WHITE EARTH STATE FOREST

155,394 ACRES • ESTABLISHED 1943

among the many rolling hills and lakes you'll find Minnesota's second highest elevation along Height of Land Road. The Laurentian Divide bisects the forest—water north of the divide drains to Hudson Bay and water south of the divide drains to the Gulf of Mexico.

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, pallets, fencing, and telephone poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers work to improve habitat for wildlife and to keep our air and water clean.

HISTORY: Nearly all of the state forest is within the boundaries of the White Earth Indian Reservation created in 1867 by a treaty between the United States and the Mississippi Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe). Indigenous people have occupied the area since at least 1400, drawn to the place where “the land grows food on the water,” a reference to the plentiful wild rice that grows in the area. Between 1904 and 1918, the Nichols-Chisholm Lumber Company removed much of the old-growth timber from the area. In 1918, massive fires followed the intensive logging, leaving behind blackened stumps and fire-scarred pines. The Minnesota Legislature dedicated this forest in 1943 for purposes of reforestation, habitat, and recreation.

TREES: Stands of pine, fir, spruce, tamarack, aspen, birch, and cedar grow in the coniferous forest biome in the east. Hardwoods such as oak, maple, basswood, elm, and aspen grow in the deciduous forest biome to the west.

WILDLIFE: Mammals include white-tailed deer, black bear, timber wolf, red fox, bobcat, river otters, fisher, mink, beaver, coyote, raccoon, snowshoe hare, and porcupine. Birds include wild turkey, bald eagle, common loon, northern goshawk, osprey, trumpeter swan, marsh hawk, hoary murrelet, ring-necked duck, goldeneye, loon, Virginia rail, woodcock, sharp-tailed grouse, and a variety of woodland warblers.

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GENERAL STATE FOREST RULES

- **Camping**: There are developed campgrounds in this state forest. Dispersed camping with no amenities is allowed on state-managed lands. Summer camping is limited to 14 days. Winter camping is limited to 21 days between November 1 and May 1. Contact 218-935-2255.

- **Trail training**: Training is limited to 14 days. Winter camping is limited to 21 days between November 1 and May 1. Contact 218-935-2255.

- **Lakes**: Several miles of forest roads open to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road vehicles (ORVs), and off-highway motorcyclists (OHMs).
- **Non-residents**: Must have a valid ATV Trail Pass.
- **ATV ORVs, and OHMs must be registered**: mn.dnr.gov/licenses/ohv
- **Fees**: Current Minnesota registration sticker - mn.dnr.gov/licenses/ohv

- **Fishing**: Lakes in the area offer opportunities to catch walleye, northern pike, bass, panfish, and trout. Fishing is prohibited in the parks and on other non-motorized areas. Other restrictions 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. Most of the small lakes in the state forest have carry-in access, and many of the larger lakes have modern boat launches.

- **Hunting and Trapping**: Hunting and trapping are allowed on the state appalachian trials that will traverse more than 4,000 miles through seven northern states from North Dakota to New York. For interactive maps and to download GIS/GPS data, visit: http://nationalforestcarp.org/minnesota

- **Snowmobile Trails**: Hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails wind their way through the hills and forest to connect to nearby trails. Trails are open between December 1 and April 1. In some areas, during special logging activities. Trails are marked with orange signs. Snowmobile trail maps - mn.dnr.gov/snowmobiling/trails/xact/mn/white/white.htm

- **Trespassing**: Trespassing is a misdemeanor. If you can't license your location, all conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

- **Always Stay on Signed Trails**: Whether you're riding or walking, tread lightly on the land. Be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law.

- **Areas with Limitations**: These areas are developed to protect unique natural resources and provide other non-motorized recreation opportunities. Motorized vehicles may not operate within areas with limitations, including reducing traffic, limiting access, and requiring permits.

- **Leave Trouble Behind**: Clean your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site. Remove mud and seeds from clothes, pets, boats, gear, vehicles, and watercraft. Site 1 or 2 miles of signed trails. PlayingScape.org

- **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS**: WMAs are managed to provide quality habitat for a variety of species, especially deer, bear, grouse, woodcock, and waterfowl, along with owls, warblers, butterflies, and woodpeckers. WMAs provide opportunities for public hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife observation. Hunting is generally allowed with the proper license and during the proper seasons in WMAs. Trapping is also generally allowed, but taking beaver and other requires a permit from the wildlife manager.

- **White Earth Island Lake WMA**: Located on the northeast portion of Island Lake, a designated trout lake.

- **WMA HIGHLIGHTS**: This 1,650-acre lake hosts migratory waterfowl and walleye. Mixed grassland, wetland, and forest surround the lake. People may stay on designated trails.

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- **WMA REGULATIONS**: With careful planning and tree stump, seed, and post-consumer waste. 10 percent post-consumer waste.

- **CLEARWATER COUNTY - WHITE EARTH TRIBE**: These scenic parks are open to the public. Roy Lake has a public boat launch and dock. Little Eagle has a picnic area and a canoe launch. White Earth is a park required Fees may be charged - 218-935-3285.

- **Tribal lands**: May be closed to non-band members. Contact 218-983-3285.

- **State-managed lands**: Building permanent structures, including deer stands, is prohibited. Contact 218-983-3285.

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