

WELCOME TO NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION!



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Calm waters for paddling.

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest offers endless opportunities for paddlers. This guide focuses on six recommended paddling routes and the designated water-access campsites along rivers and lakes on the forest, many of which are associated with those routes.

All campsites have a picnic table and fire ring and are numbered and marked with yellow signs displaying a tepee. Portages are designated by yellow signs with crossed paddles.

Campsite B02 on Boulder Lake is an **accessible, barrier-free campsite** with a small boarding dock and crushed granite pathways that lead to a tend pad, picnic table, fire ring and latrine which are all wheelchair accessible.

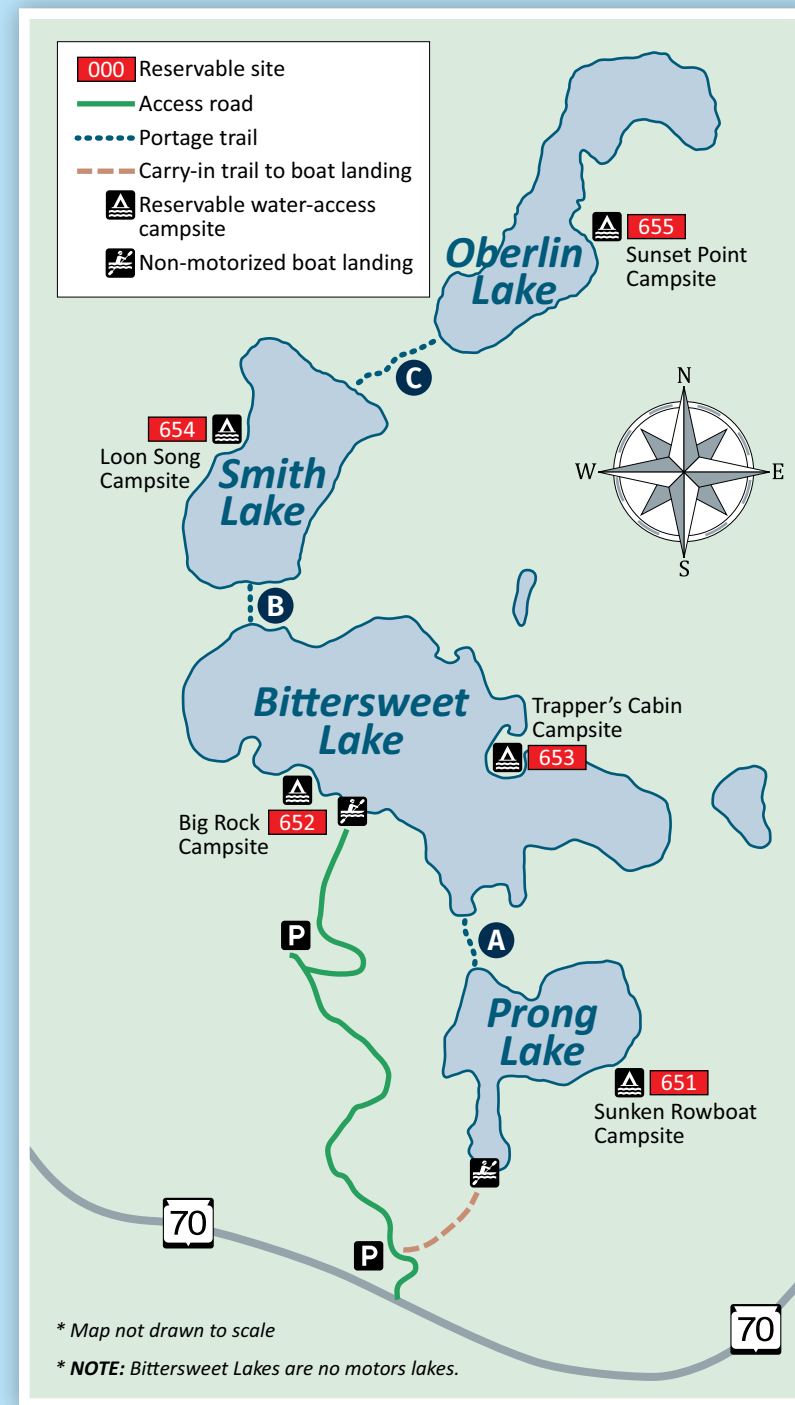
Note that the state forest may occasionally close or remove a campsite due to resource concerns or other conflicts.



Photo Credit: Scott Bowie, Kemp Natural Resources Station

Another great fishing day.

BITTERSWEET WILD LAKES AREA



The 2,553-acre Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area lies a few miles north and east of the town of Woodruff off Highway 70. Its wild seepage lakes (Bittersweet, Prong, Oberlin, and Smith) are small, scenic, undeveloped and connected by following portage trails:

- **A - Prong Lake to Bittersweet Lake** 300 ft.
- **B - Bittersweet Lake to Smith Lake** 300 ft.
- **C - Smith Lake to Oberlin Lake** 600 ft.

The forest surrounding these lakes captures the oldest stands of hemlock, red pine and white pine known in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. The Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area has been set aside to preserve the beautiful woods and waters for visitors to enjoy in a quiet, remote setting.

All five primitive campsites are reservable for up to 14 nights through the reservation system at: **888-947-2757** or online at **wisconsin.goingtocamp.com**. Motors are not allowed on any of these lakes and access is by carry-in landings.

This wild lakes area has a low-maintenance access road, so vehicles with four-wheel or all-wheel drive and high clearance are recommended.

RULES AND SAFETY

Camping

Camping is permitted only at designated sites. Sites must be accessed by watercraft. No more than six persons per site. Do not cut or damage living trees or shrubs.

Non-reservable Water-access Campsites

No fee is required and camping is limited to one night only (first-come, first-serve basis).

Reservable Water-access Campsites

Sites can be reserved up to 14 nights through the reservation system at **888-947-2757** or online at **wisconsin.goingtocamp.com**.

Paddling

Every watercraft must carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable lifesaving device for each person aboard. Passengers should wear a life jacket at all times. Most forest paddling routes are slow to moderately slow, but paddlers should be aware of any changing conditions. Do not overload watercraft.

Drinking Water

Boil all water or use approved tablets or filters before drinking.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Day Lake primitive campsite.

Swimming

Swim safely. Don't swim alone, at night, or in unfamiliar places. Use caution when wading as water depths may change abruptly. Watch small children closely near the water.

Campfires

Use caution and confine fires to a fire ring. Put the fire out if wind changes cause concern. Watch children closely near the fire. Once you have put a match to the fire, don't use charcoal starter or any other flammable material. Make sure the fire is completely out and the grill or fire ring is cool before you leave the area.

Plants

Never eat berries or plant materials unless you are certain of their identity.

Come back soon!
And be sure to visit Wisconsin's other Northern State Forests

- 1 Governor Knowles State Forest715-463-2898
- 2 Brule River State Forest.....715-372-5678
- 3 Flambeau River State Forest715-332-5271
- 4 Northern Highland American Legion State Forest715-542-3923
- 5 Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest715-757-3965
- 6 Black River State Forest.....715-284-4103
- 7 Coulee Experimental State Forest608-785-9007

EXPLORE THESE RECOMMENDED PADDLING TRIPS IN THE NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION!

Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest contains excellent paddling opportunities. Six specific routes are recommended in this guide. Each of the four Manitowish River trips have a combination of lakes and river stretches. There are three portages on the slow-flowing Manitowish River. Beginners and avid paddlers can enjoy the scenic beauty. Motors are allowed on the entire route. Ways to avoid motorboat traffic include planning a trip in spring or fall or paddling in the early morning hours during summer. Along the way you will paddle past black spruce bogs, giant white pines along the shore, and wind through a river of lily pads and submerged tree stumps.

Fishing regulations can vary between bodies of water, so check your fishing regulation booklet or find the fishing regulations online at dnr.wi.gov.

In addition to these six recommended routes, there are countless other paddling opportunities on the state forest. For quiet recreation, seek out lakes with "No Motor" or "Electric Motor Only" designations.

TRIP #1 (Manitowish River): High Lake to Fishtrap Dam

Put in at High Lake boat landing on the south side of Highway B. The small creek leads to High Lake. Travel southwest through High Lake and a culvert into Fishtrap Lake. Once through Fishtrap, the river meanders past Johnson and Nixon tributary creeks. Take out at the portage just upstream from the Fishtrap Dam.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

Campsite at Trout Lake.

TRIP #2 (Manitowish River): Fishtrap Dam to Highway K

Put in below the dam downstream from the boat landing at the end of Dam Road northeast of Boulder Junction. Paddle downstream and through Boulder Lake to the take out just upstream from Highway K.

TRIP #3 (Manitowish River): Highway K to Highway 51

Put in for this trip just below the rapids on Highway K. This trip follows the Manitowish River through several lakes of the Manitowish chain. A short portage around the 10-foot dam at Rest Lake and Highway W is required. Take out where the Manitowish River and Highway 51 intersect. For a shorter trip, take out at Island Lake boat landing.

TRIP #4 (Manitowish River): Highway 51 to Murray's Landing

This trip begins below the Highway 51 bridge. A USGS topographic map is highly recommended as the river flows into the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage but not directly to Murray's Landing. To shorten this trip, take out at the Highway 51 wayside or Highway 47 bridge. Once past the Highway 47 bridge, there is no take out until Murray's Landing.

TRIP #5 (Trout River): White Sand to Manitowish Lake

This trip begins at White Sand Lake north of Highway K. Travel south across a portage from White Sand to Lost Canoe Lake. From Lost Canoe, portage into Palette Lake (has three portages).* The western portage to Stevenson Springs (and Trout Lake) will eventually bring you to a sand road. Portage over this road to a small creek that flows to North Trout Campground and boat landing. Beaver dams can be encountered along this stretch. Enter South Trout Lake through North Trout, and take the Trout River, which passes through Wild Rice, Alder and Manitowish Lakes. Paddling north of Manitowish Lake and under the Highway 51 bridge into Spider Lake allows you to connect with the Manitowish River Trip.
* Consider taking a side trip on the eastern portage to Escanaba Lake, which is a beautiful place to paddle. Escanaba and Palette lakes are research lakes. No fishing is allowed without a permit.

TRIP #6 (Wisconsin River): Cloverland Drive to Bridge Road

This trip begins below the Cloverland Dam off Cloverland Road, west of Eagle River and south of Highway 70. The river is about 100 feet wide here with a sweeping current. Take out is at Fredrich Landing, located on the right, just downstream from the bridge on Bridge Road near McNaughton. Motors are allowed on this stretch but will most likely be concentrated on the Rainbow Flowage. A Rainbow Flowage map and a good topographical map are suggested for this route. Note that in low water you may bump into rocks and high water will flow faster and be more challenging. This trip is more suited to intermediate paddlers.

TRIP ROUTES & MILEAGE

Trip #1 (paddle time - 4 hours)
High Lake to Fishtrap Dam..... 8.0 miles

Trip #2 (paddle time - 3 hours)
Fishtrap Dam to Highway M..... 2.8 miles
Highway M to Highway K3.6 miles

TRIP #3 (paddle time - 8 hours)
Highway K to Island Lake Landing 8.2 miles
Island Lake to Highway W7.5 miles
Highway W to Highway 511.8 miles

TRIP #4 (paddle time - 12 hours)
Highway 51 to Highway 47 8.3 miles
Highway 47 to Murray's Landing14.6 miles

TRIP #5 (paddle time - 12 hours)
White Sand Lake to Manitowish Lake Highway 51 bridge 22.8 miles

TRIP #6 (paddle time - 13 hours)
Wisconsin River Trip (Cloverland Drive to Bridge Road) 25.3 miles

NOTE: Paddle times are approximate and can vary significantly depending on a variety of factors.

Maintained Portages & Lengths

- Partridge Lake to Ballard Lake 1,800 ft.
- White Sand Lake to Lost Canoe Lake 1,700 ft.
- Lost Canoe Lake to Palette Lake... 1,400 ft.
- Plum Lake to Star Lake 1,300 ft.
- Lost Canoe Lake to Escanaba Lake...1,200 ft.
- Palette Lake to Stevenson Springs..... 800 ft.
- Manitowish River Highway K Rapids... 600 ft.
- Escanaba Lake to Palette Lake..... 600 ft.
- Rest Lake Dam Portage..... 300 ft.
- Fishtrap Dam Portage.....200 ft.

NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST

For Emergency Dial 911

Helpful Hints

- Keep soap usage at least 100 feet from shore where soil can filter out impurities.
- Always carry a compass, insect repellent and first aid kit.
- Please leave a clean site for others – pack out everything you bring in.
- Wear shoes appropriate for dragging a watercraft over beaver dams, which may be encountered along the way.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

PO Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

dnr.wi.gov • Keywords "NHAL"

DNR Call Center 1-888-936-7463 (toll-free 7 a.m.-10 p.m.)

DNR PUB-FR-179 2022



NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST

PADDLING ROUTES

SEE MAP INSIDE!

Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

10200 Highway N • Boulder Junction, WI 54512 • 715-542-3923

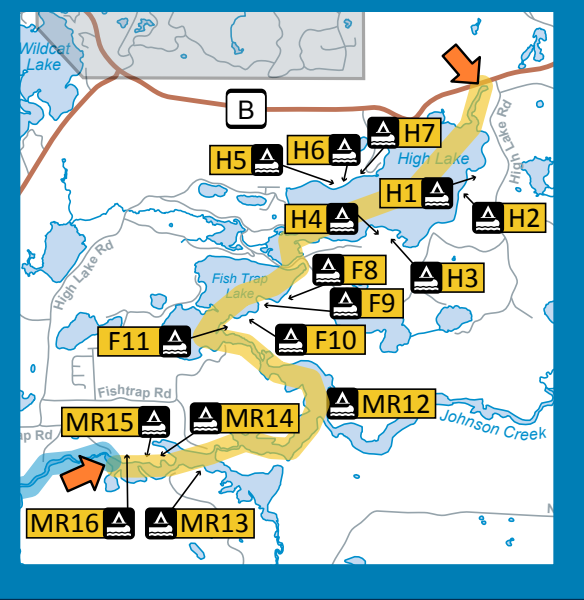


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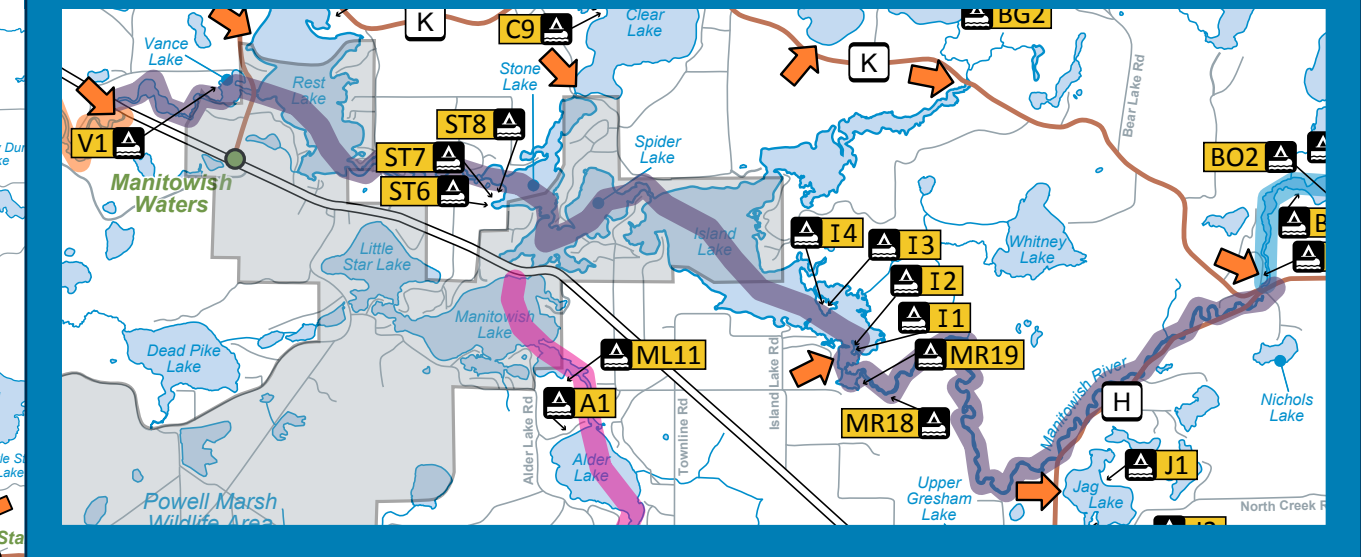
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PADDLING ROUTES

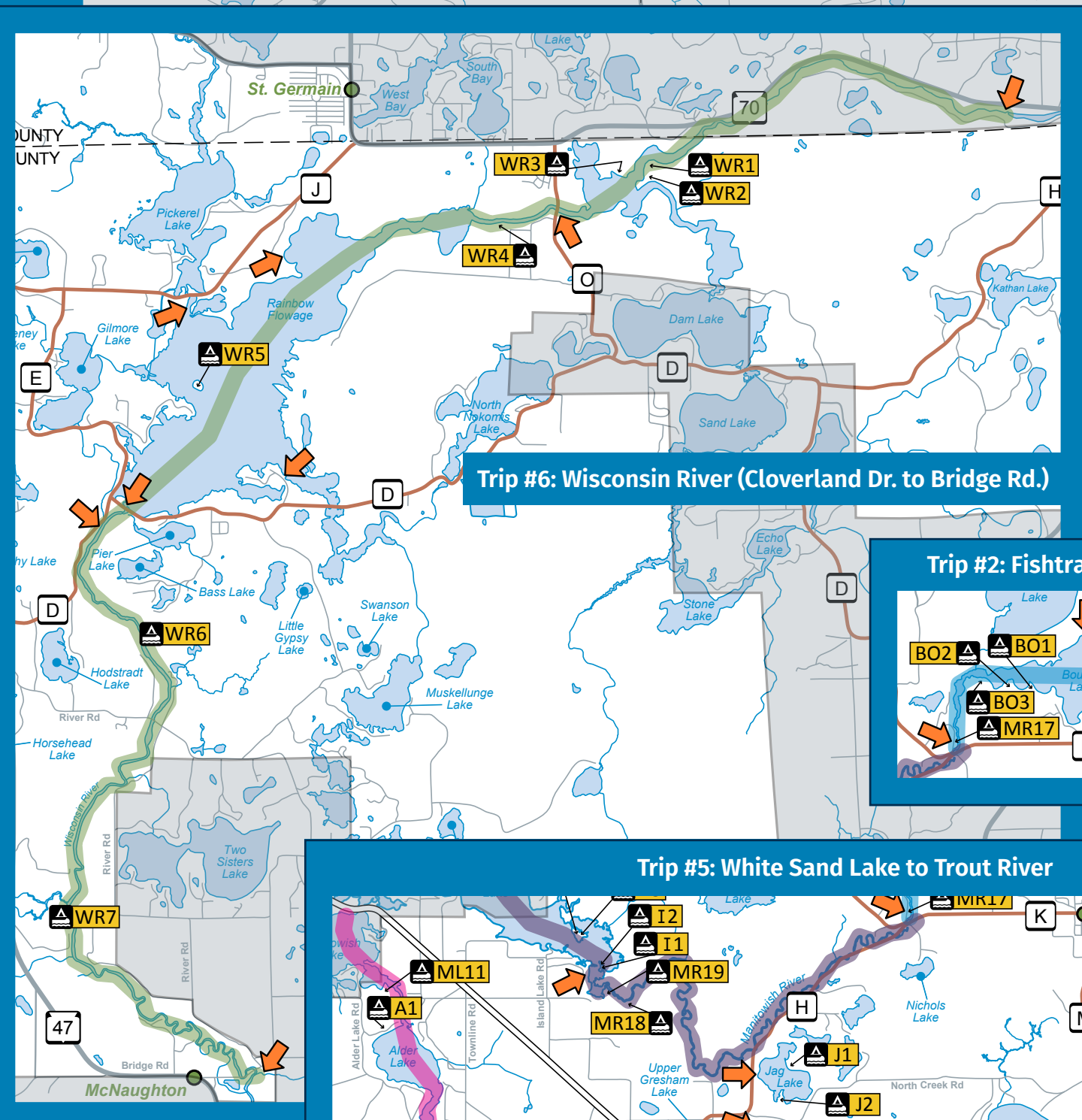
Trip #1: High Lake to Fishtrap Dam



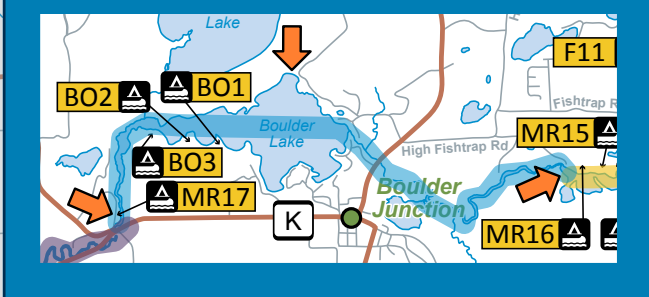
Trip #3: Highway K to Highway 51



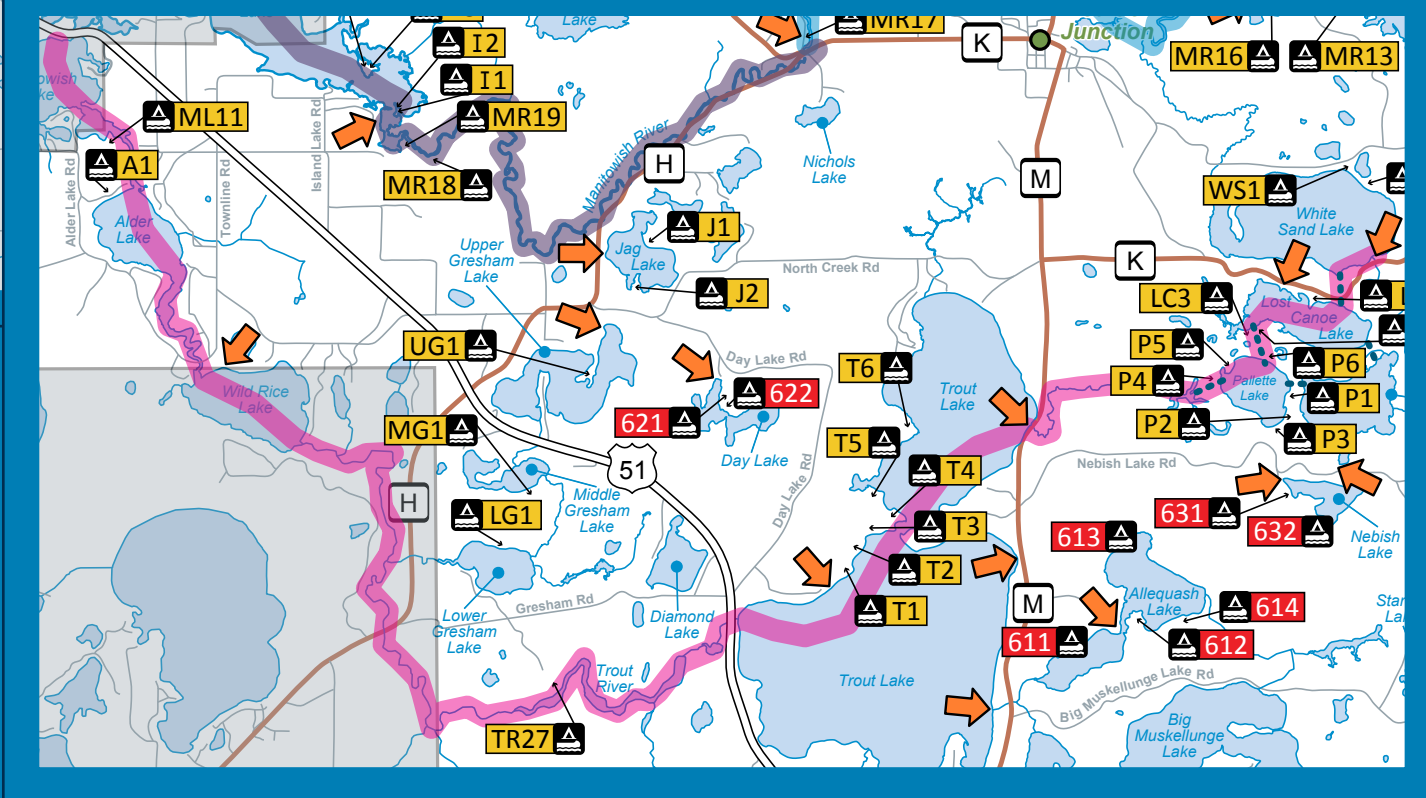
Trip #6: Wisconsin River (Cloverland Dr. to Bridge Rd.)



Trip #2: Fishtrap Dam to Highway K



Trip #5: White Sand Lake to Trout River



Crystal Lake Visitor Station
 10200 Highway N
 Boulder Junction, WI 54512
 715-542-3923

Clear Lake Visitor Station
 8282 Woodruff Road
 Woodruff, WI 54568
 715-356-3668

Paddling Routes Legend

- Paddling Trip #1
- Paddling Trip #2
- Paddling Trip #3
- Paddling Trip #4
- Paddling Trip #5
- Paddling Trip #6
- Water body
- State line
- Local/other roads
- State highway
- County highway
- U.S. highway
- Non-reservable water-access campsite
- Reservable water-access campsite
- Portage trail
- Take out/put in

Scale: 0 to 10 Miles

