

From: [Loudenslager, Christopher](#)
To: [*COMM Pipeline Comments](#)
Cc: [Bruce Matthews](#); [Andrea Ketchmark](#); [Matthew Davis](#)
Subject: Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement Projects Scoping Comments
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 2:54:59 PM
Attachments: [MN Sandpiper Pipeline Response and map_25MAY16.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. MacAlister,

Attached please find our comments on the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement Projects.

We appreciate your communication and the opportunity to work together with you on this project. Please include us in all future notifications and updates regarding this proposed project as the plan is developed. Thank you very much,

Chris Loudenslager
Trail Planner, North Country National Scenic Trail
National Park Service
PO Box 288
219 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 970-7026



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
North Country National Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 288
Lowell, Michigan 49331



May 25, 2016

Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Sandpiper and Line 3 replacement Projects

Dear Mr. MacAlister:

We have reviewed the documents and links you provided to determine if there may be an impact on the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) by the Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement Projects. These projects will have an impact on the NCT in one location:

East of Itasca State Park; Hubbard County, NE ¼ of Section 5, T142N R35W. The NCT is a well-established and highly used foot trail in this location, and it is critically important that public safety and trail integrity is maintained before, during, and after all project activities.

Our goal is to maximize hiking trail opportunities that link places of important scenic, natural, cultural and historic qualities. We seek to protect these opportunities to the greatest extent possible, or as a last resort, temporarily route the trail away from project locations where mitigation measures cannot adequately provide for user safety and a high quality hiking experience.

To help us identify the mitigation measures that will be necessary for this proposed action, we would like to request information regarding to what extent the Trail and hiking experience would be impacted by the proposed action:

- 1) If the proposed project is approved, how will ongoing planning and construction activity information be communicated to the North Country Trail leadership, our partner organization the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), and the NCTA field staff who are responsible for building and maintaining the Trail?
- 2) Will trail users be allowed to cross through the project location, or will there need to be restrictions or a complete closure of the affected section of trail for some period of time?
- 3) If there are restrictions or closures to foot traffic through the project area before, during or after construction:



- a. How will this information be communicated to hikers?
 - b. What would be the estimated duration of these closures?
 - c. What actions will be taken to provide safe hiker passage (e.g. an on-call shuttle service) or to establish a signed temporary hiking route during construction?
- 4) Are there currently any plans in place:
- a. To minimize any short-term impacts on the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Trail that would occur as a result of the proposed projects?
 - b. To eliminate any long-term impacts on the physical character of the Trail and its associated scenic and aesthetic qualities?

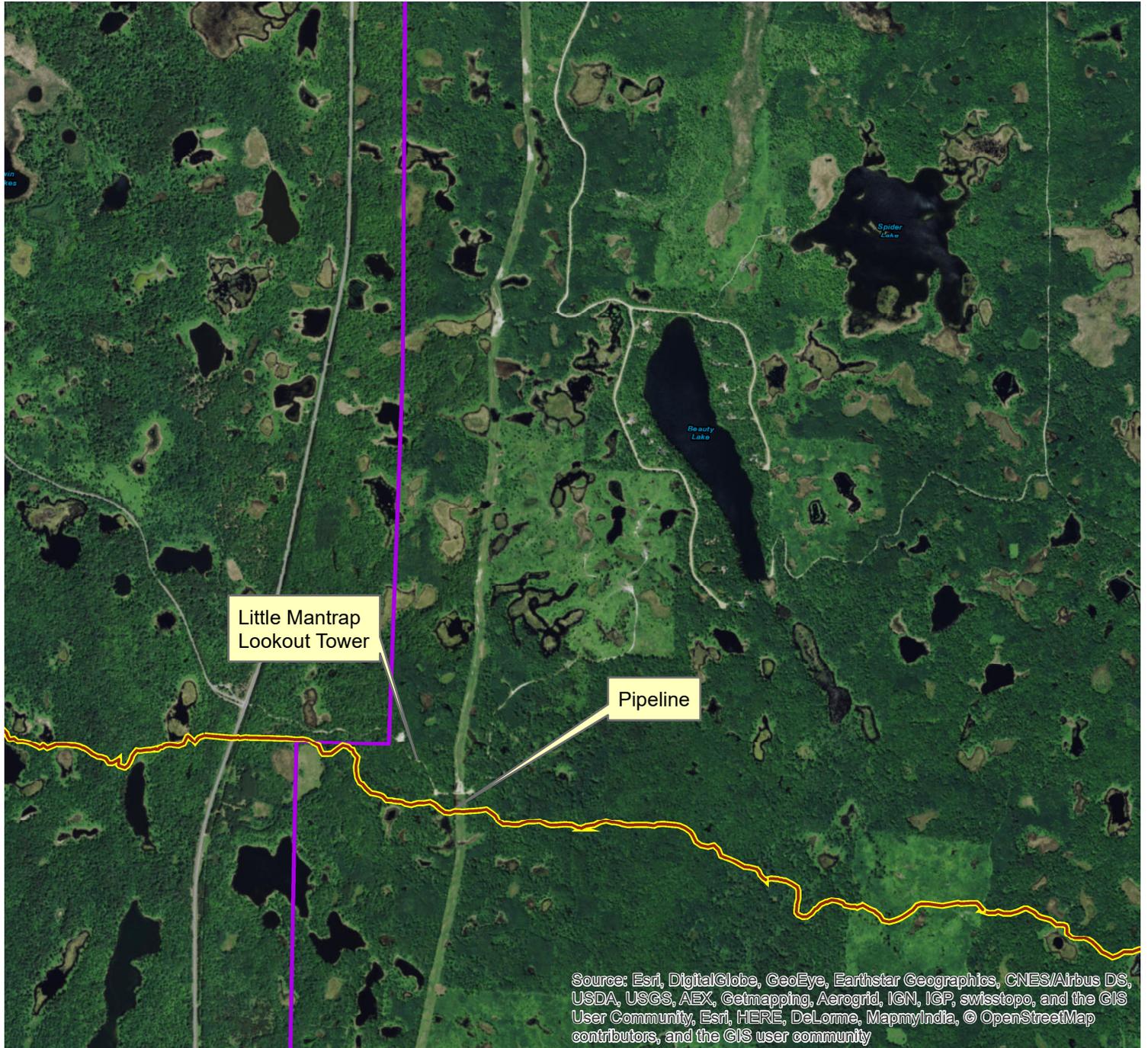
We do request that you will account for these concerns and incorporate protective measures and mitigations that provide for public safety, protect the physical attributes of the trail, and maintain the scenic and aesthetic experience a trail user should expect to enjoy on a National Scenic Trail. Our staff and North Country Trail Association partners will welcome the opportunity to work closely with you and your specialists to develop a protection plan for the NCT, or otherwise incorporate protection and mitigation plans that have previously been adopted by other pipeline utility developers for similar projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may be able to assist in bringing our collective trails experts together to collaborate on this project.

Sincerely,

/s/Christopher E. Loudenslager

Chris Loudenslager
Trail Planner, North Country National Scenic Trail

Cc: B. Matthews, A. Ketchmark, M.Davis

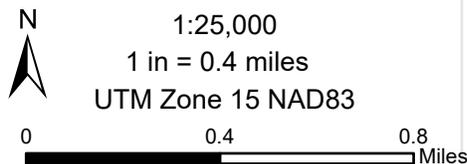


Legend

- NCT
- NCT (on-road)
- State Park Boundary

Data Sources:

- National Park Service (NOCO)
- North Country Trail Association
- USGS
- Additional: See basemap citation



Regional Overview

