

The NCT crosses private land between Peters Driveway and Hwy 169. Stay on the trail, no campfires or camping.

13. Peters Driveway. After hiking 7.8 miles from the Copper Falls Pavillion you reach Peters Driveway. This is a private driveway, no trespassing. Hike diagonally to the right on the road to reach the trail again. This section of trail goes across private land using an easement next to the lot line. After 1/4 mile, you reach a gully with a trail bridge. This bridge was built using steel pads for its foundation, which is the first of its kind in the Heritage Chapter area. After the trail bridge, the trail crosses an old forest road then starts going uphill. The trail has two switchbacks going up the hill. Also, there are a few short boardwalks on this section of trail. Once you hike the second switchback you are on top of the hill, then it is just a short hike to Stricker Road.

14. Stricker Road. There is a great view looking south at Stricker Road. Parking is allowed on Stricker Road and people have left their car there overnight without any problems, but now there is a dedicated parking lot at Hwy 169. Hiking east of the road, the trail goes downhill for 1/4 mile along a fence line, then turns 90 degrees and travels 1/4 mile to the north. It again turns 90 degrees and heads east to a spot where there is a good view of a farm. The trail takes a right and curves around a farm field before heading on an old forest road. The trail goes on and off that road several times to avoid wet spots and eventually reaches a short boardwalk, then a long boardwalk right before Hwy 169

15. Hwy 169. At Hwy 169 the trail comes out north of the Tyler Forks River Bridge. There is a parking lot on the east side of the Highway. The Suggested Roadwalk to the next section of trail goes south on Hwy 169 to County Line Road. Turn left and hike about a mile to a spot where County Line Road takes a 90 degree turn to the south. At this point, cross a creek and start hiking on a forest road going to the northeast. Then connect with the NCT at Porcupine Hill. The Heritage Chapter is currently working on this section. To help out contact the Heritage Chapter at htg@northcountrytrail.org

North Country
National
Scenic Trail

ASHLAND AND
IRON COUNTIES,
WISCONSIN

HERITAGE
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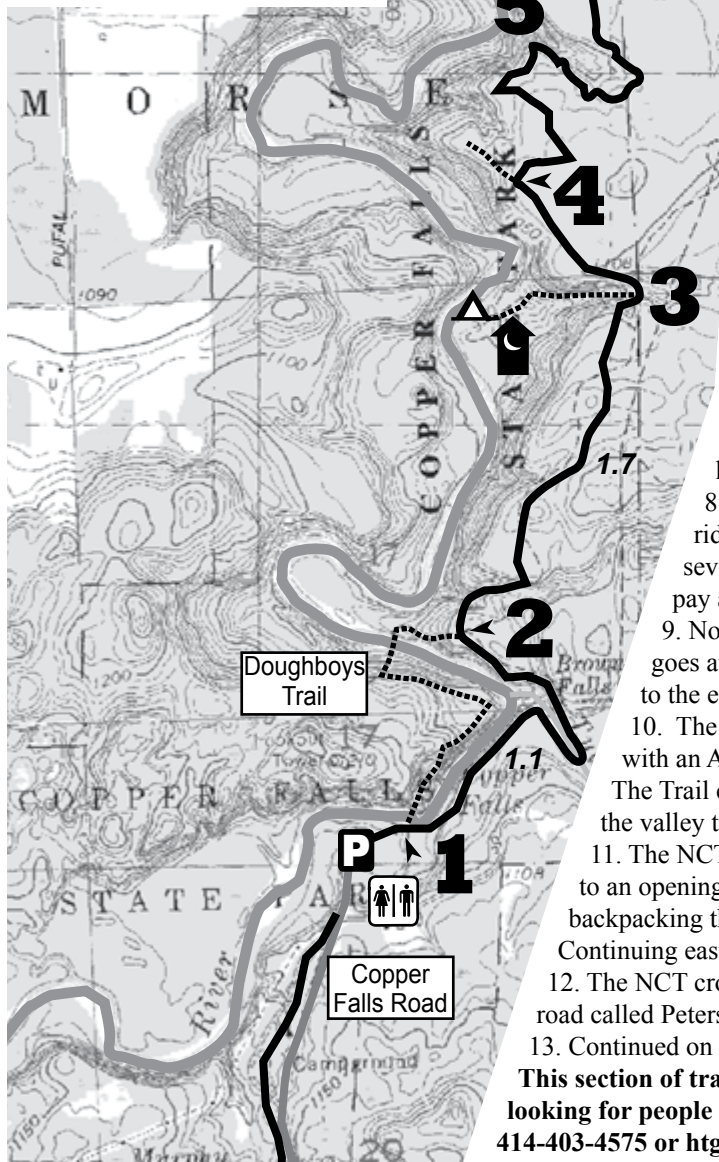
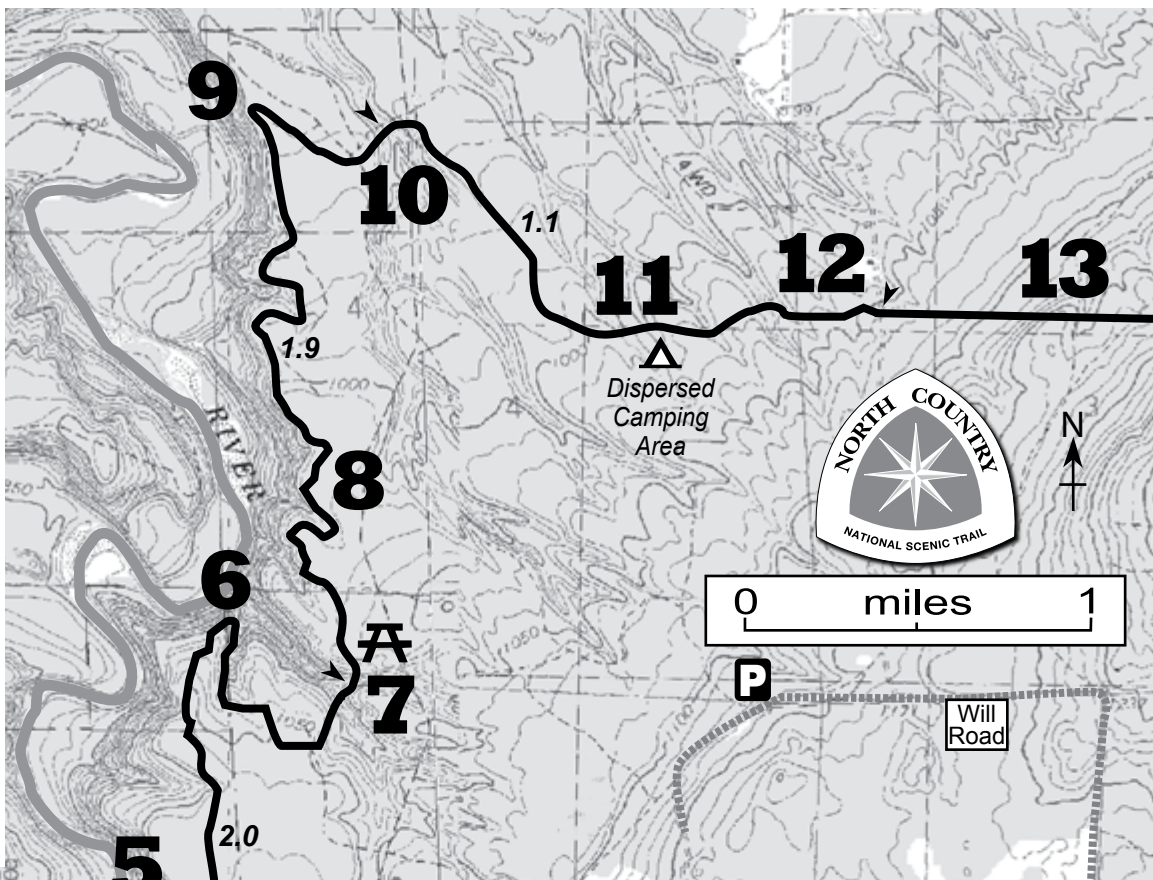


Copper Falls
Pavilion
to Hwy 169 at
the Tyler Forks
River Bridge
Hike

1. Copper Falls State Park Pavilion and Concession Stand. The Pavilion offers a Fireplace, picnic tables, rest rooms and the Concession Stand offers food and gifts. From the Pavillion, the NCT uses the Doughboys Loop Trail on the east side of the Bad River and goes by Copper Falls. It crosses a bridge over the Tyler Forks River, goes by the Cascades and Brownstone Falls

2. The NCT departs the Doughboys Trail and heads north over hilly terrain.

3. The NCT junctions with the Backpacking Campsite Spur Trail. That trail descends gradually to the Campsite on the Bad River. This is a fee campsite that can be reserved.



4. After the Backpacking Campsite Trail Junction, the NCT goes up a hill. Then the newer section of the NCT takes a right off of the older section of trail.

5 & 6 Overlooks of the Bad River. Sometimes the vegetation grows in and needs to be cleared.

7. Heritage Creek Ravine. The NCT goes steeply down into the ravine. There is a creek at the bottom with an A-Frame Trail Bridge. The ravine is a beautiful area, so it is worth hiking out to the ravine just to take a look and to see the overlooks along the way. It is a 4.8 mile one way hike from the Pavillion to the Ravine. The trail goes steeply up the other side of the Ravine. You are rewarded at the top with a Rest Area which has a trail logbook and picnic table.

8. The trail winds around several drainages on top of the ridge. The Trail goes on and off old logging roads several times. When walking on the old logging roads, pay attention for where the trail turns off the road.

9. Northern Point Overlook. At a nice overlook the NCT goes away from the ridge next to the Bad River. It turns to the east and eventually takes a left on a forest road.

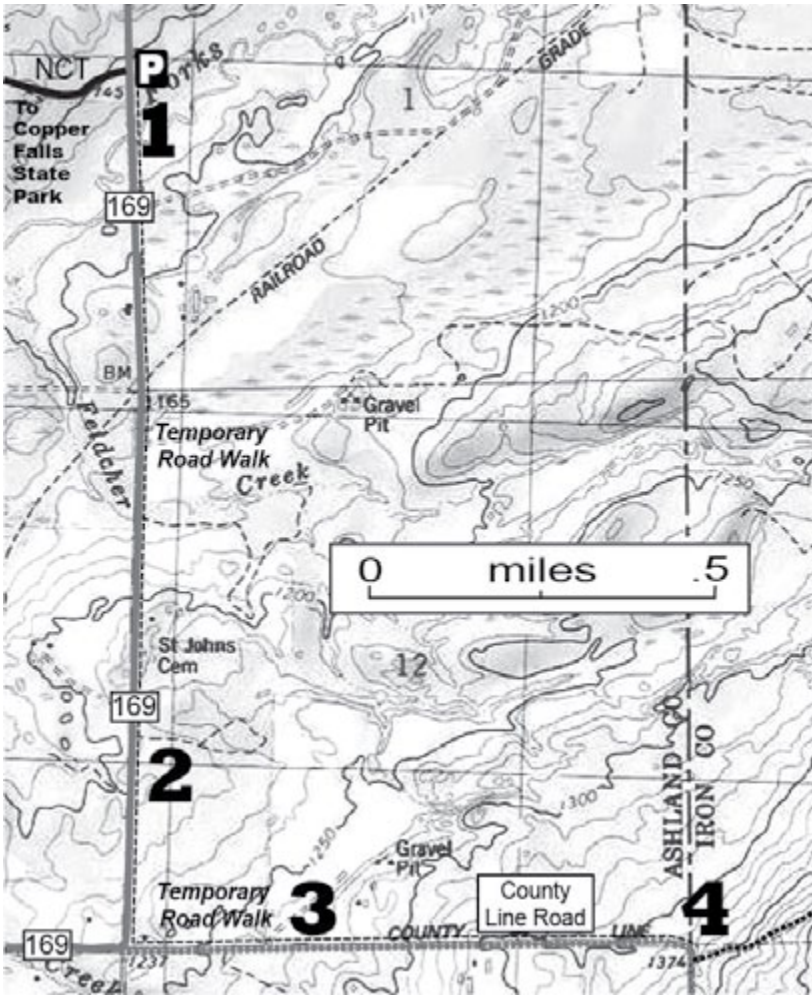
10. The NCT uses the old forest road to reach a creek with an A Frame bridge. After the creek the NCT takes a right off the old forest road. The Trail crosses the pipeline then travels on a small ridge with beaver ponds down in the valley to the south of the trail.

11. The NCT reaches the Dispersed Camping Area Trail. Take a right and go 200 feet to an opening in the woods where backpackers are allowed to camp for one night while backpacking through the area. This is not a fee campsite and is first come, first served. Continuing east on the NCT, the Trail crosses two drainages using Trail bridges.

12. The NCT crosses a creek, then a 400 foot boardwalk before the trail ends at a private road called Peters Driveway. There is No Trespassing on the Road.

13. Continued on next page

This section of trail is maintained by Volunteers. The Heritage Chapter is always looking for people to help out. Contact Chapter President Kevin Steffins at 414-403-4575 or htg@northcountrytrail.org



1. Hwy 169 Trailhead. From the Hwy 169 Trailhead, if you head west on the North Country Trail you will reach the Copper Falls State Park Pavilion in 10 miles. There is a brochure called “Copper Falls Pavilion to Hwy 169 near the Tyler Forks River” that you can use for that hike. To go east to Wren Falls from the Trailhead Parking Lot, head south on Hwy 169. After a short ways you will cross over the Tyler Forks River. Then you will be hiking past some farms.
2. Once you’ve hiked about a mile going south on Hwy 169, you reach the St Johns Cemetary. This might be a spot for you to take a break because it’s on top of a little hill with a nice view. Continuing South you will soon reach the corner of Hwy 169 and County Line Road. Take a left on County Line Road.
3. You hike east on County Line Road for about a mile. The road is gravel and goes steadily uphill until it does a 90 degree turn going to the south.

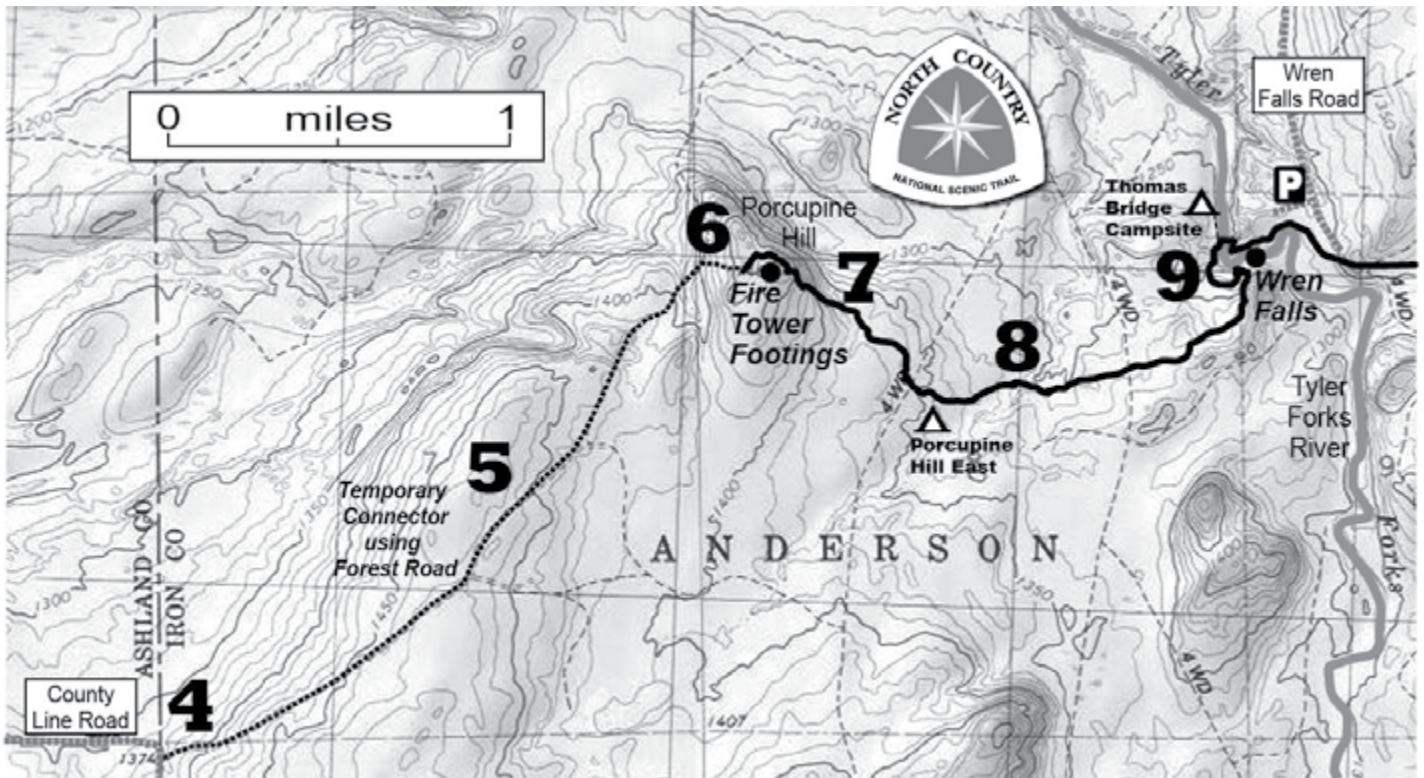
4. At the turn of the County Line Road there is a creek with a rather deep ditch to cross. Don’t cross there. Instead, go south for about 30 to 50 yards then cut in and you’ll be able to cross the creek easier. Once you’ve crossed the creek, take a rather large forest road going to the northeast. Once you are east of the County Line Road, you are in the Iron County Forest. *Continues on back.*

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Hwy 169 at
 the Tyler Forks
 River Bridge
 to
 Wren Falls



5. After crossing the creek at County Line Road you connect to a rather large forest road and start hiking to the north east. You hike on the forest road for over a mile. You may meet ATV's along the way. Then you get to a spot marked by a double blaze where there is a small forest road going to the right.
6. You travel on the small forest road for only about 300 yards. First, you will see some pink ribbons going to the left. Ignore those ribbons because they are the future route going to the Hwy 169 Trailhead. That route cannot be completely finished until there is a bridge built over the Tyler Forks River. The river is too dangerous to cross without a bridge. Continue on the small forest road for a very short ways after that and you will see a double blaze turn signal going to the left. Take that turn and it goes uphill using a switchback until you reach the rock footings from an old fire tower that was used in the early 1900s.
7. After the fire tower footings you go downhill in a curved route. Most of this route has not been totally cleared yet, so keep following the pink ribbons. Soon you cross the small forest road and continue going east until you reach a larger forest road
8. Shortly after crossing the forest road you will reach a creek with a bridge and a trail leading to the new Porcupine Hill East Campsite. These were all built by the Wisconsin Rovers Trail Crew in November, 2020. Continuing through the woods you eventually reach another creek and a ways after that you cross another forest road. After that you continue hiking through the woods and after 1/4 mile you start going on a downhill run. At the bottom you reach a small forest road.
9. If you take the small forest road going to the right, in about 50 yards you will reach the Wren Falls Overlook on the west side of the river. Continuing on the North Country Trail after crossing the small forest road, the trail curves around on the side of a hill up from the Tyler Forks River. Eventually you get closer to the river, then reach the Bill Thomas Memorial Bridge. Taking a side trail north from the bridge, after about 100 yards you reach the Thomas Bridge Backpacking campsite. Continuing across the bridge on the NCT, you soon reach Wren Falls on the east side of the river, then a parking lot on Wren Falls Road.

Please Note this entire section of trail is built and maintained by the Volunteers of the Heritage Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. To help out, call Chapter President Kevin Steffens at 262-498-0046, or email htg@northcountrytrail.org Our website is located at www.northcountrytrail.org/trail/wisconsin/htg/

Wren Falls to Foster Falls Hiking Segment

Including

*the Gold Mine &
Upson Lake Overlook*

North Country National Scenic Trail



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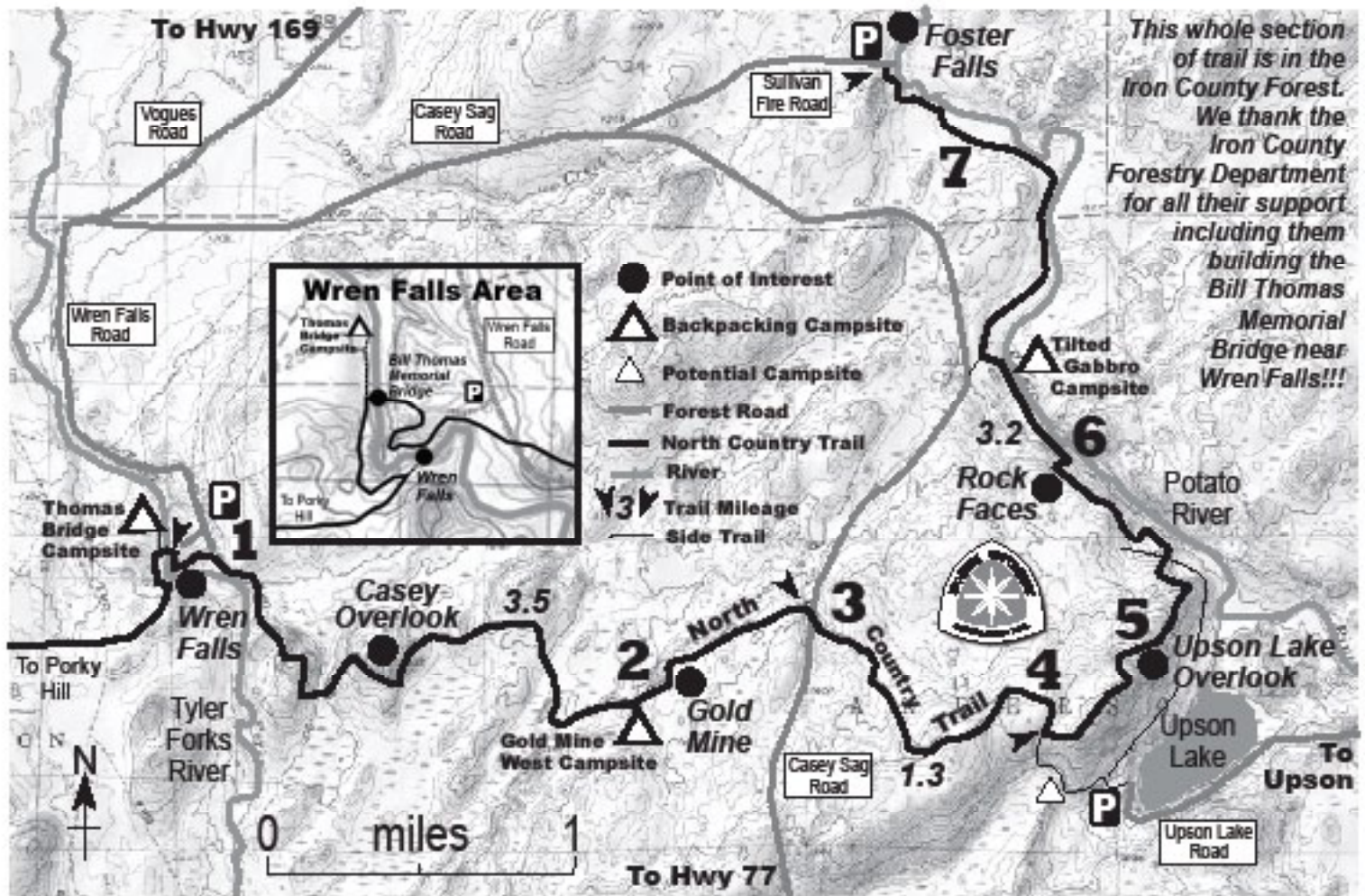
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6. Rock Faces/Tilted Gabbro. After the ATV Road, the trail continues north on a ridge above the Potato River. You cross a few bridges over creeks then reach a spot where there are Rock Faces to the west of the trail. After the Rock Faces, the trail goes downhill sharply to the right using a zig-zagging switchback. At the bottom is the Potato River. You hike along the very scenic river crossing several bridges of creeks going into the river. Eventually, you reach the Tilted Gabbro Campsite on a little knoll. There is a large tilted gabbro rock nearby which was brought to this location by a Glacier over 10,000 years ago. The Campsite has 3 tent pads, a latrine and a campfire area with a bench and table

7. Potato River. After the Tilted Gabbro Campsite the trail heads away from the river on a long boardwalk. After the boardwalk you go up a small hill and at the top there is a side trail going to the left. The side trail goes out to Casey Sag Road. If you parked at the #3 Casey Sag Road Crossing, you can hike back down to your car. It's about a mile walk on a gravel road that doesn't get very much traffic. It is very sunny unless you hike it in the morning or evening. Using this method you would be doing about a 4 mile loop. Back on the NCT, the trail goes north and there is a substantial bridge over a creek. Then the trail goes in a northeast direction getting closer and closer to the Potato River. Because of the underbrush, you won't be able to see the river immediately. You continue north along the river getting views of the river every once and a while. Eventually you get to a spot where the trail bypasses a loop in the river. After the loop you start to get really good views of the river. You cross several trail bridges of creeks going into the river. Then after one final creek bridge, you reach the Sullivan Fire Road where there is a parking lot. Foster Falls is just a short ways away. Hike north from the parking lot on an old forest road. Go about 1/8 mile and watch for a trail going to the right which takes you to the falls.

4. Upson Junction. After hiking 1.3 miles east of Casey Sag Road you get to the Upson Junction. Going downhill south from the junction is the Upson Lake Side Trail. If you go down that Trail .3 miles you reach a grassy meadow with an old XC Skiing Shelter. The Shelter is no longer usable, but the grassy area around it has been used as a campsite previously. There is a small pond that can be used as a water source west of the shelter. Continuing on the Upson Lake Side Trail, after another .3 miles you reach Upson Lake Road. There is room to park a few cars on the side of the road. Just make sure you don't block the end of the road where cars turn around. Back at the Upson Junction there are a bench and a logbook. From there the North Country Trail goes past a small meadow, across a creek, then climbs a hill going north. After you get on top of the hill, you travel on it for a while then reach a spot where there is a Geographic Marker pipe.

5. Upson Lake Overlook. After the Geographic Marker, the trail goes downhill swiftly using a zig-zagging switchback. At the bottom, you cross a bridge over a creek then the trail veers to the left and goes uphill diagonally. Near the top of the hill the trail take a sharp turn to the right, then after about 100 yards you meet up with the Upson Lake Overlook Trail. Head down that trail for 50 yards and you will reach a nice overlook of Upson Lake and beyond. Back on the NCT heading north you soon come out on an old forest road. You travel on the road for a short ways, then the trail veers to the right and goes into the woods. That lasts for about 50 yards then you are back out on the forest road going downhill for a short ways. The trail turns to the right off the old forest road and goes along the hill for a long ways until it crosses the old forest road. After that point the trail goes downhill in a big "C" pattern until it meets an ATV road at the bottom. You can take a right at the ATV road and hike over a mile and it will take you out to Upson Lake Road. The road is muddy in places and usually isn't used that often by ATVs. This would make a loop if you are parked on Upson Lake Road.



Please Note this entire section of trail is maintained by the Volunteers of the Heritage Chapter, NCTA. To help out, call Chapter President Kevin Steffens at 262-498-0046, or email htg@northcountrytrail.org

1. Wren Falls Area. At the Corner of Vogues Road and Casey Sag Road (aka hairpin turn) go south on Wren Falls Road for 1.3 miles. Go to a spot where there is a fork in the road and there is a parking lot on the right side of the road. Park your car and hike the road going to the right (west) and after about 200 yards you will reach Wren Falls. At Wren Falls you will connect with the North Country Trail. Going west, the trail goes down to the Bill Thomas Memorial Bridge. After crossing bridge there is a trail going to the north to the Thomas Bridge Campsite. Continuing west on the NCT, the trail goes over to near Wren Falls on the west side of the river. Then the Trail heads to Porcupine Hill. Using forest roads as a temporary route, the NCT goes out to County Line Road.

Going east on the NCT from Wren Falls you will soon cross Wren Falls Road. Then the trail goes up to a clearing then down to a big A Frame bridge over the Gold Mine Creek. Then the trail winds up a hill with a rocky summit then down to a spot where there is a small bridge with a big beaver dam to the south of it. After that you eventually reach a short side trail going up to an Overlook. It's called the Casey Overlook because it looks in the direction of Casey Sag Road.

2. Gold Mine Area. After Casey Overlook the trail continues east going over another hill with a rocky summit. This would be a nice place for a picnic. After hiking east over a mile from the overlook through the mature forest, you reach a small bridge over a creek. After the bridge there is a sign for the Gold Mine West Campsite and a trail going to the right. The creek is the water source for the campsite. At the trail junction there is a logbook for you to sign in and write your thoughts.. The campsite trail goes up a hill for 75 yards and takes a left and goes another 75 yards to the campsite. The campsite has 4 tent pads, a latrine and a campfire area with a bench and table. Going east on the NCT you pass a 2-story high rock face then reach the Gold Mine. The mine, known as the Maxim Mine, was mined for Gold and Copper from 1903 to 1910. There is an old steam drill sitting next to the mine. Be careful because the main shaft goes down over 100 feet and there are two other pilot holes in the area.

3. Casey Sag Road. From the Gold Mine going east through the mature woods, in .6 miles you reach a larger trail bridge over the Gold Mine Creek. Then you come out to Casey Sag Road. There is no parking lot at this location, however the road is wide enough here that you can park. Going east from the road you eventually pass a rock, which is the size of a small whale, then you pass an old deer blind on the ground.

Sullivan Fire Road to Hwy 169 (south of Gurney)

