About the Forest
Size: 46,396 acres
Year Created: 1931

Foot Hills State Forest

Forest Landscape: Hundreds of small lakes and ponds scattered throughout the forest are evidence of the great glacial movement that occurred in the region during the last ice age. These lakes and ponds formed as the water level in the forest varied, sometimes dropping as much as 300 feet, allowing large areas of the forest to be exposed and then flooded again as the water level rose. The forest is classified as second-growth forest, with much of it being in a mid-successional stage.

Management Activities: Timber harvesting, recreation, forest health improvement, and recreational development occur in the forest. More than 3,900 cords of wood are harvested annually from the land that is publicly owned in the forest. The DBR manages 35 percent of the forest’s land base, and 25 percent of forest livestock boundaries is privately owned.

Look for...

**Predominant Tree Species:**
Hardwoods stand out as the dominant tree species in the forest. Some common species include oak, maple, ash, and hickory. There are also several coniferous species, such as pine and fir, that are found in the higher elevations.

**Landscape:**
The forest is characterized by its diverse topography, with steep slopes and rolling hills.

**Wildlife:**
A wide variety of wildlife can be found in the forest, including deer, elk, and bear. There are also numerous bird species, such as the red-tailed hawk and the northern cardinal.

**Plants:**
A variety of wildflowers and herbs can be found throughout the forest, including trillium, wild geranium, and Columbia lily.

What Is a Tree?
A tree is a woody plant that can grow to be 15 feet or higher and usually has a single stem and a crown (branched-out area) at the top.

Reading the Rings
A tree’s trunk is like a highway. It transports water and nutrients from the leaves to the roots. It also carries in the form of sugars from the leaves to the roots of the tree.

The trunk is made up of five layers:
1. Inner bark: dead xylem; starch food and supports the tree.
2. Xylem: tree cells that make water and nutrients travel from the roots to the leaves of the tree.
3. Cambium: layer that produces phloem and xylem.
4. Phloem: tree cells that move sugar (called sap) from leaves to the roots of the tree.
5. Outer bark: dead phloem; protects the tree from the outer environment.

Keep Trees a Healthy Part of Your World!
- Plants make trees, so trees right for the site.
- Help keep trees healthy.
- For example: Waterers can be used to water newly planted wounds on bark with lining branches, and to water a newly planted tree.
- Make small-diameter, newly planted trees support the tree, to help them reach their full potential.
- Celebrate Arbor Day and Arbor Month. In Minnesota, Arbor Day is the last Friday in April and Arbor Month is May.
- Join or establish a local tree committee.
- Go to minnesota.gov/trees for one-stop website for information on trees, tree care, and tree-related organizations.

The Value of Trees
Trees help humans and other living things in many ways. Among them, they:
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Protect and nurture plants.
- Provide a pleasant environment for recreation.
- Help reduce residential energy consumption by shading homes in summer and sheltering them from the wind in winter.
- Help protect streams and lakes by reducing runoff.
- Reduce noise pollution by absorbing sound.
- Increase property values.

Research has shown that trees can provide up to $7 in benefits for each year for every $1 invested in caring for them. This includes increased property values, pollution control, and energy savings.

Hunting
Hunting in state forests is allowed during the appropriate season and with the correct license. State forests do not contain private holdings within their boundaries, many of which are signed by “no hunting.” Hunting on private land within a state forest is subject to state tofu policies.

Fishing, Trapping
There are some restrictions on fishing and trapping within state forests. Participants in these activities must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and statutes as anywhere else in the state.

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

Snowmobile Laws
Alcohol, nighttime driving, and high speeds are the main causes of fatalities. Conform efficient and appropriate speed limits by the state or local unit of government that operates these trails.

On some sections of the affected state trails, alternate routes open to all snowmobiles have been bottled. They can carry up to 15 percent of the state’s or local unit’s total snowmobile traffic.

For more information on snowmobiles, visit the Minnesota Snowmobile Association (MSA).

The Great In-Aid Trail System

ATV, OHV, ORV, BLY

For OHV use on State Forest Lands:
State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of OHV use as:
- ATV: areas with OHV use.
- OHV: areas with OHV use.
- BLY: areas with OHV use.

For more information on OHV use on State Forest Lands, visit the state forest lands website.

ATV Use on State Forest Lands

ATV Trail Systems

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

ATV Trail Map

For more information on ATV trails, go to: www.dnr.state.mn.us/atv/index.html

For OHV trails, go to: www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/index.html

Be Safe With Campfires
- Let your fire burn out completely.
- Extinguish your fire in a controlled environment, if possible.
- Use water, sand, or dirt to extinguish your fire.

Two Kinds of Trees

Deciduous trees lose their leaves each autumn. Deciduous trees are sometimes called angiosperms, broadleaf trees, or hardwoods. Oaks, maples, elms, and elms are deciduous trees.

Coniferous trees are those that produce seeds without fruits or nuts. Most coniferous tree seeds in cones, have needles instead of broad leaves, and keep their needles in winter. Coniferous trees are also called gymnosperms, evergreens, or softwoods. Spruces, firs, and pines are coniferous trees.

To learn more about Minnesota’s native trees, check out the following:

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

Mining, Construction, and other activities, such as road building and logging, can also damage the soil.

For more information on mining, visit the state’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/mining/index.html.

Firewise communities are groups of neighbors who agree to take steps to reduce the risk of a wildfire in their area. These steps may include clearing brush, planting fire-resistant plants, and creating defensible space around homes.

For more information on firewise communities, visit: www.firesmart.org.

Hunting in state forests is allowed during the appropriate season and with the correct license. State forests do not 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 tofu policies.

A special permit is required to collect mushrooms in state forests.

For more information on collecting mushrooms, visit: www.dnr.state.mn.us/mushrooms/index.html.

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

Snowmobile Laws
- Alcohol, nighttime driving, and high speeds are the main causes of fatalities. Conform efficient and appropriate speed limits by the state or local unit of government that operates these trails.
- Be safe with campfires.

For more information on OHV use on State Forest Lands, visit the state forest lands website.