

# George Washington State Forest

## OWNERSHIP

- State Forest Land
- National Forest Land
- County Land
- Private Land within boundaries
- State Park Land
- Scientific & Natural Area
- Land outside unit boundaries

## TRAIL TYPES

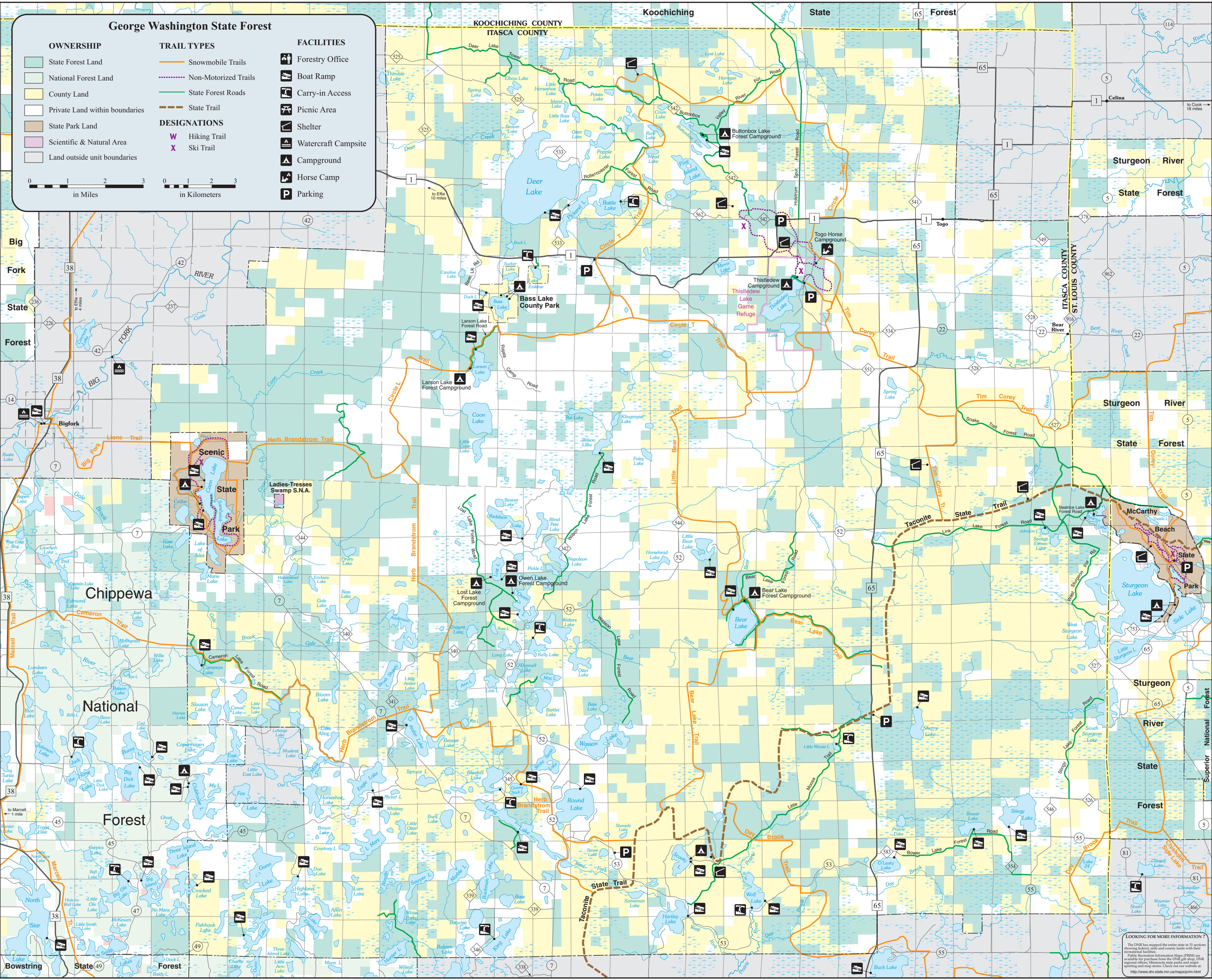
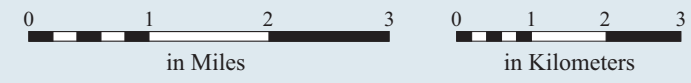
- Snowmobile Trails
- Non-Motorized Trails
- State Forest Roads
- State Trail

## DESIGNATIONS

- Hiking Trail
- Ski Trail

## FACILITIES

- FO Forestry Office
- BR Boat Ramp
- CA Carry-in Access
- PA Picnic Area
- SH Shelter
- WC Watercraft Campsite
- CC Campground
- HC Horse Camp
- P Parking

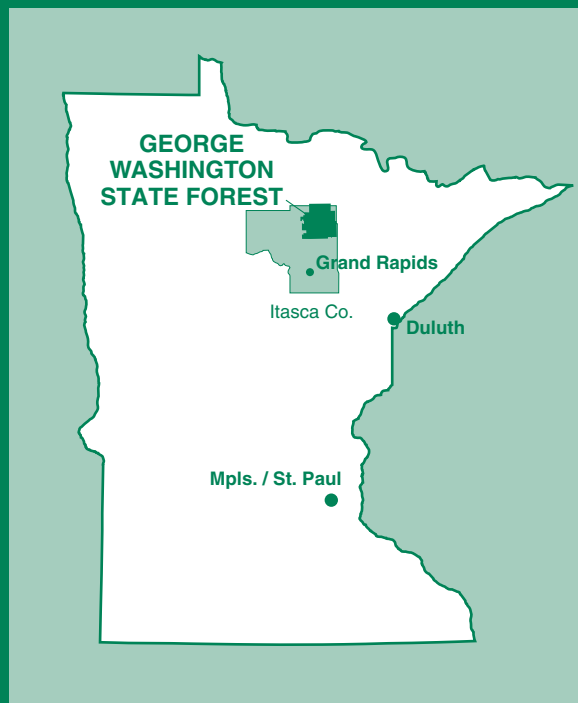


LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?  
 The DNR has mapped the entire state in 51 sections showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities.  
 Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR with shipping. DNR regional offices, Minnesota State Parks and major sporting and map stores. Check our web site at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/prim.html>

# GEORGE WASHINGTON STATE FOREST TRAIL MAP

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



Printed on recycled paper with 30% post-consumer material.

George Washington State Forest is situated in northeastern Itasca County. To get there, take U.S. Highway 169 from Grand Rapids north to State Highway 65. At Nashwauk, take State 65 north to State Highway 1. Go west on 1 to the Thistledeew Ranger Station, Highway map index J-6.

Established in 1931, George Washington State Forest is comprised of 306,000 acres of land. 93,200 acres, or about 30%, are administered by the Division of Forestry. The remaining ownership is divided between Itasca County with 119,700 acres and private landowners with 93,100 acres. The uplands support stands of Norway pine, white pine, jack pine, white spruce, balsam fir, aspen and paper birch, while the lowlands produce black spruce, tamarack, northern white cedar, ash, and elm. Aspen and black spruce are the predominate species.

## HISTORY

George Washington State Forest was created by the state legislature in 1931 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of our first president. Like much of the forested land in Minnesota, it burned repeatedly during the logging and settlement era (1880 to 1930). The last large fire occurred in 1933. With improved fire protection the forest has slowly recovered. Today it is growing and providing recreation, scenery, wildlife, watershed protection, raw materials and jobs for the people of Minnesota.

The Civilian Conservation Corps played an important role in the development of state lands within the forest. Three camps were in existence from 1933 to 1941 and were responsible for the construction of campgrounds such as those at Owen Lake and Bear Lake. In addition, many miles of roads were constructed, numerous plantations established, and many soil and water conservation projects accomplished. The large number of visitors attracted to the forest attest to the success of the conservation projects.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

It is the policy of the Division of Forestry to protect, develop, and administer the renewable resources of state forests so they are utilized in the combination of uses that will best meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. This requires harmonious and coordinated management of these resources to bring about their maximum productivity as well as providing other public benefits.

Foresters select the timber to be harvested. In some types of timber, such as hardwoods, white pine, and Norway pine, individual trees are carefully selected and marked for cutting. Other types of timber, such as aspen and jack pine which cannot reproduce in the shade of other trees are clear cut (i.e. the entire stand is removed).

Cutting and site preparation practices of the Division of Forestry and the Section of Wildlife have greatly increased wildlife habitat by creating more openings and by producing sprouts which provide food and cover for a variety of species.

The weasel, red squirrel, deer mouse, skunk, porcupine, timber wolf, white-tailed deer, black bear and moose are but a few of the mammals seen in the forest. Bird watchers will find the yellow warbler, chickadee, loon, Canada jay, bald eagle and many more. Fishermen can lure bass, panfish, trout, walleye, and northern pike to their nets.

## TRAILS

The variety in topography, vegetation, and animal life contribute greatly to the quality of the recreational trails in George Washington State Forest. Hikers, skiers, and snowmobilers will find the trails enjoyable and satisfying. Ski touring/hiking trails exist in the forest, providing loops to challenge the experienced skier as well as those that suit the novice. Snowmobilers will find nearly 200 miles of groomed scenic trails. Trailgrooming usually starts in mid December and goes through the first part of March

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

Minnesota's fifty-seven state forests were established to produce timber and other forest crops, provide outdoor recreation, protect watersheds, and perpetuate rare and distinctive species of native flora and fauna. The Department of Natural Resources applies multiple use management

principles so state forest resources meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. Management actions are planned to maximize the sustainable yield of renewable resources while maintaining or improving the forest's productive capacity.



## STATE FOREST RULES

State forest lands are generally open for all types of outdoor recreation including, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and picking fruit and mushrooms. Rules and laws regulate some activities on forest lands. A partial list is included below. A complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

Firewood	-Dead wood may be gathered for campfires on site. Cutting or removing wood or forest products for home or commercial use requires a permit.
Campfires	-Recreational fires of less than 3 ft. diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 ft. around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.
Firearms	-Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in and within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area, etc.)
Camping	-Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted with some conditions. See complete rules.
Personal property	-Personal property may not be left or positioned so as to obstruct use of a road or trail. Personal property left unattended for 14 days shall be deemed abandoned.

**Special rules apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas. They are not included here.**

TRAILS -Motor vehicle and off road rules

**Classified Forest Lands.** State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

### State Forest Lands Classified as **Managed:**

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**. Beltrami State Forest is classified as **MANAGED**.

### State Forest Lands Classified as **Limited:**

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

• Motor vehicles may operate on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**. Trails that are not posted open for motor vehicles are designated as non-motorized. *This provision will not be enforced until all postings are completed, estimated, July 1, 2000.*

### State Forest Lands 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.

### General Operating Restrictions

**- anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.**

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.
- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:
  - \* when the water body is ice covered.
  - \* on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.

• Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.

• Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.

• Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.

**NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS-** Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed.

ATV's are allowed in the state forest except on snowmobile trails November 1st through April 1st or in the portion where the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area overlaps.

Remember that there are private lands within the Beltrami Island State Forest. Respect landowners' rights; always ask permission before entering private land.

### SNOWMOBILE LAWS

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

- 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.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

651-296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)

651-296-5484 (Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

### AREA FORESTRY OFFICES

DNR Forestry  
1208 E. Howard Street  
Hibbing, MN 56639  
218-308-2065

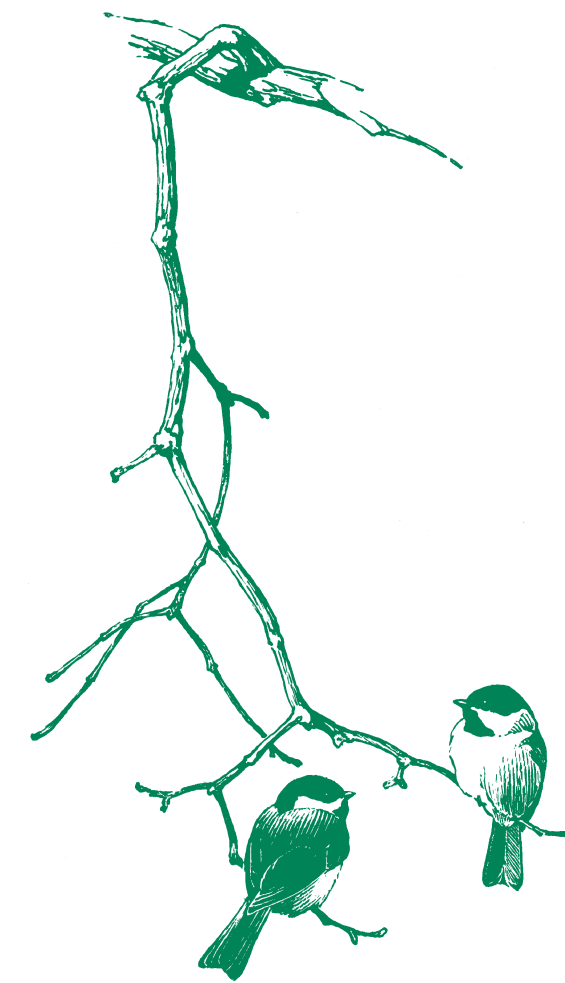
DNR Forestry  
PO Box 95  
Effie, MN 56639  
218-743-3694

### FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES -Dial 911

Itasca Co. Sheriff - Toll Free 1-800-458-8732  
Non Emergency 218-326-3477

### NEAREST HOSPITALS

Northland Medical Clinic  
135 Pine Tree Drive  
Big Fork, MN 56628  
218-743-3232



"Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquires should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240."

