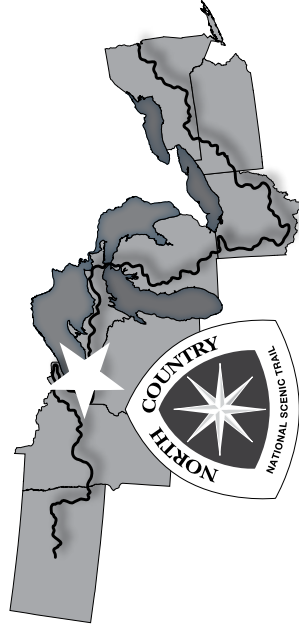


Wren Falls to Foster Falls Hiking Segment

*Including
the Gold Mine &
Upson Lake Overlook*

North Country National Scenic Trail



HERITAGE CHAPTER

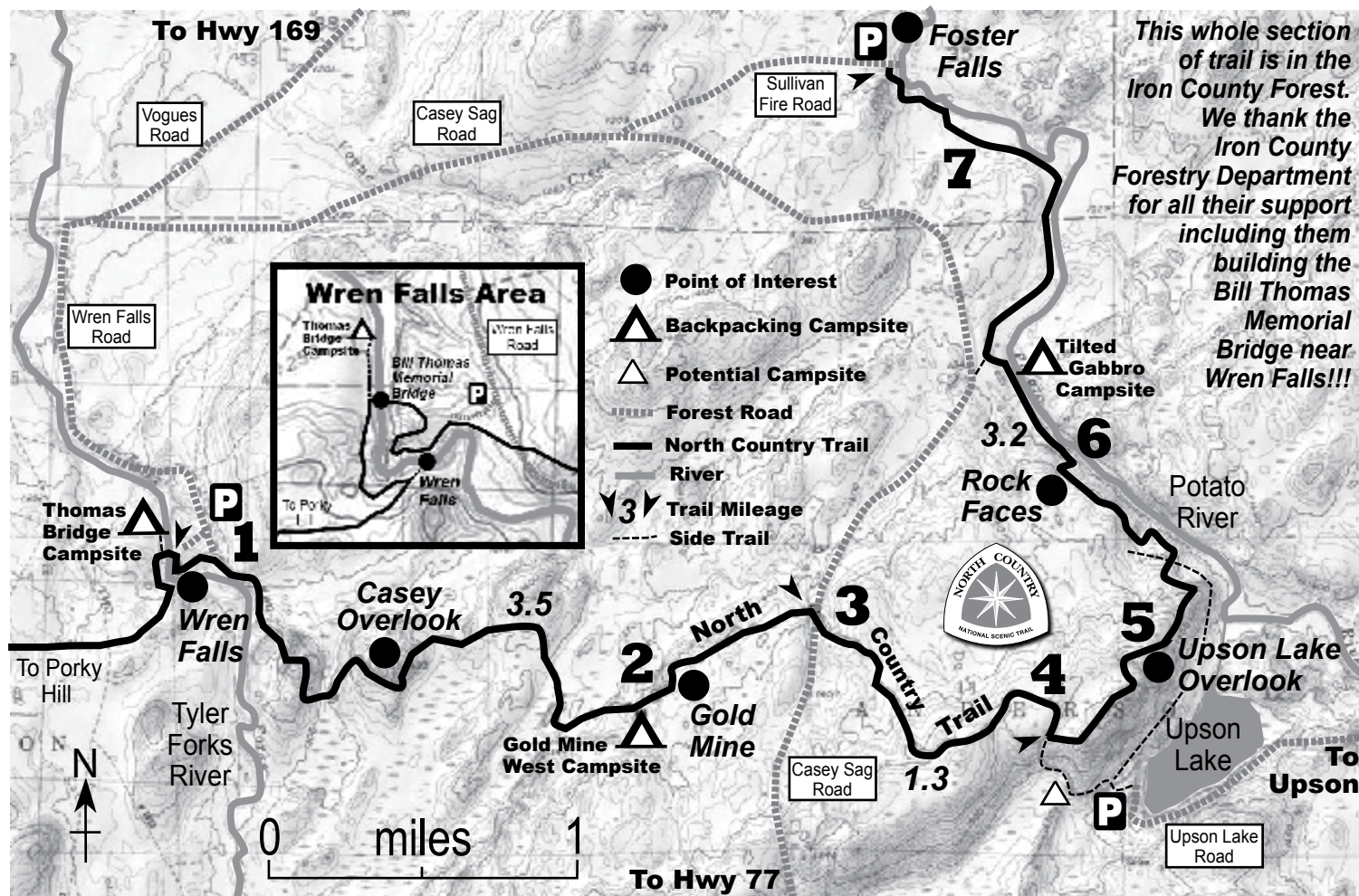
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4. Upson Junction. After hiking 1.3 miles east of Casey Sag Road you get to the Upson Junction. Going downhill south from the junction is the Upson Lake Side Trail. If you go down that Trail .3 miles you reach a grassy meadow with an old XC Skiing 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.

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.



This whole section of trail is in the Iron County Forest. We thank the Iron County Forestry Department for all their support including them building the Bill Thomas Memorial Bridge near Wren Falls!!!

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.