

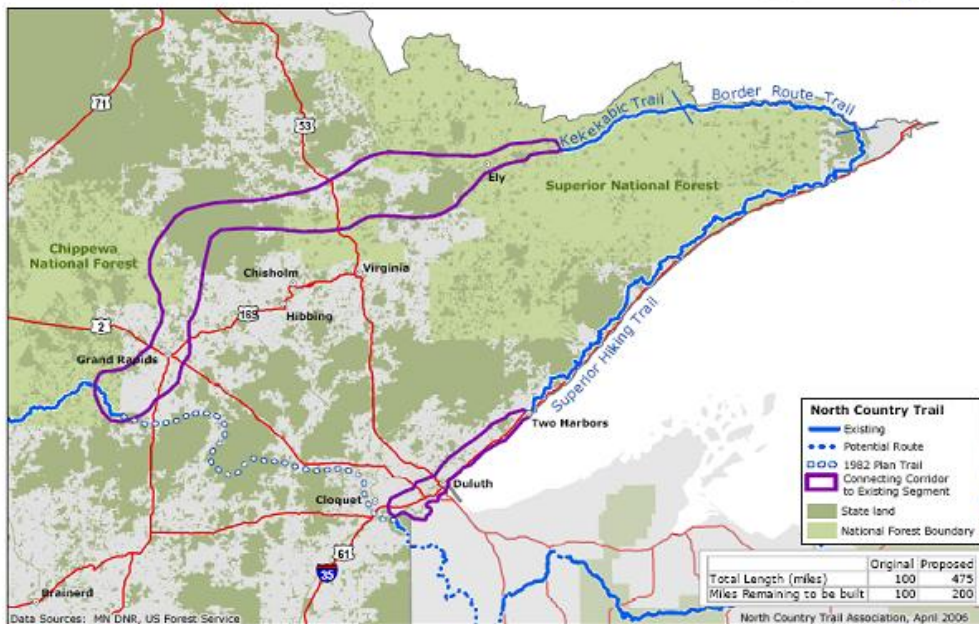
Minnesotans and others needed to contact our U.S. Representatives to encourage their support for the North Country Trail's Arrowhead Re-Route legislation



If you have not heard of “the North Country Trail” or its “Arrowhead Re-route,” you may be wondering, “*What the heck is it?*”

Simply put, it is an effort to change the official route of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) – the nation’s longest hiking trail - in northeastern Minnesota. The Arrowhead Re-route will incorporate outstanding Minnesota “Northwoods” scenery – the Boundary Waters and North Shore. It encompasses almost 400 miles of existing hiking trails, including the Superior Hiking Trail, Border Route Trail, and Kekekabic Trail. An additional 150-200 miles will need to be constructed in Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, and Lake Counties between the existing North Country Trail within the Chippewa National Forest in north eastern Cass County and the western end of the Kekekabic Trail in Lake County. The Superior Hiking Trail Association is already connecting its original trail (from Two Harbors almost to Canada) with the NCNST at the Wisconsin border by Jay Cooke State Park.

**Northeastern Minnesota Proposed Route
North Country National Scenic Trail**



Couple the fact that the Arrowhead Re-Route will take the North Country Trail through world-class scenery on existing trails with the fact that only 100 additional trail miles (compared to the original route directly from Remer to Jay Cooke State Park) would have to be built and this is a “no-brainer.” It is supported by local governments (see list below), all of our agency partners, and the trail groups in Minnesota. We only lack the federal legislation to make it official.

List of local entities that support the Re-route:

- Cass County
- Aitkin County
- Itasca County
- Lake County
- Cook County
- Carlton County
- City of Grand Rapids
- City of Tower
- City of Cook
- City of Ely
- Fall Lake Township
- City of Duluth
- City of Cloquet
- City of Carlton
- Minnesota DNR
- Superior National Forest
- Chippewa National Forest
- Superior Hiking Trail Association
- Border Route Trail Association
- Kekekabic Trail Club
- Parks & Trails Council of MN

During the 111th Congress (2009-2010), two Arrowhead Re-route bills (both entitled **North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act of 2009**) advanced through Committees in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate but were not acted upon by the full bodies. The House bill was introduced by Rep. Oberstar and supported by 5 Minnesota co-sponsors and one Rep. from NY. Introduced by Sen. Klobuchar, the Senate bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Franken and 3 other Senators from WI and MI. Upon the close of the 111th Congress both bills expired.

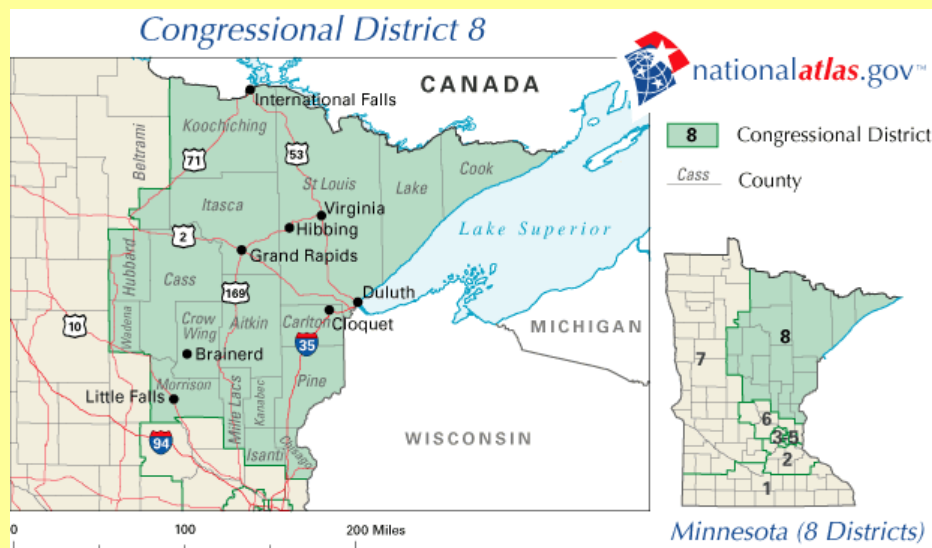
We are starting over in the 112th Congress

As we start the 112th Congress, we are looking for Rep. Chip Cravaack (MN-8th District) to introduce a new version of the re-route legislation and we expect Sens. Klobuchar and Franken to also introduce a new version in the Senate. The NCTA would like to obtain the support of Minnesota's entire Congressional delegation.

What can you do to help?

If you live in Minnesota's 8th District, please make your voice heard! Let Rep. Cravaack know that you support the North Country Trail's Arrowhead Re-Route and that you want to see a bill introduced early in the 112th Congress.

You can email him at cravaack.house.gov/contact-me/email-me or contact his North Branch office at (651) 237-8220 or 1-888-563-7390.



If you live outside of the 8th District, please contact your U.S. Representative and Senators and ask them to support the Arrowhead Re-route.

If you've never done it, it's easy to contact your Representative and Senator via their websites. Go to writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml and put in your Zip code and visit senate.gov to contact your Senators via their websites or to find their office contact information. You can call their DC office or any of their local offices or use the good old reliable USPS although this is the slowest method.

To obtain more information or answers to any specific questions you may have about this issue, visit <http://go.northcountrytrail.org/arrowhead> or contact Matthew Davis of the NCTA at (701) 388-1883 / davis@northcountrytrail.org.