Superior Wildlands 2011

A FREE GUIDE
To Your Central Upper Peninsula Federal Lands


Grand Sable Dunes, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.



Sandhill Cranes. Credit: Bart Spratto, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.


Grand Island National Recreation Area, Hiawatha National Forest.

The American Beech: A Tree in Trouble

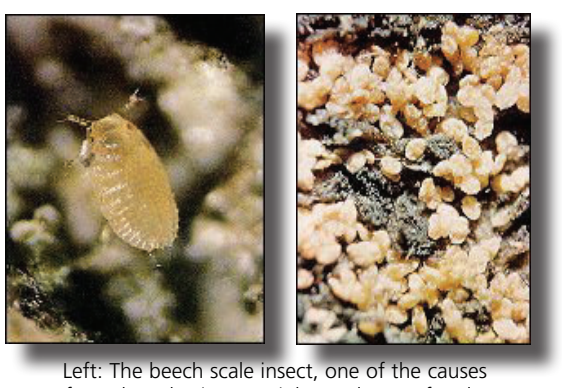
The American Beech

The American beech (beech) is a tall, stately tree with smooth gray bark and a graceful arching crown. Its dark green, shiny leaves, tapered at both ends, turn bronze in the fall and cling to its branches throughout the winter. The eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan lies at the northwestern edge of the range of the beech and in some areas beech trees are a significant component of northern hardwood stands. In these forests, beechnuts are an important food source for wildlife, including black bear, squirrels, porcupines, white-tailed deer and various birds, such as ruffed grouse. Beech trees also provide homes for cavity dwellers like flying squirrels, pine martin, fisher, and some species of nesting birds. Nature lovers may enjoy scanning the trunks of beech trees looking for the claw marks of black bears which shimmy up the tree to feast on its nuts.

Beech Bark Disease

The beech is in trouble. Since its introduction from Europe to Nova Scotia around 1890, beech bark disease (BBD) has spread at a relatively slow, but steady, rate. BBD was first discovered in the U.S. in Maine in 1932 and was discovered in Michigan in 2000.

BBD results from an interaction between three or more organisms (the tree, an insect, and a type of fungi). The non-native insect, called beech scale, causes a small wound on the tree. Scales have sucking mouthparts which are used to pierce the bark of the beech tree and suck out sap. These wounds weaken the tree and provide entrance ports for one or more of three fungal *(Nectria)* species which cause bark cankers. Infection with the fungus usually happens about three to six years after infestation with beech scales. The fungus kills areas of woody tissue. If enough is killed, the tree may be girdled and die. Some trees linger for several years, then eventually succumb to the fungus or another disease. Infested trees are often attacked by other insects or diseases which hastens tree mortality.


Left: The beech scale insect, one of the causes of Beech Bark Disease. Right: A cluster of scales.

To recognize beech trees affected by the disease, look at the bark which may have a waxy-white appearance, cankers or breaks in the bark may be evident. Some trees may have small fuzzy white bumps that look much like a piece of a cotton ball stuck to the bark. Upon closer inspection, you may even see the small scale insects. Trees may also have reduced leaf size, discolored foliage, dieback, reduced growth and reduced beechnut production.

Effects of BBD on the Forest

As BBD spreads through the forest, beech trees will begin to die. The dead and dying trees often suffer from a condition called beech snap, where part of the beech tree will snap off and fall to the ground, especially in high wind events. Beech snap poses a safety hazard to forest visitors. Anyone entering or camping in a forest should be aware of their surroundings and be cautious around infected beech trees.

When a tree is either removed or falls over a light gap is created. These gaps give other trees a chance to receive light and grow. In the case of the northern hardwoods forests, beech mortality creates a light gap, with the fastest growing saplings of a given tree species being the ones to replace the downed tree. Depending on management practices, the trees growing in these gaps may be any number of northern hardwood species, with sugar and red maple often the most common.

Although the future sounds bleak for this magnificent tree, some will survive. These survivors may have been lucky enough to escape the BBD or they may be resistant trees. The offspring of resistant trees may help us restore beech to the forests someday. However, it will likely not be in the lifetime of any reader of this article.

In the meantime, it is important to remember some of these infected trees may continue to produce beechnuts for several years before succumbing to the disease. Once a tree does die it is not useless as is oftentimes thought. Dead trees become important habitat for woodpeckers and other birds who dine on grubs and other insects. Holes become homes for a number of animals. A dead tree is infinitely useful and may very well provide more homes and food for a greater variety of animals than a live tree.

Hiawatha National Forest

While there are no pure beech stands on the Hiawatha National Forest (HNF), many of the hardwood stands include a significant component of beech. HNF has included these areas in the BBD Project Environmental Analysis. These stands are within the advancing front of the BBD and many of the stands already have the beech scale present, particularly in the north and east portions of the project area. Areas that have not yet been infested will likely be infested within 1-3 years.

Safety is the number one concern. Dying beech trees will need to be removed in all public areas to prevent them from becoming a safety hazard. The recreation team on the HNF is assessing these areas (including parking areas, campsites, trails, and day use areas) to determine what the potential hazards will be and the best way to deal with them. Visitors to the Forest need to be prepared that the landscape of the Forest will be changing. This may be very difficult for many users who are very familiar with the Forest, and who have favorite spots to camp, hike, bike, fish, hunt, etc. In some extreme cases, there will be sites that will be permanently closed and/or moved to another area. Forest users will also need to develop a heightened awareness of their surroundings. Although the majority of hazardous trees will be removed, due to the sheer volume of beech trees, there may be some that are missed. Use extreme caution in the woods on windy days.

Canopy gaps created by the removal of high risk beech trees provide an opportunity to encourage black cherry, yellow birch, and white pine to grow in their place. It is not desirable to totally eliminate beech from forest as trees that appear resistant to the scale would be identified and saved in hope that someday they would repopulate the forest.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Since the discovery of BBD at the Lakeshore in 2001, the park has been monitoring the progression of the disease and removing hazard trees from areas where visitors could be injured including campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots. In some forest stands at the Lakeshore 45 to 60 percent of the trees are beech. As you can imagine, without in-

tervention the beech component of the park forests will be effectively removed, negatively impacting biodiversity, wildlife, forest fuel dynamics, and regeneration of both beech and non-beech tree species.

Lakeshore resources managers will evaluate the impacts of BBD, to systematically locate, characterize and preserve resistant trees. This work will assist with the long term retention of beech as a component of northern hardwood forests at the park.

In an effort to manage BBD in the park the following steps will be taken: revisit biological monitoring plots in beech-maple forest types and establish additional plots in susceptible forest types as needed over a three year period; detect, tag and map resistant beech; monitor resistant trees for continued expression of resistance; collect seed and cuttings from resistant trees; select a site and establish a beech arboretum within the park with resistant tree material collected directly from the area; develop a Lakeshore BBD response plan to retain beech as a component of the forest; and produce maps showing impact and distribution of beech scale and BBD within the park as well as resistant beech trees.

Lakeshore managers hope to re-establish the beech to some semblance of beech in the forest matrix in 300 or more years, and not merely save a few token resistant trees. The park aims to build on ongoing research and continue to best protect remaining resistant beech trees and use their genetic material to enhance beech occurrence throughout the landscape thereby retaining beech as a viable component of Lakeshore forests.



Park staff taking a core sample of an American beech tree.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

BBD was first documented on the Refuge in 2003 as part of the state-wide assessment. In 2006, a more general northern hardwood stand assessment and evaluation was conducted at the Refuge. The findings provided an estimate of the dominance of beech in these northern hardwood forests. Many of these stands were dominated by relatively large beech trees that are expected to succumb to the disease. As a result, gaps in the canopy will likely be relatively large, but still small enough that it is most likely sugar maple (and not less light demanding tree species such as black cherry or yellow birch) will become established.

Active management practices to mitigate for the impacts of BBD are planned at the Refuge. However, to avoid inadvertently killing a BBD-resistant tree, no beech trees will be harvested unless there is a safety concern. Instead the forest will be managed to enhance the species composition of the northern hardwood forests found at the Refuge. Trees touching mature yellow birch and eastern hemlock will be thinned to help the yellow birch and eastern hemlock increase their seed production. As beech die the openings around these trees will also be enlarged to help create larger light gaps on the forest floor. As new trees begin to grow in these light gaps, yellow birch and eastern hemlock will be encouraged by hand-cutting maple saplings or other competing species. White pine under planting is also being planned. The hope is that the forest will retain a greater diversity until beech can once again be established.

Conclusion

Each of the three different agencies represented in this article have a different plan to manage their hardwood forests in the aftermath of BBD. Although the immediate future of this majestic and important tree is bleak, the long term future is hopeful. Though you and I will likely not see the effects of this long term project, future generations of visitors will hopefully be able to enjoy the American beech.

Natural History Associations - Partners in Interpretation & Education

The money you spend on souvenirs in gift stores at the Park, Forest or Refuge, generously donate, or contribute for membership all goes to non-profit natural history associations to be spent on interpretation, education and research. Each natural history association is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, which votes on how revenue and donations should be spent based on budget and projects suggested by agency staff and volunteers. Here are some improvements paid for in whole or part by these associations:

- Campground programs
- Informational leaflets
- Exhibits and interpretive signs
- Observation scopes and decks
- Summer internships
- This newspaper!
- Teacher workshop materials and support

Hiawatha Interpretive Association
P.O. Box 913
Munising, MI 49862
www.hiawathainterpretive.com

Hiawatha Interpretive Association

Seney Natural History Association
1606 Refuge Entrance Road
Seney, MI 49883
www.fws.gov/midwest/seney/snha.html

Eastern National
470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1
Ft. Washington, PA 19034
www.easternnational.org

Artist-in-Residence Programs

Are you an artist working in two dimensions looking for a residency experience in the beautiful central Upper Peninsula? Would the cliffs of Grand Island or Pictured Rocks inspire you? Both Hiawatha National Forest and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore offer artist in residence programs. Let our landscapes and history inspire you! For more information contact Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore or Hiawatha National Forest at (906) 387-3700.

Calling All Photographers!

You're invited to participate in Seney National Wildlife Refuge's Amateur Photo Contest. Photos must be taken at Seney NWR in any of the following categories; wildlife, recreation, landscape, plants, a special assignment which changes annually - this year "The Art of Hunting/Fishing", and two youth categories. For more information, entrance forms and rules call (906) 586-9851 x16 or visit www.fws.gov/midwest/seney/photo.html.



Photo: Cedar Waxwing. Credit: Barbara Hysell, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.

National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation

The National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF) is a privately supported effort to fund special projects in the five U.S. National Park areas on Lake Superior. These include Keweenaw National Historical Park (MI), Grand Portage National Monument (MN), Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (WI), Isle Royale National Park (MI), and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, (MI).

Your donation to NPLSF will assist parks with worthy projects over and above funding for basic park operations. Projects include the preservation of historic structures, improved visitor services, enhanced environmental education programs, and MORE! The NPLSF is actively seeking partners to assist in developing this organization which will complement efforts by the Friends organizations of individual parks. We invite individuals and major donors to contact the Foundation to learn more about how they can become involved in these efforts. Your donation is tax deductible. For additional information or to make a donation, contact:
Phone: (906) 228-7914 Website: www.nplsf.org
Address: 1901 W. Ridge St., Suite 9, Marquette, MI 49855

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Treading Lightly

Before you head out on your adventure in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore please remember to ***Leave No Trace.***

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area.

Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.

Repackage food to minimize waste.

Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Stay only in designated campsites.

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.

Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.

Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry.

Where fires are permitted, use established metal fire rings.

Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.

Keep fires small. Only use sticks that are dead and downed and can be broken by hand.

Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely.

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash in a designated food storage bin, hang it on a bear pole or store it in your vehicle.

Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out.

Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

In the backcountry deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.

Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What You Find

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.

Do not build structures or dig trenches.

For further Leave No Trace information, education and resources visit www.lnt.org.

leave no trace
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

Dialing Up Lakeshore Stories

The Lakeshore is experimenting with a new form of interpretive media - cell phone messaging. The new service is being provided by OnCell Inc. and features an easy, inexpensive way to access interpretive information via your personal cell phone. Four OnCell locations are featured within the Lakeshore in 2011. If successful, others may be added in the future.

The five locations where you can dial an interpretive message (only your personal cell phone charges apply) include:

- Munising Falls
- Miners Castle
- Log Slide
- Sable Falls

Future improvements may include video podcasts for smart phones. Watch for these signs at the four locations.



SHARE THE ROAD - Slow Down & Enjoy Your Park

After five years of construction, Alger County H-58 between Grand Marais and Munising is now completely paved, creating one of the most beautiful drives in the Great Lakes region.

With this newly completed road project, Lakeshore staff anticipate additional traffic with bicycles, tour buses, larger

motorhomes and fifth-wheel trailers, and motorcycles.

The road has been engineered as a slow speed, scenic drive through the Lakeshore, accessing such popular sites as Sable Falls, Log Slide, Hurricane River, and Twelvemile Beach.

One of our top priorities is visitor safety, and we are concerned about the impact of increased traffic and speeds on H-58.

Help us make your and others vacation one to write home about.

- Watch for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Use the vehicle turnout lanes if you wish to stop and take a photo.
- Obey all no passing zones.
- Watch for motorcycles.
- Report all accidents to a Park Ranger, National Lakeshore employee or visitor center.
- Drive at a leisurely speed, keeping in mind that the journey is important, not just the destination.

Enjoy the scenic drive at your own pace, but if you notice traffic backing up behind you please pull over to let them by to help avoid unsafe passes.



H-58 is a favorite route for motorcycles in the Upper Peninsula.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Welcome to *Your* National Lakeshore

***Wild Beauty on the Lake Superior Shore*!**

If you have been here before, you *know* how incredible this park is. From day to day and season to season, the Lakeshore provides a wide array of outdoor experiences. So, why is this place special and why was it designated as our nation's first Lakeshore? Could it be that the park borders Lake Superior - the world's largest freshwater lake? From Miners Castle you can look out over 1/10th of the ***world's*** fresh water!

Could it be the five square miles of Grand Sable Dunes, the largest collection of perched sand dunes on Lake Superior?

Did I mention over a dozen miles of spectacular sandstone cliffs that rise over 200 feet above the lake? Cliffs where peregrine falcons nest, and rare arctic plants eke out a living in breathtaking microclimates. What about the sparkling inland lakes and gurgling streams that meander through the park? (Did I tell you about the brookie I caught last summer?)

There is SO much natural history here, a person could spend a lifetime exploring, hiking, skiing, kayaking, snowshoeing, bird watching, beachcombing, camping, sailing, walking, swimming, fishing, canoeing - whew, what an amazing list of things to do here!



Spray Falls.

And if history is your thing - just wait! Would you like to climb the 85' Au Sable Lighthouse tower and see what the keepers saw? How about looking over a 36' Coast Guard lifeboat on Sand Point - imagine going out in that little shell when there are 10' waves! Or you could imagine being a collier at the Schoolcraft blast furnace where pig iron was made for shipment down the lake. If you travel to the Log Slide, you can imagine hitching up your draft horse to a set of logging wheels, used in summer logging in the U.P.

While enjoying the Lakeshore, please remember to take good care of yourself and the park. Take a few minutes to stop by the Interagency Visitor Center in Munising, the Interpretive Center at Munising Falls, the Information Center at Miners Castle or Au Sable Light Station, or the Grand Sable Visitor Center. Feel free to chat with a Park Ranger and ask them your questions about the park and your views on how we are doing at protecting ***your*** national lakeshore. Park information can also be found on the web: **www.nps.gov/piro**. Have a great visit!

Being Aware for Your Safety

Falling rock, cascading dunes, rip currents and encounters with bears due to improper backcountry storage of food...as a Lakeshore visitor, these are things you should be thinking about. As you visit the park, be aware of the situations you find yourself in and ask yourself "what if?"



Many cliff areas along the North Country Trail are actually overhangs with free space below. As you are hiking in the park - stay back from the edge.

Rip currents are possible at several beachs along the Lakeshore depending on weather and water conditions. Check the bulletin boards to know what they look like and how to get out of one.

When visiting the park, if you need to talk on your cell phone, pull over at a safe location out of traffic. Talking on your cell phone may cause you to miss seeing wildlife - or worse!

While the Grand Sable Dunes are a unique and beautiful part of the park, they too can hold hazards. Be aware that sand banks can collapse - sending you downslope or perhaps covering you. Take care when traversing dune faces.



People often remark they would love to see a bear during their visit to the park, but at a safe distance. Remember that a fed bear is a dead bear. Please follow food storage guidelines posted on bulletin boards and in backcountry regulations by hanging your food on the food pole provided or securing food in the food locker provided or in a vehicle. If you encounter a bear while on foot in the park, make noise and wave your arms. Do not drop your day pack or other items with food in them. *Please report all incidents to a Park Ranger or visitor center.*



Follow the Lakeshore on

New Quiet Hours Regulations

New quiet hours regulations are now in effect in Lakeshore campgrounds resulting in enhanced visitor experiences and park soundscapes. Campground quiet hours are now 8 p.m. - 8 a.m. The entire west loop of Twelvemile Beach Campground (beyond the amphitheater) is a generator free camping loop. Designated individual sites at Lower Hurricane River Campground are also generator free - watch for signs to this effect. Please remember that many visitors come to the Lakeshore for the sights and sounds of nature. Be respectful in your use of radios, generators, musical instruments, and other sound producing devices.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Favorite Day Hikes



Your visit to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore may be only an hour or two or you may spend a week or more. If you only have a day or two to spend at the Lakeshore, consider visiting these popular attractions in developed areas of the park. Please note that bicycles are not permitted on Lakeshore trails. Pets are allowed along all park roads and are permitted in some other areas. Pets must always be on a 6-foot leash.

Munising Falls
Nestled in a cool, shady valley, the 50 foot falls are at the end of a short 800 foot walk on an improved trail. The trail is a good place to look for wildflowers in spring and early summer. Water from the creek was once used in the production of iron at the Schoolcraft blast furnace, a story told on wayside exhibits and in the Munising Falls Interpretive Center. Pets are allowed on the trail to Munising Falls, but not on Becker Farm entrance road and fields or on North Country Trail.

Sand Point
The Sand Point beach is a popular spot for walking in the evening to watch the sun go down over Munising Bay. The Sand Point Marsh Trail, a half-mile disabled accessible interpretive trail, features a large print brochure for visually impaired visitors. Sand Point is a good place to look for warblers in spring and fall. Park Headquarters is also located on Sand Point in a former U.S. Coast Guard building. Pets are prohibited on Sand Point Marsh Trail.



Hiker at the Grand Sable Dunes.

Miners Castle
Beginning at the picnic area, a paved foot trail leads you past interpretive exhibits to breathtaking overlooks of Lake Superior and Grand Island. Erosion over long periods of time has created the interesting rock formations that give this place its name. Pets are permitted in picnic and overlook area but prohibited on the North Country Trail.

Miners Falls
A 1.2 mile round trip gravel path through a deep woods environment leads to the falls overlook. Miners River plunging some 60 feet over a cliff is home to brook and steelhead trout. A free, self-guiding interpretive trail guide is available at the trailhead. Pets are permitted in picnic area on a 6 foot leash, but are prohibited on the trail to Miners Falls.

Miners Beach
A picnicker and beach walker's delight, Miners Beach extends for one mile on Lake Superior where waves roll in to polish beach cobbles. Miners River is popular for steelhead fishing in spring and fall. A 1.0 mile trail connects Miners Castle developed area and the picnic area at Miners Beach. Pets are allowed in picnic area and on Miners Beach.

White Pine Trail
Located at the Little Beaver Lake Campground this 1.0 mile self-guiding interpretive trail explores the plant and animal communities of a cool, shady valley. Free trail guides are located at the trailhead. No pets are allowed on the White Pine Trail.

Chapel Rock
Circumnavigating Chapel Lake takes you to the beautiful Chapel Beach and Chapel Rock. The 6.6 mile trip makes a great day hike. Pets are not permitted on this trail.

White Birch Trail
Located at the Twelvemile Beach Campground, this two mile self-guiding interpretive trail explores a variety of ancient Lake Nipissing beach and upland plant communities. Free trail guides are located at the trailhead. Pets are not allowed on this trail.

Log Slide Overlook
The 1000 foot trail to the viewing platform from the picnic area is worth the walk. Newspaper accounts tell of logs sent down the dry log chute generating enough friction to cause the chute to catch fire. Today the chute is gone, but the lumberjack stories still linger as you gaze out over the Grand Sable Banks and Dunes. This is a good place to glimpse the Au Sable Light Station to the west and Grand Marais to the east. Pets are not allowed on this trail.

Au Sable Light Station
Strolling about the grounds on a stormy day, one can feel the sense of duty and history for which this station is preserved. Access to the station is by a 1.5 mile hiking trail beginning at the east end of the lower Hurricane River Campground. Check at visitor centers and park bulletin boards for summer interpretive tours scheduled at the light station. Tour fee $3 adults. Pets are not allowed on the trail to or at the lighthouse.

Sable Falls
A picnic lunch at Sable Falls can begin a great afternoon of exploring. A 0.5 mile hike from the parking lot leads you an extensive staircase to the falls and Sable Creek and on to Lake Superior. Pets are not allowed on the trail to the falls.

Regulations In Brief



To help ensure a pleasant visit, please take a couple minutes to become familiar with the following regulations at the National Lakeshore.

Camping - permitted only within designated Lakeshore campsites. Camping permits are required. Beach or roadside camping is prohibited. Little Beaver Lake Campground - Single unit vehicles in excess of 36 feet and vehicle/trailer combined units in excess of 42 feet are prohibited at Little Beaver because of the small campsites and the narrow, twisting, hilly access road.

Backcountry campers - must purchase a $5 per night/person backcountry permit prior to entering the backcountry. Permits are available by reservation and in-person at visitor centers in Munising and Grand Marais.

Pets - where permitted, must be on a 6-foot leash. Check the pet map on bulletin boards for specific locations of pet walking areas.

Bicycles - permitted on roads where automobiles are permitted. Not permitted on hiking trails or roads closed to vehicular traffic.

Hunting - prohibited park-wide during the high visitor use period of April 1 through Labor Day. Hunting is allowed the remainder of the year as established by state and federal laws. Target shooting and trapping are prohibited year-round.

Campfires - allowed only in fire rings. Fires on beaches are prohibited except in fire rings provided.

ATVs - are prohibited in the park.



Removing rocks or other natural features is prohibited.

Please do not injure or remove plants or harass wildlife.

Wildlife feeding prohibited - Birds and small mammals rely on natural food to get them through the winter. Please do not make them dependent on human food.

No littering - Each of us enjoy a clean Lakeshore. Please pick up after yourself and others.

Fireworks - are best left to the experts. Use or possession of fireworks within the Lakeshore is prohibited.

Hiawatha National Forest

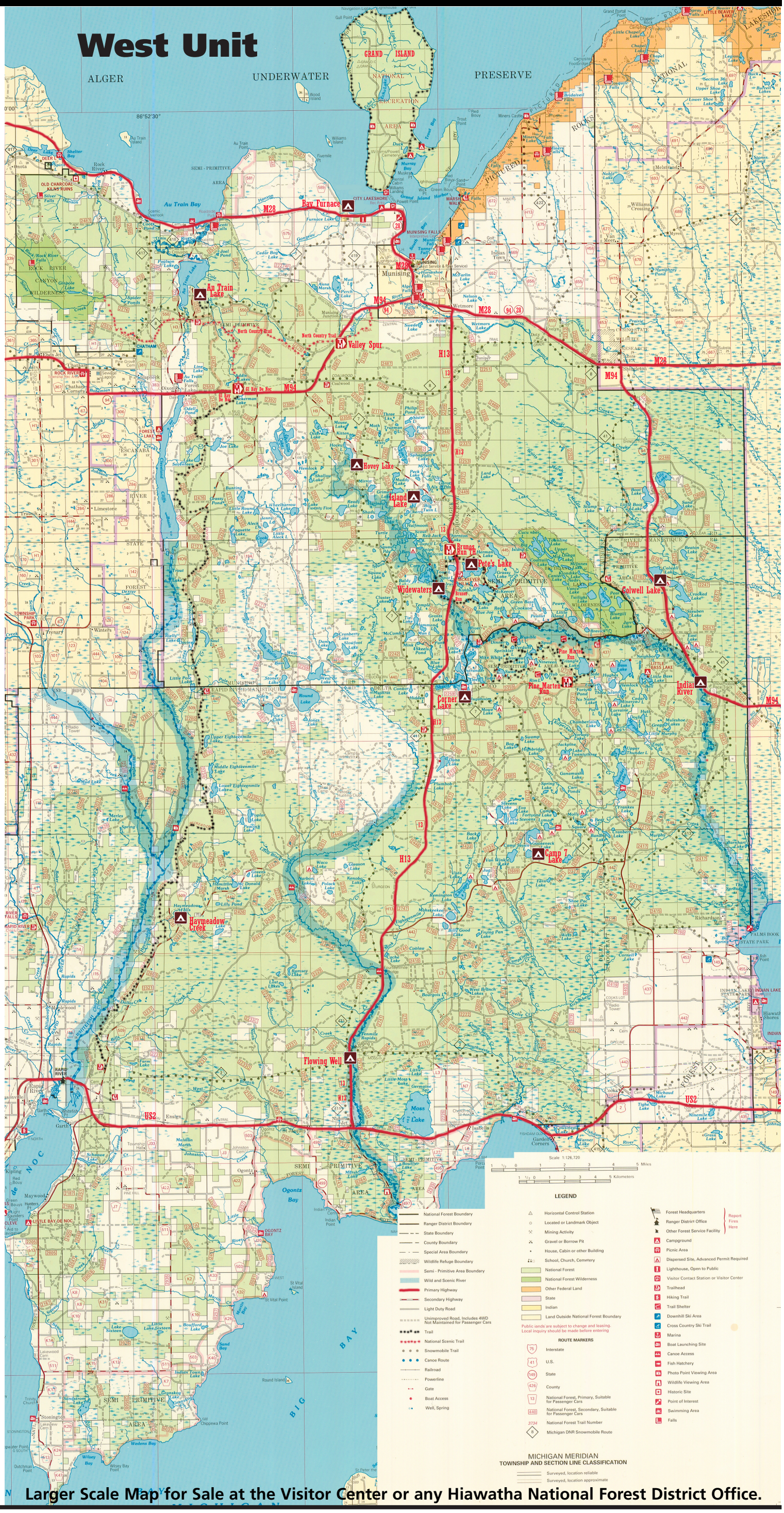


With one hundred miles of shoreline on three Great Lakes, the Hiawatha National Forest is uniquely positioned to provide visitors with a range of nationally distinct forest recreation opportunities. From lighthouses to Great Lakes islands, from spectacular shorelines to the Midwest's finest winter playground, the Hiawatha brings to life a fascinating natural and cultural history while providing unique recreation opportunities to the visiting public.

The Hiawatha National Forest consists of about a million acres in two large units. The West Unit is located between Munising, Manistique and Rapid River. The East Unit is located between St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie. The Forest touches Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and boasts six lighthouses and a 26 mile scenic byway along Lake Superior's south shore.

The Hiawatha National Forest was created in 1931 from abandoned farms, razed logging tracts and lands devastated by forest fires. Replanted originally by the Civilian Conservation Corp and cared for since by the US Forest Service, today's Hiawatha provides quality habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife and rare plants. The Forest is dotted with about 420 inland lakes, and eight hundred miles of streams and rivers flow through the Hiawatha, emptying into the Great Lakes. Five of those rivers are National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Contact:
Hiawatha National Forest
400 E. Munising Ave.
Munising, MI 49862
906-387-2512
www.fs.fed.us/R9/forests/hiawatha



Larger Scale Map for Sale at the Visitor Center or any Hiawatha National Forest District Office.

Hiawatha National Forest

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

The Forest Service offers a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities to suit broad visitor preferences - everything from urban to very remote types of recreational experiences. On the Hiawatha National Forest, our recreational activities can generally be put into three categories.

- Primitive - Very high probability of experiencing solitude. Very low interaction between users. Minimal evidence of other users and unmodified natural environments.
- Semi-Primitive - High to moderate probability of experiencing solitude. Low concentration of users but often evidence of others. Predominantly natural environment but some alterations present.
- Developed - Opportunity to get away from others but easy access for users. Moderate to high evidence of other users. Natural appearing environment but moderate to substantial modifications are apparent.

For more information about any of the following recreational opportunities, please contact us or visit our website (located on the previous page).

Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunities

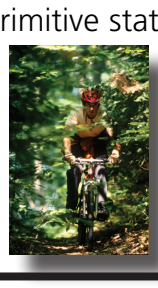
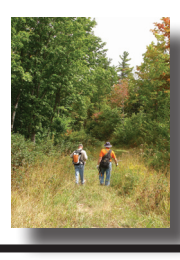
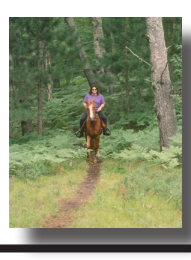
PRIMITIVE: The Hiawatha National Forest allows primitive camping anywhere in the Forest with some special guidelines. Primitive campsites are solitary and secluded, and they offer little to no amenities.

The Big Island Lake Wilderness is an opportunity to have a pristine paddling and primitive camping experience. Special regulations apply in the Wilderness Area.




SEMI-PRIMITIVE: Most of our hiking/biking trails would fall into this category. Bruno's Run and Valley Spur are excellent trails for hiking or biking in a scenic natural environment where there are few encounters with other users. Trails are maintained to be challenging and safe, but are left as natural as possible. The section of the North Country Hiking Trail that runs through the Hiawatha National Forest is maintained by volunteers. It has few trailheads and amenities.

Horseback riding trails such as the Oakwood, Grand Island Bay De Noc and Pine Marten Run have been designed to accommodate horses but are still maintained in a semi-primitive state.

Grand Island National Recreation Area offers a primarily semi-primitive setting. The 20 mile rim trail for hiking and biking is a moderately challenging loop along breathtaking cliffs and spectacular beaches. The trail is designed to blend into the natural surroundings. The dispersed sites on Grand Island provide a semi-primitive camping experience.




McKeever Hills ski trails are a quieter, less groomed alternative to highly used trails for classic skiers.

The Indian Wild and Scenic River is a wonderful paddle for kayakers and canoers at all levels. The river is minimally maintained for safety and to provide a novice section and an experienced section.




DEVELOPED: Valley Spur Cross Country Ski Trails provide a highly groomed trail system for both classic and skate skiing. A warm lodge and heated outhouse are available at the trailhead. There is a fee to use this ski trail system.



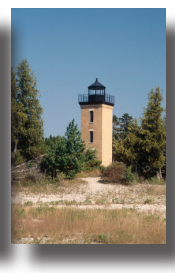

Day Use Areas such as Pete's Lake and Au Train Lake provide a swimming beach, picnic area, and boat launch. At Pete's Lake, there is also an accessible fishing pier. At Bay Furnace Day Use Area there is a developed Historic Site with an interpretive trail.




The AuTrain River is a slow meandering river, perfect for families and group outings. The river is maintained by volunteers for an easy paddle. There are multiple outfitters located on and near the Au Train River.




There are 6 lighthouse on the Hiawatha National Forest. Two of these lighthouses, Peninsula Point and Point Iroquois,are developed recreation sites.

Motorized Recreation Opportunities

PRIMITIVE: There are no primitive motorized trails on the Hiawatha National Forest.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE: Our maintained Dispersed sites would fall into this category. On the Munising Ranger District, we have three: Cookson, Council and Ewing Point. Permits are required at these sites. They offer some amenities like pit toilets, picnic tables and fire rings but are small and offer a more secluded experience than our developed campgrounds.




Our ATV trails like the Haywire and the Coal Wood Grade, and Moss Lake motor bike trails would fall into this category. Our narrow woods roads offering opportunities to explore deep into the Forest are also characterized as semi-primitive.




DEVELOPED: Our developed campgrounds (Bay Furnace, Widewaters, Au Train, Pete's Lake and Island Lake) are larger and offer more amenities. Although still considered rustic in the sense that they do not offer electricity, showers or flush toilets, they are suitable for large trailers, and are our most popular campgrounds. We also offer rustic cabins available for rent. These cabins (McKeever and Tom's Lake) have a wood stove and a rustic toilet.




All of our main Forest roads would fall into this category for recreational riding.

Snowmobile trails are signed and confidence marked, and groomed by the State for high quality riding.

Many of our inland lakes have boat launches, ranging from carry-in to those with gravel pads to those with concrete ramps. The Lake Superior boat launch can accommodate up to 28 foot boats. Some of the boat launches have other amenities such as toilets.




Hiawatha National Forest

Improvements on your National Forest!

Frequent visitors to the Hiawatha National Forest will notice some improvements this year. Several of the projects listed below were completed with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus money).

Grand Island National Recreation Area



North Light Creek Bridge Replaced!
The bridge on the north part of the Rim Trail had been condemned for many years. This bridge is very important as it serves as the link between the east and west trail. Now that the bridge is replaced, users do not have to wade through the creek or detour down to North Beach to complete the full Rim Trail.



Visitor Contact Station Renovation: The Visitor Contact station has gone through the initial phase of renovation. The Station is now much bigger and will soon be outfitted with new exhibits and furniture to enhance the user's experience on Grand Island.

New Water Well at Williams Landing: A new accessible water faucet has been placed at William's Landing right outside the Visitor Contact Station. This location is more convenient for Island visitors and is accessible for Bus Tour participants.



Old Farm Field Restoration Project: With the help of the Lake Superior Watershed Partnership and many volunteers, the old farm field on the Center road is slowly being repopulated with native species. Over 10,000 wildflowers such as tickseed, black-eyed susan, bee balm, columbine, and common milkweed, have been planted to provide habitat for pollinator species like the Monarch butterfly.

New Island Transportation: The new 30 passenger Ferry Boat, Kitchi-Miniss (meaning Great Island), will allow users to get to and from the Island in a shorter amount of time. Visitors will also notice improvements at both Powell Point and William's Landing that allows greater accessibility for those with limited mobility. The new accessible tour vehicle bus is a hybrid bus that operates on gas and electricity. This will allow for a cleaner, quieter ride for participants of the guided bus tour.





Using your OHV on the Hiawatha National Forest

The Hiawatha National Forest provides an updated version of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) annually. The free maps stand alone as a tool to help you determine where you can ride.

To view the Hiawatha's maps on-line, visit our website http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/hiawatha/ (and click on Maps and Publications). Or obtain a free copy of the map by visiting one of the Forest offices.



Mainland Hiawatha National Forest



AuTrain Campground Road Resurfaced: The pavement on the road to the AuTrain Campground had degraded significantly resulting in potholes that caused major problems for campers pulling trailers. The road has now been paved all the way to and through the campground.



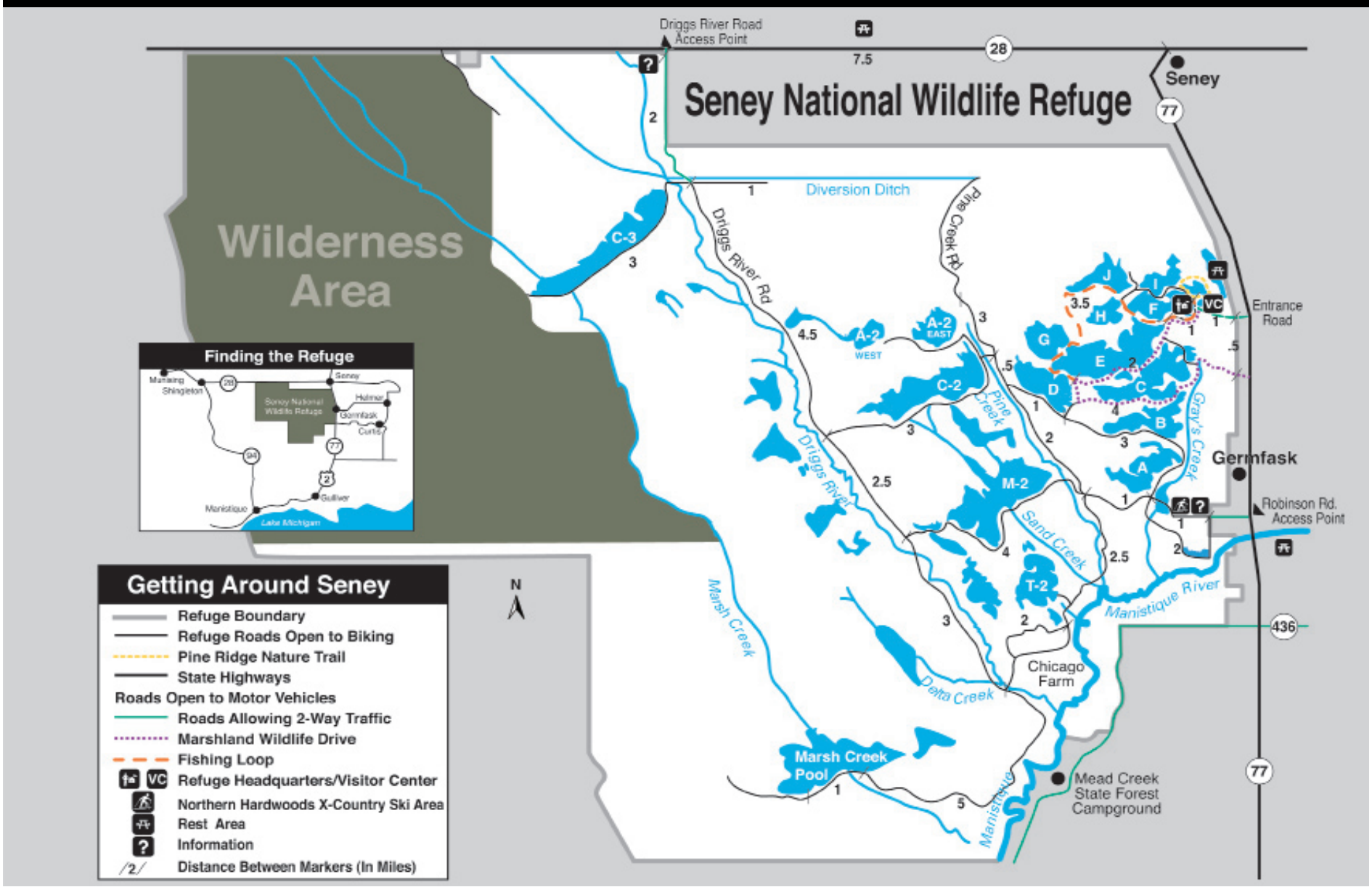
New Toilet Buildings: 15 accessible toilet buildings have been placed at various recreation sites forest-wide, replacing older inaccessible versions.

McKeever Ski Trails and McKeever Cabin: The McKeever Ski Trail has been widened slightly and the route improved to make the trail better for both cross country skiers and the groomer. Thanks to volunteers, the ski trail is groomed with more frequency than in the past. Those who frequent the McKeever Cabin will notice that the cabin has been professionally cleaned, caulked, and outfitted with brand new mattresses.

Reroute on Bruno's Run Trail: With the help of volunteers, we were able to reroute a difficult and potentially dangerous section of the Bruno's Run Hiking/Biking Trail. This section of trail will now be much easier for mountain bikers to navigate.



Seney National Wildlife Refuge



A Seney Year

Spring

Spring is a busy time at the Refuge. Wildlife, dormant for the winter, begins to wake. Black bears rouse and their cubs, which were born over the winter, venture out of the den for the first time. The lively, little chipmunks began their never ending search for food. Virtually frogcicles during the winter, wood frogs and spring peepers thaw and begin their mating songs. Old friends, like Canada geese, common loons, and trumpeter swans return from their wintering grounds to raise their families, filling the air with their calls. Visitors at this time may be lucky enough to see the mating dance of the sandhill crane or sharp-tailed grouse.

Late Spring - Early Summer

Beware of the biting insects (black flies, deer flies, mosquitoes, etc.) and ticks which emerge this time of year. Despite the insects, spring and summer are the best times to view many species of wildlife and their young. Imagine early June when snapping and painted turtles nest along the roadsides. Watch the drama unfold on the Refuge's pools from the comfort of your vehicle on the wildlife drive. See osprey fishing in the ponds, waterfowl defending their territory, otters playing, or beavers busy building dams. The scene at Seney changes by the minute; you never know what excitement lies around the next bend.

Autumn

As the weather begins to turn cooler, animals begin their preparations for winter. Migratory birds begin their long journey to their wintering grounds; fat from the bounty the northland has to offer. The birds aren't the only animals preparing for a long journey. The last generations of monarch butterflies have a long voyage ahead. These amazing insects fly from points as far north as Canada, all the way to Mexico. Year round residents gorge themselves on fruit, nuts, and whatever else they can find to fatten themselves up before the long cold winter. The transition from summer to winter brings out the golden marsh grasses, yellowing tamarack trees, and vibrant leaves of the hardwood forest. The lack of biting insects allows for pleasant excursions by foot, bike or canoe.

Winter

Don't let the cold weather and snow cover fool you. There is still a lot of action on the Refuge. While the animals are harder to see, signs they were here can be found everywhere. Coyote and wolves leave tracks, otters run and slide across the snow, mice, like little miners, build elaborate tunnels under the snow, and squirrels can be seen scrounging for scraps on the forest floor. Although the visitor center is closed, the cross-country ski trails are open and normally groomed once a week. Snowshoeing is popular as well, but please refrain from walking on the cross-country ski trails.

Managing Wildlife

Water levels on over 7,000 acres of the Refuge are managed using a system of water control structures and dikes. High water levels protect fish populations during the winter, protect nesting birds from predation, and regulate vegetation growth. Low water levels create mudflats for sandhill cranes and other birds, enhance feeding opportunities for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, and make fish more accessible to osprey and bald eagles. Prescribed burns, river and wetland restoration, mowing, and forest management are used by the Refuge to maintain healthy and diverse wildlife habitats.

Special Rules

- **Please do not feed wildlife.**
- **Daylight use only.**
- **Dogs are allowed on a leash.**
- **No camping or overnight parking is allowed.**
- **Off-road vehicles are prohibited.**
- **Open fires are not allowed.**
- **No boats or flotation devices are allowed on Refuge pools.**
- **Swimming and wading are not allowed in the Refuge pools.**
- **Only approved non-toxic sinkers and shot are allowed on the Refuge.**

For more specific details on hunting and fishing regulations see the respective brochures.

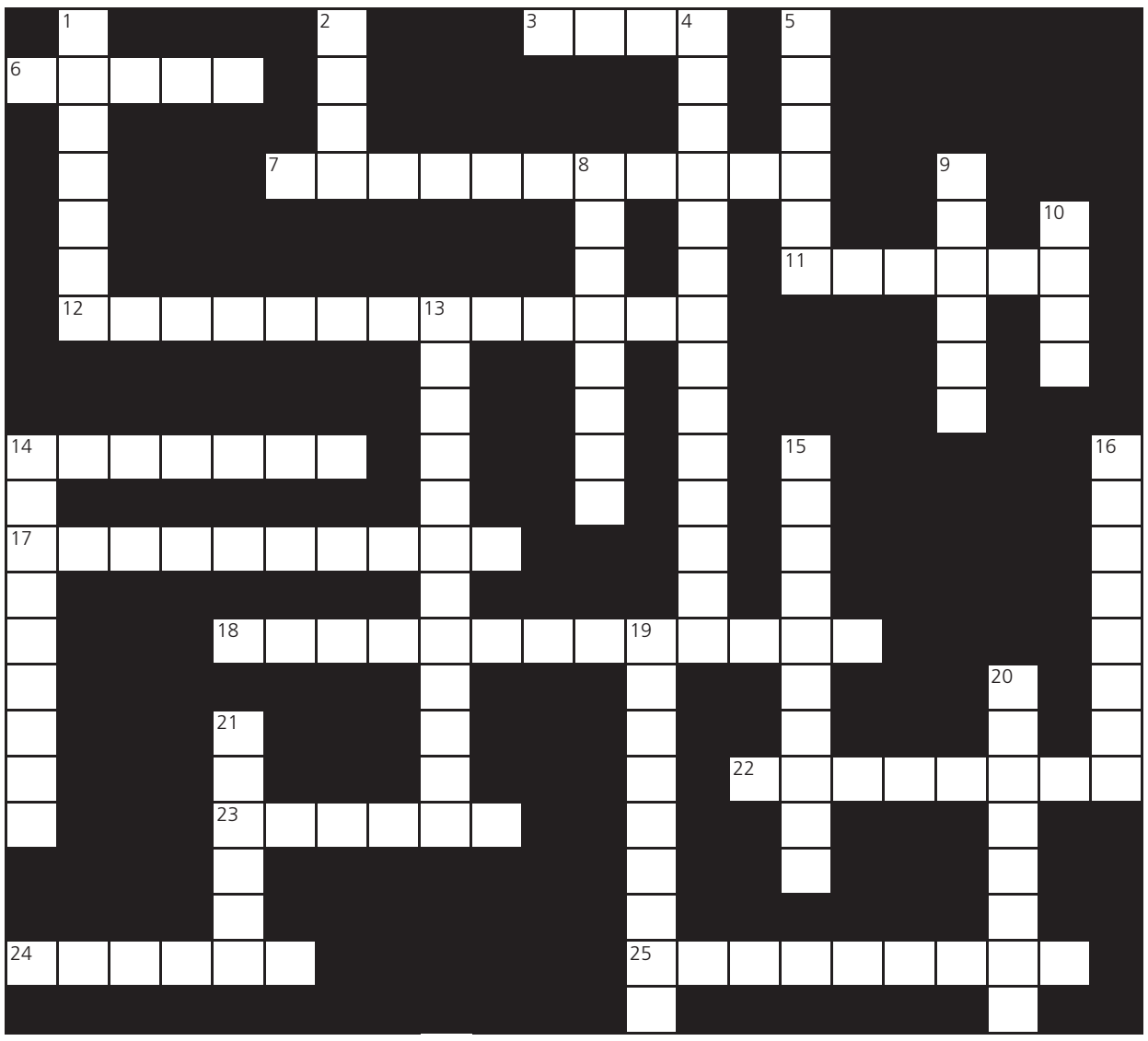


Red-winged Blackbird. Credit: Charles Klinger, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

North Woods Delight Fun Page

Have some good old fashion family fun by completing the following activities.



Across

3. ____ spiders run down their prey much like the mammal that they are named after.
6. These ball like growths appear on various plants. Many are caused by insects (plural).
7. A bird that can mimic many sounds. The last sound it makes in its series of calls is a "meow" - giving it its name. (2 wds.)
11. These long predators can change colors in the winter turning from brown to white to blend in with the snow.
12. Another name for a harvestman, a small arachnid that looks like a spider but is not. (2 wds.)
14. This mammal that resembles a small beaver with a round tail sometimes shares a home with beavers.
17. An amphibian with four legs and a long tail.
18. One of the first butterflies to come out in the spring (2 wds.). Clues: First word – grieve for the dead, second word – a type of coat.
22. Food for monarch caterpillars.
23. At night, you may be able to hear this animal chewing on wood from a long distance.
24. A smaller relative of number three across.
25. This fungi, shaped like a flower.

Down

1. These insects, that look like grasshoppers, have ears in their knees.
2. Number of mosquitoes found in the snapping turtle picture.
4. This nocturnal squirrel does not fly, it glides. (2 wds.)
5. A carnivorous plant found at Seney NWR. Their small leaves look like they have drops of water suck to them.
8. A kind of frog that lives in a tree.
9. This mammal in the weasel family has a varied diet and is one of the few animals that can kill and eat a porcupine. Although its diet is mainly terrestrial its name suggests it eats has more in common with anglers.
10. A small slimy animal usually found under rotting leaves.
13. Although there is a state size limit on these fish, Seney has none. (2 wds.)
14. Not only fish have gills, some of these do as well. (plural)
15. An activity which uses GPS can be done at Seney NWR. Clues can be found on the website.
16. The largest woodpecker in the north woods.
19. These small birds, which say their name, are common visitors to backyard feeders.
20. The only toad found at Seney NWR.
21. This predator is named for its short tail.

Answers are posted on the website. www.fws.gov/midwest/seney





Left: Earthstar. Credit: Sara Hollerich, USFWS.
Right: Sundew. Credit: USFWS

Unscramble these words to decode the secret message.

CDOKWOCHU
1 2

RCHEP
3 4

FLRIEYF
5

RETCCKI GROF
6 7 8

LBEU AJY
9

NGAFYDRLO
10 11

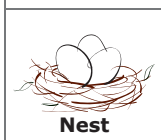
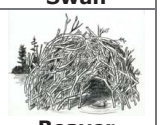
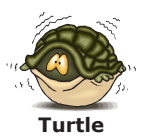
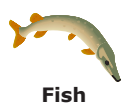
DESARNTOS OELM
12 13 14

1 2 3 13 3 1 5 9 10 9 5 11 3

4 8 14 3 12 11 5 6 12 7 !

Calendar of Events

Snowfest – First Saturday in Feb.
International Migratory Bird Day - 2nd Sat. in May at the Whitefish Point Unit.
Children's Fishing Day – 3rd Saturday in June
Wildlife Wednesday – Wednesdays in June, July, and Aug., 7:00 p.m.
Monarch Madness – 3rd Sun. in Aug.
Scout Day – 3rd Sat. in Sept.
Fall Color Float – 1st Sunday in October
A current and updated calendar of events can be found on the website: www.fws.gov/midwest/seney/news.html

B	I	N	G	O
 **Beaver**	 **Bald Eagle**	 **Chipmunk**	 **Cattails**	 **Trumpeter Swan**
 **Nest**	 **Signs of a Fire**	 **Fern**	 **Spider**	 **Beaver Lodge**
 **Frog**	 **Dragonfly**	**Free**	 **Muskrat**	 **Deciduous Tree** (tree with leaves)
 **Coniferous Tree** (tree with needles)	 **Turtle**	 **Loon**	 **Fish**	 **Butterfly**
 **Mosquito**	 **Duck**	 See or hear "kar-r-r-r-o-o-o" a **Sandhill Crane**	 **Coyote Scat** (will have hair in it resembles a rope)	 **Squirrel**

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Discovering Seney

The Refuge is a great place for visitors of all ages and abilities to watch and learn about the local flora and fauna. Established in 1935 as a sanctuary and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, today the 95,238 acre Refuge supports a variety of wildlife including endangered and reintroduced species by providing a rich mosaic of habitats – scrub-shrub, wetlands, forest, meadow, and lakes/ponds.



Damselfly. Credit: Ruben Irizarry, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.

Visitor Center - Open May 15th – October 16th, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays. Highlights include exhibits, a children's touch table, "The Wonder of Nature" orientation film, and a bookstore. Binoculars and field guides can be checked out free of charge courtesy of the Seney Natural History Association.

Marshland Wildlife Drive - This seven mile one-way auto tour route follows alongside wetlands and meadows and through forests. Three wheelchair accessible observation decks with viewing scopes make this a great wildlife watching opportunity.

Pine Ridge Nature Trail - Starting from the visitor center, this 1.4 mile loop trail, takes visitors through a variety of landscapes. Songbirds, swans, and beaver are common sightings along the trail. **The Wigwam Connector Trail** ties into the Pine Ridge Nature Trail and offers hikers a one mile extension (round trip) leading them to a rest area, show pools, and an outhouse.

Bicycling - Many miles of backcountry roads are available for biking throughout the Refuge. For those who seek wildlife and solitude, these trails are for you. The roads are open during daylight hours only, so you need to plan your trip carefully. You may see vehicles on these backcountry roads as staff and researchers conduct investigations, so please be aware of the possibility of vehicles on the roads. To help you plan your visit, mileage is marked on the Refuge map. Roads/areas may be closed due to biological or management (fire, logging, maintenance) reasons, please obey the closure signs. The Pine Ridge Nature Trail and the cross-country ski trails are closed to bicycles year round.

Canoeing - Enjoy a day of paddling on the Manistique River, which flows through the south eastern part of the Refuge. Outfitters are located in Germfask. Use is limited to daylight hours with no overnight camping allowed. No boats or other flotation devices are allowed on Refuge pools. Due to numerous snags, shallow water, limited access by road, and no camping allowed, the Driggs River is not recommended for canoeing.

Fishing - Open on the Refuge from May 15 – September 30. Anglers can fish along the 3.5 mile Fishing Loop in designated pools including the accessible fishing pier and the Driggs River. Species found on the Refuge include northern pike, yellow perch, brown bullhead, brook trout, and sunfish. To protect the trumpeter swan and common loon, lead sinkers cannot be used on the Refuge. Ice fishing is allowed Janurary 1st to Feburary 28th on any pool. Check the fishing brochure for current regulations.

Hunting - Ruffed Grouse, American woodcock, common snipe, snowshoe hare, white-tailed deer, and black bear may be hunted during some state seasons in designated areas with the proper licenses. Only approved non-toxic shotgun shot will be allowed on the refuge. Check the hunting brochure for current regulations.

Winter Activities - The Northern Hardwoods Cross-country Ski Area offers nine miles of groomed Nordic trails. Turn west off M-77 onto Robinson Road 1/3 mile south of the blinking light in Germfask. The trailhead is at the end of the road. Brochures and maps are available at the trailhead kiosk or may be downloaded from our website. Dogs are not allowed on groomed ski trails. Snowshoeing is allowed anywhere on the Refuge except the ski trails. Snowmobiles are not permitted on the Refuge.

Follow us on Facebook and Flickr. Courtesy of Seney Natural History Association.



Snapping Turtle. Credit: Bart Spratto, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.



Photographer. Credit: Julie Christensen, 2010 Seney Photo Contest.

Wildlife First

- There are 553 National Wildlife Refuges and over 3,000 waterfowl production areas located throughout the 50 states and several U.S. territories. At more than 150 million acres, it is the world's largest system of lands and waters whose primary purpose is the conservation of wildlife and habitat.
- Our National Wildlife Refuges provide homes for over 700 bird species, 220 mammal species, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 kinds of fish.
- Refuges are home to 25 percent of all federally threatened and endangered species.
- Each year, millions of migrating birds use refuges as stopovers to rest and feed as they fly thousands of miles south for the winter and return north for the summer.

Welcoming People

- Hunting and Fishing: Hunters are welcome on more than 300 National Wildlife Refuges and on 3,000 Waterfowl Production Areas, which are small wetlands located mainly in the upper Midwest. Anglers also enjoy the outdoors at more than 260 refuges where they catch a variety of fish. Hunting and fishing are both allowed at Seney National Wildlife Refuge. See brochures or the website for regulations.
- Wildlife observation and photography: Bird watchers, photographers and nature lovers visit refuges for great opportunities to see local wildlife species in their natural habitats and great congregations of birds, during peak migrations. Seney has observation decks, nature trails, an auto tour, and miles of backcountry roads for observing wildlife and their habitats. Whitefish Point Unit, managed by Seney NWR, offers excellent opportunities to see birds, especially during spring and fall migration.
- Interpretation and environmental education: Refuges are great places for children and adults to learn about their natural world. Programs are offered at over 230 Wildlife Refuges around the country. Seney offers tours, programs and special events. Check the Visitor Center or website for a calendar of activities.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore consists of two zones. The Lakeshore Zone is federal land managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The Inland Buffer Zone is a mixture of federal, state, and private ownership. Please respect the rights of private landowners.

Lakeshore Zone (NPS)
Inland Buffer Zone (mixed ownership)
Wilderness within Lakeshore Zone (NPS)

Beaver Basin Wilderness Congress has designated nearly 12,000 acres in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Included are forests, streams, lakes, wetlands, and 13 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

Wilderness is meant to protect forever the land's natural conditions, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and scientific, educational, and historical values. In wilderness people can sense being a part of the whole community of life on Earth. Preserving wilderness shows restraint and humility and benefits generations that follow us. Learn more at www.wilderness.net.

Paved Lakeshore access road
Unpaved Lakeshore access road
Other unpaved road
Trail

North

0 1 5 Kilometers
0 1 5 Miles

National Park Service campground
Other public campground
Ranger station
Wheelchair-accessible
Boat launch
Self-guiding trail
Picnic area
Cross-country ski trail

Little Beaver Lake Campground Road - Single unit vehicles in excess of 36 feet and vehicle/trailer combined units in excess of 42 feet are prohibited at Little Beaver because of the small campsites and narrow, twisting, hilly access road.

LAKE SUPERIOR

PICTURED ROCKS

Hurricane River
Au Sable Light Station
Au Sable Point
Sable Falls
Woodland Park
Grand Marais Ranger Station
Lake Superior Overlook
Log Slide Overlook
Twelvemile Beach
White Birch Trail
GRAND SABLE DUNES
GRAND MARAIS
North Country National Scenic Trail connector route
Grand Sable Visitor Center
(summer only)
Grand Sable Lake Overlook
LAKE SUPERIOR STATE FOREST
Kingston Lake
KINGSTON PLAINS
Caution: This road is a primitive, rough road
BEAVER BASIN WILDERNESS (NPS)
Little Beaver Lake
Steep, narrow road; vehicle size restricted
Chapel Beach
Chapel Rock
Chapel Falls
Mosquito Beach
Mosquito Falls
Trailhead
Miners Castle
Information Center and Overlook
Miners Beach
Miners Falls
Miners Falls Trail
Miners Castle Road
Lakeshore North Country Trail
Melstrand
Van Meer
Lake Superior Drainage Basin Boundary
Adams Trail
Truck Trail
Hurricane River Pathway
Whitefish Creek Truck Trail
Twelvemile Beach Lakeshore North Country Trail
Beaver Basin Overlook
Camp Road
Creighton Road
Long Lake Road
Ross Lake Road
Mahoney Lake Road
Fox River Road
Fox River Pathway
North Gemini Lake
South Gemini Lake
Ross Lake
Cusino Lake
Canoe Lake
Driggs Lake
Cusino Road
Wolf Lake Road
East Branch Fox River
Fox River
Seney Municipal
Seney
Roadside rest area
To Seney National Wildlife Refuge
To Sault Ste. Marie and Mackinac Bridge
LAKE SUPERIOR STATE FOREST
SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

GRAND ISLAND NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST
Information at Interagency Visitor Center
Echo Lake
GRAND ISLAND
Williams Island
Bay Furnace
Grand Island Ferry
Williams Landing
Powell Point
Sand Point
Sand Point Marsh Trail
National Lakeshore Headquarters
To Marquette
Christmas
Overlook
Munising Tourist Park
SOUTH BAY
Alger County Heritage Center
City dock
MUNISING
Munising Falls
Munising Falls Interpretive Center
Interagency Visitor Center
National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service
Alger Falls
Wetmore
Wagner Falls
North Country National Scenic Trail connector route
Hiawatha Creek
North Branch Sucker Creek
Hanley Field Airport
To Escanaba
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Field Office
Shingleton
HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST