



LYONS STATE FOREST
14,789 ACRES • ESTABLISHED 1963

FOREST LANDSCAPE: This forest lies entirely within the coniferous forest biome. Topography is a mix of glacial features such as end moraines, outwash plains, till plains, and drumlin fields. Historically, fires occurred about 10 to 40 years within much of the area, which is why jack pine, quaking aspen, and birch dominate. Stands of red and white pine are also found in the forest. Hazel, blueberries, sweet fern, bearberry, wintergreen, bracken, and reindeer moss provide lush ground cover.

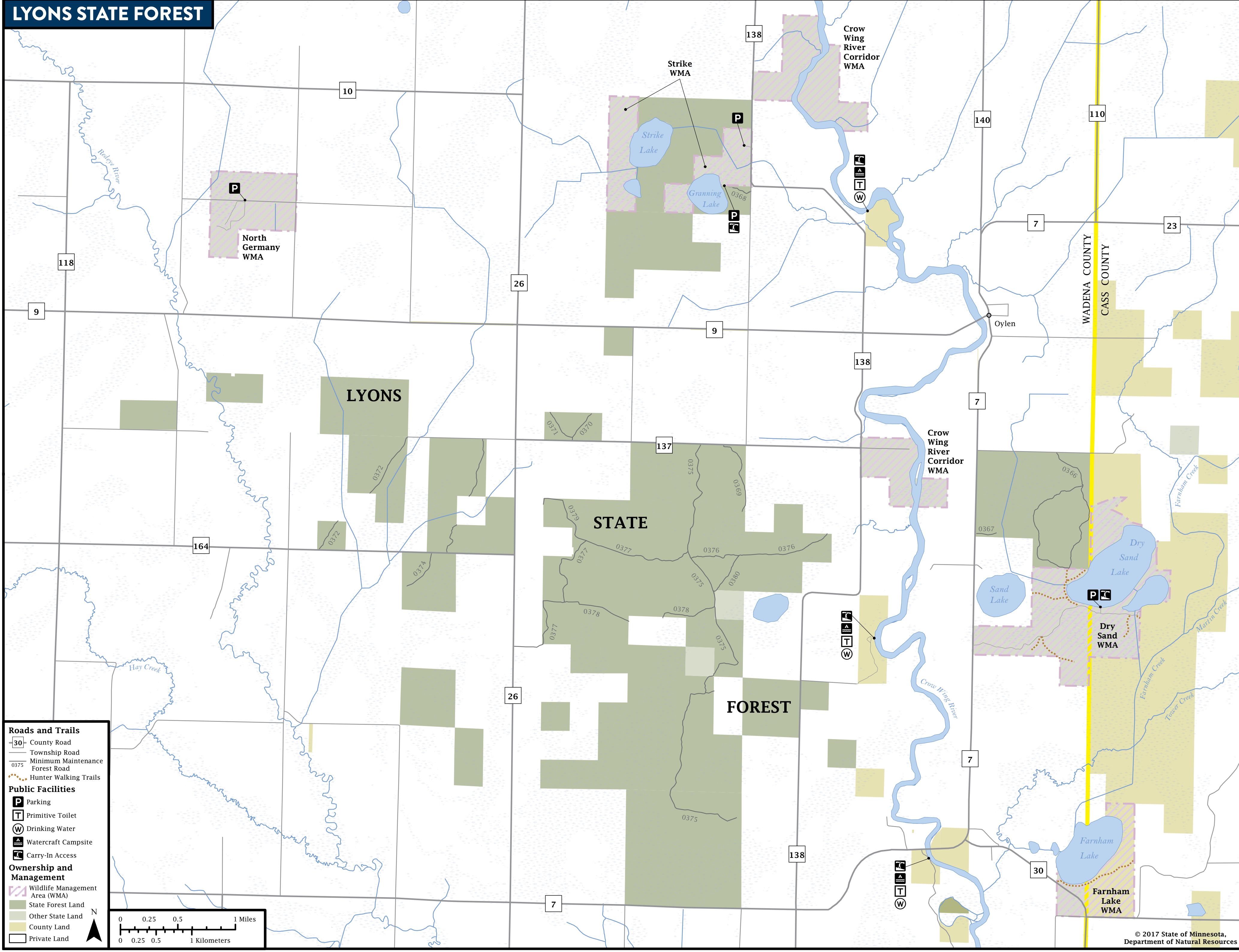
A WORKING FOREST: From year to year, you may see changes in this forest. The DNR manages the trees, water, and wildlife in state forests for everyone to keep them healthy and meet recreational, environmental, and economic goals. Trees are harvested to make a variety of products, such as lumber and building materials, pulp for making paper, pallets, fencing, and telephone poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers create forest openings or plant trees and vegetation to improve habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl. The DNR manages state forests to prevent wildfires, and keep our water and air clean.

HISTORY: The Dakota and the Ojibwe people first occupied the Crow Wing River area, and Indian burial mounds can be seen around mile 61 on the Crow Wing River just north of the Lyons State Forest. In the early 1700s French fur traders arrived and controlled the fur business. Later in the 1760s, British and Canadian traders came to dominate the trade. Between the 1870s and the early 1900s, logging of white and red pine was Wadena County's chief economy. Timber taken from the dense forests along the Crow Wing River and its tributaries created jobs for hundreds of early settlers and provided an economic base for many towns in the area. By the turn of the century, most virgin timber had been cleared and the lumber industry declined sharply. Today, recreationists still use the roads created by the early loggers.

WILDLIFE: This forest is home to white-tailed deer, bear, gray wolves, snowshoe hares, and ruffed grouse. Furbearers include fishers, otters, bobcats, coyotes, beavers, and red and gray foxes. Although not a major flyway, birdwatchers can spot a variety of songbirds and warblers, along with red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, great blue herons, and sandpipers. Migratory waterfowl can be found in the area's many ponds and bogs in the spring and fall.

PUT THIS MAP ON YOUR DEVICE
This map is geo-referenced. Download an app such as the free Avenza app on your device and use it to open the PDF of this map. The app will place a blue locator dot on the map wherever you take your device, even if you are out of cellular range.

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GENERAL STATE FOREST RULES

- Whether you are camping, hunting, riding, geocaching, skiing, or gathering berries, take care to leave the forest in good condition.
- Forest lands are open all times unless otherwise posted. Forest day-use areas are open between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., only registered campers may enter or remain in a campground.
 - Campsites have limited amenities and are first-come, first-served. Dispersed camping is also allowed at least 1 mile outside of designated campgrounds on state forest land for no fee.
 - Summer camping is limited to 14 days. Between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May, camping is limited to 21 days.
 - Pack out what you pack in. Remove all personal property. Do not burn litter or garbage.
 - Don't leave equipment unattended for more than 24 hours.
 - Erecting permanent buildings of any kind is prohibited.
 - Use firewood approved by the DNR or dead fuelwood collected on-site. Kiln-dried, unstained, unpainted dimensional lumber free from metal or other foreign objects is also permitted. It is illegal to bring in any other firewood. These rules are to prevent accidentally introducing harmful pests such as emerald ash borers.
[mndnr.gov/firewood](#)
 - Keep campfires no larger than 3 feet wide and 3 feet high. Attend the fire at all times. Completely extinguish fires before leaving the area. It should be cold to the touch.
 - Bury human waste (if vault toilets are not available) and animal parts at least 150 feet from a water body and away from areas where it could cause a nuisance or hazard to public health.
 - Collecting berries, mushrooms, or dead fuelwood for personal use while in the forest is okay. However collecting large amounts of these items to take home for personal use or sale requires a permit. Get permits from your local DNR forestry office.
[mndnr.gov/areas/forestry](#)
 - Hiking and horseback riding are allowed on all trails.
 - This is a partial list of rules. For more information, visit the website listed below.

[mndnr.gov/state_forests/rules.html](#)

LYONS STATE FOREST

RECREATION

The Lyons State Forest features several forest roads for vehicle and snowmobile use, dispersed camping, hunting, and wildlife watching. Nearby, there are several Wildlife Management Areas and county-owned boat landings along the Crow Wing River.

TRAILS

CROW WING RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL
One of the state's best "wilderness" canoe routes, this river rises from a chain of 11 lakes in southern Hubbard County and flows 90 miles southeast to join the Mississippi River. There are three canoe landings along the Crow Wing River near the Lyons State Forest.
[mndnr.gov/watertrails](#)

SNOWMOBILING

Snowmobilers can traverse several miles of minimum maintenance roads. Some roads are plowed during the winter for logging activities. Trails are marked with orange signs.

- Snowmobile trail maps are on **[mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/interactive_map](#)**
- Snowmobiles must be registered. **[mndnr.gov/regulations/snowmobile](#)**

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAILS

Several miles of minimum maintenance forest roads are open to Class I and II all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), and off-road vehicles (ORVs). Highway-licensed vehicles may operate on signed forest roads. Forest roads are open to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) unless posted closed. Visit **[mndnr.gov/ohv](#)** for up-to-date rules, maps, and trail and road closures.

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD MAP



KNOW YOUR VEHICLE

Always make sure you are riding on the appropriate trail, designated and signed for your vehicle. OHVs must be registered in Minnesota or have a trail pass.

[mndnr.gov/licenses/ohv](#)

CLASSIFICATION: LIMITED

All trails on state lands are classified regarding motor vehicles. The Lyons State Forest is classified as "limited," which means OHVs are allowed **only** on signed and mapped routes that are open for a specific OHV use (e.g., ATVs, OHMs, or ORVs).

USING MOTOR VEHICLES WHEN HUNTING AND TRAPPING

The limited classification allows some exceptions for big game hunters and trappers during hunting and trapping seasons. For example, you can use Class 1 ATVs to hunt big game or transport temporary hunting stands between October and December, retrieve big game in September, trap during open season for protected furbearers, and trap for minnows under certain conditions. See the *Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook*:
[mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting](#)

HUNTING

The Lyons State Forest provides plenty of game for hunting. In the appropriate season, licensed hunters can hunt for deer, grouse, and other game on state forest land and nearby wildlife management areas.
[mndnr.gov/hunting](#)

FIREARMS AND BOWS

During open hunting season licensed hunters may carry an uncased and loaded firearm or strung bow to hunt, except in or within 200 feet of any forest recreation area (campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, parking lots, interpretive sites, and trailheads). Installing permanent deer stands and cutting shooting lanes are not allowed.
[mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting](#)

FISHING AND TRAPPING

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

Visit **[mndnr.gov/fishing](#)** for up-to-date regulations.

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Lyons State Forest contains private land within its boundaries, so know where you are. Hunting on private land within a state forest and crossing private land to access public land is subject to state trespass laws. Watch for posted "No Trespassing" and "No Hunting" signs and stay off private property.

You must have permission before entering private land, even to cross it to access public land.

Trespassing is a misdemeanor. If convicted, you could lose your license to hunt. All conservation and peace officers enforce trespass laws.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) provide habitat for deer, bear, small game, forest upland birds, and waterfowl.

WMAs are established to protect lands and waters that have high potential for wildlife, public hunting, trapping, and fishing. Hunting and trapping are allowed with the proper license and during the proper season.

CROW WING RIVER CORRIDOR WMA

This WMA contains more than 700 acres within the northern and southern units along the Crow Wing River. Both units contain coniferous and deciduous forests and river habitat. The north unit contains some old fields.

DRY SAND WMA

Dry Sand WMA was created in 1958 to improve waterfowl habitat in the drained Dry Sand Lake basin. The WMA surrounds Dry Sand Lake and Turtle Shell pond. Hunter walking trails are provided in the surrounding area, which is mostly jack pine savanna. Public access on the south side of the lake is carry-in only. Hunters can find deer, bear, small game, grouse, and waterfowl.

FARNHAM LAKE WMA

Farnham Lake is an important shallow wild rice lake that supports waterfowl. The WMA includes upland forests near the south and east lakeshores that provide habitat for deer, bear, small game, grouse, and wild turkeys. This WMA was created to protect the shoreline and provide public access to the lake.

NORTH GERMANY WMA

With hunter walking trails on 278 acres, hunters can find deer, bear, small game, and grouse among old fields, forest, and lowlands.

STRIKE WMA

On approximately 300 acres near Strike and Granning lakes, hunters can find deer, bear, small game, grouse, and waterfowl.

WMA maps: **[mndnr.gov/maps/compass](#)**

WMA information: **[mndnr.gov/wmas](#)**



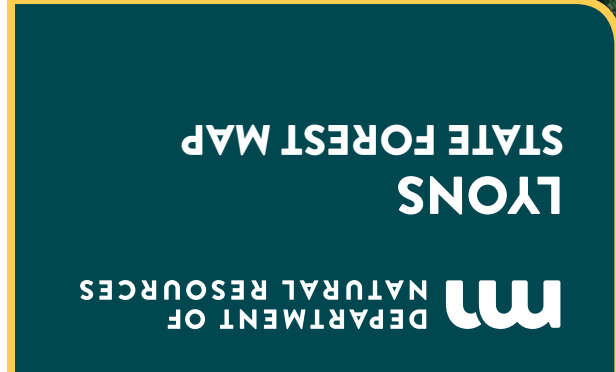
ALWAYS STAY ON SIGNED TRAILS

Whether you're riding or walking, tread lightly on the land. Be courteous to others, respect private property, and obey the law.

LEAVE TROUBLE BEHIND

Help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals.

- Clean your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site.
- Remove mud and seeds from clothes, pets, boots, gear, and vehicles.
- Stay on designated trails.
- PlayCleanGo.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
info.dnr@state.mn.us
651-296-6157
888-646-6367
TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)
651-296-5484
800-657-3929

EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

WADENA COUNTY SHERIFF

218-631-7600

NEAREST HOSPITAL SERVICES

St. Joseph's Hospital
600 Pleasant
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-732-3311

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888-646-6367
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