



River view along the south hiking trail segment

## The State Forest & the Riverway

Established in 1970 as the St. Croix River State Forest, the forest was re-designated the Governor Knowles State Forest in 1981 to recognize former Governor Warren P. Knowles for his administration's progress in conservation. Four thousand acres that were donated by the Northern States Power Company in 1971 formed the nucleus of the State Forest in those early years.

Today, the State Forest is 55 miles long and up to two miles wide, and encompasses 32,500 acres, acting as an extended resource protection



zone for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. A designated wilderness zone buffers the Riverway throughout the length of the State Forest. Six designated State Natural Areas within the forest preserve unique biotic communities.

Although a primary State Forest objective is to preserve and protect the St. Croix River and its valley, forest management provides multiple benefits, including scenic beauty, water quality protection, wildlife habitat, forest production and recreation.

## Camping: family, group, equestrian & primitive

### ST. CROIX FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Located a quarter mile east of the beautiful St. Croix River at 15419 State Hwy 70, this facility offers 30 rustic campsites, some with electrical hook-ups. Enhance your stay by taking a stroll on the St. Croix Recreational Trail System overlooking the Wood and St. Croix Rivers. **First-come, first-served or reserve online.**

### SIoux PORTAGE GROUP CAMPGROUND

Located in the north end of the forest, the Sioux Portage Group Campground is only available by reservation through Reserve America. This tent-only facility can accommodate up to 60 campers. Users can access this facility by vehicle or by canoe from the St. Croix River. Spend the day hiking or biking the surrounding trail system. **Reserve online.**

### TRADE RIVER EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND & TRAIL SYSTEM

Located near the Trade River, six miles west of Hwy. 87, at 2988 Evergreen Ave, this facility offers 40 campsites; some with electrical hook-up, each with horse tie posts. From here, visitors can access 40 miles of equestrian trails. Parking is available at the Trade River Day Use area for riders that come for the day. **First-come, first-served or reserve online.**

### RUSTIC BACKPACK CAMPSITES

Governor Knowles State Forest offers nine primitive campsites along the 40 miles of scenic hiking trails. **A special camping permit can be obtained by contacting the office headquarters at 715-463-2898. Permits should be obtained at least two days prior to occupying the site.**

For online reservations, visit: [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)

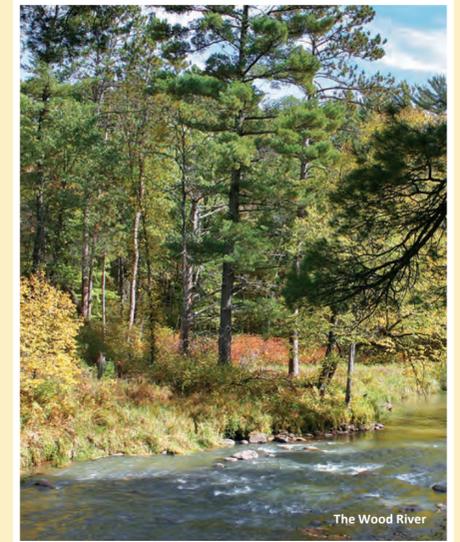


## Sustainable State Forest management

Forests continue to grow, age and evolve over time. Governor Knowles State Forest strives to maintain a healthy, vigorous forest by managing the resource through thinning, harvesting and reforestation.

The maturing forest produces an annual harvest of pulpwood and lumber. These wood products provide raw materials for the paper and lumber industry, which ranks among the top three industries in northern Wisconsin in providing jobs and income.

Management practices are selected to produce forest products in a manner compatible with regeneration, aesthetics, wildlife, fisheries and watershed protection. On average, Governor Knowles State Forest harvests approximately 400 acres per year.



The Wood River

Come back soon! – and be sure to visit Wisconsin's other Northern State Forests



**1 Governor Knowles State Forest**  
715-463-2898

**2 Brule River State Forest** 715-372-5678

**3 Flambeau River State Forest** 715-332-5271

**4 Northern Highland American Legion State Forest**  
715-542-3923

**5 Peshtigo River State Forest** 715-757-3965

**6 Black River State Forest** 715-284-4103

**7 Coulee Experimental State Forest** 608-785-9007



Norway Landing

## Hiking for the day or overnight

Governor Knowles State Forest has a total of 40 miles of hiking trails that stretch the wild and scenic St. Croix River Valley. This trail system is split into two segments; the north segment is 23 miles long and the south segment is 17 miles long. Each trail meanders along the bluffs overlooking the St. Croix River and occasionally swings down onto the scenic wilderness area along banks of the river.

If you only have a few hours to hike, we recommend you go to the Brandt Pines Recreational Trail System (26001 Gile Road) or the St. Croix Recreational Trail System (23409 West River Road).

## Canoeing & kayaking

Canoe or kayak the Wood River from Grantsburg to Raspberry Landing on the St. Croix River. Thousands of water enthusiasts flock to the St. Croix River, taking advantage of the beauty and its resources.



Benson Trail



## Winter activities

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Located at 26001 Gile Road, the rolling hills and river valleys of the Brandt Pines Recreational Trail System offer nine miles of groomed and tracked trails for traditional and skate skiing. (No bikes allowed during winter months.)

### HIKING, SNOWSHOEING & FAT TIRE BIKING

If you're interested in winter hiking, snowshoeing or fat tire biking, check out the groomed trails at 23409 West River Road to access the trail system near the St. Croix Campground.

### SNOWMOBILING & WINTER ATV

The southern half of the State Forest has 32.5 miles of snowmobile trails which serve as a main connecting link between the trail systems of Burnett and Polk Counties.



## Hunting & fishing

Hunters will find whitetail deer, turkey, black bear, squirrel, ruffed grouse and woodcock throughout the State Forest.

The forest also encompasses several trout streams, of which the Trade River and Wolf Creek are most popular for anglers.

Governor Knowles State Forest is the gateway to a portion of the St. Croix River, and known for smallmouth bass, walleye, catfish, musky and sturgeon.



## GOVERNOR KNOWLES STATE FOREST

Visitor's Guide

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Ambulance ..... DIAL 911

Burnett County Medical Center ... 715-463-5353

Burnett County Sheriff ..... 715-349-2121

State Forest Headquarters ..... 715-463-2898



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (search keyword "state forest")

WDNR Call Center 1-888-936-7463 (toll-free 7 a.m.-10 p.m.)

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Photos by John Haack, UWEX; and Brandi Larson, Kyle Anderson and other WDNR staff.

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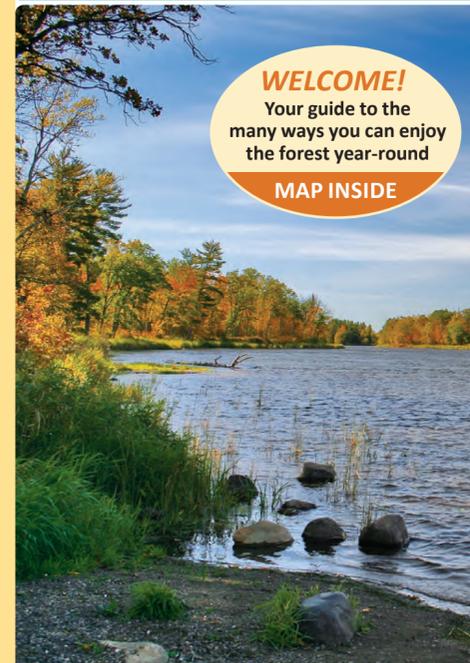
GOVERNOR KNOWLES STATE FOREST

## Visitor's Guide

**WELCOME!**

Your guide to the many ways you can enjoy the forest year-round

MAP INSIDE



325 State Road 70 • Grantsburg WI 54840 • 715-463-2898



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