Welcome to Tiffany State Wildlife Area

Location: Tiffany Wildlife Area is 45 minutes south of Eau Claire and 30 minutes north of La Crosse. It is located along the Chippewa River between Nelson and Durand, west of State Highway 25 and mostlly north of State Highway 135. About 1/6 of it lies west of the Chippewa River in Pepin County. The rest lies east of the Chippewa River in Buffalo County.

Paying for Wildlife & Beauty: Funds for the management of Wisconsin's wildlife and wild places come, in part, from the sales of hunting licenses and from an 11% federal tax on firearms and ammunition.

For Information & Camping Permits:

Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin DNR
Buffalo County Courthouse
Alma, WI 54610
(608) 685-6222

A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Property
Hunting and Fishing

Tiffany is a wild and wonderful place. If you are a hunter who relishes a remote natural setting, you’ll enjoy hunting at Tiffany. White-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, turkey, squirrel and waterfowl are common game species at Tiffany. Furbearers such as beaver, otter, muskrat, and raccoon are also common. Note: Beaver and otter are protected from trapping in an 8,000-acre closed area. Popular game fish include panfish, walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish and northern pike. Please follow all hunting and fishing regulations carefully.

Watchable Wildlife

You don’t have to hunt or fish to enjoy the area. Tiffany attracts many people who canoe, camp, raft, hike, and cross-country ski as well as those who watch wildlife, pick berries, take photographs and use the area for educational field trips. Bird watchers are attracted because of the varied topography and plant communities.

A number of endangered and threatened species survive at Tiffany. These include the massassaga rattlesnake, blanding’s turtle, red-shouldered hawk, bald eagle, great egret, and three fish: the crystal darter, river redhorse and the blue sucker. The early spring display of wild flowers, which includes marsh marigold and spring beauty, attracts visitors.

Managing Wildlife Habitat

Tiffany Wildlife Area has a diversity and abundance of wildlife habitat on more than 13,000 acres. The area contains one of the state’s largest, continuous bottomland hardwood forests. Timber harvests help maintain aspen and oak in a diverse pattern of size and age classes. This variety in woodland composition and structure provides food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife including deer, ruffed grouse and beaver. Dead trees with dens are left to provide wildlife homes. Oaks with superior potential for producing acorns are preserved to provide nutritious high energy wildlife food.

Special Rules at Tiffany

Motor Vehicles: Please leave your car, truck, RV, motorcycle, ATV, or other motorized craft at designated parking areas. Motor vehicles are not allowed anywhere else at Tiffany.

Trails: Trails are not marked at Tiffany, but the area is open to hiking, cross-country skiing and nature study.

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed, by permit only, within Tiffany’s interior. No developed sites are available. Camping permits are available at the DNR office in Alma:

Alma DNR Office
Buffalo County Courthouse
207 S. 2nd Street
Alma, WI 54610
(608) 685-6222

Tree Stands: Hunters must remove their tree stands at the end of each day. Tree stands which damage trees are prohibited.

Please be careful and remember to respect wildlife and other users.

Your wildlife management staff thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Early History

Pre-historic Indians lived in the shadow of the glacier at Tiffany about 11,000 years ago. Winnebago Indians camped on the Chippewa River delta.

During the late 1800s, the timber industry began logging the towering red and white pine of northern Wisconsin. Lumberjacks floated the huge logs down the Chippewa River to Beef Slough for sorting before sending them to sawmills along the Mississippi.

At this same time, white settlers of Buffalo County used the Chippewa River floodplain for farming and raising cattle. By the mid-1930s, however, all farming on the floodplain ceased because the land became too wet due to the new lock and dam system operating on the Mississippi River.

Between 1920 and 1940, the timber on this DNR property was logged by the area’s namesake, H.O. Tiffany. The State of Wisconsin initially acquired the Buffalo County property from Mr. Tiffany in 1946.

Ice Age Legacy

10,000 years ago, the last Wisconsin glacier stopped advancing just northeast of Tiffany Wildlife Area. Its rushing meltwaters created massive rivers and formed the fertile Chippewa River valley and delta. The delta plugged drainage into the Mississippi River and formed Lake Pepin just west of Tiffany. The lush, bottomland hardwood forest and varied topography found today at Tiffany resulted from this glacial legacy.

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