

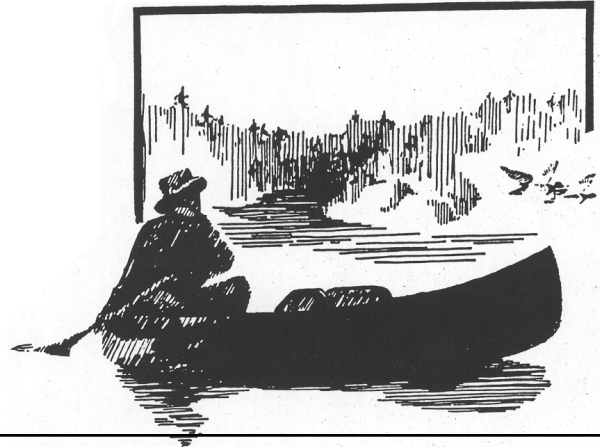
# Island River Canoe Route



SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST      NORTH SHORE AREA      TOFTE & GRAND MARAIS, MN

## Features

- Scenic 8 mile river, slow current with three sets of rapids
- Designated campsites
- Pictographs
- Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness permits necessary for travel or overnight camping on the portion of Island River within the BWCAW.



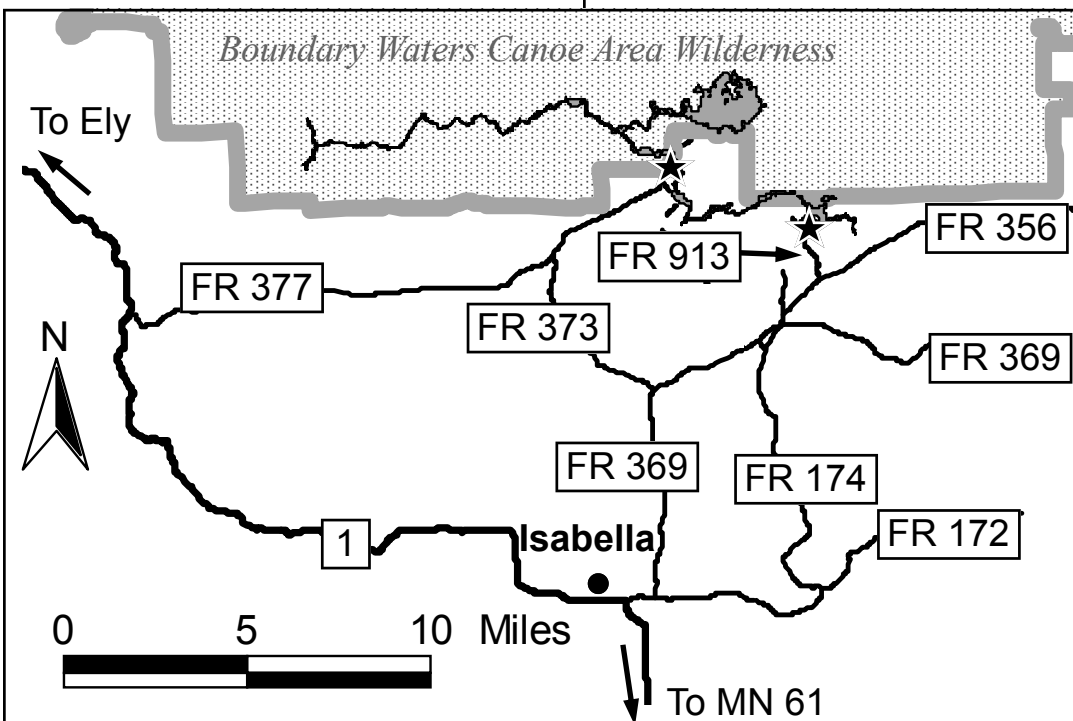
- **Day trips and off-season overnight:**  
*Follow directions on the self-issuing permit in the box at the trailhead. Special rules apply, so read the permit carefully (for instance no cans or glass allowed.)*
- **Overnight May - Sept:**  
*Do not use self-issuing permit. Obtain an overnight permit from a Forest Service office or outfitter.*

## Location

The two ends of the Island River Canoe Route are located about 14 miles from Isabella or 36 miles from Ely.

**For the east end of the route:** From Isabella, take FR 172 to FR 369, turn left.

- Veer right at the fork with FR 373 to continue on FR 369 an additional 4 miles.



- Turn left onto FR 356, then turn left onto FR 913.

- Parking is available at the Comfort Lake portage landing.

**For the west end of the route:** From Ely, take MN 1 to FR 377. Follow FR 377 east 17 miles.

- The canoe launch is next to the Island River bridge at BWCAW Entry Point 34

(though you will not enter the BWCAW here).

# Superior National Forest - Island River

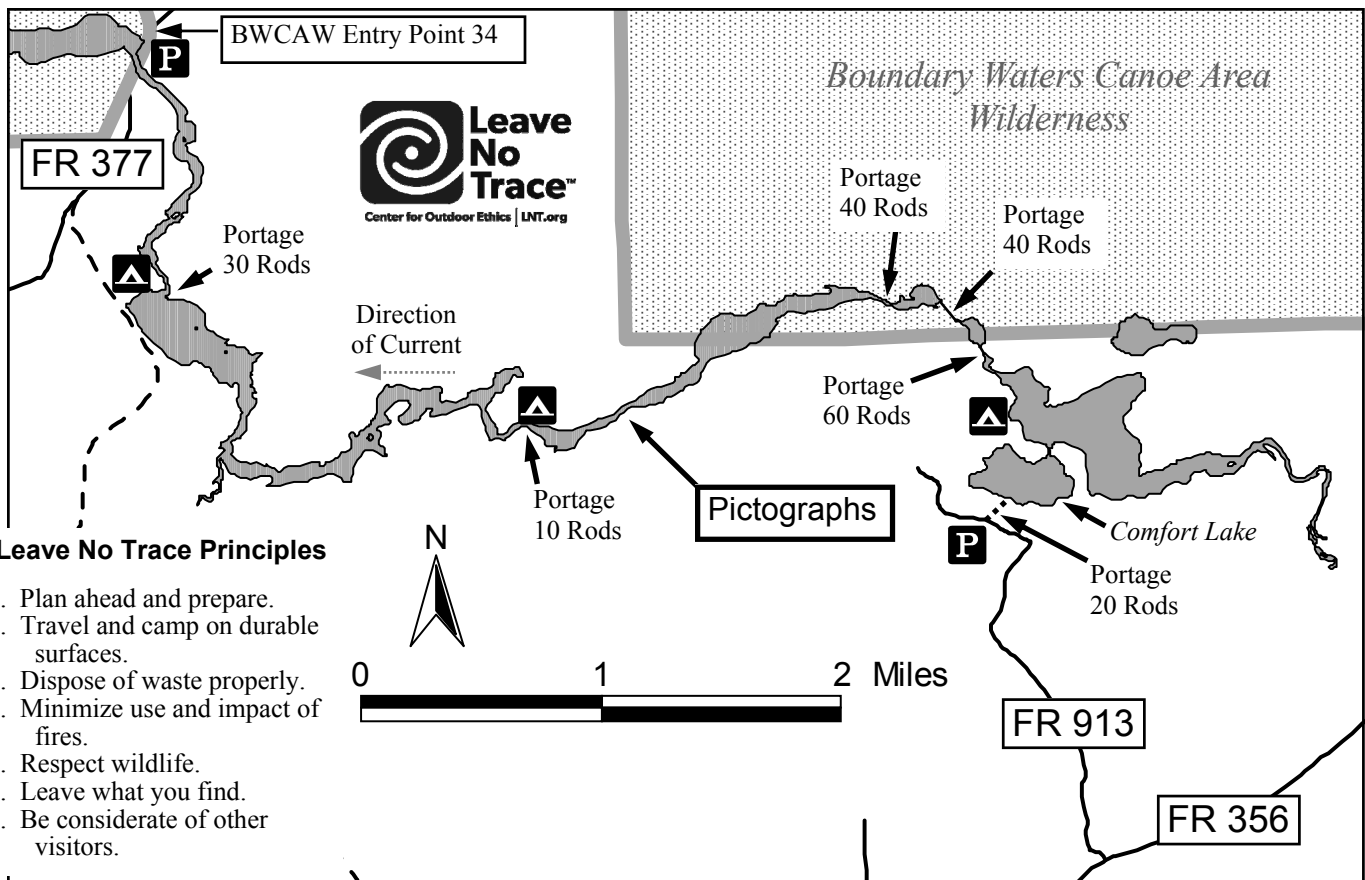
## Description

Island River (South) canoe route provides 3 backcountry campsites that are spread apart and offer wilderness camping opportunities. These sites are only accessible by canoe and are available on a first come, first served basis. The Pagami Fire in 2011 burned through this area, removing previous campsites. You may camp anywhere if you follow Leave No Trace principles. Make sure fires are out, and take apart any fire rings you construct. Bury human waste, and of course, “pack it in, pack it out”.

Although there are at least 30 Native American rock paintings, or pictographs, in the Superior-Quetico region, the Island River pictograph is one of the largest.

The intrigue and mystery of the pictographs, continue today for travelers within the Superior National Forest’s 3,000,000 acres.

The pictograph on Island River shows a clearly drawn *maymayguayshi* (man-like) figure with long arms flanked by an animal with long branching antlers and other objects yet to be identified. Native American occupation of the Island River area dates back at least 9000 years. These pictographs may represent a continuation of an earlier culture; however, it is probable that they were painted within the last 500 to 1000 years. Please respect earlier cultures and our heritage by leaving no trace of your visit to these special areas.



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### Need more information?

on the web at:

[www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior)

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