NEMADJI STATE FOREST
92,927 ACRES • ESTABLISHED 1935

FOREST LANDSCAPE: Terrain varies from gently rolling and swampy in the south, to steep stream valleys and elongated swamps in the northeast. Numerous small streams and beaver ponds dot the landscape. The northern third of the forest drains into the Lake Superior Basin-Nemadji River Watershed, while the southern two-thirds drain east into the St. Croix River Basin.

A WORKING FOREST: From year to year, you may see changes in this forest. 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, paper products, and telephone poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers work to improve habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, turkey, and waterfowl. The DNR manages state forests for everyone to prevent wildfires and keep our air and water clean.

HISTORY: The Ojibwe called the Nemadji River Nemajitigweya, meaning “left hand river,” which refers to its location on the left of Lake Superior’s St. Louis Bay. In the 1800s, much of the original white spruce, cedar, and white and red pine were logged and floated down the Nemadji, Willow, and Tamarack rivers to Stillwater, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin. Temporary railroads crisscrossed the area to supply a large sawmill on Delong Lake. Smaller logging camps produced railroad ties, ceder shingles, barrel staves, and railroad ties. After logging operations moved out, numerous large fires burned through the cutover land. A few hardy settlers moved into the area to farm, but found the soils more suitable for trees than crops. Today the DNR manages nearly 94 percent of the area, with the remaining 6 percent being privately owned.

TREES: Look for stands of quaking and bigtooth aspen, oaks, maples, paper birch, balsam fir, tamarack, and black spruce. Smaller areas are covered with white cedar and red, white, and jack pine.

WILDLIFE: White-tailed deer, bear, gray wolf, fisher, otter, beaver, urban game, merganser, mallard, woodcock, and assorted waterfowl can be found in the forest. Migrating waterfowl visit wetland areas. Nongame bird species such as northern harriers, sandhill cranes, owls, and a variety of warblers can also be seen.

PUT THIS MAP ON YOUR DEVICE
This map is geo-referenced. Download an app, such as the free Avenza app, on your device and use it to open the geoPDF of this map. The app will place a blue locator dot on the map wherever you take your device, even if you are out of cellular range.

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GANDY DANCER TRAIL Located just west of and parallel to the Minnesota Wisconsin boundary, the Flat, straight Gandy Dancer Trail runs along an abandoned railroad bed. The crushed stone trail reaches south from Superior to St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and is accessible for hikers, mountain biking, horseback riding, OHVs, and snowmobiling. Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed south of Yellow Birch Trail.

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE TRAILS These hunter-walking trails, located north of G大夫 Campground, are named for an 80-foot white spruce that was harvested here in 1977 and sent to adorn the White House lawn as the National Christmas Tree.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAILS OHV riders can explore 7.1 miles of tight, twisting trails that climb steep hills and offer scenic vistas overlooking deep stream valleys. Some trails connecting the Matthew Lourey State Trail and Gandy Dancer Trail allow riders to plan longer rides.

All trails are marked and range from easy to more difficult, especially in the northeastern part of the forest.

Highway-licensed vehicles may operate on signed forested routes.

Forest roads are open to OHVs unless posted closed.

Visit mndnr.gov/ohv for up-to-date rules, maps, and trail closures.

Non-residents need a trail pass to ride in Minnesota. mndnr.gov/interactive_map

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE TRAILS There are 44 miles of single-track off-highway motorcycle (OHM) trails, and an additional 16 miles of double-track dirt trails on the northeastern part of this forest. Trails range from straight stretches to tight curves and steep hills for more experienced riders. Trails connect to an additional 5 miles of riding in Minnesota’s Chippewa County Forest. Detailed trail maps: straighttorrens.org

CLASSIFICATION LIMITS: All trails on state lands are classified according to vegetation motor vehicle riders. The Nemadji State Forest is classified as “limited,” which means that OHVs are allowed only on signed and mapped roads that are open for a specific OHV use. (e.g., all terrain vehicles, CHV’s, or ORVs).

KNOW YOUR VEHICLE Always make sure you are riding on the appropriate trail, designated and signed for your vehicle. ORVs must be registered in Minnesota, or have a trail pass. mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv

HUNTING AND TRAPPING The Nemadji State Forest provides habitat for whitetail deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, and turkey. In the appropriate season, licensed hunters can hunt for white-tailed deer, grouse, turkey, and other game.

FIREARMS AND BOWS Firearms must be unloaded and closed and must be unreloaded while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day-use area, parking area, etc.). Exceptions: During seasons open for hunting, persons may carry an unloaded, unsecured firearm or bow from a forest recreation area to hunt out of the area. Cutting shooting lanes is not allowed. For regulations about hunting, trapping, firearms, bows, limits, seasons, and deer stands, visit mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting

FISHING There are no special provisions or restrictions on fishing in state forests. You must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and seasons as anywhere else in Minnesota. Visit mndnr.gov/fishing for up-to-date regulations.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) provide habitat for deer, bear, small game, forest upland birds, and waterfowl. WMAs are established to protect lands and waters that have high potential for wildlife, public hunting, and fishing. Hunting is allowed with the proper license and during the proper season.

KLONDIKE TRAIL, RUFFED GROUSE MANAGEMENT UNIT Located within the western portion of the Nemadji State Forest, this 3,500-acre forest is managed to produce good habitat for ruffed grouse. Parking is along Grouse Road.

WILLIAM M. RATH WMA This WMA is managed for white-tailed deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, turkey, and doves. A permit is required to trap beaver and otters. There are hunter walking trails and a parking lot on the south side of County Road 44.

HUALMAR AND FRANCIS STORLIE WMA Located on the south shore of Wolf Lake, this smaller WMA is managed to produce habitat for white-tailed deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, and turkey. Walk-in access only. WMA maps: mndnr.gov/maps/compass WMA information: mndnr.gov/wmas

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY State forests contain private land within their boundaries, so know where you are. Watch for posted signs like “Trespassing” and “No Hunting” signs and stay off of private property.

You must have permission before entering private land, even to cross it to access public land.

Trespassing is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you may be held liable to hunt. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

MINNESOTA SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS SNA’s protect natural features of exceptional scientific or educational value including native plant communities, rare species, and significant geological features. Enjoy the unique natural quality of these sites. Most SNAs do not have trails, and none have restroom or drinking water. While SNAs do allow camp vehicle, camps or collecting plants and animals. SNAs do allow minimal wildlife watching, hiking, photography, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

BLACK LAKE BOG SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA The Black Bog SNA encompasses more than 3,600 acres in Pine County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin. The vast wetland complex contains black ash swamp, fen, alder thicket, sedge meadow, and coniferous and open bogs. Within the complex is 4½-acre Black Lake, a shallow, arctic-type lake in which the Black River flows. Lake for bound Lake Superior. The area is home to an array of invertebrates and moose, short-tailed weasel, the rare LaCoursa’s sparrow, and yellow-bellied flycatcher. It is accessible from the Minnesota side.

NEARDEST HOSPITAL SERVICES Mercy Hospital 4532 County Hwy. 61 Moose Lake, MN 55767 825-4481

EMERGENCY SERVICE - Dial 911 CARLTON COUNTY SHERIFF 218-384-3236

PINE COUNTY SHERIFF 218-384-3236 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 | 800-652-9299 DNR TIP LINE (Turn in Poachers) 800-652-9051

ALWAYS STAY ON SIGNED TRAILS Whether you're camping, riding, or walking, stay on the signed trails. Be courteous to others, respect private property, and observe all rules.

AREAS WITH LIMITATIONS These areas are designated to protect unique natural resources and provide other non-motorized recreation opportunities. Motorized vehicles may not enter and mapped routes that are open for a limited number of trails.

LEAVE TRASH BEHIND Help protect our forests by collecting your trash. Never leave your trash on trails or in forested areas.

• Clean up your campsite before leaving the recreation area.
• Remove your trash and be sure that your trash is safely disposed of from clothes, pots, boxes, gear, and vehicles.
• Stay on designated trails.
• FlyCatcher.org

mndnr.gov/state_forests/rules.html