



NEMADJI STATE FOREST 92,927 ACRES • ESTABLISHED 1935

FOREST LANDSCAPE: Terrain varies from gently rolling and swampy in the south, to steep stream valleys and elongated swamps in the northeast. Numerous small streams and beaver ponds dot the landscape. The northern third of the forest drains into the Lake Superior Basin-Nemadji River Watershed, while the southern two-thirds drain east into the St. Croix River Basin.

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 telephone poles. Through careful planning, harvesting, and planting, land managers work to improve habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, turkey, and waterfowl. The DNR manages state forests for everyone to prevent wildfires and keep our air and water clean.

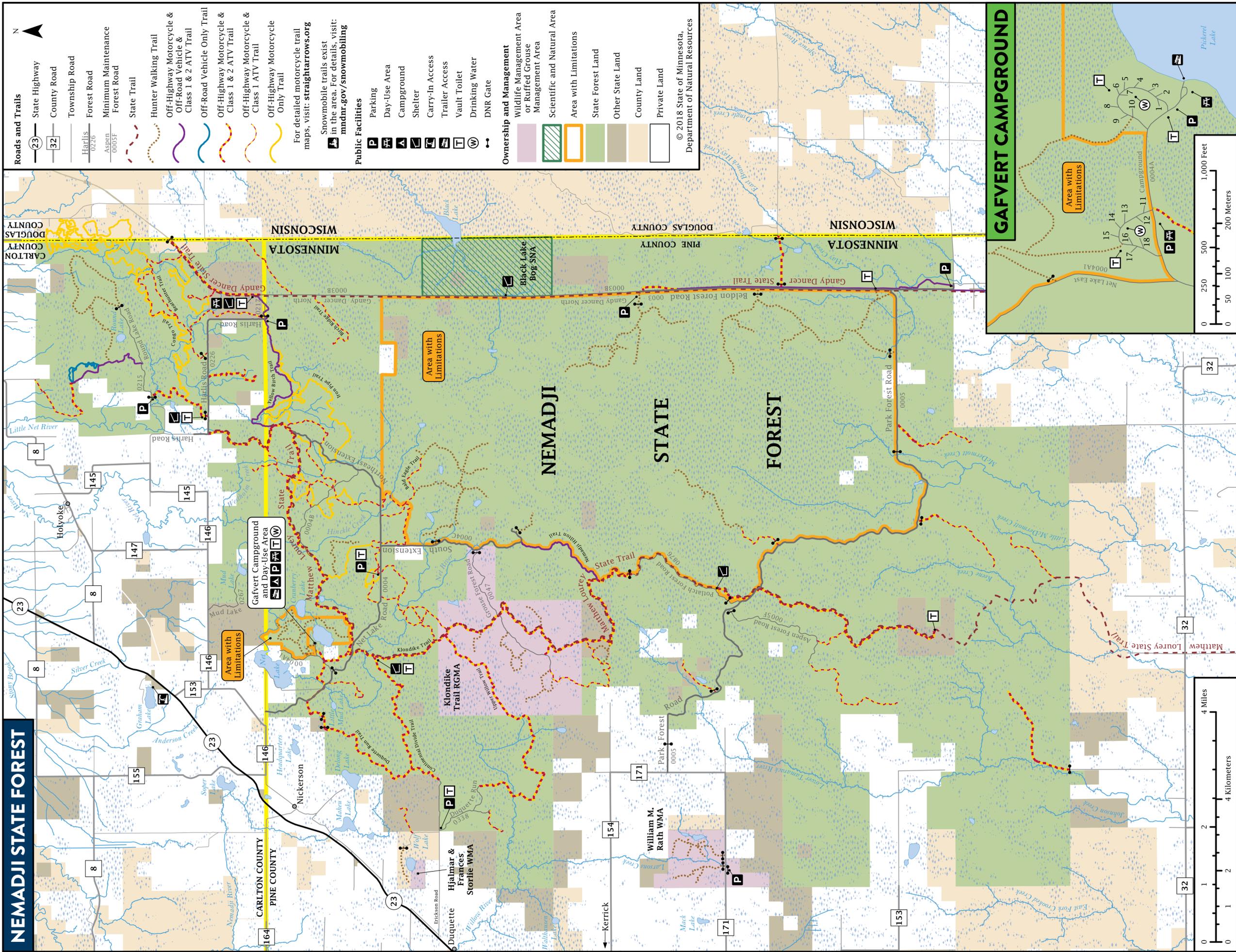
HISTORY: The Ojibwe called the Nemadji River *Nemanjigigweyaag*, meaning “left hand river,” which refers to its location on the left of Lake Superior’s St. Louis Bay. In the 1800s, much of the original white spruce, cedar, and white and red pine were logged and floated down the Nemadji, Willow, and Tamarack rivers to Stillwater, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. Temporary railroads crisscrossed the area to supply a large sawmill on Delong Lake. Smaller logging camps produced railroad ties, cedar shingles, barrel staves, and fuelwood. After logging operations moved out, numerous large fires burned through the cutover land. A few hardy settlers moved into the area to farm, but found the soils more suitable for trees than crops. Today the DNR manages nearly 94 percent of the area, with the remaining 6 percent being privately owned.

TREES: Look for stands of quaking and bigtooth aspen, oaks, maples, paper birch, balsam fir, tamarack, and black spruce. Smaller areas are covered with white cedar and red, white, and jack pine.

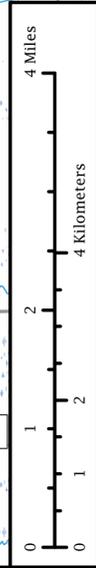
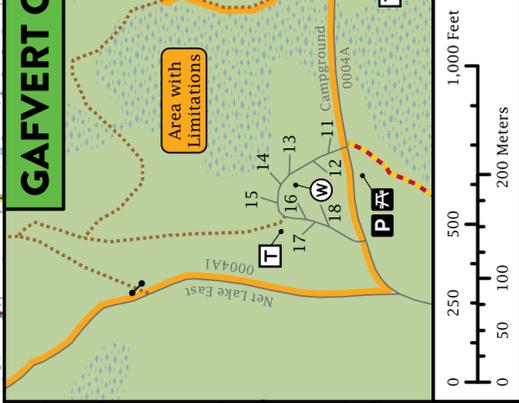
WILDLIFE: White-tailed deer, bear, gray wolf, bobcat, coyote, beaver, fisher, pine martin, mink, muskrat, snowshoe hare, turkey, woodcock, and ruffed grouse can be found in the forest. Migrating waterfowl visit wetland areas. Nongame bird species such as northern harriers, sandhill cranes, osprey, and a variety of warblers can also be seen.

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 geoPDF 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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GAFVERT CAMPGROUND





NEMADJI STATE FOREST



CAMPING AND DAY-USE AREAS

GAFVERT CAMPGROUND AND DAY-USE AREA

No reservations required. Fees collected on site. First-come, first-served. Open between May 1 and October 31. Located on Pickerel Lake and along the Matthew Lourey State Trail, each of the 18 drive-in campsites (including one handicap-accessible site) has a cleared area, fire ring, and picnic table. Vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water from hand pumps are also provided. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) may enter and exit the campground. The lake is used for fishing.

TRAILS

All trails and roads are open to hiking and mountain biking. Horseback riders need a horse pass.

mndnr.gov/horseback_riding/horsepass

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Several miles of snowmobile trails wind their way through pine forests. Trails located on forest roads may be plowed during the winter for logging activities. Other trails are groomed. Snowmobiles are also allowed on the Matthew Lourey State Trail. Trails are marked with orange signs posted along the route.

- Snowmobile trail maps: mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/interactive_map
- Snowmobiles must have current registration. mndnr.gov/regulations/snowmobile



MATTHEW LOUREY STATE TRAIL

The Matthew Lourey State Trail is a winding, multi-use, natural- and gravel-surfaced trail that spans approximately 80 miles and passes through forests linking St. Croix State Park with the Chengwatana, St. Croix, and Nemadji state forests. Open to hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling. OHVs are allowed north of Park Forest Road.

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD MAP



GANDY DANCER TRAIL

Located just west of and parallel to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary, the flat, straight Gandy Dancer Trail runs along an abandoned railroad bed. The crushed-stone trail reaches south from Superior to St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and is available for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, OHVs, and snowmobiling. Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed south of Yellow Birch Trail.

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE TRAILS

These hunter-walking trails, located north of Gafvert Campground, are named for an 80-foot white spruce that was harvested here in 1977 and sent to adorn the White House lawn as the National Christmas Tree.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAILS

OHV riders can explore 71 miles of tight, twisting trails that climb steep hills and offer scenic vistas overlooking deep stream valleys. Some trails connecting the Matthew Lourey State Trail and Gandy Dancer Trail allow riders to plan longer loops.

All trails are marked and range from easy to more difficult, especially in the northeastern part of the forest.

- Highway-licensed vehicles may operate on signed forest roads.
- Forest roads are open to OHVs unless posted closed.
- Visit mndnr.gov/ohv for up-to-date rules, maps, and trail and road closures.
- Non-residents need a trail pass to ride in Minnesota. mndnr.gov/ohv/nonres_pass

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE TRAILS

There are 35 miles of single-track off-highway motorcycle (OHM) trails, and an additional 18 miles of multi-use trails, in the northeastern part of this forest. Trails range from straight stretches to tight curves and steep hills for more experience riders. Trails connect to an additional 5 miles of riding in Wisconsin's Douglas County Forest.

Detailed trail maps: straightarrows.org

CLASSIFICATION: LIMITED

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

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

HUNTING AND TRAPPING

The Nemadji State Forest provides game habitat for hunting and trapping. In the appropriate season, licensed hunters can hunt for white-tailed deer, grouse, turkey, and other game.

mndnr.gov/hunting

FIREARMS AND BOWS

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, parking area, etc.). Exception: During seasons open for hunting, a person may carry an unloaded, uncased firearm or strung bow from a forest recreation area to hunt outside of the area. Cutting shooting lanes is not allowed.

For regulations about hunting, trapping, firearms, bows, limits, seasons, and deer stands, visit mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting

FISHING

There are no special provisions or restrictions on fishing in 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.

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 is allowed with the proper license and during the proper season.

KLONDIKE TRAIL RUFFED GROUSE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Located within in the western portion of the Nemadji State Forest, this 3,503-acre unit is managed to produce good habitat for ruffed grouse. Parking is along Grouse Road.

WILLIAM M. RATH WMA

This WMA is managed for white-tailed deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl,

turkey, and doves. A permit is required to trap beaver and otters. There are hunter walking trails and a parking lot on the south side of County Road 44.

HJALMAR AND FRANCIS STORLIE WMA

Located on the south shore of Wolf Lake, this smaller WMA is managed to produce habitat for white-tailed deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, and turkey. Walk-in access only.

WMA maps: mndnr.gov/maps/compass

WMA information: mndnr.gov/wmas

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

State forests contain private land within their boundaries, so know where you are. Watch for posted "No Trespassing" and "No Hunting" signs and stay off of 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.

MINNESOTA SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS

SNAs protect natural features of exceptional scientific or educational value including native plant communities, rare species, and significant geological features. Enjoy the undisturbed natural quality of these sites. Most SNAs do not have trails, and none have restrooms or drinking water. While SNAs do not allow camping, vehicles, or collecting plants and animals, SNAs do allow birding and wildlife watching, hiking, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

BLACK LAKE BOG SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA

The Black Bog SNA encompasses more than 3,600 acres in Pine County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin. The vast wetland complex contains black ash swamp, fen, alder thicket, sedge meadow, and coniferous and open bogs. Within the complex is 84-acre Black Lake, a shallow, acidic lake out of which flows the Black River, bound for Lake Superior. The area is habitat for timber wolves and moose, short-eared owls, the rare LeConte's sparrow, and yellow-bellied flycatcher. The Black Bog SNA is accessible from the Gandy Dancer Trail.

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.

AREAS WITH LIMITATIONS

These areas are designated to protect unique natural resources and provide other non-motorized recreation opportunities. Motorized vehicles may not operate off designated trails within "Areas With Limitations" for any reason, including retrieving big game.

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

DNR TIP LINE (Turn in Poachers)

800-652-9093

EMERGENCY SERVICE - DIAL 911

CARLTON COUNTY SHERIFF

218-384-3236

PINE COUNTY SHERIFF

320-629-8380

NEAREST HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mercy Hospital
 4572 County Hwy. 61
 Moose Lake, MN 55767
 218-485-4481

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FORESTRY
 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
 888-646-6367
mndnr.gov



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 at all times unless otherwise posted. Forest day-use areas are open between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- The Gafvert Campground has limited amenities and is open between May 1 and October 31. Campsites are first-come, first-served.
- Summer camping (campground and dispersed) is limited to 14 days.
- Dispersed camping is also allowed on state forest land, at least 1 mile outside of the campground, for no fee. Camping is limited to 21 days between the second Sunday in September and the first Saturday in May.
- 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.
- Building permanent structures of any kind is prohibited.
- Use firewood sold by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), from vendors who harvested firewood in the same county as the state forest (bring your receipt), 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 borer. mndnr.gov/firewood
- Fireworks are not permitted on state forest land.
- 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 toilets are not available) and animal parts such as fish guts 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 OK. 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, horseback riding, and mountain biking allowed on all trails except groomed ski trails.
- This is a partial list of rules. For more information, visit the website listed below.

mndnr.gov/state_forests/rules.html