The state forest was established in 1930 following the petitions of local citizens to preserve a large block of land on the Flambeau River. By 1946, the original 3,112 acres of forest had grown to more than 65,000 – most of which were purchased from lumber companies hoping to provide some benefit from cutover forest lands.

In the early 1950s, the original headquarters building was built from windblown hemlock logs. Recreational development followed in the late 1950s. Today, the forest has over 91,000 acres, with a new headquarters built in 2015. The forest still retains much of its early flavor, providing a remote backcountry experience that harkens back to a bygone era.

**History of the Flambeau River State Forest**

The forest’s name was derived from early French traders and trappers who observed the local Ojibwe Indians harvesting fish by torch light. The French word flambeau, which means torch, is the root word in Lac du Flambeau, the formal name applied to the local Ojibwe. Lac du Flambeau is literally translated as Lake of the Torches.

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**Camping**

Camping is a popular activity in the forest, with family camping, canoe camping and backpack camping options.

**FAMILY CAMPING**

There are two family camping grounds in the forest:

- **Lake of the Pines Campground**
- **Connors Lake Campground**

These two campgrounds have a combined 59 rustic sites with fire rings, picnic tables and toilets. Both campgrounds have a swimming beach, nature trail and drinking water. Electricity is available at some sites. Showers are available at the Forest Headquarters. For fall and winter camping, Lake of the Pines is open until December 15. Reservable sites are available at the Connors Lake Campground.

**CANOE SITES**

There are 35 primitive canoe campsites along the Flambeau River. These sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to a one-night stay. The sites are rustic with picnic tables, fire rings and an outhouse.

**PRIMITIVE/BACKPACK**

The forest offers great backpack camping, which is allowed anywhere on the forest with the exception of the Native Community Management Areas (for exact locations, contact headquarters). Primitive hunting camping is available during the nine-day gun deer season. Hunters must obtain a free camping permit prior to October 13.

**Other Recreation:**

Pack a lunch, grab a towel and observe one of the state's iconic species – all in the same day.

**PICNIC/BEACH AREAS**

Pictic facilities are available at Connors Lake Beach/Picnic Area and include drinking water, toilets, picnic tables, grills, a beach and playground equipment. A day-use or annual vehicle admission sticker is required. Pets are only allowed in the pet area. A covered picnic shelter building can be reserved by contacting the forest headquarters.

**WELCOME!**

A working forest and the river running through it

Flambeau River State Forest is a sustainably managed working forest providing a wide array of benefits to its resident natural systems and communities and to the general public. Opportunities abound for enthusiasts from all walks of life, especially those looking to experience the solitude of the Northwoods. Distance yourself from the daily grind and leave your cell phone behind. Don’t be surprised if you hear the distant howl of a wolf, the song of a loon or the bugling of a elk in the fall. Unplug and tune in to nature’s soundtrack on the Flambeau.

Recreational trails

Stretch your legs or feel the wind in your hair on our extensive trail systems.

**Ski/Mixed-use trails**

The forest features 14 miles of cross-country ski trails groomed for both skate and classic skiing, providing a wide array of benefits to its resident natural systems and communities and to the general public. Opportunities abound for enthusiasts from all walks of life, especially those looking to experience the solitude of the Northwoods. Distance yourself from the daily grind and leave your cell phone behind. Don’t be surprised if you hear the distant howl of a wolf, the song of a loon or the bugling of a elk in the fall. Unplug and tune in to nature’s soundtrack on the Flambeau.

**Canoeing and kayaking**

Long considered one of the finest river trips in the Midwest, the Flambeau River offers paddling opportunities for all skill levels.

For detailed descriptions of trip sections, visit www.paddlеАｆLambeau.com

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