

Hello and welcome to the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest – a place held dear by many generations, since 1925. My name is Steve Petersen and I'm the superintendent of the state forest. I've had a lifelong association with the forest and consider it a privilege to be able to work here to protect and manage it.

The state forest offers something for almost everyone on its 232,000 acres. If you seek solitude you can find it down a quiet hiking trail. We offer five nature trails with interpretive panels to explain the history of the site and its natural features. There are seven more trail systems that are maintained and mapped. And there are nearly 1000 miles of woods roads open to hiking or biking.

Bicyclists might take a ride on our Raven Mountain biking trail system and refine their techniques on the skills course there. Many of the communities within the state forest have developed a linked system of paved bike trails that are very popular and travel between a number of our campgrounds and picnic areas.

Fishing? Launch a boat at any of over 100 boat landings or carry in a canoe or kayak to a more remote lake. There are over 900 water bodies on the forest.

Campers can choose from hundreds of campsites within the 18 campgrounds, maybe backpack to a wild spot, or camp at one of our nearly 100 canoe campsites.

But the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest is a four season destination too. Hunters, anglers and leaf lookers enjoy the property in the fall. Skiers and snowmobilers find a winter playground here. In the spring visitors shake off their cabin fever and camp, fish, and hike. Come anytime!

Many areas of the state forest are actively managed for forest products. This is done in a sustainable way and is certified as such by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. We are proud of the stewardship we provide the forest as we manage it towards the goals in our master plan.

I invite you to explore your Northern Highland American Legion State Forest and I hope you have a pleasant visit.