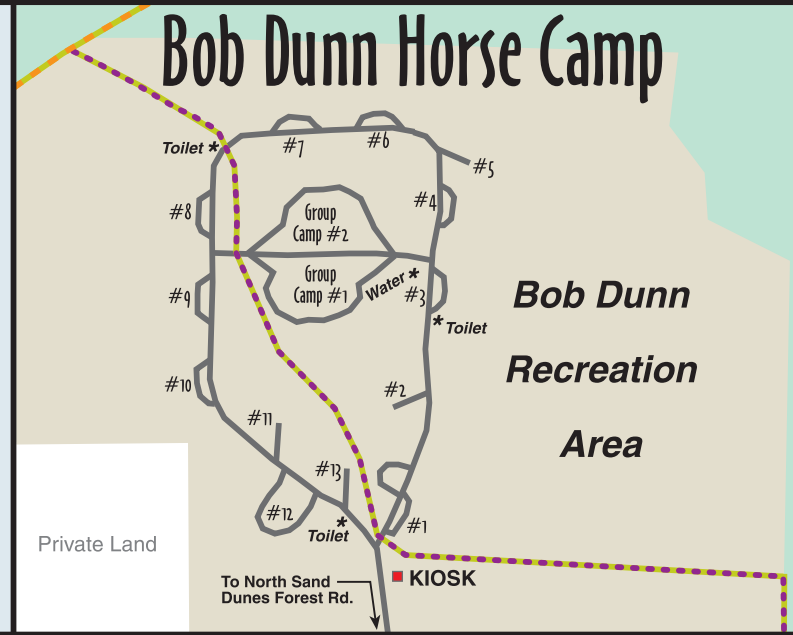


Sand Dunes State Forest

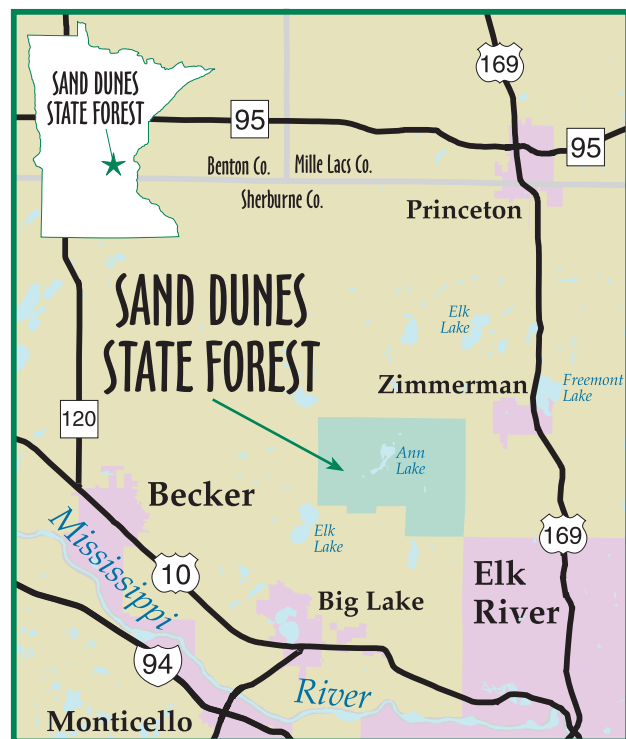
0 0.5 1.0 Scale in Miles
0 0.5 1.0 Scale in Kilometers

TRAIL TYPES & DESIGNATIONS	RECREATIONAL SYMBOLS	LAND
Snowmobile/Hiking Trails	Parking	State Forest Land
Hiking Trails	Shelter	State Recreational Subunit
Hiking/Skiing Trails	Picnic Area	State Scientific & Natural Area
Easy	Boat Ramp	National Wildlife Refuge
More Difficult	Canoe Access	Private Land in State Forest or land outside of state forest
Most Difficult	Telephone	
Horse Trails	Information	
Other Trails (on lower map)	Group Camp	
	Swimming	
	Council Ring	
	Trailside Shelter	
	Campground	
	Walk-in Campsites	
	Horse Camping	



Sand Dunes State Forest

A guide to recreational opportunities in Minnesota State Forests



Cover photo courtesy of Lois M. Payne



© 2007, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources
This publication is available in alternative format • Printed on recycled paper.

Sand Dunes State Forest is located in central Sherburne County, about three miles west of Zimmerman and five miles north of Big Lake. The forest can be reached by taking County Road 5 north from Big Lake, off of U.S. Hwy. 10, or following County Road 4 west from Zimmerman off of U.S. Hwy. 169.

The Sand Dunes State Forest is located within the bounds of Orrock Township, named after the first white settler in the area, Robert Orrock, who arrived in 1857. When these first settlers came, the land was virgin prairie. Most of these pioneers were farmers, thus most of this prairie was turned by their breaking plows. The early major crops were oats, rye, wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, and hay.

Even though the sandy soils were not conducive to high yields, farming continued as a major source of income for many families until the late 1920s and early 1930s. The effect of the "Great Depression" of the 30s and the "Dust Bowl" drought of 1933-1934 brought an end to most farming in the area. The light, worn out soils "took to the air and drifted like snow" over roads and on to front porches.

Concerned citizens who wanted to stabilize the drifting sand began experimental tree planting in 1941. Many species, including both hardwoods and conifers, were planted. The conifers surpassed the hardwood species in survival and growth.

Ray Clement, in 1943, introduced a bill to the state legislature proposing that sections 16, 36, and the NW 1/4 of section 22 (now the Ann Lake Campground) be set aside for conservation. The bill passed and the Sand Dunes State Forest was "born". The forest was enlarged from the original two square miles in 1945. In 1951 it was again expanded to its present size of 10,698 acres (approximately 17 square miles). Although all this area is within the boundaries of the state forest, only 5,447 acres, or 51%, is owned by the state. The remainder is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior and private parties.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Minnesota's 58 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 allocate state forest resources to meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. Management actions are planned to maximize the sustained yield of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest's productive capacity.

To date, over 2,400 acres of tree plantations have been established in the Sand Dunes State Forest. The majority of these are pine. The oldest were planted in the early 1940s. Each plantation is thinned once every 5 to 10 years, allowing more room for the remaining trees to grow, and yielding a variety of forest products such as fuel wood, pulpwood, sawlogs, poles, and posts.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Outdoor recreation facilities in the Sand Dunes State Forest include the Bob Dunn Recreation Area, Ann Lake Day Use Area, Sand Dunes Horse Camp (under development) and more than 18 miles of trails maintained and groomed for snowmobiling and available for horseback riding and hiking.

Facilities at the Bob Dunn Recreation area include, the Ann Lake Campground with 36 individual campsites, 4 reservable group camps, and a sandy swimming beach.

The Ann Lake Day Use Area has a sandy swimming beach, picnic area and more than three miles of hiking trails, which are groomed in the winter for cross-country skiing.

The Sand Dunes Horse Camp is located 1/2 mile west of the Ann Lake Campground on the North Sand Dunes State Forest Road. Present facilities include 2 group camps,

13 individual campsites, tables, fire rings, toilets, a well and campsites with picket lines for horses.

More than 18 miles of trails are maintained and marked with orange blazers for use by snowmobiles, horses and hiking. There are many additional miles of trails maintained as fire breaks that are also open for recreational use. For additional information contact the Cambridge Area Forester or the Zimmerman Field Station.

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 complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources. A partial list is included below:

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. Local restrictions may be posted restricting this activity.
Campfires	All campfires in developed campsites must be contained within the provided ring. Other open burning is strongly discouraged, please contact the Cambridge Area forest supervisor for special instructions.
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 the recreational subunit (campground, day-use area, intensely managed trail areas, etc.)
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.

SNOWMOBILE LAWS

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.

FOREST TRAIL RULES MOTOR TRAIL VEHICLES and OFF-ROAD RULES

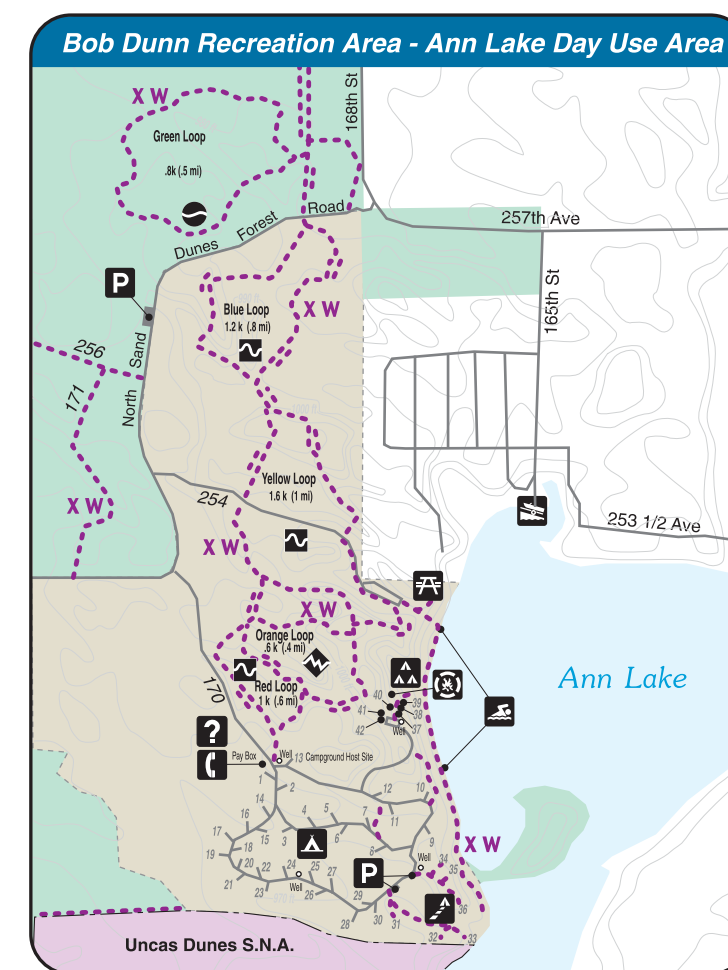
Classified Forest Lands. State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use.

The Sand Dunes State Forest is CLOSED to off highway vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, off road motorcycles, and off road trucks (4x4) except as follows:

- 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.
- State forest roads must be traveled 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.

General Operating Restrictions - anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.

- 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.
- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.
- 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.

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)

Camping Information:
Lake Maria State Park
11411 Clementa Avenue NW
Monticello, Minnesota 55362
(763) 878-2325

Forest Management Information:
Area Forester -Department of Natural Resources
800 Oak Savanna Lane SW
Cambridge, MN 55008
(763) 689-7100

Forest Trails Information:
DNR Trails and Waterways
940 Industrial Dr S
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-1271
320-255-4279X227

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

Law Enforcement/Fire/Medical
Sherburne County Sheriff
Elk River, MN 55330
Non-emergency
(763) 241-2522 or 1-800-433-5245

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Monticello - Big Lake Hospital
1013 East Broadway
Monticello, MN 55362
(763) 295-2945

