



# Chippewa National Forest

FOREST SERVICE | EASTERN REGION



## WELCOME “BOOZHOO”

The Chippewa National Forest, located in the heart of northern Minnesota, is a celebration of seasons, culture and environment. Come explore the big lakes, big pines and all the Forest has to offer.

## HISTORY

The Chippewa National Forest was the first National Forest established east of the Mississippi River in 1908. Originally known as the Minnesota National Forest, the name was changed in 1928 to honor the original inhabitants. Today, the Forest and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe share goals and offer visitors a chance to experience Anishinabe culture and learn about the past from prehistory to early, logging-era and Civilian Conservation Corps days.

## CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST 101

The Forest boundary encompasses about 1.6 million acres, with over 660,000 acres managed by the Chippewa National Forest. The remaining lands are state, county, tribal, and private. The Leech Lake Indian Reservation is also within the Forest boundary. The Forest Supervisor’s Office is located in Cass Lake, Minn., with district offices in Blackduck, Deer River and Walker.

There are over 3000 archeological and historic sites including the Forest Supervisor’s Office, listed on the National Historic Register and built by the CCC in 1936, Rabideau CCC Camp, also a National Historic Landmark, and the Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station, which was the first ranger station east of the Mississippi River.

Water is abundant in the Chippewa National Forest, with over 1,300 lakes, 925 miles of streams and 400,000 acres of wetlands. The Forest’s landscape is a reminder of the glaciers, which blanketed northern Minnesota 10,000 years ago.

The Forest is one of the largest breeding areas of bald eagles in the lower-48 states. Eagles can often be viewed soaring over the larger lakes. White-tailed deer, ruffed grouse and numerous waterfowl provide good wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. Sensitive species such as osprey, loon and great grey owl also make the Forest their home.



## RECREATION

- **21** developed campgrounds located on the major lakes, offer a place to relax or to fish for muskie, walleye, northern pike, bass, or sunfish.
- To rough it, **100** back-country campsites are available in remote areas.
- **298** miles of non-motorized trails, **22** miles of paved bike trails, **160** miles of hiking trails and **20** miles of horse trails giving visitors a chance to hike and view spring wildflowers, bike along a tranquil lake, hunt grouse on a hunter-walking trail, or ski through the winter woods.
- **380** miles of motorized trails provide access for snowmobilers to lakes, scenic woodlands and frozen wetlands. Trails connect to nearly **200** miles of routes beyond the Forest.
- Over **1300** lakes provide water-oriented recreation such as fishing, canoeing, water-skiing, and swimming that are all popular in the Forest.
- The Norway Beach and Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Centers are open throughout the summer for family naturalist programs.



## TOP 10 SITES TO VISIT

- 10. THE LOST FORTY** – Visitors still find their way to this amazing stand of old growth pine, though surveyors in the late 1800’s found nothing but wetlands!
- 9. WOODTICK TRAIL** – Not really a trail, but a road winding around lakes and wetlands in the southern part of the Chippewa National Forest. The Woodtick is an excellent wildlife viewing drive and provides access to the North Country Trail.
- 8. SUOMI HILLS** – Bike, hike and ski this beautiful trail system located along the Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway.
- 7. STONY POINT CAMPGROUND** – One of the more popular summer campgrounds in the Forest, Stony Point is known for spectacular views of Leech Lake. Visitors also enjoy spring birding and wildflower hikes along the interpretive trail.
- 6. TROUT LAKE** - Hike or boat to the historic Joyce Estate located along the central shore of Trout Lake. Visitors to Joyce Estate will find remnants of an Adirondack-style resort from the early 1900’s. Trout Lake also offers excellent fishing and backcountry camping.
- 5. STAR ISLAND** – Located near the center of Cass Lake, this was originally called “Grande Isle” by the French. Explore the island trails, camp at one of the backcountry campsites or fish Lake Windigo, a lake within the island.
- 4. SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE** – This National Historic Landmark is a monument to the craftsmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The three-story log lodge was built in 1935. Tours are provided upon request, Monday through Friday.
- 3. CAMP RABIDEAU** – This National Historic Landmark is one of three standing Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Take a step back in time and learn about the CCC program. Tours available in the summer.
- 2. CUT FOOT SIOUX RECREATION AREA** – Fantastic early-season fishing, developed campgrounds, fishing piers, beaches, hiking trails, and summer naturalist programs at the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Center.
- 1. NORWAY BEACH RECREATION AREA** – What more can we say... camping, hiking, swimming beach, paved bike trails, fishing, a historic log visitor center, and fantastic interpretive programs.