miller lake

Chippewa National Forest "Celebrating 100 years" 1908-2008

LOCATION

The Miller Lake Geologic Area is located within the 6,000-acre Suomi Hills Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Area. Easy to reach, Miller Lake lies about a mile and a half west of State Highway 38, nine miles south of Marcell and 14 miles north of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Miller Lake illustrates a unique geologic event on the Chippewa National Forest.

HISTORY

In April of 1982, the appearance of Miller Lake was abruptly altered as its contents broke through an earthen levy at the south end of the lake. Local beavers took advantage of the perfect habitat and maintained a dam for eleven years. In July 1993 heavy rains generated more water than the beaver dam could withstand, and history repeated itself! As water rushed from Miller Lake south into Amen Lake one local resident compared the sound to the roar of a tornado.

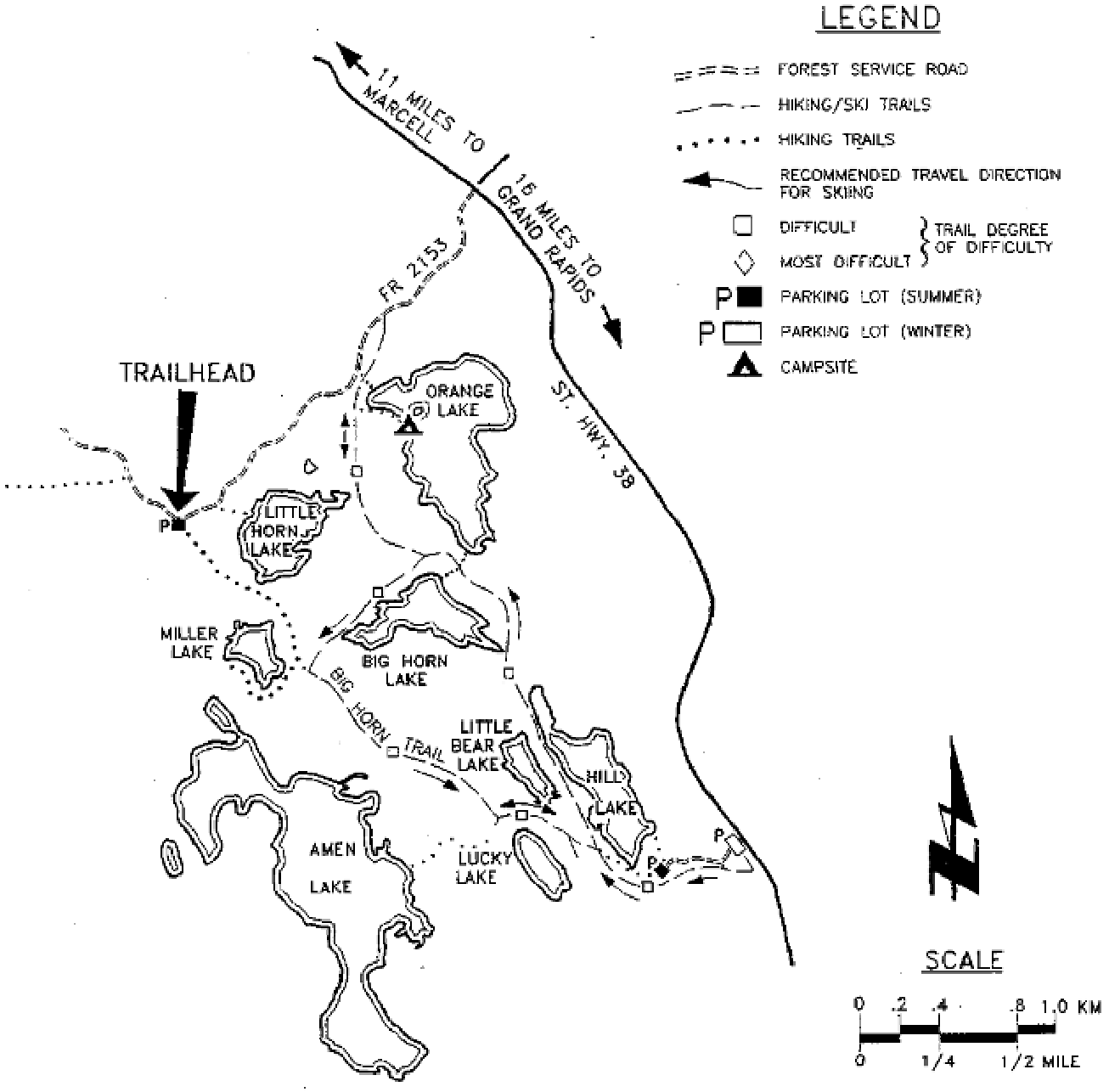
DESCRIPTION

Signs of this unusual but natural geologic change can be seen from the top of the deep outwash gully at the trails end. Stand eye-level to the lake and admire the craftsmanship of beavers as they continue to restore this wetland habitat.

Twenty two lakes are found within the Suomi Hills Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Area and 21 miles of trail provide easy access to Miller Lake. Suomi's scenic trail system has two trailheads, both clearly marked along State Highway 38. Huge white pine, maple and basswood trees line the trail. Hikers interested in morel mushrooms, blueberries, or fall colors will enjoy exploring here. White-tailed deer, bear, grouse, eagles and an occasional timber wolf share the habitat with you.

MANAGEMENT

Miller Lake is in Management Area 8.3, set aside to emphasize special scenic values, history, and recreation opportunities. Access into Suomi Hills Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Area is by foot and nonmotorized travel only. Boat motors cannot be stored on or transported across these National Forest System lands. We ask that you pack out all you bring in. Enjoy your hike along the Miller Lake Trail!


LEGEND
FOREST SERVICE ROAD
HIKING/SKI TRAILS
HIKING TRAILS
RECOMMENDED TRAVEL DIRECTION FOR SKIING
DIFFICULT
MOST DIFFICULT
TRAIL DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY
PARKING LOT (SUMMER)
PARKING LOT (WINTER)
CAMPSITE
11 MILES TO MARCELL
16 MILES TO GRAND RAPIDS
FR 2153
ST. HWY. 38
TRAILHEAD
ORANGE LAKE
LITTLE HORN LAKE
MILLER LAKE
BIG HORN LAKE
BIG HORN TRAIL
LITTLE BEAR LAKE
HILL LAKE
AMEN LAKE
LUCKY LAKE
SCALE
0 .2 .4 .8 1.0 KM
0 1/4 1/2 MILE