

Primitive Management Areas



Superior National Forest

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness



What are Primitive Management Areas (PMAs)?

PMAs are remote sections of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) that occupy 124,000 acres of the least used parts of the wilderness.

The PMA Experience.....

These areas were established to offer visitors a wilderness experience that is more primitive than those currently available in the majority of the BWCAW. Access requires considerably more effort and skill because there are no established trails and campsites. Trails and campsites that were once maintained will no longer be designated as either trails or campsites on current maps. Most lakes within the PMA must be reached by traveling cross country or bushwhacking.

Where are PMAs Located?

There are 12 Primitive Management Areas located throughout the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For more information on accessing these areas, contact the Forest Service Offices listed on the back of this brochure.





How to get authorization to camp in a PMA.

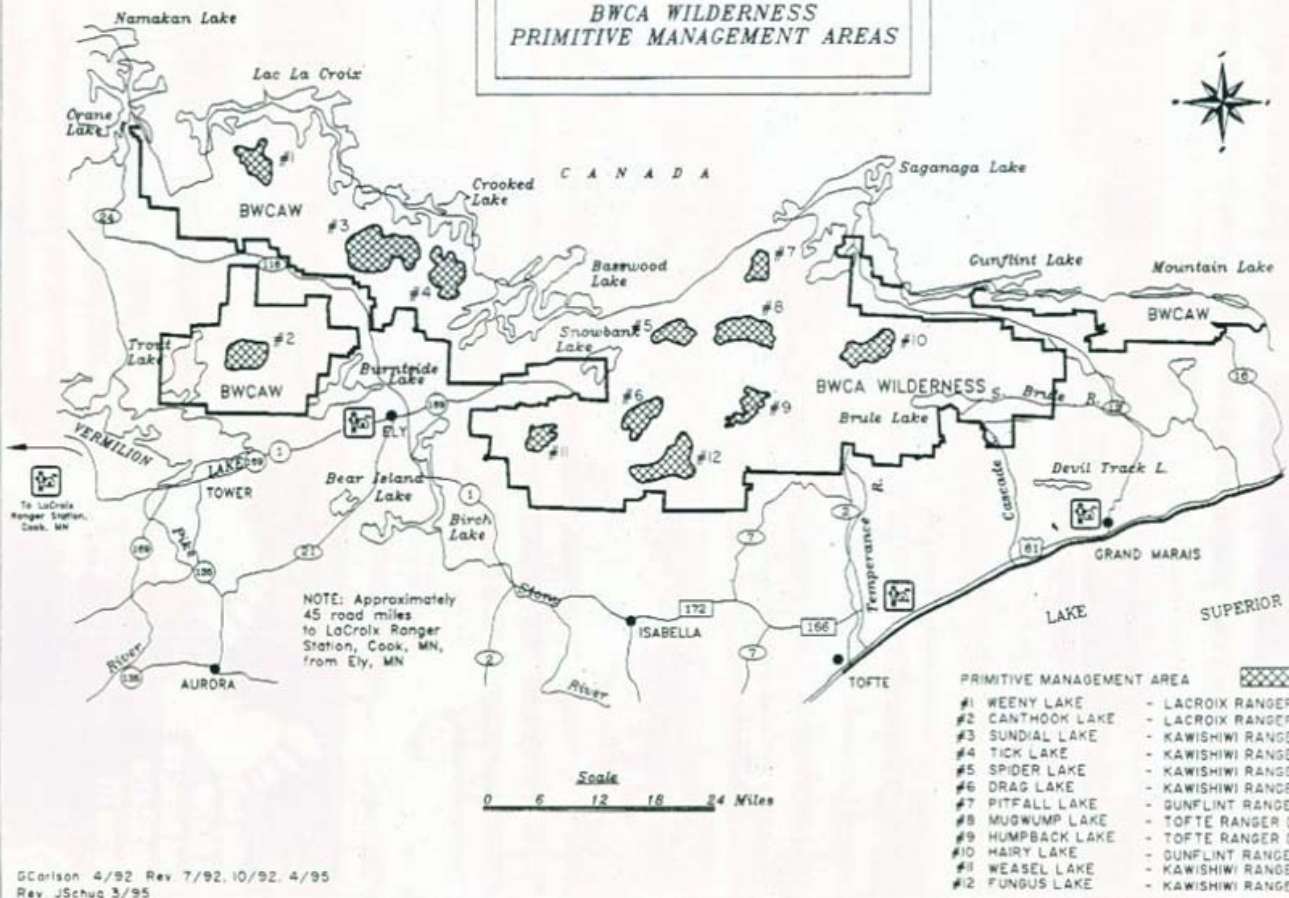
1. Authorization must be obtained from the office that manages the area before camping in the PMA.
2. Receiving authorization will require a visit to a Forest Service office.
3. Obtaining a PMA authorization will happen only after the visitor has secured a permit for a specific entry point into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
4. A visitor's authorization to use a PMA is done on a first-come/first-served basis.
5. Each PMA is divided into subzones, where only one group per night will be allowed to camp. This will ensure the visitor a more primitive experience. However, there is no control over day use activities by other users. You may encounter other groups passing through or near the PMA.



Remember.....

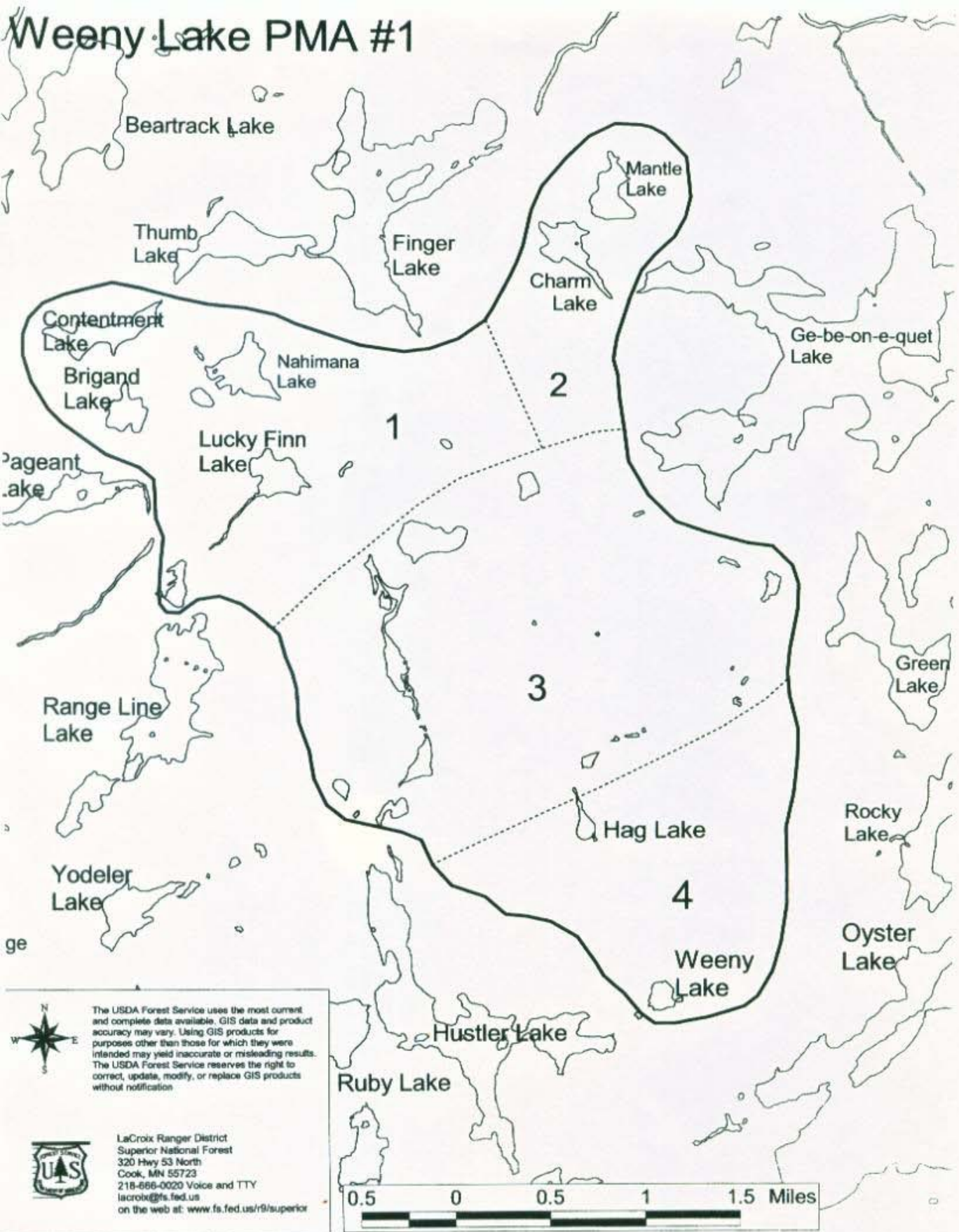
Primitive Management Areas are very special places. The land you will be traveling through is fragile and may easily be damaged by thoughtless human acts. If every wilderness visitor leaves no trace of their visit, the wilderness will remain forever wild for you and future generations.

BWCA WILDERNESS PRIMITIVE MANAGEMENT AREAS

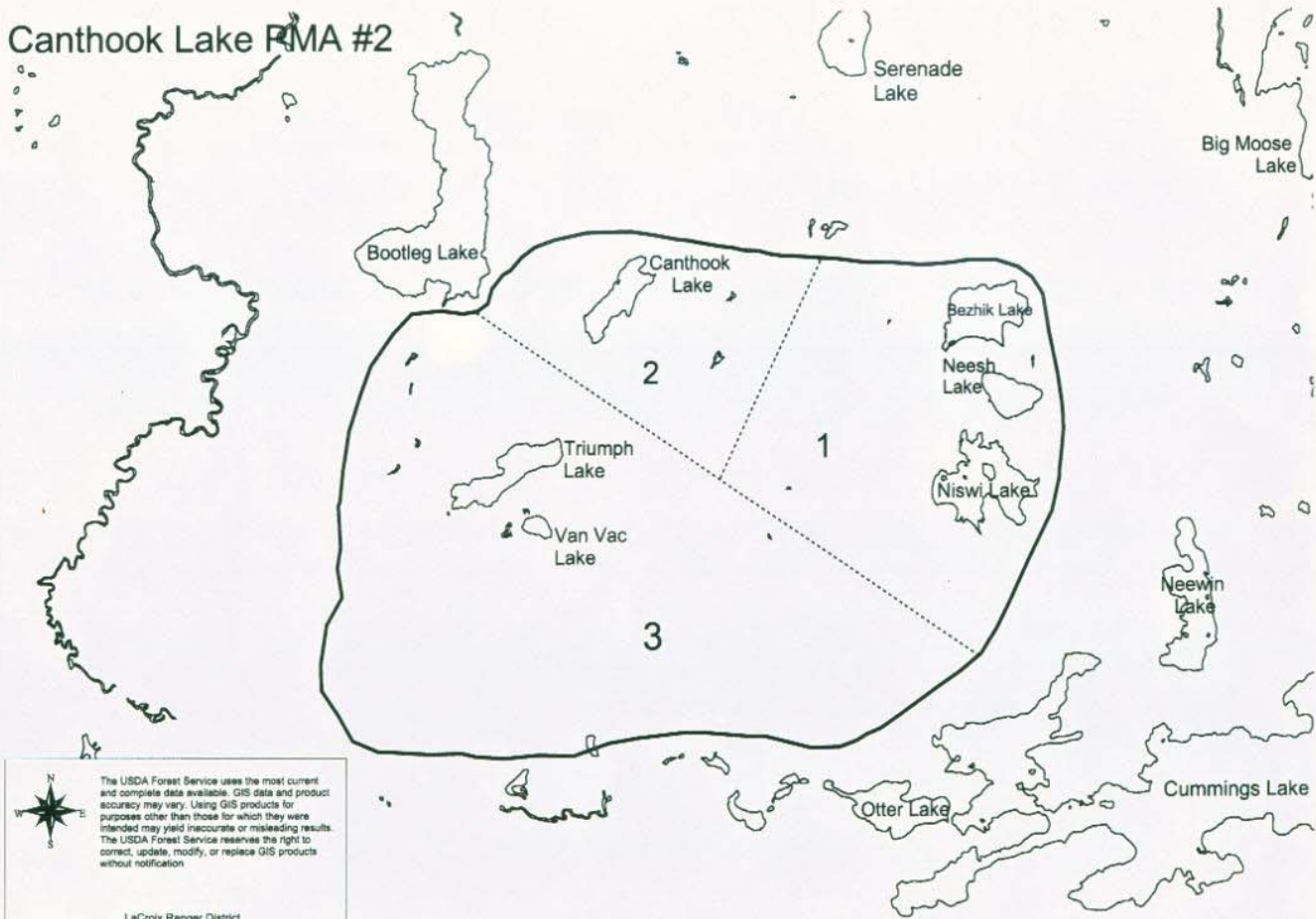


GCarlson 4/92 Rev 7/92, 10/92, 4/95
Rev JSchug 3/95

Weeny Lake PMA #1



Canthook Lake RMA #2



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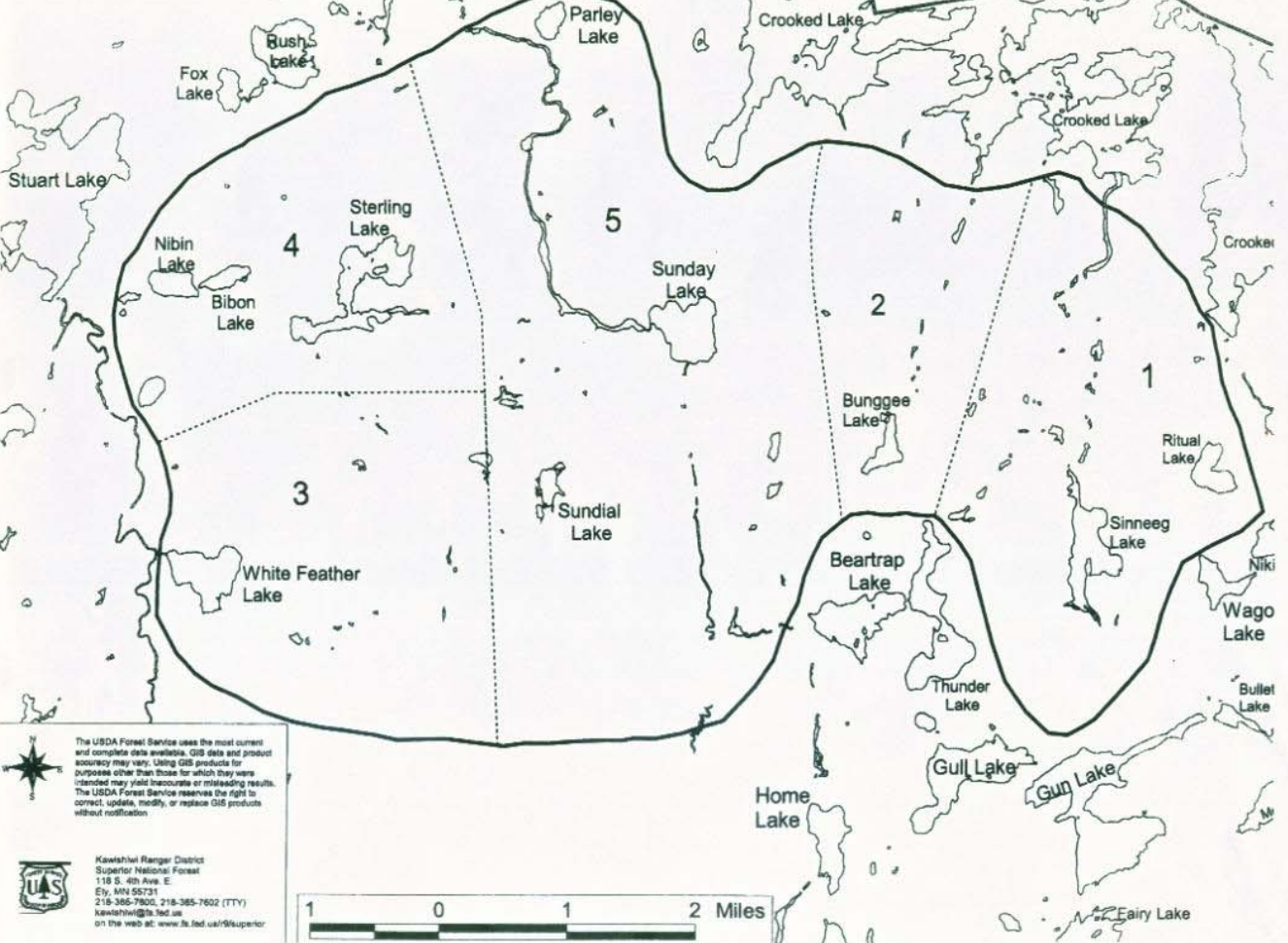


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320 Hwy 53 North
Cook, MN 55723
218-686-0020 Voice and TTY
lacroix@fs.fed.us
on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior



Sundial Lake PMA #3

CANADA

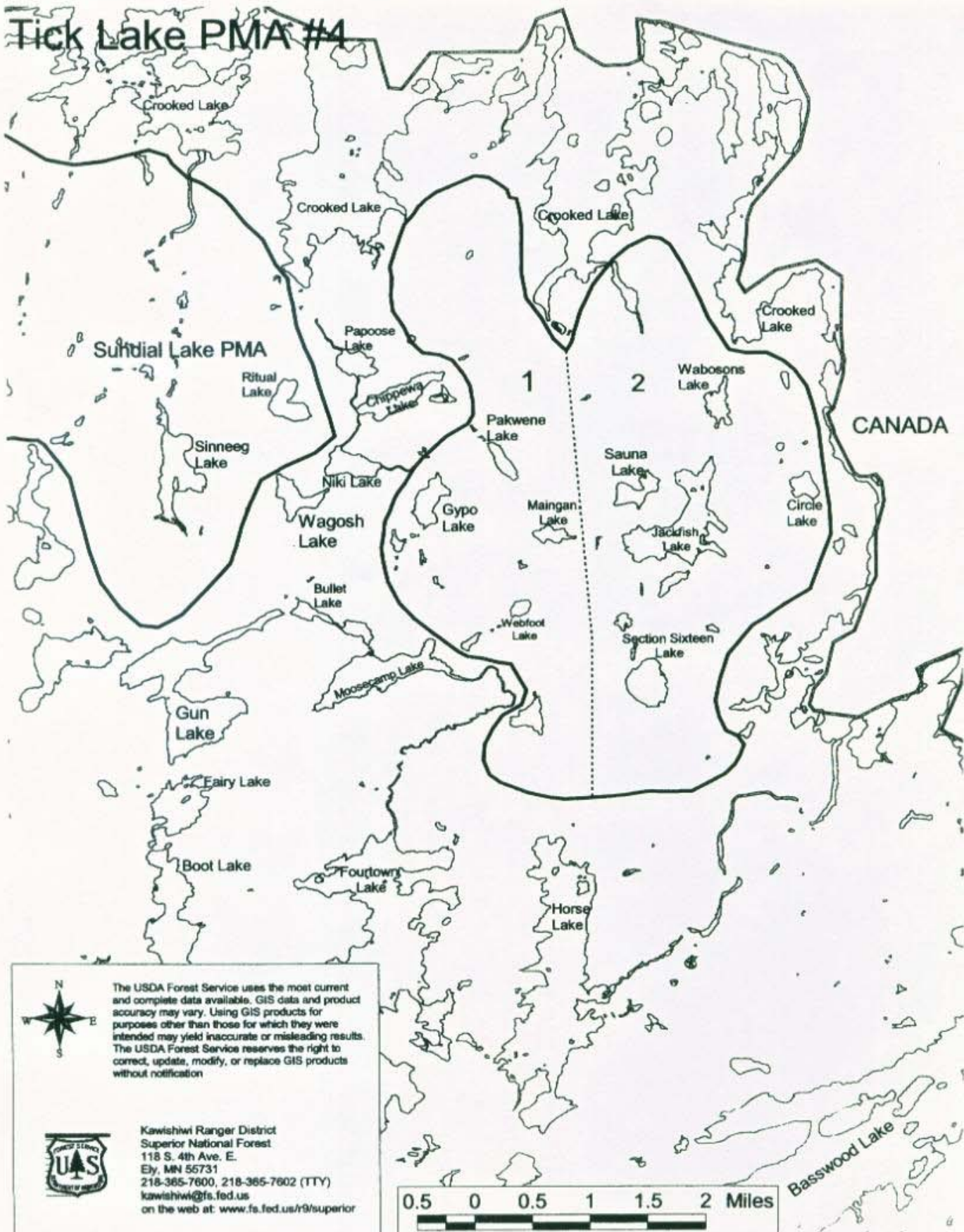


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Tick Lake PMA #4

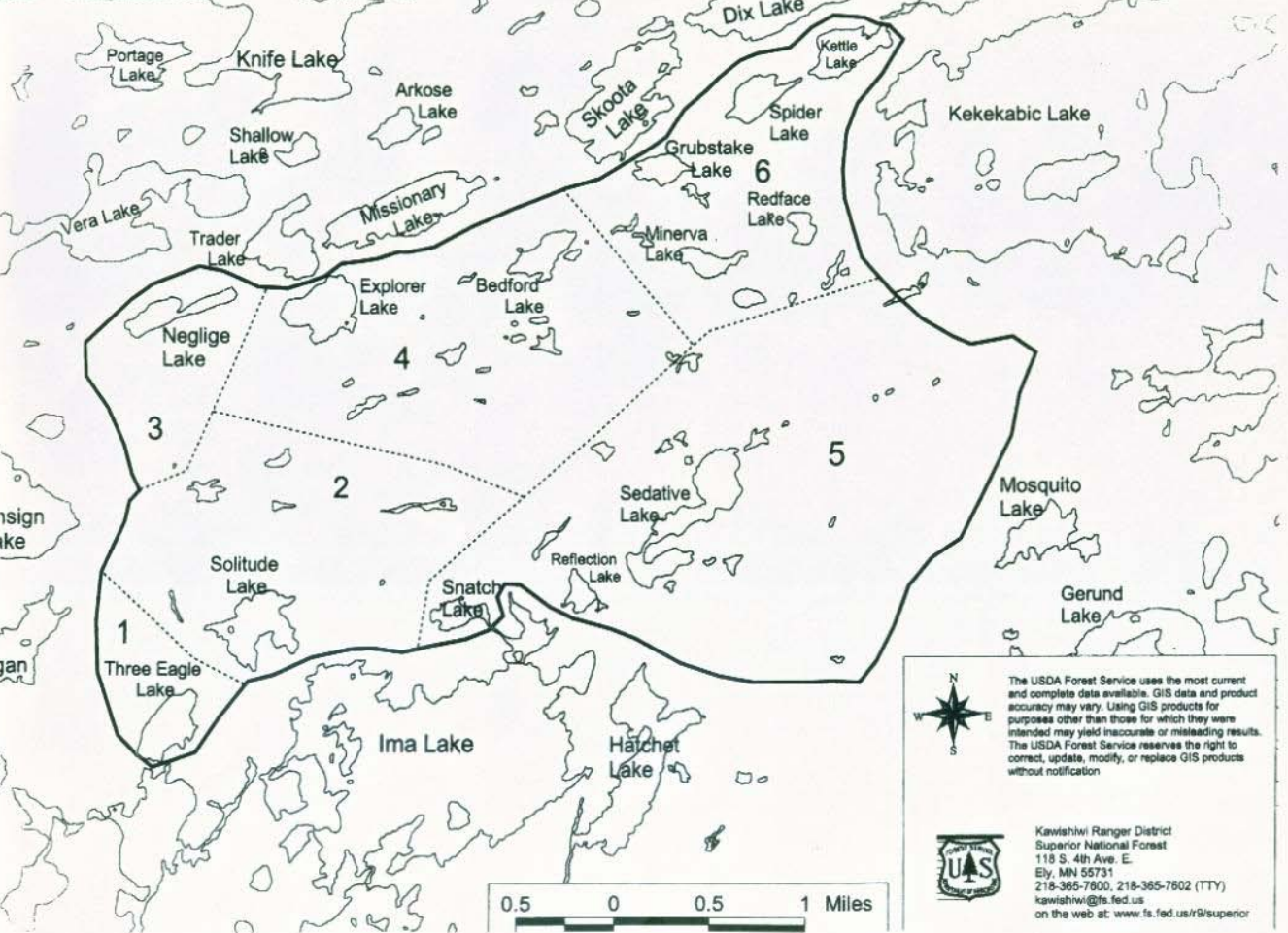


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Spider Lake PMA #5

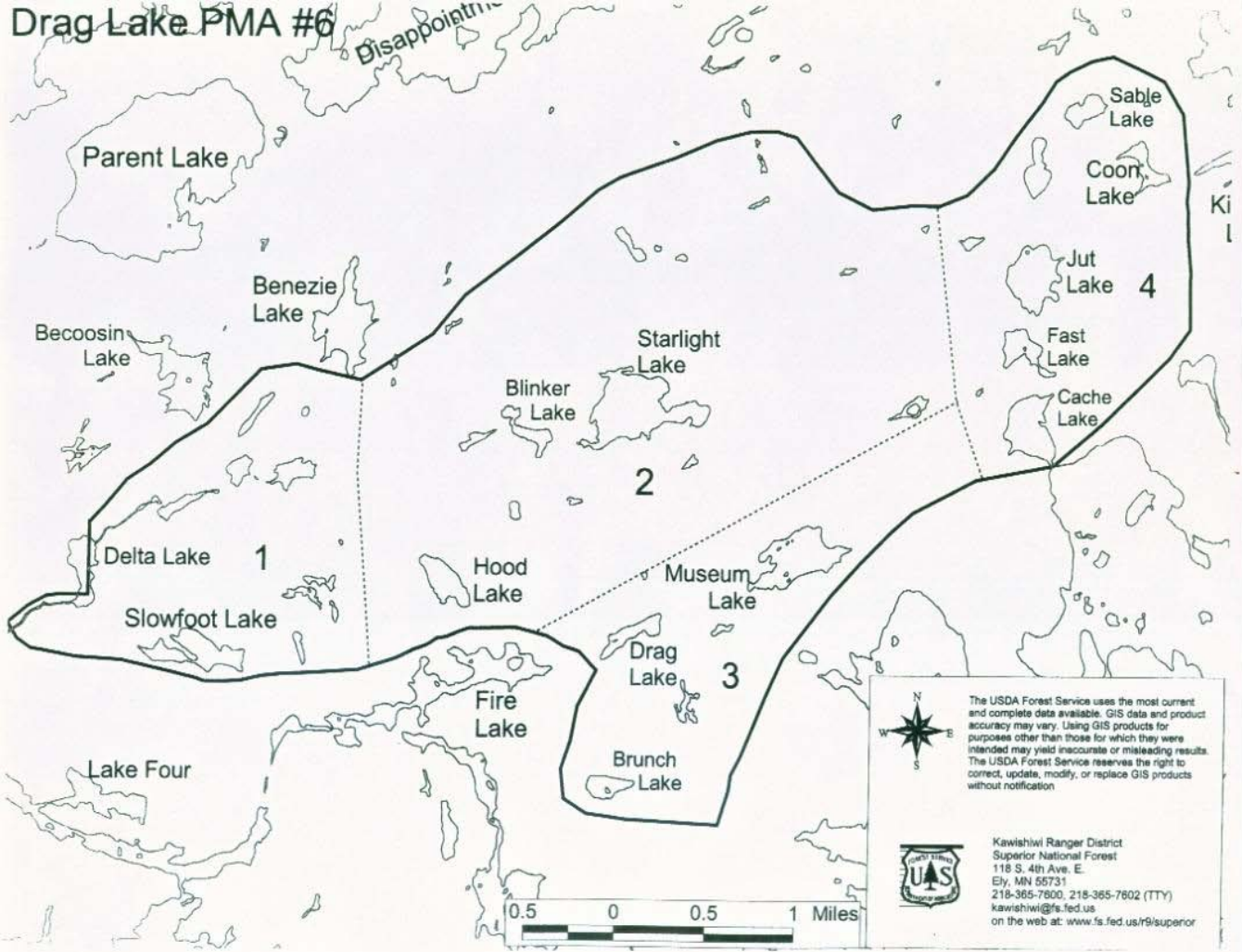


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Drag Lake PMA #6

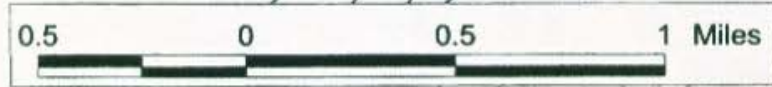
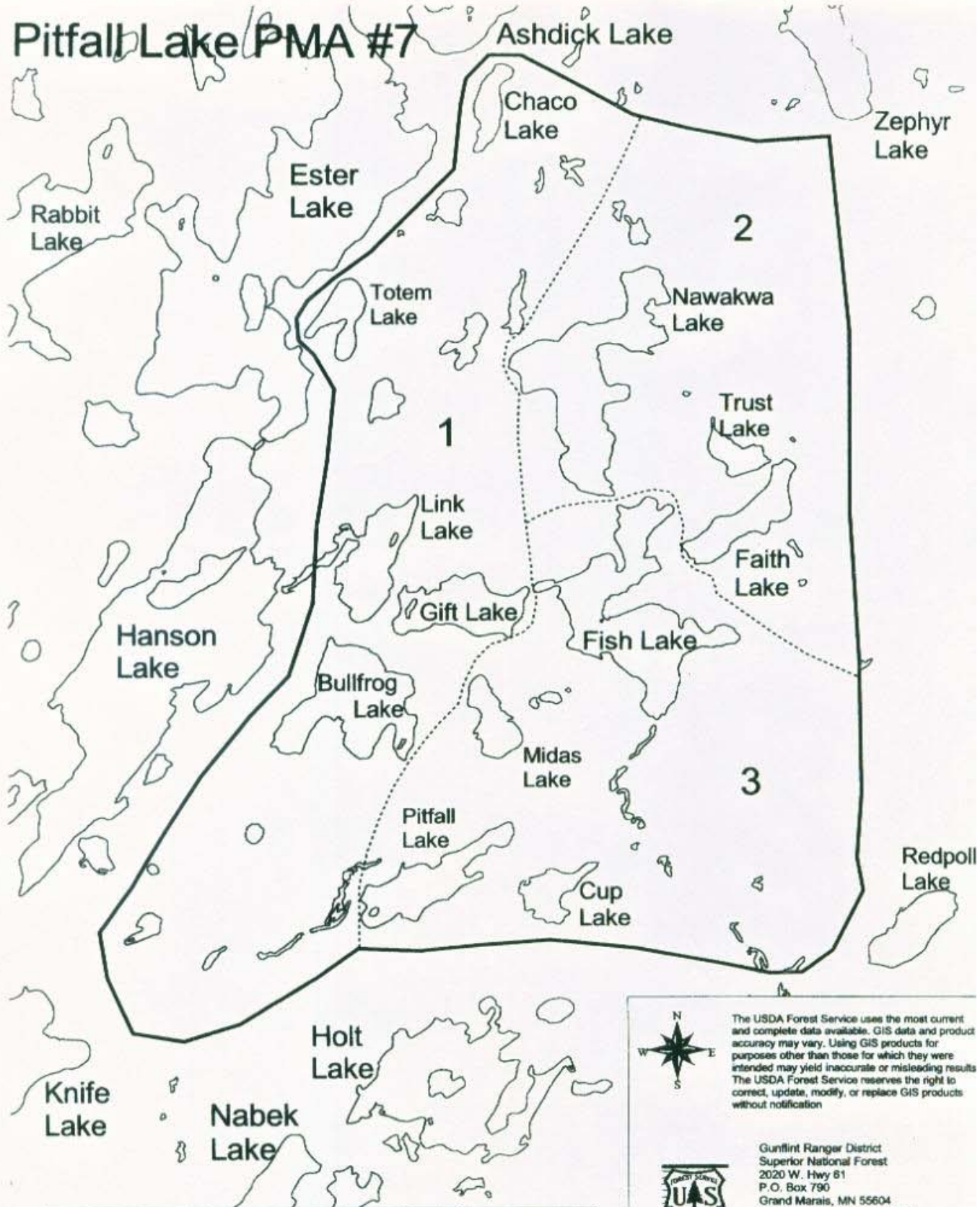


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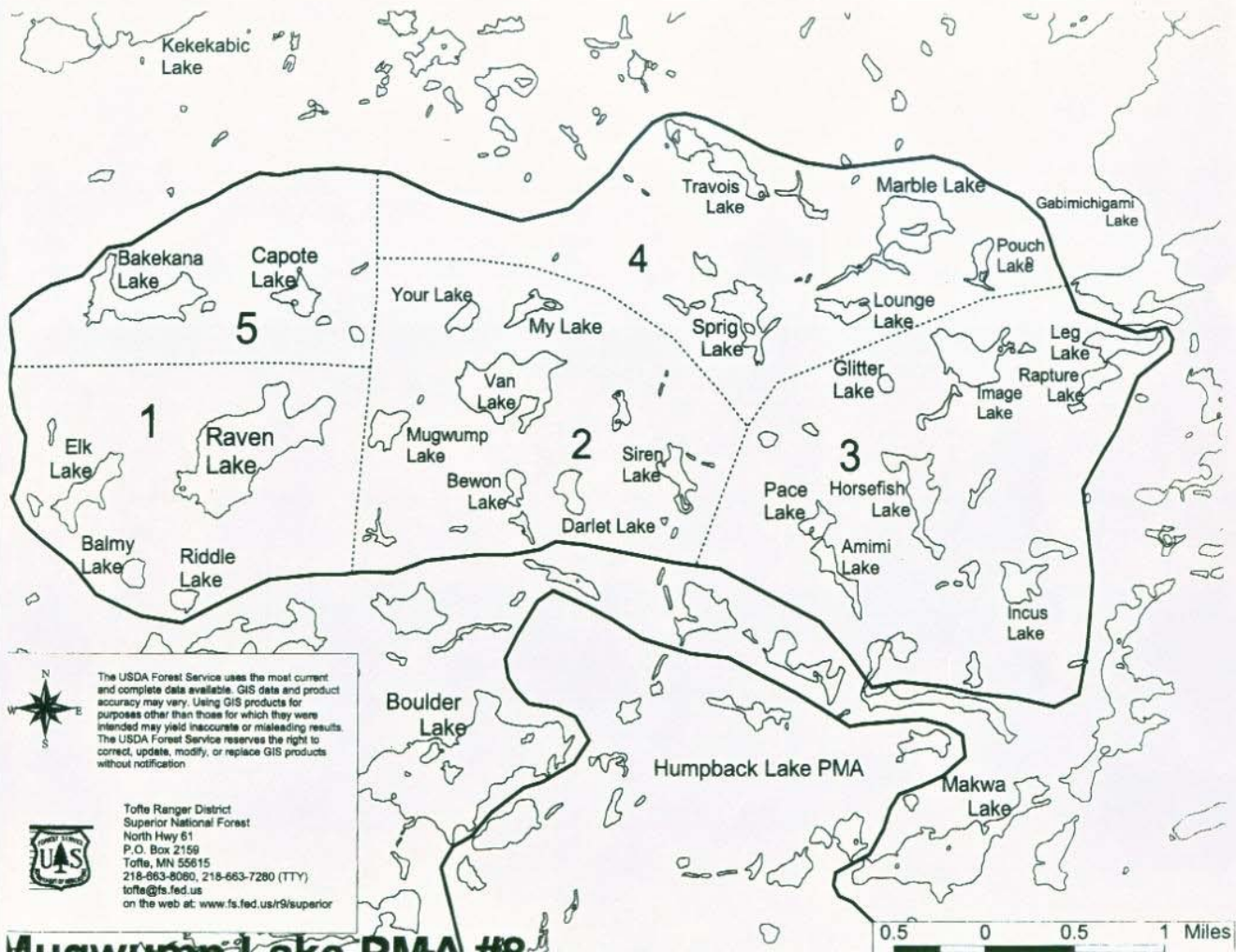
Pitfall Lake PMA #7



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guntlint@fs.fed.us
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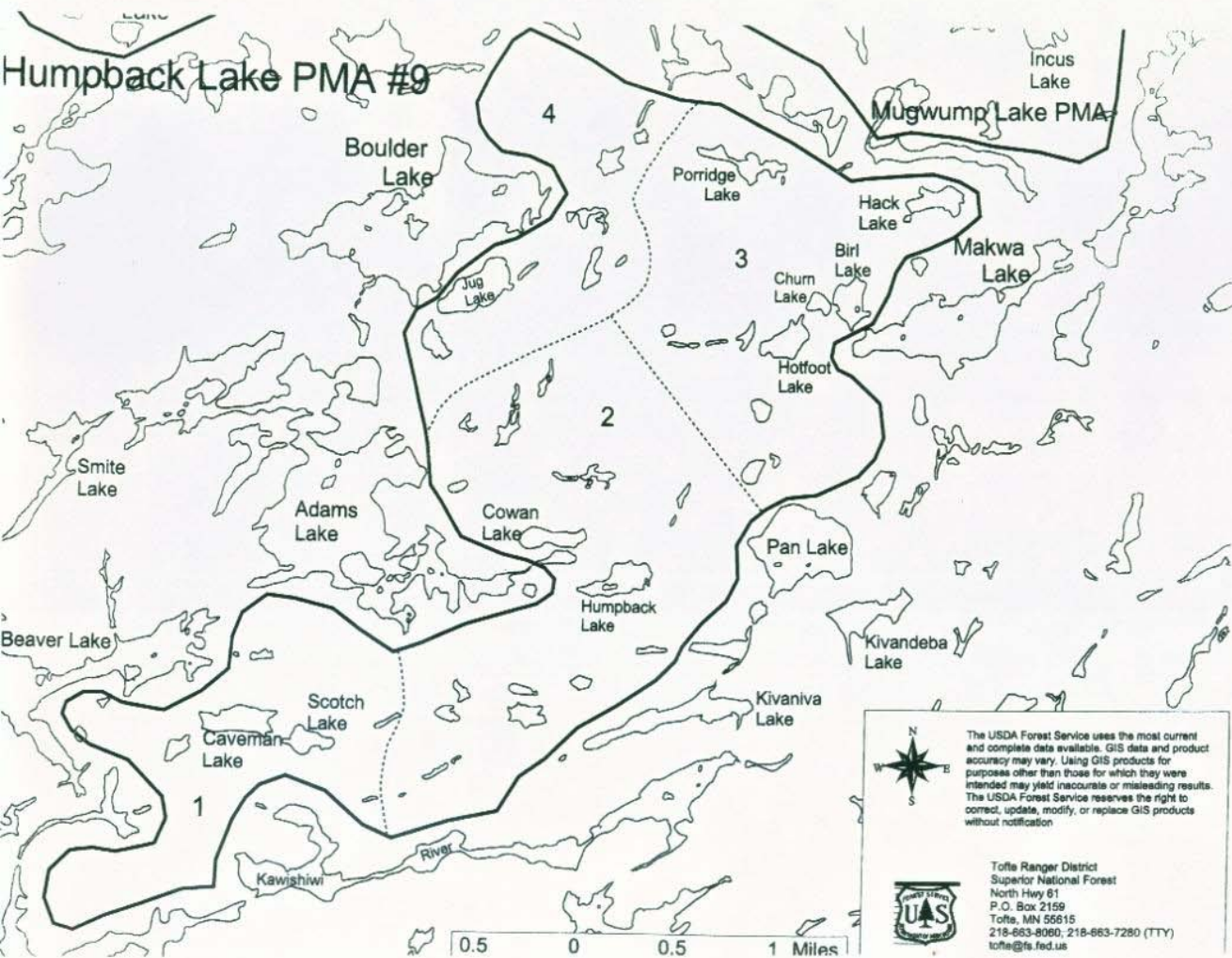


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Humpback Lake PMA #9

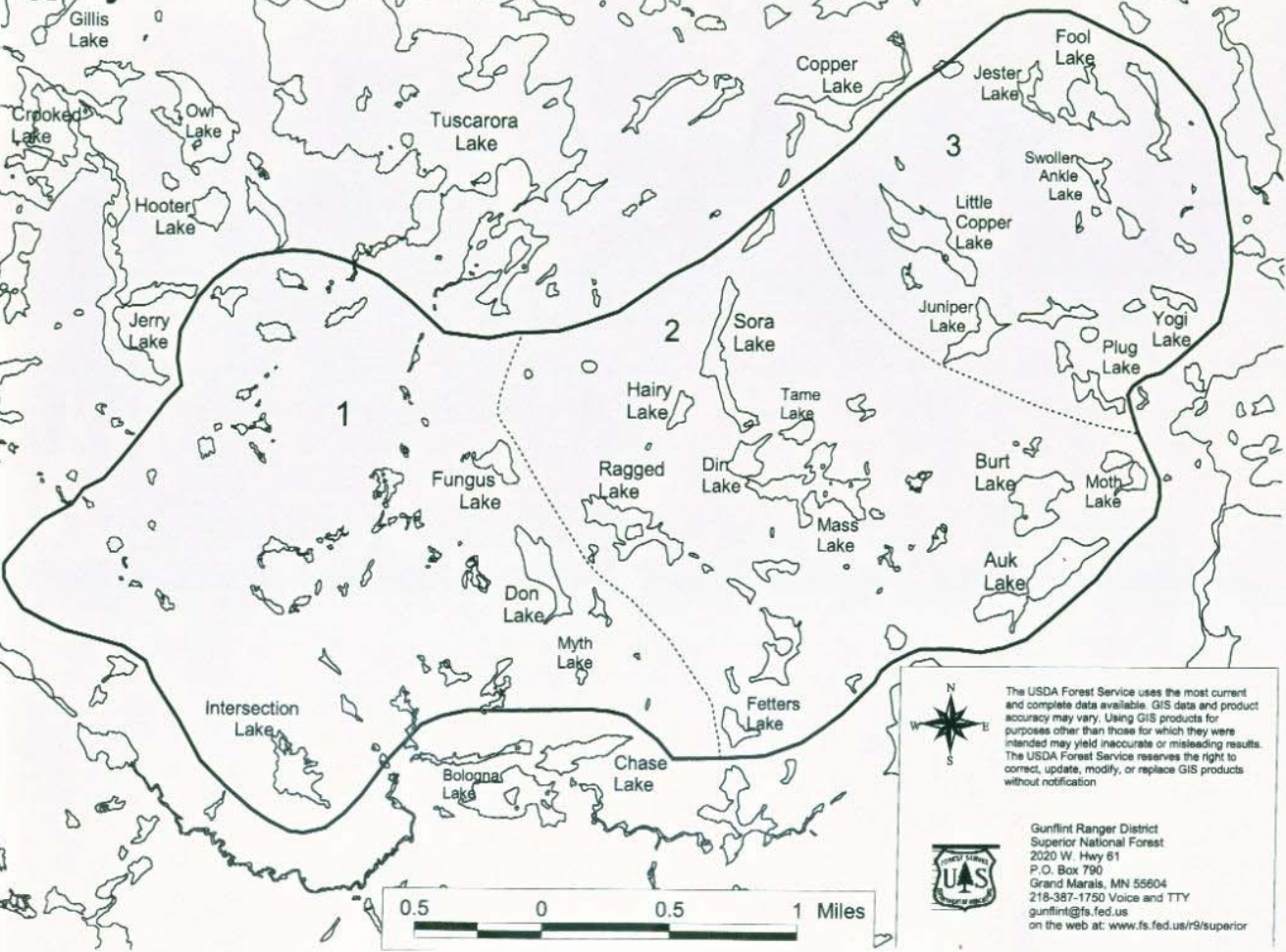


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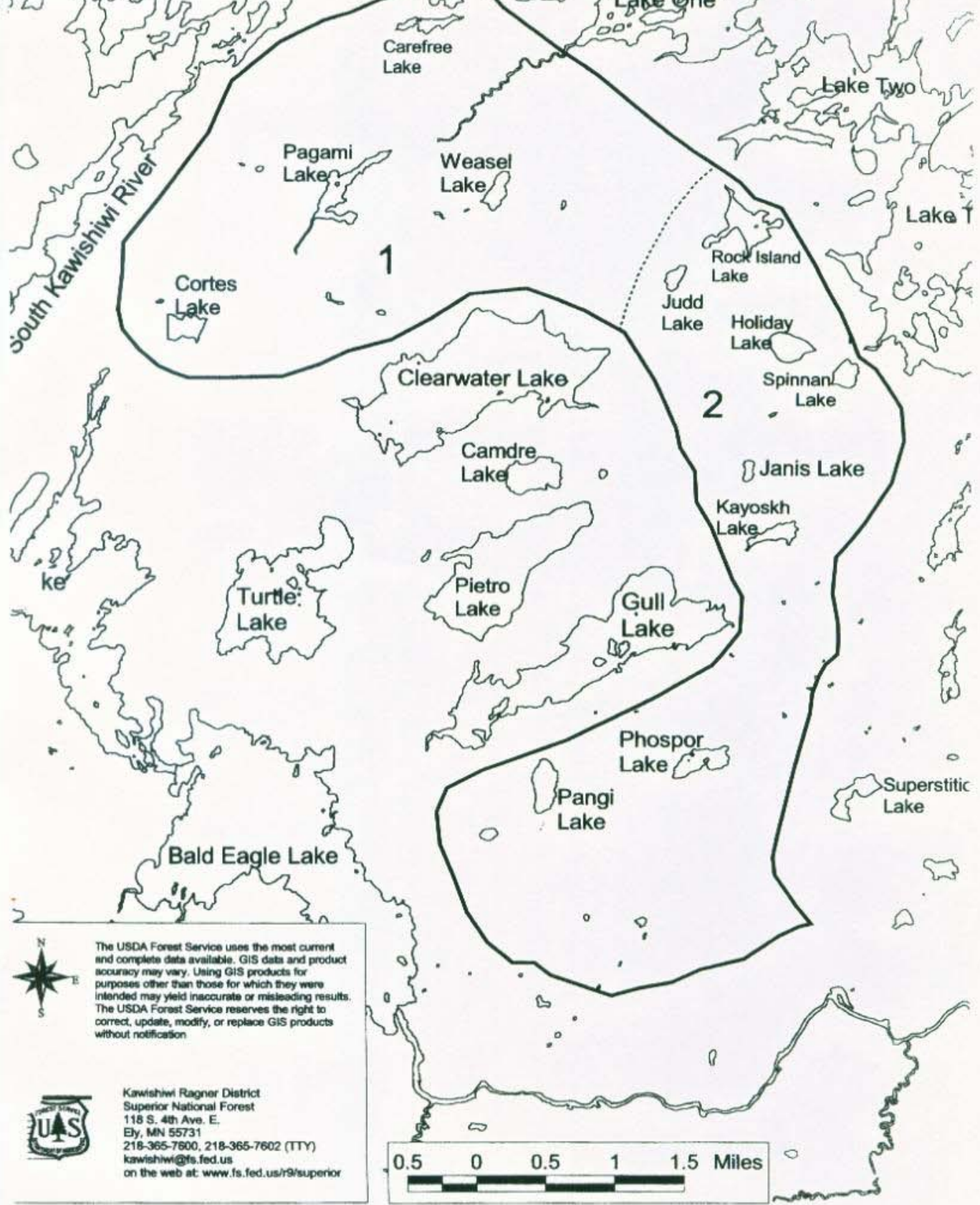
Hairy Lake PMA #10



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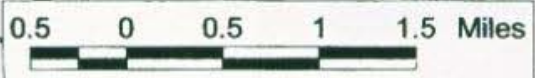
Weasel Lake PMA #11



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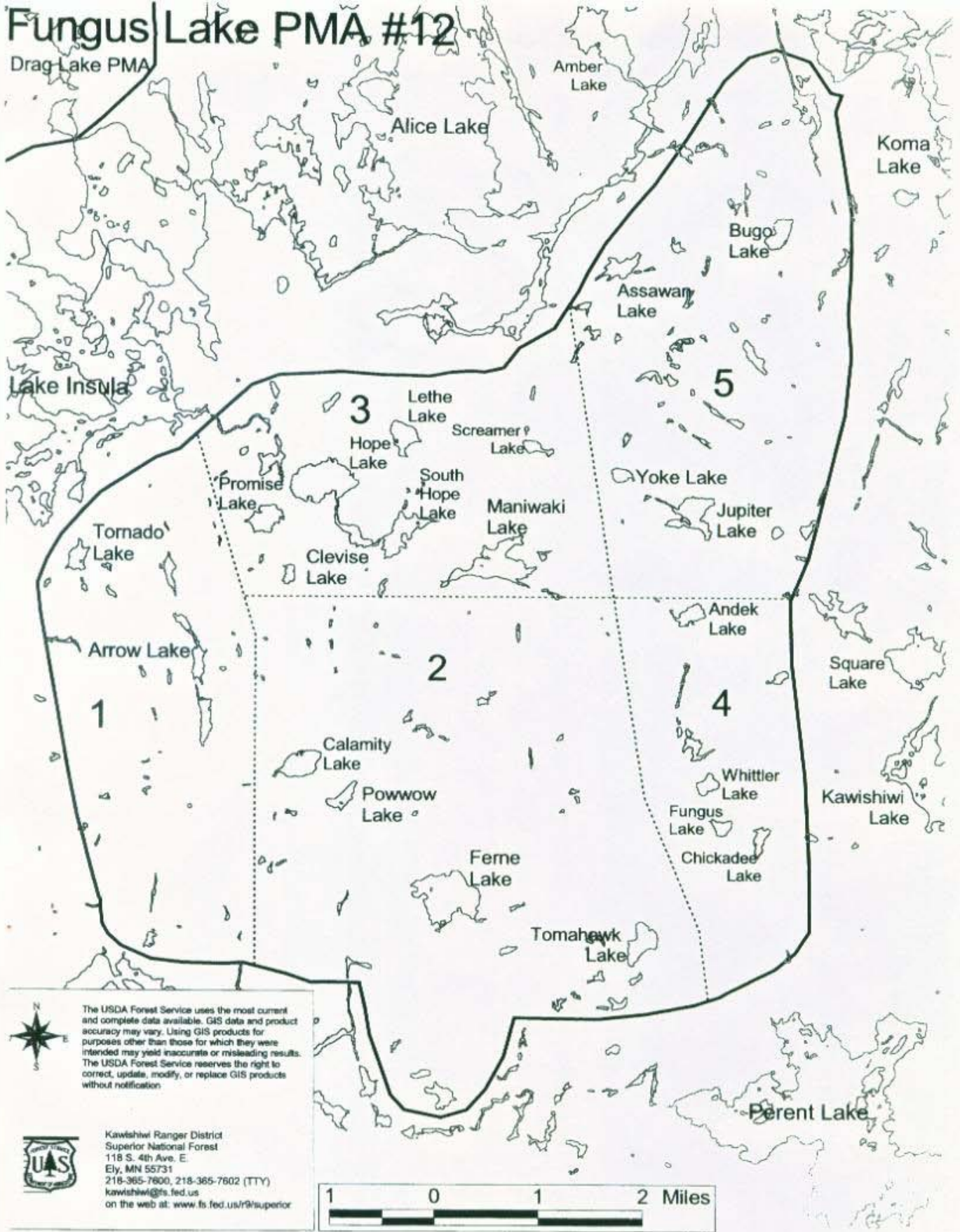


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Fungus Lake PMA #12

Drag Lake PMA



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on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior



Please..... Leave No Trace

1. Choose a campsite that is away from the lake. Keep the campsite area as small as possible. If you see signs of previous use, choose a different campsite so you do not further impact that area. Remember, cutting live vegetation is illegal.
2. Instead of open fires, campstoves are encouraged as they "leave no trace". If you have a fire, keep it small and remove any trace of it before you leave.
3. Human waste should be buried at least 150 feet from the shoreline in six to eight inches of soil. This will prevent pollution of the lake and aid in decomposition of the waste.
4. Personal hygiene and dish washing should be done at least 150 feet from the shore. This will help preserve water quality.
5. It is recommended that party sizes be kept small (1-6 people) while visiting Primitive Management Areas. Smaller groups have less impact on the land.

For more information on primitive management areas and minimum impact camping in the Superior National Forest, contact any of the following district offices of the Superior National Forest. (See attached map to determine which district offices manage specific primitive management areas.)

Gunflint Ranger District
P.O. Box 790
Grand Marais, MN 55604
(218) 387-1750
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Kawishiwi Ranger District
118 South 4th Ave. East
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(218) 365-7681 (summer)
(218) 365-7692 TTY

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