Fact Sheet
Northern Forest Canoe Trail
A 740-Mile Historic Water Trail

- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740-mile water trail following Native American routes through New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine. It is the longest inland paddling trail in the United States.

- The Trail crosses the major watersheds of the Northeast and travels through 45 unique northern communities in the four states and Québec.

- This Trail is a living reminder of the history and heritage of the Northern Forest region - its people and way of life.

- The Trail is within a day’s drive of more than 70 million people, from Montréal to New York City.

- The Trail was first envisioned in the late 1970s by Mike Krepner, Ron Canter, and Randy Mardres, three men interested in tracing Native American routes.

- Rob Center and Kay Henry became impassioned about the trail in their former management roles at Mad River Canoe. In 2000, they incorporated a nonprofit, The Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Inc., to develop and manage the Trail.

- Kate Williams is the current Executive Director. Since March 2004, Kate has led NFCT to develop the programs and funding sources that support long-term sustainability.

- NFCT continues to develop a strong membership base, currently numbering more than 800.

- The physical Trail was completed in Spring 2006. We celebrated the official opening on June 3, 2006.

- The first through-paddle was completed in 2000 by Donnie Mullen. Subsequent individuals and groups have completed the Trail.

- Publications include a guidebook, The Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and a series of thirteen comprehensive maps published by Seattle-based Mountaineers Books. Paddling Through Time describes the route and shares the history of the Trail, and Northeast Passage is a photographic journey of the 740-mile water route.

- More than 300 volunteers work on all levels of trail projects — from trail administration to trail maps to trail work.