

What an adventure. It is not what I am used to (loading up with as much food as possible and heading into the bush for days without seeing anyone) but it was an adventure in its own way. First off, a thank you to my beautiful lady Tami for doing this adventure with me. Thank you to all the trail angels, volunteers, private landowners, donors and IAT staff. Thank you all!!!!

When we started out, we planned to use angels as little as possible and tent out most nights. The first day Tami got an angel to shuttle our packs and we were hooked on slack packing, this also helped make the trip possible with my bad knee. After three nights in the tent, we stayed with our first trail angel, and we were hooked. After that we stayed with as many angels as possible. Staying with trail angels makes it a different experience, but we met so many new people and got to know old friends even better. It was so nice to actually sit and talk with people like Dolly, Gary and Pat, Bill and Patti, Mark and Eden, Butch and so on.

Overall, the trail took 54 days plus 3 zero days plus 2 days at an MSC event for a total of 59 days. We tented out 9 nights, tented at shelters 3 nights, tented at an angel's house 1 night, stayed in an angel's house for 32 nights, stayed in an angel's camper 2 nights, stayed at hotels 4 nights and stayed in our home for 8 nights. We carried our full packs for about 230 miles of the trail and slack packed the rest. We crossed at least 21 boardwalks that I have been part of a team to help build. We walked in the rain only 6 days with only one of these being a nasty downpour – not bad at all. At an average of 2,100 steps per mile we walked roughly 2.3 million steps. At 3 MPH average we walked roughly 370 hours. At an average of 100 calories burned per mile we burned roughly 110,000 calories.

My final top 5 favorites in no order are Gibraltar Rock, Dells of Eau Claire, Harrison Hills, McKenzie Creek and the Straight River/Straight Lake/Trade River group. Just out of the running is New Hope and Jerry Lake from the lake to the Lost Lake Esker area.

Cory Wiese