

#### North Country Trail Development

##### The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin Request

Assistance for the North Country Trail Association from the State of Wisconsin for development of the North Country National Scenic Trail across northern Wisconsin.



*North Country Trail Hike Photo: Peter Nordgren*

##### Background

The North Country Trail Association seeks continued assistance from the State of Wisconsin for development of the North Country National Scenic Trail across northern Wisconsin. The trail, America's longest hiking trail at 4,600 miles and one of just 11 National Scenic Trails, is being developed in the state through a partnership between the National Park Service, Wisconsin DNR, and volunteers of the North Country Trail Association.

In Wisconsin, 125 miles of trail are complete out of a future total of 220. It's important that progress continue. With rapid property development in a number of locations, there is a limited amount of time in which to complete the North Country Trail.



*North Country Trail Hike Photo: Peter Nordgren*

Staff support from the Wisconsin DNR, for trail route planning and easement acquisition, has been critical to trail development. We request this staff support continue to be provided by the DNR. Funds from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for willing seller easements and purchases have also been essential.

We also request the Department of Tourism continue to recognize the value of the North Country Trail as a recreation resource, and promote northern Wisconsin hiking, camping, and snowshoeing opportunities on the trail.