GRAND PORTAGE STATE FOREST

HISTORY:
The land area of Grand Portage State Forest was formed during the post-glacial period. In 1886, the land was reserved by the federal government for the Ojibwe Nation and their families. In 1910, the land was purchased by the state of Minnesota, and the forest was named Grand Portage State Forest in honor of the Ojibwe legend of Git-che-O-ni-ga-ming (Little Portage). In 1943, the land was formally established as a state forest.

FOREST LANDSCAPE:
The forest is located in the northwestern part of Minnesota, between the cities of Duluth and Grand Portage. The forest is characterized by a mix of hardwood and coniferous forest types, including aspen, paper birch, sugar maple, white spruce, white pine, and black spruce.

WILDLIFE:
Wildlife includes moose, loon, white-tailed deer, black bear, Canada lynx, muskrat, trumpeter swan, eagle, gray jay, Canada warbler, boreal owl, great grey owl, boreal chickadee, olive-sided flycatcher, and various raptors during early fall migration along the shore of Lake Superior.

TREES:
The forest is home to a variety of trees, including aspen, paper birch, and sugar maple. The forest is also characterized by a mix of hardwood and coniferous forest types, including white spruce, white pine, and black spruce.

A WORKING FOREST:
The forest is managed as a working forest, meaning that it is harvested and replanted to ensure the sustainability of the forest. The forest is managed to provide timber, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

HISTORIC USES:
The area has a rich history of use by Native American and European explorers and settlers. The Ojibwe and French used the area for hunting and trapping, while European explorers and settlers used the area for fur trading and fur farming.

The forest is also home to a variety of flora, including fireweed, asters, goldenrod, coral root, bluebead lily, wild sarsaparilla, and wood anemone. In summer, look for the rose, thimbleberry, moccasin flower, and violet. In early spring, look for marsh marigold, wildflowers begin to show in early spring with marsh marigold, fireweed. Asters and goldenrod add to the fiery colors of autumn.

The information in this map is dynamic and may change over time. The map is regularly updated to reflect changes in the forest. The map is protected by copyright and related graphics are not legal documents, and are protected by copyright.
GENERAL STATE FOREST RULES

What you are doing: hiking, birding, geocaching, fishing, snowmobiling, or gathering berries, take care to leave the forest in good condition.

- Foot traffic is allowed at all times unless otherwise posted closed.
- On private forest land, summer camping is limited to 14 days, and winter camping is limited to 20 days between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May. For rules about camping on federal land within the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), visit mndnr.gov/areas/forestry.
- Park out what you pick. Remove all personal property. Do not burn litter or garbage and pick up all food and campsite debris.
- Don’t leave equipment unattended for more than 24 hours.
- Building any permanent structures, including deer stands, is prohibited.
- Use firewood purchased from vendors who harvested firewood in the same county as the state forest, county, or national forest.
- Collected berries, mushrooms, boughs, or dead fuelwood for personal use does not require a permit. No motorboats or wheeled recreational equipment are allowed in the BWCAW.

This is a partial list of rules. For more information, visit the website listed below.

mndnr.gov/areas/forestry

CAMPING

DEVILS LAKE CAMPGROUND

This campground has 29 campsites, each with a toilet, lake access, volleyball net, and a dock. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

EAGLE LAKE CAMPGROUND

With three campsites on Eagle Lake, this privatization campground offers ownership, water access, boat launch, dock, fishing, and hiking trails. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

MCFAIRLAND CAMPGROUND

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

DEERED CAMPGROUND

Dispersed camping within 500 feet of the lake is allowed on one site outside of a designated camping site. No restrooms. No water. No reservations.

BOATING

Campsites are located in the area, including launch sites on Lake Superior, Lake Superior, Devils Lake, and Tongue and the north end of the Swansong River Reservation. Carry on supplies or land on the lake. Fires are allowed in designated areas on the Swansong River Reservation. Regulations vary. mndnr.gov/lakes/boats

SPECIAL RV CAMPGROUND RULES

Fishing

립. Boating, fishing, or being in a motorized watercraft is allowed only if a person is in or on the motorized watercraft. Discharge of water from watercraft is prohibited. No fires, motorboats or wheeled recreational equipment. No generators or large kerosene stoves allowed. All ground fires banned.

Boating

All boats on state-managed waters and lakes must have a minimum of 0.30 cubic feet of water capacity for each gallon of fuel. mndnr.gov/lakes/boats

OHV TRAILS

MCFARLAND CAMPGROUND

Call 218-387-3040 for maps. This long and winding trail starts at Devil's Lake, where the river plunges 50 feet into a pool, and ascends to a high point near the Canadian border. No camping.

RIDE ON THE BOYD, TOM LAKE, AND IRISH CREEK ROADS FOR A REMOTE TRAIL THROUGH ASPIRING FORESTS.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

This area contains a patchwork of state-, county-, and federal- management lands. Rules regarding motor vehicles. The Boyd Road, Stevens Lake Spur, and the Hovland Woods Scientific and Natural Area are closed to public hunting.

This area contains a patchwork of state-, county-, and federal- management lands. Rules regarding motor vehicles. The Boyd Road, Stevens Lake Spur, and the Hovland Woods Scientific and Natural Area are closed to public hunting.

TRAILS

Dale's Bay Trail is an off-trail forest trail and roads. Off-trail hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling are allowed in winter. Bikes and wheeled recreation equipment are not allowed. No fires allowed. It connects to the Old-Growth KLY Trail.

CAMPING

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota's northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.

Superior hiking trail that travels from the mouth of the Brule River to the Gooseberry River Falls in Minnesota’s northeastern corner. Day hikes or week-long excursions are available, allowing hikers to experience the unique ecosystems found along the trail. No fires, no trophies. No reservations. No fee. mndnr.gov/watertrails

Fishing

Located on the edge of the BWCAW and Border Route Hwy 61, this small campground has 5 campsites, each with a toilet, dock, and lake access. No trash removal. No reservations. No fee.