

BRIGHTSDALE MANAGEMENT UNIT

TRAILS

- Non-motorized Trail
- Paved non-motorized
- Snowmobile Trail
- State Trail
- State Forest Road

*Respect gates & signs on all public & private roads

No uncased firearms allowed in this zone

TRAIL DESIGNATIONS

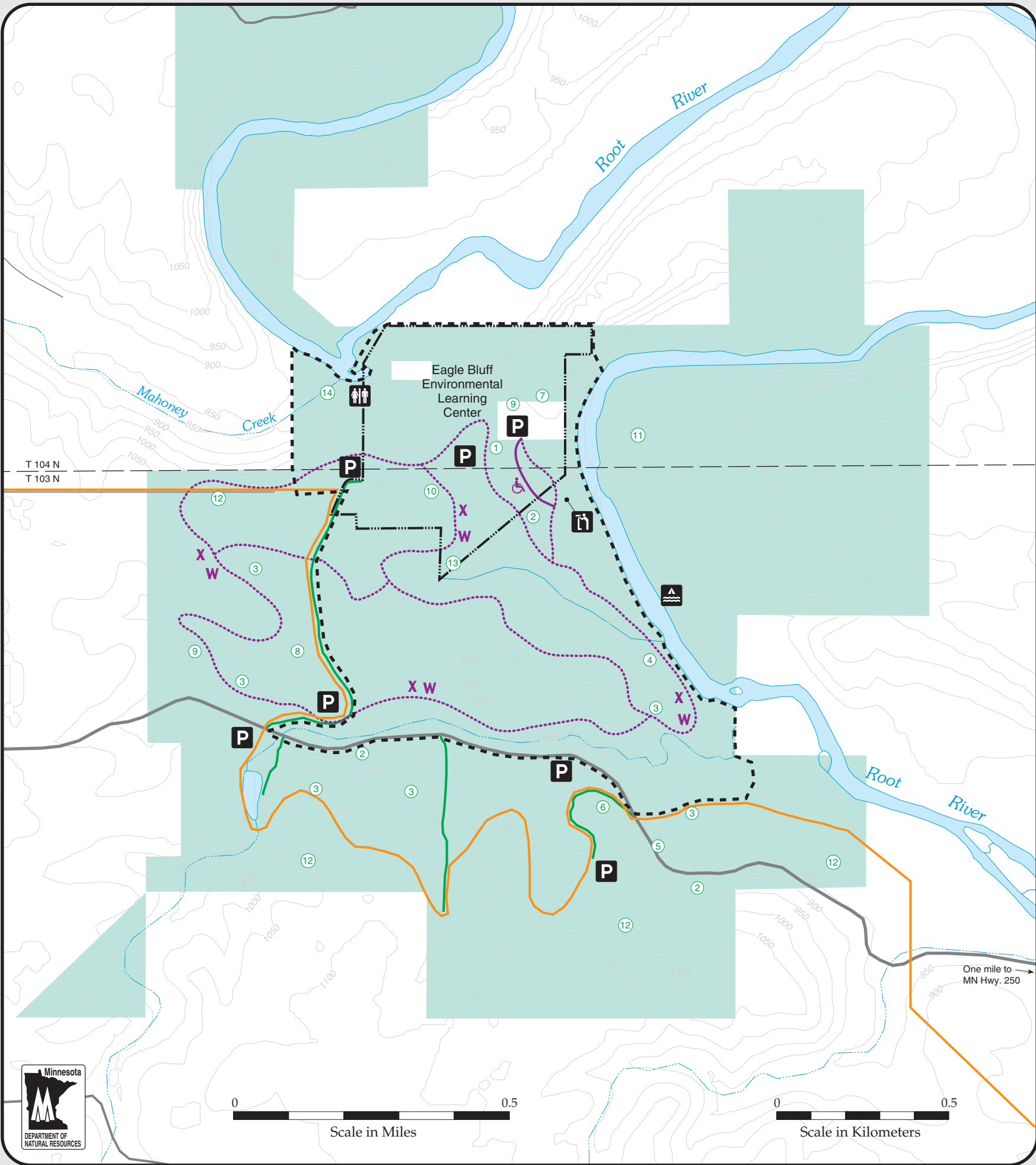
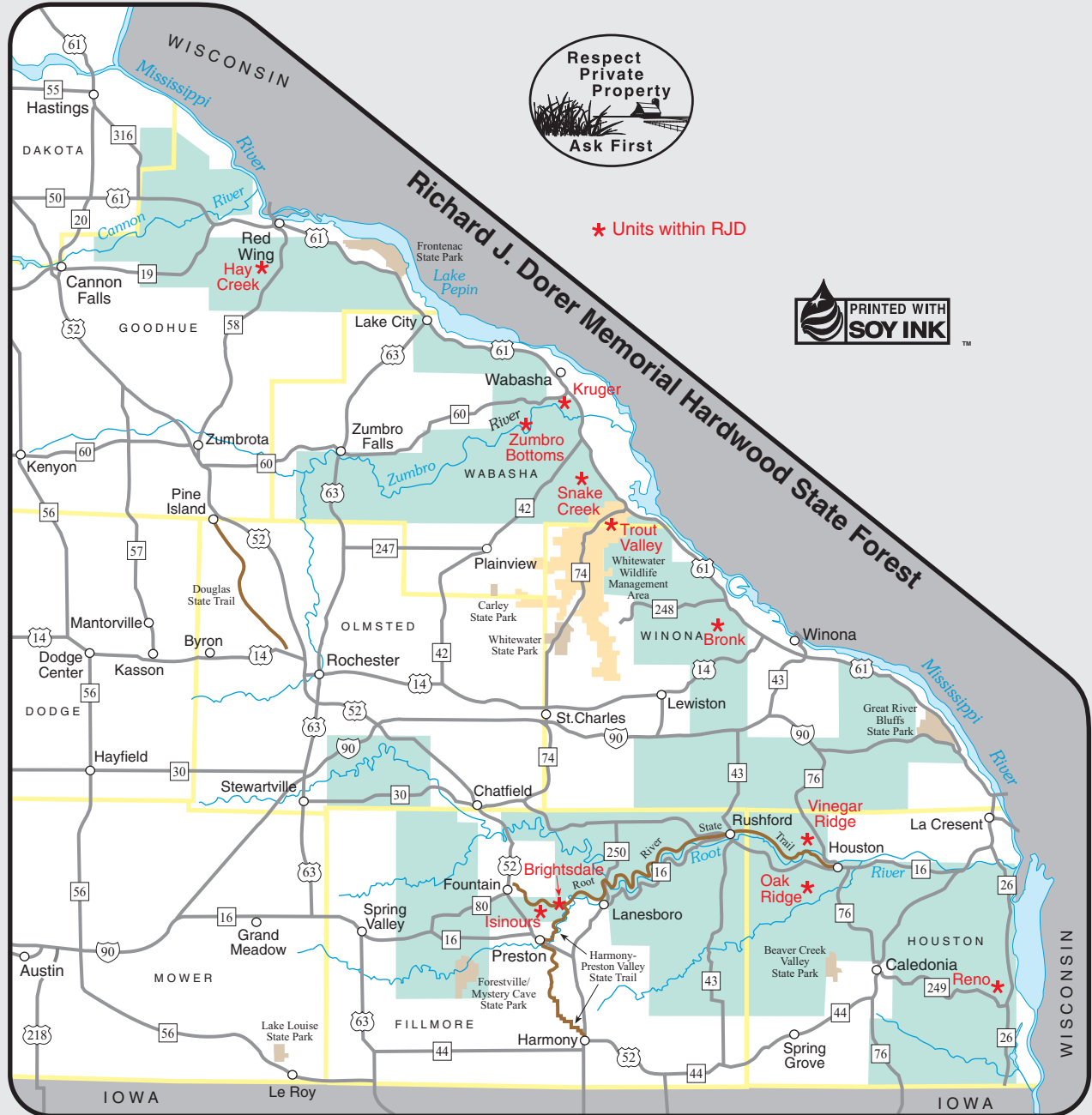
- Ski Touring
- Hiking
- Handicapped Accessible
- Forest Management Tour numbered sites See Text Side of Map

OWNERSHIP

- State Forest Land
- State Parks
- State Wildlife Management Areas

FACILITIES

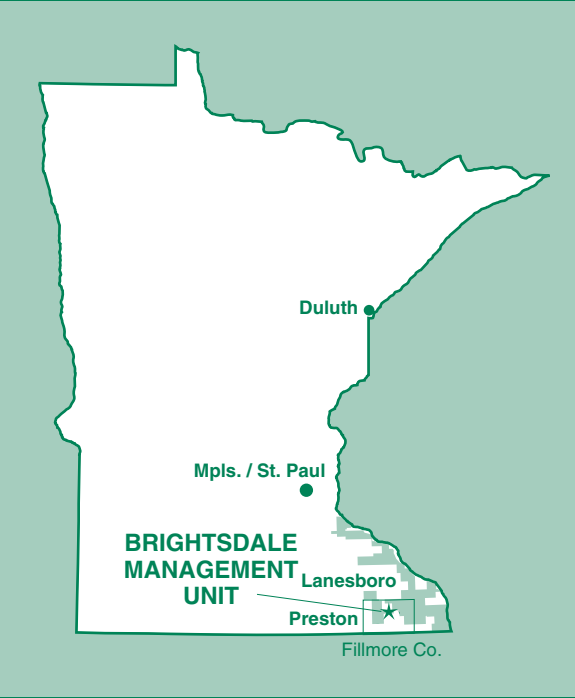
- Parking
- Campground
- Canoe Camping
- Overlook
- Toilet



RICHARD J. DORER MEMORIAL HARDWOOD STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP BRIGHTSDALE MANAGEMENT UNIT

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



The Brightsdale Forest Management Unit, site of the Eagle Bluff Environmental Center, is located about five miles north and west of Lanesboro. The unit was named after an old hydroelectric plant located on the site, along the north branch of the Root River. The unit is located on a township road that runs west off State Highway 250 about two miles north of Lanesboro.

The 900 acre unit is part of the approximately 40,000 acres of state forest land in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. The forest, established as the Minnesota Memorial Hardwood State Forest in 1961, was established to control soil erosion and demonstrate proper forestry techniques while providing recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat and timber production. The forest was renamed to honor Richard J. Dorer, a leader in the crusade to establish the forest, after his death in 1974.

Minnesota’s state forests were established to produce timber and other forest crops, provide outdoor recreation, protect watersheds and perpetuate rare and distinctive species of native flora and fauna. The Department of Natural Resources applies multiple use management principles to allocate state forest resources to meet the needs of Minnesota’s citizens. Management actions are planned to maximize sustained yields of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest’s productivity.

FOREST MANAGEMENT TOUR

1. Walnut Plantation - This site was logged and cleared of non-merchantable timber and replanted with Black Walnut seedlings. Walnut was chosen because of it’s high commercial value and the site’s good soil qualities for growing hardwood trees.

2. Aspen Recycling - Aspen trees do not live as long as other hardwood tree species. Because of the advanced age of this stand, trees were dying and falling at an increasing rate. To make room for a new stand of Aspen, preferred by many wildlife species to old stands, the old trees were cut or killed using a variety of forestry practices.

3. Pine Plantation - Norway, Scotch and White pines were planted in these retired farm fields and pastures following acquisition of the land by the state. These trees will provide needed wildlife shelter and lumber products in the future.

4. Spring - This spring is fed by many of the underground caves and channels found in the limestone bedrock in this region. They are formed over thousands of years as the groundwater slowly dissolves the limestone. Sometimes the limestone dissolves close enough to the surface to collapse creating sinkholes and surface terrain known as karst topography. These geologic features allow surface water runoff to easily mix with much of the shallow groundwater, including this spring, contaminating it so it is not drinkable.

5. Walnut Interplanting - Black Walnut seedlings were planted in widely spaced strips with oak and white pine interplanted to spur their growth. Notice the raptor (hawk) perch installed by Dairyland Power Company for rodent control.

6. Wildlife Openings - These areas have intentionally been left open to provide wildlife nesting, brooding and feeding areas. Some shrubs have been planted to enhance the habitat.

7. Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center - Eagle Bluff is a non-profit, residential overnight facility that cooperatively utilizes state land to provide quality environmental educational activities to students of all ages. Stop and ask the staff about their educational programs and facilities. Eagle Bluff is a private organization that depends on donations to meet operating expenses.

8. Oak Regeneration Area - The trees on this site were sold as firewood. The area was replanted to oak by the Lanesboro Future Farmers of America.

9. Trailhead - This parking area is shared by the visitors to the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center and the trails of the Brightsdale Management Unit. There are

marked and groomed trails for hiking and cross country skiing.

10. Oak Timber Sale - This low quality site was logged to demonstrate what a timber sale looks like from above on the bluff or in an airplane. The area also creates a good viewing area for wildlife. Notice the Opsrey nesting platform erected by Dairyland Power Company.

11. Leased Cropland - This state land, suitable for agriculture, is leased to a local farmer. Lease agreements usually include erosion control measures such as strip cropping, grass strips, settling ponds and others as needed. Leases sometimes also include permanent wildlife food plots like the corn plot in these fields.

12. Water Control Structure - This pond constructed in 1986 is becoming more and more popular with wildlife. It was constructed to control erosion in a large gully by slowing runoff water. Grass and shrubs have been planted to further control erosion and provide wildlife cover.

13. Old Hydroelectric Dam - Water was directed from this dam through a tunnel to a hydroelectric power plant on the other side of the ridge.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The recreational facilities at the Brightsdale Unit include 5.7 miles of marked and groomed hiking/cross country ski trail and a canoe campsite on the Root River. The trails are arranged in two loops and range from easy on some portions to most difficult on the steep slopes. Beginning skiers should exercise caution when skiing steep hills. The unit is located about two miles from the Root River State Trail, a 35 mile trail that extends from east of Fountain to east of Rushford. All of the lands on the unit, except those that are leased and posted, are open to public hunting and trapping during established seasons.

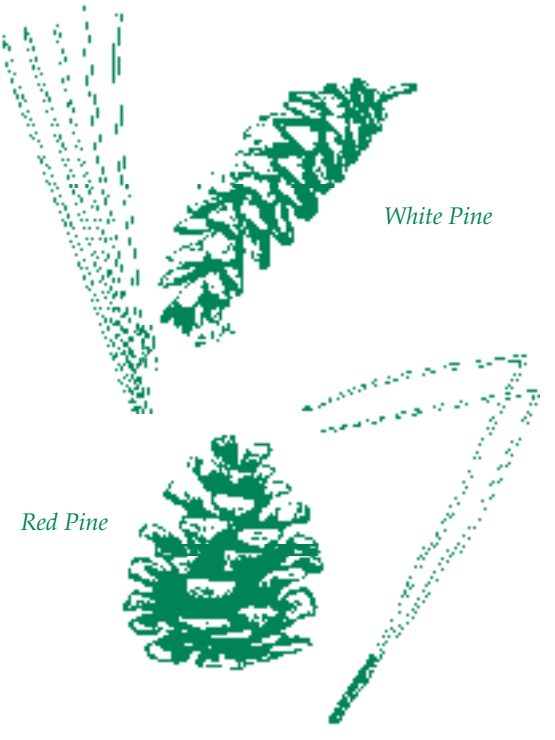
STATE FOREST RULES

State forest lands are generally open for all types of outdoor recreation including, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and picking fruit and mushrooms. Rules and laws regulate some activities on forest lands. A partial list is included below. A complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

Firewood	-Dead wood may be gathered for campfires on site. Cutting or removing wood or forest products for home or commercial use requires a permit.
Campfires	-Recreational fires of less than 3 ft. diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 ft. around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.
Firearms	-Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in and within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area, etc.)
Camping	-Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted with some conditions. See complete rules.
Personal property	-Personal property may not be left or positioned so as to obstruct use of a road or trail. Personal property left unattended for 14 days shall be deemed abandoned.

Special rules apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas. They are not included here.

TRAILS -Motor vehicle and off road rules



Classified Forest Lands. State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

State Forest Lands Classified as **Managed**:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

State Forest Lands Classified as **Limited**:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

- Motor vehicles may operate **ONLY** on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**.

- Exception: Persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game or constructing hunting stands during October, November and December, or trapping during open seasons, may use ATVs off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions. **This exception does not apply in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.**

- Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest is classified as **LIMITED**.

- Special Provision - Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted closed and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. **No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances.**

State Forest Lands Classified as **Closed**:

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are **not allowed** except:

- * Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
- * Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
- * Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

General Operating Restrictions

- anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:

- * when the water body is ice covered.
- * on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.

- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.

- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.

- Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.

- No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on forest lands.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS- Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed. In the Richard J. Dorer, horses and bicycles may travel only on designated trails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

651-296-6157 (Metro Area)

1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)

651-296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

Area Forester
912 Houston St. NW
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-2740

EMERGENCY SERVICES - Dial 911

Fillmore County Sheriff
901 Houston St.
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-3874

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Olmsted Medical Center
Rochester, MN
(507) 529-6600

St. Mary’s Hospital
Rochester, MN
(507) 255-5123

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