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|  Big Pine Trail |  Ham Lake Trail |  Overlook Trail |  Gunflint Lodge |  Snowmobile Trail |
|  South Rim Trail |  Banadad Artery Trail |  Lonely Lake Trail |  Gunflint Pines Resort | |
|  West End Trail |  Cut Across Trail |  Rabbit Run Trail |  Heston's Lodge | |
|  Highlands Trail |  Aspen Alley Trail |  North Star Trail | | |
|  Magnetic Rock Trail |  River Trail |  Warrens Road Trail | | |
|  Amperage Run Trail |  Power Line Trail | | | |

Upper Gunflint Nordic Ski Trail Descriptions

Big Pine Trail

3.25 km (2 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail makes a loop behind Gunflint Lodge. It goes through a basin which traverses the bottom of a north faced rock cliff and offers a pretty overlook of Gunflint Lake. Deer activity is evident with many sightings. The trail begins and ends in the parking lot behind Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters and is Pisten Bulley groomed with one classic and one skate lane.

South Rim Trail

9.66 km (6 mi.) More Difficult to Most Difficult

This trail offers beautiful overlooks of Gunflint Lake and over the Canadian hills to the north. A climb up to start and then a good hill down at the other end. The trail can be started in the parking lot of Heston's Country Store and Lodge or from and intersection with the West End Trail. The Lonely Lake Trail is a possible return route. This trail is back country machined packed.

West End Trail

6.5 km (4 mi.) More Difficult to Most Difficult

This trail starts at the Loon Lake Landing and crosses two county roads. It also intersects various other ski trails. Keep a lookout for a lot of deer activity on this trail. The trail is hilly, fast in spots and offers challenges for the intermediate to advanced skier. It is Pisten Bulley groomed, 1.5 mi Upper West End offers double classic tracks, 1.5 mi Lower West End has one classic and one skate lane.

Highlands Trail

6.5 km (4 mi.) More Difficult to Most Difficult

This trail runs along the top of a ridge with many scenic overlooks. It connects with Ham Lake Trail, Warrens Road Trail, Overlook Trail and Rabbit Run Trail. A climb up to start and then a good hill on the other end. The trail starts across from the Gunflint Lake Scenic Overlook. It's Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Magnetic Rock Trail

8.05 km (5 mi.) More Difficult to Most Difficult

This trail takes the skier deep in the woods passing a small pond, a fire burn and a 60' high rock left from the glacial days. This trail begins on the Gunflint Trail and connects with Warrens Road Trail and Cut Across Trail. It's a back country machined packed trail.

Amperage Run Trail

3.25 km (2 mi.) Easiest to Difficult

This trail runs along the South shore of Gunflint Lake. The trail takes the skier through frozen marshlands and is named after the power line it follows. Great opportunities to see deer, moose, and the elusive Timber Wolf. There are a few hills but generally provide the skier with flat fast skiing. This trail is groomed as one classic and one skijor lane.

Ham Lake Trail

4.83 km (3 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail is a loop off the Highlands Trail and goes through winter moose yards. Many skiers view moose in this area. Warming hut is available. This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Banadad Artery Trail

31 km (19.3 mi.) Upper Gunflint ski system to Poplar Creek intersection. Easiest to More Difficult

This trail serves as a connecting link between the Upper Gunflint ski system and the Central Gunflint ski system. Two-thirds of the Banadad Trail runs through the BWCA, making it the longest tracked ski trail within the BWCA.

Cut Across Trail

1.6 km (1 mi.) More Difficult

This trail connects the Warrens Road Trail and Magnetic Rock Trail. It takes the skier up gentle slopes and down gradual declines. This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Aspen Alley Trail

1.6 km (1 mi.) Easiest

This trail loops around and parallels the Gunflint Trail, through an open sand pit and through a stand of aspen trees. It connects with River Trail, Highlands and Rabbit Run. Take off your skis when crossing the road (for safety as well as the sake of your skis). This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

River Trail

1.6 km (1 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail takes the skier around the bottom of the Cross River bed, around and over some hills. It connects with Aspen Alley, and Rabbit Run. It's Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Power Line Trail

2.41 km (1.5 mi.) Easiest

This trail follows the power lines and parallels the county road. It connects the River Trail, Aspen Alley, West End Trail, Shortcut and Rabbit Run. Take off your skis when crossing the road (for safety as well as the sake of your skis). This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Overlook Trail

.8 km (.5 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail is a little hilly but connects Big Pine trail, West End trail, then connects with Highlands trail and Rabbit Run trail. The trail can be accessed from the Gunflint Lake Scenic Overlook. Take off your skis when crossing the road for safety sake. This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with two classic lanes and one skate lane.

Lonely Lake Trail

4.83 km (3 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail takes skiers along a ridge on the south side of Gunflint Lake. It offers scenic overlooks of Gunflint Lake, virgin white pines and past Lonely Lake. The trail connects with Heston's Lodge and Big Pine Trail. It's Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Rabbit Run Trail

5.63 km (3.5 mi.) Easiest to More Difficult

This trail runs along the bottom of a glacial ridge and parallels the Highland's Trail. Skiing is through dense forest with opportunities to view moose, deer and other wildlife. This trail connects with Highlands, Aspen Alley, River Trail and West End. This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with one classic and one skate lane.

North Star Trail

9.65 km (6 mi.) Easiest

This trail meanders through logged areas, swamps and dense forest giving the skier a good feel of the area. Moose and other wildlife are often viewed. This trail connects with the West End and Ham Lake trails. It's Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Warrens Road Trail

1.6 km (1 mi.) Easiest

This trail follows an old summer road and is easy and fast. It connects with Cut Across Trail, Magnetic Rock Trail, River Trail and Highlands Trail. Take off your skis when crossing the Gunflint Trail (for safety as well as for the sake of your skis). This trail is Pisten Bulley groomed with a double track trail.

Skiing in a Multiple-Use Area

The Upper Gunflint Ski Trails are restricted to ski use only. In several locations our trails cross a dog sled trail or a snowmobile trail. Those trails are not groomed for skiing and your only interest in them should be as an emergency way out of the woods if needed.

We are all respectful of the various winter recreational choices and we all use appropriately designated trails based on how we are playing. Be alert at trail crossings as snowmobiles move quickly and dog teams do not stop instantly.

Encountering Wildlife

Throughout our trail system it is possible to see Moose, Deer, Fox, Pine Marten, Rabbits, Partridge and maybe a Wolf. None of our wildlife will harm you unless you threaten them or corner them. If you see wild game, stop and take pictures or just observe. When they figure out who you are, or lose their curiosity, they will move on. These encounters are special moments to make the most of. They are part of why you come to the north woods.

Upper Gunflint Nordic Ski Trails

There are many nordic ski trail systems throughout the state. However, not many can really boast of such beauty and first class grooming as the Upper Gunflint trails. The trails meander through the various landscapes of rolling hills covered with stands of virgin white pine, spruce, aspen and balsam fir. The skier takes the trails through beaver valleys, up pretty scenic vistas and overlooks, and into the winter moose yards. The trail names give the skier a hint of some of their character: Big Pine, Aspen Alley, River Trail, Magnetic Rock, Rabbit Run, Lonely Lake Trail, etc. These are some of the prettiest, most varied trails in the Midwest and once skied, never forgotten.

Most of the Upper Gunflint nordic ski trails are suited for the intermediate skier. However, there is plenty of good skiing for beginners and some challenging parts of the trails for the advanced. Everyone can enjoy the trail system from any of the three resorts on Gunflint Lake. The system is designed with many loops that permit easy day outings. Signage is made available to inform the skier of trails and trail information.

All the Upper Gunflint ski trails are groomed with gyro groomers and track setters. Most of the trails are double tracked for skier enjoyment. A few trails are single tracked, they are narrower and more remote but offer the skier a sense of being one with his or her environment. The staff from the three resorts are out on the trails every few days making sure everything is kept in the best shape.

Trail information is available from any of the three resorts on Gunflint Lake: Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Pines Resort and Heston's Country Store and Lodge. From these businesses that know these trails, valuable information can be learned prior to a skier's trek. Feel free to ask questions and enjoy over 100 km of some of the greatest nordic skiing in the entire state.

We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and support of the following organizations:

Gunflint Lodge - Bruce and Sue Kerfoot
218-388-2294 & 1-800-328-3325

Gunflint Pines Resort - Bob and Shari Baker
218-388-4454 & 1-800-533-5814

Heston's Lodge - Greg and Barb Gecas
218-388-2243 & 1-800-338-7230

Superior National Forest - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Accidents

1. Do not move an injured person.
2. Keep the injured person as warm as possible.
3. If possible leave at least one person with the victim. Then go to the nearest Lodge (Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Pines Resort or Heston's Country Store and Lodge). All the lodges will assist in the rescuing of an injured person.

Liability

These cross country ski trails are groomed, tracked and maintained for the convenience of guests of Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Pines Resort and Heston's Country Store and Lodge. We make no representation as to their fitness for your particular purposes. These trails are carved out of the wilderness and you use them at your own risk. We assume no liability for any injuries occurring on these trails.

Gunflint Lodge - Gunflint Pines Resort - Heston's Lodge



GUNFLINT TRAIL
MINNESOTA

Upper Gunflint Nordic Ski Trails