

The North Country Trail is challenging. It traverses areas of rugged topography and is often several miles from the nearest motor vehicle access point. Most stream crossings are without bridges. There are no developed campsites outside of Black River Harbor Campground. However, trailside camping is permitted. (difficult)

### **GOGEBIC RIDGE TRAIL**

An interesting side trip from the Bergland portion of the North Country Trail is the Gogebic Ridge Trail. It begins from a point along Forest Road 250, one mile north of M-28 at Merriweather, or on M-64, 3 miles north of Bergland. The trail leads east from Forest Road 250 along the north and east shore of Weary Lake to a ledge overlooking Lake Gogebic, and then northward where it intersects M-64. The trail crosses M-64 and continues east over Cookout Mountain to Old M-64. After crossing Old M-64, the trail leads to Sandhill Creek, and finally ends at its junction with the North Country Trail. (Difficult)

### **CASCADE FALLS TRAIL**

This one mile trail offers two alternative routes to reach a small waterfall on Cascade Creek. To reach the trailhead parking lot, go 7 miles northeast of Bergland on Forest Road 400 to the junction with Forest Road 468. Two routes depart from the parking lot. The scenic Twin Peaks route climbs a bluff overlooking the West Branch of the Ontonagon River and the Trap Hills. The valley route avoids the steep path of the higher route but reaches the same destination. (Difficult)

### **SYLVANIA WILDERNESS**

In addition to its canoeing and water access camping opportunities, the Sylvania Wilderness near Watersmeet contains nearly 30 miles of foot trails. These trails traverse old growth forests and the shores of several lakes. They are well suited for both day hiking and overnight trips. Overnight campers must stay at one of the area's designated wilderness camp sites. A permit is required.

### **INTERPRETIVE TRAILS**

The Ottawa National Forest contains five trails that feature interpretive signs explaining the sights and sounds along the way. All are 1 to 2-1/2 miles in length and are easy walking. They are located at the Watersmeet Visitor Center in Watersmeet, the Beaver Lodge Trail at the Bob Lake Campground, the Lake Ottawa Campground in Iron River, the Deer Marsh Interpretive Trail at Lake Ste. Kathryn and a trail at the Norway Lake Campground.

### **SCENIC TRAILS**

Short trails to waterfalls and scenic vistas are locat-

ed at Sturgeon Falls and Silver Mountain, north of Sidnaw; Wolf Mountain, east of Wakefield; Yondota Falls, north of Marenisco; Kakabika Falls between Marenisco and Watersmeet and O-Kun-de-Kun Falls on US 45 north of Bruce Crossing. There are numerous other short hikes to waterfalls and vistas on the Ottawa National Forest. For information on these opportunities, contact the District Ranger Office nearest the desired area. The Norway Lake, Teepee Lake, Perch Lake, and Lake Ste. Kathryn campgrounds also feature short lakeshore trails. A 1/2 mile trail at Brule Lake features the Stateline Historic Treaty Tree Site. Nearby, the Ge-Che & Hagerman-Brule trail doubles as a winter cross-country ski route.

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Ottawa National Forest provides a wide variety of mountain biking opportunities ranging from well maintained and signed loops to more challenging cross country travel. Besides wilderness and specifically designated hiker only trails (including the North Country National Scenic Trail), the entire forest is open to mountain bikes. This includes closed, gated and blocked roads unless the road is specifically closed to bicycles.

Many of the designated mountain bike trails are also open to other uses including, motor vehicle travel, ATV's, ORV's, snowmobiles, hikers, and horses so please be careful and share the trail.

Mountain bike trails travel through a variety of management areas across the forest. These areas are managed for a wide range of multiple use activities including recreation, protection of endangered species, fish and wildlife, water quality, and wood products.

### **THINGS TO KNOW**

- All closed and gated gravel roads are open to all motorized and nonmotorized uses unless otherwise specified.
- To help prevent erosion please stay on the roads and trails.
- Please do not block any gates.

