

Bernes and Raske, Pers. Comm., August 14, 2012.

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Lee Johnson

US Forest Service

218-626-4321

leejohnson@fs.fed.us

Excerpt from *Bernes and Raske, Pers. Comm., August 14, 2012*

The following paragraphs regarding the significance of the Beaver Bay to Lake Vermilion Trail to Bands members in the ceded territory were taken from the August 14th, 2012 meeting notes (Northmet project Historic Properties consultation) between Lee Johnson (Superior NF), Bradley Johnson (ACOE) and Grand Portage and Bois Forte THPO staff (Raske, Berens, Latady, Gagnon). The meeting was held at Grand Portage.

-General discussion on historic significance of the trails to Vicky and Rose. They related that 100 years ago, there was a lot of intermarriage between GP and BF Bands. They both stated that the Ojibwa in NE Minn were 'barely coming out of the nomadic stage' at the time the reservations were set up. Still traveling a lot. Folks got enrolled at locations they happened to be at the time rolls were being populated...."we got enrolled because the government wanted us to, but we kept moving around in the ensuing years". There were 18 Bands (Bill Latady) made up Bois Forte at Treaty time (Basswood, Rainy, Nett, etc). At that time, social organization was still very fluid—marriage, disagreements, etc-caused factions, and folks moved around between locations a lot. The group agreed that the importance of the trails was within this context: that trails, or trail corridors, were "physical manifestations of that social fluidity between Bands at that time".

"There is no words to describe how important they are. You don't talk about your home or bed as something that is very significant to you, but it's an integral part of life." (RB). Vicky stated that the trails are like a lifeline. They permeate all aspects of life, history. They are a road to and from somewhere, but also everything in between (VR). Rose stated, as an example, that the trails at Nett Lake (as a kid) went somewhere. They were 'coming and going' trails. You used them for a purpose and then you came home. There 'Trygg' trails are something different, they aren't like 'coming and going' trails. People were living, dying, eating and sick on these trails (RB). Vicky stated, again, that the trails effect all aspects of life. Rose stated that the trails can 'connect you to who you are'. They are important for cultural identity and a reconnection to the past ways.