

Legend

- State Forest Roads (open to all motor vehicles, unless posted closed)
- Minimum Maintenance Forest Road (open to all motor vehicles, unless posted closed. Highway vehicles travel at your own risk)
- ATV/OHM/ORV Trails (open to Class 2 ATVs)
- ATV/OHM Trails (open to Class 2 ATVs)
- ATV/OHM Trails
- Horseback/Hiking Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Dogsled Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Willard Munger State Trail
SUMMER: Hiking, Horseback, and Mountain Biking
WINTER: Snowmobiling

- Gate
- Parking
- Forestry Office
- Boat Ramp
- Carry-in Access
- Shelter
- Vault Toilet
- Campground
- Horse Camp
- Primitive Campsite

- Public Land within the Forest
- Private Land within the Forest
- Tribal Land
- Mille Lacs Reservation
- Land outside State Forest

0 0.5 1 mile
Scale

ORVs allowed on the Gandy Dancer Trail north of East Arm Road (GATE)

Is It Trespassing?

On private land, the simple and best answer is, **Ask First!** Signs are posted by the landowners, and they will state, "No Trespassing," or similar words in two-inch letters and the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws.

Civil penalties start at \$50 for first offense and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

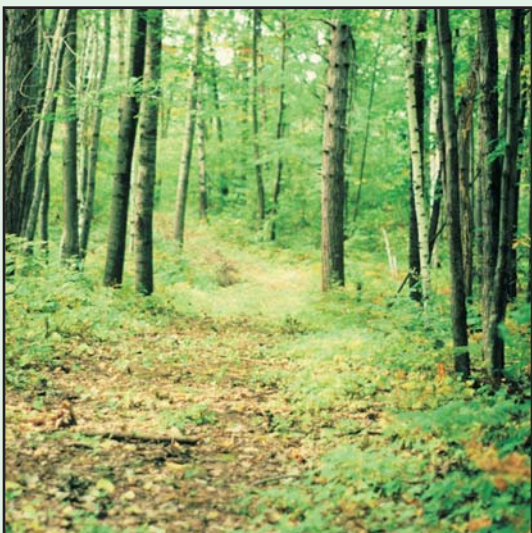
Respect Private Property
Ask First

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Department of Natural Resources

St. Croix State Forest

St. Croix State Forest

A guide to recreational opportunities in Minnesota state forests



About the Forest

Size: 42,105 acres Year Created: 1931

Forest Landscape: The terrain in the forest consists of a series of forested upland islands surrounded by marsh and brush. The Tamarack River flows through the forest and the St. Croix River flows along a portion of the forest's eastern border.

Management Activities: Timber harvesting, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement, recreational development, and environmental protection occur in the forest. Various zones within the forest are managed for different purposes. Recreation and environmental protection are major objectives along the rivers, lakes, and trails.

Timber management is a primary objective on lands capable of growing vigorous stands of trees. Wildlife management involves improving habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl. This includes creating and maintaining numerous forest openings and seeded trails to provide food for many wildlife species. The DNR also protects the forest and surrounding areas from wildfires.

History: In the 1800s, logging was the main occupation for the settlers who located in the area of the forest. Millions of board feet of pine logs were floated down the St. Croix River to large sawmills at such locations as Stillwater.

Minnesota Laws of 1931 established several state forests by legal descriptions only. The St. Croix State Forest was one of these and did not get its name "officially" in the law books until 1943. Over the years, the Minnesota Legislature enlarged the original forest reserve to its present size of 42,105 acres. The DNR manages 64 percent of the area, with the remaining 36 percent of the land within the forest boundaries being privately owned.

Look for ...

Predominant Tree Species: A wide range of tree species can be found throughout the forest, but certain tree species or forest types are more dominant in some parts of the forest than others. In the eastern and southeastern portions of the forest, aspen types, including bigtooth and quaking aspen, dominate, with interspersed large or small islands of red oak/northern hardwood types and pine or spruce plantations along with lowland conifers and hardwoods. There are also stands of young, naturally regenerated pine and old mature pine along the Tamarack and St. Croix rivers and their bluffs. The western and northwestern portions of the forest are dominated by numerous high-quality stands of red and white oak and northern hardwoods that include maple, basswood, ash, and birch. Interspersed within these stands are areas of aspen and lowland conifers and hardwoods. The differing tree species or forest types are indicative of the relative soil quality and drainage within the forest as one moves from the better soils in the northwest to the somewhat less rich soils in the southeast. The forest contains 143 acres of black ash, 68 acres of lowland hardwoods, and 10 acres of red pine that are designated old growth and protected from harvesting and other management activities.

Wildlife: White-tailed deer, bear, gray wolves, bobcats, coyotes, beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat, turkey, and ruffed grouse can be found in the forest. In the spring and fall, migrating waterfowl can be found in the forest's wetland/riparian habitats. Many nongame bird species, including warblers, northern harriers, red-shouldered hawks, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, and osprey can also be seen in the forest and lowland brush wetland areas.



Recreation:

Recreational facilities in the forest include the **Boulder Campground**, **Tamarack Horse Camp**, a portion of the **Gandy Dancer State Trail**, a portion of the **Willard Munger Boundary Segment State Trail**, and trails for off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. The **St. Croix River** is a state-designated "Canoe and Boating River" and a nationally designated "Wild and Scenic River."

The forest is classified as "limited" in regards to OHVs (all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-road vehicles).
 • All trails available for these motorized activities will be posted.
 • Any trail not posted with a "motorized use permitted" sign is off limits.

The **Boulder Campground and Day-Use Area**, located on Rock Lake, has 19 campsites, each with a tent area, fire ring, and picnic table. The campground also has potable water, outdoor toilets, and parking lots for hikers and boat trailers.

The **Tamarack Horse Camp** is for horse campers and day-use riders using the horse trails in the forest. Facilities include three campsite loops with 55 campsites that have fire rings and picnic tables. There is also a well, picnic shelter, outdoor toilets, and a day-use rider parking lot.

A **25-mile hiking and horseback-riding trail** can be accessed from either campground. The trail runs from Boulder Campground along the west bank of the Tamarack River, past the horse camp, and across a bridge over the river. It then parallels the river in a southerly direction to Pine Point near where the Tamarack and St. Croix rivers come together. Novice, intermediate, and experienced horseback riders will all find trails to use in this forest.

The **St. Croix State Forest snowmobile trail** consists of segments totaling 25 miles. The trail is well marked and groomed for winter use. There are 45 miles of trail maintained for **all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle (OHM) use** within the forest, and four parking lots for motorized trail users.

The **Willard Munger Boundary Segment State Trail**, which crosses the forest, is used for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling. It is connected by forest trails to the Gandy Dancer State Trail. During the winter, the trail connects St. Croix State Park and State Forest, Chengwatana State Forest, and Nemadji State Forest.

The **Gandy Dancer State Trail** is a multipurpose, multi-jurisdictional trail built on an abandoned railroad grade. It runs through Polk and Burnett counties in Wisconsin, passes through Pine and Carlton counties in Minnesota, then goes back into Douglas County in Wisconsin. It is primarily used in the St. Croix State Forest by snowmobiles and OHVs.

A **17-mile dog sled trail** is located in the northern part of the forest, west of Hay Creek Flowage. It is accessible from County Road 25.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping in accordance with state regulations are allowed on all public land within the state forest. Forest roads are open year-round to facilitate access to forest areas; however, there can be seasonal restrictions where roads are closed to minimize damage during spring breakup.

OHV Riding

Welcome. You are part of a growing number of people who enjoy using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for trail riding, off-road transportation, competition, and other activities. Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners, and lawmakers.

Tread lightly on the environment, be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law. By doing these things you contribute to the positive image of off-highway vehicle activities.

What Are You Riding?

Not all off-highway motor vehicles can be ridden on all trails. The following descriptions can help you be certain that what you're riding is permitted on the trail you choose.

ATVs - All-Terrain Vehicles are motorized, flotation-tired vehicles with at least three, but no more than six low pressure tires, with an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters.



Class 1 ATVs have a total dry weight of less than 900 pounds.



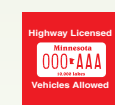
Class 2 ATVs have a total dry weight of between 900 and 1,500 pounds.



OHMs - Off-Highway Motorcycles are vehicles traveling on two wheels that have a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and have handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used for off-highway operation on trails or natural terrain.



ORVs - Off-Road Vehicles are motorized, recreational vehicles capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain, such as four-wheel-drive trucks or ATVs over 1,500 pounds.



HLVs - Highway Licensed Vehicles are allowed on all state forest roads; however, on "minimum maintenance" state forest roads, travel is at your own risk.

For more information on off-highway riding and opportunities, visit:

FindTheTrails.com

OHV Use on State Forest Lands

State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor-vehicle use.

The DNR is conducting a review of state forests that currently permit off-highway vehicle use. Following the review, these forests may be reclassified as either "managed," "limited," or "closed" to OHV use.

Please check for trail closures before you leave at:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html

For up-to-date information, check www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/index.html

St. Croix State Forest Is 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 all-terrain vehicles off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions.

Motorized restrictions on state forest lands

• No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated nonmotorized 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 or 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 and 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.

Safety First!

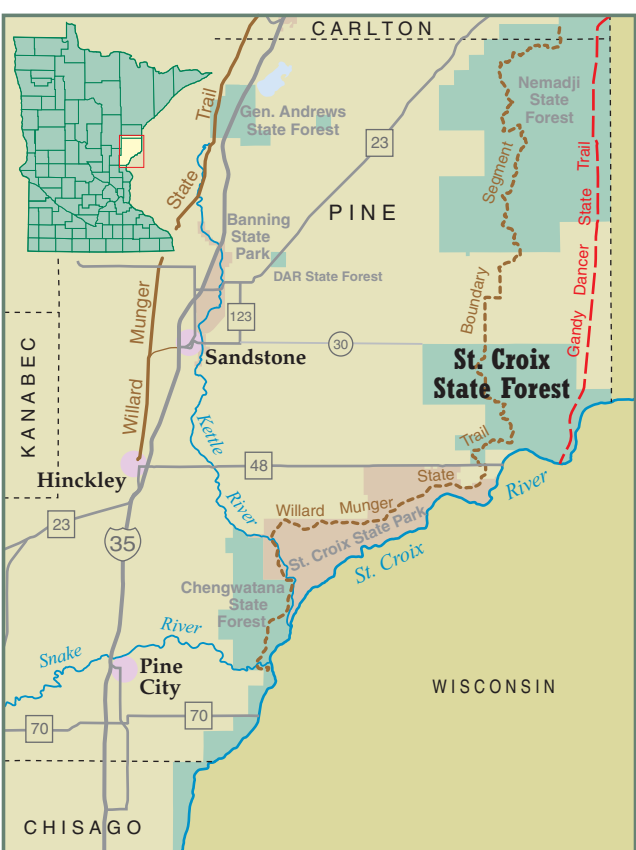


- Read the owner's manual and know your vehicle.
- Check your vehicle before you ride.
- Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders.
- Supervise young or inexperienced riders.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles intended for one person.
- Ride straight—no alcohol or drugs.
- Let trail conditions determine safe speeds.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay away from open water and thin ice.
- Know the weather forecast.
- Use your taillight and headlight.
- Maintain safe distances when riding with others.
- Reduce your speed when riding at night.
- Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users.

ATV Youthful Operators

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an ATV to permit it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Age	Requirement
Under 10	May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.
10 and 11	May operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Must wear an approved helmet while operating on public lands and frozen waters.
12 through 15	ATV safety certificate valid only after successfully completing BOTH the independent study and riding safety training components, and must be able to properly reach and control the handlebars and foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat. May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen waters and make direct crossing of roadways with a valid safety certificate ONLY when accompanied on another ATV by a person 18 or over who has a valid driver's license. Must wear approved helmet while operating on public lands and frozen waters, and when crossing road rights-of-way.
16 and 17	Must successfully complete the ATV independent study course component before operating on public lands. May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen public waters without a safety certificate. Must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way. Must wear approved helmet while operating on public lands, frozen public waters, and on road rights-of-way.

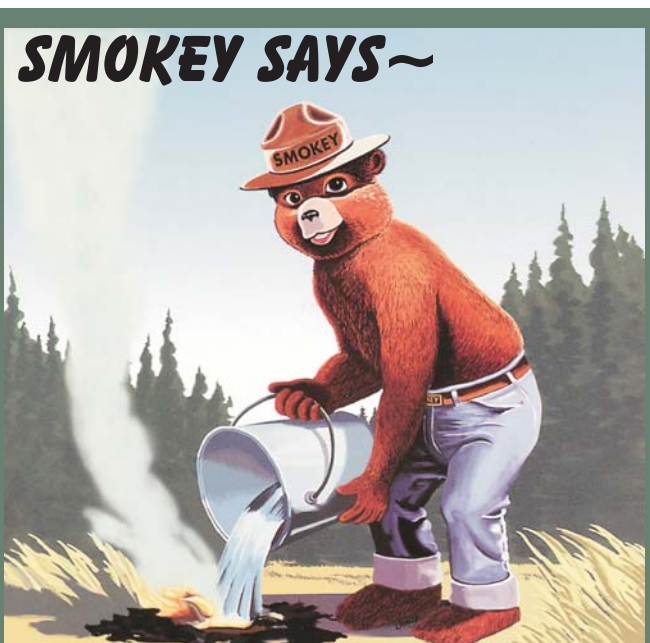


Location and Directions

The St. Croix State Forest is located in east-central Pine County along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. It can be reached by traveling east from Hinckley on State Highway 48 or from Sandstone via State Highway 123 and County Highway 30. To reach Boulder Campground or Tamarack Horse Camp, take State Highway 48 east from Hinckley 23 miles to County Road 173. Follow 173 north approximately five miles to Tamarack Forest Road. Turn east (right) and follow signs to either area.



Photos provided by DNR



Be Safe With Campfires!

- Let your fire burn out completely to ashes or very small coals.
- Drench the fire with water, stir the ashes and coals, and wet again.
- Make sure any food, plastics, or foil is packed out as garbage.
- When your fire is extinguished completely, it should be cold to the touch.

For More Information

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Information Center
 651-296-6157 (Metro Area)
 888-MINNDNR (Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)
 651-296-5484 (Metro Area)
 800-657-3929 (Toll Free)

Department of Natural Resources
 Forestry Area Office
 613 Highway 23 South
 Sandstone, MN 55072
 320-245-6789

Department of Natural Resources
 Trails and Waterways Area Office (for trail information)
 Route 2, 701 South Kenwood Road
 Moose Lake, MN 55767
 218-485-5410

St. Croix State Park (for recreation information)
 320-384-6615

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

LAW ENFORCEMENT/ FIRE
 Pine County Sheriff
 320-629-3930 Ext. 5712

NEAREST HOSPITAL
 Community Memorial Hospital
 512 Skyline Boulevard
 Cloquet, MN 55720
 218-879-4641

Hunting

Hunting in state forests is allowed during the appropriate season and with the correct license. State forests do contain private holdings within their boundaries, many of which are signed "no hunting." Hunting on private land within a state forest is subject to state trespass laws.

Firearms, deer stands:

Firearms must be unloaded and cased and bows must be unstrung and cased while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day-use area, etc.). The only exception is during an open hunting season when a person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm or strung bow to hunt outside of the recreation area.

Temporary and portable deer stands are allowed in state forests.

For more information on hunting and trapping, go to:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting



Fishing, Trapping

There are no special provisions or restrictions on fishing or trapping within state forests. Participants in these activities must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and seasons as anywhere else in the state.

For more information on fishing, go to:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing

Snowmobile Trails

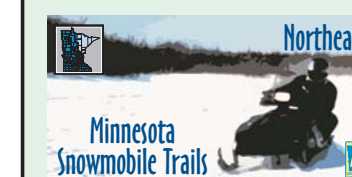
Alcohol, nighttime driving, and high speeds are the main causes of snowmobile fatalities. Conservation officers remind snowmobilers:

- Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is unlawful.
- 50 miles per hour is the maximum legal speed for snowmobiling on frozen public waters and DNR-controlled lands (conditions permitting, when no other restrictions apply).

For complete legal information see "Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Laws, Rules, and Regulations," available from DNR Information Center and DNR Licensing Bureau.



Stay on the trails with the help of orange reassuring blazers, which are posted along the route.



Locations of Minnesota's snowmobile trails have been mapped for NW, NE, SW, and SE Minnesota and copies are available from DNR Information Center and other locations. The same information is available on the DNR Web site, www.dnr.state.mn.us.