KOOCHICHING STATE FOREST 547,985 ACRES
ESTABLISHED 1943

SMOKEY BEAR STATE FOREST 12,276 ACRES
ESTABLISHED 1963

FOREST LANDSCAPES: Located in Koochiching County, the Smokey Bear and Koochiching state forests consist of pine, spruce, fir, aspen, and birch, underlain by a profusion of flowers, blueberries, high- and low-bush cranberries, black cherries, and plums. The landscape is mostly flat, containing several peatlands and drained by several streams and the Little Fork and Big Fork rivers.

A WORKING FOREST: From year to year, you may see changes in this forest. The DNR manages the trees, water, and wildlife in state forests to keep them healthy and meet recreational, environmental, and economic goals. Trees are harvested to make a variety of products, such as lumber and building materials, pulp for making paper, pallets, fencing, and utility poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers work to improve wildlife habitat. The DNR manages state forests for everyone to use while preventing wildfires and ensuring forests continue to keep air and water clean.

HISTORY: Over 10,000 years ago, the gigantic Glacial Lake Aggasiz inundated much of this area. As the lake slowly drained, the land was first covered in strong, hard clay by being slowly, along with peat deposits. At about 3,000 years ago, the lake bed was high enough for toads and frogs to inhabit the area. Later, the area was invaded by peat and coarse sediments from the Little Fork and Big Fork rivers.

TREES: Look for stands of white pine, red pine, and white spruce. In boggy areas, black spruce, fir, cedar, and tamarack are common. Aspen, birch, and jack pine grow in other upland sites. Oak and maple are also abundant.

WILDLIFE: These forests are home to timber wolves, bobcats, beaver, otter, bald eagle, osprey. Big game include black bear, moose, and white-tailed deer. Ruffed grouse, trumpeter swans, and many species of ducks can be found.

Put this map on your device. Download this map to your mobile device or tablet to track your current location. Visit mndnr.gov/geopdf for more information.

The information in this map is dynamic and may change over time. The Minnesota DNR is not liable for improper or incorrect use of the data described and/or contained. The data and related graphics are not legal documents, and are protected by copyright.
Whether you are camping, hunting, riding, geocaching, skiing, or gathering berries, take care to:

- Never leave equipment unattended for more than 24 hours.
- Pack out what you pack in. Remove all personal property. Do not burn litter or garbage.
- Put trash in its place. Do not litter.
- Completely extinguish fires before leaving the area. Ashes should be cold to the touch.
- Fireworks are prohibited on all state and federal lands.
- Don’t leave mud, seeds, and plants from other trails or parks.
- Cutting shooting lanes is not allowed.
- Cutting permanent structures, including dead trees, is prohibited.
- For regulations about hunting, trapping, fishing, trees, trails, and roads, see the state-managed land, visit mndnr.gov/managers/land.
- For regulations about shooting and trapping, see mndnr.gov/conservation/compliance.
- For information on state-managed land, visit mndnr.gov/state-lands.
- For information on federal lands, visit fs.fed.us/
- For more information, visit the website listed below.

KOOCHICHING AND SMOKER BEAR

STATE FORESTS

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

Many state forests contain private land. Some forests have no private property. The trees you harvest are for your personal use and you must have permission before entering private property. If you are not sure if a property is public land, you should assume it is private unless you are told otherwise.

CAMPING

Camping is allowed on state forest land at least 1 mile outside of campgrounds and public land. However, camping is not allowed in a wilderness area. If you are camping in a wilderness area, you should not be able to see a wilderness area from a wilderness campsite.

CAMPFIRE

A fire is allowed at the site of a campfire or heat source. A fire is allowed at a campfire or heat source.

RESPECT CONSERVATION

Conservation of the environment is important. If you want to conserve the environment, you may want to leave it as you found it.

LEAVE TROUBLE BEHIND

Leave the area as it was found.

RESPECT THE LAND

Whether you are riding a bike, walking, or traveling, respect the land you travel on. If you need to leave your bike behind, you should do so in a designated bike area. If you need to park your car, you should do so in a designated parking area.

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