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HEART OF THE CONTINENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Superior National Forest and Quetico and LaVerendrye Provincial Parks Work Together

August 22, 2013

In July 2013, as part of the Heart of the Continent Partnership, the Superior National Forest, LaVerendrye and Quetico Provincial Parks (PP) teamed up to work along the water route of LaVerendrye Provincial Park bordering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), which is also on a portion of the Trans Canada Trail.

LaVerendrye extends between Quetico Provincial Park to the west and Middle Falls Provincial Park to the east, and is non-operating. The Park provides a waterway park setting serving as a valuable link between the opportunities on Crown land and those areas managed for wilderness recreation. The Trans Canada Trail is one of the world's longest networks of multi-use recreational trails, and will stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic oceans, through every Canadian province and territory. Understanding the connection between these bordering wild management areas and collaborating on maintenance and public contacts is just one of the tangible benefits of this Partnership.



Volunteer Eric Lorentz from the Superior National Forest maintains portage water bars.

Maintenance work and facility inventory took place on portages and campsites along the Granite River between Saganaga Falls and Magnetic Lake along the U.S./Canadian border. Throughout the route, there were a number of canoes on border lakes fishing and sightseeing. Several groups were also camping, but mostly on the U.S. side. Visitor contacts were made jointly on land and water much to the visitors' surprise! It became an educational moment explaining that LaVerendrye Provincial Park runs along the border and that at times, the two countries partner together on projects. Canadian fishing licenses and BWCAW permits were checked in the process.

An assessment of eight portages (Pine, Wood Horse, Little Rock, Clove, Granite, Swamp, Gneiss, Horsetail, and Saganaga) found blow-down, drainage issues, non-native invasive plants, illegal sites, trash, and necessary work identified for the future such as footing rocks and the removal of large trash items. This year, high water obscured parts of portages and water levels in general were quite on the River. Main portage work included sawing and removing trees, cleaning and resetting water bars, and nipping live shrubs along 375 rods of portage trail. Campsite maintenance work (Pine and Granite Rivers, Clove and Maraboeuf Lakes), included packing out trash, re-setting and minimizing fire grate rock build-up, eliminating large charred logs, brushing out latrine trails, inhibiting site enlargement, assessing hazard trees, breaking down camp furniture, filling in tent trenches, and removing random wood or rock structures. One illegal site was naturalized on Pine River portage.

Management discussions included the Trans Canada Trail, hazard tree management, campsite growth/enlargement, use of latrines, the presence of camp furniture, burning versus packing out trash, non-native invasive species, the LaVerendrye Provincial Park Plan compared to the BWCAW and Quetico PP Plans, and user fees.

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