Flambeau River State Forest

Growing. Giving. — 2004 • YEAR OF — WISCONSIN FORESTRY

SINCE 1904 • DNR FORESTRY • 100 YEARS

Flambeau River State Forest • W1613 Co. W • Winter, WI 54896 • 715-332-5271 • www.dnr.state.wi.us

Sustainable Forestry

By Heidi Brunkow, Assistant Superintendent

The Flambeau River State Forest has a number of important goals that guide the management of the property. Foremost is the perpetuation of natural resource values of the Flambeau River and its surrounding lands, providing an enjoyable visitor experience, accommodation of recreational and educational activities, and a continuous supply of quality wood products. These goals are accomplished through principles of sustainable forestry.

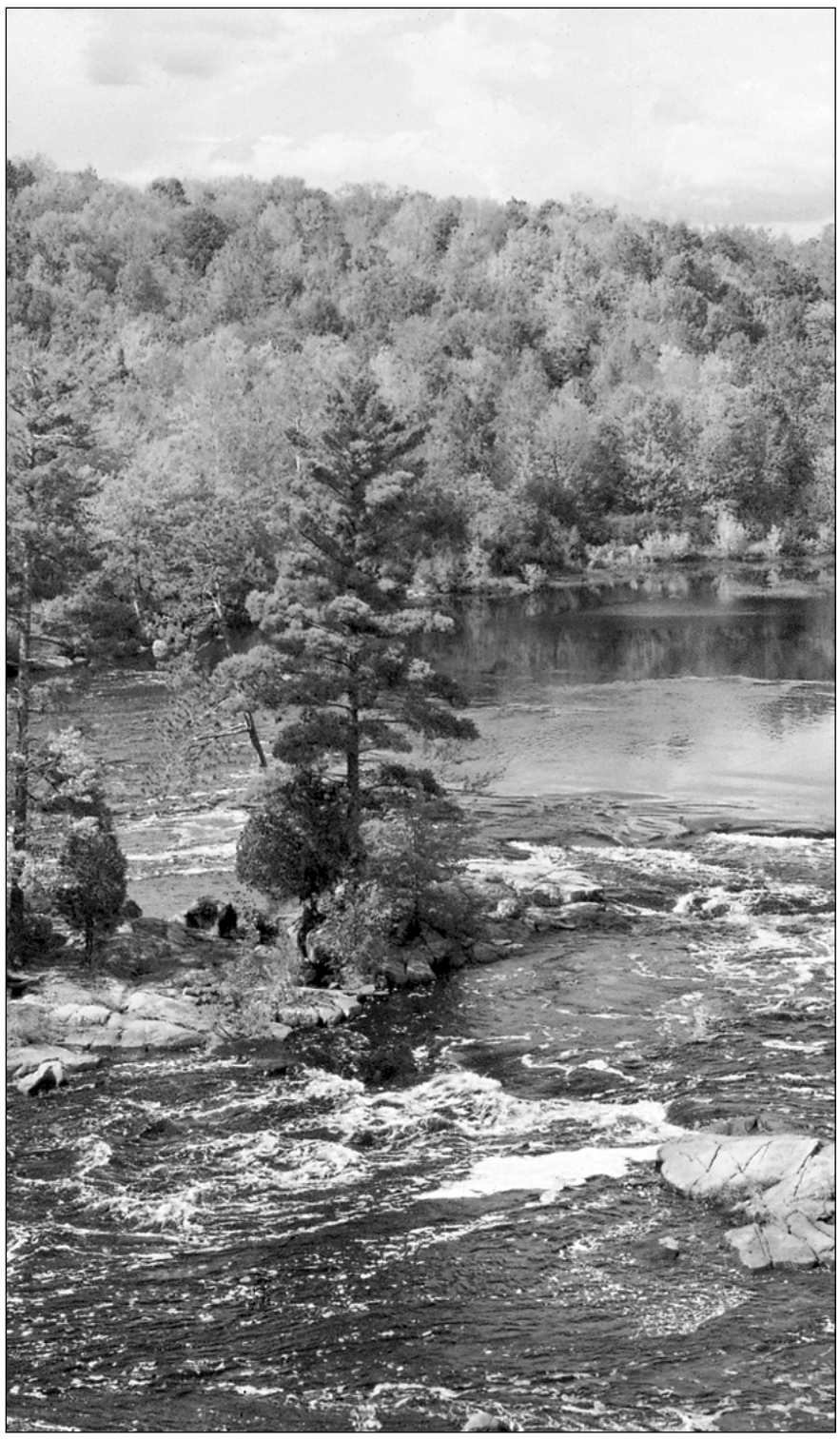
Sustainable forestry means managing the land according to its natural capability to provide a wide array of benefits for now and the future. Ecological benefits of sustainable forestry on the Flambeau include protection of the soils, water quality, native biological diversity, and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat. Examples of social benefits include outdoor recreation opportunities and aesthetic enjoyment. The forest also provides a sustained flow of wood products – an economic benefit to nearby communities and to Wisconsin as a whole.

Timber sales are established to accomplish many different types of forest management objectives such as producing timber, improving forest health, creating wildlife habitat, increasing tree species diversity, and ensuring adequate forest regeneration. Saw timber, pulp wood, fuel wood, and other forest products can be produced over and over again by using sustainable forest management practices. The availability of wood products on a sustained basis helps support the second largest industry in Wisconsin and provides job opportunities for many people.

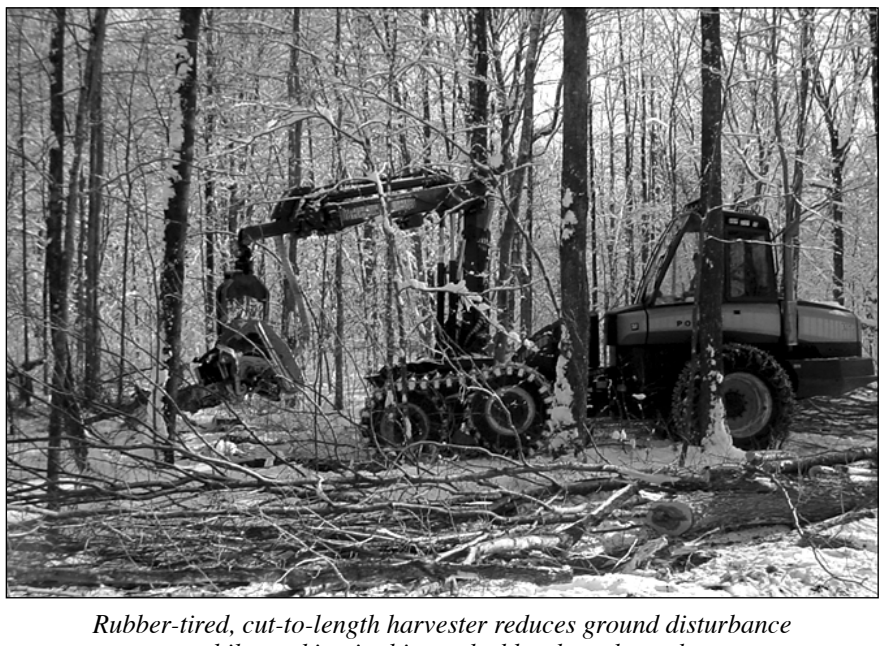
There are approximately 15-20 active harvest contracts on about 700 acres of forest land on the Flambeau each year. Due to the moist soil conditions in this area, the majority of these timber sales are conducted in the winter. Frozen ground conditions during the winter minimize the effects on soil disturbance and help prevent rutting. Some areas of the forest are not planned for harvest, including areas where current logging practices are not compatible with the property master plan objectives. Such areas may include wilderness areas, trout stream shorelines, critical wetland areas, and sensitive scenic areas.

The major forest cover type on the Flambeau is northern hardwood, followed by aspen, and swamp hardwood. Because northern hardwood is the major forest cover type, the harvesting done on the forest is primarily single tree selection harvest. An important management prescription for the Flambeau forests is to maintain and establish big trees within select forest types, such as northern hardwoods, white pine, red pine, hemlock-hardwood, and red oak. Large diameter trees are recognized for their aesthetic values.

Trees are a renewable resource that benefits us now and in the future. The principles of sustainable forestry are used to assure that the forest can, and will continue to, provide a full range of benefits to the people and visitors of Wisconsin.



Flambeau River



Rubber-tired, cut-to-length harvester reduces ground disturbance while working in this marked hardwood stand.

Flambeau History

Flambeau River State Forest was the name approved by the Conservation Department on November 29, 1930. During the 1920s a group of citizens led by Judge A.K. Owens of Phillips began petitioning to preserve a large block of land on the Flambeau River. In 1929, a 3,112 acre parcel was purchased by the Conservation Department and in 1930 the Flambeau River State Forest was born.

In the following years, more and more land was purchased. Most of this land was purchased from lumber companies that had completed the "cut over" of their properties and were looking for a way to dispose of them. By 1946, the forest had grown to more than 65,000 acres.

The late 1950s and early 1960s saw the majority of recreational development on the forest. Before that, the only development was some river campsites, a small picnic area and the forest headquarters. This headquarters building was built in the early 1950s from wind blown hemlock. (Feel free to stop by the office for a look around.) As more people began to use the forest, Lake of the Pines and Connors Lake Campgrounds were created for the many campers wishing to visit the forest. Connors Lake Picnic Area was eventually expanded to the basic dimensions you see today.

Today, the forest is the second largest property owned by the State of Wisconsin. With a little more than 90,000 acres, it boasts an active timber management program, river recreation opportunities, camping, picnicking, snowmobiling, ATVing, hiking, hunting, fishing, and many other activities a large forest can offer.

The people of Wisconsin can be proud that the Flambeau River State Forest has retained much of its early flavor as a remote and wild forest. Much effort has been spent in providing for visitor needs and desires while recognizing their reasons for visiting the forest. Large tracts of undeveloped land, wilderness, remoteness, quietness and solitude often describe the forest visitors□needs and desires.

As new demands are placed on the forest, we need to remember the rich history of the forest in combination with new data that is continuously collected. This knowledge helps us make informed decisions on management and use of the forest. Your input into these decisions is always welcome and will assist the forest staff in providing you with a pleasant visit.

Information

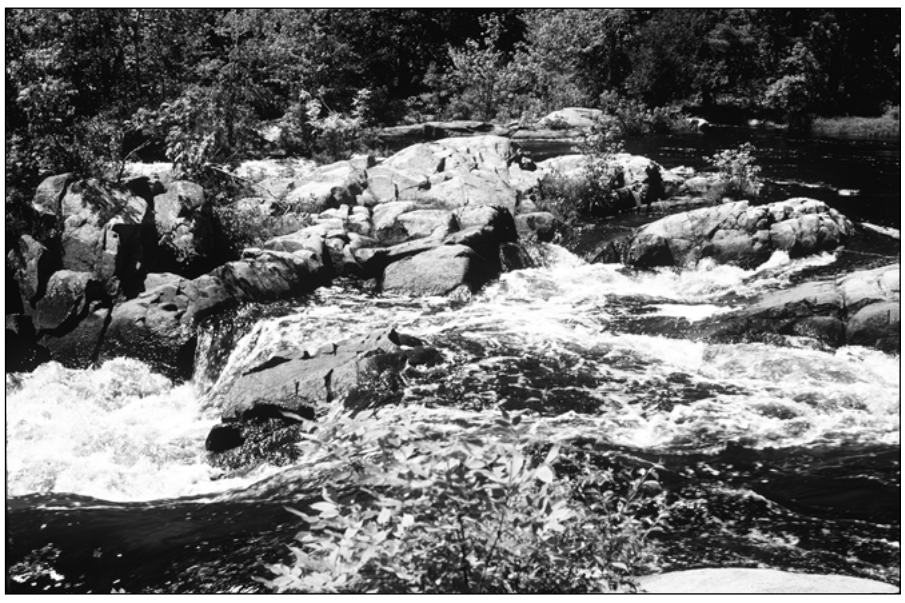
Flambeau River State Forest

W1613 Co. W, Winter, WI 54896

(715) 332-5271

Normal business hours are
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 7:45–4:30.

We are a field office; hours/days may vary



Scenic Areas

Within the forest boundaries a variety of splendid scenery and exciting recreational areas exist:

Little Falls/Slough Gundy

This is a great spot for a picnic, fishing or viewing the rugged whitewater of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. Long before arriving at the river's edge, the roaring rapids can be heard in the distance. But best of all, is the spectacular sight of huge boulders and rushing water with the peaceful elegance of a pine forest in the background.

Sobieski Flowage

Located in the southeastern section of the forest, a once active cranberry farm was purchased by the State of Wisconsin which was not actively managed. The area has since been rejuvenated by the Rough Grouse Society, Plaza Farms, the Wildlife Restoration Association, and the Department of Natural Resources. The area includes a medium size flowage, waterfowl nesting areas (the old cranberry beds), and several miles of hunter walking trails.

Bass Lake

In 1983, Bass Lake was designated as a wilderness lake to protect and perpetuate its natural beauty. The area is provided for fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. To enhance the natural setting of this 94-acre lake and its shoreland, motorized vehicles, motor boats, mooring of boats overnight, and camping are prohibited. The area is open for the public to enjoy.

Tuscobia State Trail

by Ray Larsen,
Former Tuscobia Trail Superintendent

This 74 mile long, relatively flat trail crosses a diverse portion of northern Wisconsin. It crosses many streams and skirts many lakes, ponds, and wetland areas. The adjacent lands vary from farm lands to vast stretches of wild publicly owned forest lands.

The trail's western terminus is located about three miles north of the City of Rice Lake along Hwy SS, near Hwy 53. Agricultural lands border the trail as the visitor heads easterly through Brill and Angus. This portion of the trail is in the Ice Age Trail System. Birchwood is a bustling northern Wisconsin city with many activities for visitors. Most services are available here. East of Birchwood is a stretch of trail that crosses the north end of the Blue Hills. It is a wild and scenic area. The trail then parallels Hwy 27/70 from Couderay through Radisson, Ojibwa, Winter, and Loretta-Draper. These quaint villages also provide many services; Winter is the largest of these villages. Near Radisson the trail crosses private property to cross King Creek. The Chippewa River crossing near Ojibwa uses the Hwy 27/70 bridge. From Draper east to Park Falls, the trail goes through its wildest stretch. Deer and grouse sightings are common through this area.

The trail tread is a variety of surfaces; portions are cinder, crushed gravel, turf, coarse pit run gravel or topsoil. Some areas can be wet at times. Trees occasionally fall across the trail, so be alert to changing trail conditions.

Snowmobiling is the main use on the Tuscobia Trail. ATV's are allowed on the trail from April 15th through November 15th annually in the area between Birchwood and Park Falls. Parking is available at the west end of the Tuscobia. Parking is also available in the villages along the trail's route.

The trail is also open to mountain bikes, horseback riding, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Hunting is not allowed on the trail except for the deer-gun and late bow season. The Tuscobia Trail ties in with many other multi-use trails along its route. In the central portion of the trail, it connects with the Flambeau River State Forest trail system.

Many activities take place throughout the year in each of the communities along the trail as well as other area cities. For more information call:

Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce
(715) 634-8662
1-800-724-2992

Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
(715) 762-2703
1-800-762-2709

Price County Tourism
(715) 339-4505
1-800-269-4505

Rice Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
(715) 234-2126
1-800-523-6318

Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce
(715) 635-2168
1-800-367-3306

Winter Area Chamber of Commerce
(715) 266-2204
1-800-762-7179

Information about the operations of the Tuscobia Trail can be obtained by calling or writing to the Ladysmith Service Center at (715) 532-3911, N4103 Hwy. 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848.

Where Did the Big White Pine Go?

A silent giant standing 130 feet tall and with a girth of 13 feet was a popular attraction for visitors to the Flambeau River State Forest. This big white pine resided in the forest for over 300 years until the early winter months of 2000 when the tree succumbed to a combination of lightning strikes, insect infestations, and disease. The inside of the tree had become nearly hollow with mostly rotten wood. In August of 2000, while staff evaluated the safety issues of leaving the tree standing, some unknown person or persons cut down the big white pine. No one claimed responsibility for the vandalism. Fortunately, the forest staff, with the help of local citizens, was able to salvage a 16-foot log for educational purposes. The log is on display at the Flambeau River State Forest office located on Highway W.

Neighbors: State Forest and Wildlife Area

Due east of the Flambeau River State Forest is the Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area. This area originated in 1963 as a 5,240 acre gift from the Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Today, the area contains 8,639 acres and is managed for sharp-tailed grouse.

If you visit this area you will notice that most of the area is vacant of trees. Why? Sharp-tailed grouse require large open areas in order to thrive. Between 1967 and 1992, over 2,400 acres of timber were harvested and 17 miles of firebreak were constructed. These fire breaks help wildlife biologists and forest rangers control prescribed fires which are used to kill brush and trees. The goal is to provide the area with 5,500 acres of sharptail habitat.

Four burn units have been established and each unit is burned every 4-6 years. Areas outside the burn units are maintained as brushy lowland areas which sharptails use during the winter.

No hunting for sharptails is allowed in this area. However, other species such as deer, waterfowl, and ruffed grouse are open to hunters. There are several erected platforms in the area which provide nesting sites for three pairs of osprey and one pair of eagles. Some of these platforms can be seen from Price Lakes Road. Come and enjoy the area. You are welcome to park and explore.

Wildlife and Life on the River

by Sam Moore,
Retired DNR Wildlife Biologist

Canoeists who enjoy rivers and watching wildlife in natural settings will find Flambeau River State Forest to their liking. The Flambeau River travels through miles of different habitats which are home to hundreds of bird species and other wildlife. The river provides them with water for drinking, bathing, and cooling. The water is also a source of food—fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and insects attract many wildlife species daily. Binoculars and field guides have a place here too, but the appreciative traveler soon discovers the deepest impressions are made by things seen up close and personal—the dragonfly on your knee, the chickadee at arm's length, the eagle at twenty feet, the black bear at thirty feet (no closer please!). Quiet, careful canoeists will be rewarded by close encounters with undisturbed animals and their young as well as sounds from the surrounding forest. An overnight stay at one of the campsites along the river can include time spent listening for the things that go "bump" in the night like calling barred owl or coyote. But don't stay awake too late or you will sleep through the flurry of bird and mammal activity that takes place the first hours of daylight. By being "on the river" in early morning it is easy to imagine that you have it to yourself. Drift downstream and back into time as you experience the same sights and sounds that greeted the earliest river travelers—the Native Americans, trappers, and lumbermen. Life has not changed all that much here—this is the river's world. Look back upstream occasionally. There is no sign of your passing or the others who have passed this way before. Yet, around each bend there is something new. Watch for a bald eagle on its favorite perch. Listen to the raven's endless conversation. Scan the quiet shallows for a mother mallard or hooded merganser and her brood feeding on insects. Catch a glimpse of a mink or raccoon on the water's edge. Let a family of otter check you out then go about their own business. Take your time—this is not a race.

Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy *(Rhus radicans)* is a member of the Cashew family of plants. It grows as a small creeping plant, a climbing vine, or as a shrub. The stems are woody. The leaves alternate and always consist of three glossy to dull dark-green leaflets, often wavy edged or lobed (but sometimes smooth-edged). From mid-summer through winter many poison ivy plants support dense clusters of pea-sized white berries.

Poison ivy is found throughout the forest and in fields and waste places, fence rows, and the edge of the woods. The oil urushiol is contained in the leaves, flowers, fruits, stem bark, and roots of poison ivy. **This oil may persist on equipment, clothing or pets that have come in contact with the plant. It is also present in the smoke if the plant is burned.**

On contact with the skin, the oil causes an allergic reaction characterized by irritation, inflammation, itching, and swelling, often followed by yellowish, watery blisters. Symptoms usually appear within 24 hours and sometimes several days after exposure. People vary in sensitivity to the plant's oil. Some individuals are very susceptible to its effects and others seem immune. **This apparent lack of sensitivity may change in a person's lifetime**.

Recently "Ivy Blocks" and "Ivy Washes" have become available. These products may block the oils or remove them after contact. First aid treatment starts with the removal of contaminated clothing. All exposed skin areas should be washed thoroughly with soap (Alkaline laundry soaps are best) and water, followed by rubbing alcohol. Calamine lotion or **other specialized "Ivy" lotions** may be applied if a mild rash develops.

A severe rash is characterized by redness, blisters, swelling, and intense

burning and itching. The victim may also develop a high fever and may become very ill. Medical help should be obtained if a severe reaction occurs or if there is a known history of previous sensitivity.

Learn to recognize poison ivy and avoid an unpleasant experience.

Canoeing and Camping on the Flambeau River

The North Fork of the Flambeau River, within the boundaries of the Forest, offers excellent canoeing for both the beginner and the expert canoeist. Established landings, along the North Fork, for starting and take-out points are: Nine Mile Creek on State Hwy. 70, Dix Dox, the bridge crossing on Co. Trunk W at the Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters, Camp 41 Landing, Beaver Dam Landing and Hervas Landing. There is no charge for the use of these landings. Vehicles may remain overnight for these persons camping on the river. Drinking water is available at all of the above landings except at the Beaver Dam Landing.

Because of the length of the Flambeau River, it is advisable to make the trip in sections. Take your time; enjoy the adventure. You will average three to four miles per hour with steady paddling and some assistance from the current.

The run between Nine Mile Creek and Oxbo Landing is 12 miles. There's only one rapids large enough to mention (Barnaby Rapids) that will be encountered. This is an ideal trip for novices; however, accomplished canoeists may also enjoy it.

After leaving Oxbo Landing, the current is swift for a short distance. The river wanders for several miles through wild country before arriving at Babb's Island. Just below Babb's Island you will approach the bridge on Co. Trunk W between Winter and Phillips. The Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters is located on the north bank of the river just below the bridge. There are no public telephones past this point.

About a mile below Camp 41 Landing there will be a small rapids as the river gently turns to the left. From here you should be able to hear the roar of the mid and lower Wannigan Rapids. At this point the river widens and forms a back water which looks like a small lake.

It is here where the excitement of the trip really begins. Before starting, check to see that all equipment is well tied to the canoe; you are about to encounter a series of swift rapids. The Flambeau Falls, the first of the series, is only a short distance downstream and will be recognized by Dode's Island between the pitches. A half mile down river from Dode's Island is the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Flambeau Rivers. The South Fork enters this junction from the south and joins with the North Fork to form the Flambeau River proper.

Continuing about three miles down river, you are greeted by the roar of the tumbling water announcing the first pitch of Cedar Rapids. The river is wide and deep at this point. It might even be called a small flowage. It is backed up by a shelf of rocks which extends across the river at the first falls. If you are uncertain about your ability to run the rapids, it is best to portage this area. There are four pitches to Cedar Rapids in about three miles of water.

The final important rapids is Beaver Dam, named for its resemblance to the dams constructed by beavers. The dam extends across the river in a nearly straight line. The falls are abrupt with an approximate four foot drop.

If you shoot the rapids, keep the canoe parallel to the bank and in a straight line with the current to avoid "side slipping." "Side slipping" means tipping. Once Beaver Dam is cleared, the main excitement of the trip is over. You'll continue on for another half mile to the Beaver Dam Landing; you may take out here on the right side of the river. Or, if you prefer, continue your voyage on for another three miles to Big Falls Flowage where there is a private take-out facility on the west bank of the river at an area resort (Flambeau Lodge).

Canoe campsites have been provided at strategic locations along the canoe route. There are fourteen canoe camp areas on the river which are *only* available to river travelers. All supplies must be transported by water craft to the campsites; drive up camping is not allowed. All sites are marked and easily seen from the river. Most canoe campsites have been developed to provide room for more than one group. Two to three campsites are at each area. Each campsite has a table and a fire ring. Toilets are nearby. There is no charge for use of these campsites. Your help in maintaining these campsites is needed. Please keep the site neat and clean; the way you would like to find it.

On heavy use weekends, it is suggested that you plan short day trips on the river and camp at the family campgrounds available at Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines (appropriate fees apply).

Approximate Times Between Landings

Nine Mile to Oxbo	4–5 Hours
Oxbo to Hwy. W	4-5 Hours
Hwy. W to Camp 41	3 Hours
Camp 41 to Hervas	2–3 Hours
Hervas to Beaver Dam	2–3 Hours
Beaver Dam to Flambeau Lodge	2-3 Hours

Price Creek

Fishing

For the person who likes to fish, the Flambeau River offers unlimited opportunities for musky, walleye and smallmouth bass. Musky are fished by using buck tails and large crank baits. For walleye and smallmouth use small spinners, rapalas and jigs tipped with live bait. Look for these species by deep pools, eddies and the edge of weed lines. Rocks also make excellent spots to fish small mouths.

Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines are good fishing lakes with walleye, bass, musky, northern pike and panfish present. Connors is a deep clear lake that has a 90 ft. hole and an average depth of 40 ft. Walleye are the primary fish with a good population of small mouth bass, perch and bluegill also present. For anglers looking for a trophy musky—Connors is the lake to fish. Lake of the Pines has a good population of musky, walleye, northern pike and an excellent population of panfish—especially crappie.

Baits most frequently used in the two lakes are jigs, spinners, spoons and crank baits. Live baits used are leeches, minnows and crawlers. On Connors Lake try for walleye along the west shore in the fallen timber, using slipbobbers or jigs with live bait. Rock bars and weed lines are good on both lakes using these same techniques.

Bass Lake is a little gem of a lake about three miles off Hwy. W on Tower Hill Road. Camping and boat motors are not allowed on this lake. Boats must be walked in. Largemouth bass and bluegills are the two main species fished. Try flyrod fishing for "gills" using poppers or flies. Or you might try using ultralight rods with worms and small leeches. For largemouth bass use weedless crank baits, spinners and jigs tipped with a piece of crawler.

Trout fisherman can find native brook trout in just about every creek that empties into the Flambeau River. The two most well known trout streams in the forest are Price Creek and Hackett Creek. Use worms or crawlers to bait these fish. Flyrods can be used in portions of the creek. Tiny spinners are also excellent at certain times of the year.

Classificaton of Rapids

The following are the International Canoe Federation Whitewater Rating Definitions, the ratings were adapted from *Best Canoe Trails of Northern Wisconsin and Whitewater Quietwater*[1]. On the Flambeau River, the canoeist will encounter rapid Classes I through V. The rapids and their location are indicated on the map. These are conservative ratings, intended to give a canoeist an idea for what one might encounter along the river. The water levels along the river can fluctuate daily, if not hourly, and it is important for the canoeist to be aware of river conditions and the seasonal variations that occur. The Department does not monitor the river for these changing conditions and cannot guarantee the accuracy of the ratings for any given time. Please be careful, use common sense and enjoy your canoe trip on the Flambeau River.

Class I **Easy:** Riffles, small, regular waves. Easy to find course. Minor obstacles. Beginner paddler.

Class II **Medium:** Fairly frequent but unobstructed rapids, usually with regular waves, easy eddies and bends. Novice Paddler.

Class III **Difficult:** Characterized by numerous high, irregular waves covering boat. Course not easily recognizable, requires maneuvering in rapids. Intermediate Paddler.

Class IV **Very Difficult:** Long rapids with powerful, irregular waves, dangerous rocks and boiling eddies. Powerful and precise maneuvering is required. Course difficult to determine without scouting from bank. Holes will keep boats. Advanced Paddler.

Class V **Extremely Difficult:** Long, violent rapids with difficult, irregular, unavoidable high waves and holes. Rescue difficult. Fast eddies and vigorous cross currents. Frequent scouting is mandatory. Expert Paddler.

[1]Palzer, Bob and Jody, *Whitewater Quietwater,* 6th ed., Birmingham, AL: Menasha Ridge Press, 1992.

Selin, Steve and Jenny, *Best Canoe Trails of Northern Wisconsin,* Wisconsin Tales and Trails, Inc., Madison, WI: American Printing Co., 1984.

Canoeing & River Camping Tips

1. Camping is allowed at designated canoe campsites for **one night** only. Users must travel by watercraft, **no** walk in camping.
2. Drinking water is available at all river landings **except** Beaver Dam landing.
3. There are no garbage containers on the river. **Pack out all refuse. Do not litter.**
4. Each camp area has a toilet. Please do not deposit litter in toilets.
5. Build fires only in approved fire rings provided. Please use caution.
6. Be sure to have approved floatation devices—one for each occupant.
7. Dead **and** down wood may be used for firewood. Please do not damage standing trees.
8. Keep noise to a minimum. Sound carries great distances on water. Have respect for other river users.
9. Lastly, **have fun!!**

Canoe and shuttle service in the immediate area are provided by the following:

Nine Mile Resort & Tavern
W10590 Hwy. 70
Park Falls, WI 54552
(715) 762-3174

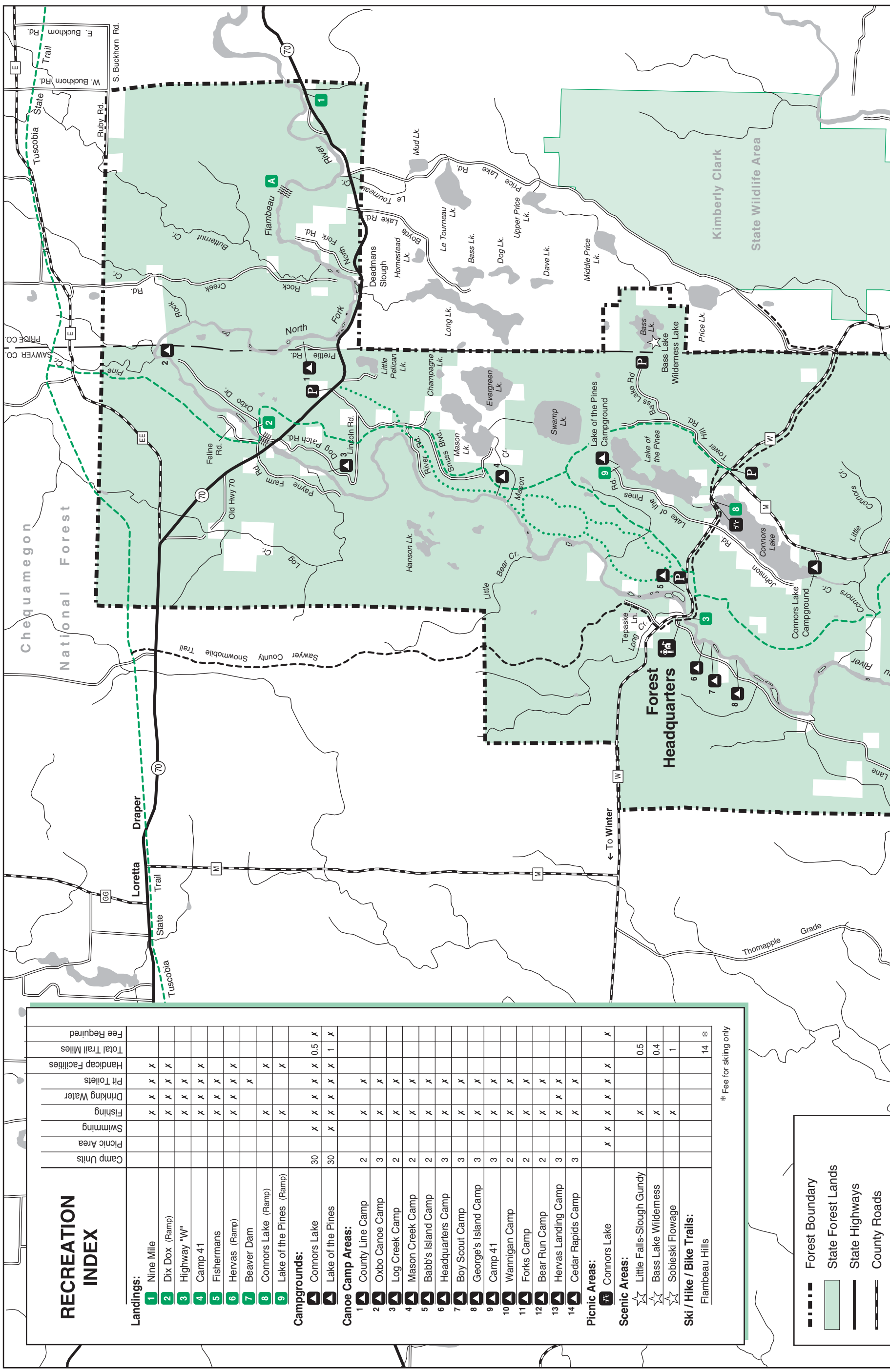
Big Bear Lodge
W1614 Hwy. W
Winter, WI 54896
(715) 332-5510

Oxbo Resort
Route 1, Box 251
Park Falls, WI 54552
(715) 762-4786

Flambeau River Lodge & Campground
N7870 Flambeau Road
Ladysmith, WI 54848
(715) 532-5392

Flambeau River State Forest

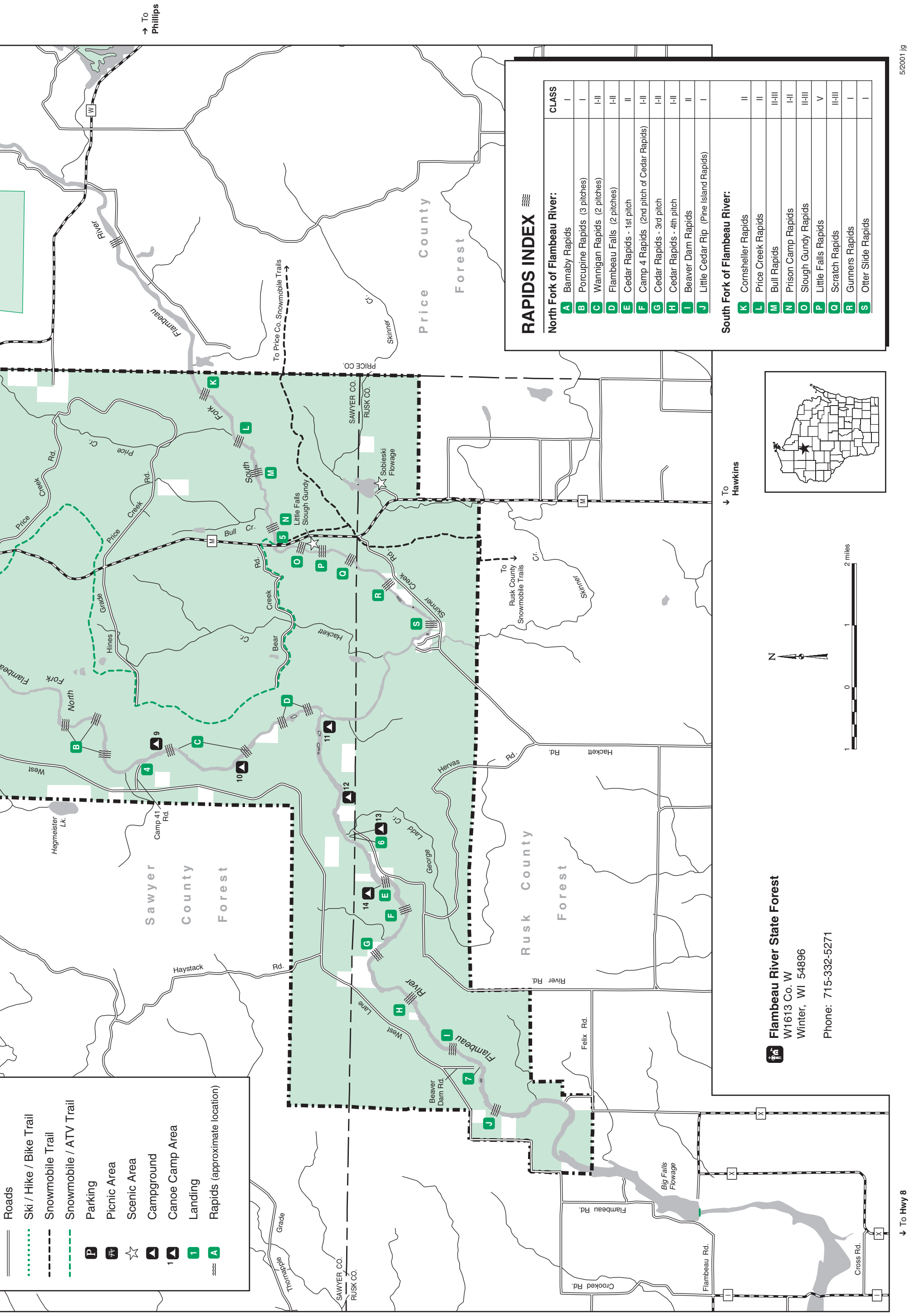
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



RECREATION INDEX

	Camp Units	Picnic Area	Swimming	Fishing	Drinking Water	Pit Toilets	Handicap Facilities	Total Trail Miles	Fee Required
Landings:									
1 Nine Mile				✗	✗	✗	✗		
2 Dix Dox (Ramp)				✗	✗	✗	✗		
3 Highway "W"				✗	✗	✗			
4 Camp 41				✗	✗	✗	✗		
5 Fishermans				✗	✗	✗			
6 Hervas (Ramp)				✗	✗	✗	✗		
7 Beaver Dam						✗			
8 Connors Lake (Ramp)				✗			✗		
9 Lake of the Pines (Ramp)				✗			✗		
Campgrounds:									
Connors Lake	30		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0.5	✗
Lake of the Pines	30		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	1	✗
Canoe Camp Areas:									
1 County Line Camp	2			✗		✗			
2 Oxbo Canoe Camp	3			✗		✗			
3 Log Creek Camp	2			✗		✗			
4 Mason Creek Camp	2			✗		✗			
5 Babb's Island Camp	2			✗		✗			
6 Headquarters Camp	3			✗		✗			
7 Boy Scout Camp	3			✗		✗			
8 George's Island Camp	3			✗		✗			
9 Camp 41	3			✗		✗			
10 Wannigan Camp	2			✗		✗			
11 Forks Camp	2			✗		✗			
12 Bear Run Camp	2			✗		✗			
13 Hervas Landing Camp	3			✗	✗	✗			
14 Cedar Rapids Camp	3			✗		✗			
Picnic Areas:									
Connors Lake		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗
Scenic Areas:									
Little Falls-Slough Gundy				✗				0.5	
Bass Lake Wilderness				✗				0.4	
Sobieski Flowage				✗				1	
Ski / Hike / Bike Trails:									
Flambeau Hills								14 ❄	

❄ Fee for skiing only


RAPIDS INDEX
North Fork of Flambeau River:
CLASS
A Barnaby Rapids I
B Porcupine Rapids (3 pitches) I
C Wannigan Rapids (2 pitches) I-II
D Flambeau Falls (2 pitches) I-II
E Cedar Rapids - 1st pitch II
F Camp 4 Rapids (2nd pitch of Cedar Rapids) I-II
G Cedar Rapids - 3rd pitch I-II
H Cedar Rapids - 4th pitch I-II
I Beaver Dam Rapids II
J Little Cedar Rip (Pine Island Rapids) I
South Fork of Flambeau River:
K Cornsheller Rapids II
L Price Creek Rapids II
M Bull Rapids II-III
N Prison Camp Rapids I-II
O Slough Gundy Rapids II-III
P Little Falls Rapids V
Q Scratch Rapids II-III
R Gunners Rapids I
S Otter Slide Rapids I
Flambeau River State Forest
W1613 Co. W
Winter, WI 54896
Phone: 715-332-5271
Roads
Ski / Hike / Bike Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Snowmobile / ATV Trail
Parking
Picnic Area
Scenic Area
Campground
Canoe Camp Area
Landing
Rapids (approximate location)
Sawyer County Forest
Rusk County Forest
Price County Forest
Flambeau River
North Fork Flambeau
South Fork
West Fork
Price Creek
Price Cr.
Price Creek Rd.
Grade
Hines
Bull Cr.
Bear Cr.
Hackett Creek
Skinner Creek
Skinner Cr.
Skinner Rd.
Little Falls Slough Gundy
Sobieski Flowage
Big Falls Flowage
Hegmeister Lk.
Camp 41 Rd.
Haystack Rd.
Hervas Rd.
Hackett Rd.
Ladd Cr.
George
West Lane
Beaver Dam Rd.
River Rd.
Felix Rd.
Flambeau Rd.
Crooked Rd.
Cross Rd.
Thornapple Grade
SAWYER CO.
RUSK CO.
PRICE CO.
To Price Co. Snowmobile Trails
To Rusk County Snowmobile Trails
To Phillips
To Hawkins
To Hwy 8
2 miles
5/2001 jg

This Paper Aims To Help You Enjoy Your Visit

The *State Park/Forest Visitor* is published by the Department of Natural Resources to help you enjoy your visit. This paper answers visitor□smost commonly asked questions about the Forest. If you have other questions, ask the manager or staff at the Forest office.

The *Visitor* is distributed without charge to Forest visitors. Any material in it may be reproduced as long as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is acknowledged. Please don□t throw the *Visitor* away. Take it home for future reference or pass it on to a friend. If you must discard it, use a container—don□t litter. Better yet, recycle the Visitor!

Volunteer

Do you like to camp? Do you enjoy meeting and helping people? Do you have talent and interest you would like to share? If your answers are yes, then you may be interested in the volunteer program at the Flambeau River State Forest.

As a volunteer, you may choose to work in any area that interests you. Examples of opportunities are: Campground Host, Trail Maintenance, Naturalist/Interpretation, Ski or BikeTrail Patrol, Visitor Information, Building and Grounds Maintenance.

For more information on the program or an application form, stop at the forest office. By mail direct your inquiry to: Forest Manager, W1613 Co. Rd. W, Winter, WI 54896.

Donations to the Forests

If you enjoy this Forest, you may want to express your appreciation through a gift of money, materials or equipment.
You now have the opportunity to help support Wisconsin□sstate forests. Wisconsin□s Forests for the Future Fund is a program created by the Department of Natural Resources. Donations to this program will be used to plant and manage trees in our state forests. To obtain an informational brochure on this program stop by the Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters or contact the Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.
Gifts help Wisconsin□sstate parks and forests provide facilities and services that otherwise would not be possible. For information on materials or equipment donations please contact the Flambeau River State Forest, W1613 Co. W, Winter, WI 54896, (715) 332-5271.

Equal Opportunities

The Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Those who are interested in the variety of career opportunities offered through the State Forest program are encouraged to apply. For more information contact Flambeau River State Forest, W1613 Co. Rd. W, Winter, WI 54896.

Do You Have A Disability?

The Department of Natural Resources is making an effort to provide accessible park and forest recreation facilities for people with special needs. We would like to hear from you regarding this effort and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Presently there are disabled access camping sites at Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines campgrounds. There is also disabled access at Connors Lake Picnic Area and boat landing.

If you are using these facilities, we would like to know what your opinion is, what you like, don□t like, or any suggestions you have. Please write to us at Flambeau River State Forest, W1613 Co. Rd. W, Winter, WI 54896.

Forest Staff

There are seven permanent employees assigned to the Flambeau River State Forest. They are here to serve you and to ensure that you have a pleasant experience. Our permanent staff is also supported by several limited term employees that assist us in maintaining forest facilities and in completing various projects. The work done by our staff includes timber management, recreation and facility maintenance, law enforcement and resource education.

Permanent staff not only specialize in one primary field of resource management but also are very familiar with all the phases of management of the property. Please feel free to stop and ask us questions you may have about the forest or the surrounding area.

Kids! Parents! Explore Together

Would you like to have some campground activities for yourself and your children and receive an environmental education lesson at the same time? As Junior Rangers and Wisconsin Explorers, you can really get into nature! The Junior Ranger program is for children K-3rd grades, while the Wisconsin Explorer program is for 4-6th graders. Here□s how to get involved. Ask at the forest office or contact stations for your free Junior Ranger or Wisconsin Explorer workbook. You complete the workbook during your stay in the Forest. The activities are easy and fun! Once the workbook is completed, return it to any participating state park or forest to receive your certificate of achievement and a free wildlife patch for your cap or jacket. So come on! Have fun earning your patch while learning about your favorite animals. During the summer camping season, there may be children□s programs put on by the campground manager. Check at the campground posting area for notices on activities.

Do you collect DNR Wildcards? These "baseball" style cards are available at the forest office and from the campground manager. There are 33 different cards with topics that range from Wildfire Preventers and invasive species to Wisconsin□s natural treasures. There□seven one on the Flambeau River State Forest. Start your collection today!

WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

Subscribe now to—*Wisconsin Natural Resources*—Our award-winning magazine devoted exclusively to Wisconsin. Each colorful bi-monthly issue brings facts on wildlife, parks fishing, hunting, environmental concerns, places, and events unique to Wisconsin. Send $8.97 for a one-year subscription to: Wisconsin Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI 53707.

"Remember…Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

Safe Campfire: *Solely used for cooking and warming. Only clean dry wood is allowed!*

Unlawful Campfire: *Used for eliminating garbage or trash. Oily substances, plastic, rubber, aluminum, treated paper or cardboard is not allowed!*

Campfire Safety

If a fire is desired and conditions are favorable, use an existing fire ring or charcoal grill.

1. Keep tents and gear at least 10 feet away from the fire.
2. Never leave your campfire unattended and always have a shovel and bucket of water on site.
3. When finished, drown your campfire thoroughly with water and stir the ashes.
4. Scrape all embers off of the partially burned sticks and logs.
5. Check the entire area outside the campfire circle for any hot embers. Remember that it only takes one spark or ember to start a forest fire!
6. Add more water to your fire and stir again until it□s cold.

Canoe Campsite on the Flambeau River

Did you know that….?

- Smokey Bear□sbirthday is August 9th, 1944.
- 1 out of every 5 human-caused wildfires was started by a camp or warming fire that got away.
- 1 out of every 10 wildland fires is caused by a careless smoker.
- 57% of forested land in Wisconsin is owned by private individuals.
- Unlike some parts of the world, Wisconsin has been gaining forest acreage, not losing.
- About 1,664 pounds, or one log 18 inches across and 25 feet long will meet the needs of an average person annually for building supplies, newsprint, printing and writing paper, tissue paper, paper towels, product packaging and mail.
- Toothpaste, football helmets, scotch tape and milk shakes are just a few of the products you would never think contain wood fiber.
- The tallest tree in Wisconsin, an eastern white pine, is 148 feet tall! It is located in Forest County!
- The largest silver maple in the country is found in the Town of Marcelon, Columbia County. It is 115 feet tall with a circumference of 293 inches!
- Visit the DNR Division of Forestry Website to learn more interesting facts about trees. www.dnr.state.wi.us

Carry In-Carry Out

Welcome to your state forest! You□ll notice a change in the picnic areas, shelters, beaches, and other day-use areas...no garbage or recycling bins.

From now on, when you visit many Wisconsin state parks, forests, and recreations areas, you□ll need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you.

Why the change?

Home away from home: The parks and forests belong to all of us and just like home we need to care for them and keep them clean.

Less mess: Removal of the garbage and recycling containers eliminates the smells and mess they create. It also cuts down on yellow jackets and other pests.

Reduce, reuse, recycle: Wisconsin state law requires us to recycle many materials we used to throw away. Better yet, we can make new choices of what to bring with us. The more reusable things we pack, the less garbage we□ll create. It□s good for us and for our earth home.

Thanks for helping out by carrying out what you□ve carried in.

Rules and Regulations

Our state parks and forests are special areas that have been established to protect our natural heritage. Listed below are some guidelines for you to follow to enjoy your visit and comply with the rules.

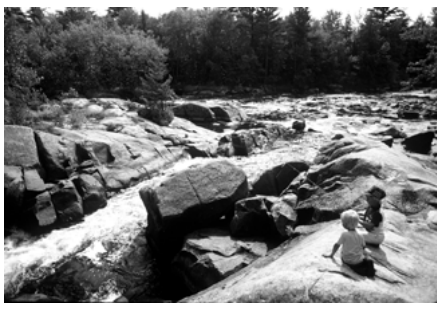
Camping—All campers must obtain a camping permit; all camping permits expire at 3 p.m. on the last day of the permit. Camping is allowed in designated areas only and only one family or individual group of six is allowed to occupy each camping site. Only registered campers are allowed in the campground after 11 p.m., which is also the quiet hour. Please pitch camp on the designated camping pad and park vehicles on the graveled area.

Vehicle Admission Sticker—An admission sticker must be attached to the windshield by its own adhesive when a motor vehicle is operated within a designated public use area.

Pets—Must be on a leash no longer than 8□n campgrounds and other designated areas. Please clean up after your pet. Pets are not allowed in buildings, picnic areas, playgrounds, beaches or on the ski or nature trails.

Fires—Are allowed in fire rings or charcoal grills. Fires cannot be left unattended. Make sure your fire is **Dead Out** before leaving.

Our Concern—Your Safety



The safety of forest visitors is a priority so please be careful at all times and please impress safety precautions on your children. Following are some precautions to keep in mind.

Swimming—Swim safely. Swim at one of the designated beaches located at Connors Lake Picnic Area or Lake of the Pines Campground. None of the Forest beaches have lifeguards. Don□t swim alone, at night, or in unfamiliar places. Use caution when wading in unknown waters, as water depth may change abruptly. Closely watch small children near the water.

Hiking—Hike safely. Be aware that trails vary in difficulty. Not all trails are surfaced. There may be steep climbs, descents, or stairways. Watch small children closely. Trail surfaces can become slippery when wet or covered by leaves and pine needles, or where there is loose gravel.

Biking—Be a smart cyclist. For your protection, wear shoes, pantleg clips and a helmet when bicycling. Wear reflective clothing for bicycling at night. Keep your bike under full control at all times. Pull off the road or trail to view wildlife, flowers or scenic views. Be cautious in areas with loose gravel or sand, wet leaves, or other loose material. Always be alert to traffic. Park and forest roads follow the terrain and often have steep grades, corners and intersections. Trails are not designed for high-speed travel. They can become soft and wet and can erode quickly during heavy rain. Burrowing animals may leave bumps and holes in the trail. Bikes are not allowed on developed nature or hiking trails.

Plants—Never eat berries or plant parts unless you are certain of their identity.

Hikers/Bikers

In the summer, Flambeau Hills Ski Trail doubles as a hiking trail. The Flambeau Hills Trail is marked and the hiker will encounter a wide variety of flora and fauna. This trail is also open to mountain bikers, but hikers should have no problems when encountering them as this trail is wide and there is room for both to enjoy. Please stay to the right of the trail when approaching blind hills and corners. Due to damp soil conditions, this trail provides limited periods throughout the year to operate heavy equipment for mowing. Please check with the forest headquarters if you have questions.

Snowmobiling/ATV's

The Flambeau River State Forest provides for 55 miles of snowmobile trails and 40 miles of ATV trails. Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity in this area and trails are linked to the Tuscobia State Trail and to Sawyer, Rusk and Price County trail systems. For visitors arriving with trailer in tow, the Flambeau Hills Trailhead is available for parking and as a starting point for a day ride.

The ATV trail is open from May 15 to November 15. ATVers can connect to the Tuscobia State Trail and to the Chequamegon National Forest□s Deadhorse Run trail system.

Boating

There is a boat landing at Lake of the Pines Campground and at Connors Lake Picnic Area (not Connors Lake Campground). No fee is required for use of boat launching. Boats may not be left moored, anchored or unattended at any state forest landing.

Cross-Country Skiing:

During the winter months, all of the forest is available for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The only trail that is groomed and tracked for skiing is the Flambeau Hills trail. This wide trail provides 14 miles of exciting cross-country skiing for both traditional and skate skiers. The Oxbo Ski Trail is no longer groomed or maintained.

The Flambeau Hills Trailhead is located one half mile east of the forest headquarters on Co.Hwy. W. Another parking area for this trail is on the north end of the Flambeau Hills Trail on Hwy. 70 and Snuss Blvd. A trail pass is required and is available by self-registration at the trailhead.

Remember to always follow designated trail directions and leave plenty of space between you and other skiers. Don□t ski beyond your ability. Ask at the forest office about trail difficulty. Please don□t snowshoe or hike on groomed trails.

Flambeau Forest Wolves

by Adrian P. Wydeven, Mammalian Ecologist, DNR Park Falls

Wolves were last detected in the Price Creek area of the Flambeau River State Forest in the early 1950s. In April 1954 a 93-pound wolf was trapped from along Price Creek according to Dick Thiel, in his 1993 book on the history of wolves in Wisconsin. Shortly thereafter wolves disappeared from the state.

Although wolves returned to Wisconsin in the mid 1970s, it was not until the late 1980s that wolves recolonized areas near the Flambeau River. In the winter of 1989-1990, wolf tracker Larry Prenn detected a new wolf pack in the Chequamegon National Forest just north of the Flambeau River State Forest. These wolves were referred to as the Log Creek Pack and roamed the Flambeau River north of Oxbo, as well as areas further north in the Chequamegon National Forest. A yearling female (nicknamed "Loretta") was caught and radio collared in the Log Creek Pack near Bear Lake in Spring 1991. In summer, Loretta roamed widely through Sawyer, Ashland, and Iron Counties as she searched for a mate and a territory of her own. Loretta roamed from the southeast of Winter to north of Clam Lake and as far east as Mercer.

By fall Loretta was beginning to spend time with another wolf on the south side of the Log Creek territory. The two wolves eventually settled an area west of the Flambeau River near the Thornapple River. Loretta and her mate became known as the Thornapple River Pack. Although Loretta lost her collar in December 1993, the Thornapple River Pack continues to occupy the wildlands west of the Flambeau River including the Hanson Lake area.

In the winter of 1993-94 a female wolf from St. Croix Park, MN (95 miles west) settled into the Price Creek area on the east side of the Flambeau River State Forest. The female nicknamed "Atrayu" traveled south to within 20 miles of St.Paul, MN prior to moving east to the Flambeau Forest. Her mate was not radio-collared, but probably originated from either the Thornapple River or the Log Creek Pack.

Currently at least 3 packs occur within the boundaries of the Flambeau River State Forest, and surveys in the winter of 1997–1998 suggest that a new pack may be establishing on the south and southwest side of the Forest, but additional surveys will be necessary to confirm its presence. As many as 15-20 wolves may live in the vicinity of the Flambeau River State Forest.

Wolves generally are shy, elusive animals that roam over large areas. Wolf pack territories normally cover 20 to 120 square miles in Wisconsin. Yearling or 2 year old wolves that are approaching maturity, often leave their home territory and "disperse" out to search for a mate and a suitable area to establish a new territory. A disperser from Wisconsin has traveled as much as 300 miles into Ontario Canada.

Wolves are mainly meat eaters and in the Flambeau Forest deer and beaver are the main diet. Other animals eaten include snowshoe hare, woodchucks, mice and sometimes even grasshoppers.

Although wolves generally avoid people, some wolves occasionally lose their fear of people. In the summer of 1997 a wolf nicknamed "Sandy" became habituated to spending time along Highway 70 west of Oxbo, feeding on mice, grasshoppers, and sometimes roadkilled deer. She lost fear of people and their vehicles, and was seen by many people driving through the Flambeau Forest. Sandy eventually dispersed northward to the northern edge of Bayfield County (70 miles away), where she was killed by a bullet in December 1997.

Wolves like many intelligent mammals, are very adaptable. There are no cases in North America of a healthy wolf attacking and killing people in the 1900s. But all large wild animals should be treated with respect. People should avoid getting too close to any wild mammal, and often the inside of a vehicle is the best viewing blind. Feeding wild animals should be avoided because this causes animals to lose their fear of people. Animals that have lost their fear of people can become a risk to people and to themselves.

In the 1940s conservationist Aldo Leopold wrote of one or two wolves still roaming stretches of the Flambeau, but soon afterwards wolves disappeared from the state. Today, wolves again roam the Flambeau River and the sound management of forests along its shores should assure a home for wolves well into the future.

Forest Campgrounds

There are two family campgrounds on the Forest: Lake of the Pines Campground, which is open all year, and Connors Lake Campground, which is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. There are 30 campsites at each of these campgrounds. Both campgrounds are rustic; no electrical hookups or showers. There are fire rings, picnic tables, and pit toilets provided. Both campgrounds have a swimming beach, nature trail, and drinking water. Fires must be in an authorized fire ring only.

Courtesy Camping

Campground Courtesy—Respect the rights and privacy of other campers. Place trash in receptacles and recyclables in the recycling stations. Avoid making loud noises at night (11 p.m. is quiet time). Cutting trees, shrubs or branches is forbidden. Treat signs, tables and other facilities as if they were your own. Leave your campsite the way you would like to find it.

Group Size—The camping units are designed for use by a single family or a group of no more than 6 people. If you have visitors, please remember that only two motor vehicles can be parked at the campsite.

Juvenile Group—Made up of members of an *established organization*. Juvenile groups must be accompanied by one mature adult for each 10 members of the group. No more than 10 persons shall be permitted at each designated campsite.

Backpack Camping—Backpack camping is available on the forest. A permit is required for this type of camping. These permits are available at the DNR Forest Headquarters.

We do not take reservations for campsites—they are on a first come-first served basis. However, you should not encounter any problems obtaining a site with the exception of major summer holidays such as the 4th of July. Self-registration stations are available at both campgrounds so that you may register yourself. *Self registration is required*. Instructions are posted at the self-registration stations.

Firewood

Firewood is not available at the campgrounds. Local vendors are offering firewood for sale. A map is posted at the kiosks near the water pumps to assist you in locating these vendors. Just a reminder, cutting of trees and brush in the campground is prohibited.

For those needing firewood for home use, a permit is available for a small fee at the forest headquarters. This permit is available for dead and down trees within the state forest

Picnic/Beach

The Connors Lake Picnic Area is located on the north shore of Connors Lake. The area contains a shelter building with electricity, a large 300-foot beach, horseshoe pit, volleyball court, running water, toilets and a boat landing. Our shelter is reservable for a fee. Please call our office at 715-332-5271. The use of the boat landing is free to those launching boats only. Those boaters who use the picnic area must register at the nearby registration station. A daily or annual park sticker is required. Sorry, no pets allowed.

Camping with Smokey Bear

Hey Kids! Now you can camp with Smokey Bear (and his daypack kit) overnight. The daypack kit includes games, books, flash cards, activities, a diary, and a safety message to parents. Just ask any Flambeau Forest Staff, or stop in the Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters Office for details.

Remember, only you…can camp with Smokey Bear and only you can prevent wild fires.

This publication is available upon request in alternate formats for visually impaired persons. Please contact the Division of Forestry at (608) 267-7494 to request an alternate format.

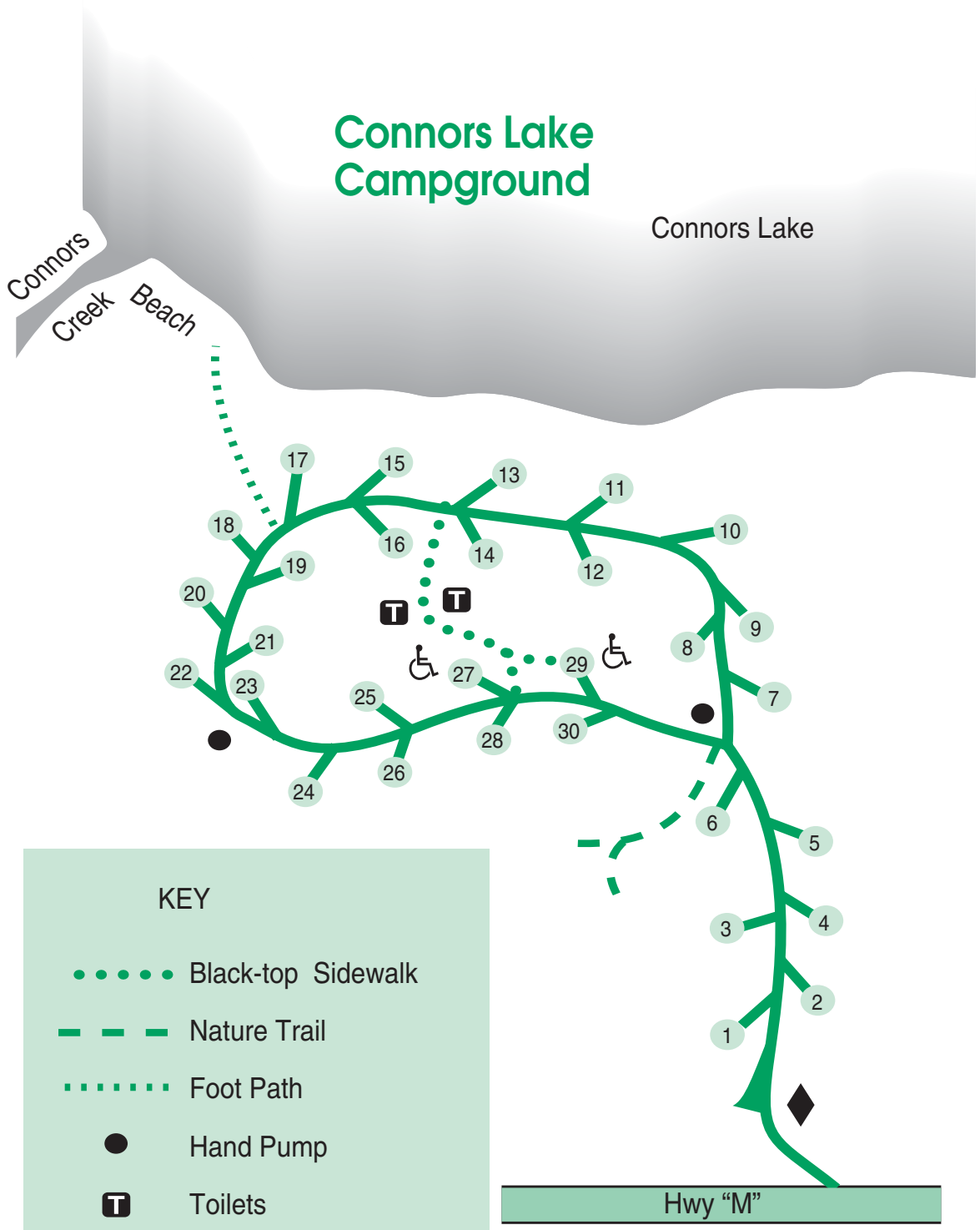
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to: Equal Opportunity Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

MacJG

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

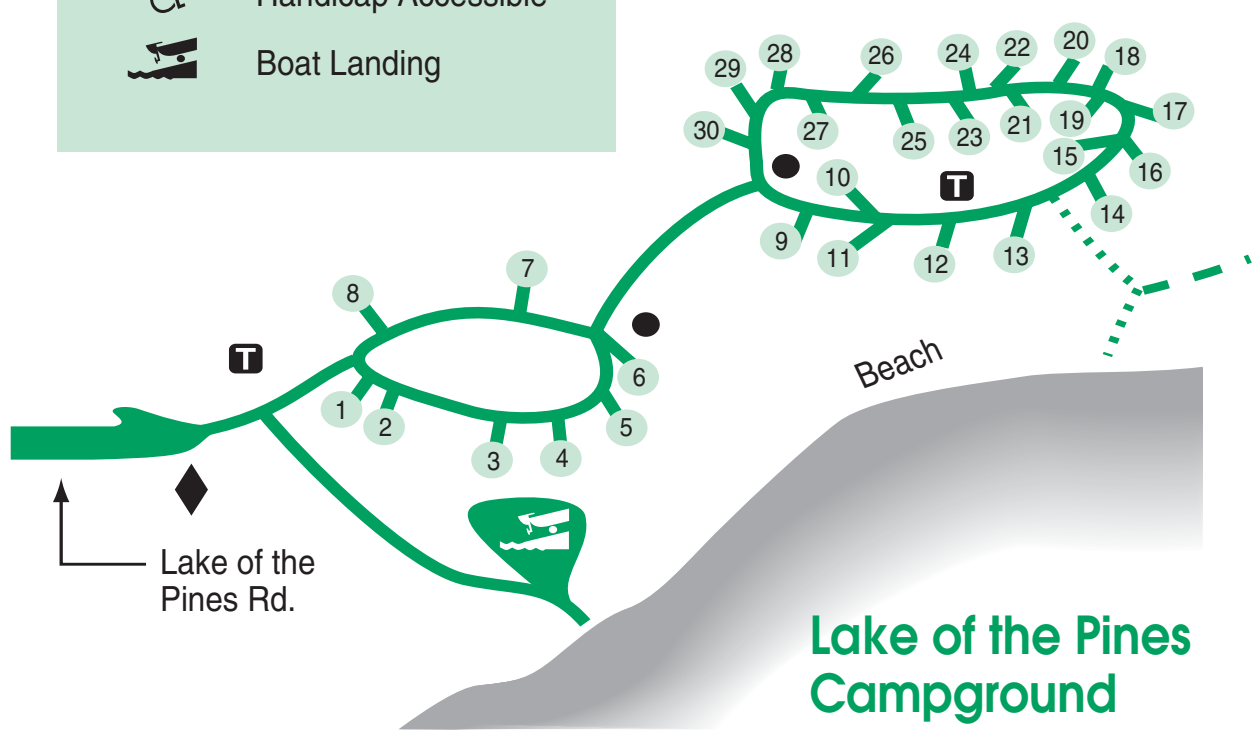
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PUB-FR-130 2004



KEY

- Black-top Sidewalk
- Nature Trail
- Foot Path
- Hand Pump
- Toilets
- Self-registration Station
- Handicap Accessible
- Boat Landing



Emergency Telephone Numbers

Flambeau Forest Headquarters
(715) 332-5271

Price County Sheriff-Phillips
(715) 339-3011 or 911

Sawyer County Sheriff-Hayward
(715) 634-4858 or 911

Rusk County Sheriff-Ladysmith
(715) 532-2200 or 911

Forest Fires: DNR Office-Park Falls
(715) 762-4414

Marshfield Clinic-Park Falls
(715) 762-3212

Marshfield Clinic-Phillips
(715) 339-2101

Flambeau Hospital-Park Falls
(715) 762-2484

Rusk County Memorial Hospital-Ladysmith
(715) 532-5561