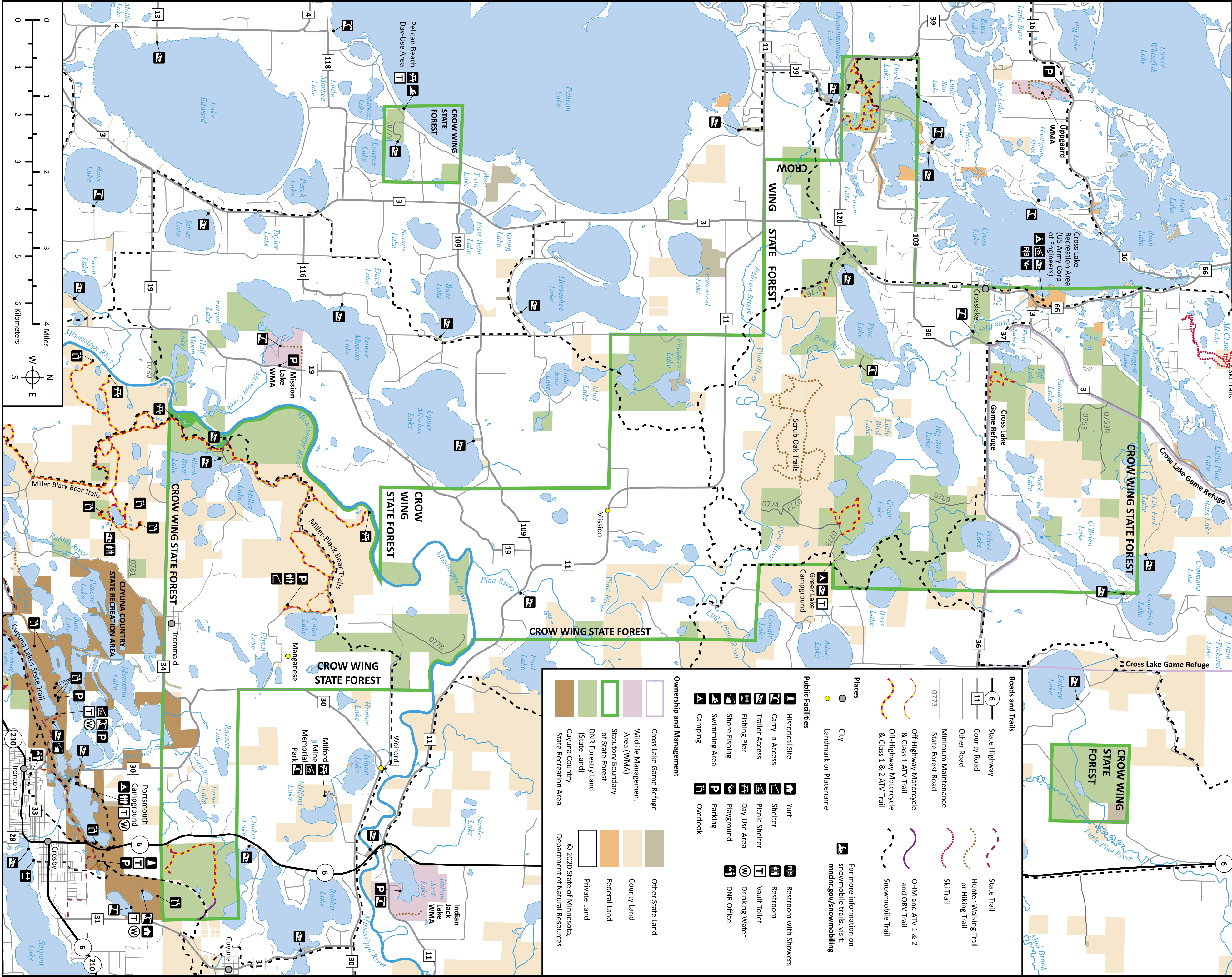


CROW WING STATE FOREST



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33,714 ACRES

ESTABLISHED 1943, 1963, 1967

FOREST LANDSCAPE: Crow Wing State Forest is located on gently rolling hills in central Minnesota and covered with timber and wildlife habitat. With many large, clean lakes, it is a popular destination for camping, fishing, and swimming.

A WORKING FOREST: From year to year, you may see changes in these forests. The DNR manages the trees, water, and wildlife in state forests to keep them healthy and meet recreational, environmental, and economic goals. Trees are harvested to make a variety of products, such as lumber and building materials, pulp for making paper, pallets, fencing, and utility poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers work to improve wildlife habitat. The DNR manages state forests for everyone, while preventing wildfires and ensuring forests continue to keep air and water clean.

HISTORY: Glaciers receding 10,000 years ago left behind the sediment and till that make up the landscape's gently rolling hills and sandy soils. Large chunks of glacial ice melted in place, creating many of the large lakes in the area. Other parts of the forests drain into the Pine and Mississippi rivers. With sandy and gravelly soils, fire-dependent forests of jack and red pine were common. American Indian people lived here for many hundreds of years, tapping maple sap, harvesting wild rice, and burying their dead in huge mounds such as the Fort Flatmouth Mound Group. European fur traders entered the area in the early 1700s, with the Northwest Company dominating during the late 1700s and early 1800s. Crow Wing State Park, located northwest of the forest, includes the mouth of Crow Wing River where it empties into the Mississippi. This is the place where European Americans established a trading post with the Ojibwe in the 1800s. The Crow Wing State Forest area was heavily logged between 1880 and 1920.

TREES: Sugar maple, basswood, paper birch, aspen, and northern red oak are widespread. Red and jack pine grow on sandier soils. Peatlands in the area feature black spruce bogs and rich swamp forests of white cedar and black ash.

WILDLIFE: Wildlife includes white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, waterfowl, gray wolf, bobcat, beaver, fisher, snowshoe hare, otter, mink, muskrat, trumpeter swan, and eagle.

PUT THIS MAP ON YOUR DEVICE

Download this map on your mobile phone or tablet to track your current location. Visit mndnr.gov/geopdf for more information.

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GENERAL STATE FOREST RULES

- Whether you are camping, hunting, riding, geocaching, skiing, or gathering berries, take care to leave the forest in good condition.
- Forest lands are open at all times unless otherwise posted closed.
 - Summer camping on state forest land is limited to 14 days. Winter camping is limited to 21 days between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May.
 - Pack out what you pack in. Remove all personal property. Do not burn litter or garbage.
 - Don't leave equipment unattended for more than 24 hours.
 - Building any permanent structures, including deer stands, is prohibited.
 - Use firewood purchased from vendors who harvested firewood in the same county as the state forest or harvested in Minnesota and certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture or USDA. Bring your receipt. You may also collect dead fuelwood on site. Kiln-dried, unstained, unpainted dimensional lumber free from metal or other foreign objects is also permitted. It is illegal to bring in any other firewood. These rules are to prevent accidentally introducing harmful pests such as emerald ash borer.
mndnr.gov/firewood
 - Fireworks are prohibited on all state, county, and federal lands.
 - Keep campfires no larger than 3 feet wide and 3 feet high. Attend the fire at all times. Completely extinguish fires before leaving the area. It should be cold to the touch.
 - Bury human waste (if toilets are not available) and animal parts such as fish guts at least 150 feet from a water body and away from areas where it could cause a nuisance or hazard to public health.
 - Collecting berries, mushrooms, or dead fuelwood for personal use does not require a permit. However, collecting large amounts of these items to take home for personal use or sale does require a permit. Get permits from your local DNR forestry office.
mndnr.gov/areas/forestry
 - Wild rice, Minnesota's state grain, may be harvested when ripe unless posted otherwise. Collecting wild rice requires a license.
mndnr.gov/regulations/wildrice
 - This is a partial list of rules. For more information, visit the website listed below.

mndnr.gov/forestrules

CROW WING STATE FOREST

CAMPING AND DAY-USE AREAS

GREER LAKE CAMPGROUND
This campground allows off-highway vehicle riders to directly enter and exit the campground. Located on the southeast shore of Greer Lake, visitors can enjoy 31 campsites, each with a fire ring and picnic table. There is access to toilets, drinking water, a dock, and a boat launch. No reservations needed. Fees collected on site.

WATER CAMPSITES AND DISPERSED CAMPING
River travelers may use three water access campsites for no fee on two state water trails along the Pine and Mississippi rivers. Water campsites have a fire ring and picnic table. No reservations or fees charged.

Dispersed camping with no amenities is allowed in state forests at least one mile outside of a designated campground. Summer camping on state forest land is limited to 14 days. Winter camping is limited to 21 days between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May. No fee.

PELICAN BEACH DAY-USE AREA
This popular day-use area has an excellent sugar sand beach with parking, restrooms, and changing facilities. Located on the southeast shore of Pelican Lake. No fees.

CROSS LAKE RECREATION AREA – U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Located on the eastern shore of Cross Lake at the mouth of the Pine River, this recreation area offers 118 campsites, two swimming beaches, two playgrounds, fishing piers, picnic shelters, and boat access to Cross Lake. Most of the 97 campsites have electric hook-ups. All campsites have access to toilets, drinking water, and showers. Reservations required. Fees charged. **recreation.gov**

Please practice the “Leave No Trace” camping ethic.

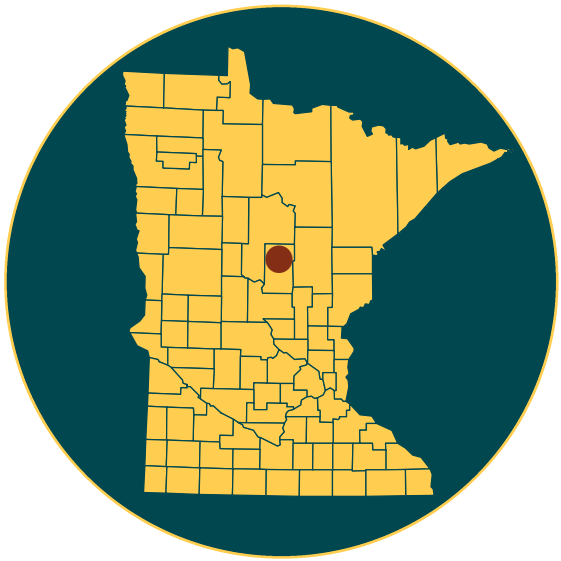
BOATING

Several boat accesses are located in the area, including on the Cross, Pelican, Upper and Lower Mission lakes and along the Pine and Mississippi rivers.

Register your watercraft at
mndnr.gov/licenses/watercraft



**SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD MAP**



TRAILS

Hiking is allowed on state forest trails and roads. Off-trail hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing are allowed in winter.

NORDIC RIDGE SKI TRAILS – CITY OF CROSSLAKE
This 13.7-mile ski trail system winds through a mixture of scattered, old pines and younger aspen growth. The trails connect to other city of Crosslake snowshoe and hiking trails.

PINE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL
The Pine River winds through forests and traverses several lakes, including Norway Lake and the Whitefish chain of lakes. A number of dams along the river require portaging.
mndnr.gov/watertrails/pineriver

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL
A small portion of the Mississippi River State Water Trail flows through the southern part of the Crow Wing State Forest.
mndnr.gov/watertrails/mississippiriver

CUYUNA LAKES STATE TRAIL
Located just outside and south of the state forest, this popular trail winds through dramatic former mining areas and large lakes. With 8 miles of paved and 28 miles of mountain bike trails, bicyclists can explore easy to difficult hills and overlooks. A State Park vehicle pass is needed to drive into the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. No bike passes needed.
mndnr.gov/state_trails/cuyuna_lakes

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
Snowmobile trails (state and grant-in-aid) are open and groomed between December 1 and April 1, depending on snow conditions. Use caution at all times. Logging operations can sometimes share the trails. Trails are marked with orange signs.

- Visit **mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/interactive_map** for maps.
- Snowmobiles must be registered.
mndnr.gov/regulations/snowmobile

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION: LIMITED
All trails on state-managed lands are classified regarding motor vehicles. These forests are classified as “limited,” allowing off-highway vehicle (OHVs), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) on signed and mapped routes open for that type of OHV use. Off-road traffic is prohibited, except when needed to retrieve big game when hunting and trapping during the proper season and with the proper license.
mndnr.gov/regulations/ohv

- Unless posted closed, local forest roads are open to ATVs, OHVs, and OHMs.
- OHV trails are open as weather conditions allow. **mndnr.gov/ohv/closures.html**
- ATVs, off-road vehicles (ORVs), and OHMs must be registered.
mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv
- Wildlife Management Areas are closed to OHVs.

HUNTING AND TRAPPING

State forests provide opportunities for hunting and trapping. In the appropriate season, licensed hunters can hunt for big and small game. **mndnr.gov/hunting**

FIREARMS AND BOWS
Firearms must be unloaded and cased and bows must be cased while in or within 200 feet of any recreation area (campground, day-use area, parking area, boat launch, etc.).

- Cutting shooting lanes is not allowed on any state land.
- Building permanent structures, including deer stands, is prohibited.
- For regulations about hunting, trapping, firearms, bows, limits, seasons, and deer stands on state-managed land, visit **mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting**

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are managed to perpetuate and establish quality wildlife habitat to produce a variety of species, particularly harvestable species, emphasizing wildlife that lives in wetlands and young forests. They are also managed to provide opportunities for public hunting, trapping, and watching wildlife.

WMA HIGHLIGHT: MISSION LAKE
This WMA was established in 1976 to protect wetland habitats. All access to this WMA is by foot or non-motorized traffic only. Users can park in the lot on County Road 19.
WMA maps: **mndnr.gov/maps/compass**
WMA information: **mndnr.gov/wmas**

STATE GAME REFUGES
State game refuges allow archery hunting and trapping. Firearms are not permitted. The Cross Lake Game Refuge contains habitat for bear, white-tailed deer, and turkey. Harvesting

KNOW WHERE YOU ARE
This area contains a patchwork of state-managed land within areas of state- and county-managed and private land. Rules may change as you cross boundaries.
Crow Wing County-managed land: For information about hunting, off-highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, camping, and other recreation, visit **crowwing.us/289/Recreation**

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY
Many state forests contain private land within their boundaries. Watch for posted “No Trespassing” and “No Hunting” signs and stay off private property.
You must have permission before entering private land, even to cross it to access public land.

small game or waterfowl is not permitted. The Cross Lake Game Refuge encompasses private land. Please avoid trespassing.

AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREAS
Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) provide angler access, areas for education and outreach, and protect critical shoreland habitat.

FISHING
Anglers may find muskellunge, northern pike, walleye, and panfish in area lakes and the Mississippi River. The Cross Lake area contains some natural lakes stocked with trout. Some lakes may have special provisions or restrictions on fishing in state and national forests. You must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and seasons as anywhere else in Minnesota.

Avoid spreading invasive organisms, such as zebra mussel larvae or spiny waterfleas, by not transporting lake or river water, including in bait buckets. Pack out unused bait and live worms or dispose in trash containers where they can't reach water or soil.
Visit **mndnr.gov/fishing** for up-to-date regulations.

NEARBY RECREATION

CUYUNA COUNTRY STATE RECREATION AREA
Abandoned by iron mining companies in the 1980s, this area of former mining pits and rock deposit stockpiles now features regenerated vegetation and clear lakes. Boaters can explore 25 miles of natural shoreline and anglers can cast lines for trout, northern pike, bass, crappie, and sunfish. Most of Cuyuna's 5,000 acres are undeveloped. State Park vehicle permits are required.

- Camping is available in the Portsmouth Campground (31 sites) or yurts. No dispersed camping.
- Bicyclers, hikers, and in-line skaters can explore 8 miles of the paved Cuyuna Lakes State Trail.
- Fat bikers can use 40 miles of groomed trails.
- Mountain bikers can use 30 miles of singletrack trails.
- Off-highway vehicles are not permitted.

Trespassing is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you could lose your license to hunt. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

STAY ON TRAILS
Whether you're riding or walking, tread lightly on the land. Be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law.

LEAVE TROUBLE BEHIND
Help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals.

- Clean your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site.
- Remove mud, seeds, and plants from clothes, pets, boots, gear, vehicles, and watercraft.
- Stay on designated trails.
- **PlayCleanGo.org**



**CROW WING
STATE FOREST MAP**
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Info.dnr@state.mn.us
651-296-6157 | 888-646-6367
TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)
651-296-5484 | 800-657-3929

DNR TIP LINE (Turn in Poachers)
800-652-9093

EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911
CROW WING COUNTY SHERIFF
218-829-4749

NEAREST HOSPITAL SERVICES
Essentia St. Josephs, Brainerd
218-829-2861

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby
218-546-7000

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