Please contact your Congress people today and ask for co-sponsorship of the Arrowhead Re-route legislation! By Matthew Davis, Regional Trail Coordinator

We finally received word late last month that the Arrowhead Re-route bills were introduced into the House and Senate by Rep. Collin Peterson (MN’s 7th District) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar. The bill numbers are H.R. 5980 and S. 3319, respectively and you can read the full text of the Senate bill on page 2 (note: the House bill is identical). Yeah...but, we’re not done. We need your help now more than ever!!!

Currently, the NCTA are our partners are trying to obtain co-sponsorship by Representatives and Senators from all across the NCT. Special emphasis is being placed on co-sponsorship by Minnesota’s full Congressional delegation including Rep. Cravaack, whose 8th District this issue lies in. He has indicated support for the issue but was unwilling to introduce the bill himself. As you know, the 112th Congress will adjourn on January 3rd, 2013 so time is short! Currently (as of July 20th), the following officials are on board:

- **H.R. 5980**—Representatives Peterson and Ellison (MN-5)
- **S. 3319**—Senator Klobuchar, Senators Levin and Stabenow (MI)

To take action, visit [http://go.northcountrytrail.org/action](http://go.northcountrytrail.org/action) and use the talking points and sample contacts to email, phone, or write your Representative and Senators. Please do this ASAP!

For more info and/or to follow or share the issue with your friends, visit [www.facebook.com/ArrowheadReRoute](http://www.facebook.com/ArrowheadReRoute) and “Like” it. There are also graphics on the NCTA website that you can use on your Facebook wall to show your support.

The NCTA is hopeful that the bills will be scheduled for a Sub-committee hearing soon, be voted out of Committee this fall without amendment, and be included in an omnibus public lands bill after the election. This would be similar to the one in 2009 that gave the NCT “willing seller authority” and authorized three new National Scenic Trails.

Again, please help out the NCT today by contacting your Representative and Senators TODAY! We also ask you to share this issue with your family, friends, and hiking buddies and asking them to support the nation’s longest hiking trail!
This is the full text of the Arrowhead Re-route legislation...

112TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION

S. 3319

To amend the National Trails System Act to revise the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along the north shore of Lake Superior, in the Superior National Forest, and in the Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—JUNE 20, 2012

Ms. KLOBUCHAR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to revise the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along the north shore of Lake Superior, in the Superior National Forest, and in the Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE REVISION.

The first sentence of section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended—

(1) by striking “thirty-two hundred miles” and inserting “4,600 miles”; and


Graphic by Todd McMahon from Madison, WI

This is the Authorized Route map (649/80,002) referenced in the legislation. It shows the original (dashed) route and the new route going through the Arrowhead region.
The 2014 NCTA Annual Conference planning committee is still looking for volunteers!

Do you want to help show off the great hiking that we enjoy here in Minnesota to NCTA members from elsewhere? As we mentioned previously in the *Call of the North*, the NCTA’s 2014 Annual Conference will be hosted by the four Minnesota Chapters and our partners in Duluth. **We’re tentatively planning on holding the Conference at Spirit Mountain on July 30 - August 3, 2014.**

There is plenty of work yet to do over the next two years To that end, we’re still looking for NCTA member volunteers to serve on the numerous conference committees, including:

- Lodging / Food & Visitor Experience
- Programs (evening entertainment & workshops)
- Trips (hikes and other activities)
- Auction Item Solicitation
- Conference Publicity
- Transportation

If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Doug Thomas at 952-941-5825 or dthomas7000@gmail.com.

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As you probably know, the **Superior Hiking Trail** was really hit hard by the late June flooding in the Duluth area. The NCT and SHT within Jay Cooke State Park will most likely remain closed for a long time as the park roads are repaired. The iconic swinging bridge over the St. Louis River within the Park was partially washed out along with many other bridges on the SHT. **Donations are still being accepted and volunteers are still needed!**

Visit [http://tinyurl.com/SHTbridgefund](http://tinyurl.com/SHTbridgefund) to donate to the SHTA’s Bridge Fund and / or visit [http://www.duluthmn.gov/2012_flood/](http://www.duluthmn.gov/2012_flood/) to learn about volunteer opportunities or to donate to the Duluth community relief effort.
Late Summer & Fall 2012 activities schedule

- August 2-5: **NCTA Annual Conference**—Augusta, MI
- August 9: ITM's Midweek morning hike—Nevis, MN
- August 16: ITM’s Midweek morning hike—Longville, MN
- August 18: ARW’s workday—Grand Rapids, MN
- August 18-19: SHTA’s trail building workday—between Duluth and Two Harbors, MN
- August 25: **6th Annual North Country Hiking Fest** @ Itasca State Park (see page 3)
- September 6-9: BRTA’s Trail Maintenance & Bridge Construction—Gunflint Lake, MN
- September 8: ARW’s workday—Grand Rapids, MN
- September 8-9: SHTA’s trail building workday—between Duluth and Two Harbors, MN
- September 22: LLC’s Fall color hike—Ponsford, MN
- September 22: ARW’s fall color hike—Grand Rapids, MN
- September 29: STN’s National Public Lands Day—Longville, MN
- October 6: LLC’s Fall hike at Tamarac NWR—Rochert, MN
- October 20: Joint ITM & LLC End of Season Celebration—TBD
- November 16-18: Outdoor Adventure Expo—Minneapolis, MN

Editor’s Note

We are excited to be heading out on a raspberry hike tomorrow morning with the Laurentian Lakes Chapter. It’s hard to convince a berry-loving five year old to keep walking, but we will do our best. I bet we will see some of you out there! In less than two weeks, we will be loading up the family and heading off to Augusta, Michigan. It will be our daughter, Ruthy’s third conference, our son William’s second conference and our son Teddy’s first. They love a good road trip and usually enjoy all the familiar faces and fun adventures at conference. We look forward to seeing some of you there! Thank you for your support of the re-route legislation, hopefully one day our little hikers will be able to enjoy hiking on the North Shore and in the Boundary Waters on the official NCT. Happy Hiking! - Stacy

Get connected with the NCTA via social media…

meetup.com/Red-River-Valley-Outdoors/
meetup.com/HikeNCTinMN/
meetup.com/Chip-NCT-hikers/
meetup.com/Arrowhead-NCT-hikers/
facebook.com/NCTinMN
go.northcountrytrail.org/ARFacebook

Trail partner contacts: hike@shta.org; volunteer@shta.org, info@kek.org; info@borderroutetrail.org

Chapter / Group abbreviations:

ARW = Arrowhead Ch.
ITM=Itasca Moraine Ch.
STN=Star of the North Ch.
LLC=Laurentian Lakes Ch.
BRTA=Border Route Trail Association
KTC=Kekekabic Trail Club
SHTA=Superior Hiking Trail Association

$23 Introductory Rate for our Friends!

To begin your membership, complete this form and send it with your $23 payment to:
North Country Trail Association • 229 East Main Street • Lowell, Michigan 49331 • northcountrytrail.org

Call of the North

Our Sponsoring Membership allows current members to sign up new members at an introductory rate of $23.
To qualify, Sponsoring Members must be new to NCTA, or have been members for at least two years. The $23 rate is good only for the first year of membership. To use the program, just fill in your name in the “Sponsoring by=” box. Then, give the form to your friend to fill out.

Sponsored by: