

August 19, 2016

Portions of the Superior National Forest including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) experienced a powerful storm on Sunday, June 19, 2016. As a result of the storm, many trees were downed on hiking trails, campsites and portages. **The western portion of the Border Route Trail experienced extensive damage between Mucker Lake and the Stairway Portage.** Hikers may encounter large swaths of blowdown making the trail difficult to follow and traverse.

At this time, very little clearing of windfall has occurred and the overall condition of the entire trail is still unknown. Developed recreational areas and high-use routes are being cleared first. Since this is a wilderness trail that receives low use, it is a lower priority for reconnaissance and clearing completion. Hikers are encouraged to evaluate their physical fitness and orienteering skills prior to hiking this section of wilderness trail.