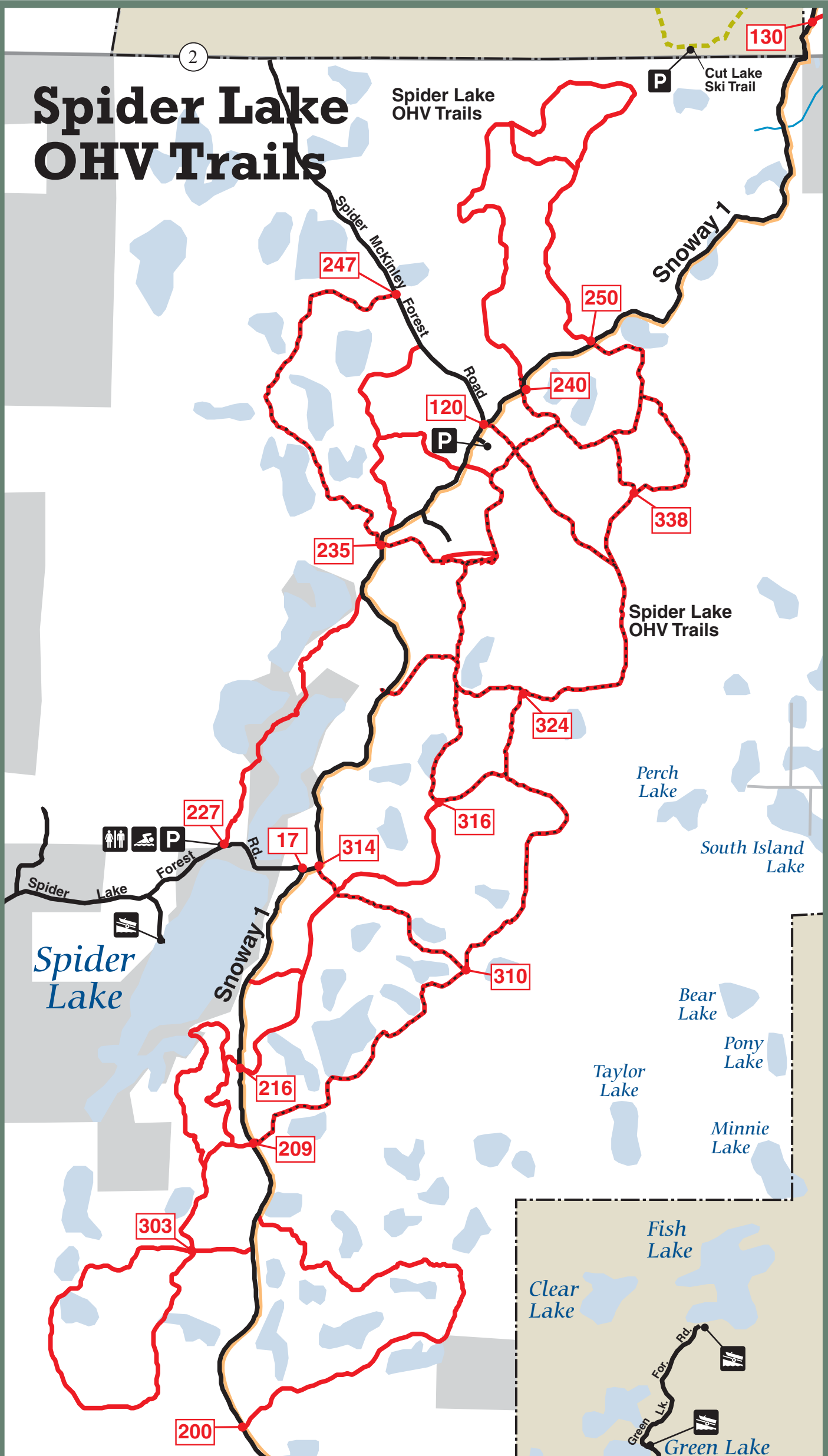


# Spider Lake OHV Trails



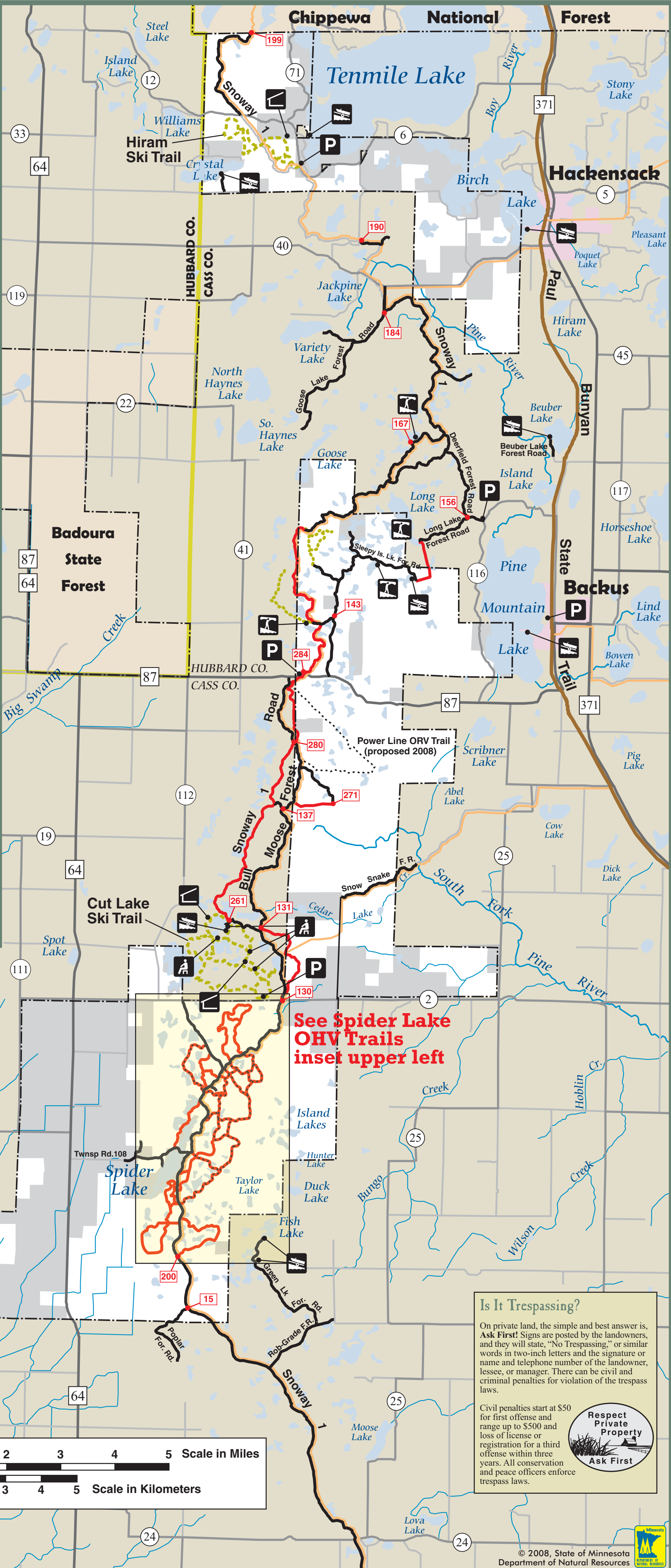
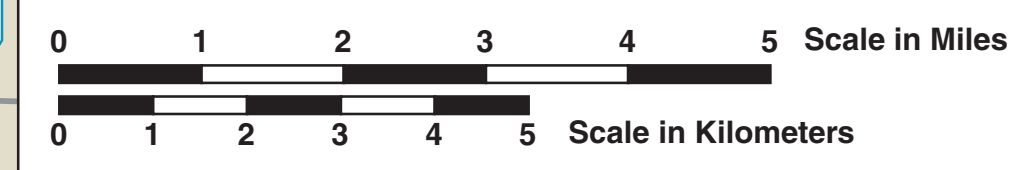
# Foot Hills State Forest

## Map Legend

- State Forest Roads  
(open to all motor vehicles unless posted closed)
- Minimum Maintenance Forest Roads  
open to all motor vehicles, unless posted closed—highway vehicles travel at own risk.
- ATV/OHM/ORV  
open to OHMs, ORVs and Class 1 and 2 ATVs
- ORV only
- ATV/OHM  
open to OHMs, Class 1 and 2 ATVs
- ATV/OHM  
open to OHMs and Class 1 ATVs only
- Snowmobile (Dec. 1 - Mar. 31)
- Ski Trails
- Hunter Walking Trails
- Paul Bunyan State Trail
- Trail Intersection Numbers
- Public Land within the Forest
- Private Land within the Forest
- Land outside of the Forest



- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Rest Area
- Carry-in Access
- Shelter
- Swimming
- Restrooms



**Is It Trespassing?**

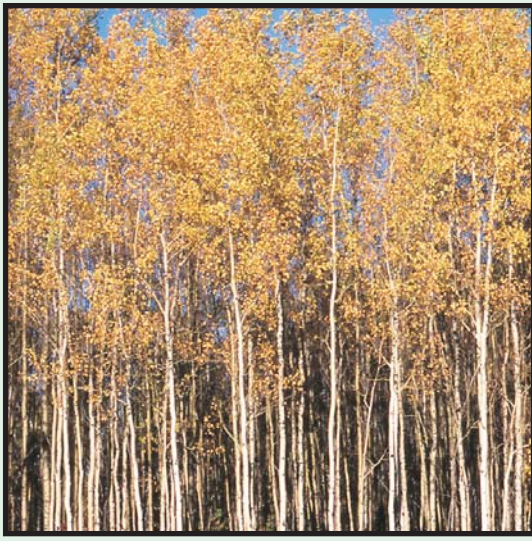
On private land, the simple and best answer is, **Ask First!** Signs are posted by the landowners, and they will state, "No Trespassing," or similar words in two-inch letters and the signature or name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws.

Civil penalties start at \$50 for first offense and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.



# Foot Hills State Forest

*A guide to recreational opportunities in Minnesota state forests*



## About the Forest

Size: 46,896 acres Year Created: 1931

**Forest Landscape:** Hundreds of small lakes and potholes scattered throughout the forest are evidence of the great ice movement that occurred in the region during the glacial era. The terrain in the forest varies from level in the southwest to rolling to steep in the remainder of the area.

**Management Activities:** Timber harvesting, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreational development occur in the forest. More than 5,000 cords of wood are harvested annually from the land that is publicly owned in the forest. The DNR also protects the forest and surrounding areas from wildfires.

**History:** In the late 1800s and early 1900s, logging was virtually the only business in the area where the forest is located. Sites cleared by harvesting were later homesteaded, but with little success as most of the land turned out to be unsuitable for agriculture. Many homesteads were abandoned, having become isolated when the logging companies left the region and no longer maintained their railroads.

Careful observers can still see the remnants of old logging roads, railroads, and homesteads in the forest. Over the years, the Minnesota Legislature enlarged the original forest reserve to its present size of 46,896 acres. The DNR manages 40 percent of the area, Cass County manages 25 percent, and 35 percent of land within forest boundaries is privately owned.

## Look for ...

### Predominant Tree Species:

Hardwood stands of quaking and bigtooth aspen, paper birch, red and sugar maple, and red and bur oak are common. Parcels of red and white pine can also be found. Individual, large red and white pine trees, survivors of the old logging days, are scattered throughout the forest. There are 36 acres of red pine and 30 acres of black ash that are designated old growth and protected from harvesting and other management activities.

**Wildlife:** White-tailed deer are abundant in the forest and the oak trees with their crops of acorns are attractive to black bears, gray squirrels, and ruffed grouse. The water created by the small lakes and potholes prevalent in the area draw in waterfowl such as mallards. Wood ducks can also be seen, not only attracted by the water, but by the acorns and cavity-nesting trees the oaks and other hardwoods provide.

Blue heron rookeries (breeding areas) have been spotted too. The furbearing beaver is prevalent in the forest, having plenty of trees like the aspen to create lodges and dams in available streams and ponds. A "species of special concern," the red-shouldered hawk, is a feature in the forest and bald eagles and osprey can also be seen throughout the area. Gray wolves have been spotted traveling through the forest too.

**Plants:** Red raspberries and blackberries attract serious "pickers" to the forest.



**Recreation:** The forest is a much-used recreation spot due to its close proximity to the metropolitan areas of St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. The terrain in the forest is especially susceptible to erosion and the heavy usage it gets adds to the severity of the problem. Visitors to the forest are asked to respect the land by obeying posted signs that direct what can be used where, and to be concerned about not disturbing nesting wildlife in the spring.

The forest is classified as "limited" in regards to all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles (see OHV information, right). This means that all trails available for these motorized activities will be posted. Any trail not posted is off limits. There are snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. Dispersed camping is allowed, per forest rules

Hunting, fishing, and trapping, in accordance with state regulations, are allowed on all public land within the state forest. Forest roads are open year-round to facilitate access to forest areas; however, there can be seasonal restrictions where roads are closed to minimize damage during spring breakup.

## What Is a Tree?

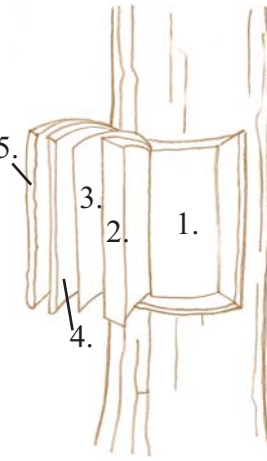
A tree is a woody plant that can grow to be 15 feet or higher and usually has a single stem and a crown (branched-out area) at the top.

## Reading the Rings

A tree's trunk is like a highway. It transports water and nutrients from the soil to the leaves. It transports food in the form of sugars from the leaves to the rest of the tree.

The trunk is made up of five layers:

1. Inner wood: dead xylem; stores food and supports the tree.
2. Xylem: tubelike cells that move water and nutrients from the roots to the rest of the tree.
3. Cambium: layer that produces phloem and xylem.
4. Phloem: tubelike cells that move sugar (called sap) from leaves to the rest of the tree.
5. Outer bark: dead phloem; protects the rest of the tree.



## Keep Trees a Healthy Part of Your World!

Plant trees. Make sure they are right for the site.



Help keep trees healthy. For example: Water trees during dry periods; avoid wounding bark with lawn mowers and weed whips; stake small-diameter, newly planted trees to give them added support; mulch trees to help retain moisture in the soil.

Celebrate Arbor Day and Arbor Month. In Minnesota, Arbor Day is the last Friday in April and May is Arbor Month.

Join or establish a local tree committee or board.

Go to [mndnr.gov/treecare](http://mndnr.gov/treecare), Minnesota's one-stop Web site for information on trees, tree care, and tree-related organizations.

## The Value of Trees

Trees help humans and other living things in many ways. Among them, they:

- Remove carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and other pollutants from the air.
- Produce oxygen.
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Provide wood products.
- Add beauty to the landscape.
- Provide a pleasant environment for recreation.



Help reduce residential energy consumption by shading homes in summer and sheltering them from wind in winter.

- Help protect streams and lakes by reducing runoff.
- Reduce noise pollution by absorbing sound.
- Increase property values.

Research has shown that trees can provide up to \$7 in benefits each year for every \$1 invested in caring for them. Benefits include increased property values, pollution control, and energy savings.

## Hunting

Hunting in state forests is allowed during the appropriate season and with the correct license. State forests do contain private holdings within their boundaries, many of which are signed "no hunting." Hunting on private land within a state forest is subject to state trespass laws.

### Firearms, deer stands:

Firearms must be unloaded and cased and bows must be unstrung and cased while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day-use area, etc.). The only exception is during an open hunting season when a person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm or strung bow to hunt outside of the recreation area.

Temporary and portable deer stands are allowed in state forests.

For more information on hunting and trapping, go to: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting)

## Fishing, Trapping

There are no special provisions or restrictions on fishing or trapping within state forests. Participants in these activities must have the proper license and abide by the same rules and seasons as anywhere else in the state.

For more information on fishing, go to: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing)

## Two Kinds of Trees

Minnesota is home to 52 native tree species and they can be divided into two main types: deciduous and coniferous.

Deciduous trees drop their leaves each autumn. Deciduous trees are sometimes called angiosperms, broadleaf trees, or hardwoods. Oaks, maples, and elms are deciduous trees.

Coniferous trees are trees that produce seeds without fruits or nuts. Most coniferous trees bear seeds in cones, have needles instead of broad leaves, and keep their needles in winter. Coniferous trees are also called gymnosperms, evergreens, or softwoods. Spruces, firs, and pines are coniferous trees.

To learn more about Minnesota's native trees, check out the following:

- "Trees of Minnesota." Minnesota's Bookstore, order number 9-1, phone: 800-657-3757, [www.minnesotasbookstore.com](http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com)
- "Minnesota Trees." Minnesota Extension Service, order number BU-00486-GO, phone: 800-876-8636, [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)
- "Nature Snapshots: Trees & Shrubs." [www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees\\_shrubs/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees_shrubs/index.html)

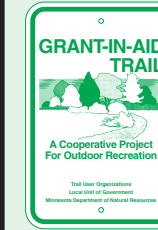
## Snowmobile Laws

Alcohol, nighttime driving, and high speeds are the main causes of snowmobile fatalities. Conservation officers remind snowmobilers:

- Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is unlawful.
- 50 miles per hour is the maximum legal speed for snowmobiling on frozen public waters and DNR controlled lands (conditions permitting, when no other restrictions apply).

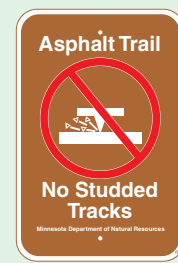
For complete legal information see "Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Laws, Rules, and Regulations," available from DNR Information Center and DNR Licensing Bureau.

## The Grant-In-Aid Trail System



Through efforts of snowmobile club volunteers across the state, Minnesotans enjoy more than 20,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. The maintenance of 90 percent of these trails is the responsibility of local snowmobile clubs and Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association (MnUSA).

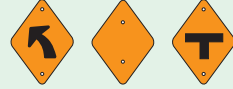
## Metal Studs on State Trails



A snowmobile with metal traction devices, also known as studs, may not operate on a paved public trail, unless exempted by the state or local unit of government that operates that trail.

On some sections of the affected state trails, alternate routes open to all snowmobiles have been provided. They provide links with the grant-in-aid trails and a connection to service areas.

Stay on the trails with the help of orange reassuring blazers, which are posted along the route.



Locations of Minnesota's snowmobile trails have been mapped for NW, NE, SW, and SE Minnesota and copies are available from DNR Information Center and other locations. The same information is available on the DNR Web site, [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

## Welcome

You are part of a growing number of people who enjoy using off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for trail riding, off-road transportation, competition, and other activities. Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners, and lawmakers.

Tread lightly on the environment, be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law. By doing these things you contribute to the positive image of off-highway vehicle activities.



For more information on off-highway riding and opportunities, visit: [FindTheTrails.com](http://FindTheTrails.com)

## OHV Use on State Forest Lands

State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use.

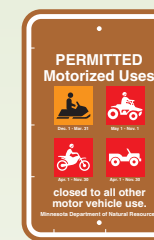
The DNR is conducting a review of state forests that currently permit off-highway vehicle use. Following the review, these forests may be reclassified as either "managed," "limited," or "closed" to OHV use.

Please check for trail closures before you leave at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trailconditions/index.html)

For up-to-date information, check [www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/mgmtplans/ohv/designation/index.html)

## FOOT HILLS STATE FOREST IS CLASSIFIED AS LIMITED

- May operate on forest roads, unless posted closed
- May operate ONLY on trails that are posted open.
- Constructing unauthorized permanent trails is PROHIBITED



Traveling off of posted motor vehicle trails or forest roads is PROHIBITED except ATVs for trapping during open seasons and big game hunting during October, November, and December. Big game retrieval only is allowed during September, if in possession of a valid big game hunting license.

Highway licensed vehicles, off-road vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles may travel on forest trails that are not designated for a specific use when: (1) hunting big game or transporting or installing hunting stands during October, November, and December, when in possession of a valid big game hunting license; (2) retrieving big game in September, when in possession of a valid big game license; (3) tending traps during an open trapping season for protected furbearers; or (4) trapping minnows, when in possession of a valid minnow dealer, private fish hatchery, or aquatic farm license.

### Motorized restrictions on state forest lands

- 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 or damage or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.

### Motorized restrictions on state forest lands cont.

- 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.

### Safety First!

- Read the owner's manual and know your vehicle.
- Check your vehicle before you ride.
- Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders.
- Supervise young or inexperienced riders.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles intended for one person.
- Ride straight—no alcohol or drugs.
- Let trail conditions determine safe speeds.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay away from open water and thin ice.
- Know the weather forecast.
- Use your taillight and headlight.
- Maintain safe distances when riding with others.
- Reduce your speed when riding at night.
- Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users.



## ATV Youthful Operators

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an ATV to permit it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Age	Requirement
Under 10	May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.
10 and 11	May operate only on private property with permission of the owner.  May operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.  Must wear an approved helmet while operating on public lands and frozen waters.
12 through 15	ATV safety certificate valid only after successfully completing BOTH the independent study and riding safety training components, and must be able to properly reach and control the handle bars and foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat.  May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen waters and make direct crossing of roadways with a valid safety certificate ONLY when accompanied by another ATV by a person 18 or over who has a valid driver's license.  Must wear approved helmet while operating on public lands and frozen waters, and when crossing road rights-of-way.
16 and 17	Must successfully complete the ATV independent study course component before operating on public lands.  May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen public waters without a safety certificate.  Must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operated on road rights-of-way.  Must wear approved helmet while operating on public lands, frozen public waters, and on road rights-of-way.

This publication is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-296-6157 (Metro Area) or 888-MINNDNR (Toll Free) or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf/TTY 651-296-5484 (Metro Area) or 800-657-3929 (Toll Free TTY).



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 (Metro Area)  
888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)  
651-296-5484 (Metro Area)  
800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

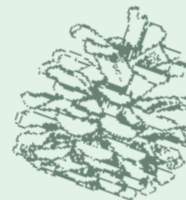
Department of Natural Resources  
Forestry Area Office  
PO Box 6  
Backus, MN 56435-0006  
218-947-3232

Department of Natural Resources  
Parks and Trails Area Office (for trail information)  
1601 Minnesota Drive  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
218-833-8710

## FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

### LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRE

Cass County Sheriff  
300 Minnesota Avenue  
P.O. Box 1119  
Walker, MN 56484  
Phone: 218-547-1424 -or-  
800-450-COPS (2677)



### NEAREST HOSPITAL

Health, Human, and Veterans Services of Cass County  
400 Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 519  
Walker, MN 56484  
Phone: 218-547-1340