www.mndnr.gov/state_forests

Minnesota State Forest Recreation

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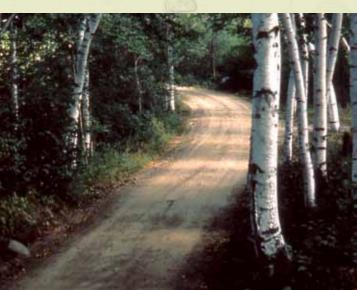


Minnesota state forests are open for all to enjoy

Towering pines and fish-filled lakes. Family-friendly campgrounds with beaches and hiking trails nearby. Miles of trails to accommodate every kind of activity: hiking, hunting, mountain biking, OHV riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, and more. What are you waiting for? Minnesota state forests are open to all to enjoy - whatever your location or vacation destination.

Admission: Free!

Do you know Minnesota is the 16th most forested state in the nation? Do you know nearly 4 million acres in 58 state forests are open to explore for free? That's right — wherever you are, you can find a state forest nearby that's open to explore at no cost to you. No vehicle permit required.



Room for Everyone

Almost one-third of Minnesota's land area is covered with forest, providing unlimited opportunities to pursue a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, picnicking, berry picking, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, mushroom hunting, wildflower identification, nature photography, and hunting to name a few. State forests offer opportunities for camping, including 20 campgrounds, 18 day-use areas, and seven horse campgrounds.

No reservations are needed for state forest recreational facilities; camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. State forests also serve as a great starting point for visiting various state parks, state trails, and state canoe routes.

State Forests are here for you to use and enjoy on your schedule.

Minnesota State Forests

Minnesota is home to 16.3 million acres of forest land. Much of this land is located within the boundaries of Minnesota's 58 state forests. The first state forest was established in 1900, when Governor John Pillsbury donated 1,000 acres of land in Cass County to the state, and the land was designated Pillsbury State Forest. Our newest state forest, the 15,000acre Waukenabo State Forest in north-central Minnesota, was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2000. Land ownership within Minnesota's state forests is varied and includes state, county, municipal, tribal, and private holdings.

Contents

State Forests by Biome

•	Deciduous	forest	6
•	Coniferous	forest1	2

Special Features

Horse Pass	10
• Ski Pass	
• State Parks and Other Getaways	46
State Forest Grid	

For More Information

www.mndnr.gov/contact 1-888-MINNDNR (1-888-646-6367) Toll Free TTY: 1-866-672-8213 Toll Free International calls: 1-317-249-9327 **Minnesota State Forests** www.mndnr.gov/state forests **Minnesota State Parks** www.mndnr.gov/state parks **Minnesota State Trails** www.mndnr.gov/state trails **Minnesota State Water Trails** www.mndnr.gov/watertrails Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) www.mndnr.gov/snas Minnesota Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) www.mndnr.gov/wmas

Explore Minnesota Tourism

www.exploreminnesota.com 1-888-TOURISM (1-888-868-7476) Toll Free 651-296-5029 in the Twin Cities area

Minnesota Historical Society

www.mnhs.org 1-800-657-3773 Toll Free 651-259-3000 in the Twin Cities area

Minnesota Forest History Center

www.mnhs.org/places/sites/fhc 218-327-4482

Biomes Information and Guide Key

Biomes are natural communities where certain kinds of plants and animals can be found, based on the type of soil and climate. Minnesota is home to four biomes: coniferous forest, deciduous forest, tallgrass aspen parkland, and prairie grassland. Each biome offers unique experiences, from abundant spring flowers in the prairie to magnificent fall colors in deciduous forests. Symbols used throughout this publication indicate the biome represented by each state forest. For more information on Minnesota's biomes, visit www.mndnr.gov/biomes.





Remember what Smolkey Beer says—

Only you can prevent wildfires.

As a state forest visitor, you may have campfires in designated fire rings at campsites or in an area cleared of combustible materials 5 feet in all directions around the fire. All fires must be 3 feet or less in diameter.



Building and Putting Out a Campfire

- Think before you strike. Check the burning restrictions for your state forest before lighting a campfire: www.mndnr.gov/forestry/fire.
- Clear all combustible material 5 feet in all directions around the fire. Select a level spot a safe distance away from trees, overhead branches, bushes, dry grass, or logs to prevent the fire from escaping.
- Have a shovel and water available at the campfire site for extinguishing campfires.
- Have a responsible person attend to the fire at all times. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.
- Extinguish the campfire with water using the drown and stir method.

Lanterns, Stoves, and Heaters

- Make sure your lanterns, stoves, and heaters are cool before refueling.
- Place them on the ground in a cleared area and fill them.
- If fuel spills, move the appliance to a new clearing before lighting it.
- Recap and store flammable liquid containers in a safe place.
- Never light lanterns and stoves inside a tent, trailer, or camper. If you use a lantern or stove inside a tent or trailer, be sure to have adequate ventilation.

Deciduous 🔭 Forest Biome

The deciduous forest biome, stretched like a ribbon between the prairie and the coniferous forest, is home to Minnesota's largest lakes and the source of the Mississippi River. The biome's rich recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, camping, fishing, boating, bird-watching, hunting, and foraging for berries and mushrooms.

A deciduous forest is dominated by trees that lose their leaves in the fall. Fertile soils produced by eons of decomposing leaves have attracted much agriculture. In fact, some of the great agricultural regions are found in this biome. That is one of the reasons there are not a lot of original deciduous forests left in the world.

Deciduous forests have a wide variety of native plant species. They are also home to many wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, red squirrels, garter snakes, turkeys, opossums, warblers, and vireos. Many of the animals are either acorn feeders or omnivores. Some hibernate during winter.

The deciduous forest biome offers crystal lakes, wooded hills, and rolling fields. There is plenty for you to do in our deciduous state forests.



State Forests in the Deciduous Forest Biome

Birch Lakes

Birch Lakes State Forest is one of the smallest state forests. It is located in the transition zone between Minnesota's coniferous forest to the northeast and the prairie region to the southwest.

A highlight of this state forest is Birch Lake, a walleye lake with 2,025 acres of surface water, 12.5 miles of shoreline, and a depth of 77 feet. Water clarity is good to excellent. A boat launch and fishing pier are available seasonally. You can spend the night, weekend, or week at Birch Lake Campground and Day-Use Area, which features 29 drive-in campsites (including two ADA accessible sites), five walk-in campsites, and one group camp, or enjoy a picnic in the day-use area. For more information go to www. mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, boating, fishing, hunting, picnic area, swimming, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.

Gathering from a state forest

If you know what to look for, the forest can be a smorgasbord of gourmet delights. Please be responsible! Collect plant materials and mushrooms only; gathering eggs is not allowed. In general, gather less than 75 percent of the wild plants you find. Cut mushrooms above the ground rather than uprooting them to avoid damaging the underground network they grow from. Leave overripe berries behind so the seeds can produce more bushes and replace the ones that die during winter. Cut only the leaves from wild greens.

Leave behind a few nuts for the squirrels!

Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest (RJD Memorial Hardwood Forest)

Located in southeastern Minnesota, this state forest includes the bluffs along the Great River Road of the Mississippi River and a number of state canoe routes: Cannon River, White River, Root River, Zumbro River, and Vermillion River.

RJD Memorial Hardwood Forest explodes with wildflowers in early spring. In the fall, abundant hardwoods blaze with color. This forest is among the best places in the state for fall color viewing.

RJD Memorial Hardwood Forest features five recreational areas, eight campgrounds, and one dayuse area. See www.mndnr.gov/state_forest to find out more about recreational facilities.

Recreational Areas

- Brightsdale Forest Management Unit
- Bronk Unit Plowline Trail
- Isinours Management Unit
- Reno North
- Trout Valley Management Unit

Campgrounds and Day-Use Area

- Hay Creek Day-Use Area
- Kruger Campground and Management Unit
- Money Creek / Vinegar Ridge
- Oak Ridge / Wet Bark Recreation Area
- Reno Horse Campground
- Snake Creek Trailhead Campground
- Zumbro Bottoms Horse Campground Central
- Zumbro Bottoms Horse Campground North
- Zumbro Bottoms Horse Campground West

Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle (OHM) riding, and snowmobiling.

May is Arbor Month: Celebrate Trees!

Join us for the month of May to celebrate one of our greatest resources by:

- Planting a tree.
- Learning about native trees and shrubs.
- Hiking through your favorite state forest.
- Searching for a Native Big Tree Champion.
- Reading a book about trees.
- Giving extra attention to your trees and shrubs.
- Attending your community Arbor Day event.

www.mndnr.gov/arbormonth

MINNESOTA HORSE TRAIL PASS REQUIRED HERE

M.S. 85.46 No person 16 or older may ride, lead or drive a horse on this trail without a valid horse trail pass. Violations are a misdemeanor and subject to fine.

Horse trail pass fees are dedicated for acquisition, development and maintenance of horse trails and equestrian facilities.

Horse trail passes can be purchased at any Minnesota electronic licensing system (ELS) location, or see <u>www.dnr.state.mn.us</u>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

All horseback riders on public horse trails age 16 or older must have a Minnesota Horse Trail Pass. You must sign your horse trail pass and carry it with you when riding. Your horse trail pass fee helps support Minnesota's horseback riding trail system.

Horse Trail Pass Rates

- Daily: \$5 (\$4 plus a \$1 issuing fee) Daily pass is valid for the date shown.
- Annual: \$21 (\$20 plus a \$1 issuing fee) Valid for one year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Purchasing a Horse Trail Pass

Daily and annual passes may be purchased from DNR authorized Electronic License Service (ELS) vendors at 1,700 locations around the state, online at www4.wildlifelicense.com/mn/, at the DNR Information Center in St. Paul, and by phone at 1-888-MNLICENse (1-888-665-4236).

🐂 Sand Dunes

Sand Dunes State Forest has something for just about everyone. The 225-acre Bob Dunn Recreation Area nestled within the forest holds the 36-unit Ann Lake Campground and Day-Use Area, including the popular Sand Dunes Horse Camp.

Sand Dunes consists of oak savanna and prairie and 2,700 acres of pine plantation with rolling terrain and few hills. It provides beautiful venues for a variety of recreational activities.

To the north of Sand Dunes lies the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, 30,000 acres of wetlands, sloughs, and oak groves. To the south is Uncas Dunes Scientific and Natural Area. This ecological gem is noted for its sand dune habitat and a rare butterfly called the Uncas skipper, which lives in only two places in Minnesota.

Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.



Coniferous Forest Biome

Welcome to Minnesota's "up-north" country, where the deciduous forest and tallgrass aspen parkland biomes give way to the coniferous trees. Among the forests, lakes, and rivers, recreational opportunities abound: fishing, boating, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, and camping.

Conifers are cone-bearing trees such as pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and tamarack. These trees have needlelike leaves that keep their green color all year long with one exception, the tamarack, which lose all their needles each fall. Coniferous forests have short, cool summers and long, snowy winters lasting up to seven months.

The animals of the coniferous forest have special adaptations to help them survive the long, cold winters. Animals such as the snowshoe hare and ermine use white fur in winter to blend in with the environment and hide from predators. Many birds migrate to warmer places and return to the forest each spring to feed on insects and nest during the summer months, while other animals (such as ground squirrels, American toads, and redbelly snakes) hibernate.

Wind your way through winter on thousands of miles of trails specially designated for skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, or even dog sledding! Up-north locations mean the snow starts piling up earlier and sticks around longer. With an average snowfall that tops 100 inches, the trails are perfect all winter long. In the summer the same trails give way to wonderful hiking, biking, trail running, ATV riding, and camping opportunities.

State Forests in the Coniferous Forest Biome

Badoura

This state forest is located around the Badoura State Tree Nursery that was founded in 1931. The landscape is denoted by large marshy areas intermixed with conifers (mainly jack pine). The 4,400-acres of state-owned land in this 15,360-acre forest offers many birding and hunting opportunities including the Crow Wing Chain WMA which, is located just to the southeast of the state forest. Slightly over half of the area within the forest is considered wetland. For more information on the Crow Wing Chain wildlife managment area go to www.mndnr.gov/wmas

Wildlife viewing includes white-tailed deer, bear, small game, grouse, and waterfowl.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, and snowmobiling.

Battleground

Battleground State Forest lies on the east side of Leech Lake and west side of Boy River Bay in Cass County. The public water access has two ramps, a toilet, and enough parking for 28 vehicles.

Leech Lake, known as a world-class fishing lake, is filled with walleye, muskie, largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegills.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, and cross-country skiing.

Bear Island

Bear Island State Forest is adjacent to the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). It is home to Bear Island Lake, a large, sprawling lake sandwiched between the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges. Full of arms, points, and islands, not to mention a healthy supply of walleyes, the 2,351-acre lake has three public accesses, two at the northeastern corner and one on the southwestern shore. Nearby communities include Ely, Babbitt, Tower, and Soudan.

Bear Island State Forest also provides access to the Taconite State Trail. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_trails.

Recreational opportunities include fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.



Do you have a big tree in your neighborhood or favorite forest?

Nominate a tree today! www.mndnr.gov/bigtree

Beltrami Island

Beltrami Island State Forest is the second largest of Minnesota's 58 state forests. Four rivers—the Roseau, Warroad, Rapid, and Moose—have their headwaters here. This state forest also contains six scientific and natural areas (SNAs) and two staging areas for horseback riders. Three campgrounds within the forest (Bemis Hill, Blueberry Hill, and Faunce) make it easy for you to stay the night, weekend, or week. For more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests; for more information on SNAs go to www.mndnr.gov/snas.

Recreational opportunities include canoeing, camping, horse camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding.

Big Fork

Visitors will be met with richly wooded moraine hills and numerous lakes, marshes, and bogs as they hike their way through this state forest.

The Big Fork River state canoe route travels through a portion of the forest, providing the canoeist and kayaker a great opportunity to explore the remote and pristine areas of the forest.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, dispersed camping is allowed. Campgrounds are available at nearby Scenic State Park along with Koochiching and Pine Island state forests. For more information on this state park go to www.mndnr.gov/state_parks; for more information on the state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/ state forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, cross- country skiing, snowmobiling, and OHV riding.



Blackduck

Blackduck State Forest is truly one of northern Minnesota's treasures. Watch bald eagles in flight, pick blueberries and raspberries in season, or just enjoy the fresh air of a northern forest. This state forest sits at the northwestern edge of the Chippewa National Forest and its waterways.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and bird-watching.

Bowstring

There is no better way to see this forest than on a trail. Hike and view wildflowers, bike along a tranquil wetland, hunt grouse on a hunter/walking trail, or ski through winter woods. If you prefer four-wheeling adventures, the Soo Line North ATV Trail travels through portions of the forest, so your odds are excellent for seeing northern Minnesota's wildlife.

If you're an angler, you will find excellent fishing for walleye, northern pike, perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, and bluegill in the numerous lakes within this forest's boundaries.

There are two campgrounds available for you to stay at while visiting Bowstring State Forest. Cottonwood Lake Campground offers 10 campsites and Moose Lake Campground, which is just outside Bowstring State Forest, offers 11 campsites. For more information on this state forest go to www.mndnr. gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and OHV riding.

Enjoy your OHV...

for trail riding, off-road transportation, competition, and other activities while you're in the state forests.

Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners, and lawmakers. Ride responsibly!



Buena Vista

Winter visitors can enjoy 21 miles of marked snowmobile trails at Buena Vista State Forest. The Buena Vista Trail connects to the Beltrami County North Country and Northland grant-in-aid snowmobile trails. These trails provide groomed routes to the cities of Nebish, Blackduck, Turtle River, and Bemidji, as well as connections to the Hubbard County and Cass County grant-in-aid trail systems.

Summer visitors will find public water access on several lakes, including Beltrami, Big Bass, Gull, Sandy, and Three Island lakes.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Burntside

This forest lies on the southwestern border of the BWCAW and more than 80 percent of it is within the boundaries of the Superior National Forest. Highlights include 10,000-acre Burntside Lake, with its six public accesses and one of the largest populations of Minnesota's state bird, the loon, in the state.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, boating, and fishing.

Chengwatana

Chengwatana State Forest consists of forested upland islands surrounded by marsh and brush. Three rivers, the Kettle, Snake, and St. Croix, flow through the forest. You can spend the night, weekend, or week at Snake River Campground. Located on the Snake River State Canoe Route, this campground features 26 drive-in sites. For more information on Snake River Campground, go to www.mndnr/state forests. This scenic forest hosts approximately 16 miles of trails dedicated to ATV and OHM riding.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, snowmobiling, and horseback riding along the Willard Munger State Trail.

Want to improve your hunting grounds?

Plant some trees & shrubs. ed oak savanna." Photo by Eli Sado

Trees & shrubs for wildlife habitat can be ordered from Minnesota State Forest Nurseries www.mndnr.gov/nurseries 1-800-657-3767

Get 500 trees for as little as \$90, that's only 18¢ each.



Cloquet Valley

Three segments of the Cloquet River State Canoe Route, totaling 33 river miles, weave through Cloquet Valley State Forest. You can spend the night, weekend, or week at Indian Lake Campground on Indian Lake, which features 25 drive-in sites and one group camp. For more information on Indian Lake Campground go to www.mndnr/state_forests; for more information on the Cloquet River State Canoe Route go to www.mndnr.gov/watertrails.

Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, boating, and snowmobiling.

Crow Wing

White pines tower above the hardwoods as you walk through conifer bogs and wet prairies in this diverse forest. Spend the day at the Pelican Beach Day-Use Area, which has an excellent sugar sand beach, parking, rest rooms, and changing facilities. Or treat yourself to a night or weekend at Greer Lake Campground, home to the Bass Lake Interpretive Trail. Crow Wing State Forest also provides access to the Pine River and Mississippi River state canoe routes. For more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests; for more information on state canoe routes go to www.mndnr.gov/watertrails.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, and hunting.

D.A.R.

D.A.R. State Forest was established in 1943 and named after the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). This state forest is located east of Banning State Park on Highway 23.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, dispersed camping is allowed. Campgrounds are available at Banning State Park, and Nemadji and General Andrews state forests. For more information on the state park go to www.mndnr.gov/state_parks; for more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Camping is always available at a state forest

If you're looking for fewer people and a relaxed atmosphere, then state forest campgrounds are for you. Many state forest campgrounds feature spacious, shaded campsites along lakes or rivers you can even camp on your own island at Hinsdale Island in Kabetogama State Forest! All campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The campsites are considered "primitive." They consist of a cleared area, fire ring, and table. Vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water are available. Camping fees are collected at the campgrounds. In addition, dispersed camping is permitted in all state forests.

For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests

Emily

This is our smallest state forest, located south of the town of Emily on Highway 6.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, dispersed camping is allowed, and campgrounds are available at nearby Land O'Lakes and Crow Wing state forests. For more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/ state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, and hiking.

Finland

Finland State Forest's 50 miles of maintained state forest roads provide access for foresters, loggers, anglers, hunters, and other forest visitors. Abundant lakes and trout streams attract anglers of all kinds.

Finland State Forest is home to Eckbeck, Finland, and Sullivan Lake campgrounds, where you can stay the weekend or the week. Only six miles from Tettegouche State Park, Finland State Forest provides handy overflow camping and a pleasant recreational alternative to the more developed park. For more information on facilities go to www.mndnr. gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and ATV riding.

Permits Are Required For Some

- Cutting commercial timber on state lands
- Cutting fuelwood for home use on state lands

For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/areas/forestry

Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac State Forest is a wetland/forest complex with several large, shallow wild rice lakes and extensive areas of marsh and wooded swamp. It offers hikers and cross-country skiers great scenery with moderate trail variation. Trails are easy enough for beginners, but challenging enough for a good workout. Other recreational opportunities include canoeing and riding on the Fond du Lac State Forest OHV trails. For more information on the state forest go to www.mndnr. gov/state_forests; for more information on the OHV trails go to www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, canoeing, OHV riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and picnicking.

Foot Hills

Foot Hills State Forest's proximity to the metropolitan areas of St. Cloud and the Twin Cities make it a popular recreation spot. The forest's trail system provides abundant opportunities for a variety of activities. The Spider Lake OHV Trail includes about 26 miles within the forest. Cross-country skiers enjoy two state ski trails, Hiram and Cut Lake. A Ski Pass is required. For more information on the trails go to www.mndnr.gov/state_trails; for more information on the OHV trails go to www.mndnr.gov/ ohv.

Recreational opportunities within the forest include hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and ATV riding.

Activities In State Forests

- Open burning on all lands
- Club-sponsored special events such as OHV club rides or enduro events, fishing tournaments, geocaching, dog trials, or horse trail club rides.

contact the local forestry area office.

General C.C. Andrews

This state forest is named after General Christopher Columbus Andrews, a Civil War general and Minnesota's first chief fire warden. Jack and red pine cover most of the forest, alongside stands of birch, aspen, and oak. Gently rolling trails provide an easy ride on fairly level, sandy soil for OHM and ATV riders. You can stay the day, weekend, or week at the Willow River Campground, which features a paved boat ramp to the Willow River Flowage, 36 drive-in campsites, and a group camp. The McCormick and Dago day-use areas feature boat ramps and picnic grounds. For more information on the recreational facilities go to www.mndnr.gov/ state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, picnicking, cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and ATV and OHM riding.

George Washington

Situated in northeastern Itasca County, George Washington State Forest has eight different camping facilities. Two horse campgrounds, Togo and Stony Brook, have picket lines and pull-through sites. Bear Lake, Button Box, Larson Lake, Lost Lake, Owen Lake, and Thistledew campgrounds all feature boat launches and fishing opportunities. Bear Lake, Owen Lake, and Thistledew campgrounds also include day-use areas and swimming beaches. There is something for everyone in this state forest. Hikers enjoy trails through stands of aspen, paper birch, and red, white, and jack pine. Cross-country skiers find trail loops to challenge experienced skiers as well as those that suit the novice. Snowmobilers find adventure on nearly 200 miles of groomed scenic trails

Recreational opportunities include camping, boating, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, ATV riding, and picnicking.

Golden Anniversary

Golden Anniversary State Forest is a great place for hikers and cross-country skiers to practice their skills. Two trail systems, River Road Unit Ski Trail (2.8 km loop) and the Cow Horn Lake Ski Touring and Hiking Trail (7.5 km loop), provide beginner to intermediate experiences and are excellent for family outings in summer and winter.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking.

Grand Portage

If you appreciate smaller campgrounds, Grand Portage State Forest is for you. Each of the forest's three campgrounds—Devilfish Lake, Esther Lake, and McFarland Lake—has five or fewer campsites. The forest offers a total of nine water accesses. One, on McFarland Lake at the end of the Arrowhead Trail, serves as an entry point to the eastern edge of the BWCAW.

Grand Portage State Forest also offers great connections to other recreational opportunities such as the Border Route Trail, Grand Portage Trail in the Grand Portage Indian Reservation, and Judge C.R. Magney State Park. For more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests; for more information on state parks go to www.mndnr.gov/ state parks.

Recreational opportunities include camping, cross-country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, and picnicking.

You can meet more than black-capped chickadees in the forests.

Special club events also happen within state forests. Check to see if there are OHV enduro trail rides, dog trials, and fishing tournaments in the state forest you're visiting before you go at www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Hill River

Hill River State Forest fits its name, with rolling terrain in its western and northern parts and scattered islands of high ground dotting the marshland. Visitors enjoy fishing and swimming at the public accesses on Washburn Lake, Taylor Lake, and White Elk Lake. If you prefer outdoor recreation on dry land, check out the 14-mile Washburn Lake multipurpose recreational trail or the Rabey Line and Soo Line ATV trails. For more information on the ATV trails go to www.mndnr. gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, ATV riding, and snowmobiling.

Huntersville

Huntersville State Forest comprises 52 square miles of mostly red and jack pine forests with a scattering of aspen and spruce and a variety of northern hardwoods covering rolling, sandy hills. Two rivers, the Crow Wing and the Shell, cut through the forest. Both are state canoe routes and provide many canoeing opportunities, with access ramps at Huntersville and Shell River campgrounds as well as other put-in and take-out points throughout the forest. Either campground is a perfect place to set up base camp for the night, weekend, or week as you explore the state canoe routes.

Huntersville is also home to the Shell City Horse Campground where you can stay the weekend or the week. All three campgrounds are only a short distance from Itasca State Park and offer great alternatives to the more developed and heavily used park. For more information on the recreational facilities go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, picnicking, swimming, horseback riding, and OHM and ATV riding.



HELP STOP THE MOVEMENT OF FOREST PESTS

Firewood is a major culprit in spreading emerald ash borer (EAB) and other insect pests. Larvae and pupae can hide beneath the bark and then escape as adult beetles after being transported many miles. People can carry EAB and other forest pests with them when they bring firewood on a picnic or camping trip without even knowing it.

Buy your campfire wood from an approved local firewood vendor.

The danger of spreading EAB and other invasive species convinced the 2007 Minnesota Legislature to pass a law prohibiting visitors from bring unapproved firewood onto state land. If you want to have a campfire in a state forest or state park, you can only use local approved wood either purchased at the state park or from a local approved firewood vendor.

Other firewood restriction locations include:

- Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota
- Chippewa and Superior national forests
- Some county and local campgrounds

Find approved firewood vendors at www.mndnr.gov/firewood

New State Forest Maps Available

Online: www.mndnr.gov/state_forests

- Toll Free Phone: 1-888-MINNDNR (1-888-646-6367)
- TTY: 1-866-672-8213

Toll Free International Calls: 1-317-249-9327

Insula Lake

This state forest is located on the south end of Insula Lake, which is located entirely in the Superior National Forest and on the edge of the BWCAW, making it subject to U.S. Forest Service management rules. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, fishing, swimming, and cross-country skiing.

Kabetogama

Gateway to Voyageurs National Park and the BWCAW, Kabetogama State Forest has a taste of wilderness for everyone. Visitors often travel by canoe or kayak for several days and camp on islands or on the lakeshore. Woodenfrog and Ash River campgrounds offer access to Kabetogama Lake and Namakan Lake in Voyageurs National Park, while Wakemup Bay and Hinsdale Island, the only boat-in campsite, offer camping opportunities on Lake Vermilion. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.

Koochiching

Encompassing 567,985 acres (344,300 state-owned), Koochiching is one of Minnesota's largest state forests. It consists mostly of level terrain with swamp and bog, the legacy of ancient glaciers. The Little Fork River and Big Fork state canoe routes pass through the forest, providing canoeing, camping, and fishing opportunities along the way. Koochiching is also home to Tilson Bay and Tilson Creek ski trails and provides access to Rainy Lake. For more information on state canoe routes go to www.mndnr. gov/watertrails.

Recreational opportunities include boating, hunting, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, hiking, and snowmobiling.



Lake Isabella

Lake Isabella State Forest is almost covered entirely by Lake Isabella and located in Superior National Forest and the BWCAW, making it subject to U.S. Forest Service management rules.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, dispersed camping is allowed and campgrounds are available in the Superior National Forest. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r9/ forests/superior/.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping and hiking.

Lake Jeanette

This state forest is located in the Superior National Forest and surrounds Lake Jeanette in St. Louis County, making it subject to U.S. Forest Service management rules. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, camping is available at Lake Jeanette campgrounds in the Superior National Forest.

Recreational opportunities include hunting and hiking.

Lake of the Woods

The Lake of the Woods State Forest is sandwiched between Beltrami and Pine Island state forests. This forest is enjoyed in the fall by small game and deer hunters and in the winter by snowmobilers who travel the several miles of grant-in-aid snowmobile trails. Your best access to the state forest is by county roads.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, camping is available at Beltrami Island State Forest and Zippel Bay State Park. For more information on the state forest go to state forests www.mndnr.gov/state_forests; for more information on the state parks go to www.mndnr. gov/state parks.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, and snowmobiling.



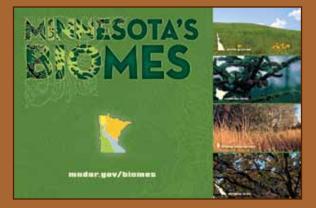
Land O'Lakes

Forest roads provide access to the interior of Land O'Lakes State Forest for many types of outdoor activities from hiking and cross-country skiing on the Washburn Lake ski trails to ATV riding on the Moose River ATV Trail.

Land O'Lakes offers two choices of campgrounds. The largest is Clint Converse Campground and Day-Use Area. Its 31 campsites provide a great connection to six miles of easy to moderate mountain biking trails. The other, Baker and White Oak Lake Campground, offers two campsites and a great access to the Moose River ATV Trail. For more information on the recreational facilities go to www.mndnr.gov/ state_forests; for more information on ATV riding go to www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and ATV riding.

Want to learn more about Minnesota forests, trees, invasive species, biomes, why leaves change color, or tree identification?



www.mndnr.gov//forestry//education



Lost River

The Lost River State Forest borders Manitoba, Canada, and is known as a good bird-watching location. Here you will have opportunities to view the great gray owls as well as other birds, including: spruce grouse; snowy, northern hawk, great gray, and northern saw-whet owls; whip-poor-will; threetoed and black-backed woodpeckers; yellow-bellied flycatcher; common raven; boreal chickadee; and magnolia warbler. The best time to visit is March through December.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, and bird-watching.

Lyons

Lyons State Forest is located in the central part of Wadena County about 15 miles northwest of the city of Staples. The forest can be reached from Staples by driving five miles west on Highway 10, then turning north on Highway 26 for 10 miles.

If you are looking for opportunities to view wildlife in their natural surroundings, you can try the Crow Wing River State Canoe Route that travels through the eastern corner of the forest, or visit the Strike WMA. Both offer great recreational opportunities. For more information on the state canoe route go to www.mndnr.gov/watertrails; for more information on the WMA go to www.mndnr.gov/wmas.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, and, hiking.

Mississippi Headwaters

After it leaves Itasca State Park, the Mississippi River flows through Mississippi Headwaters State Forest. This part of the river is considered most remote and pristine. This scenic state forest also has 95 lakes and ponds within its boundaries as well as 8,500 acres of public land within 1,000 feet of these waterways. Rognlien Beach Day-Use Area on Grant Lake offers a swimming area, picnic tables, and river access. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.



Nemadji

Nemadji State Forest varies from gently rolling upland with large swamps in the south to steep stream valleys and elongated swamps protruding into the forest in the northeast. Garfvert Campground and Day-Use Area (18 campsites) is adjacent to Pickerel Lake and the Willard Munger ATV Trail. Approximately 100 miles of trail are dedicated to ATV and OHM riding. The trail system connects with others such as the Willard Munger State Trail, St. Croix State Forest OHV trails, Gandy Dancer Trail, and Upper Willow trails. Be prepared to see gray wolves, white-tailed deer, eagles, and many other forms of wildlife. For more information on state OHV trails go to www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and ATV and OHM riding.



Northwest Angle

Northwest Angle is located at the top of the lower forty. Look at a U.S map, locate the state of Minnesota, and find the "chimney" at Lake of the Woods. Surrounded by Canada (Manitoba and Ontario), the Northwest Angle and islands is the northernmost point in the contiguous United States. This unique part of the country can be reached by motoring along winding nature-filled roads of tamarack, black spruce, white and red pine, cedar, and birch.

This state forest offers world-class fishing, outstanding birding, hiking, boating, snowmobiling, and many other activities. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, and M & O Day-Use Area.

Paul Bunyan

Paul Bunyan State Forest's 115,113 acres feature a terrain that's rough and hilly, with many tiny ponds and bogs. The forest's hundreds of miles of trails among pines make it one of the premier state forest destinations. Visitors choose among, North Country Hiking Trail, Martineau OHM trail, and Round River Drive ATV trail to name a few.

Gulch Lake and Mantrap Lake campgrounds serve as a great alternative to the more developed and heavily used Itasca State Park facilities. Gulch Lake features eight campsites and great access to hiking trails, water accesses, and a picnic site. Mantrap Lake is on a designated muskie lake and offers swimming, five picnic sites, and nature trails. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and OHM riding, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.

Pat Bayle

Pat Bayle State Forest is located in the Superior National Forest and near the North Shore State Trail. Many adventurous outdoor opportunities are available to visitors in the summer. You can hike to Eagle Mountain, the state's highest point at 2,301 feet, hike other designated trails along the byway, bike the trails, or canoe down the border lakes through the woods.

Recreational facilities in the forest include Twin Lakes Campground, which features three campsites. Water access is available at both East Twin and West Twin lakes. All sites are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking, and OHV riding.

State forests are open to you. No reservations required.

Minnesota state forest roads and logging trails are open to use without a vehicle permit. Forage for fruit and mushrooms, hike, bike, fish, and hunt with proper licenses at no cost to you.

The outdoors is open for you to explore.



Pillsbury

The trails at Pillsbury State Forest meander through a heavily forested area consisting of a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees. The woods are dotted with small lakes and ponds where you're likely to see evidence of beavers and other wildlife. You may also find several varieties of wildflowers, including the yellow lady's slipper. The trail system is especially popular with equestrians and mountain bikers during the summer and snowmobilers in the winter Recreational facilities in the forest include the Walter E. Stark Horse Assembly Area and Shafer Lake, Green Bass Lake, and Beauty Lake day-use areas. The Rock Lake Campground and Day-Use Area can serve as a great alternative to the more developed and heavily used Crow Wing State Park. For more information on the recreational facilities go to www.mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

Pine Island

Pine Island State Forest is named for the upland pine habitat that emerges from forested and nonforested peatlands, bogs, and shrub swamps. Numerous species of orchids thrive in the bogs in this scenic forest. Late May into June provides peak viewing for many of these beautiful wildflowers.

Pine Island State Forest contains numerous rivers and streams, including the scenic and historic Big Fork State Canoe Route, which is also noted for fishing. An old American Indian portage from the Tamarac River to the Sturgeon River is yet visible, as are well-defined trails between islands. For more information on the Big Fork State Canoe Route go to www.mndnr.gov/watertrails.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.

Red Lake

If you are looking for a northwoods adventure, simple natural pleasures are at your doorstep. Escape from the everyday stresses of the world and visit Red Lake State Forest. Located between Pine Island State Forest and the southeast side of Upper Red Lake, it's worth a trip. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, and hiking.



All cross-country skiers on public ski trails age 16 or older must have a Minnesota Ski Pass. You must sign your ski pass and carry it with you when skiing. Your ski pass fee helps support Minnesota's crosscountry ski trail system.

Ski Pass Rates

- Daily ski pass: \$5
- One-season ski pass: \$15 (effective from July 1 of purchasing year to June 30 of following year)
- Three-season ski pass: \$40 (effective from July 1 of the purchasing year to June 30 of third year)

Purchasing a Ski Pass

Ski passes can be purchased through the Electronic Licensing System (ELS) at 1,700 locations around the state, online at www.mndnr.gov/licences/skipass, at the DNR Information Center in St. Paul, and by phone at 1-888-MNLICENse (1-888-665-4236).

Self-registration for daily, annual, and three-year ski passes is available in state parks with ski trails. You can purchase a daily pass in person at all state parks except Carley, Crosby Manitou, Monson, or Schoolcraft state parks. A mail-in envelope and an application will be provided for purchase of an annual or three-year pass. Payment or credit card information, along with a signature and personal information, will be required from the purchaser. The purchaser will retain a receipt until the ski pass arrives in the mail.

Remer

Remer State Forest is located just north of the city of Remer on Highway 6 in the Chippewa National Forest, making it subject to U.S. Forest Service management rules. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, camping is available at the nearby Land O' Lakes State Forest. For more information go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, berry picking, and hunting.

Shooting Do's and Dont's

- Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands not posted closed to firearms discharge. Please clean up your spent rounds before you leave.
- Shooting ranges, where designated, have special rules. Observe postings on site.
- Firearms must be unloaded and cased; bows must be unstrung and cased while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day-use area, parking area, etc.).

Go to www.mndnr.gov/ regulations/hunting to review the entire set of laws and regulations before you enter a state forest.

40

Rum River

Rum River State Forest is located in western Kanabec and northern Mille Lacs counties. This state forest is broken into three areas. The largest area of the forest is located between State Highway 47 and U.S. 169, just south of Mille Lacs WMA. The second area is located just west of Onamia and south of Kathio State Park and the third is located between Highway 169 and Morrison County, north of Four Brook WMA.

Enjoy this state forest while staying at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, which borders the smaller portion of the Rum River State Forest. Or camp right in the forest! For more information on the state forest go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forest.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, berry picking, and hunting.

Savanna

Fish or swim in the bountiful lakes, bike or hike to your heart's content, enjoy 80 miles of grant-in-aid snowmobile trails and 17 miles of cross-country skiing, or snowshoe in the winter months in Savanna State Forest. If you want to find a place to relax in the peace and quiet of your own spacious campsite, then look no further. Hay Lake Campground has it all, plus a swimming beach and water access to Hay Lake, which is home to panfish, crappie, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye. Many of the campsites are located lakeside and have access to hiking trails. Hay Lake Campground is a great alternative to the more developed and heavily used Savanna State Park. For more information on the state forest go to www. mndnr.gov/state forests.

Recreational opportunities include camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, and ATV riding.



Smokey Bear

This state forest is located in central Koochiching County along the Canadian border and is sandwiched between the Big Fork River State Canoe Route and Little Fork River State Canoe Route.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, berry picking, and hunting.

Smoky Hills

Rolling to moderately steep slopes characterize the nearly 24,000-acre Smoky Hills State Forest. Enjoy 30 miles of snowmobile trails and exceptional hunting for deer and grouse. The Shell River and numerous small shallow lakes dotting the area provide abundant opportunities to view shorebirds. The forest itself is a mix of hardwood and jack pine. Check out the southern half of the forest for fall foliage viewing and fruit and mushroom picking.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, picnic area, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and ATV riding.



Snake River

Snake River State Forest is largely undeveloped. The best access to the state forest is via the Snake River State Canoe Route, hunting/walking trails, and several miles of OHV trails.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, fishing, OHV riding, and hunting.

Solana

The terrain in Solana State Forest is mostly level to gently rolling and contains many swampy areas. Slightly over half of the area within the forest is wetland. Because of the level topography and heavy soil, these trails are susceptible to temporary closures in early spring or following major rain events. Please check the DNR Web site or call ahead to make sure the trails are open. For more information on trail conditions go to www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, ATV and OHM riding, and snowmobiling.

St. Croix

The St. Croix State Forest serves as a great access point to the St. Croix State Canoe Route, which is part of a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River.

St. Croix State Forest is also the home to the picturesque Tamarack River, a narrow, twisting river that slowly makes its way south to join the much larger St. Croix. Although often shallow, the Tamarack changes character following a heavy rain and becomes fast, deep, and dangerous.

Recreational facilities in the forest include the Boulder Campground and Day-Use Area, which features 20 drive-in sites, and the Tamarack Horse Campground and Day-Use Area, which features 55 horse sites. Hikers, bikers, and OHV riders can access the Willard Munger State Trail, Gandy Dancer Trail, and St. Croix State Forest OHV trails. For more information on the state forest go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests; for more information on state trails go to www.mndnr.gov/ state_trails; for more information on the OHV trails go to www.mndnr.gov/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include camping, hunting, picnicking, swimming, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV and OHM riding, and snowmobiling.

A first time for everyone—trails are shared

State forest trails have many users, from horseback riders to mountain bikers to OHV riders. Most state forest snowmobile trails connect to state trails and local grant-in-aid trails, providing a system stretching thousands of miles. Check the state forest maps before you venture off to see who you may meet up with on the trails.

Trails are shared by all, tread lightly.

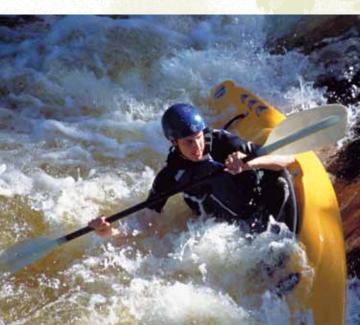
Sturgeon River

View beautiful second-growth northern forest as well as lots of wildlife. Bald eagles, hairy woodpeckers, kingfishers, wood ducks, beavers, and river otters all can be found within this forest.

Mountain bikers can pick between the Taconite and Arrowhead state trails to ride through upland portions of this state forest or if you prefer the water, you can take a trip on the Little Fork River State Canoe Route. The choice is yours. For more information on state trails go to www.mndnr/gov/state_trails; for more information on the state canoe route go to www. mndnr.gov/watertrails.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, camping is available at McCarthy Beach State Park or in the George Washington and Kabetogama state forests. For more information on the state park go to www.mn.gov/state_parks; for more information on state forests go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and hunting.



Getaways to the Great Outdoors

Minnesota State Forests are not the only place for your outdoor activities. Our state has millions of acres to fit all your outdoor needs all year 'round. Whether you're seeking beautiful scenery, fishing, taking a bike ride through the prairies, or needing to quench your thirst for adventure, there are public lands and waters near you. Explore and enjoy your state parks, scientific and natural areas, wildlife management areas, state trails, and, more than 10,000 lakes!

Minnesota's 72 state parks and recreation areas include some of the most scenic places in the state to camp, hike, and paddle. Residents can fish for free at most state parks, and families can learn how to geocache, snowshoe, make maple syrup, and more by attending interpretive programs. Find complete trip planning information—along with a calendar of events—at mnstateparks.info.

Minnesota's living museums of Scientific and Natural Areas have a thousand stories to tell-of Minnesota's lands, waters, plants, and animals past and future. There are more than 140 SNAs throughout Minnesota. Find out all the viewing possibilities at www.mndnr.gov/snas.

Wildlife Management Areas, with more than a million acres statewide, provide unmatched opportunities for wildlife and bird-watching. See sandhill cranes, herons, prairie chickens, shore birds, and our largest waterfowl, the trumpeter swan. Find out all the wildlife opportunties at www.mndnr. gov/wmas.

State Trails offer 1,266 miles (575 of which are paved) for hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and ATV use. Find a trail for you at **www.mndnr.gov/state_trails**.

Take advantage of other Minnesota DNR programs and events such as **MinnAqua** fishing and aquatic education activities and workshops, hunter and ATV education workshops, youth hunts, **Becoming an Outdoors Woman** workshops, and more. Check out all the possibilities at **www.mndnr.gov**.

Two Inlets

Two Inlets State Forest's 26,000 plus acres are set in a landscape that's gently rolling to hilly, with scattered lowlands.

The Two Inlets State Trail provides more than 27 miles of snowmobile trail that connects to other area trails. Boat accesses are provided on Hungry Man, Cedar, and Two Inlets lakes. Two Inlets Lake provides good fishing for all warm-water species. This state forest is known for excellent white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and small game hunting.

The Hungryman Lake Campground and Day-Use Area is located eight miles south of Itasca State Park. The campground features 14 campsites, a boat ramp, a picnic table, swimming, and fishing. The campsites sit on a pine-covered rise above Hungry Man Lake.

Recreational opportunities include camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, swimming, hiking, ATV and OHM riding, and snowmobiling.

Waukenabo

Waukenabo State Forest consists of scattered lands near the city of Palisade in Aitkin county. There is no developed trail system within this forest. Visitors are welcome to explore this state forest while visiting the Little Willow River WMA, Main Unit.

Waukenabo State Forest at 15,461 acres is considered small, but it has one of the best ATV trails in the country passing through it: the Soo Line ATV Trail-South. The Soo Line ATV Trail runs from Genola, Minnesota, to Saunders Junction, Wisconsin. For more information on the OHV trail go to www. mndnr/ohv.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, and hunting.

Wealthwood

Wealthwood State Forest offers more than 15,000 acres of rolling hills with numerous lakes, rivers, and wetlands that attract waterfowl such as mallards, ring-necked ducks, and Canada geese.

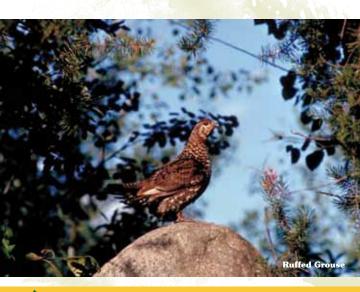
Ripple River WMA is within the forest and is home to sandhill cranes, woodcocks, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owls, snowshoe hares, brown creepers, chorus frogs, and four-toed salamanders.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hunting, and snowmobiling.



State Forests are here for you today and tomorrow.

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 MNDNR applies multipleuse management activities to allocate state forest resources to meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. Management activities include timber harvesting, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreational development. Wildlife management includes creating permanent openings in the forest to produce forage for white-tailed deer and planting shrubs to produce seeds and berries to benefit birds. The MNDNR also protects the forest and surrounding areas from wildfires.



Welsh Lake

Welsh Lake State Forest has two great recreational facilities within its borders: Heartland State Trail and Leech Lake.

The Heartland State Trail runs through the west side of the state forest and is known for being one of the first rail-to-trail projects in the country. Leech Lake is known for its world-class walleye, muskie, largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegills fishing.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, camping is available at Paul Bunyan State Forest. For more information on the state forest go to www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.

🕴 White Earth

The 160,000-acre White Earth State Forest is divided into three units. Most of the forest is located within the boundaries of the White Earth Indian Reservation. Within the forest you will find both motorized and nonmotorized trails, a boat launch, camping, a fishing pier, a historic site, a rest area, and several WMAs to explore. This state forest has 65 miles of dual-purpose forest roads and 70 miles of snowmobile trails.

Visit White Earth State Forest for the day and stay in Itasca State Park overnight, only minutes away. For more information on the state park go to www.mndnr.gov/state_parks.

Recreational opportunities include dispersed camping, bird-watching, fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling.

Whiteface River

The Little Whiteface River WMA borders the north side of the Whiteface River State Forest. This WMA is mostly wet lowland and difficult to access. For more information on the WMA go to www.mndnr.gov/wmas.

There are no campgrounds within the forest. However, dispersed camping is allowed, and campgrounds are available at Savanna Portage State Park and Indian Lake Campground in the Cloquet Valley State Forest. For more information on the state park to go www.mn.gov/state_parks; for more information on the state forest go to www.mndnr.gov/state forests.

State Forest Rules:

Below is a partial list of rules and laws regulating forest activities. A complete list is available at www.mndnr.gov/state_forests.

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.

Campfires - Recreational fires of less than 3 feet diameter, cleared of combustible materials 5 feet around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.

Day-Use Area - Designated dayuse areas are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for picnicking, swimming, and boating where available. Alcohol consumption is not allowed.

 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.

Hunting, trapping, and fishing - Hunting, trapping, and fishing in state forests are allowed during the appropriate season and with the correct license. State game refuges within state forests are closed to hunting unless posted as open. State forests 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.

State Forest	Day-Use Area	Designated Campsites	Accessible Campsites	Horse Campsites	Forest Class.
Badoura					L
Battleground					С
Bear Island ³					L
Beltrami Island	1	1		1	М
Big Fork					М
Birch Lakes	1	1	1		С
Blackduck					M
Bowstring Buena Vista ²		<i></i>			L L
Buena Vista ² Burntside ^{1,3}					L L, C
Chengwatana		1	1		L, C L
Cloquet Valley ^{2,4}	1	1	1		M, L, C
Crow Wing	1	1			L .
D.A.R. ³					L
Emily					L
Finland ²	1	1	1		M, L, C
Fond du Lac					L
Foot Hills					L
General C.C. Andrew		1	1		L M, L,
George Washington ² Golden Anniversary					M, L, L
Grand Portage ²		1			M, L
Hill River ³		· · ·			L
Huntersville		1	1	1	Ĺ
Insula Lake					c
Kabetogama	1	1	1		М
Koochiching					М
Lake Isabella					С
Lake Jeanette ^{1,3}					L, C
Lake of the Woods					М
Land O'Lakes ³	1				L
Lost River Lyons					M L
Mississippi	1				L
Headwaters					
Nemadii	1	1	1		L
Northwest Angle	1				М
Pat Bayle		1			L
Paul Bunyan	1	1	1		L
Pillsbury	1	1		1	С
Pine Island					М
Red Lake					М
Remer B ID Managerial					L
RJD Memorial Hardwood Forest ⁵	1	1	✓	1	L
Rum River					L
Sand Dunes	1	1	1	1	C
Savanna ³	1	1			L
Smokey Bear					М
Smoky Hills					L
Snake River ^{2,3}					L, C
Solana					L
St. Croix	1		1	/	L
Sturgeon River ^{2,4,6}	,				M, L
Two Inlets Waukenabo ³					L L
Waukenabo ³ Wealthwood					L
Welsh Lake					C
White Earth ⁴					L
Whiteface River					Č
					and the second second

¹Portions located within the BWCAW are closed to all motor vehicle use ²Some portions also classified as Managed, Limited, and/or Closed ³Effective September 1, 2009

⁴Effective December 31, 2009

⁵NOTE: The big game hunter/trapper motor vehicle use exception DOES NOT APPLY within the RJD Memorial Hardwoood State Forest. ⁶Portions outside Superior National Forest.

Activities abound in a state forest. Choose your fun:

- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Geocaching
- Canoeing
- Snowmobiling
- Cross-County Skiing
- Biking
- OHV riding
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Berry picking
- Birding
- Wildlife viewing
- Wildflower viewing

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This information is available in an alternative format upon request.

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Camping in State Forests... *Your* Way

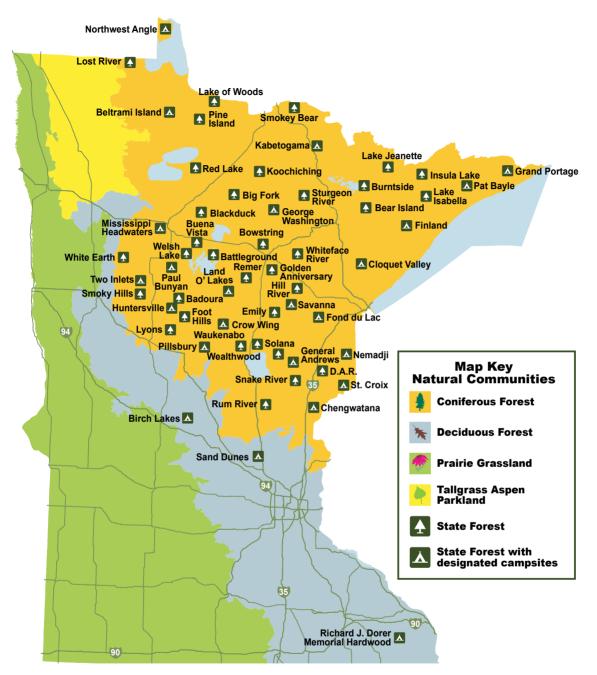
There are four different ways of camping in a state forest.

1. Individual Campsites- campsites designated for individuals or single families. The sites are designed to furnish only the basic needs of the camper. Most consist of a cleared area, fire ring, table, vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water. Campsites are all on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are collected at the sites.

2. Group Campsites- campsites designated for larger groups. The sites are designed to furnish only the basic needs of the camper. Most consist of a cleared area, fire ring, table, vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water. Group sites are all on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are collected at the sites.

3. Horse Campsites- campsites where horses are allowed. The sites are designed to furnish only the basic needs of the camper. Most consist of a cleared area, fire ring, table, vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water. In addition, these campsites also may have picket lines and compost bins for manure disposal. Campsites are all on a first-come, firstserved basis. Fees are collected at the sites.

4. Dispersed Camping- camping outside the designated campsites and campgrounds on state forest land. There are no furnished amenities. These campsites are free and no permit is required. Please practice the "leave no trace" camping and pack out what you packed in.



M=Managed Forest roads, trails, and nondesignated access routes are open to recreational motor vehicle use unless posted closed. No vehicle use off road, trail, or access route is permitted. For hunting/trapping exceptions, see hunting regulations at www.mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting.

L=Limited Forest roads are open to motor vehicle use unless posted closed. Trails and nondesignated routes are closed to motor vehicle use, except where designated and signed to permit specific motor vehicle use. No vehicle use off road or trail is permitted. For hunting/trapping exceptions, see hunting regulations at www.mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting.

C=Closed Forest roads are open to motor vehicles licensed for highway use. No OHVs are permitted, except that OHVs may operate on frozen public waters (e.g., across lakes for ice fishing). Areas closed to motor vehicle use by statute or regulations (e.g., state forest lands within the BWCAW) are automatically classified as "closed." The hunting/trapping exceptions do not apply in "closed" forests.