

## AT A GLANCE: St. Croix State Forest

---

Location	Pine County
Classification	Limited
Highway-Licensed Vehicles:	May be used on designated forest roads.
Off-Highway Vehicles:	May be used on designated forest roads, and on forest trails signed as open to the specific type of off-highway vehicle.
Area (acres)	27,105 state-administered 17,453 privately owned
Natural Resource Profile	<p>Topography varies from gently rolling uplands with small lakes and streams to steep valleys along the St. Croix and Lower Tamarack rivers. The Tamarack River flows through the forest, and the St. Croix River flows along a portion of the eastern border.</p> <p>The eastern part of the forest, where soils are less rich, is dominated by aspen types interspersed with red oak/northern hardwood types and pine; the western and northwestern portions, with better soils, are dominated by stands of red and white oak, and northern hardwoods, interspersed with aspen and lowland species.</p> <p>Wildlife species include many nongame birds, deer, bear, wolves, bobcats, fisher, mink, turkey, and ruffed grouse.</p>
Current Uses	Forestry, seasonal recreation, tourism, hunting, habitat improvement.
Recreation Types	Snowmobiling, dog-sledding, horseback riding, hiking, off-highway vehicle riding, cross-country skiing, biking, camping, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching, fishing, and canoeing; the Matthew Lourey and Gandy Dancer state trails go through this forest.

Designation Summary	Approximate miles/acres
Class 1 ATV/OHM (new designation)	2.5 miles
Class 1 & 2 ATV/OHM (new designation)	0.4 miles
ORV use added to existing ATV/OHM trail	7.8 miles
ORV-only (new designation)	0.5 miles
Hunter-Walking Trail (new designation)	8.3 miles
Area with limitations on off-trail use during hunting and trapping	3,280 acres
OHV trail undesignated	4.6 miles

### Description of Changes:

The DNR has designated approximately 3.5 miles of new trail, added summer ATV/OHM use to an existing dogsled trail (approximately 2 miles), and ORV use to nearly 8 miles of existing ATV/OHM trail. A half-mile segment of new ORV-only trail will provide a return loop near the Tamarack River overlook. The DNR also plans to develop several short ORV technical loops off existing trails. The specific locations and design for these loops will be developed in consultation with user groups.

The DNR has undesignated 7 trail segments totaling approximately 4.6 miles. The segments were undesignated because they are unsustainable, rarely used, or do not provide good recreational opportunity.

The DNR has designated a 3280-acre "area with limitations" where ATVs may not be used off-trail during hunting and trapping activities, per Minnesota Statutes, [section 84.926](#). Within this area, the DNR has designated 8.3 miles of hunter-walking trail, primarily on existing routes.

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 "area 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)

HWT = Hunter-walking trail

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.