



# MAP AND GUIDE: BIG BOG STATE RECREATION AREA

55716 HWY 72 NE  
WASKISH, MN 56685  
BELTRAMI COUNTY  
218-888-7310



## VISITOR TIPS

- Follow special limits and protected slots when fishing on Upper Red Lake.
- All boat docking in the campground is first come, first serve.
- Be respectful of each campsite's space when accessing boat docks.
- Ludlow Pond is stocked with pan fish for shore fishing. Minnesota residents don't need a license to fish this pond.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Non-emergency sheriff's number: 218-333-9111.



## ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Don't miss the mile-long Big Bog Boardwalk with interpretive panels and benches along the way.
- Climb the 100 foot fire tower for a magnificent view of Upper Red Lake and the Big Bog. Open to the public during visitor center hours.
- Play, swim or wade in the shallow waters of Upper Red Lake.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO DISCOVER?  
VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/BIGBOG](http://MNDNR.GOV/BIGBOG)

## ABOUT THE RECREATION AREA

Big Bog State Recreation Area was established in 2000. It was the result of a grassroots effort to create a sustainable tourist attraction in Waskish, whose economy was devastated when the Red Lake walleye population crashed in the 1990s. The recreation area includes a northern unit and a southern unit totaling 9,121 acres. A 500-square-mile peat bog, the largest in the lower 48 states, is located in the northern unit. The southern unit includes a visitor center, fire tower, campground, winterized camper cabins, a sandy beach and great fishing.



Take a stroll on the Big Bog Boardwalk.

## TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Big Bog Boardwalk

1 mile one-way

Flat • Boardwalk • Handicap accessible

This is a truly unique experience. Explore the boardwalk for views of orchids, carnivorous plants, mosses and a stunted tamarack and spruce forest. Located 9 miles north of the visitor center on MN Hwy 72.

### Old Caribou Camp Trail

1-mile loop

Mostly flat • Packed dirt

Discover the diverse wildlife, trees, lichens and fungi that call Ludlow Island home.

### Old Marina Trail

0.3 miles one-way

Mostly flat • Mowed grass

Hike to an observation deck over the Tamarac River. Watch for shorebirds, waterfowl, beavers and orchids. Interpretive panels share the history of the local fish hatchery.

### Red Lake Beach Trail

0.3-miles one-way

Mostly flat • Packed dirt

Walk to an observation deck over Upper Red Lake. Look for waterfowl and read interpretive panels.

## MORE TO EXPLORE

- Attend naturalist programs.
- Launch your boat or fish from docks along the Tamarac River in the campground. Find handicap accessible fishing piers near the public boat accesses on the north side of the river.
- Rent a canoe, kayak, paddleboard or snowshoes from the visitor center. Checkout a GPS, birding kit, Kids Activity Kit or fishing pole for free.
- Visit during any season! The campground, camper cabins, Big Bog Boardwalk and visitor center are open year-round.

## SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE REC. AREA...

A full set of STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS is available at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov).



### RECREATION AREA OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



### VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at visitor center or entrance kiosk.



### PETS WELCOME

Keep on 6-foot leash; pick up after; attend at all times; not allowed in buildings or at beaches.



### CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.–8 a.m.; only registered campers may be in campground during quiet hours.



### FIREWOOD

Must be purchased at this site or from vendors who sell wood approved for this site; no gathering firewood in the park.



CURIOUS ABOUT CABINS OR CAMPING?  
VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/RESERVATIONS](http://MNDNR.GOV/RESERVATIONS)  
OR CALL 866-857-2757

## ? MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Rd. , St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367 or [mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks)

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.

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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS