



SOLANA STATE FOREST
63,143 ACRES
ESTABLISHED 1963

WEALTHWOOD STATE FOREST
15,043 ACRES
ESTABLISHED 1963

FOREST LANDSCAPE: Both the Solana and Wealthwood state forest are located in north-central Minnesota on a mostly flat landscape with a mix of upland and lowland areas. Much of the soil in the Wealthwood State Forest holds water until midsummer. Wetlands cover about half of the Solana State Forest and a little more than half of the Wealthwood State Forest.

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: Rolling hills, especially in the western and northern portions, are the result of past glacial activity. Dakota and Ojibwe people lived and hunted in the area until the mid-nineteenth century. Evidence of American Indian culture is found in place names such as Kanabec County (Dakota for "snake"). In the late 1800s, logging was the main occupation in the Solana State Forest. This continued until 1925 when a fire destroyed the sawmill owned by James McGrath in White Pine Township, putting 1,200 people out of work. McGrath negotiated a sale to 3,400 acres of his land to the government, who gave it to eligible World War I veterans and created a farming community informally named Veteransville.

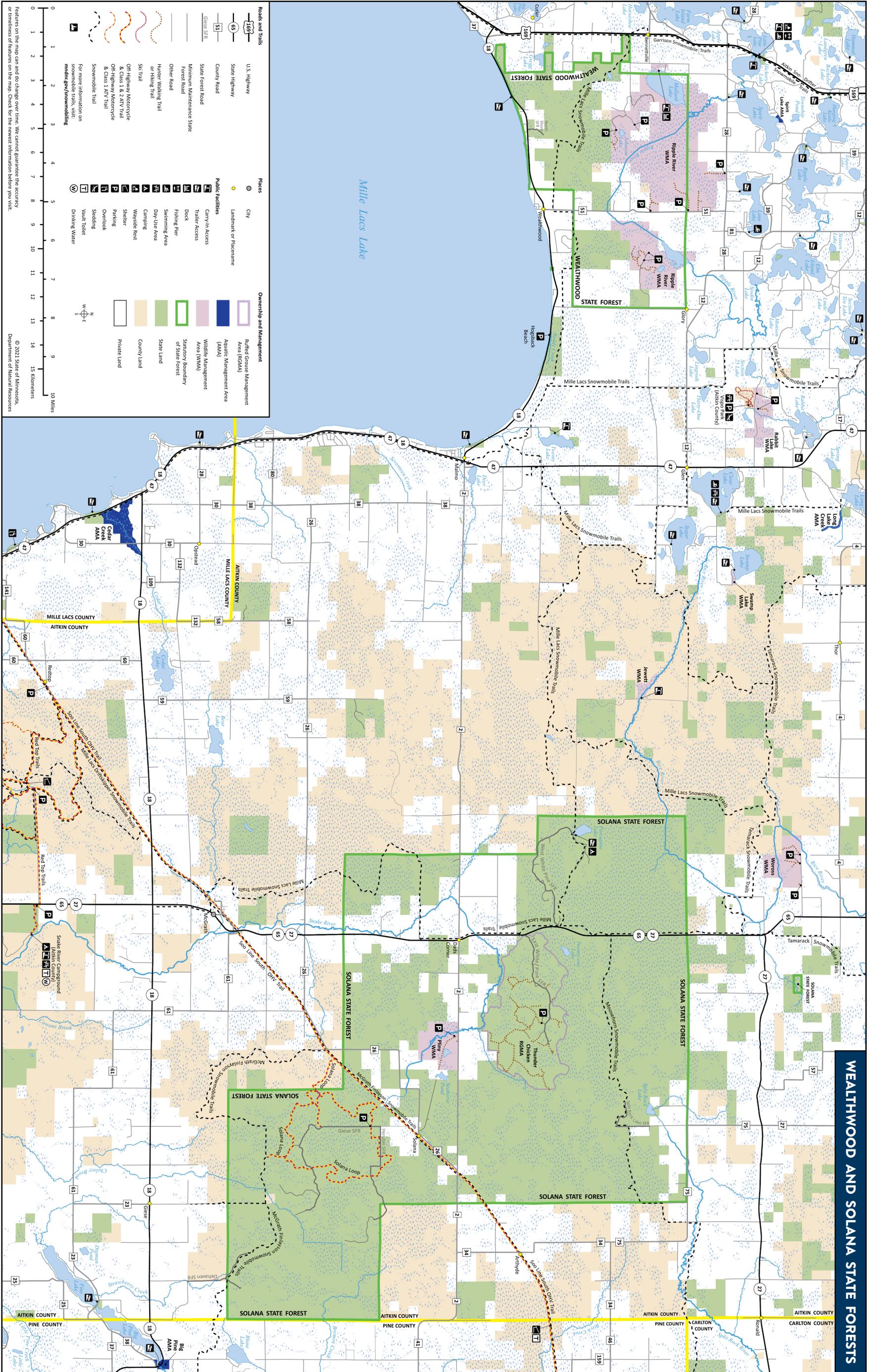
Most of these settlers moved on after working the land for only a few years. Train tracks were pulled from the site of the burned-down mill, and the stations along the tracks were closed. In 1989 the Soo Line Railroad pulled the main line of its tracks and Aitkin County bought the right-of-way to make way for the today's Soo Line Trail. This trail runs 130 miles from Genola to Duluth.

TREES: Northern hardwood stands comprised of maple, oak, ash, and basswood cover much of the highland areas today. Aspen and paper birch are also common. The lowlands support stands of black spruce, tamarack, and white cedar.

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

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Roads and Trails

- 169 U.S. Highway
- 65 State highway
- 51 County Road
- State Forest Road
- Minimum Maintenance State Forest Road
- Other Road
- Hunter-Walking Trail or Hiking Trail
- Ski Trail
- Off-Highway Motorcycle & Class 1 & 2 ATV Trail
- Off-Highway Motorcycle & Class 1 ATV Trail
- Snowmobile Trail

For more information on snowmobile trails, visit: mndnr.gov/snowmobiling

Places

- City
- Landmark or Place name

Ownership and Management

- Ruffed Grouse Management Area (RGMA)
- Aquatic Management Area (AMA)
- Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Statutory Boundary of State Forest
- State Land
- County Land
- Private Land

Public facilities

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Dock
- Fishing Pier
- Swimming Area
- Day-Use Area
- Camping
- Wayside Rest
- Shelter
- Parking
- Overlook
- Steeding
- Vault Toilet
- Drinking Water



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD MAP

WEALTHWOOD AND SOLANA STATE FORESTS



SOLANA/ WEALTHWOOD STATE FOREST



CAMPING AND DAY-USE AREAS

Please practice the "Leave No Trace" camping ethic.

DISPERSED CAMPING

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.

SNAKE RIVER CAMPGROUND - AITKIN COUNTY

Located on the Snake River approximately 6 miles south of McGrath on Highway 65, this campground has 12 campsites, pit toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, and a canoe landing. No electricity. Campground connects to the Redtop and Soo Line ATV trails. Fees charged. Visit the Aitkin County website for more information.

BOATING

Public water access is available at various points along the Mille Lacs Lake and several other lakes mndnr.gov/lakefind. Register your watercraft at mndnr.gov/licenses/watercraft



TRAILS

Non-motorized uses such as hiking and mountain biking are allowed on state forest trails and roads. Off-trail hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing is also allowed.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

A number of snowmobile trails are in the area, including the Tamarack, Moosehorn, and McGrath-Finlayson trails in the Solana State Forest and the Mille Lacs Trail in the Wealthwood State Forest. Trails are marked with orange signs and are open and groomed between December 1 and April 1 depending on snow conditions. Logging operations occasionally share these trails, so users should exercise caution. Detailed snowmobile maps are on mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/interactive_map

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

• Snowmobiles must be registered. mndnr.gov/regulations/snowmobile

VISSO SKI TRAIL - AITKIN COUNTY

The Visso Ski Trail provides 3.5 km of groomed trails through hardwood forests. The trailhead is located near the intersection of 298th Street and Forest Road 9-B. A sledding hill is near the parking area. No Minnesota Ski Pass required.

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

- OHV trail seasons vary and roads may close temporarily. mndnr.gov/trailconditions
- ATVs, off-road vehicles (ORVs), and OHMs must be registered. mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv
- Wildlife Management Areas are closed to OHVs.
- Current trail maps can be found at mndnr.gov/ohv

SOO LINE SOUTH TRAIL

Open to ATVs, this relatively straight, flat trail begins in Morrison County near Royalton and stretches 27 miles to the Mille Lacs County border. Many nearby communities offer parking and direct access to the trail.

SOLANA LOOPS-AITKIN COUNTY

The Solana Loop is a scenic 15-mile detour off the Soo Line South Trail in the Solana State Forest. Level terrain opens to occasional rolling hills while winding through stands of mature oak trees. Open to Class II ATVs and OHMs.

REDTOP LOOPS-AITKIN COUNTY

Located southwest of McGrath along the Soo Line Trail, the Redtop Loops offer 25 miles of varying terrain for all levels of Class II ATV and OHM riders. Beginners will enjoy the sandy, wide trails on the main track while experienced riders can try the tight,



technical loops. The popular Adventure Trail loop is a rocky, steep, rugged ride. Riders of all skill levels will enjoy the rocky terrain and sweeping corners of the trail while feeling miles away from civilization.

HUNTER WALKING TRAILS

The Solana State Forest contains the Pliny (1.2 mi) and Woross (2.7 mi) trails. The Ripple River Wildlife Management Area north of the Wealthwood State Forest contains the Ripple River WMA East (1.7 mi) and the Ripple River WMA West (3.3 mi) trails. Detailed maps on mndnr.gov/hunting/hwt

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: RIPPLE RIVER WMA

The Ripple River WMA is located in the northern part of the Wealthwood State Forest. Pine and aspen grow in the eastern portions, habitat for grouse, woodcock, and white-tailed deer. Open prairie and brush areas provided habitat for sharp-tailed grouse, sandhill cranes, and short-eared owls. Respect private property on adjacent lands. Good opportunities for trapping and winter predator hunting.

The DNR and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe cooperatively manage this WMA for wild rice and waterfowl.

WMA maps: mndnr.gov/maps/compass

WMA information: mndnr.gov/wmas

AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREAS

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

AMA HIGHLIGHT: Mille Lacs AMA on the north end of Mille Lacs Lake offers a day-use area with parking and sand beaches along a geologically interesting shoreline. Reddy Creek, which empties into Mille Lacs Lake at this location, is one of several streams with high-quality northern pike spawning habitat.

FISHING

Area lakes have largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge and panfish. The Snake River also contains channel catfish and lake sturgeon. Some lakes may have 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.

Avoid spreading invasive organisms such as zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas by not transporting vegetation, 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

MILLE LACS LAKE

This 132,516-acre lake covers 207 square miles and is Minnesota's second-largest inland lake. While Mille Lacs Lake is best known for walleye, it also offers several other trophy fishing opportunities, such as tullibee, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and muskellunge.

FATHER HENNEPIN STATE PARK

Located on the southeast shore of Mille Lacs Lake, state park visitors can enjoy a large sandy swimming beach, two boat accesses, fishing piers, and picnic sites with a panoramic view of the lake. The park's 320 acres include two campgrounds (flush toilets, showers, electric hookups) and hiking

trails that wind through a hardwood forest and along the rocky shoreline of Mille Lacs. The park's original vegetation was northern hardwoods mixed with marsh areas and pines along the lake. Vehicle pass required.

MILLE LACS-KATHIO STATE PARK

This state park's 9,000 years of human history and archaeological significance has made it a National Historic Landmark. Learn about its rich history and all of Kathio's other treasures at the Interpretive Center. Climb the 100-foot observation/fire tower and look across the majesty of Mille Lacs Lake. Camp overnight in pull-through, electric, group camp, horse camp, or backpack campsites. Hike on the park's varied trail system. Kathio has a wonderful swimming beach plus canoes or rowboats to rent for a trip on the historic Rum River and Ogechie and Shakopee lakes. Some describe the park's cross-country ski on trails as the best in Minnesota. The park also has a popular sliding hill. Vehicle pass required.

SNAKE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

The Snake River offers excellent canoeing through hardwood forests. Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and catfish are found in this river. Some of the lakes along the route support panfish populations as well. Lake (Rock) sturgeon are also present—the Snake River is only one of few rivers in Minnesota with lake sturgeon. mndnr.gov/watertrails/snakeriver

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. Dispersed camping only on state land.
- 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 while on site 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



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.

For information about hunting, off-highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, camping, and other recreation, on Aitkin County-managed land visit co.aitkin.mn.us/departments/Land/recreation.html

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.

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



MAP AND GUIDE



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

AITKIN COUNTY SHERIFF
218-927-7435

EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

NEAREST HOSPITAL SERVICES
Essentia Health—
St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd
218-829-2861

Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin
218-927-2121

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