

# HISTORY

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

The earliest known inhabitants of the area, living thousands of years ago, left pictographs (rock paintings) and petroglyphs (rock carvings) north of the present trail area. The only Indians in recent history to be identified with the region are the Ojibway (Chippewa).

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

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

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

During the early years of logging in the area thousands of acres of virgin red and white pine were cut down to supply the building boom in cities across the country. After the vast stands of mature growth pines were removed aspen forests established themselves. Because aspen are fast-growing they have become the primary tree that is planted and harvested today. They support a thriving wood products industry which produces paper and building products.

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

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

The major tree species found along the trail include aspen, white and black spruce, norway pine and white pine. Aspen, a pioneer species, is harvested by clearcutting to allow sunlight to reach the roots of the recently cut trees which will then sprout and produce aspen suckers in the first year after cutting. Black spruce is also harvested in this manner, but it is usually seeded to get new trees on the site.

White spruce, norway and white pine are usually thinned a number of times before the final harvest is undertaken when all remaining trees are removed and the site is replanted with seedlings.

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



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

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

# INFORMATION

For travel planning information contact:

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

- MN Department of Natural Resources**
- DNR Information Center**  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-888-MINNDNR (Minnesota toll free)  
651-296-5484 (TTY, Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (TTY, Minnesota toll free)  
DNR provides: outdoor recreation information, brochures, maps and snow & trail conditions.

- DNR Trails & Waterways Regional Office**  
1201 E. Highway 2  
Grand Rapids MN 55744 (218) 327-4408  
**\*DNR Taconite Trail Hdqtrs.** (Grand Rapids Area)  
(218) 327-4240

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

## LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

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

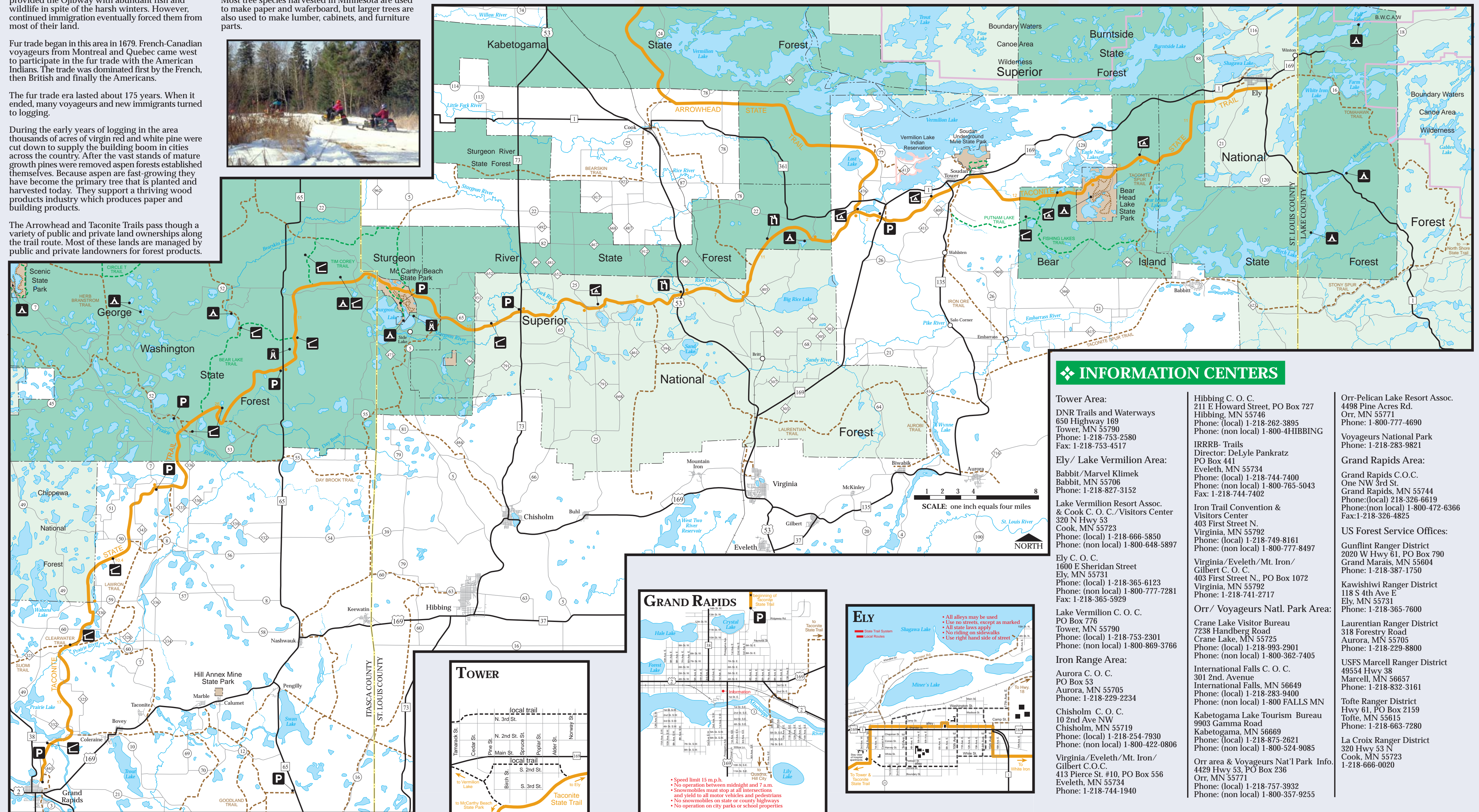
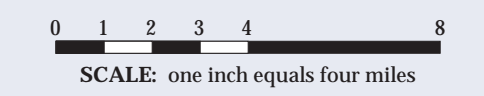
# MAP EXPLANATION

## TRAILS & THEIR PERMITTED USES

- Taconite State Trail**  
[Orange line with hiker icon]
- State Forest & Park Trail**  
[Green dashed line with hiker icon]
- State Park Ski Trails**  
[Red dashed line with skier icon]
- Grant-in-Aid Trails**  
[Blue dashed line with hiker icon]
- Other Trails**  
[Black dashed line with hiker icon]

# TRAIL SYMBOLS

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



# INFORMATION CENTERS

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

**Ely/ Lake Vermilion Area:**  
Babbitt/Marvel Klimek  
Babbitt, MN 55706  
Phone: 1-218-827-3152

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IRRRB- Trails  
Director: DeLyle Pankratz  
PO Box 441  
Eveleth, MN 55734  
Phone: (local) 1-218-744-7400  
Phone: (non local) 1-800-765-5043  
Fax: 1-218-744-7402

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

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

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

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

Kabetogama Lake Tourism Bureau  
9903 Gamma Road  
Kabetogama, MN 56669  
Phone: (local) 1-218-875-2621  
Phone: (non local) 1-800-524-9085

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

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

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

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

**US Forest Service Offices:**  
Gunflint Ranger District  
2020 W Hwy 61, PO Box 790  
Grand Marais, MN 55804  
Phone: 1-218-387-1750

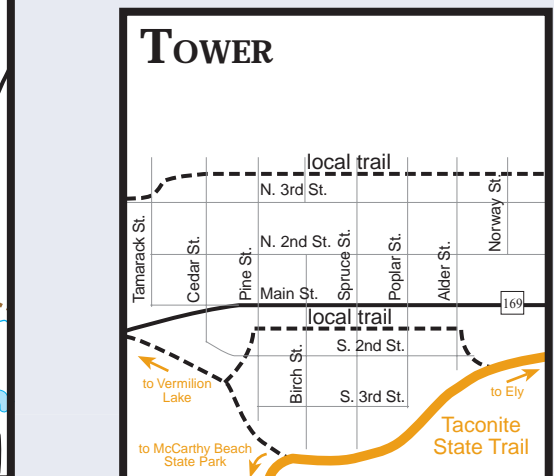
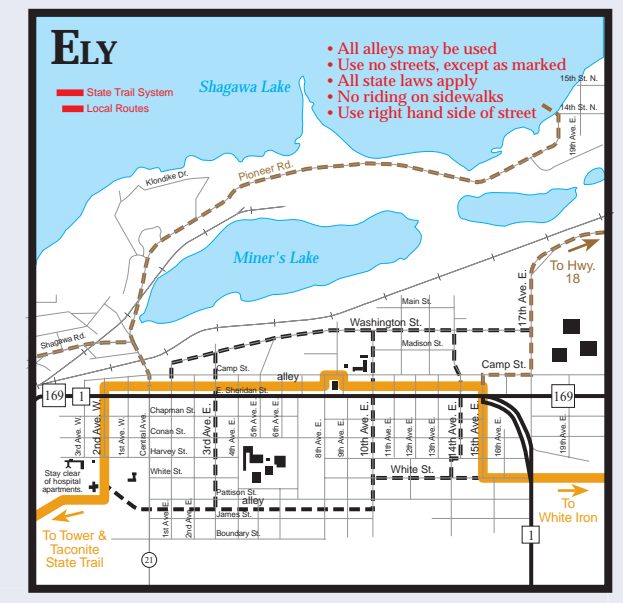
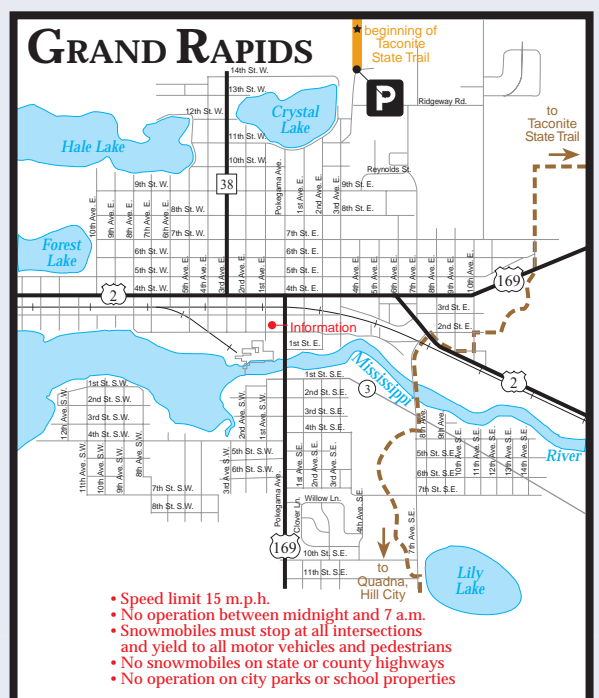
Kawishiwi Ranger District  
118 S 4th Ave E  
Ely, MN 55731  
Phone: 1-218-365-7600

Laurentian Ranger District  
7238 Handberg Road  
Aurora, MN 55705  
Phone: 1-218-229-8800

USFS Marcell Ranger District  
4954 Hwy 38  
Marcell, MN 56657  
Phone: 1-218-832-3161

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

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



- Speed limit 15 m.p.h.
- No operation between midnight and 7 a.m.
- Snowmobiles must stop at all intersections and yield to all motor vehicles and pedestrians
- No snowmobiles on state or county highways
- No operation on city parks or school properties