

CLOQUET VALLEY STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



loquet Valley State Forest is located in southern St. Louis County about 20 miles north of Duluth. Major access routes include County Highways 4 & 44 north of Duluth, and County Highway 52 east of Cotton.

Logging of the virgin pine forests in this area took place in the late 1800s and early 1900s. At first, logs were transported by oxen. Later, horses and railroads were used to transport logs to mills in Cloquet, Duluth, and Two Harbors. Settlement of the forest area followed logging. Much of the land was unsuited for agriculture and many farms were abandoned, reverting to public ownership when delinquent taxes were not paid.

The Cloquet Valley State Forest was established by the state legislature in 1931. The original forest boundaries included parts of 12 townships. Subsequent legislative actions have expanded the forest to its present size of 316,467 acres, within which the Department of NaturalResources/ Division of Forestry manages 36,267 acres.

Today, aspen and paper birch stands cover the largest portion of the forest. White spruce and balsam fir cover about 25% of the area. Smaller acreages of red, white and jack pines, cedar, tamarack, black spruce, maple, and basswood are also found.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Minnesota's state forests produce timber and other forest crops, provide outdoor recreation, protect watersheds, and perpetuate rare and distinctive species of native flora and fauna. State forests are multiple-use areas that are managed to provide a sustained yield of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest environment. Approximately 700 acres of timber. primarily aspen, birch, and balsam fir, are available for harvest each year. Red pine and white spruce are planted on about 200 acres annually. The Division of Forestry provides wildfire protection for all lands within the forest. An 80-acre impoundment and 42 forest openings are maintained on state lands to improve wildlife habitat.

RECREATION FACILITIES

The Cloquet Valley State Forest provides many opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast. Popular activities include camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, boating, and snowmobiling.

The Cedar Bay Campground has 17 campsites, a picnic area, swimming beach, water access site, and a one-mile hiking trail located on Bear Lake.

To reach Bear Lake from Duluth take County Highway 4 north nine miles to County Highway 44; turn right and go 26 miles to Bear Lake State Forest Road; turn left and follow the signs for approximately four miles.

Indian Lake Campground has 22 campsites, a picnic area, swimming beach and a water access site. The campground is located on County Highway 44 in the northeastern corner of the state forest.

Indian Lake Campground is also an access point on the Cloquet River Canoe Route. There are three segments of the canoe route, totaling 33 river miles, within the Cloquet Valley State Forest. The first segment begins at Indian Lake and ends 9.5 miles downstream at Severson Landing; follow the same directions to reach Cedar Bay Campground. The second segment consists of the 12 miles between Severson Landing and Dr. Barney's Landing. This landing has two campsites and is located at the end of the Carrol State Forest Road. The third segment runs 11 miles from Dr. Barney's Landing to Island Lake, south of the state forest on County Highway 4. There are portages around several rapids within the forest.

Ness Park and Lever Beach Picnic Areas are located on the Whiteface Reservoir. There are swimming beaches at both locations. From Duluth, take County Highway 4 north for 34 miles and turn right on Blais Road.

A state historic site marks the location of the Civilian Conservation Corp's Camp Brimson on Sullivan Lake. Facilities include a water access site and a picnic area. Sullivan Lake is two miles east of County Highway 4 on County Road 547.

The Taft Snowmobile Trail is 43 miles long, consisting of five loops. There is a shelter along the south loop and the entire trail is marked and groomed. The parking area serving the trail is 15 miles north of Duluth on U.S. Highway 53.

A seperate map of additional recreation facilities and the Cloquet Valley Snowmobile Trail in the eastern portion of the forest is available from the offices listed below.

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 may be discharged in Firearms

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 on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is

permitted with some conditions. See

complete rules.

Personal property

Camping

-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 and forest trails unless they are posted and designated

State Forest Lands Classified as **Limited**:

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

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**. Trails that are not posted open for motor vehicles are designated as non-motorized.

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

- * 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.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS- Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry/Trails and Waterways Unit Information Center 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 (651) 296-6699

Or TOLL FREE from within Minnesota 1-888-MINNDNR Telephone Device for the Hearing Impaired (651) 296-5484

Area Forest Supervisor 6163 Rice Lake Road Duluth, MN 55803 (218) 723-4791

Area Forest Supervisor Box 220, Highway 33 South Cloquet, MN 55720 (218) 879-0880

EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

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