

pike bay

canoe route



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

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The Route

Travel the paths of the Anishinabe and explorers along the Pike Bay Connection. This 8-mile trip between Pike Bay and Leech Lake includes six portages totaling 1.8 miles. The Pike Bay Connection can easily be paddled in a day or over a leisurely weekend. Begin your trek at the Pike Bay Campground, 6 miles southeast of Cass Lake.

History

The Pike Bay Canoe Route is a traditional Native American trail. A major village, dating back to 600-800 A.D. was located at the present developed campground. Zebulon Pike, Joseph Nicollet and Henry Schoolcraft traveled these waters in the early 1800's.

Portages

This route can be traveled in either direction. The following describes the portages beginning at the South Pike Bay boat ramp and ending at the Portage Creek culvert on the Oak Point Road (FR 3136).

Portage 1: (5 rods) Carry along the right side of the stream and a water control structure to the channel to Ten Section Lake. Excellent opportunity to view waterfowl and shorebirds in this shallow wild rice area.

Portage 2: Southwest corner of Ten Section Lake. This is a paddle, push-pull and drag up a small creek to Moss Lake. During low water, portaging up the left bank may be necessary. Hang on to the canoe in the creek as there are several waist-deep holes. Carry over FR2137 and you are in Moss Lake. Proceed along the east shore to the next portage.

Portage 3 (155 rods) Take out at a small opening on the east shore marked by a turquoise-colored blaze. The portage follows an existing road to the top of a small hill, jogs right and follows a trail through the woods. Just past the first canoe rest, the portage follows a brushy woods-road to Twin Lake. This portage is long but has two canoe rests. Head to the south end of Twin Lake and through a narrow channel to Little Twin Lake. The "cabbage patches" in Little Twin offer good fishing for small northern.

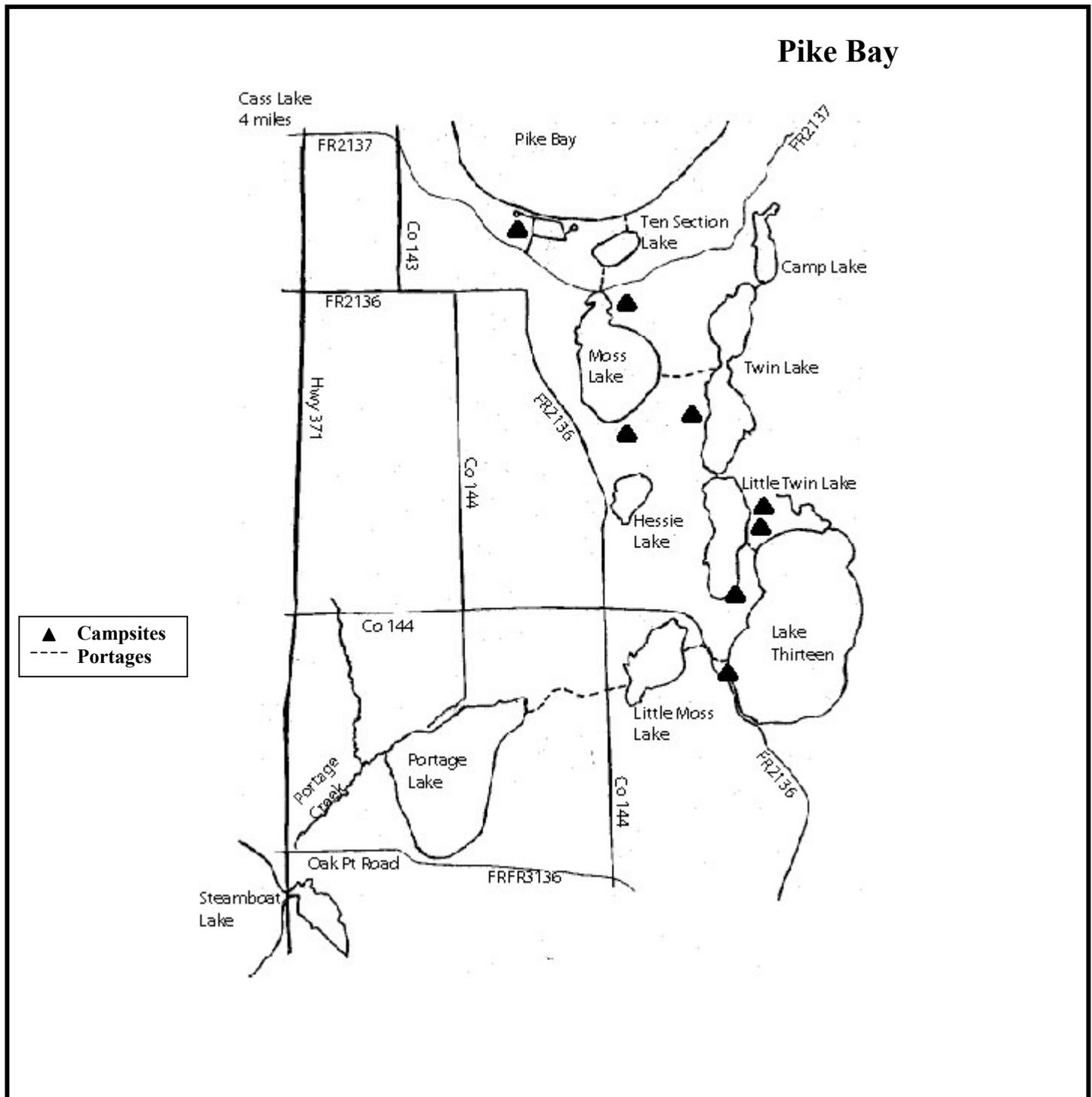
Portage 4 (30 rods) Easy carry to Lake 13. Enjoy the old growth pine stands, clear water, good campsite, great fishing on this scenic lake.

Portage 5 (75 rods) Start at the west shore boat ramp. Head west on the boat access road, turn right on FR2136 for 52 rods to the trail just north of the swamp. Turn left on the trail leading to Little Moss Lake. One canoe rest. Head southwest across Little Moss Lake to the take-out just south of a mature jack pine/aspen stand. Move through the channel in the marsh grass and floating bog.

Portage 6 (235 rods) Flat trail with two canoe rests. Head west on the trail through a timber stand to Co Rd 44, turn right for 4 rods, then left onto a sand-rut road to a lower standard trail leading to Portage Lake. This is the last portage! Paddle to the northwest corner of Portage Lake to a small but navigable stream. Floating bog sections may plug the upper part of the stream, requiring a pull-over.

The two large culverts in Portage Creek can be navigated during normal water levels by ducking your head and using your hands on the sides of the culvert. The second culvert is the Oak Point Road, the end point of the route.

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