

AT A GLANCE: Nemadji State Forest

Location	NE Pine County and SE Carlton County
Classification	Limited
Highway-Licensed Vehicles:	May be used on designated forest roads
Off-Highway Vehicles:	May be used on designated forest roads, as well as on forest trails signed as open to the specified type of off-highway vehicle.
Approximate Area	93,000 acres state-owned 2,800 acres private and county-owned
Natural Resource Profile	<p>Topography varies from gently rolling upland with large swamp areas in the south to steep stream valleys and elongated swamps in the northeast. The northern third of the forest drains to Lake Superior via the Nemadji watershed, while the southern two-thirds are in the St. Croix River watershed.</p> <p>Wetlands cover a large part of the forest.</p> <p>Predominant tree species include stands of quaking and bigtooth aspen, northern hardwoods, paper birch, balsam fir, red oak, and lowland conifers.</p> <p>Habitat improvement focuses on white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl.</p>
Primary Uses	Forestry, seasonal recreation, tourism, hunting, habitat.
Recreation Types	Snowmobiling, off-highway vehicle riding, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, biking, camping, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching. The Matthew Lourey and Gandy Dancer state trails go through this forest.

Designation Summary	Approximate miles/acres
ATV Class 1/OHM (new designation)	5.3 miles
ATV Class 1 & 2/OHM (new designation)	2.2 miles
OHM-only (new designation)	3.4 miles
ORV-only (new designation)	3.3 miles
ATV Class 2 added to existing ATV1/OHM	0.2 miles
ORV use added to existing ATV/OHM trail	7.1 miles
ORV use replacing ATV/OHM use	0.4 miles
Hunter-Walking Trail (new designation)	31.9 miles
Areas with limitations on off-trail use during hunting and trapping (2 areas)	26,979 acres total
OHV trail undesignated	17 miles

Description of Changes:

Approximately 32 miles of hunter-walking trail is designated and will be managed by the DNR for hunter access. This includes approximately 3 miles of undesignated OHV trail.

The DNR has designated new OHV trails and changed the designation of existing OHV trails to improve recreational riding opportunities for all motorized users. Approximately 17 miles of existing OHV trail was undesignated. Reasons for OHV undesignation include unsustainable treadways, lack of use, and conversion to non-motorized trail. Overall, there is an approximate 3-mile net decrease in OHV trails in the Nemadji state forest.

For all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), additional loops will be created, including connections to the Matthew Lourey State Trail in the southern part of the forest and a connection from the Harlis Road to the Yellow Birch trail in the northern part of the forest.

For off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), several new single-track trails are designated, including a new segment connecting the Matthew Lourey Trail to the Net Lake Road.

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) will have approximately 11 miles of new opportunity, including 3 segments of trail designated for ORVs only. The new ORV designations will complete a 30+ mile loop through the Nemadji State Forest using a combination of trails and existing forest roads.

The DNR also plans to develop short technical loops for ORV-only at several locations, to be determined, along the Park forest road. The DNR will locate and develop these loops in consultation with ORV users, possibly through the grant-in-aid (GIA) program. In addition, the DNR will evaluate inactive gravel pits for possible use as technical riding areas.

The DNR has designated two "areas with limitations", totaling approximately 27,200 acres, where ATVs may not be used off-trail and highway-licensed vehicles, ORVs, and ATVs may not be used on undesignated routes during hunting and trapping activities, per Minnesota Statutes, [section 84.926](#).

Implementation:

The new designations and changes in designation will be effective January 1, 2014. New trails will not be open for use and new trail uses will not be allowed until the DNR completes trail improvements and signs the trails open over the next several seasons. At this time, the DNR expects to implement the "areas with limitations" in phases, posting informational notices during the 2014 deer hunting season, and enforcing the restrictions in 2015.

OHV = Off-highway vehicle (includes ATV, OHM, ORV)

ATV = All-terrain vehicle

OHM = Off-highway motorcycle

ORV = Off-road vehicle (includes 4-wheel drive vehicles; does not include ATVs/OHMs)

AWL = Area with limitations where there are no exceptions for off-trail ATV use and undesignated trail use during hunting and trapping per Minnesota Statutes, section 84.926.