

# Superior National Forest



Honeymoon Trail, Oct 15, 2015

## Fall Color Report October 16, 2015

The chiding autumn, angry winter, change  
Their wonted liveries, and the mazed world,

By their increase, now knows not which is which.

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Ruffed Grouse

**The world in fact is changing its livery from autumn to winter, and indeed, it is hard to tell this time of year which season we are in.** In Duluth, leaves on the trees proclaim it

as mid-autumn, but a scant three hours north, it is winter's bare branches against the sky. A day of 80 degrees last weekend was swapped for 27 degrees this Friday morning. The shift in temperature was brought in on the wings of a wind that gusted to 45 miles an hour, stripping off leaves that otherwise might have clung to twigs for another week, but instead ended their day on the ground, gathering in drifts large enough to remind us of snow to come. Even within a day, nature seems unsure of what season it should be. Bright sun, dark clouds, drizzle, hard rain, clear sky all were within a single afternoon making us exchange knit caps and mittens for short sleeves, then rain coats, then fleece under the rain coat, then back to the knit cap and mitts.

Still, it is this unsettledness that makes fall an exciting season. It is predictably unpredictable, and a surprise is around every corner of the trail in the form of a colorful tree where none had been, in the vocal anger of a squirrel disturbed in his autumn harvesting, in the huff of a deer in rut, or in the appearance of sun and a rainbow projected onto the dark of storm clouds.

**The Forest is definitely past peak colors as most people define peak, but this doesn't mean that there isn't beauty and wonder still out there to find.** This is a perfect time of the fall to pack multiple kinds of coats and gloves, go out in the woods, and search for surprises in the mazed world.



Tamarack

