

Adventure #1: West Of Iron County

Ottawa Visitor Center:

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The Ottawa Visitor Center is located at the junction of US 2 and US 45 in Watersmeet, Michigan. A new Ottawa National Forest film presentation showing the beautiful north woods through the seasons is shown every half hour daily during the summer months,



with special interpretive programs on Thursday evenings beginning in June.. The center is fully accessible and features exhibits, interpretive association sales outlet, and a nature trail. There is no charge at this facility. The Ottawa Visitor Center has been open to the public since May 1971. The mission of the Center is to foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, recreational, and wilderness resources of the Ottawa National Forest. Through interpretive programs and displays, our goal is to help build public understanding and appreciation of our natural resources that leads to safe, wise and caring use of the Forest

Watersmeet Trout Hatchery & Fish Farm

The Watersmeet Trout Hatchery was built by the State of Michigan in the early 1930's. It was operated by the state to provide trout for public waters in the Upper Peninsula. The hatchery building itself is 9000 sq. ft. with 17 concrete tanks that are 4.5' x 17'. In the upstairs of the hatchery, the state provided a living quarters for the workers that operated the hatchery. This living quarters is finished in knotty pine and provided three bedrooms, a living room, dining nook, bath and kitchen for workers. In 1965 the state moved their operations and the hatchery was idle until 1970.



In 2007, Watersmeet Trout Hatchery was purchased by The Giannola family. Dino and Roberta plan to continue building on what the Tiemans started back in 1970. Our goal is to provide a pleasant and fun experience for families that visit us! As well as provide quality service and fish for private and public waters throughout the Upper Peninsula and Northeast Wisconsin. Nothing but smiles and a reel full of fun at the Watersmeet Trout Hatchery and Fish Farm. Bring your family and walk away with smiles and a dinner they will never forget.

Directions: In Watersmeet, turn right (from US 2), then drive 4.50 miles east to Old US2 until you see the signs "Watersmeet Trout Hatchery and Fish Farm".

Lac Vieux Desert Casino, Restaurant & Golf



Lac Vieux Desert Casino offers 25,000 square feet of gaming floor for you to enjoy over 650 video and reel slots including video poker, video keno, and wide area progressives with denominations from one penny to \$5. Our progressive jackpots, in-house and wide-area have changed some of our player's lives! Slots available for your gaming pleasure 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Grab a bite to eat at the Lac Vieux Desert Casino Restaurant. Serving breakfast, lunch & dinner.

LAC VIEUX DESERT GOLF COURSE

When you're ready to play outdoors, play in the great northwoods on the **18 hole**, roughly 200 acre Ottawa National Forest challenging **Lac Vieux Desert Golf Course**, located steps away from the casino. Our fairways are planted in a rich variety of blue grasses, cut to just above a half-inch in length and are generously wide at the landing zones, offering a tight lie for the best shots. Our roughs require skill and discipline to overcome their length and density. Enjoy a beverage and try your luck in the Clubhouse adjacent to our Pro Shop which carries quality brand name golf equipment and apparel.

Course and Pro Shop are open April to October, call the Pro Shop at (906) 358-0303 for tee times.

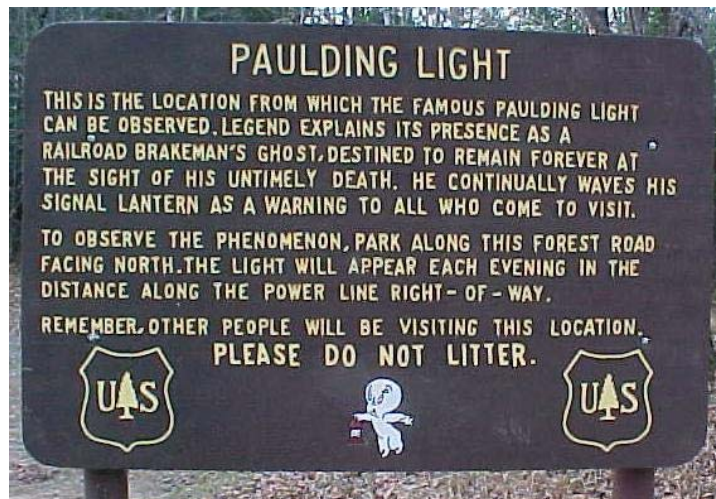
Directions: US2 West from Iron River to intersection of US2 & US45. Turn right & the Casino will be on your right in approximately 2



Paulding Light

Also known as "The Dog Meadow Lights" People have reported seeing these mysterious lights for 40 years. To this day you can see them on almost any night! Tales of many witnessed this strange light moving towards them, floating in mid air around five feet high and it looked exactly as if someone was carrying a lantern. When it started to get closer to us it would vanish and start all over again each time moving towards us faster and FASTER! There are some haunting legends for this phenomenon. Some say that one night, forty years ago, a railroad switchman while holding his lantern was crushed to death between two cars while trying to signal the engineer.

Direction: Take State Highway 45 north out of Watersmeet Michigan. About 5 miles out of Watersmeet, the road will begin a slow bend to the right. Watch for a road on the left side of 45 named "Robbins Pond Road" (old state hwy 45), there is usually a brown park sign right before, turn left on Robbins Pond Road. Follow the gravel road down about 3/8 mile until you see the dead end barricade shown above. During the summer months you will also see the sign put up by the National Park Service.



Bond Falls:

Bond Falls is in the western U.P. on Bond Falls Rd, east of Pauding MI. This is the most impressive waterfall in Michigan with the possible exception of Tahquamenon Falls. The main drop is 40 feet high and 100+ feet wide. Above the main falls are a series of cascades and rapids that must drop a total of 20 feet.

The water level is controlled by a dam, and a steady flow over the falls is maintained for scenic reasons. Of course during the spring melt the flow is much higher.

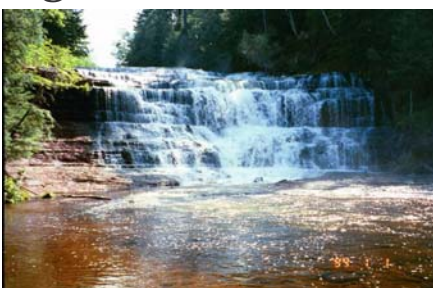
Bond Fall is a Michigan State Scenic Site. The site was renovated around 2003. The old parking area was upstream of the falls, and a steep concrete stairway led to the base of the falls. The new parking area is near the base of the falls, and a level boardwalk leads you to prime views of the falls. The area is not quite as wild looking as it once was, but it is accessible to everyone. The trail on the east side of the falls is still wild with some steep rocky climbs. There are other trails that go off into the woods, and there are campsites nearby.



In addition to being very picturesque, this is a very popular waterfall, and unless you visit early in the morning or in winter, you are going to have a lot of company.

Directions: US2 West (29 miles) to stop & go light in Watersmeet at intersection of US2 & 45. Turn right onto US 45 (9.9 miles), then right onto Bond Falls road (3.2 miles) & follow the signs.

Agate Falls:



Agate Falls, another scenic site, is just around the corner from Bond Falls. Agate Falls is a Michigan State Scenic Site 6.5 miles east of Bruce Crossing on MI-28. There is a roadside park (Joseph F. Oravec roadside park) just past the bridge over the Ontonagon River. Unfortunately the provided trails and overlooks are somewhat limited. With some effort you can scramble down to the river to get some very good views of the falls, which seems to be popular with local fishermen, or scramble up the river banks to get to the old railroad bridge over the falls. The bridge is now part of a snowmobile trail.

I was hoping that after seeing the improvements done to Bond Falls, the access to Agate Falls had also been improved, but no luck.

From Bond Falls, go east on Bond Falls Road. Take a left (west) onto MI-28. The Agate Falls roadside park will be on your left



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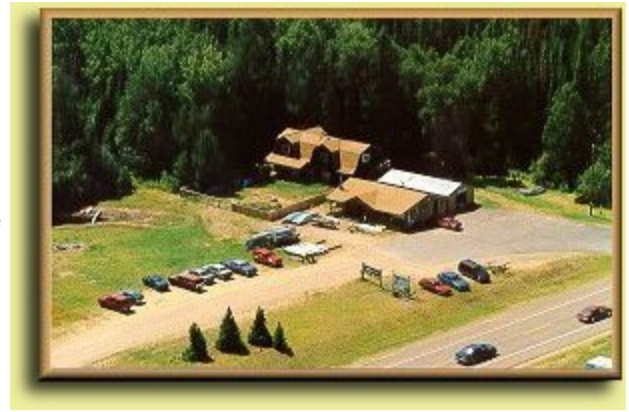
www.ironcountylodging.com

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Sylvania Outfitters, Inc. is located just 1 mile west of Watersmeet, in the rugged and beautiful area known as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. For nearly thirty years **Sylvania Outfitters** has been provisioning outdoor enthusiasts with camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, and trekking supplies for excursions into the Sylvania Wilderness Area and the surrounding Ottawa National Forest. Personal concern that your wilderness adventure is as good as it gets at Sylvania Outfitters. We will customize your trip requirements so that you can fully enjoy the beauty, solitude, and wonder that awaits within the Sylvania Wilderness Area and the Ottawa National Forest.

There is much to explore and experience in the Sylvania Wilderness Area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and **Sylvania Outfitters** knows how to get you there...and back! This web site is designed to get you the information you need so that when you call or stop by you will have a good idea of the services we provide including a refined knowledge of the protocol and regulations required when visiting the Sylvania Wilderness area.

The Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area retains a wildness and unspoiled beauty that few public environs possess. Its natural solitude and character remains today because dedicated people cared enough in the past to insist on protecting it. If you visit here, you must respect and protect what others have done before you to make this a very special place for plant, animal, and human interaction. Those who visit here bring away with them memories of the Natural World as it might have been long before Europeans began their explorations of the area. Enjoy!!



Sylvania Outfitters, Inc. E23423 U.S. Hwy. 2, Watersmeet, MI 49969, Phone: 1-906-358-4766

SINGLE DAY TRIPS... through the SYLVANIA AREA and on the Ontonagon River.

The following information will help you plan a number of different *single day* trips in some truly beautiful surroundings. We will do everything we can to make your excursion through the local woods and waters a day you will always remember.

DAY CANOE TRIPS:

SYLVANIA AREA DAY TRIPS

We rent kayaks for \$24.00 per day and canoes for \$26 to \$36 per day for use in the Sylvania Tract. *Included* in this fee are paddles, life vests, carrying yoke and foam cartop carrier that fits almost any car. We deliver and pick up canoes in Sylvania for \$16.00. U. S. Forest Service park passes are \$5.00 per car. We have 13, 15, 17 & 18 ft. canoe sizes.

No styrofoam, cans or bottles are allowed.

Trip #1. Clark Lake to Loon Lake: Paddle around this crystal clear and largest lake in the Tract. No motor boats are allowed! See eagles and loons! There are isolated beaches along the north, south and middle of Clark Lake. The whole north end of Loon Lake is beach. On these lakes all bass caught have to be returned to the water without injury.

Trip #2. Crooked Lake to High Lake :Motor boats *are* allowed on this lake. Normal fishing rules apply. This is a very scenic and winding lake. Very short portages to beautiful clear blue High or Mountain Lakes.

ONTONAGON RIVER TRIPS : The Ontonagon River is part of the Wild and Scenic River System. We rent canoes and kayaks for these trips down the Ontonagon River. Single sit-on-top Kayaks rent for \$15 per day and double sit-on-top Kayaks rent for \$24 per day. Canoes rent for \$30 per day. These are special plastic watercraft that slide down rocky rapids with ease. Included with the rental are the paddles and vests.

Transportation for up to 7 passengers is \$26.

Trip #2. Watersmeet to Burned Dam: (Mex-i-mine Falls) This trip has five sets of rapids that require some skill. Current is pretty good 2/3 of the way an then slows for 1 1/2 miles as the river widens out. The river narrows and speeds up as Tamarack Creek enters. Your trip ends on the right above Mex-i-mine Falls at Burned Dam Campground and covers 10 miles. Minimum paddling time is 3 1/2 hours. Pickup is usually in 4 to 5 hours.

Trip #2T. Buck Lake Road to Tamarack Creek: NO RAPIDS. Current will carry you along at a good clip for 3/5 of the way. The river widens and the current slows for about 1 1/2 miles of paddling. Tamarack Creek enters the river on your right at five miles. You must turn and paddle up the creek to the bridge, about 100 yards, to the take out spot. Pickup in 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Trip #3. Burned Dam to Interior: No cabins along this beautiful downhill stretch. At least 7 rapids, one of which is quite long. Minimum paddling time is two hours. Pickup in 2 1/2 to 3 hours at the first bridge you come to. This spot is the old town site of Interior. Drop off and pickup for this popular trip is \$26.00.

Trip #4. Burned Dam to Bond Falls: Trip #3 is the first half of this trip. The current is still strong for quite a way down stream, then starts to slow down. Possibly pull over at a couple of tree trunks as you near Bond Falls Flowage. Big rocks appear suddenly. Pull off to the right side to scout this ledge rapids. Tricky. Consider portaging! Right after this is "Little Falls." Pull off on left to scout or Portage! Head Northwest across Bond Lake past 5 islands. Take out on right side of Main Dam. Below the dam is a small camp store with a telephone. Trip covers twelve miles, pickup is usually in 5 hours. For the more hardy! Spotting/pickup fee is \$25.00

Commercial guiding services are not permitted within the Sylvania Wilderness. For more information about these and other Canoe trips, please call Sylvania Outfitters! Rates subject to change.

