

Off-Highway Vehicle Access to Huntersville Forest Landing State Forest Campground

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a state forest campground?

State forest campgrounds are designated campgrounds in state forests. They provide basic needs while camping such as picnic tables, fire rings, water and toilets. Visitors should not typically expect showers, flush toilets or electric at campgrounds. The campgrounds are managed by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails.

What is an off-highway vehicle?

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) consist of three classes: All-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road vehicles (ORVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs). ATVs are three to six-wheeled recreational vehicles that are less than 65 inches in width. ORVs are recreational vehicles over 65 inches and OHMs are two-wheeled recreational vehicles.

What uses are there currently at Huntersville Forest Landing Campground?

Huntersville Forest Landing is managed as a general use campground. This campground has twenty-four drive-in campsites, including one handicap-accessible campsite, picnic tables, drinking water, and five vault toilets. The campground provides access to the Crow Wing River for swimming, fishing, and boating. The campground is considered "primitive," designed to furnish only the basic needs of the camper. The campsites consist of a cleared area, fire ring, and table. All sites are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why is the DNR doing this? Why Huntersville Forest Landing?

The DNR recognizes that camping opportunities for campers with off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is limited in state forests. Allowing campers with OHVs direct access from campsites to trails will improve their recreational experience.

What is the DNR considering at Huntersville Forest Landing?

The DNR is seeking comments about the possibility of allowing OHV access to the campsites within Huntersville Forest Landing Campground. Based on public feedback, the DNR can do one of four options: Keep it as it is (no OHV access), allow OHV access seasonally, allow OHV access to certain areas of the campground or allow OHV access to the entire campground.

Are there any state forest campgrounds that currently allow OHV ingress/egress?

Yes. Several campgrounds currently permit OHV access throughout the state. They include Bemis Hill, Blueberry Hill and Faunce in Beltrami Island State Forest, Finland in Finland State Forest, Gafvert in Nemadji State Forest, Larson Lake and Lost Lake in George Washington State Forest and Snake Creek and Trout Valley in the Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

What limitations will be placed on the OHVs accessing the campgrounds?

The OHVs accessing the campgrounds will be subjected to the same rules and regulations as highway licensed vehicles. This includes being registered in accordance with state law, following all posted signs and rules, using only designated roadways and campground spurs/parking areas and no recreational or utilitarian riding within the campground.

What are the steps in the process? What still needs to happen?

The proposal has already been reviewed by an interdisciplinary DNR team familiar with the campground area for conflicts with existing use and resource concerns. Once the public review is complete, the DNR will review comments received and make any necessary changes. The final recommendation will be reviewed and approved by DNR leadership.

How do I get more information? How do I comment?

You may get more information and comment by contacting the Parks and Trails Area Supervisor Dave Schotzko who is leading the project at david.schotzko@state.mn.us or 218-308-2367. You may also attend the public meeting on Wednesday November 20, 2019 at the Menahga Public School, 216 Aspen Ave. S.E., Menahga, MN 56464 for more information or to comment. Additionally, you can contact the DNR Information Center at 1-888-MINNDNR. Comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Monday December 9, 2019. Comments may be submitted:

- Via email to david.schotzko@state.mn.us.
- Via mail to David Schotzko, Area Supervisor, Parks and Trails Division, Minnesota DNR, 3296 State Park Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601