Welcome!
Thank you for visiting the Brule River State Forest, with its rich history, unique natural environment, and ecological heritage and commitment to sustainable forestry management practices. Your visit puts you in good company — Native American tribes, and later, French voyageurs, used the river as a link between Lake Superior and the Mississippi. In more recent times, people from all walks of life and even multiple U.S. presidents have enjoyed the forest's many recreational opportunities. Surprises abound at Brule River State Forest. Let the discoveries begin!

Fun Facts About Bois Brule
- Native people, most especially the Ojibwe, have used the Bois Brule River and its surrounding resources for thousands of years.
- The forest was initiated in 1907 by a land donation from Mr. Frederick H. Schenck of the Schenckman Lumber Company and officially established by the state legislature in 1912.
- Bois Brule River State Forest contains all 44 miles of the Bois Brule River, protecting its watershed and sensitive associated resources, including the Brule Bog and headwaters.
- The forest’s 47,000 total acres are managed to support a sustainable, multi-use mission of quiet recreation, timber production and fish and wildlife protection.
- President Calvin Coolidge found the recreational opportunities of the area so appealing that he moved his entire base of operations to the forest during the summer of 1929.

Habitat & Wildlife
- The Bois Brule River State Forest ecosystem is split into four diverse habitat types. These habitats are home to a variety of animal species, including deer, black bear, beaver, otter, fish, mink, bobcat, timber wolf, ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse, and many other species, several of which are threatened or endangered.

Coniferous Bog
- Spring-fed mounds of cedar, spruce and alder at the headwaters of the Brule River are home to unique wildlife such as black-backed woodpeckers, golden-crowned kinglets and occasionally, gray jays.

Upland Pine Barrens
- These sand-glacial moraine stands above the river valley are dominated by jack pine, red pine and scrub oak and support beagles, upland sandpipers and sharp-tailed grouse.

“Sand Country”
- A mixture of northern hardwoods (oak, aspen, birch and maple) and white pine and white spruce make ideal for ruffed, golden-winged warblers, shorebirds and broadcast-sown cover, fisheries and threatened woodland turkeys.

Clay Plain Uplands
- The former bed of Lake Superior; this area is dominated by aspen, spruce, fir and white pine.

Hiking
- Hike your stride—from difficult to mellow.
- The 1.7 mile self-guided Shiny Hill Nature Trail loops through cultural and historical areas of the Bois Brule campground.
- No pets allowed.
- The Historical Boyfeld Road Hiking and Snowmobile Trails are 2.5 mile loop starting at the land off Clevedon Road. This trail has a connecting trail to the North Range Campground.
- 23 miles of the North Country Scenic Trail pass through the forest.
- The 1.9 mile Boy-St. Croix Portage Trail offers an opportunity to see the headwaters of the Brule River. Parking is at the St. Croix Picnic Area off Highway 6.
- All 60+ miles of state forest hiking trails are open to hikers.

Picnicking
- A meal with a view—picnic areas are available throughout the forest.
- You can now make reservations online for campsites by visiting dnr.wi.gov—keywords “Brule River” and select “camping” and then reserve. You can also call Camis at 715-395-7234.
- Copper Range Campground has 17 sites and is located four miles north of the town of Brule on Highway 6.
- Bois Brule Campground has 22 sites and is located one mile south of the Town of Brule on Ranger Road.
- Both campgrounds provide an accessible site for persons with disabilities.
- Both campgrounds are accessible by canoe.
- Most campsites provide adequate space for either tent or trailer. Each site has a picnic table, fire grate and parking for two vehicles. Pit toilets and hand-water pumps are provided.
- Fees are required for camping, and each vehicle must have an admission sticker.
- Backpackers may camp in dispersed, remote areas on Forest land at least five feet out of sight from rivers, trails and roads. Five designated backpacking campsites are available on a first come, first served basis at the North Country Trail. They are free of charge but a backpack permit is required.

Camping
- All state forest lands are open to hunting and trapping of all game species. Trapping opportunities are available. Certain areas and seasons may be closed to hunting.
- Some may enjoy swimming at Rush Creek, one mile south of the Town of Brule on Ranger Road.
- Fishing opportunities are available on Lake St. Croix near the village of Solon Springs.
- The 1.9-mile Brule-St. Croix Portage Trail offers an opportunity to see the headwaters of the Brule River.
- No pets are permitted on the Brule. Motors are only permitted within one mile of Lake Superior.
- Camping is only permitted in the two designated state forest campgrounds.
- Campers within your skill level. Scout camps and lodges before running them.
- Tie all gear and lose items to the weather or craft.
- Keep noise to a minimum; respect other river users.

Snowmobiling & ATVs
- Miles of trails to discover your wild side.
- There are 32 miles of snowmobile and winter ATV trails accessed from a parking area on Highway 27 just south of the town of Brule.
- Snowmobile connecting trails link up to Superior, Lake Villa and Claysville County Trails.
- The Tri-county Corridor Trail links Superior to the North Range and Highway route.
- 2.6 miles of the North Country Scenic Trail.
- Snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails only. ATVs are not permitted on or off trails in the forest, except during winter on snowmobile trails. ATVs are permitted on the Tri-county Corridor and some town roadway year-round.

Litter & Beverage Containers
- Place all refuse and recyclables in provided containers or carry out. No glass beverage containers are permitted on the Brule River.
- Freshwater fountain-empty beverage containers to all watercraft.

Fires & Firewood
- Campfires are restricted to designated areas in the forest. Campfires are not permitted in or near buildings, picnic areas, the Shiny Hill natural area or on cross-country ski trails.

Cross-country Sking
- The fun doesn't end in the fall—glide the winter blues away on groomed ski trails.
- The 17.5 miles of AuSable Ski Trail (27 km) is located west of the Brule River on AuSable Road, between Highway 2 and Highway 27. This trail is groomed for classical and skate skiing.
- Various loops provide a variety of distances, terrain and forest types.
- The trailhead has restrooms and a warming shelter that is cooperatively maintained by the Brule Valley Ski Club and the state forest.
- A state trail pass is required for skiers age 16 and is available by self-registration at the trailhead.
- No fires permitted on the trail during the ski season while trails are groomed.

PETS
- No pets are permitted on the Brule River.
- No pets are permitted on any trail in the state forest.
- No pets are permitted on or off trails in the forest, except during winter on snowmobile trails. ATVs are permitted on the Tri-county Corridor and some town roadway year-round.

Forest Rules & Regulations
- All state forest lands are open to hunting and trapping of all game species. Trapping opportunities are available. Certain areas and seasons may be closed to hunting.
- No fishing without a fishing license.
- Campers must have an admission sticker.
- All state forest lands are open to hunting, trapping and fishing.
- No pets are permitted on the Brule River.
- Bois Brule Picnic Area is located adjacent to Bois Brule Campground and canoe landing. A state trail pass is required for skiers age 16+ and is available by self-registration at the trailhead.
- Check with state forest staff for current innovative species quantities and restrictions.

Visit our website for complete listings and more information.

Map inside.