

### CROW WING STATE FOREST

#### TRAILS

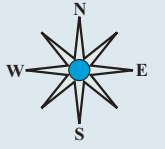
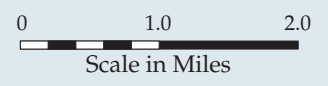
- Non-Motorized Trail Hiking (Interpretive)
- Multi-Use (Logging Trail)

#### OWNERSHIP

- State Forest Land
- County Land
- State Wildlife Land
- National Land
- Private Land (within State Forest boundary)
- Land outside unit boundaries

#### FACILITIES

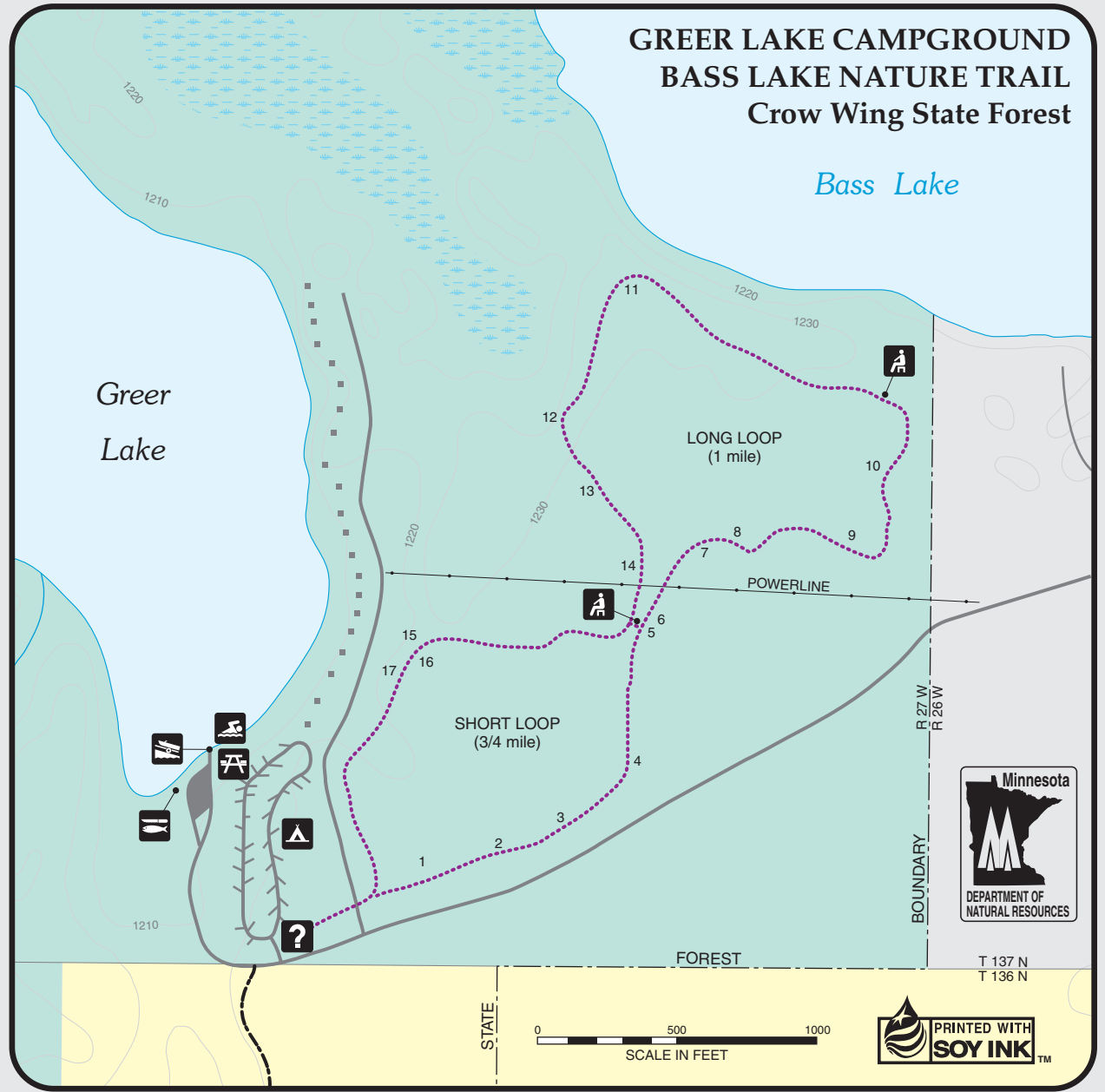
- Information & Registration
- Picnic Area
- Boat Ramp
- Carry-in Access
- Dam
- Beach
- Fish Cleaning Shelter
- Campground
- Canoe Camping
- Rest Area
- Historic Site
- Great River Road



**LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?**

The DNR has mapped the entire state in 51 sections showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores. Check out our website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/prim.html>

### GREER LAKE CAMPGROUND BASS LAKE NATURE TRAIL Crow Wing State Forest



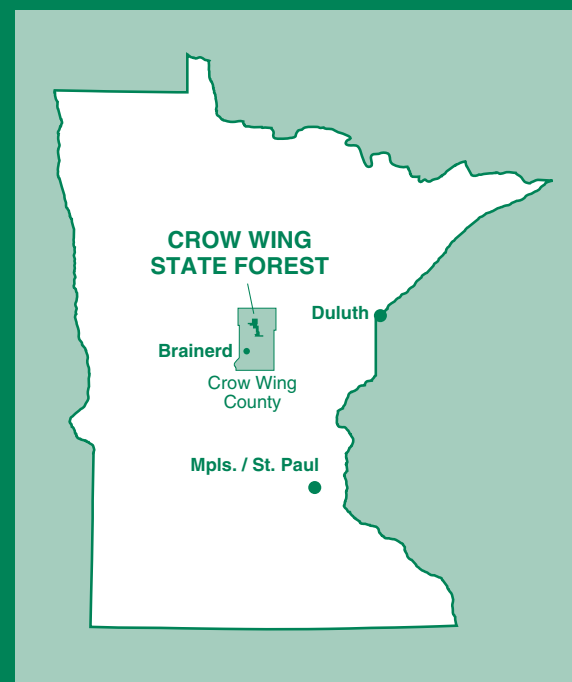
# CROW WING STATE FOREST

## TRAIL MAP

### BASS LAKE NATURE TRAIL

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



Printed on recycled paper with a minimum of 30% post-consumer material.



Crow Wing State Forest is located in north central Crow Wing County, about 20 miles northeast of Brainerd. The forest can be reached by taking County Highway 11 or County Highway 36 west from State Highway 6. County Highway 3 traverses the western portion of the forest.

The Crow Wing State Forest was established by the State Legislature in 1935. There are 31,307 acres within the statutory boundary. The Division of Forestry administers 5,752 acres of land within the forest, Crow Wing County administers 5,200 acres and Potlatch Corporation, a private forest products company, owns 3,120 acres of the remaining acreage, which is privately owned.

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT

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 manage the state forest resources to meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. Multiple use management provides a sustained yield of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest's productive capacity.

The extensive pine cover type in the Crow Wing State Forest is particularly susceptible to wildfires. Burning permits are required. No permits are needed for campfires, but an area of six to eight feet around the fire must be cleared of all burnable material. When the fire danger is high, airplanes are used to detect and report fires. PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH FIRES.

#### RECREATION FACILITIES

Among the outdoor recreation facilities in the Crow Wing State Forest is the Greer Lake Campground. This campground has 31 campsites, toilets, 2 wells and a swimming beach. Located near the campground is the Bass Lake Nature Trail with special features marked along its 3/4 and 1-3/4 mile loops. From Crosby, take State Highway 6 north 12 miles to County Road 36; turn left (west) three miles to County Road 14; turn left (south) 1.5 miles then turn right (west) and follow the signs for two miles.

Pelican Beach Day Use Area is another facility. This area has an excellent sugar sand beach with parking, restrooms and changing facilities. It is located on the southeast shore of Pelican Lake.

#### BASS LAKE NATURE TRAIL

This trail has a short loop of 3/4 mile if you wish to take a short hike. For the energetic hiker the entire trail is 1-3/4 miles long. Points of interest and rest stops are shown on the map. Please help us keep the trail neat and safe by following these regulations: (1) Foot travel only—No Motorized Vehicles. (2) Please refrain from smoking—protect your forests. (3) Please don't litter—leave the trail as you would expect to find it. Thank you for your cooperation. Good hiking.

#### NATURE TRAIL GUIDE

- 1. Oak Canker**—This canker about three feet above the ground indicates decay in the heartwood of the tree. This area is weak and is susceptible to breakage from strong winds.
- 2. Norway Pine Grove**—Minnesota's State Tree—This stand "naturally seeded" from the virgin Norway Pine that originally inhabited this part of the state. Norway pine are high value trees used for lumber, posts, and pilings, and will live to 200-300 years.
- 3. Dead Norway Pine**—Three dead snags from lightning and insect damage. The trees are being used by wildlife and will eventually fall, decay, and enrich the soil.
- 4. Norway Pine Plantation**—Old decaying jack pine used to

cover this site, but was harvested in the winter of 1996. The jack pine was used to make dimensional lumber and paper. The Norway pine seedlings were planted in the spring of 1997.

**5. C.C.C. Plantation**—Norway and jack pine planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Washburn Lake CCC Camp, in 1936. Notice the old furrows. Furrowing is done to eliminate sod and plant competition until the seedlings become established.

**6. Age and Growth of a Tree**—These two trees were cut at the same age. The larger tree was grown in a managed forest with proper competition for sunlight, moisture, and nutrients. The smaller tree was grown in a forest where it had to compete with other trees for light, water, and nutrients. A properly thinned forest will produce larger, healthier trees. Count the growth rings.

**7. Grandfather Jack Pine**—This old-timer started life in 1891. Jack pine is generally a short-lived tree (usually reaches an age of 70 years). However, soil and moisture conditions are excellent here and this jack pine is doing quite well.

**8. Pitch Pine Stump**—Fire burned through this area in 1934, leaving stumps such as this. The pitch in this stump will burn very easily, even when wet.

**9. Poison Ivy - DON'T TOUCH**—Contact with this plant causes a severe rash and itching. Note the shiny leaves in groups of three. It has a white, berry-like fruit. Many forms of wildlife eat these berries during winter months.

**10. Norway Pine Plantation**—This plantation was hand planted in 1962. The distance between whorls of branches represents the growth of one year. To determine the age of a young Norway pine, count the whorls of branches, from 4-1/2 feet above ground level to the top of the tree, and add nine years. This will give you the total age of the tree.

**BASS LAKE REST STOP** This 106 acre lake is primarily a duck hunting lake. The maximum depth is only 12 feet. Minnows are seined from the lake, but few larger fish can survive here because it "winter kills" almost every year due to a shortage of oxygen. In the dry 1930s, hay was cut from what is now the lake bed.

**11. Norway Pine Plantation**—This area was machine planted in 1964. After the area was logged, the tops, slash, and stumps were piled in windrows to make room for a future crop of timber.

**12. Tamarack Swamp**—Tamarack is our only coniferous tree in Minnesota that loses all its needles each fall. It grows chiefly in bogs, along with black spruce, but is occasionally found on higher ground. Tamarack is used mainly for poles, fence posts, mining timber, pulp, and dimensional lumber.

**13. Norway Pine Plantation**—This pine plantation needs to be "thinned". Thinning a stand involves removing individual or groups of trees to make room for the remaining trees. Poor form and quality trees, usually suppressed trees, are chosen to be removed. This allows more sunlight, moisture, and nutrients to reach the remaining trees, usually the dominate trees.

**14. White Pine Weevil**—Notice the tree about 40 feet behind the post. This is caused by the white pine weevil which kills the top shoot or leader and causes a side branch to become the new top shoot. This results in a crook in the trunk.

**15. Paper Birch**—Named for its white bark which peels off in papery layers. Indians used the bark for canoes, maple sap buckets, and drinking cups. The wood is also used for lumber, pulp, and fireplace wood.

**16. Bur Oak**—A member of the white oak family, bur oak is very dense, heavy wood and is used for furniture, heavy construction, ship building, and railroad ties.

**17. Scrub Oak**—Actually, this is a northern red oak, but of very poor quality because it is growing on a sandy site. Red Oak grows best on heavier soil. Good site red oak will grow to a merchantable size and is used for finished lumber in homes, furniture, and railroad ties.

Thank you for walking the Bass Lake Nature Trail. We hope that your hike was enjoyable and educational. There is so much happening around us in the forest that goes unnoticed, but after taking a closer look, as you did today, we hope you have a better understanding and appreciation for what we have been given.

If we can be of further service to you, please call our Brainerd Office (218-828-2565) or toll free number in St. Paul (1-888-MINNDNR).

#### 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.) EXCEPT: during seasons open for hunting, a person may carry an unloaded, uncased firearm or strung bow from a forest recreation area to hunt outside the area. |
| 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**.

\*Crow Wing State Forest is classified as **Managed**

#### State Forest Lands Classified as **Limited**:

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

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**. Trails that are not posted open for motor vehicles may be designated as non-motorized. Watch for postings.

#### 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.

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)

Brainerd Area Forest Supervisor

1601 Minnesota Drive

Brainerd, MN 56401

(218) 828-2565

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Box 27

Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

(218) 568-4566

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES - Dial 911

Cuyuna Range Hospital

Crosby, MN 56441

(218) 546-5640

Crow Wing County Sheriff

Law Enforcement Center

Brainerd, MN 56401

(218) 829-4749

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