

ISINOURS MANAGEMENT UNIT 6/02

TRAILS

- Snowmobile
- Non-Motorized Trails
- State Trail (paved)

TRAIL USES

Summer

- W** Walking/Hiking
- B** Bicycling

Winter

- X** Ski Touring

- Forest Management Tour numbered sites
See Text Side of Map

OWNERSHIP

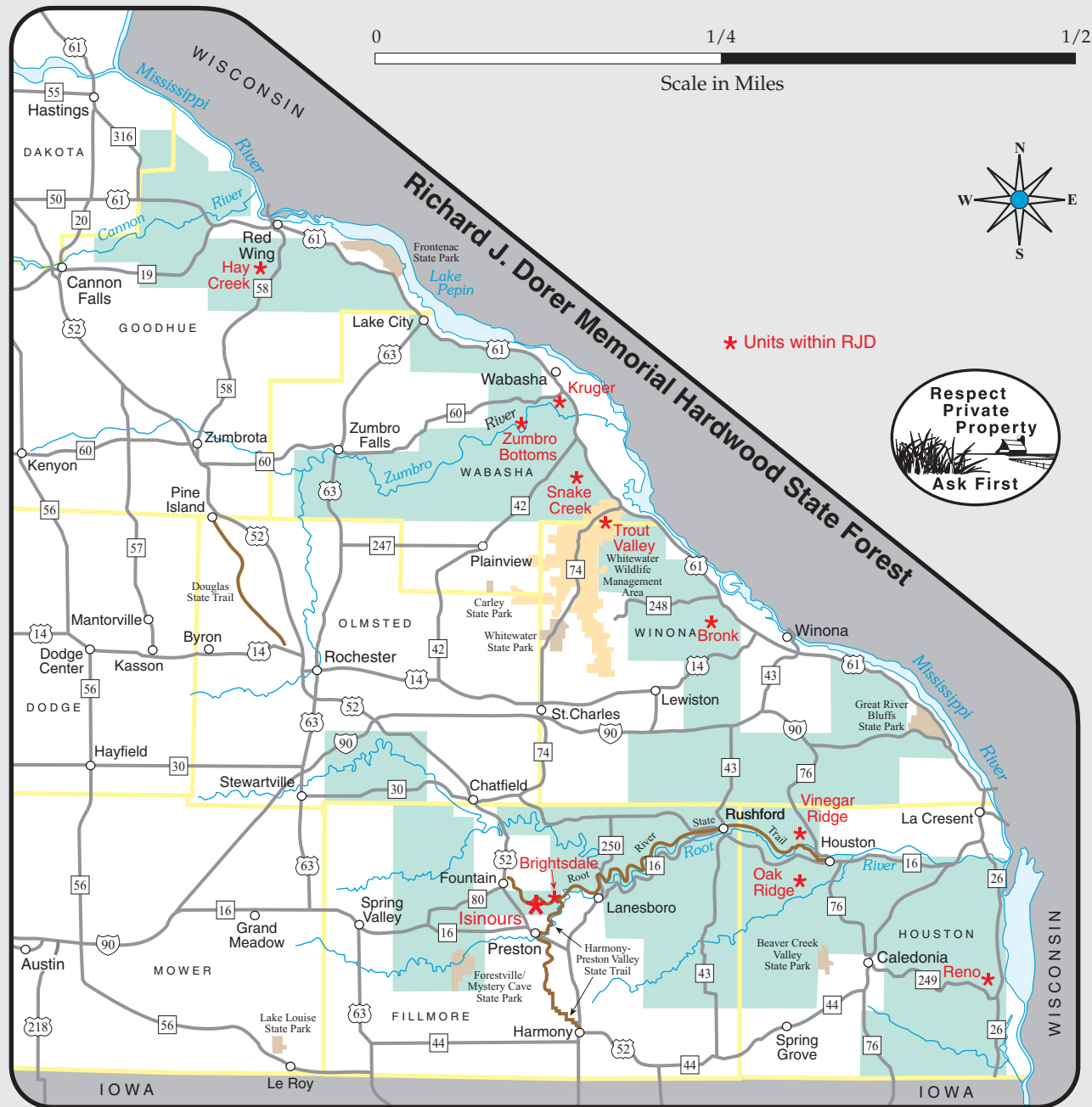
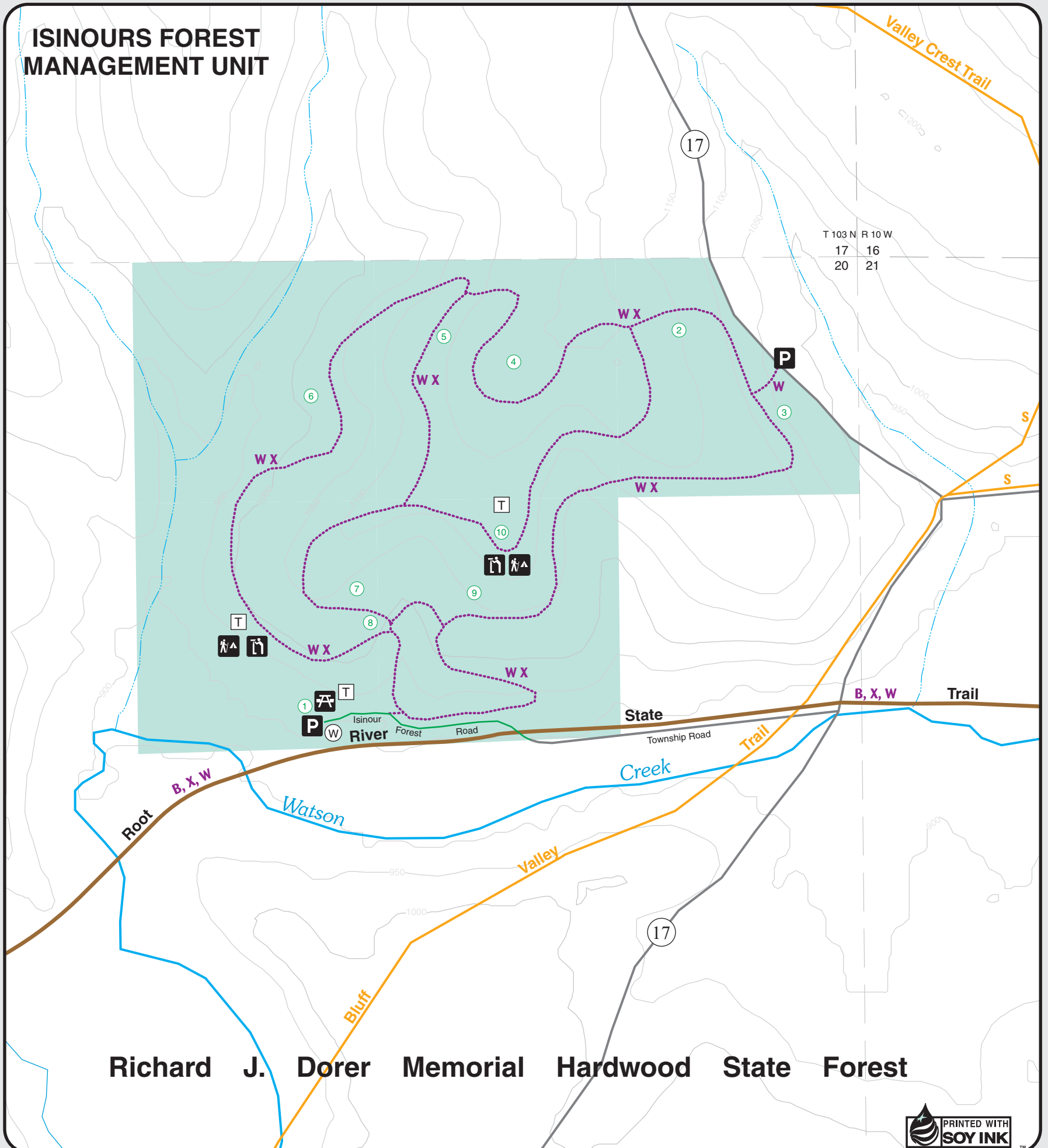
- State Forest Land
- Wildlife Managed Lands
- State Park Land

FACILITIES

- P** Parking
- Overlook
- Picnic Area
- Remote Campsite
- T** Toilet
- W** Water



ISINOURS FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT



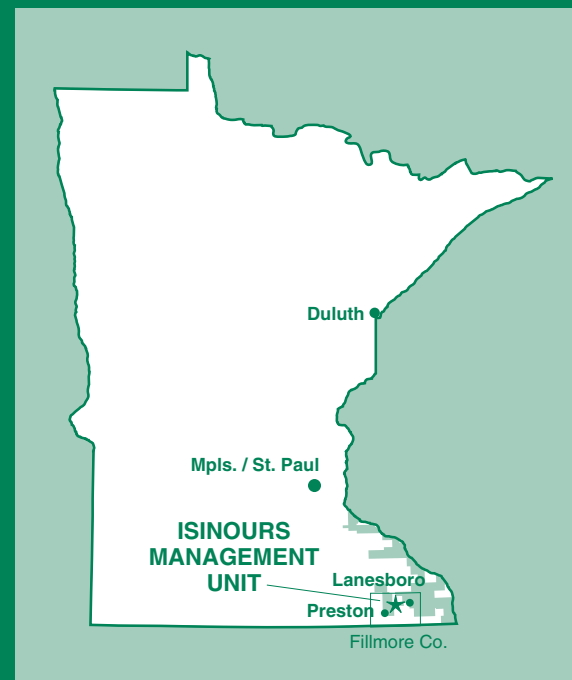
RICHARD J. DORER MEMORIAL HARDWOOD STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP

ISINOIRS MANAGEMENT UNIT

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



The Isinours Demonstration Woodland is part of the approximately 40,000 acres of state forest land in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. It is located about three miles north of Preston near the South Branch of the Root River. To get there take County Highway 17 north from Preston to the Root River Trail. The parking area is on the north side of the trail and west of Highway 17.

Minnesota's 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 Department of Natural Resources applies multiple use management principles to allocate state forest resources to meet the needs of Minnesota's citizens. Management actions are planned to maximize sustained yields of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest's productivity.

This 188-acre tract of land was one of the first management units to be acquired in Fillmore County following the establishment of the Minnesota Memorial Hardwood State Forest in 1961. The forest was established to control soil erosion and demonstrate proper forestry techniques while providing recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat and timber production. The forest was renamed to honor Richard J. Dorer, a leader in the crusade to establish the forest, after his death in 1974. Plans for the Isinour's Unit envisioned it as an area where proper forest management techniques could be studied and demonstrated to the public. Many experimental plantings were done to show the broad range of forest management opportunities in the area. Not all of them show successful forest management, so follow the tour closely.

FOREST MANAGEMENT TOUR

1. Trailhead - The parking area, toilets and shelter were developed here so visitors to the Root River Trail and Isinour's Trail could use them. Isinour's Trail is marked for cross country skiing and can be used for other non-motorized activities during the months without snow. There are several other foot trails and fire breaks along the trail which may be used, but they are not maintained and groomed.

2. Walnut Plantation - It was recently discovered that this plantation has a layer of blue clay 2 - 6 feet deep in the soil. This clay layer has blocked the tree root development and slowed their growth. This shows the importance of soil exploration, especially in areas that have not been planted to trees before.

3. Central hardwoods - This stand of walnut, red and white oak, basswood, black cherry and ash is ready to be harvested. The wood is likely to be used for furniture and other high quality wood products. Many of these trees can be used for veneer, thin layers of wood used to cover less attractive lumber. These trees have developed well because Central Hardwoods grow best on the cooler and wetter north and east facing slopes which are not heated and dried by the sun as much as the south and west facing slopes. Also these woods have not been grazed by cattle which can damage the quality of trees.

4. Pine Plantation - white, norway and scotch pines have been planted here to provide wildlife shelter and potential softwood products. About 25 acres were planted here between 1966 and 1971.

5. Norway Spruce and White Cedar - These trees were planted to provide additional wildlife cover. Norway spruce and white cedar (*Arborvitae*) were chosen because they grow better than pine on the heavier and wetter soils on this site and because they hold their lower branches longer, providing better ground cover and windbreaks

for wildlife. White cedar is a favorite deer food, but they must have food they prefer more, since these trees are not heavily browsed.

6. West Facing Slope - Note the change in the tree species as you descend the slope. The upper part is rocky with shallow soils. Burr oaks are one of the few trees that will grow on these hot and dry slopes. Further down, the slope is not as steep and more soil has accumulated as it erodes down the hill. These soils are deeper and more fertile and are growing higher quality trees like red and white oak and some walnut and black cherry.

7. White Pine Plantation - This 1966 plantation is growing well and already has some trees that could be used for lumber. White pine is native to this area and grows much better than the norway pine in the upper rows of this plantation. Many single 100-200 year old white pines can be seen on the steep bluffs in the area.

8. Butternut Plantation - This plantation was planted in 1967 prior to the knowledge that a disease was damaging much of the native butternut trees. The butternut canker, caused by a fungus discovered in the 1970's, creates small splits in the bark and can eventually damage the bark enough to kill the branch or tree. This plantation can still produce nuts for wildlife.

9. Walnut Plantation - These trees were planted in 1966. This is a poor site for walnut because the soil is shallow and it is hot and dry because it faces south and west. Notice how much better the trees in the ravine to the west are doing. There is more moisture there and less direct sun.

10. Scenic Overlook - You are looking over part of the Watson Creek watershed and the Root River valley. Preston is 3 miles to the south. There is a small patch of prairie grasses along the trail in this area. One of the easiest to find is Big Bluestem; look for the tall grasses with the reddish purple on the lower parts of the stems and leaves.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Outdoor recreation facilities at Isinour's Demonstration Woodland include 3.2 miles of hiking/cross country ski trail and two remote campsites. The trails are arranged in four loops and range from easy on some portions to most difficult on the steep slopes. Beginning skiers should exercise caution when skiing steep hills. The unit is located adjacent to the Root River State Trail, a 42-mile trail that extends from the east of Fountain to Houston. All of the lands on the unit, except those that are leased and posted, are open to public hunting and trapping during established seasons.

STATE FOREST RULES

State forest lands are generally open for all types of outdoor recreation including, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and picking fruit and mushrooms. Rules and laws regulate some activities on forest lands. A partial list is included below. A complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

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 ft. diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 ft. around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.
Firearms	-Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in and within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area, etc.)
Camping	-Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted with some conditions. See complete rules.

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.

Special rules apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas. They are not included here.

TRAILS -Motor vehicle and off road rules

Classified Forest Lands. State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

State Forest Lands Classified as **Managed**:

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

• Motor vehicles may operate only on forest trails or areas that are **not** posted closed.

State Forest Lands Classified as **Limited**:

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

• Motor vehicles may operate **ONLY** on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**.

• Exception: Persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game or constructing hunting stands during October, November and December, or trapping during open seasons, may use ATVs off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions. **This exception does not apply in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.**

• Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest is classified as **LIMITED**.

• **Special Provision** - Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted closed and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. **No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances.**

State Forest Lands Classified as **Closed**:

• Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are **not allowed** except:

* Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.

* Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.

* Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

General Operating Restrictions
- anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.

• No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.

• No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:

* when the water body is ice covered.
* on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.

• Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.

• Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.

• Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.

• No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on forest lands.

• Mufflers must have a federally approved spark arrestor.

• Overall noise emission may not exceed 99 decibels at a distance of 20 inches. Many after market mufflers will not pass. Noise will be enforced.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS- Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed. In the Richard J. Dorer, horses and bicycles may travel only on designated trails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Trails and Waterways
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

651-296-6157 (Metro Area)

1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)

651-296-5484 (Metro Area)

1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

Area Forester
Route 2, Box 61A
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-2740

Area Trails & Waterways
2300 Silver Creek Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
(507) 285-7176

EMERGENCY SERVICES - DIAL 911

Fillmore County Sheriff
901 Houston Street
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-3874

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Harmony - 13 miles
(507) 886-6544

Spring Valley - 20 miles
(507) 346-7381

"Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquires should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240."

