



GUNFLINT TRAIL WEATHER

All year long, weather is a favorite topic of conversation on the Gunflint Trail. Known for its extremes and volatility, no matter the season, weather on the Gunflint Trail gives local residents and visitors plenty to talk about. During the summer, temperatures often creep up into the high 90s. In deep winter, locals barely blink when the mercury in the outdoor thermometer drops to -40 F.

Gunflint Trail Annual Averages

- 70 inches of **snowfall**
- 27- 32 inches of **precipitation** (rainfall and the water equivalent in snowfall)
- **Spring** may arrive on the calendar on March 21, but on the Gunflint Trail, a better indicator of spring's arrival is when the area lakes are ice free (known locally as “ice out”).

Average ice out dates:

Gunflint Lake – May 6

Seagull Lake – May 1

Saganaga Lake – May 7

Wind

Wind is created as air moves from high pressure areas to low pressure areas. Because wind moves excess heat around, it tends to be windier on the Gunflint Trail during warm weather months. On windy days, it's not unusual to experience 30 mile per hour wind gusts.

One of the most notable weather events on the Gunflint Trail for the Blowdown storm on July 4, 1999. In less than half an hour, a 90-mile per hour straight line wind known as a derecho leveled millions of trees along the Gunflint Trail.

Fire Weather

The Gunflint Trail area has experienced several wildfires in recent years, prompting many people to pay attention to “fire weather” on the Gunflint Trail. How windy it is, the level of humidity and the air temperature all affect how well wildfires will burn. Because high temperatures and winds and low humidity greatly increase wildfire danger, the danger of wildfires tends to be highest during the peak of the Gunflint Trail's summer heat in July and August.

Additional Resources

Seagull Guard Station Weather Station:

http://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=SEAM5

Gunflint Trail (Tucker Lake) Weather Forecast:

<http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/hdfForecast?query=Gunflint+Trail%2C+MN>

Chik-Wauk Weather Station:

