

## CAMPING

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages five campgrounds which are open to the public with a use fee. The campground areas are available for a variety of user groups, with various levels of service depending upon location. All campsites are equipped with latrines, picnic tables, grills and fire rings. A permit is required on all sites and can be obtained online, by mail, or in person at the Forestry, Recreation and Land Office.

- ◆ **Torch Lake Campground & RV Park:** Offers the highest level of service and is geared towards users with RV camping units. Includes full hook-up for RV users, two comfort stations (including one shower house), and one ADA-compliant guest site.



- ◆ **Tamarack Springs Campground:** Relatively remote and geared toward ATV and off-highway motorcycle users. Has direct access to ATV routes and established single track trails.

- ◆ **River Road Equestrian Campground:** Geared toward equestrian users; has direct access to established equestrian trails. Access is not far from Highway 45; parking is available for trailers. Facilities include areas for overnight equestrian maintenance.

- ◆ **Rummels Road and Buckatoban Campsites:** Located on the Wisconsin River; access is only available by walk-in, canoe or kayak. These sites are geared toward watercraft users who travel segments of the Wisconsin River Centennial Trail. The sites provide a remote experience with no motorized access.

## BOATING

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages thirteen public boat landings.

- ◆ **Boot Lake:** Asphalt approach with ramp and pier (6'x16')
- ◆ **Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park (WI River):** Asphalt approach with ramp, ADA pier (4'x32'), latrine, tables, grills
- ◆ **Eagle Lake:** Asphalt approach with ramp, ADA pier (6'x36'), trailer parking, restroom
- ◆ **Forest Street (Eagle River):** Asphalt approach with ramp (City-owned), ADA pier (8'x22', City-owned), trailer parking area (County-owned)
- ◆ **Hunter Lake:** Gravel road, unimproved ramp, latrine, fire ring
- ◆ **Lake of the Hills:** Asphalt approach with ramp, ADA pier (6'x20')



- ◆ **McLeod Lake:** Gravel road, unimproved ramp, table, fire ring
- ◆ **Muskellunge Lake:** Asphalt approach with ramp, ADA pier (6'x40')
- ◆ **Pickrel Creek:** Gravel road, unimproved ramp, pier (6'x20')
- ◆ **River Road (WI River):** Gravel road, unimproved ramp, canoe and kayak launch, fire ring
- ◆ **Snipe Lake:** Asphalt approach with ramp, pier latrine, shelter (6'x24')
- ◆ **Tamarack Flowage:** Gravel road, canoe and kayak launch, pier
- ◆ **Upper Buckatoban Lake:** Asphalt approach with ramp and pier (5'x24')

## FISHING

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages seven improved shore fishing sites.

- ◆ **Cook's Lake:** ADA fishing pier (8'x8'), access catwalk
- ◆ **Deep Lake:** ADA fishing pier (8'x8'), access catwalk, fire ring
- ◆ **Lake of the Hills:** ADA fishing pier (6'x20')
- ◆ **Mud Minnow Lake:** ADA fishing pier (4'x8'), access catwalk, fire ring, grill
- ◆ **Rice Lake:** ADA fishing pier (6'x16')
- ◆ **Tamarack Flowage:** Fishing pier (4'x16')
- ◆ **Wood Duck Lake:** Fishing pier (8'x16')

## DAY USE PARKS AND BEACHES

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages twelve day use areas and facilities.

- ◆ **Buckatoban Creek Park (Walk-in Only):** Picnic tables, fire ring/grill, shelter, latrine, remote camping, adjacent Wisconsin River access
- ◆ **Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park:** Picnic tables, grills, latrine, adjacent Wisconsin River access
- ◆ **Eagle Lake County Park:** Beach, swimming pier, picnic tables, grills, latrine, adjacent Eagle River Chain of Lakes access
- ◆ **Hunter Lake Park:** Beach, picnic tables, grills, fire ring, playground, horseshoe pit, latrine
- ◆ **Lac Vieux Desert Park:** Headwaters of the Wisconsin River, picnic tables, grills, latrine
- ◆ **McLeod Lake Park:** Picnic table, fire ring, adjacent water access
- ◆ **River Road Park:** Picnic tables, fire ring, latrine, adjacent Wisconsin River access

## DAY USE PARKS AND BEACHES

- ◆ **Rummels Road Park (Walk-in Only):** Picnic tables, fire ring/grill, shelter, latrine, remote camping, adjacent Wisconsin River access
- ◆ **Snipe Lake Park:** Picnic tables, grills, shelter, latrine
- ◆ **Snyder Lake Park:** Picnic table, fire ring
- ◆ **Tamarack Springs Park:** Picnic tables, grills, latrine, fishing pier, adjacent campground and Tamarack Springs water access
- ◆ **Torch Lake Park:** Beach, picnic tables, grills, fire ring, playground, latrine, adjacent campground

## NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION

- ◆ **Hiking:** Hiking is open on all County forest lands. Hundreds of miles of opportunities abound, including hiking remote lands, hunter walking trails, unmaintained trails and roads, and maintained roads.
- ◆ **Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:** Two established cross-country ski trail systems are managed by the department. The Pioneer Creek Ski Trail is groomed as needed throughout the season, and the Langley Lake Ski Trail is signed but not groomed. All trails *not designated as a motorized trail* are open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- ◆ **Equestrian Trails:** Three trail units are designated for equestrian use; nearly twenty miles of established trails are available.
- ◆ **Natural Food Collection:** The County forest has many sites appropriate for edible plants, including blueberries, black berries and raspberries. Mushrooms can also be found across the forest. Please enjoy, but be sure that you know what you are picking and eating!
- ◆ **Bicycles:** Vilas County has an excellent network of bicycle trails and routes. Contact the Tourism Department or visit their website for more details.

## MOTORIZED RECREATION

- ◆ **Scenic Drives:** The Vilas County Forest has over forty-eight miles of forest roads available for recreational driving. Some areas provide exceptional views and opportunities for wildlife encounters. Views are especially enhanced by our fall colors!
- ◆ **ATV/UTV Trails and Routes:** Vilas County has an interconnected network of ATV/UTV trails and routes managed by local ATV clubs. Many trails cross portions of the County forest.
- ◆ **Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM):** Vilas County has an area established for OHM with more than eight miles of off-road trails.
- ◆ **Snowmobile Trails:** Eagle River, the county seat of Vilas County, is the "Snowmobile Capital of the World®". Vilas County has a network of over 700 miles of groomed snowmobile trails managed by eleven snowmobile clubs. Over 100 miles of trail cross portions of the County forest.



## HUNTING, TRAPPING & SHOOTING

The Vilas County Forest encompasses over 41,000 acres of land with diverse forest age classes. Forest cover types within the forest provides a wide range of wildlife habitat. Forest management has been completed to complement wildlife habitat. Abundant deer, bear, turkey, grouse, squirrel, cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare can be found on the highlands. Ducks of many species, and geese—including Canadian and Snow—can be found in the wetlands, lakes and streams. Trappers can find fur-bearing animals in the uplands and lowlands.

## HUNTING, TRAPPING & SHOOTING

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages and maintains eleven hunter walking trail units with over ninety miles of improved accesses, closed to motor vehicles, for hunters of various mobility levels. The department also manages and maintains a shooting range which is open to the public.

### ◆ Hunter Walking Trail Units:

Decker Lake (5.3mi)	Pioneer Creek (8.99mi)
Deep Lake (6.0mi)	Ski Hill (6.67mi)
Heart Lake (5.24mi)	Snipe & Ewald Lake (18.78mi)
Langley Lake (18.22mi)	Torch Lake (7.08mi)
Mud Minnow Lake (3.16mi)	White Squaw (9.12mi)
Muskrat Creek (6.61mi)	

- ◆ **Shooting Range:** The Vilas County Shooting Range is located 5.5 miles north of Eagle River off Highway 45. The range includes eight shooting benches with backstops of various ranges for rifles and handguns, one clay target area for trap and skeet shooting, one fire ring, and parking. Rules for the range are posted at the site. A donation tube is also on the site for users to contribute to the cost of maintenance. Please follow the rules and be safe at the range!



## SUSTAINABILITY AND CERTIFICATION

All sustainable management activities integrate sound forestry with management of wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil health, and recreation. Management within the Vilas County Forest, and on the forest itself, is 100% certified as sustainable under the nationally-recognized Sustainable Forest Initiative® (SFI-01617) and the internationally-recognized standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®COO6090). Regular audits of practices and conditions are conducted by multiple entities to monitor activity and practices; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources monitors Forest practices per Wisconsin County Forest Law requirements. The Vilas County Forest is also part of the Wisconsin County Forest Association, which promotes sustainable forest management on county and other forest lands across Wisconsin.



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Vilas County Forest is yours to enjoy. We welcome any and all visitors to utilize all that the forest has to offer. During your visit we ask that all visitors follow one basic rule—please have respect and consideration for other forest visitors and users. Vilas County ordinances 2, 16, 19 and 80-2A set forth the rules and regulations that apply on Vilas County lands. The County Recreation Officer and representatives from the Forestry, Recreation and Land Department are authorized to enforce these ordinances.

- ◆ **County Property:** Protect and respect all County property. Do not remove or destroy any natural growth or disturb any items installed for public use. The parks, recreation sites and facilities on the Forest are open from sunrise to sunset except when specific times are posted.

- ◆ **Litter:** Please take all refuse with you when you leave the forest. If possible, leave the area cleaner than when you arrived. The forest and facilities belong to all of us.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ◆ **Hunting:** Permanent tree stands are not allowed on the County Forest lands. Regulations for hunting blinds are available at the Forestry Department office. All applicable hunting regulations are in effect.
- ◆ **Boat, Kayak and Canoe Landings:** Overnight parking or camping is not permitted at any established landings.
- ◆ **Camping:** Camping is by permit only, and due to increased fire risk, camping is allowed only in designated sites.
- ◆ **Beaches:** Soap, fires, food, beverages and pets are prohibited on established beach areas.
- ◆ **Pets:** Leashed pets are allowed in designated areas of established facilities; maximum leash length is eight feet. Pets are not allowed on beaches or in picnic areas. Hunting dogs are allowed on County Forest lands outside of established facilities, but must be directly monitored or controlled by the owner. Please clean up after your pets.
- ◆ **Bicycles:** Bicycles are only allowed on established trails or roadways open to vehicle traffic. Off-road bicycle use is not allowed on the Forest.



- ◆ **Snowmobile Trails:** Snowmobile operation is allowed only on designated trails. Wheeled vehicles are not permitted on designated snowmobile trails from December 1st through March 30th.
- ◆ **ATVs and Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM):** ATVs and OHMs are only allowed on designated trails and roads. ATV and OHM use off-trail, or beyond the defined bed of designated trails and roads, is a violation of County ordinance.

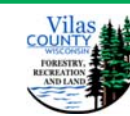
## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ◆ **Equestrian Use:** Equestrian trails are established in some areas of the Forest. Equestrian use is promoted within these areas and motor vehicle use is limited. Equestrian use is allowed in other areas, but users should be aware of other users within those areas.
- ◆ **Timber Sale Areas:** Please stay away from timber sale areas that are operational. Timber sales are operational when machinery is on site. Equipment operation and tree felling creates many hazards for Forest users. Active timber sale areas are closed to the public for safety reasons. Forest users should remember that income produced by timber sales provides funding for many other uses on the Forest.
- ◆ **Firewood Harvesting:** Harvesting of firewood is by permit only. Firewood permits may be obtained at the Forestry Department office. Firewood areas and maps can be obtained with the permit.
- ◆ **Areas Closed to Travel:** Trails and roads blocked with berms, rocks or gates, and/or marked with signs, are designated as walk-in only unless otherwise designated for a specific use.
- ◆ **Areas Open to Motor Vehicle Use:** Trails and roads that are open to motor vehicle use have a wide range of users from large trucks and equipment to ATVs, bicycles and pedestrians. Road and trail conditions vary based on weather and traffic patterns. Please use caution, operate at appropriate speeds, and be aware of others when utilizing Forest trails and roads.
- ◆ **Mobility-Impaired Permits:** Vilas County has an established policy to increase access to public facilities and programs by individuals with mobility disabilities. Qualified individuals may be eligible to operate power-driven mobility devices (PDMD) in areas closed to motor vehicles by permit only. Some areas on the Forest are specified as access areas and other areas may be accessible based upon assessment by the Forestry Department. Please contact the Forestry Department for more information, or to obtain a permit.



# VILAS COUNTY FOREST

"Something for Everyone in the Northwoods"



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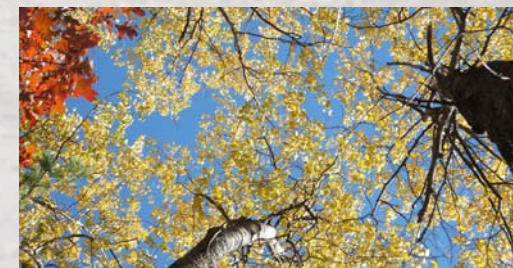
## MANAGEMENT AND SILVICULTURE

The mission of the Vilas County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect our natural resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations.

Professional staff use silviculture—the art and science of managing the establishment, composition, structure and growth of forests—in order to maintain and enhance the health and quality of the trees within. This practice is applied throughout the Forest using modern techniques in order to satisfy Forest users' diverse needs and values.

Silvicultural activity is dictated by forest type, soils, and specific light and moisture requirements of the tree and vegetation species present. These characteristics are influenced by location, history of disturbance, climates and microclimates of the site. The land itself ultimately determines what can grow on any particular site.

Sustainable management practices strive to maintain forest age class and structure in an effort to maximize forest health and ensure regrowth for the future. Improved forest health reduces the loss of trees from natural causes and catastrophes, such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks.



Throughout the Vilas County Forest you will see silvicultural activity, including timber harvesting, site preparation, timber stand improvement and tree planting. These practices promote diverse forest conditions to meet the many demands of the forest, while generating income to fund projects on the Forest and within the County.

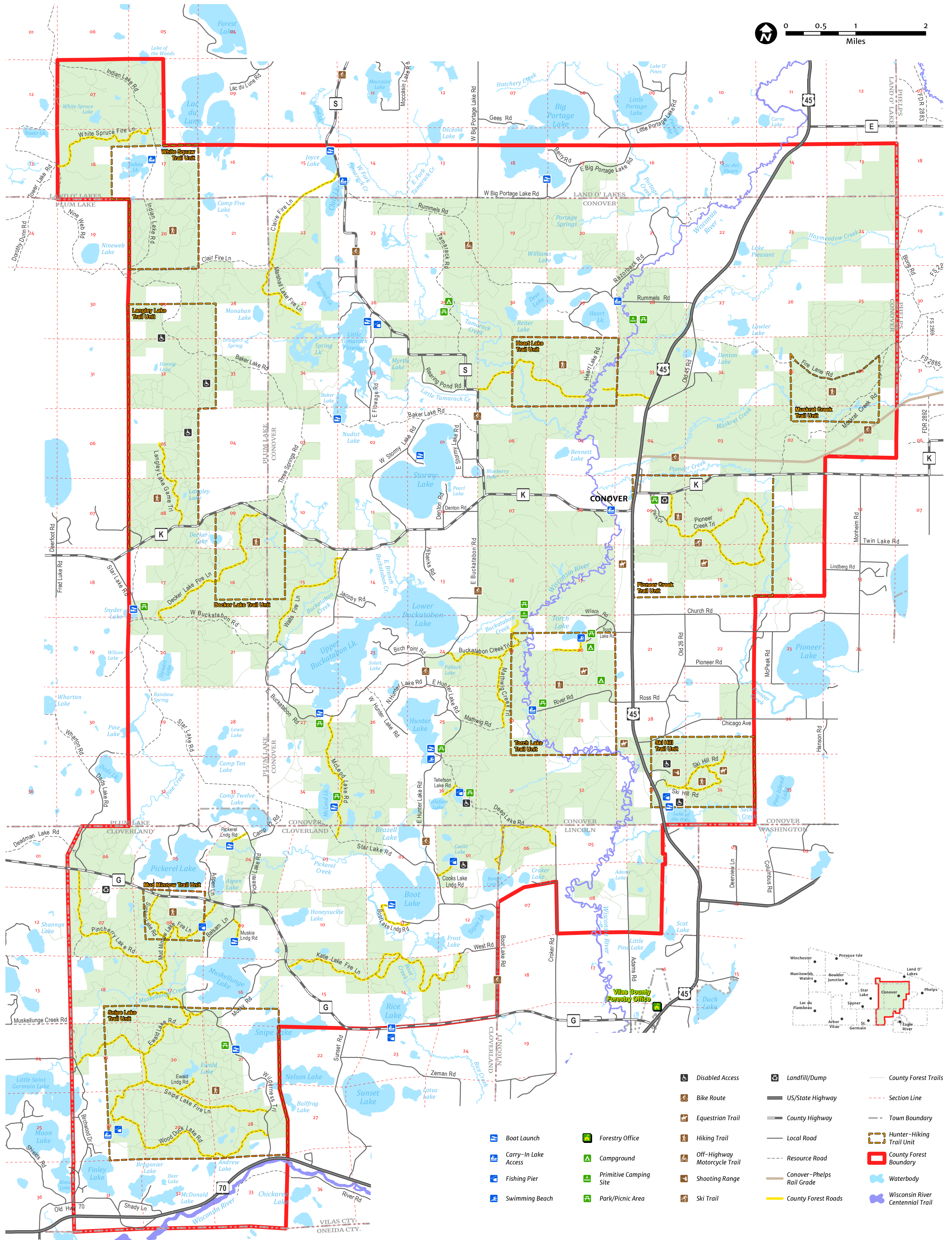
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Vilas County Forest provides a diverse set of recreational opportunities to the user. Additional information about the County Forest and what it has to offer can be found using the following resources:

- ◆ **Forestry, Recreation and Land Department:** Go to the department page, or search "forestry", on [vilascountrywi.gov](http://vilascountrywi.gov), to find up-to-date information about all the Forest has to offer.



- ◆ **Vilas County Tourism:** Visit [vilas.org](http://vilas.org) for information on camping, hunting, fishing, boating/paddling, cross-country skiing, biking, equestrian, ATV/UTV, OHM, snowmobiling, events, lodging, shopping, dining, and much more throughout the county!
- ◆ **Campground Reservations:** Make campground reservations online by visiting the Parks and Recreation Department page, or search "camping", on [vilascountrywi.gov](http://vilascountrywi.gov).
- ◆ **Wisconsin County Forest Association:** Find out how counties in Wisconsin are working to maintain healthy, productive and sustainable forests at [wisconsincountyforests.com](http://wisconsincountyforests.com).
- ◆ **DNR County Forest Program:** View program details and information by visiting the DNR's website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and searching "county forests".
- ◆ **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI):** To learn about how SFI is working to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations, visit [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org).
- ◆ **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC):** Visit [us.fsc.org](http://us.fsc.org) to find out how FSC is promoting environmentally sound, socially-beneficial and economically-prosperous management of the world's forests.



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|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Disabled Access              |  | Landfill/Dump             |  | County Forest Trails             |
|  | Bike Route                   |  | US/State Highway          |  | Section Line                     |
|  | Equestrian Trail             |  | County Highway            |  | Town Boundary                    |
|  | Hiking Trail                 |  | Local Road                |  | Hunter-Hiking Trail Unit         |
|  | Off-Highway Motorcycle Trail |  | Resource Road             |  | County Forest Boundary           |
|  | Shooting Range               |  | Conover-Phelps Rail Grade |  | Waterbody                        |
|  | Ski Trail                    |  | County Forest Roads       |  | Wisconsin River Centennial Trail |
|  | Boat Launch                  |  | Forestry Office           |  |                                  |
|  | Carry-In Lake Access         |  | Campground                |  |                                  |
|  | Fishing Pier                 |  | Primitive Camping Site    |  |                                  |
|  | Swimming Beach               |  | Park/Picnic Area          |  |                                  |

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# VILAS COUNTY FOREST