

# Solana State Forest

## Is It Trespassing?

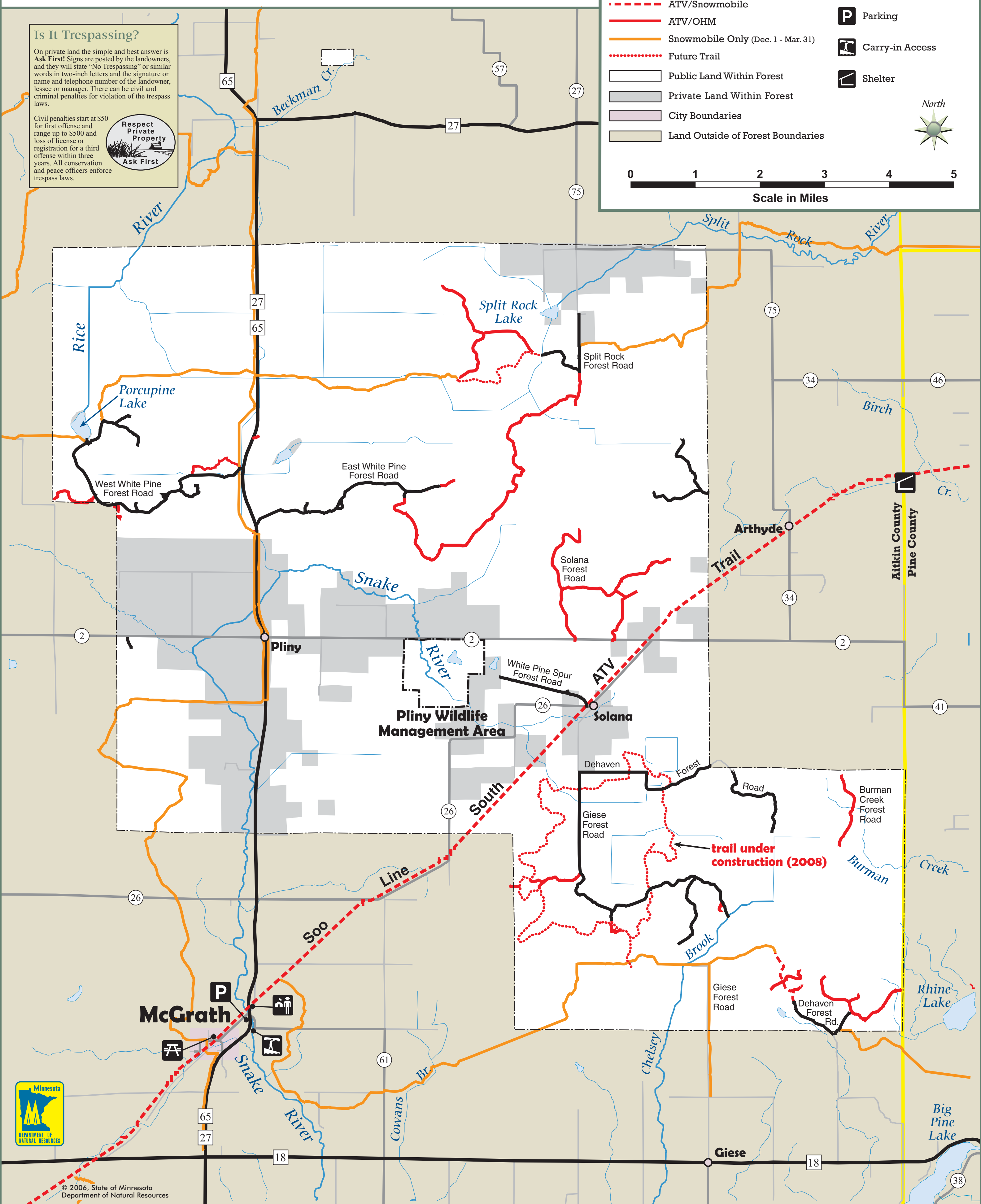
On private land the simple and best answer is **Ask First!** Signs are posted by the landowners, and they will state "No Trespassing" or similar words in two-inch letters and the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee or manager. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws.

Civil penalties start at \$50 for first offense and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.



## Map Legend

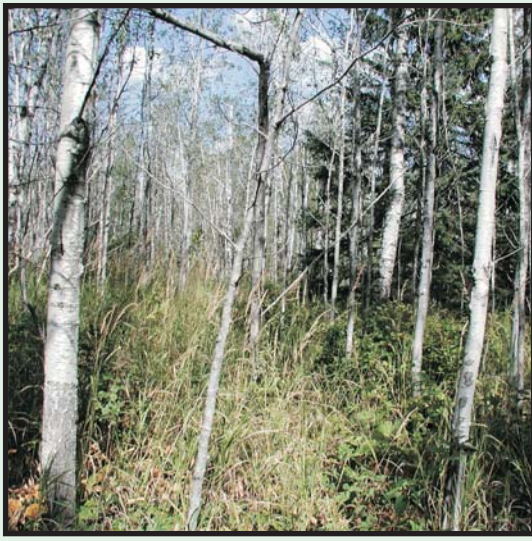
- Open to All Motorized Uses
- ATV/Snowmobile
- ATV/OHM
- Snowmobile Only (Dec. 1 - Mar. 31)
- Future Trail
- Public Land Within Forest
- Private Land Within Forest
- City Boundaries
- Land Outside of Forest Boundaries
- Forestry Office
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Carry-in Access
- Shelter





# Solana State Forest

*A guide to recreational opportunities in Minnesota state forests*



## About the Forest

**Size:** 68,141 acres **Year Created:** 1963

**Forest Landscape:** The terrain in the forest is mostly level to gently rolling and contains many swampy areas. Slightly over half of the area within the forest is wetland. The forest also contains Porcupine Lake and Split Rock Lake.

**Unique Features:** The Pliny Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is contained within the forest. DNR forest and wildlife managers work closely together so management activities benefit both wildlife and plant species.

**Management Activities:** Timber harvesting, reforestation, and wildlife habitat improvement occur in the forest. The DNR also protects the forest and surrounding areas from wildfires.

**History:** In the 1800s, logging was the main occupation for the settlers who located in the area of the forest. This continued until 1925 when a forest fire destroyed the sawmill owned by James McGrath in White Pine Township, putting 1,200 people out of work. Mr. McGrath negotiated a sale of 3,400 acres of his land to the government. This land was given to eligible veterans of World War I to farm and the area became known as 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. The main line belonging to the Soo Line Railroad pulled its tracks in 1989 and the right-of-way was bought by Aitkin County for what today is known as the Soo Line Trail. This trail runs 130 miles from Genola to Duluth.

The Minnesota Legislature enlarged the original 1963 forest reserve to its present size of 68,141 acres in the year 2000. The DNR manages 85 percent of the area, with the rest under county and private ownership.

## Look for ...

### Predominant Tree Species:

Northern hardwood stands of red and sugar maple, red oak, basswood, quaking and bigtooth aspen, and paper birch are common. Scattered plantations of red pine and white spruce can be found on the high-ground areas of the forest. Low-ground areas are mostly tamarack, black spruce, black ash, and lowland brush.

**bigtooth aspen**

**white spruce**

**Wildlife:** White-tailed deer are abundant in the forest and the oak trees with their crops of acorns are attractive to black bears and gray squirrels. Abundant aspen create good ruffed grouse habitat. Beaver, muskrat, mink, fisher, bobcat, and otter are at home in the forest. Bald eagles, gray wolves, woodcock, hairy woodpeckers, black-capped chickadees, and many species of songbirds are also features of the forest. Moose are occasionally spotted traveling through the area.

**cardinal**

**trillium**

**Plants:** The forest is home to trillium, lady's-slippers, ferns, Jack-in-the-pulpits, blueberries, chokecherries, highbush cranberry, raspberries, and wild cranberries.



**Recreation:** There are no campgrounds within the forest. Dispersed camping is allowed as long as state forest rules are followed, except in the WMA where camping is prohibited. The Snake River south of McGrath is a state-designated "Canoe and Boating River." The forest is classified as "limited" in regards to all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles (see OHV information, right). This means that all trails available for these motorized activities will be posted. Any trail not posted is off limits. It is important to note that off-road, motor-vehicle use is not allowed anywhere in the WMA.

Groomed snowmobile trails run throughout the forest. Porcupine Lake, which is located off West White Pine Forest Road, has an "unimproved" boat/canoe access. There is also a shelter built by the Minnesota Conservation Corps by the lake, which is maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping, in accordance with state regulations, are allowed on all public land within the state forest. Forest roads are open year-round to facilitate access to forest areas; however, there can be seasonal restrictions where roads are closed to minimize damage during spring breakup.

## 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 soil to the leaves. It transports food in the form of sugars from the leaves to the rest of the tree.

The trunk is made up of five layers:

1. Inner wood: dead xylem; stores food and supports the tree.
2. Xylem: tubelike cells that move water and nutrients from the roots to the rest of the tree.
3. Cambium: layer that produces phloem and xylem.
4. Phloem: tubelike cells that move sugar (called sap) from leaves to the rest of the tree.
5. Outer bark: dead phloem; protects the rest of the tree.

## Keep Trees a Healthy Part of Your World!

- Plant trees. Make sure they are right for the site.
- Help keep trees healthy. For example: Water trees during dry periods; avoid wounding bark with lawn mowers and weed whips; stake small-diameter, newly planted trees to give them added support; mulch trees to help retain moisture in the soil.
- Celebrate Arbor Day and Arbor Month. In Minnesota, Arbor Day is the last Friday in April and May is Arbor Month.
- Join or establish a local tree committee or board.
- Go to [www.MNtrees.org](http://www.MNtrees.org), Minnesota's one-stop Web site 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:

- Remove carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and other pollutants from the air.
- Produce oxygen.
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Provide wood products.
- Add beauty to the landscape.
- Provide a pleasant environment for recreation.
- Help reduce residential energy consumption by shading homes in summer and sheltering them from 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 each year for every \$1 invested in caring for them. Benefits include 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 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 trespass laws.

### Firearms, deer stands:

Firearms must be unloaded and cased and bows must be unstrung and cased while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day-use area, etc.). The only exception is during an open hunting season when a person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm or strung bow to hunt outside of the recreation area.

Temporary and portable deer stands are allowed in state forests.

For more information on hunting and trapping, go to: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting)

## Fishing, Trapping

There are no special provisions or restrictions on fishing or trapping within state forests. Participants in these activities must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and seasons as anywhere else in the state.

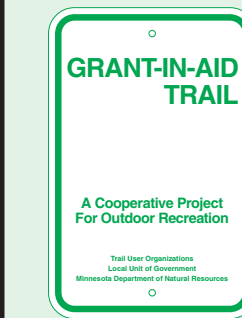
For more information on fishing, go to: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing)

## 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.



## The Grant-In-Aid Trail System

Through efforts of snowmobile club volunteers across the state, Minnesotans enjoy more than 20,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. The maintenance of 90 percent of these trails is the responsibility of local snowmobile clubs and Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association (MnUSA).



Stay on the trails with the help of orange reassuring blazers, which are posted along the route.



Northeast

## Minnesota Snowmobile Trails



Locations of Minnesota's snowmobile trails have been mapped for NW, NE, SW, and SE Minnesota and copies are available from DNR Information Center and other locations. The same information is available on the DNR Web site, [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

## Welcome

You are part of a growing number of people who enjoy using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for trail riding, off-road transportation, competition, and other activities. Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners, and lawmakers.

Tread lightly on the environment, be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law. By doing these things you contribute to the positive image of off-highway vehicle activities.



ATV



OHM



ORV



HLV

For more information on off-highway riding and opportunities, visit:

*FindTheTrails.com*

## OHV Use on State Forest Lands

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

The DNR is conducting a review of state forests that currently permit off-highway vehicle use. Following the review, these forests may be reclassified as either "managed," "limited," or "closed" to OHV use.

Please check for trail closures before you leave at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html)

For up-to-date information, check [www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/index.html)

## SOLANA STATE FOREST IS CLASSIFIED AS LIMITED



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

• Motor vehicles may operate ONLY on forest trails or areas that are posted and designated open.\*

\* Exception: Persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game or constructing hunting stands during October, November, and December, or trapping during open seasons, may use all-terrain vehicles off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions.

### Motorized restrictions on state forest lands

• 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 or damage 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.

### Motorized restrictions on state forest lands cont.

• 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.

• No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on forest lands.

### Safety First!

- Read the owner's manual and know your vehicle.
- Check your vehicle before you ride.
- Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders.
- Supervise young or inexperienced riders.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles intended for one person.
- Ride straight—no alcohol or drugs.
- Let trail conditions determine safe speeds.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay away from open water and thin ice.
- Know the weather forecast.
- Use your taillight and headlight.
- Maintain safe distances when riding with others.
- Reduce your speed when riding at night.
- Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users.

### ATV Youthful Operators

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an ATV to permit it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Age	Requirement
Under 10	May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.
10 and 11	May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.  May operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.  Must wear an approved helmet while operating on public lands and frozen waters.
12 through 15	ATV safety certificate valid only after successfully completing BOTH the independent study and riding safety training components, and must be able to properly reach and control the handle bars and foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat.
16 and 17	Must successfully complete the ATV independent study course component before operating on public lands.  May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen public waters without a safety certificate.  Must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operated on road rights-of-way.  Must wear approved helmet while operating on public lands, frozen public waters, and on road rights-of-way.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 (Metro Area)  
888-MINNDNR (Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications for Deaf)  
651-296-5484 (Metro Area)  
800-657-3929 (Toll Free)

Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Area Office  
1200 Minnesota Avenue South  
Aetken, MN 56431  
218-927-4040

Department of Natural Resources  
Teals and Waterways Area Office (for teal enforcement)  
1201 East Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-328-8980

### FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE - 911

### LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRE

Aiken Coen  
Sheeff 217 Second Street  
Noel  
Hues  
Room 185 Aetken, MN 56431  
218-927-7435

### NEAREST HOSPITAL