

# Map Legend

-  **Wetland Areas**
-  **Public Lands Within the Forest**
-  **Land Outside of Forest Boundaries**
-  **State Forests (on overview map below)**
-  **Snowmobile Trail**
-  **Minimum Maintenance Forest Road**



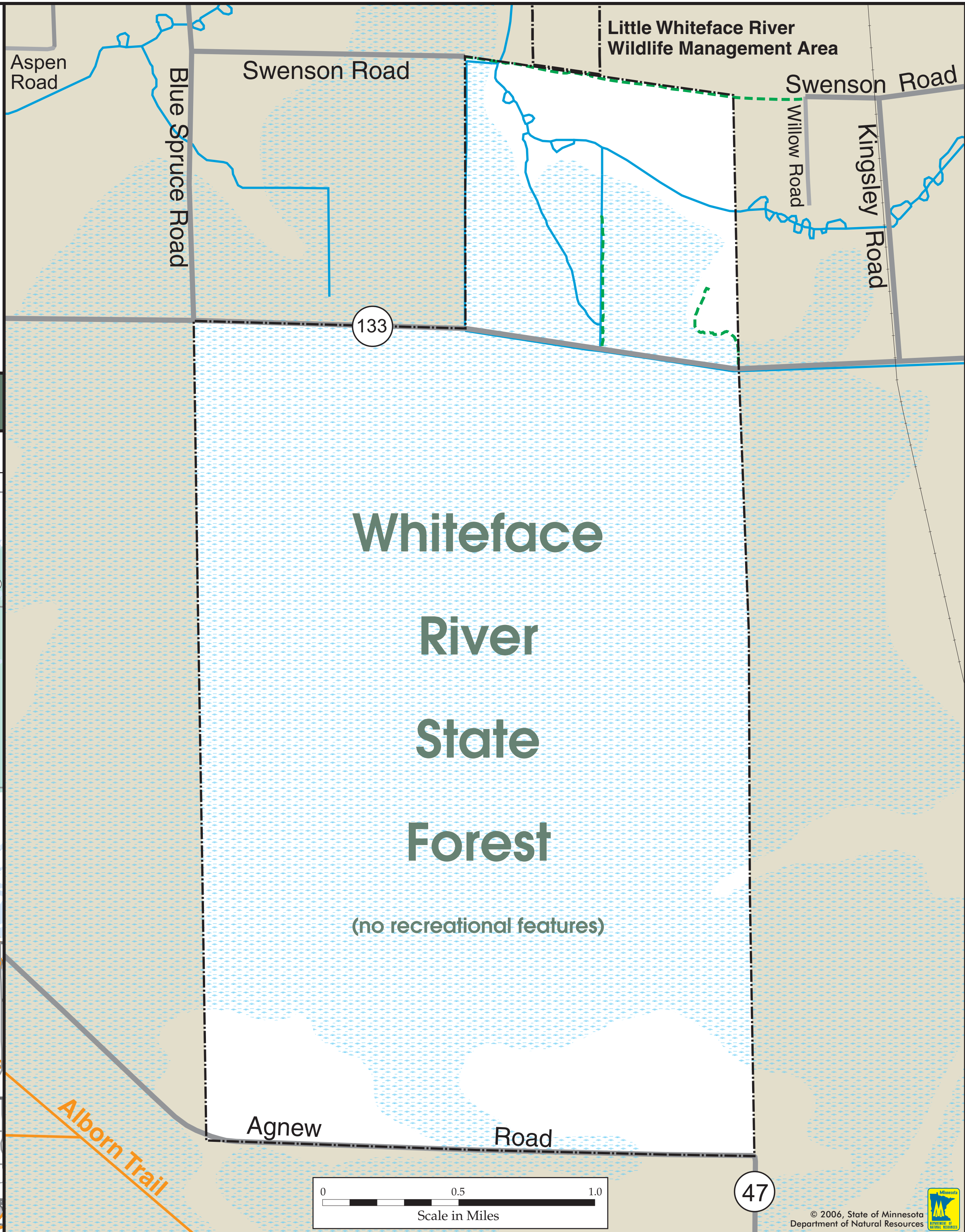
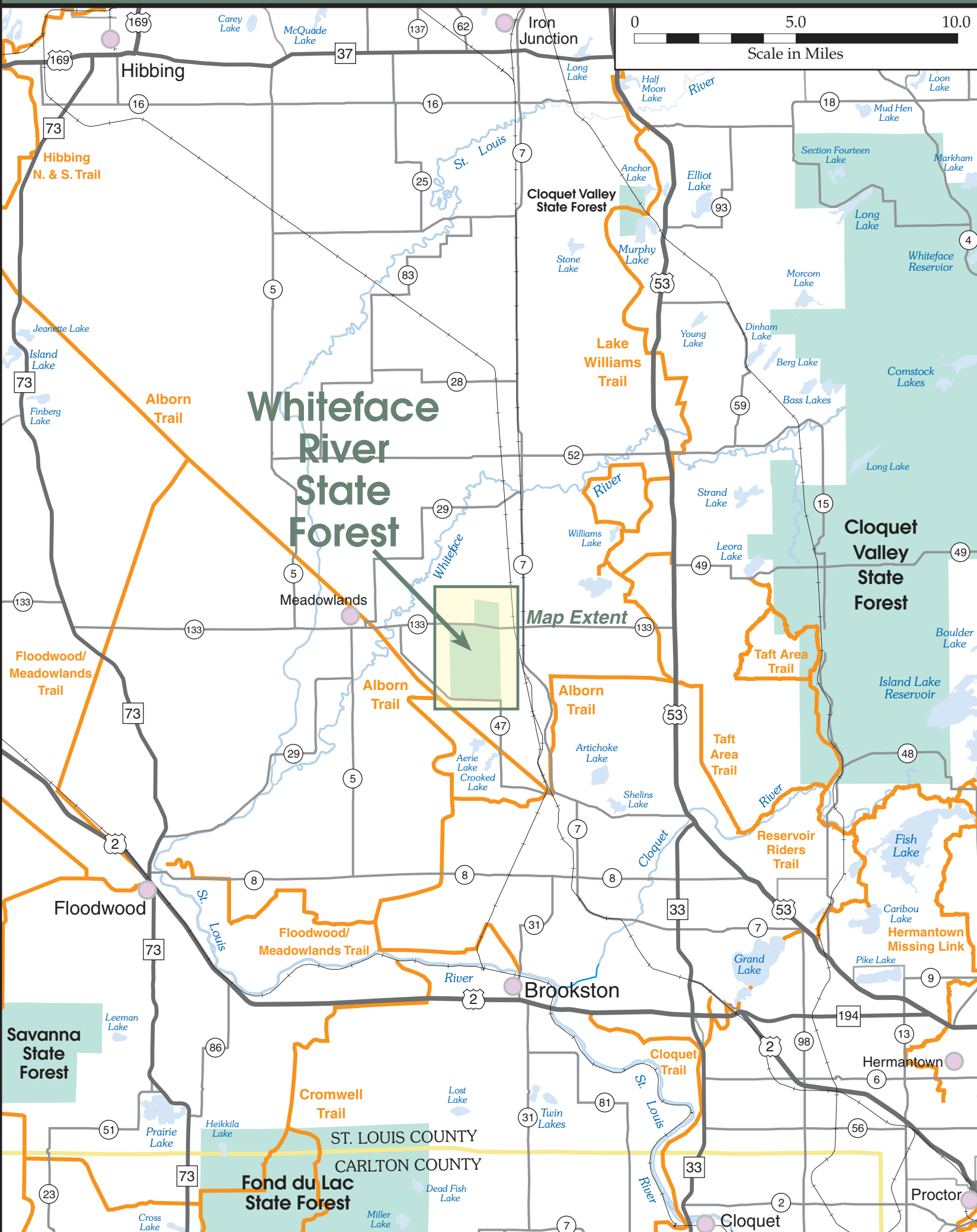
### Is It Trespassing?

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.



# Whiteface River State Forest



# Whiteface River State Forest

A guide to recreational opportunities in Minnesota state forests



## About the Forest

**Size:** 4,429 acres **Year Created:** 1963

**Forest Landscape:** The terrain in the forest is mostly level. Its wet, lowland areas, while giving the forest a real “wilderness” feel, make it a difficult place to access.

**Unique Features:** The Little Whiteface River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) borders the north side of the forest. This WMA is mostly wet, lowland area and difficult to access like the forest. DNR forest and wildlife managers work closely together so management activities in the forest and WMA benefit both wildlife and plant species.

**Management Activities:** Timber harvesting, reforestation, and wildlife habitat improvement occur in the forest. The DNR also protects the forest and surrounding areas from wildfires.

**History:** Many acres of the land homesteaded in Minnesota’s north and central regions were found unsuitable for agriculture and reverted back to state ownership through tax delinquency. Upon examination, however, these lands were found to be valuable for timber production and maintenance of necessary ground cover. As a result, these lands were combined with other state-owned lands to form many of the state forests found in Minnesota today. The Whiteface River State Forest is one of these.

The DNR manages 55 percent of the forest, with the rest managed by St. Louis County.

## Look for ...

### Predominant Tree Species:

Swamp conifers are the most common species in the forest, with tamarack being the most abundant, black spruce the second most abundant, and northern white cedar the third most abundant. A few islands of white spruce, balsam fir, and quaking and bigtooth aspen can also be found.



black spruce



tamarack



northern white cedar

**Wildlife:** The northern white cedar stands provide excellent winter cover for white-tailed deer. The scattered islands of white spruce, balsam fir, and aspen provide good habitat for black bear, ruffed grouse, and woodcock. The forest is popular with birdwatchers for sighting great gray owls and hawk owls in the winter. Great gray owls likely nest in the forest’s tamarack stands. Gray jays, northern shrikes, Tennessee warblers, and even magpies are occasionally seen. The furbearing fisher and marten are a feature of the forest, and gray wolves and bobcats have been spotted traveling through the area.



**Recreation:** There are no campgrounds within the forest. Dispersed camping is allowed as long as state forest rules are followed. The forest is “closed” to off-highway vehicles (see OHV information in the last column). However, vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.

## Recreation continued:

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. It should be noted that these forest roads are minimally maintained and can provide a “rough ride” for many highway-licensed vehicles.



marsh milkweed

The forest gets relatively light use from the public because it is wet, wooded swamp and there are very few trails through it. These trails are mostly along some old ditch banks, which are still being maintained. Some people use county highways 133 and 47 to look for birds and deer, especially in the winter. While deer hunters use the area during the firearms deer season, only a few grouse and bear hunters are willing to walk into this remote area. The best time to see the forest is in winter on snowshoes when the ground is frozen or to walk the ditch banks in the fall. It is a good place to avoid in the summer when the bugs are thick!

## SMOKEY SAYS~



## Be Safe With Campfires!

- Let your fire burn out completely to ashes or very small coals.
- Drench the fire with water, stir the ashes and coals, and wet again.
- Make sure any food, plastics, or foil is packed out as garbage.
- When your fire is extinguished completely, it should be cold to the touch.

## 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)

## 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)

## Snowmobile Laws

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

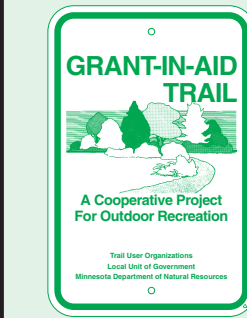


Stay on the trails with the help of orange reassuring blazers, which are posted along the route.



- 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).



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).

## What is a Tree?

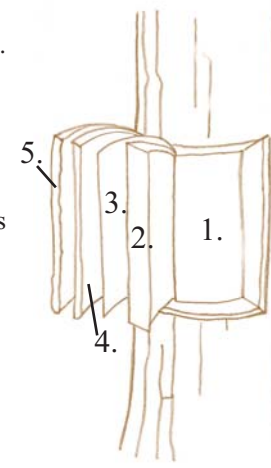
A tree is a woody plant that can grow to be 15 feet or higher and usually has a single stem and a crown (branched-out area) at the top.

## 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.



## 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.

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)

## WHITEFACE RIVER STATE FOREST IS CLASSIFIED AS CLOSED

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are not allowed except:
  - Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
  - Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
  - Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

Forest is Closed for Off-Highway Vehicle Use



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

Department of Natural Resources  
Forestry Area Office  
1604 South Highway 33  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
218-726-2360

Department of Natural Resources  
Trails and Waterways Area Office (for trail information)  
1568 Highway 2  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
218-834-6626

## FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE – DIAL 911

## LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRE

St. Louis County Sheriff  
218-726-2360

## NEAREST HOSPITAL

St. Mary’s Hospital  
Duluth, MN 55805  
218-726-4000

