vascular plant
Asclepias sullivantii Sullivant's milkweed T vascular plant
Asio flammeus short-eared owl SC bird
Asplenium platyneuron ebony spleenwort SC vascular plant
Asplenium trichomanes maidenhair spleenwort T vascular plant
Aster shortii Short's aster T vascular plant
Astragalus alpinus alpine milk-vetch E vascular plant
Astragalus flexuosus slender milk-vetch SC vascular plant
Astragalus missouriensis Missouri milk-vetch SC vascular plant
Asynarchus rossi a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Atrytone arogos arogos skipper SC butterfly/moth
Aureolaria pedicularia fernleaf false foxglove T vascular plant
Bacopa rotundifolia water-hyssop SC vascular plant
Baptisia alba white wild indigo SC vascular plant
Baptisia bracteata var. *leucophaea* plains wild indigo SC vascular plant
Bartonia virginica Virginia bartonia E vascular plant
Besseyia bullii kitten-tails T vascular plant
Botrychium campestre prairie moonwort SC vascular plant
Botrychium gallicomontanum Frenchman's Bluff moonwort E vascular plant
Botrychium lanceolatum triangle moonwort T vascular plant
Botrychium lunaria common moonwort T vascular plant
Botrychium minganense Mingan moonwort SC vascular plant
Botrychium mormo goblin fern SC vascular plant
Botrychium oneidense blunt-lobed grapefern E vascular plant
Botrychium pallidum pale moonwort E vascular plant
Botrychium rugulosum St. Lawrence grapefern T vascular plant
Botrychium simplex least moonwort SC vascular plant
Bryoxiphium norvegicum sword moss SC moss
Buchloe dactyloides buffalo grass SC vascular plant
Buellia nigra a species of lichen E lichen
Buteo lineatus red-shouldered hawk SC bird
Cacalia suaveolens sweet-smelling Indian-plantain E vascular plant

Calamagrostis lacustris marsh reedgrass SC vascular plant
Calamagrostis montanensis plains reedgrass SC vascular plant
Calamagrostis purpurascens purple reedgrass SC vascular plant
Calcarius ornatus chestnut-collared longspur E bird
Callitriche heterophylla larger water-starwort SC vascular plant
Caloplaca parvula a species of lichen E lichen
Caltha natans floating marsh-marigold E vascular plant
Canis lupus gray wolf (Fed. Status: T) SC mammal
Carex annectens yellow-fruited sedge SC vascular plant
Carex careyana Carey's sedge T vascular plant
Carex conjuncta jointed sedge T vascular plant
Carex crus-corvi raven's foot sedge SC vascular plant
Carex davisii Davis' sedge T vascular plant
Carex exilis coastal sedge SC vascular plant
Carex festucacea fescue sedge T vascular plant
Carex flava yellow sedge SC vascular plant
Carex formosa handsome sedge E vascular plant
Carex garberi Garber's sedge T vascular plant
Carex hallii Hall's sedge SC vascular plant
Carex jamesii James' sedge T vascular plant
Carex katahdinensis Katahdin sedge T vascular plant
Carex laevivaginata smooth-sheathed sedge T vascular plant
Carex laxiculmis spreading sedge T vascular plant
Carex michauxiana Michaux's sedge SC vascular plant
Carex obtusata blunt sedge SC vascular plant
Carex pallescens pale sedge E vascular plant
Carex plantaginea plantain-leaved sedge E vascular plant
Carex praticola prairie sedge SC vascular plant
Carex scirpoidea northern singlespike sedge SC vascular plant
Carex sterilis sterile sedge T vascular plant
Carex supina var. *spaniocarpa* weak arctic sedge SC vascular plant
Carex typhina cattail sedge SC vascular plant
Carex woodii Wood's sedge SC vascular plant
Carex xerantica dry sedge SC vascular plant
Castilleja septentrionalis northern paintbrush E vascular plant
Ceraclea brevis a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Ceraclea vertreesi a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Cervus elaphus elk SC mammal
Cetraria aurescens a species of lichen SC lichen
Cetraria oakesiana a species of lichen T lichen
Chamaesyce missurica Missouri spurge SC vascular plant
Charadrius melodus piping plover (Fed. Status: T) E bird
Cheilanthes lanosa hairy lip-fern E vascular plant
Chelydra serpentina snapping turtle SC amphibian/reptile
Chilostigma itascae headwaters chilostigman E caddisfly
Chrysosplenium iowense Iowa golden saxifrage E vascular plant
Cicindela denikei a species of tiger beetle T tiger beetle
Cicindela fulgida westbournei a species of tiger beetle T tiger beetle
Cicindela fulgida fulgida a species of tiger beetle E tiger beetle
Cicindela hirticollis rhodensis a species of tiger beetle SC tiger beetle
Cicindela lepida a species of tiger beetle T tiger beetle
Cicindela limbata nympha a species of tiger beetle E tiger beetle
Cicindela macra macra a species of tiger beetle SC tiger beetle
Cicindela patruela patruela a species of tiger beetle SC tiger beetle
Cicindela splendida cyanocephalata a species of tiger beetle SC tiger beetle
Cirsium hillii Hill's thistle SC vascular plant
Cladium mariscoides twig-rush SC vascular plant
Cladonia pseudorangiformis a species of lichen SC lichen
Claytonia caroliniana Carolina spring-beauty SC vascular plant
Clemmys insculpta wood turtle T amphibian/reptile
Coccocarpia palmicola a species of lichen T lichen
Coluber constrictor racer SC amphibian/reptile
Coregonus kiyi kiyi SC fish
Coregonus zenithicus shortjaw cisco SC fish
Coturnicops noveboracensis yellow rail SC bird
Crassula aquatica pigmyweed T vascular plant
Crataegus douglasii black hawthorn T vascular plant
Cristatella jamesii James' polanisia E vascular plant
Crotalus horridus timber rattlesnake T amphibian/reptile
Cryptotis parva least shrew SC mammal
Cumberlandia monodonta spectaclecase T mollusk
Cycleptus elongatus blue sucker SC fish
Cyclonaias tuberculata purple wartyback T mollusk
Cygnus buccinator trumpeter swan T bird
Cymopterus acaulis wild parsley SC vascular plant
Cyperus acuminatus short-pointed umbrella-sedge T vascular plant
Cypripedium arietinum ram's-head lady's-slipper T vascular plant
Cypripedium candidum small white lady's-slipper SC vascular plant
Dalea candida var. *oligophylla* western white prairie-clover SC vascular plant
Decodon verticillatus waterwillow SC vascular plant
Dendroica cerulea cerulean warbler SC bird
Dermatocarpon moulinii a species of lichen E lichen
Deschampsia flexuosa slender hairgrass SC vascular plant
Desmanthus illinoensis prairie mimosa SC vascular plant
Desmodium cuspidatum var. *longifolium* big tick-trefoil SC vascular plant

Desmodium nudiflorum stemless tick-trefoil SC vascular plant
Diarrhena obovata American beakgrain SC vascular plant
Dicentra canadensis squirrel-corn SC vascular plant
Diplazium pycnocarpon narrow-leaved spleenwort T vascular plant
Dodecatheon meadia prairie shooting star E vascular plant
Draba arabisans rock whitlow-grass SC vascular plant
Draba norvegica Norwegian whitlow-grass E vascular plant
Drosera anglica English sundew SC vascular plant
Drosera linearis linear-leaved sundew SC vascular plant
Dryopteris goldiana Goldie's fern SC vascular plant
Dryopteris marginalis marginal shield-fern T vascular plant
Elaphe obsoleta rat snake SC amphibian/reptile
Eleocharis nitida neat spike-rush T vascular plant
Eleocharis olivacea olivaceous spike-rush T vascular plant
Eleocharis parvula dwarf spike-rush SC vascular plant
Eleocharis quinqueflora few-flowered spike-rush SC vascular plant
Eleocharis rostellata beaked spike-rush T vascular plant
Eleocharis wolfii Wolf's spike-rush E vascular plant
Ellipsaria lineolata butterfly T mollusk
Elliptio crassidens elephant-ear E mollusk
Elliptio dilatata spike SC mollusk
Empetrum eamesii purple crowberry E vascular plant
Empetrum nigrum black crowberry E vascular plant
Empidonax virescens Acadian flycatcher SC bird
Emydoidea blandingii Blanding's turtle T amphibian/reptile
Epioblasma triquetra snuffbox T mollusk
Erebia disa *manicus* *disa* alpine SC butterfly/moth
Erimystax x-punctata gravel chub SC fish
Eryngium yuccifolium rattlesnake-master SC vascular plant
Erynnis persius *persius* dusky wing E butterfly/moth
Erythronium propullans dwarf trout lily (Fed. Status: E) E vascular plant
Escobaria vivipara ball cactus E vascular plant
Etheostoma microperca least darter SC fish
Eumeces fasciatus five-lined skink SC amphibian/reptile
Eupatorium sessilifolium upland boneset T vascular plant
Euphrasia hudsoniana Hudson Bay eyebright SC vascular plant
Falco peregrinus peregrine falcon (Fed. Status: E) T bird
Felis concolor mountain lion SC mammal
Fimbristylis autumnalis autumn fimbriatylis SC vascular plant
Fimbristylis puberula var. interior hairy fimbriatylis E vascular plant
Floerkea proserpinacoides false mermaid T vascular plant
Fundulus sciadicus plains topminnow SC fish
Fuscoboletinus weaverae a species of fungus E fungus
Fusconaia ebena ebonyshell E mollusk
Gaillardia aristata blanket-flower SC vascular plant
Gallinula chloropus common moorhen SC bird
Gentiana affinis northern gentian SC vascular plant
Gentianella amarella ssp. *acuta* felwort SC vascular plant
Glaux maritima sea milkwort E vascular plant
Habronattus texanus a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Haliaeetus leucocephalus bald eagle (Fed. Status: T) SC bird
Hamamelis virginiana witch-hazel SC vascular plant
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. *rydbergii* Nuttall's sunflower SC vascular plant
Helictotrichon hookeri oat-grass SC vascular plant
Hemidactylum scutatatum four-toed salamander SC amphibian/reptile
Hesperia comma *assiniboia* *assiniboia* skipper E butterfly/moth
Hesperia dacotae dakota skipper T butterfly/moth
Hesperia leonardus *leonardus* skipper SC butterfly/moth
Hesperia ottoe *ottoe* skipper T butterfly/moth
Hesperia uncas *uncas* skipper E butterfly/moth
Heteranthera limosa mud plantain T vascular plant
Heterodon nasicus western hognose snake SC amphibian/reptile
Hudsonia tomentosa beach-heather SC vascular plant
Huperzia porophila rock clubmoss T vascular plant
Hydrastis canadensis golden-seal E vascular plant
Hydrocotyle americana American water-pennywort SC vascular plant
Hydroptila metoeca a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Hydroptila novicola a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Hydroptila tortosa a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Ichthyomyzon fossor northern brook lamprey SC fish
Ichthyomyzon gagei southern brook lamprey SC fish
Ictiobus niger black buffalo SC fish
Iodanthus pinnatifidus purple rocket E vascular plant
Isoetes melanopoda blackfoot quillwort E vascular plant
Jeffersonia diphylla twinleaf SC vascular plant
Juglans cinerea butternut SC vascular plant
Juncus marginatus marginated rush SC vascular plant
Juncus stygius var. *americanus* bog rush SC vascular plant
Juniperus horizontalis creeping juniper SC vascular plant
Laccaria trullisata a species of fungus SC fungus
Lactarius fuliginellus a species of fungus SC fungus
Lampsilis higginsii Higgins eye (Fed. Status: E) E mollusk
Lampsilis teres yellow sandshell E mollusk
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike T bird
Larus pipixcan Franklin's gull SC bird
Lasmigona compressa creek heelsplitter SC mollusk

Lasmigona costata fluted-shell SC mollusk
Lechea tenuifolia narrow-leaved pinweed E vascular plant
Leersia lenticularis catchfly grass SC vascular plant
Leptogium apalachense a species of lichen E lichen
Lespedeza leptostachya prairie bush clover (Fed. Status: T) T vascular plant
Lesquerella ludoviciana bladder pod E vascular plant
Ligumia recta black sandshell SC mollusk
Limosa fedoa marbled godwit SC bird
Limosella aquatica mudwort SC vascular plant
Listera auriculata auricled twayblade E vascular plant
Listera convallarioides broad-lipped twayblade SC vascular plant
Littorella uniflora American shore-plantain SC vascular plant
Lobaria quercizans a species of lichen SC lichen
Lobaria scrobiculata a species of lichen E lichen
Luzula parviflora ssp. *melanocarpa* small-flowered woodrush SC vascular plant
Lycaeides idas nabokovi Nabokov's blue SC butterfly/moth
Lycaeides melissa samuelis Karner blue (Fed. Status: E) E butterfly/moth
Lysimachia quadrifolia whorled loosestrife SC vascular plant
Lysurus cruciatus a species of fungus SC fungus
Machaeranthera pinnatifida cutleaf ironplant SC vascular plant
Malaxis monophyllos var. *brachypoda* white adder's-mouth SC vascular plant
Malaxis paludosa bog adder's-mouth E vascular plant
Marpissa grata a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Marsilea vestita hairy water clover E vascular plant
Megaloniais nervosa washboard T mollusk
Melica nitens three-flowered melic T vascular plant
Metaphidippus arizonensis a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Microtus ochrogaster prairie vole SC mammal
Microtus pinetorum woodland vole SC mammal
Minuartia dawsonensis rock sandwort SC vascular plant
Moehringia macrophylla large-leaved sandwort T vascular plant
Montia chamissoi montia E vascular plant
Morone mississippiensis yellow bass SC fish
Muhlenbergia uniflora one flowered muhly SC vascular plant
Mustela nivalis least weasel SC mammal
Myotis septentrionalis northern myotis SC mammal
Najas gracillima slender naiad SC vascular plant
Najas marina sea naiad SC vascular plant
Napaea dioica glade mallow T vascular plant
Notropis amnis pallid shiner SC fish
Notropis anogenus pugnose shiner SC fish
Notropis nubilus Ozark minnow SC fish
Notropis topeka Topeka shiner SC fish
Noturus exilis slender madtom SC fish
Novasuccinea n. sp. Minnesota B Iowa Pleistocene ambersnail E mollusk
Novasuccinea n. sp. Minnesota A Minnesota Pleistocene ambersnail T mollusk
Nymphaea leibergii small white waterlily T vascular plant
Oarisma garita garita skipper T butterfly/moth
Oarisma powesheik powesheik skipper SC butterfly/moth
Obovaria olivaria hickorynut SC mollusk
Oeneis uhleri varuna Uhler's arctic E butterfly/moth
Oenothera rhombipetala rhombic-petaled evening primrose SC vascular plant
Ophiogomphus anomalis extra-striped snaketail SC dragonfly
Ophiogomphus susbehcha St. Croix snaketail SC dragonfly
Opuntia macrorhiza plains prickly pear SC vascular plant
Orobanche fasciculata clustered broomrape SC vascular plant
Orobanche ludoviciana Louisiana broomrape SC vascular plant
Orobanche uniflora one-flowered broomrape SC vascular plant
Oryzopsis hymenoides Indian ricegrass E vascular plant
Osmorhiza berteroi Chilean sweet cicely E vascular plant
Osmorhiza depauperata blunt-fruited sweet cicely SC vascular plant
Oxyethira ecornuta a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Oxyethira itascae a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Oxytropis viscida sticky locoweed E vascular plant
Panax quinquefolius American ginseng SC vascular plant
Paradamoetas fontana a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Parmelia stictica a species of lichen E lichen
Parmelia stipitata a species of lichen T lichen
Paronychia canadensis Canadian forked chickweed T vascular plant
Paronychia fastigiata forked chickweed E vascular plant
Parthenium integrifolium wild quinine E vascular plant
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos American white pelican SC bird
Pellaea atropurpurea purple cliff-brake SC vascular plant
Peltigera venosa a species of lichen SC lichen
Percina evides gilt darter SC fish
Perognathus flavescens plains pocket mouse SC mammal
Phacelia franklinii Franklin's phacelia SC vascular plant
Phalaropus tricolor Wilson's phalarope T bird
Phegopteris hexagonoptera broad beech-fern T vascular plant
Phenacomys intermedius heather vole SC mammal
Phidippus apacheanus a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider

Phidippus pius a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Pinguicula vulgaris butterwort SC vascular plant
Pipistrellus subflavus eastern pipistrelle SC mammal
Pituophis catenifer gopher snake SC amphibian/reptile
Plantago elongata slender plantain T vascular plant
Platanthera clavellata club-spur orchid SC vascular plant
Platanthera flava var. *herbiola* tubercled rein-orchid E vascular plant
Platanthera praeclara western prairie fringed orchid (Fed. Status: T) E vascular plant
Plethobasus cyphus sheepsnose E mollusk
Pleurobema coccineum round pigtoe T mollusk
Poa paludigena bog bluegrass T vascular plant
Poa wolfii Wolf's bluegrass SC vascular plant
Podiceps auritus horned grebe T bird
Polemonium occidentale ssp. *lacustre* western Jacob's-ladder E vascular plant
Polycentropus milaca a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Polygala cruciata cross-leaved milkwort E vascular plant
Polygonum careyi Carey's smartweed SC vascular plant
Polygonum viviparum alpine bistort SC vascular plant
Polyodon spathula paddlefish T fish
Polystichum acrostichoides Christmas fern T vascular plant
Polystichum braunii Braun's holly fern E vascular plant
Polytaenia nuttallii prairie-parsley SC vascular plant
Potamogeton bicipulatus snailseed pondweed E vascular plant
Potamogeton diversifolius diverse-leaved pondweed E vascular plant
Potamogeton vaginatus sheathed pondweed SC vascular plant
Potamogeton vaseyi Vasey's pondweed SC vascular plant
Prenanthes crepidinea nodding rattlesnake-root SC vascular plant
Protophila talola a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Psathyrella cystidiosa a species of fungus E fungus
Psathyrella rhodospora a species of fungus E fungus
Pseudocyphellaria crocata a species of lichen E lichen
Psoralidium tenuiflora slender-leaved scurf pea E vascular plant
Pyrgus centaureae freija grizzled skipper SC butterfly/moth
Pyrola minor small shinleaf SC vascular plant
Quadrula fragosa winged mapleleaf (Fed. Status: E) E mollusk
Quadrula metanevra monkeyface T mollusk
Quadrula nodulata wartyback E mollusk
Rallus elegans king rail E bird
Ranunculus lapponicus Lapland buttercup SC vascular plant
Rhynchospora capillacea hair-like beak-rush T vascular plant
Rhynchospora fusca sooty-colored beak-rush SC vascular plant
Rorippa sessiliflora sessile-flowered cress SC vascular plant
Rotala ramosior tooth-cup T vascular plant
Rubus chamaemorus cloudberry T vascular plant
Rudbeckia triloba three-leaved coneflower SC vascular plant
Ruppia maritima ditch-grass SC vascular plant
Sagina nodosa ssp. *borealis* knotty pearlwort E vascular plant
Salicornia rubra red saltwort T vascular plant
Salix maccalliana Maccall's willow SC vascular plant
Salix pellita satiny willow SC vascular plant
Sanicula trifoliata beaked snakeroot SC vascular plant
Sassacus papenhoei a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Saxifraga cernua nodding saxifrage E vascular plant
Saxifraga paniculata encrusted saxifrage T vascular plant
Schedonnardus paniculatus tumblegrass SC vascular plant
Schinia indiana phlox moth SC butterfly/moth
Schistostegia pennata luminous moss E moss
Scirpus clintonii Clinton's bulrush SC vascular plant
Scleria triglomerata tall nut-rush E vascular plant
Scleria verticillata whorled nut-rush T vascular plant
Scutellaria ovata ovate-leaved skullcap T vascular plant
Sedum integrifolium ssp. *leedyi* Leedy's roseroot (Fed. Status: T) E vascular plant
Seiurus motacilla Louisiana waterthrush SC bird
Selaginella selaginoides northern spikemoss E vascular plant
Senecio canus gray ragwort E vascular plant
Senecio indecorus elegant grounzel SC vascular plant
Setodes guttatus a species of caddisfly SC caddisfly
Shinnersoseris rostrata annual skeletonweed T vascular plant
Silene drummondii Drummond's campion SC vascular plant
Silene nivea snowy campion T vascular plant
Simpsonia ambigua salamander mussel T mollusk
Sistrurus catenatus massasauga E amphibian/reptile
Solidago mollis soft goldenrod SC vascular plant
Solidago sciaphila cliff goldenrod SC vascular plant
Sorex fumeus smokey shrew SC mammal
Sparganium glomeratum clustered bur-reed SC vascular plant
Speotyto cunicularia burrowing owl E bird
Speyeria idalia regal fritillary SC butterfly/moth
Spilogale putorius eastern spotted skunk T mammal
Stellaria longipes long-stalked chickweed SC vascular plant
Sterna forsteri Forster's tern SC bird
Sterna hirundo common tern T bird
Sticta fuliginosa a species of lichen SC lichen
Subularia aquatica awlwort T vascular plant

Sullivantia sullivantii reniform sullivantia T vascular plant
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus coralberry SC vascular plant
Synaptomys borealis northern bog lemming SC mammal
Talinum rugospermum rough-seeded fameflower E vascular plant
Tephrosia virginiana goat's-rue SC vascular plant
Thomomys talpoides northern pocket gopher SC mammal
Tofieldia pusilla small false asphodel E vascular plant
Tomenthypnum falcifolium a species of moss SC moss
Torreyochloa pallida Torrey's manna-grass SC vascular plant
Trillium nivale snow trillium SC vascular plant
Trimorpha acris var. *asteroides* bitter fleabane SC vascular plant
Trimorpha lonchophylla shortray fleabane SC vascular plant
Triplasis purpurea purple sand-grass SC vascular plant
Tritogonia verrucosa pistolgrip T mollusk
Tropidoclonion lineatum lined snake SC amphibian/reptile
Tsuga canadensis eastern hemlock SC vascular plant
Tutelina formicaria a species of jumping spider SC jumping spider
Tympanuchus cupido greater prairie-chicken SC bird

Umbilicaria torrefacta a species of lichen E lichen
Utricularia purpurea purple-flowered bladderwort SC vascular plant
Utricularia resupinata lavender bladderwort SC vascular plant
Vaccinium uliginosum alpine bilberry T vascular plant
Valeriana edulis var. *ciliata* valerian T vascular plant
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis ellipse T mollusk
Verbena simplex narrow-leaved vervain SC vascular plant
Vertigo hubrichti variabilis n. subsp. variable
 Pleistocene *vertigo* T mollusk
Vertigo hubrichti hubrichti Midwest Pleistocene *vertigo* E mollusk
Vertigo meramecensis bluff *vertigo* T mollusk
Viola lanceolata lance-leaved violet T vascular plant
Viola nuttallii yellow prairie violet T vascular plant
Vitis aestivalis silverleaf grape SC vascular plant
Waldsteinia fragarioides barren strawberry SC vascular plant
Wilsonia citrina hooded warbler SC bird
Woodsia alpina alpine woodsia SC vascular plant
Woodsia glabella smooth woodsia T vascular plant
Woodsia scopulina Rocky Mountain woodsia T vascular plant
Xyris montana montane yellow-eyed grass SC vascular plant
Xyris torta twisted yellow-eyed grass E vascular plant

Appendix 2

PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT AMONG THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR), THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the National Park Service (NPS) plans for, operates, manages, and administers the National Park System, and is responsible for preserving, maintaining, and interpreting the cultural resources of the System unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS, the operation, management, and administration of the System entail undertakings that may affect historic properties (as defined in 36 CFR Part 800), which are therefore subject to review under Sections 106, 110(f) and 111(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended (NHPA; 16 USC 470 *et seq.*) and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) (36 CFR Part 800); and

WHEREAS, the NPS has established management policies, guidelines, standards, and technical information designed for the treatment of cultural resources consistent with the spirit and intent of the NHPA; and

WHEREAS, the NPS has a qualified staff of cultural resources specialists in parks, System Support Offices, and archeological and preservation centers to carry out programs for cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the NPS has consulted with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (Conference) and the Council regarding ways to ensure that NPS operation, management, and administration of the System provide for management of the System's cultural resources in accordance with the intent of NPS policies and with Sections 106, 110, and 111 of the NHPA; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, the Conference, and the Council executed a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement in 1990 that is superseded with the execution of this Programmatic Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the NPS has re-structured in order to place more resources and delegations of authorities with park managers;

NOW, THEREFORE, the NPS, Conference, and Council mutually agree that the NPS will carry out its Section 106 responsibilities with respect to management of the System in accordance with the following stipulations:

STIPULATIONS

I. POLICY

The NPS will continue to preserve and foster appreciation of the cultural resources in its custody through appropriate programs of protection, research, treatment, and interpretation. These efforts are and will remain in keeping with the NHPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of

1974, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, NPS Management Policies, and the Guidelines for Federal Agency Responsibilities Under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It remains the NPS goal to implement these programs in consultation with other Federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

Other guidelines, standards, and regulations relevant to this Agreement and its purposes include:

NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guideline
NPS-2, Planning Process Guideline
NPS-6, Interpretation and Visitor Services Guideline
NPS-12, NEPA Compliance Guideline
NPS-38, Historic Property Leasing Guideline
36 CFR Part 18, Leases and Exchanges of Historic Property

II. IDENTIFYING CULTURAL RESOURCES

The NPS will coordinate with SHPOs activities for research related to resource management needs and identification, evaluation, and registration of park historic properties. NPS fulfills these responsibilities under Section 110 of the NHPA and 36 CFR Part 800.4, with regard to properties potentially significant at national, State, or local levels and mindful of State preservation planning and inventory programs.

III. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

A. Park superintendents are the responsible agency officials as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.1(c)(1)(i) for purposes of Section 106 compliance. They will assume this responsibility in accordance with Stipulation VIII below.

B. Superintendents will be held accountable for their performance in Section 106 compliance through NPS procedures for performance and program evaluation.

C. To meet this responsibility, each park will have the following:

1. a commitment to training park staff, including an invitation to the appropriate SHPO and the Council to participate in that training, so that park staff are generally familiar with Section 106 processes; and

2. at least one staff person qualified to act as the park's 106 coordinator, whose 106 responsibilities are specified in his or her position description and performance standards; and

3. a formally designated set of CRM advisers whose qualifications are consistent with OPM standards, the intent of 36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A, and the intent of Section 112(a)(1)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act. In-park staff, System Support Offices, other parks, NPS cultural preservation and archeological centers, Denver Service Center, other government agencies, and specialists and scholars outside NPS are all possible sources for needed expertise. Specialists who are not federal employees must meet the standards in 36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A.

D. SHPOs and the Advisory Council may at any time raise with the appropriate Field [Regional] Director any programmatic or project matters where they wish the Field Director to review a park superintendent's decision.

IV. PROJECT REVIEW–NATIONWIDE PROGRAMMATIC EXCLUSIONS

A. Undertakings listed in IV.B will be reviewed for Section 106 purposes within the NPS, without further review by the Council or SHPOs, provided:

1. that these undertakings are based upon information adequate to identify and evaluate affected cultural resources [except for IV.B.(5)];

2. that the NPS finds that their effects on cultural resources in or eligible for the National Register will not be adverse based on criteria in 36 CFR Part 800.9; and

3. that decisions regarding these undertakings are made and carried out in conformity with applicable policies, guidelines, and standards as identified in Stipulation I, and are documented by NPS using the form for "Assessment of Actions Having an Effect on Cultural Resources" or another appropriate format. (See Stipulation VII below.)

B. The following undertakings may be reviewed under the terms of IV.A:

1. preservation maintenance (housekeeping, routine and cyclic maintenance, and stabilization) as defined in NPS-28;

2. routine grounds maintenance, such as grass cutting and tree trimming;

3. installation of environmental monitoring units, such as those for water and air quality;

4. archeological monitoring and testing and investigations of historic structures and cultural landscapes involving ground disturbing activities or intrusion into historic fabric for research or inventory purposes (see also Stipulations II and IX.C);

5. acquisition of lands for park purposes, including additions to existing parks;

6. rehabilitation and widening of existing trails, walks, paths, and sidewalks within previously disturbed areas;*

7. repaving of existing roads or existing parking areas within previously disturbed areas;*

8. placement, maintenance, or replacement of utility lines, transmission lines, and fences within previously disturbed areas;*

9. rehabilitation work limited to actions for retaining and preserving, protecting and maintaining, and repairing and replacing in kind materials and features, consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the accompanying guidelines;

10. health and safety activities such as radon mitigation, and removal of asbestos, lead paint, and buried oil tanks;

11. installation of fire detection and suppression systems, and security alarm systems, and upgrading of HVAC systems;

12. erection of signs, wayside exhibits, and memorial plaques;

13. leasing of historic properties consistent with NPS-38, if proposed treatments are limited to those consistent with IV.B(1) and (9) and other activities excluded under IV.A and B.

C. Park superintendents and SHPOs may develop additions to Stipulation IV.B that identify other types of undertakings that they mutually agree will be excluded from further review. Proposals for such additions will be provided for review to the Executive Director of the Council, the NPS Director, and the Executive Director of the Conference. Upon their acceptance, the Council, the Conference, and NPS will maintain records on those additions as amendments to this Agreement, and provide for dissemination to other appropriate SHPOs and NPS offices.

D. In the event that a SHPO questions whether a project should be considered a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV.A and B, the superintendent and SHPO will make every effort to resolve the issue informally. If those efforts fail, the question will be referred to the Field [Regional] Director. If the matter is still not resolved, it will be referred to the Advisory Council in accordance with Stipulation XI.A.

V. PROJECT AND PROGRAM REVIEW—OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

A. All undertakings (as defined in 36 CFR Part 800), with the exception of those that meet provisions in Stipulation IV, will be reviewed in accord with 36 CFR Part 800.

B. Superintendents are encouraged to evaluate their park's programs and discuss with SHPOs ways to develop programmatic agreements for park undertakings that would otherwise require numerous individual requests for comments.

C. Memoranda of Agreement and Programmatic Agreements specific to a project, plan, or park may be negotiated between park superintendents and SHPOs, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(e) or 800.13, and may be independent of or supplement this Agreement.

VI. RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECT REVIEW TO PLANS

A. To the extent that the requirements of Section 106 and NEPA overlap for a given plan or project, superintendents are encouraged to coordinate these two processes, including the preparation of documentation and public involvement processes, in accordance with the guidance in 36 CFR Part 800 or otherwise provided by the Advisory Council.

B. In conformity with 36 CFR Part 800.3(c), park superintendents will ensure that the Section 106 process is initiated early in the planning stages of any given undertaking, when the widest feasible range of alternatives is open for consideration.

C. General Management Plans (GMPs) establish a conceptual framework for subsequent undertakings, and can thus play an important role in this process. GMPs may constitute the basis for consultation under 36 CFR Part 800.4-6 on individual undertakings, if sufficient information exists for resource identification, determination of National Register eligibility, and assessment of the effect of a proposed undertaking on the property in question. In the absence of such information, Section 106 consultation will normally be initiated or completed at subsequent stages in the planning process [such as Development Concept Plans (DCPs) or other subsequent implementing plans, as defined in NPS-2].

D. The park superintendent will notify the appropriate SHPO and the Council when a GMP or DCP is scheduled for preparation, amendment, revision, or updating. The superintendent will request comments regarding preservation concerns relevant to the plan, such as management objectives, identification and evaluation of historic properties, and the potential effects of individual undertakings and alternatives on historic properties.

E. During the planning process, the park superintendent, in consultation with the SHPO, will make a determination about which undertakings are programmatic exclusions under IV.A and B, and for all other undertakings, whether there is sufficient information about resources and potential effects on those resources to seek review and comment under 36 CFR Part 800.4-6 during the plan review process. In cases where consultation is completed on specific undertakings, documentation of this consultation will be included in the GMP or DCP.

F. The approved plan will list all undertakings in the plan that are subject to further consultation, and the stage of planning at which consultation is most likely to be completed.

G. NPS GMPs will include a statement about the status of the park's cultural resources inventory and will indicate needs for additional cultural resource information, plans, or studies required before undertakings can be carried out.

VII. NPS PROCESS FOR DOCUMENTING ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

All System-related undertakings that may have an effect on cultural resources will be appropriately documented and carried out in accordance with applicable policies, guidelines, and standards, as identified in Stipulation I. Formats for documentation include those outlined in published Advisory Council guidance (see "Preparing Agreement Documents," for example), the NPS "Assessment of Actions Having an Effect on Cultural Resources" form, programmatic agreements and, where appropriate, NEPA documentation that addresses cultural resources issues with information consistent with requirements of 36 CFR Part 800.

Cultural resources specialists will review all such actions prior to their implementation, and parks will maintain documentation of this review. Documentation of NPS reviews not already provided to SHPOs and the Council will be available for review by the Council and the appropriate SHPO upon request. Individual SHPOs who wish to review this documentation are responsible for specifying scheduling, frequency, and types of undertakings of concern to them.

VIII. PUTTING THIS AGREEMENT INTO EFFECT

The delegation of Section 106 responsibility to park superintendents will take place as of October 1, 1995. As a condition of this delegation, each park will identify

A. the specialists, on or off park staff, who will provide the park with advice and technical services for cultural resource issues related to Section 106 compliance. These specialists must be qualified in their areas of expertise and have a specified term of commitment to advise the park; and

B. a contact person to coordinate the park's Section 106 compliance processes.

Parks supplement on-staff expertise through advice and technical services from CRM specialists in SSOs, the Denver Service Center, preservation centers, and other specified CRM specialists inside and outside the NPS, for advice and technical services involved in 106 documentation and consultation. The superintendent will be the responsible agency official for 106 purposes, who ensures the implementation of this agreement and 36 CFR Part 800 procedures, and who signs correspondence to SHPOs and the Advisory Council and documentation of programmatic exclusions.

IX. COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Within six months of the date of the signature of this PA by all parties, and every two years thereafter, each park superintendent will invite the appropriate SHPO(s) to meet to discuss the compliance process and any actions necessary to improve communications between the park and SHPO.

B. SHPOs, the Conference, and the Council will be informed and consulted about revisions to NPS standards and guidelines listed in Stipulation I.

C. SHPOs, parks and NPS System Support Offices will share information about inventories of historic properties, preservation planning processes, and historic contexts developed by each, as well as other reports and research results related to cultural resources.

D. SHPOs will treat the appropriate park superintendent as an interested party for purposes of State environmental and preservation laws as they may relate to park undertakings and cultural resources.

E. The Council and SHPOs will treat the appropriate park superintendent as an interested party under 36 CFR Part 800 for purposes of undertakings by other Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may affect NPS areas, including undertakings in areas in and around parks.

F. As required in NPS-2, NPS-12, the Section 110 Guidelines, and 36 CFR Part 800, NPS will provide opportunities for Indian tribes and other interested persons to participate in the processes outlined in this Agreement.

X. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER EXISTING AGREEMENTS

A. This Programmatic Agreement will become effective on October 1, 1995, and shall supersede the following existing Programmatic Agreements:

1. the Memorandum of Understanding executed in June 1976, regarding NPS planning documents;
2. the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement executed on December 19, 1979, and its amendments dated September 1981 and December 1985 regarding planning documents, energy management, and preservation maintenance; and
3. the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement executed on December 19, 1982, regarding leasing of historic properties.
4. the nationwide Programmatic Agreement of 1990.

B. Signature and implementation of this Agreement does not invalidate park-, Region- or project-specific Memoranda of Agreement or programmatic agreements negotiated for Section 106 purposes prior to the effective date of this Agreement.

XI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. Should a SHPO or the Council object to a park superintendent's decisions or actions pursuant to any portion of this Agreement, the superintendent will consult the objecting party to resolve the objection. If the park superintendent or the objecting party determines that the objection cannot be resolved, the superintendent will forward all documentation relevant to the dispute to the Field [Regional] Director for further consultation. If the objection still cannot be resolved, the Field Director will forward to the Council relevant documentation not previously furnished to the Council. Within 30 days after receipt of all pertinent documentation, the Council will either:

1. provide the Field Director with recommendations, which the Field Director will take into account in reaching a final decision regarding the dispute; or
2. notify the Field Director that it will comment pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(b), and proceed to comment. Any Council comment provided in response to such a request will be taken into account by the Field Director with reference to the subject of the dispute.**

Any recommendation or comment provided by the Council will be understood to pertain only to the subject of the dispute. The NPS responsibility to carry out all actions under this Agreement that are not the subjects of the dispute will remain unchanged.

B. When requested by any person, the Council will consider NPS findings under this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of 36 CFR Part 800.6(e) on public requests to the Council.

XII. MONITORING, TERMINATION, AND EXPIRATION

A. The National Park Service will convene a meeting of the parties to this Agreement on or about November 15, 1996, to review implementation of the terms of this Agreement and determine whether revisions or amendments are needed. If revisions or amendments are needed, the parties will consult in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.13.

B. Any party to this Agreement may terminate it by providing ninety (90) days notice to the other parties, provided that the parties will consult during the period prior to termination to seek agreement on amendments or other actions that would avoid termination. In the event of termination, the NPS will comply with 36 CFR Part 800 with regard to individual undertakings otherwise covered by this Agreement.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

By: s/Cathryn B. Slater DATE: July 17, 1995
Chairman

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

By: s/Roger G. Kennedy DATE: July 17, 1995
Director

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

By: s/W. Ray Luce DATE: July 17, 1995
President

Appendix 3 -Known Historical Sites and Structures in Project Area

Minnesota - Aitkin County

Aitkin Carnegie Library (added 1982 - Building - #82002924)
Also known as Aitkin Public library 121 2nd St., NW, Aitkin

Aitkin County Courthouse and Jail (added 1982 - Building - #82002923)
209 and 217 2nd St., NW, Aitkin

Arthyde Stone House (added 1982 - Building - #82002930)
CR 27, McGrath

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (added 1982 - Building - #82002928)
Also known as Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Church
Off Co. Hwy. 12, Aitkin

Casey, Patrick, House (added 1982 - Building - #82002925)
4th St. SE and 2nd Ave., Aitkin

Malmo Mounds and Village Site (added 1975 - District - #75000974)
Address Restricted, McGrath

National Woodenware Company Superintendent's Residence (added 1982 - Building - #82002929)
SW Elm St. and Ione Ave., Hill City

Northern Pacific Depot (added 1982 - Building - #82002926)
20 Pacific St., SW, Aitkin

Potter/Casey Company Building (added 1982 - Building - #82002927)
E. Minnesota Ave. between 1st and 2nd Sts., NW, Aitkin

Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge Historic District (added 1992 - District - #92000284)
Address Restricted, McGregor

Sandy River Lumber Company Horse Barn (added 1982 - Building - #82005277)
S of Tamarack, Tamarack

Savanna Portage (added 1973 - Site - #73000963)
Off Co. Hwy. 5 in Savanna Portage State Park, McGregor

Minnesota-Carlton County

Carlton County Courthouse ** (added 1985 - Building - #85001926)
301 Walnut Ave

Church of Sts. Joseph and Mary--Catholic (added 1984 - Building - #84001409)
Also known as Sawyer Log Church
Mission Rd., Cloquet

Cloquet City Hall (added 1985 - Building - #85002312)
Also known as Spafford Building
Ave. B and Arch St., Cloquet

Cloquet-Northern Office Building (added 1985 - Building - #85001925)
Also known as Potlatch Northwest Paper Division General Offices
Ave. C and Arch St., Cloquet

Cooke, Jay, State Park CCC/Rustic Style Historic District ** (added 1992 - District - #89001665)
Also known as Jay Cooke State Park
Off MN 210 E of Carlton, Thomson Township, Carlton

Cooke, Jay, State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Picnic Grounds ** (added 1992 - District - #92000640)
Also known as Jay Cooke State Park
Off MN 210 SE of Forbay Lake, Thomson Township, Carlton

Cooke, Jay, State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Service Yard ** (added 1992 - District - #92000642)
Also known as Jay Cooke State Park
Off MN 210 E of Forbay Lake, Thomson Township, Carlton

Grand Portage of the St. Louis River ** (added 1973 - Site - #73000966)
W of Duluth in Jay Cooke State Park off MN 210, Duluth

Kalevala Finnish Evangelical National Lutheran Church (added 1998 - Building - #98001218)
Also known as Moose Lake Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church
MN 73, Kalevala Township

Lindholm Oil Company Service Station (added 1985 - Building - #85002202)
Also known as Best Service Station
202 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet

Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Depot (added 1994 - Building - #86003813)
Also known as Moose Lake Soo Line Depot
840 Folz Blvd., Moose Lake

Northeastern Hotel (added 1984 - Building - #84000218)
115 St. Louis Ave., Cloquet

Park Place Historic District (added 1985 - District - #85001924)
1, 512, 520, and 528 Park Pl., Cloquet

Shaw Memorial Library (added 1985 - Building - #85001927)
Also known as Cloquet Public Library
406 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet

Minnesota-Cass County

Battle Point (21CA12) ** (added 1990 - District - #90001144)
Also known as Sugar Point;21CA12
6 mi. W of Co. Hwy. 8 on Leech Lake, Battleground SF, Cass Lake

Chase Hotel (added 1980 - Building - #80001994)
Also known as Chase-on-the-Lake
329 Cleveland Ave., Walker

Chippewa Agency Historic District ** (added 1973 - Site - #73000967)
Also known as Chippewa Agency
Address Restricted, Pillager

Conservation Building ** (added 2003 - Building - #02001706)
205 Minnesota Ave., Walker

Crow Wing State Park ** (added 1970 - Site - #70000288)
Also known as Crow Wing
Off MN 371, Pillager

Great Northern Railway Company Bridge (added 1980 - Structure - #80001990)
Also known as Steamboat Bridge
SW of Cass Lake off MN 371, Cass Lake

Gull Lake Mounds Site ** (added 1973 - Site - #73000968)
Address Restricted, Pillager

Hole-in-the-Day House Site ** (added 1973 - Site - #73000969)
Address Restricted, Pillager

Minnesota State Sanatorium for Consumptives ** (added 2001 - District - #01000766)
Also known as Ah-Gwah-Ching
7232 Ah-Gwah-Ching Rd. NW, Walker

Neils, Julius, House (added 1980 - Building - #80001991)
Also known as Ahnji-Bi-Mah-Diz Center
N. 3rd St., Cass Lake

Old Backus (added 1974 - District - #74001009)
Address Restricted, Backus

Pillager Mounds Prehistoric District (added 1973 - District - #73002335)
Address Restricted, Pillager

Rice Lake Hut Rings ** (added 1973 - Site - #73000970)
Address Restricted, Pillager

Sherwood Forest Lodge Complex (added 1980 - Building - #80001992)
Co. Hwy. 77, Lake Shore

Sixth Street Commercial Building (added 1987 - Building - #80001995)
Also known as Sears Roebuck & Company Catalog Store
525 6th St., Walker

Soo Line Depot (added 1980 - Building - #80001993)
Also known as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company De
Off Main St., Remer

Supervisor's Office Headquarters (added 1976 - Building - #76001049)
Ash Ave., Cass Lake

Winnibigoshish Lake Dam ** (added 1982 - Structure - #82004629)
Also known as "Winnie" Dam

Winnibigoshish Resort (added 1980 - Building - #80001989)
Also known as Bena Standard Oil Gas Station & Motor Court
U.S. 2, Bena Co. Hwy. 9 at Mississippi River, Bena

Minnesota - Cook County

AMBOY and GEORGE SPENCER Shipwreck Sites ** (added 1994 - Site - #94000341)
Also known as Amboy (US Registry 95276); George Spencer (US Registry 85849)
Address Restricted, Schroeder

Bally Blacksmith Shop (added 1986 - Building - #86001548)
Broadway and First Sts., Grand Marais

Church of St. Francis Xavier--Catholic (added 1986 - Building - #86002119)
Also known as Chippewa Church
US 61, Grand Marais

Clearwater Lodge (added 1985 - Building - #85003032)
Also known as Jocko's Clearwater Lodge
Off CR 66, Grand Marais

Cook County Courthouse ** (added 1983 - Building - #83000902)
411 2nd St., Grand Marais

Eagle Mountain (added 1977 - Site - #77001662)
NW of Grand Marais, Grand Marais

Grand Portage National Monument *** (added 1966 - District - #66000111)
Off US 61, Grand Marais

Height of Land ** (added 1974 - Site - #74001012)
Between North and South Lake in Superior National Forest, Grand Marais

Lightkeeper's House (added 1978 - Building - #78001528)
Also known as Cook County Historical Museum
12 S. Broadway, Grand Marais

Naniboujou Club Lodge ** (added 1982 - Building - #82000558)
Also known as Naniboujou Lodge
E of Grand Morals on US 61, Grand Marais

Paulson Mine (added 1977 - Site - #77001661)
Address Restricted, Grand Marais

Schroeder Lumber Company Bunkhouse (added 1986 - Building - #86002120)

Scott, Jim, Fishhouse (added 1986 - Building - #86002904)
Also known as Scott Fishhouse
US 61 at Fifth Ave., Grand Marais US 61, Schroeder

Minnesota-Itasca County

Bovey Village Hall (added 1991 - Building - #91001059)
402 2nd St., Bovey

Canisteo District General Office Building (added 1982 - Building - #82002970)
200 Cole Ave., Coleraine

Central School (added 1977 - Building - #77000746)
N. Pokegama and 4th St., Grand Rapids

Church of the Good Shepherd (added 1980 - Building - #80002081)
Off U.S. 169, Coleraine

Coleraine Carnegie Library (added 1980 - Building - #80002080)
Clemson and Cole Aves., S., Coleraine

Coleraine City Hall (added 1992 - Building - #92000800)
302 Roosevelt Ave., Coleraine

Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church (added 1982 - Building - #82002971)
NW Gayley and Cole Aves., Coleraine

Coleraine Village Hall (added 1982 - Building - #82005279)
Also known as Coleraine City Hall
302--304 Roosevelt Ave., Coleraine

General Superintendent's House (added 1982 - Building - #82002972)
Also known as General Superintendent's Residence
Cole Ave., Coleraine

Gran, Frank, Farmstead (added 1982 - Building - #82002969)
Also known as Sauber Farmstead
Co. Hwy. 10, La Prairie

Hartley Sugar Camp (added 1982 - Building - #82002973)
Off

Hill Annex Mine ** (added 1986 - District - #86002126)
Off US 169, Calumet Co. Hwy. 10, Bovey

Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's House (added 1982 - Building - #82002976)
Also known as Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's

Residence
506 5th St., SE, Deer River

Marble Village Hall (added 1982 - Building - #82005281)
Also known as Marble City Hall
Bawden and Alice Sts., Marble

Nashwauk Village Hall (added 1982 - Building - #82005282)
Central Ave. and Third St., Nashwauk

Old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station ** (added 1974 - Building - #74001026)
MN 46 in Chippewa National Forest, Squaw Lake

Marcel Ranger Station (added 1994 - District - #94000473)
Chippewa NF, Marcell Township, Bigfork

Oliver Boarding House (added 1982 - Building - #82002977)
Jessie St., Marble

Scenic State Park CCC/Rustic Style Service Yard ** (added 1992 - District - #92000595)
Also known as Scenic State Park
Off Co. Hwy. 7, Scenic State Park, Bigfork

Scenic State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources ** (added 1992 - District - #89001670)
Also known as Scenic State Park
Off Co. Hwy. 7 E of Bigfork, Bigfork

Turtle Oracle Mound ** (added 1974 - Site - #74001027)
Also known as 25IC26
Address Restricted, Squaw Lake

White Oak Point Site ** (added 1972 - Site - #72000677)
Address Restricted, Zemple

Winnibigoshish Lake Dam ** (added 1982 - Structure - #82004629)
Also known as "Winnie" Dam
Co. Hwy. 9 at Mississippi River, Inger

Minnesota-Lake County

Bridge No. 3589--Silver Creek Township (added 1998 - Structure - #98000686)
US-61 over Stewart R., Silver Creek Township

Crooked Lake Pictographs (added 1977 - Site - #77001660)
Address Restricted, Ely

Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Depot (added 1983 - Building - #83000910)
6th St. off South Ave., Two Harbors

Duluth and Iron Range Railway Ore Dock No. 6 ** (added 1986 - Structure - #86003817)
Also known as Duluth, Missabe, and Iron Range Railway Ore Dock No. 6
Agate Bay, Two Harbors

Dwan, John, Office Building ** (added 1992 - Building - #92000700)
Also known as 3M/Dwan Building;The Sandpaper Museum
201 Waterfront Dr., Two Harbors

EDNA G (tugboat) *** (added 1975 - Structure - #75002144)
Home port at S end of Poplar St. in Agate Bay, Two Harbors

Fishdance Lake Pictographs (added 1977 - Site - #77001658)
Address Restricted, Isabella

Gooseberry Falls State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources ** (added 1989 - District - #89001672)
Also known as Gooseberry Falls State Park
Off US 61 NE of Two Harbors, Two Harbors

HESPER Shipwreck Site ** (added 1994 - Site - #94000343)
Also known as Hesper (US Registry 96054);Wreck site of the Hesper
Address Restricted, Silver Bay

Lake County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence ** (added 1983 - Building - #83000912)
601 3rd Ave., Two Harbors

Larsmont School (added 1992 - Building - #92000799)
Also known as Larsmont Volunteer Fire Department
Co. Hwy. 61, Two Harbors

MADEIRA (Schooner--Barge) Shipwreck ** (added 1992 - Site - #92000843)
Also known as Shipwreck of Schooner-Barge Madeira

Mattson, Edward and Lisa, House and Fish House ** (added 1990 - Building - #90001152)

NIAGARA Shipwreck Site ** (added 1994 - Site - #94000344)
Also known as Shipwreck of Rafting Tug Niagara
Address Restricted, Knife River Off US 61, at Beaver Bay shore near Wieland Island, East Beaver
Bay

ONOKO (Bulk Freight Steamer) Shipwreck *** (added 1992 - Structure - #92000845)
Also known as Shipwreck of Bulk Freight Steamer Onoko
Address Restricted, Knife River

SAMUEL P. ELY Shipwreck (added 1992 - Site - #92000694)
Address Restricted, Two Harbors

Split Rock Lighthouse ** (added 1969 - District - #69000073)
About 20 mi. NE of Two Harbors on U.S. 61, Two Harbors

Tettegouche Camp Historic District ** (added 1989 - District - #88003084)
Also known as Tettegouche Camp
Off County Hwy. 4, Silver Bay

Two Harbors Carnegie Library (added 1986 - Building - #86002121)
Fourth Ave. and Waterfront Dr., Two Harbors

Two Harbors Light Station ** (added 1984 - Building - #84001483)
Agate and Burlington Bays, Two Harbors

Minnesota-St. Louis County

Aerial Lift Bridge *** (added 1973 - Structure - #73002174)
Lake Ave., Duluth

Aho, Elias and Lisi, Historic Farmstead ** (added 1990 - District - #90000499)
Off Twnshp. Rd. 358, Tower

Alango School (added 1980 - Building - #80004338)
Co. Hwys. 25 and 22, Cook

Anderson, Andrew G., House (added 1980 - Building - #80004348)
Also known as Anderson Home
1001 E. Howard St., Hibbing

Androy Hotel (added 1986 - Building - #86001290)
592 E. Howard St., Hibbing

Archaeological Site No. 21SL82 ** (added 1988 - Site - #88000067)
Also known as 21SL82
Address Restricted, International Falls

Archeological Site 21SL141 (added 1987 - Site - #87002164)
Also known as 21SL141
Address Restricted, International Falls

Archeological Site 21SL35 ** (added 1987 - Site - #87002165)
Also known as 21SL35
Address Restricted, International Falls

Archeological Site 21SL55 (added 1988 - Site - #88000989)
Also known as 21SL55
Address Restricted, International Falls

Archeological Site No. 21SL73 (added 1989 - Site - #88003130)
Also known as 21SL73
Address Restricted, International Falls

B'nai Abraham Synagogue (added 1980 - Building - #80004356)
328 S. 5th St., Virginia

Bailey, W. T., House (added 1980 - Building - #80004357)
816 S. 5th Ave., Virginia

Bailey, W., House (added 1980 - Building - #80004347)
Also known as Reuben Kaner Home;Redstone
705 Pierce St., Eveleth

Beatty Portage Pictographs (added 1977 - Site - #77001657)
Address Restricted, Buyck

Bernard, John T., House (added 1980 - Building - #80004865)
715 Hayes St., Eveleth

Birch Lake Plantation (added 1977 - Site - #77001664)
Superior National Forest, Unknown

Bridge No. L6007 ** (added 1989 - Structure - #89001826)
Also known as Stewart Creek Stone-Arch Bridge
Skyline Pkwy. over Stewart Creek, Duluth

Bruce Mine Headframe ** (added 1978 - Structure - #78003124)
Also known as Bruce Headframe
Off U.S. 169, Chisholm

Buhl Public Library (added 1983 - Building - #83004605)
Jones Ave. at Frantz St., Buhl
Buhl Village Hall (added 1
983 - Site - #83000944) Jones Ave. at 4th St., Buhl

Bull-of-the-Woods Logging Scow ** (added 1999 - Site - #99000189)
Address Restricted, Morse Township

Burntside Lodge Historic District (added 1988 - District - #88000896)
Off Co. Hwy. 88, Ely

Butler, Emmett, House (added 1980 - Building - #80004349)
Also known as Salsich House
2530 3rd Ave., W., Hibbing

Chester Terrace (added 1980 - Building - #80004341)
Also known as Chester Terrace Apartments
1210--1232 E. 1st St., Duluth

Church of St. John the Baptist (Catholic) (added 1980 - Building - #80004362)
Also known as Old Polish Church; Holy Spirit West Chapel
309 S. 3rd Ave., Virginia

Church of St. Joseph (Catholic) (added 2002 - Building - #02000940)
7897 Elmer Rd., Elmer

Church of the Holy Family (Catholic) (added 1980 - Building - #80004345)
Also known as Resurrection Church
307 Adams Ave., Eveleth

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-52 (added 1989 - Building - #89000158)
Off US 53, Orr

Coates House (added 1980 - Building - #80004358)
Also known as Coates Home
817 S. 5th Ave., Virginia

Congdon, Chester and Clara, Estate (added 1991 - District - #91001057)
Also known as Glensheen
3300 London Rd., Duluth

DeWitt-Seitz Building (added 1985 - Building - #85001999)
Also known as Happy Sleeper Building
394 Lake Ave., S., Duluth

Delvic Building (added 1980 - Building - #80004350)
1st Ave. and Howard St., Hibbing

Central High School ** (added 1972 - Building - #72001488)
Lake Ave. and 2nd St., Duluth

Civic Center Historic District ** (added 1986 - District - #86003097)
Fifth Ave. W and First St., Duluth

Missabe and Iron Range Depot (Endion) (added 1975 - Building - #75002088)
Also known as Endion Passenger Depot
1504 South St., Duluth

Public Library (added 1978 - Building - #78003125)
101 W. 2nd St., Duluth

South Breakwater Inner (Duluth Range Rear) Lighthouse ** (added 1983 - Structure - #83000945) S
Breakwater, Duluth

State Normal School Historic District ** (added 1985 - District - #85002757)
Also known as University of Minnesota, Duluth (Lower Campus)
E. Fifth St., Duluth

Union Depot ** (added 1971 - Building - #71001028)
5th Ave., W. and Michigan St., Duluth

Young Women's Christian Association (added 1978 - Building - #78003575)
202 W. Second St., Duluth

Winnipeg, and Pacific Depot (added 1980 - Building - #80004364)
Also known as Virginia Depot;Northern State Bank
600 Chestnut St., Virginia

Howard Street Commercial Historic District (added 1993 - District - #93000255)
101--510 E. Howard St., Hibbing

School (added 1983 - Building - #83000946)
1801 E. 1st St., Duluth

Manual Training Center (added 1980 - Building - #80004343)
Roosevelt Ave., Eveleth

Recreation Building ** (added 1980 - Building - #80004344)
Also known as Arrow Shirt Factory
Garfield St. and Adams Ave., Eveleth

Sauna (added 1980 - Building - #80004360)
105 S. 1st St., Virginia

House No. 1 (added 1975 - Building - #75002089)
NW corner of 1st Ave., E. and 3rd St., Duluth

Brewing Company (added 1984 - Building - #84001690)
Also known as Fitger's Brewing
600 E. Superior St., Duluth

Flint Creek Farm Historic District (added 1989 - District - #89000139)
Also known as Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company Summer Farm
MN 1, Coo

Info obtained from <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/mn/state.html>

Appendix 4- Minnesota Statutes on Trail Construction in Wetlands

- Minnesota Statute, Section 103G.245 which authorizes the DNR to require permits for work in public waters (also includes watercourses) and public waters wetlands.
- Minnesota Rules 6115.0190 requires a permit for filling in public waters and public waters wetlands. (including fill for trails etc.).
- Minnesota Rules 6115.0230 and 6115.0231 requires permits for crossings.

Appendix 5-Statements of Support

Letter from Superior National Forest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior
National
Forest

515 West 1st Street
P.O. Box 338
Duluth, MN 55801-0338
FAX (218) 720-5600

File Code: 2350

Date: June 29, 1995

Mr. Thomas L. Gilbert
Superintendent
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1995

MADISON TRAILS OFFICE

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Thank you for your update on the status of the North Country National Scenic Trail. We applaud your efforts in bringing the Kekekabic Trail Club, Superior Hiking Trail Association and Minnesota Rovers Outing Club together to work towards relocating the proposed North Country National Scenic Trail through the Superior National Forest.

We are also pleased with the NST designation of the trails. Because our partners support this concept, we congratulate you on developing that support, and look forward to working with you towards relocation on the North Country Scenic Trail.

As a result of our reviewing the correspondence you included in your package, we would like to clarify a few items in your correspondence with the Kekekabic Trail Club:

Item three (second page of your letter of 3/6/95) states "Special signing protocol is appropriate in a wilderness". Actually, signing within the wilderness is not appropriate.

Item six, the last sentence is incorrect. There are standards for trails in the wilderness which allow construction/maintenance at very primitive levels.

We also wish to remind you that any work done in the wilderness must be coordinated with the Forest Service and approved by us.

Thanks again for a job well done.

Sincerely,

DUANE J. HANSON
Public Service Team Leader



Caring for the Land and Serving People

FS-6200-28b(3/92)

Letter from Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4052

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1995
MADISON TRAILS OFFICE

May 8, 1995

Mr. Thomas L. Gilbert, Superintendent,
Ice Age, North Country, and
Lewis and Clark National Trails
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Sorry for this late reply to your letter of March 6, 1995, it was good that Bill Menke did a follow-up because when we were contacted about your letter, we started to look for the original and as yet, we have not found it.

As stated in your letter, we also agree that it makes more sense to utilize existing non-motorized trails. This would lessen our concern about the motorized issue. Also, as you pointed out, this change would avoid an area which would probably not accommodate a summer use trail. We feel if this proposed change is made that the North Country NST would be one step closer to completion.

If you have any questions, please feel free in contacting this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DWA Asmussen".

Dennis W. Asmussen, Director
Trails and Waterways Unit
(612) 296-4822

DWA:kkm

cc: Thomas R. Danger

DNR Information: 612-296-6157, 1-800-766-6000 • TTY: 612-296-5484, 1-800-657-3929

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Letter from the Superior Hiking Trail Association



The Superior Hiking Trail Association

P.O. Box 4, Two Harbors, MN, 55616-0004 (218) 834-4436

RECEIVED

DEC 15 1994

MADISON TRAILS OFFICE

September 20, 1994

Bill Menke
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

This letter is to officially inform you that at the September 17, 1994 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Superior Hiking Trail Association, a motion was made and passed that the Superior Hiking Trail Association join and become a part of the North Country National Scenic Trail. We understand that the Superior Hiking Trail portion will be a part of a system that will connect several other hiking trails in Minnesota. We look forward to working with the North Country Trail Association in this cooperative effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rudi Hargesheimer".

Rudi Hargesheimer, President
Superior Hiking Trail Association

enc.



Letter from Minnesota Rovers-Border Route

RECEIVED
DEC 10 1993
IATR

P.O. Box 14133
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414



Ralph Pribble
391 Beacon Av.
St. Paul, MN 55104
(612) 296-7792

December 8, 1993
Thomas Gilbert
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Thank you for your letter of December 3 regarding proposed rerouting of the North Country Trail to include the Border Route Hiking Trail in northeastern Minnesota. The Rovers have been aware for some time that such a reroute was contemplated and we have considered the issue before. Your listing of advantages and disadvantages helped shed further light on things.

The members of the Minnesota Rovers Outing Club were the prime movers in building the Border Route in the 1970s, and we continue today to maintain it and publish the only available trail guide for the route. As Trails Coordinator for the Rovers, I am authorized by our executive board to speak for the club on issues affecting the Border Route. The Rovers support the proposal to reroute the NCT along the Border Route and stand ready to help your or other agencies accomplish this.

That said, I want to express our feelings about the trail that I hope will be considered as this project moves ahead. The Border Route is very much a wilderness trail. It's rugged, often difficult, very undeveloped, and in fact many novice backpackers would be in over their heads on it. This ruggedness is of course part of the trail's appeal. It's widely regarded as the finest wilderness hiking trail in the central states, and we would not want to see this wild character compromised. For example, the Border Route was not designed for skiing and we would not like to see it "retrofitted" for skiers (i.e. widened and straightened); we're also somewhat uncomfortable with the idea of huts, shelters, or other permanent improvements. In short, we'd hate to see the Border Route so tamed that you couldn't even get lost on it anymore!

On the other hand, we're excited about the possibility that NCT status may in fact confer increased protection from development on the Border Route. From the Rovers' perspective, the proposed reroute should enhance both trails.

Please contact me if the Rovers can be of further assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pribble
Trails Coordinator,
Minnesota Rovers Outing Club

Letter from Kekekabic Trail Club

KEKEKABIC TRAIL CLUB

PO Box 130845
Roseville, MN 55113
1-800-818-HIKE

TO: Thomas L. Gilbert, Superintendent cc: Jo Barnier
Hans Erdman
FROM: Bruce T. Anderson, Secretary, KTC Chris Haak
Duane Hanson
DATE: February 6, 1995 Jerry Jussila
Steve Schug

SUBJECT: AFFILIATION OF KEKEKABIC TRAIL WITH THE NORTH
COUNTRY TRAIL

The Board of Directors of the Kekekabic Trail Club voted on January 25, 1995 to have the Kekekabic Trail become affiliated with the North Country National Scenic Trail. Many of our concerns were addressed in your letter to John Koffski of January 6, 1995 [L6017 (IATR) NOCO-MN]. Our continued independence and the identity of the Kekekabic Trail were our greatest reservations to becoming part of the North Country Trail system. The goal of the North Country Trail is admirable but we are approaching this relationship with a certain amount of caution. The strongest concerns that arose during our discussion are outlined below.

1. We recognize the option to de-certify, as mentioned in Section 4 of your letter.
2. The Kekekabic Trail will continue to be known and labeled as the Kekekabic Trail on maps. "The route of the North Country Trail" in smaller font may be added when appropriate.
3. Unlike the Superior Hiking Trail there is minimal signing on the Kekekabic Trail. There are a couple of Forest Service signs at the eastern trailhead where it meets the Gunflint Trail. We feel strongly that the sign placed at the eastern trailhead by the KTC should not be encumbered with other signs. The western trailhead soon may be moving closer to Ely. Since most of this trail is within the BWCAW there is no organized signing on the Kekekabic Trail between the trailheads, nor is any desired.

4. The Kekekabic Trail Club is a small, understaffed and underfinanced organization which has dedicated its resources to clearing hiking trails. We do not have the energy or inclination towards more extensive involvement with the Federal government, such as more paperwork for the National Park Service.
5. I have seen stated several times that all portions of the North Country Trail are to be non-motorized. The short segments of the Kekekabic Trail at each end that are outside the BWCAW but in the Superior National Forest are presently used by snowmobiles and ATVs. This is an issue that would have to be worked out with our landlord, the U. S. Forest Service.
6. We have been told by the Forest Service that affiliation with the North Country Trail will have no effect on the Wilderness status of the Kekekabic Trail, including the present system of permits and quotas.
7. We understand that there are funds available for specific projects and tools. We read that the Superior Hiking Trail Association has already received a grant for tools. We are also interested in funding for tools. Please have someone communicate to me the process for applying for funds.

We think the "string of pearls" strategy is a good idea for the hiking community and takes advantage of the best hiking in Minnesota. Although we are cautious about this new relationship we are hopeful that it will work for all of us in the long run.

Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment -Errata

Errata – The following changes were made to the final version of the document.

Preferred Alternative Map-Page 21- Revision in response to Chippewa National Forest (NF) and public comments suggesting that the connecting corridor be widened in places to increase flexibility for locating a route for new trail development

The Preferred Alternative Map was revised in response to comments received by mail and during the public open houses. Portions of the proposed corridor were widened. The revised map is included in these errata.

3.9.1 Ceded Lands-Page 33-Additional Information- In response to 1854 Authority comments requesting description of treaty ceded lands, the following paragraph is added

The 1854 Ceded Territory encompasses all of Lake and Cook Counties, most of St. Louis and Carleton County and portions of Pine and Aitkin Counties. Under the treaty of 1854 three bands (Boise Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac) reserved the right to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The exercise of these rights continues today in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The Boise Forte reservation was established under the Treaty of 1866.

4.4 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Biological Resources-Page 41- In response to Superior NF comments requesting inclusion by reference of the Region 9 sensitive species list and specific reference to three species of concern, the following paragraph is added to the end of this section and Appendix 6 is added to the document

The Forest Service is concerned that there may be impacts to osprey, great blue heron, and the common loon. These species are included in the revised Superior National Forest Plan. The trail can, and should be designed to preclude any impacts to these species. Forest Service planning for new trail segments in the connecting corridor can assess potential impacts to these species and route new segments accordingly.

4.6 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Community Resources-Page 43-Additional Information - In response to Superior NF comments, the following paragraph is revised to include the sentence in ***Bold and Italics***

Impacts within the connecting corridor:

There is significant local, regional, and national support for the preferred alternative. Availability of a national scenic trail in this region could provide additional recreational visitors to the area accompanied with minor positive economic impacts to local communities and businesses along the route. Costs related to construction, operation, and

maintenance of the trail on public lands would be a part of the normal budgeting of the specific managing agency. *Due to current funding and personnel limitations the Superior NF may require additional funding to complete the necessary NEPA and actual trail construction work.* Most of the actual trail construction and maintenance is generally done by volunteers and would not result in a significant economic impact on the planning area, although there may be some additional spending by volunteers while working in the area. In general, there would be beneficial impacts on the communities along this corridor caused by construction of the trail as proposed in this alternative. The impacts would be minor and continuing.

Appendix 3-Known Historical Sites and Structures in Project Area

Add the following site to Appendix 3 under Itasca County

Joyce Estate—potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

Additional Appendix-In response to Superior NF comments, the following Appendix is added to the document

Appendix 6 - Forest Service Region 9 Sensitive Species List

The Forest Service Region 9 Sensitive Species List is incorporated by reference. This list may be found at the following web site: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/tes_lists.htm

Typographical Corrections – During the course of public meetings and public written comments, a number of typographical errors were found. The following corrections to the draft document should be made as noted:

3.10.2 Superior National Forest

Second paragraph, last sentence – “The Superior NF would continue to **manage** the trail on the basis of established Forest Policies and the applicable standards and guidelines.” The word was incorrectly spelled “**mange**”.

Throughout the document - Correct “**Vermillion Lake**” to “**Vermilion Lake**” (only one “l”).

Page 38, last bullet on this page - Correct it to read:

- Cost of construction and operation of new trail. **This issue is discussed in section 4.6.** [It incorrect cited section **4.7.**

The following list of Preparers, Consultants, and Recipients of the Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment is added to the end of the document:

List of Preparers

Primary Preparers

Ken Howell Land Protection Coordinator, North Country National Scenic Trail
 Fredrick A. Szarka Manager, North Country National Scenic Trail
 Thomas L. Gilbert Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails

Technical Consultants

Paul Roberts United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Biologist

List of Persons Consulted

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Sue	Duffy	Outdoor Rec. Planner	Superior National Forest
Michelle	Johnson		ARDC
Ann	Long Voelkner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Chippewa National Forest
Rod	MacRae	MN Coordinator	North Country Trail Association (NCTA)
Dirk	Mason	Recreation Planner	NCTA
Bill	Menke	North Country Trail Manager (retired)	NPS
Judy	Ness		Superior National Forest
Gayle	Coyer	Executive Director	Superior Hiking Trail Association
Les	Ollila	Supervisor-Trails and Waterways	Minnesota DNR - Region 2
Dennis	Gimmstead	Compliance Officer	Minnesota SHPO
Roger	Clark	Park System Manager	Itasca County
Todd	Driscoll	Itasca County Trails Council	
Larry	Duffy	Resource Management Supervisor	St. Louis County
Ed	Steklaska		
Kelly	Fleissner		City of Duluth
Dorian	Grilley	Executive Director	Minnesota Parks & Trails Council
John	Hanson		Blandin Paper Company
Andy	Holak	Recreation Specialist	St. Louis County

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Tim	Howard	Associate Director	
Marilyn	Isaac	Coordinator	City of Grand Rapids, MN
Tim	Kennedy	Planning Director	
John	Leinen, Jr.	Board of Directors	NCTA
Eunice	Luedtke	Manager	Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
Bill	Majewski		City of Duluth
Bob	Manzoline	Executive Director	Mesabi Trail
Tom	Martinson	Land Commissioner	Lake County
Thor	Nordwall		
Garret	Ous	Land Commissioner	Itasca County
Derrick	Passe	President	Kekekabic Trail Club
Tom	Peterson		MN-DNR
Ralph	Pribble	President	Minnesota Rovers Outing Club
Dave	Soreenson		Chippewa National Forest
Chuck	Spoden	Regional Forest Manager	Minnesota DNR
Howard	Zeman	Relationships & Partnerships Coordinator	US Forest Service

Recipients of Environmental Assessment

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Keith	Hamre	Community Development	City of Duluth
Carl	Seehus	Director Parks and Recreation	City of Duluth
Mayor Herb	Bergson	Mayor	City of Duluth
Dennis	Gimmestad	Review and Compliance	Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer
Robin	Glasser	Mayor	City of Two Harbors
Mark	Sandbo	Mayor	City of Grand Marais
Senator Mark	Dayton	Senator	United States Senate
Susan	Zeige	Mayor	City of Grand Rapids
Norm	Moody	Land Commissioner	Cass County
Jim	Dowson	Chairman Board of County Commissioners	Cass County
Rep. David	Obey	Representative	U.S. Congress
Minnesota Dept. of Transportation	Attn: Gerry Larson		Minnesota Dept. of Transportation
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service	Attn: Tim Koehler		Natural Resources Conservation Service

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
North Country Trail Association	Attn:Rob Corbett	Director of Trail Management	North Country Trail Association
US Army Corps of Engineers	Attn: Julett Denton	Regulatory Affairs	US Army Corps of Engineers
Bemidji State University			
Duluth Public Library			
Anoka County Library System			
St. Johns University			
University of Minnesota, Duluth Library			
Dakota County Library System	Wescott Library		
Hennepin County Library System			
Minnesota State University,	Mankato Memorial Library		
Southwest Minnesota State University	Library		
Minneapolis Public Library			
University of Minnesota			
Law Library			
Minnesota State University			
University of Minnesota	Morris		
Carleton College			
Rolvaag Memorial Library			
Ramsey County Public Library			
St. Cloud State University			
Hamline University			

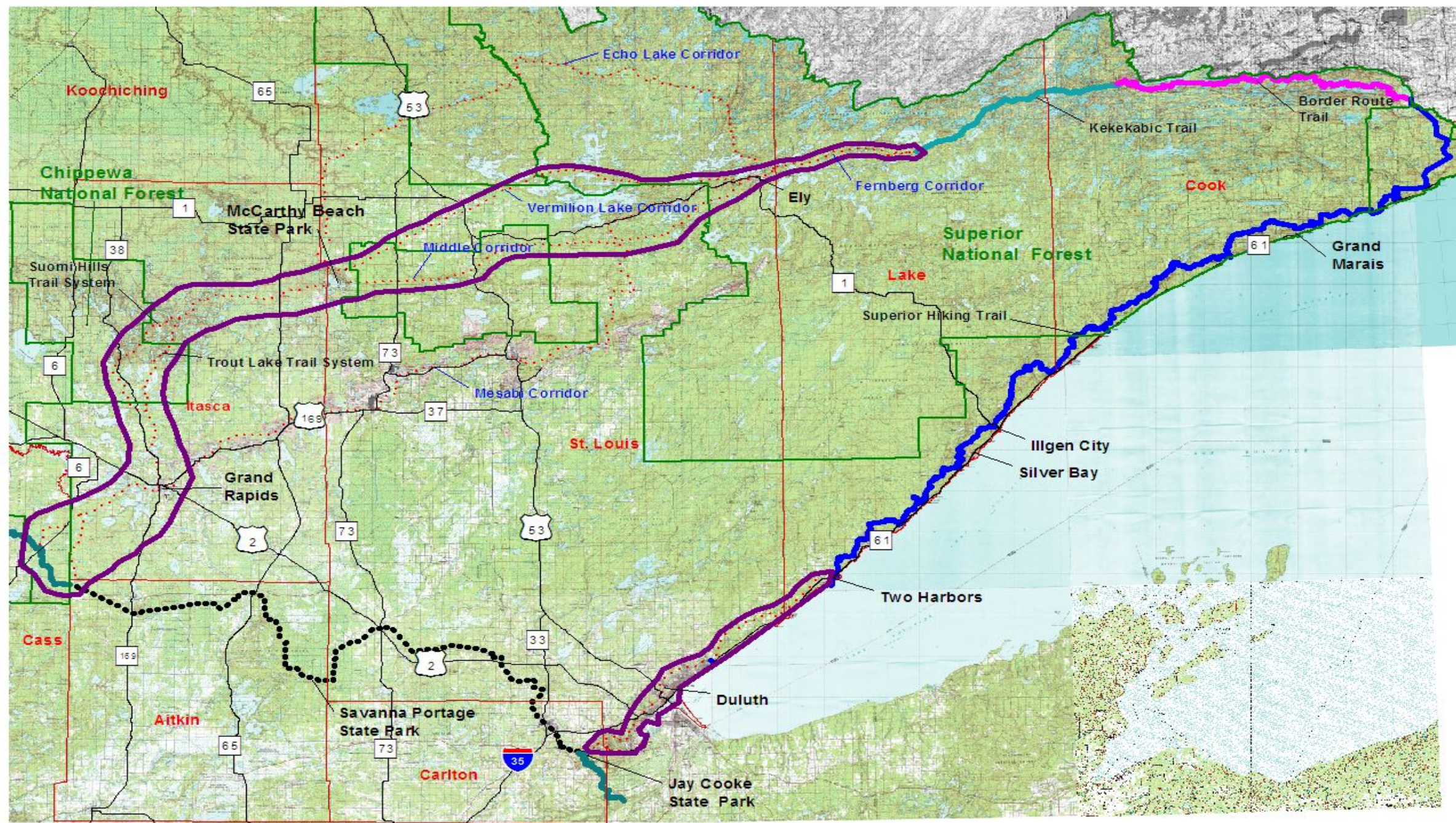
First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Minnesota Supreme Court			
St. Paul Public Library			
University of Minnesota	St. Paul		
William Mitchell College of Law			
Gustavus Adolphus College			
Winona State University			
Darin	Miller		
Richard	Blake	Roll Development Coordinator	
Mesabi Trail	Attn: Bob Manzoline	Executive Director	
Tim	Cochrane	Superintendent Grand Portage NM	National Park Service
Sarah	Strommen	Policy Director	friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
John	Leinen	Board Chair	NCTA
Superior National Forest	attn: Judy Ness	Recreation Planner	USDA Forest Service (USFS)
Kawishiwi Ranger District	Attn: Mark Van Every	District Ranger	USFS
La Croix Ranger District	Attn: Constance Chaney	District Ranger	USFS
Gunflint Ranger District	Attn: Dennis Neitzke	District Ranger	USFS
Laurentian Ranger District	Attn: Allan Bier	District Ranger	USFS
Tofte Ranger District	attn: Jackie Andrew	District Ranger	USFS
Chippewa National Forest	Attn: Mike Martin	Recreation Manager	USFS
Black Duck Ranger District	Attn Tracy Beck	District Ranger	USFS
Deer River Ranger District	Attn: Wade Spang	District Ranger	USFS
Walker Ranger District	Attn: Tom Somrak	District Ranger	USFS
Superior Hiking Trail Association	Attn:Gayle Coyer	Director	

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Laurie	Martinson	Director, Trails and Waterways Unit	Minnesota DNR
Rick	Certano	Executive Director	Spirit Mountain
John	Guenther	Regional Administrator	Minnesota DNR
John	Hollquist	Forest Recreation & Land Specialist	Division of Forestry
Barbara	West	Superintendent, Voyagers NP	NPS
Bill	Morrissey	Director, Parks & Recreation Division	Minnesota DNR
Robert	Tomlinson,	Director, Forestry Division	Minnesota DNR
Dennis	Thompson		Minnesota DNR
John	Vogel	Land Commissioner	St. Louis County
David	Schtzko	Trails Specialist	Minnesota DNR
Tim	Engrav	Recreation Resource and Planning Coordinator	Itasca County Planning and Park System
Dale	Anderson	Parks and Recreation Director	City of Grand Rapids
Charles	Driscoll	Grand Rapids City Council	CP Driscoll and Associates
Jon	Nelson	Environmental Review/legislative coordinator	Minnesota DNR-Forestry
Dave	Epperly	Land Commissioner	St. Louis County
Barb	Hayden	Planning Director	St. Louis County
Steve	Raukar	Board of County Commissioners- Chair	St. Louis County
Larry	Larson	Chairman-Board of Commissioners	Lake County
Tom	Martinson	Forester	Lake County-Dept. of Forestry
Dick	Siegel	Land Use Administrator	Lake County-Planning
Ann	Cervenka		Cook County-Planning and Zoning
Robert	Fenwick	Board Chair	Lake County Commissioners
Ted	Mershon	Land Commissioner	Lake County
Reggie	Lee	County Commissioner	Carleton County
Roger	Howard	Land Commissioner	Aitkin County
Mel	Tan	Chairman-Board of Commissioners	Carlton County
Milo	Rasmussen	Land Commissioner	Carleton County
Garrett	Ous	Land Commissioner	Itasca County
Russell	Klegstad	Chairman- Board of Commissioners	Itasca County
Roger	Clark	County Park System Manager	Itasca County

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company
Senator Norm	Coleman	senator	United State Senate
Congressman James	Oberstar	Congressman	United States Congress
United States Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3	Jeff Goffe	Biologist	USFWS
Federal Highway Administration	Minnesota Division- Attn: Cheryl Martin	Cheryl Maritin-environmental program engineer	D.O.T.
1854 Authority	Attn: Darren Vogt		1854 Commission
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Tribal Council		
Ferdinand	Martineau	Division Director, Resource Management	Fond du Lac Tribe
St. Croix National Scenic River		Superintendent	NPS
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council	Norman W. Deschampe	Chairman	Grand Portage Band
Leech Lake Reservation	John Ringle	Director of Natural Resources	Leech Lake Band of Obijwe

Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment Preferred Alternative Map

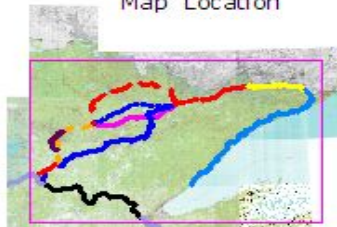
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- County Boundary
- Kekekabic Trail
- Border Route Trail
- Superior Hiking Trail
- Existing North Country Trail
- ⋯ 1982 Plan Trail
- ⋯ Alternative Corridors Considered
- U.S. and State Highway
- Connecting Corridor Existing Segment
- National Forest Boundary

Map Location



This map is a graphic representation. It should not be considered as representing precise trail location.

North Country National Scenic Trail

GIS Team



5 0 5 10 15 Miles



1 : 887,040 1 inch = 14.00 miles

September 09 2010

Finding of No Significant Impact



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Ice Age & North Country
National Scenic Trails
700 Rayovac Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-2468

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617(NOCO-MN)
xD18(NOCO-MN)

September 23, 2004

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails

Subject: Approval of Finding of No Significant Impact, Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment, North Country National Scenic Trail (NST)

Enclosed for your approval and signature is the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment, North Country NST. Your approval of this document will conclude this planning effort and prepare the way for the next steps in adopting a revised route for the trail in Northeastern Minnesota, which will likely include some form of Congressional review and approval, possibly legislation. A copy of the Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment document and subsequent Errata are enclosed as background information.

As you know from previous briefings and your presence with us during the time we conducted the final public meetings, there is unanimous support from all sectors for making this change in the route. No one has voiced opposition. The only concern expressed was how long this process has taken to reach what to everyone seems an obvious decision (to change the route).

In anticipation that Congress may wish to express their approval through legislation, we have prepared the enclosed draft bill that would revise the route of the trail by substituting a new map of the route for the one cited in the original 1980 authorization. The Land Resources Division is preparing the new map. Specific references to the map in the draft bill can be filled in when their work is completed.

The next step, from our perspective, is preparing for and conducting the briefings in Washington that were suggested when we met with you, Dave Given, and Sandra Washington this past February 11. We will work with Al Hutchings to make arrangements for the briefings.

We look forward to your approval and completing the next steps to accomplish this change in the route of the North Country NST. Minnesota trail interests are eager to have this change declared official.

Thomas L. Gilbert

Enclosures:
Finding of No Significant Impact
Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment
Errata
Draft bill

North Country National Scenic Trail
Environmental Assessment
Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment
Finding of No Significant Impact

The purpose of the Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment was to reevaluate the currently authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NST) and examine alternatives. A revision to the current route was proposed by local and state officials and representatives of trail organizations, who believe that building the North Country NST in the corridor defined in the 1982 Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use of the North Country NST (CP) between Jay Cooke State Park (SP) and the Chippewa National Forest (NF) is inadvisable. Minnesota trail advocates recommended against developing that route because there are extensive Black Spruce/Tamarack wetlands that would make it difficult to construct trail and because the landscape is uninspiring.

The Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would amend the route identified in the CP for Northeastern Minnesota and follow three existing long-distance trails – Superior Hiking Trail, Border Route Trail, and Kekekabic Trail—and then seek to develop trail connections utilizing corridors to link those trails to the existing trail segments in Jay Cooke State Park and the Chippewa NF. This alternative incorporates over 300 miles of spectacular scenery along the three existing trails and offers the potential to develop additional trail in a landscape that contains significantly more uplands.

This alternative delineates corridors where future trail segments would be located and developed to connect the three existing trails with other existing portions of the North Country NST. There are two primary corridors where additional trail will need to be built:

- (1) Between Jay Cooke SP and Two Harbors, Minnesota--The Superior Hiking Trail Association is developing a trail southwestward from Two Harbors through the city of Duluth to Jay Cooke SP as an extension of the Superior Hiking Trail—a trail that already extends 200 miles northeastward from Two Harbors along the highlands near the shore of Lake Superior.
- (2) Between the end of the Kekekabic Trail east of Ely, Minnesota, and the Chippewa NF—A broad corridor is proposed that is defined by routes passing north and south of Vermilion Lake between Ely and McCarthy Beach SP, and incorporating sections of existing trail in the eastern Chippewa NF and community multi-use trails in Ely and Grand Rapids. This corridor rejoins the existing trail near Remer. This alternative combines the outstanding Lake Superior vistas of the Superior Hiking Trail, and the spectacular scenery of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness traversed by the Border Route and Kekekabic Trails.

Public Involvement

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a “Draft Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment” for public review on May 26, 2004. The document was open for public comment for 35 days, until June 30. A total of 12 comments were received, none of which opposed the Preferred Alternative. Most were short notes endorsing the idea of using the three existing trails as part of the route of the North Country NST.

Public open house meetings were held in Bloomington, Grand Rapids, Ely, and Duluth. Attendees were enthusiastic about the prospect of relocating the route of the trail as proposed. We also received

suggestions for refining the Preferred Alternative by slightly widening the corridor shown on the map between McCarthy Beach SP and Grand Rapids.

Alternatives Considered

The NPS considered two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, discussed above, and a No-action Alternative.

Under the No-action Alternative, the NPS would continue to work with public and private partners to locate and develop the trail as outlined in the 1982 CP. This alternative would route the trail generally westward from Jay Cooke SP, through Savanna Portage SP and Savanna State Forest (SF), and then westward to the eastern end of the existing North Country NST in the Chippewa NF south of Remer.

Environmental Consequences – Selected Alternative

As documented in the Environment Assessment (EA) and Errata, the NPS has determined that the Preferred Alternative can be implemented with no significant adverse impacts to soils, air quality, water resources, flood plains, wetlands, vegetation, fisheries, wildlife, threatened/endangered species, visual quality, aesthetics/recreation, wilderness, cultural resources, park management, or the local economy.

Allowing the North Country NST to follow the existing long-distance trails will have little additional impact on these already popular hiking trails. However, the recreational experience of the hikers on the North Country NST will be significantly enhanced by the vistas and environments traversed by these trails.

Where new trails need to be designed and built, additional consultation may be required to assure that trail development will not have adverse impacts. That consultation will be undertaken as trail plans are developed by local volunteers, land managers, and owners.

Cultural resources will be avoided where known and every effort will be made to include consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) at the earliest “scouting” phase of trail route selection to locate a route that does not have the potential to affect cultural sites. If, in the opinion of the land owner or manager, it is desirable to route the trail to visit particular cultural sites, the NPS will assist with interpreting the sites to trail users.

Wetlands will be avoided wherever possible to minimize impacts as well as construction costs and efforts. Unavoidable wetland crossings will be accomplished via elevated puncheon or boardwalk to minimize direct contact with the vegetation and to improve the aesthetics of the crossing.

Scenic and recreational values will be significant considerations in the design of new trail segments. To the extent possible, it is the goal of the NPS to provide the highest scenic and recreational values along the North Country NST. At the same time, the trail itself is designed to lie lightly on the land, both to minimize the effort required to construct the trail and to assure that the trail is unobtrusive.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

As stated in Section 2.7.D of *Director’s Order #12 and Handbook*, the environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy expressed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Sec. 101 (b)). This includes alternatives that:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.

2. Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically- and culturally-pleasing surroundings.
3. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
4. Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.
5. Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.
6. Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The Preferred Alternative fully addresses the North Country NST's purpose to provide a high-quality hiking experience and safeguard vital natural and cultural resources. The NST was created to provide for the enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, recreational, and cultural resources in seven northern states. Relocating the route of the NST to include the three existing long-distance hiking trails in Northeastern Minnesota reinforces that mission.

The Purpose of the North Country NST is:

To establish a trail within scenic areas of the Nation to provide increased outdoor recreation opportunities and promote preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the national scenic and historic resources.

To provide for superlative outdoor recreation opportunities and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the areas through which the trail passes.

To provide a premier hiking trail facility and experience consistent with preserving the landscape in which the trail is established.

To encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management of the trail, wherever appropriate.

The Preferred Alternative will not adversely affect the values of the existing trails and is supported by the members of the clubs that built and maintain these trails. Such cooperative efforts are encouraged by the National Trails System Act and NPS management policies. In addition, the Preferred Alternative is manageable and sustainable. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative.

The Preferred Alternative and Significance Criteria

As defined in 40 CFR §1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse: A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative will produce long-term beneficial effects for hikers and the environment. The route avoids a corridor dominated by wetlands and follows three already-developed hiking trails. Where new connecting trail needs to be developed, there is proportionally less wetland and more available upland for trail location.

The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety:

The Preferred Alternative will enhance public health by bringing national recognition to the three existing long-distance trails and the outdoor recreation experiences they provide, as well as by adding over 300 miles of high-quality hiking trail to the North Country NST.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

The Preferred Alternative will avoid cultural resource sites unless the manager of those resources requests that the trail be routed to those sites to interpret the story of a site for hikers. The SHPO was contacted and did not specifically comment on the plan, but the SHPO is interested in developing a programmatic agreement for planning future trail development with the NPS.

The Preferred Alternative calls for initially incorporating three existing trails which possess high-quality scenic resources and vistas into the route of the North Country NST. These trails will be extended through two connecting corridors containing additional outstanding scenic resources. Seven state parks are on the route of the present Superior Hiking Trail and additional state parks are within the potential route corridors and will be connected by the trail, if possible. There are no prime farmlands within the route. Wetlands will be avoided wherever possible and where wetlands must be traversed, they will be crossed utilizing elevated structures to minimize impacts. There are no national wild or scenic rivers that would be affected. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) indicated that development of a hiking trail would have no impact on threatened or endangered species in the area.

The degree to which the effect on the quality of the human environment is likely to be highly controversial:

The Preferred Alternative is not controversial. It was supported by all comments received via the Internet, in writing, and orally. The only concern expressed by many of the people who attended the open house meetings related to the time it has taken for the NPS to complete the Route Assessment and propose relocating the route of the trail.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:

The Preferred Alternative poses no effects of these types.

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:

The Preferred Alternative calls for trail development within identified corridors. When the trail route is "scouted," care will be taken to avoid known cultural resource sites and additional consultation will be done with the SHPO and various THPOs to avoid any new or potential cultural sites. Appropriate permits will be obtained for work in wetlands where those wetlands can not be avoided. Additional detailed planning may be done to assess impacts of specific trail segments if warranted. However, since the trail is to be routed away from culturally sensitive areas and wetlands, and since hiking trails have no impact on threatened or endangered species, it is unlikely that impacts will occur. Therefore, this action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:

As noted above, since new trail development will be sited to avoid areas where impacts can be anticipated and consultation with appropriate agencies will remain ongoing, it is unlikely that any significant cumulative impact will occur.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:

The Preferred Alternative calls for the trail to avoid all known cultural resources unless the manager or others with responsibility for the resource desire the trail to connect to the site so that the resource can be interpreted for trail users. As more detailed "scouting" is undertaken, additional contacts with the SHPO and THPOs will be made to assure that new or potential cultural resources can be avoided. The 1854 Authority, an intertribal natural resource management organization, supported using existing trails where possible and the strategy of avoiding other cultural resources when developing additional trail. A copy of the draft document was provided to the Minnesota SHPO on May 23, 2004. In a telephone conversation with that office on August 13, 2004, the Minnesota SHPO advised the NPS that they had not been able to review the document to date and that the NPS could proceed.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:

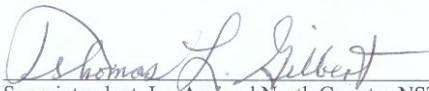
The FWS was consulted informally and the NPS received an electronic mail response on October 28, 2003, from the agency indicating that developing a hiking trail, whether the No-action or the Preferred Alternative, would have no impact on endangered or threatened species or critical habitat for them. This concluded the consultation with the FWS.

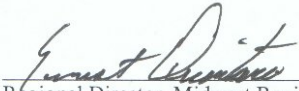
Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local environmental protection law:

The preferred alternative will not violate any Federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

The impacts resulting from the Preferred Alternative will not impair any park resource or value necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the trail's enabling legislation. The impacts documented in the EA and Errata and summarized above will not affect resources or values key to the natural, cultural, or recreational integrity of the trail or alter opportunities for enjoyment of the trail. This alternative will not impair park resources and will not violate the NPS Organic Act.

I find that the Preferred Alternative does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508), an environmental impact statement is not required and one will not be prepared.

Recommended:  9/10/04
 Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country NSTs Date

Approved:  9/10/04
 Regional Director, Midwest Region Date

