

















Mille Lacs W.M.A.

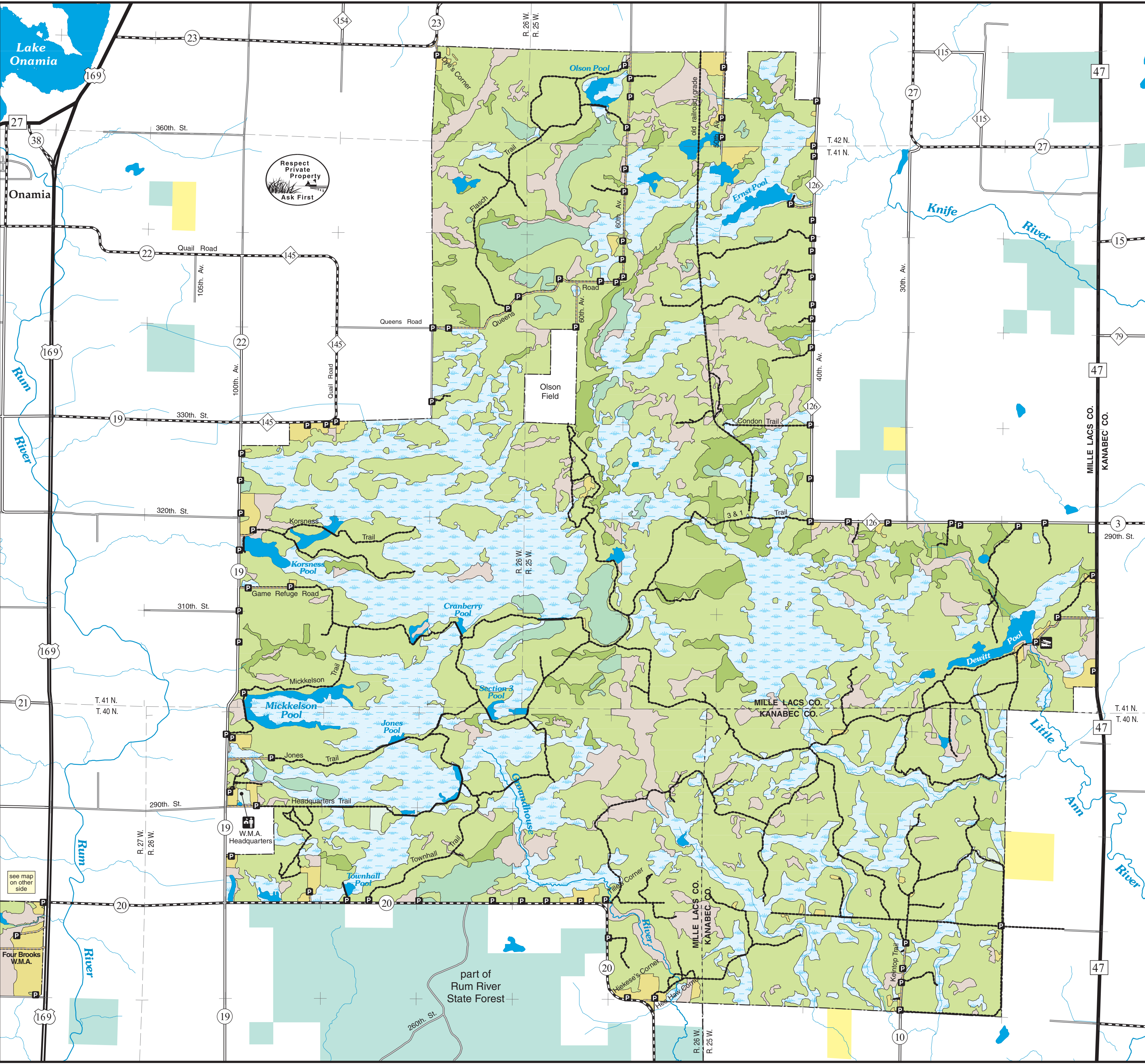
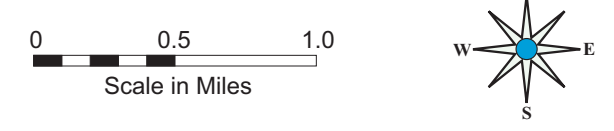
-  W.M.A. Headquarters
-  Boat Ramp
-  Highway Rest Area
-  Carry-in Access
-  Watercraft Camping
-  Parking
-  US Highway (4 lane)
-  US or State Highway
-  County Road (paved)
-  County Road
-  Township Road
-  W.M.A. Road
-  Hiking Trail

W.M.A. Vegetation and Cover Types

-  grass/open land
-  upland conifer
-  lowland deciduous
-  brushlands
-  lowland conifer
-  upland deciduous
-  emergent wetland
-  open water

Other Land Ownership

-  State Forest Land
-  County Land
-  Private Land



Respect Private Property
Ask First

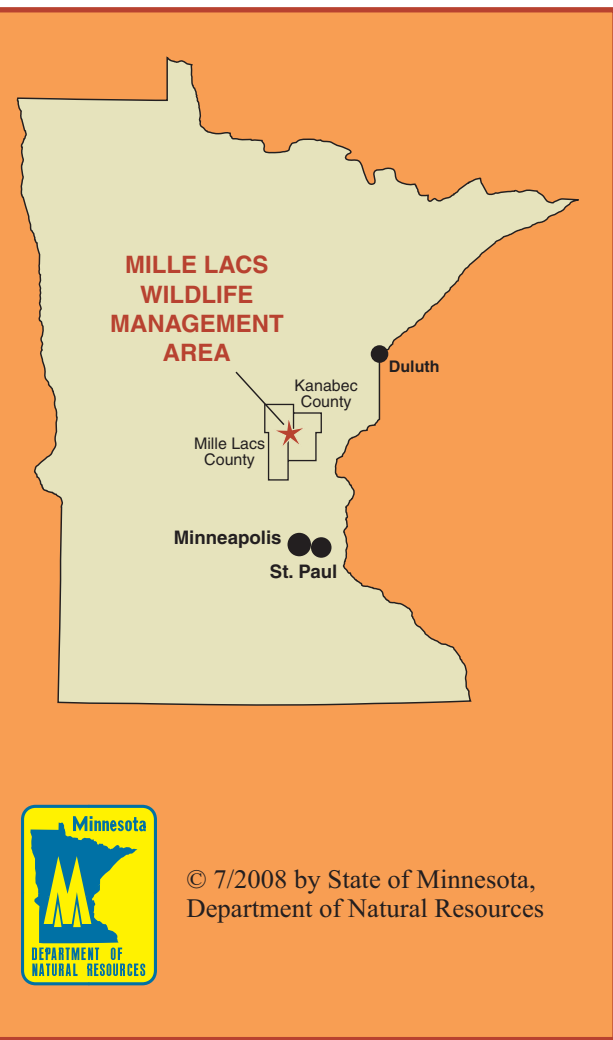
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part of Rum River State Forest

Four Brooks W.M.A.

MILLE LACS

Wildlife Management Area



About the Wildlife Management Area
Size: 39,000 acres **Year Created:** 1949

Location:

Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area is located 90 miles north of the Twin Cities near Onamia, in east central Mille Lacs County and west central Kanabec County. The area can be reached by taking Mille Lacs County Road 20 (280th. Street), east off U.S. Highway 169 or from State Highway 47. The W.M.A. headquarters is located one mile north of the intersection of Mille Lacs County Road 19 (100th. Avenue) and County Road 20.

General Description:

The 39,000 acre W.M.A. was established in 1949 largely from tax forfeited lands. These lands were either farmed for a brief period of time during the early 1900s or never farmed at all, because the soil was too rocky or poorly drained.

Approximately 100 miles of roads and trails traverse the W.M.A., with public access points offered at 80 locations around the W.M.A. They are used by hunters, loggers and other outdoor recreationalists who enjoy the natural beauty and solitude of the area. Many of these roads and trails also are managed as wildlife openings within the forests. Much of the area's attraction is due to the wide variety of plant and animal species found here including; yellow lady's slipper, large flowered trillium, black bear, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, bald eagles, ospreys, waterfowl, trumpeter swans, songbirds and numerous furbearers.

Wildlife Management:

Mille Lacs W.M.A. was established for wildlife management, hunting, trapping and hiking. The area is approximately 60% forested, therefore, the long-term goal is the management of forest habitats suitable for all wildlife species including; black bear, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse and waterfowl. Existing wetlands, bogs and forest openings are managed and maintained to enhance a diversity of habitats for wildlife. In addition, many fields on the area are planted with corn and hay through cooperative farming agreements with local farmers.

Forests are managed primarily to promote an interspersed of different aged plant communities. Selective cutting of bottomland and northern hardwood forests and clear cutting of aspen forests ensure that there will always be forest openings and edges between contrasting vegetation types. This practice creates the mixture of forest age-classes, which are most beneficial to white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse.

Water level management and prescribed burning of wetland complexes maintains and improves habitat for many shore and marsh birds including; sandhill cranes, great blue herons and bitterns.

Research:

Numerous research projects have been conducted on the Mille Lacs W.M.A. over the past decades. During the 1960s and 1970s researchers studied the response of ruffed grouse populations to various timber harvest practices. During the 1970s and 1980s multiple projects also were conducted on the response of songbird populations to timber harvesting practices. More recently, during the 1990s and 2000s, research projects were conducted on seasonal migration and habitat use of white-tailed deer, wild rice production on the W.M.A.'s wetlands and the effect of hunting on the population ecology of woodcock.



Recreational Facilities:

Public hunting has been the dominant outdoor recreational use of the Mille Lacs W.M.A. Other activities permitted on the area include; trapping, hiking, bicycling, bird watching and cross country skiing. Outdoor recreational activities also are provided at Father Hennepin and Mille Lacs Kathio State Parks to the north and the Rum River State Forest, immediately adjacent to the W.M.A., to the south.



WMA Regulations....partial listing:

- Hunting in accordance with all regulations (see annual Hunting & Trapping Regulations Handbook) is permitted. Unprotected wild animals may not be taken within WMAs from March 1 to August 31.
- Fishing in accordance with all regulations is permitted. Motorized watercraft are not permitted on the WMA.
- Camping is allowed at all designated overnight use areas (developed parking lots) during the hunting seasons. Look for the "Designated Overnight Use" signs. A permit is required to camp at designated areas outside of the open hunting seasons. Camps must be occupied and cannot be left unattended overnight. Remote camping is prohibited.
- Signs, posts, fences, gates, buildings, trees, shrubs, vines, plants, or other property may not be destroyed or removed. Wetland vegetation may be used to build blinds in the area, and edible fruits and seeds (i.e. fruit, berries, mushrooms, etc.), or decorative portions of plants may be removed for personal use. Wild rice may be harvested by persons who possess a State issued Wild Rice license.
- Portable stands for hunting, wildlife observation and photography may be used but must be removed daily at the close of shooting hours. Permanent stands and blinds may not be constructed or occupied.
- A person may not permit or allow livestock, horses, or other domestic animals within a Wildlife Management Area, except dogs accompanied by or under the control of the owner, except from April 16 through July 14 when dogs must be on a leash.
- Motorized vehicles, licensed for public highway use, may be operated on WMA roads (20 mph speed limit) except when posted closed.

Activities Requiring a Permit

- Furbearer trapping in accordance with all regulations is permitted. An annual trapping permit is required on the Mille Lacs and Four Brooks WMAs for all species.
- Commercial timber harvest and the harvest of fuel wood for home use are prohibited except by permit.

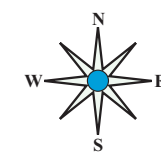
Prohibited Activities

- Commercial and private business use of a WMA is prohibited.
- A person may not consume alcoholic beverages within a WMA, except when lawfully occupying an overnight use area.
- A person may not operate all-terrain vehicles, hang glider, airboat, hover craft, or personal watercraft within the boundaries of a WMA.
- A vehicle may not be parked in a WMA in front of a gate or in a manner that obstructs travel.
- Boats, decoys, or other property may not be left unattended overnight, except lawfully placed traps.
- Disorderly conduct, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, is prohibited within WMAs.
- Target, trap, skeet or indiscriminate shooting by firearm or bow is prohibited within a WMA.
- The transportation of firewood has been restricted on all DNR lands. Only firewood from approved vendors may be brought on to WMA lands. See the DNR website for additional information.



Four Brooks W.M.A.

- US Highway (4 lane)
- - - County Road (paved)
- Township Road
- W.M.A. Road
- - - Hiking Trail
- ⛖ Highway Rest Area
- 🚚 Carry-in Access
- 🚤 Watercraft Camping
- 🅑 Parking



0 0.5 1.0
Scale in Miles

Four Brooks Wildlife Management Area
Size: 3,600 acres **Year Created:** 2000

Location:

Four Brooks Wildlife Management Area is located approximately 8 miles south of the town of Onamia on Highway 169, near the intersection of Mille Lacs County Road 20. The WMA headquarters is located at the Mille Lacs WMA. There are 5 parking lots located along the eastern and southeastern boundary of the WMA. Access to the northern, southern and western portions of the WMA is limited, requiring permission from the surrounding private landowners or by walk-in access to the northwestern boundary through the Rum River State Forest.

General Description:

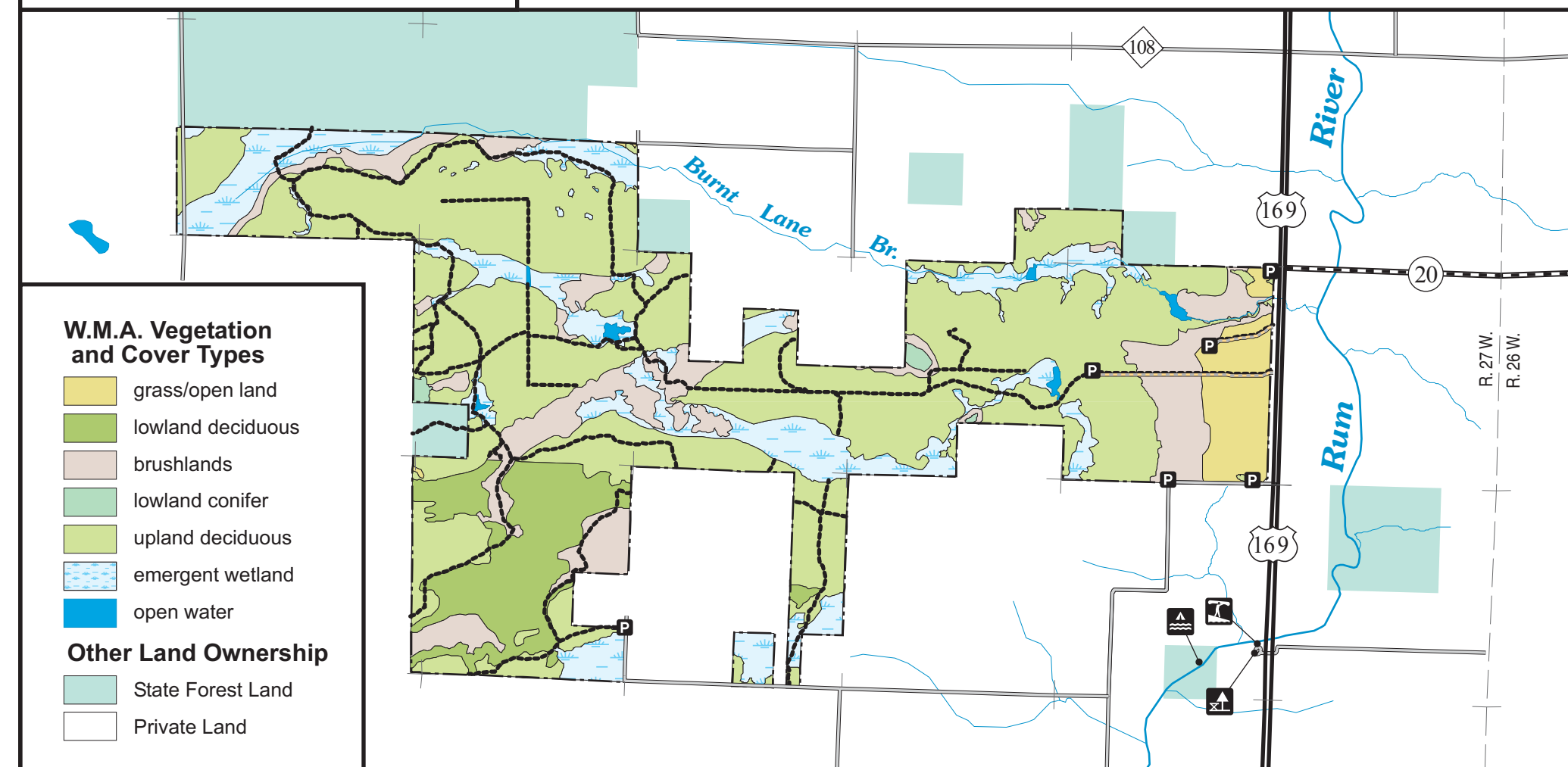
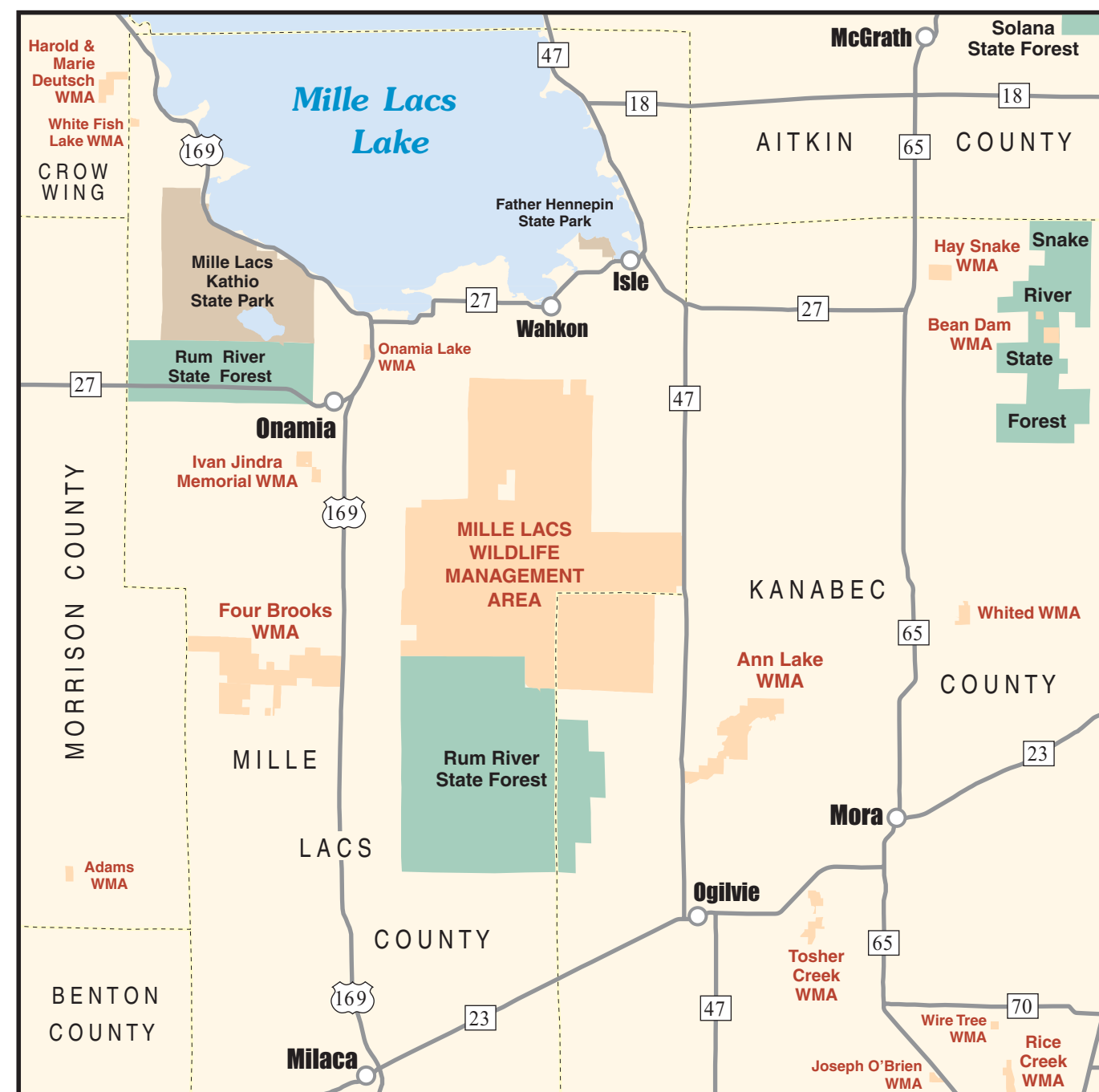
This WMA is a mixture of wetlands, grassland, lowland and upland forests within the Rum River watershed in a landscape that is predominantly woodlands and wetlands with a mix of agriculture and residential development. Sixty percent of the WMA is forested, with the remainder of the area consisting of wetlands, bogs, brushlands and grasslands.

Wildlife Management:

Four Brooks W.M.A. is managed for a diversity of forest and open landscape dependent species including black bears, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, sandhill cranes, woodcock, furbearers, raptors, wild turkeys, waterfowl, non-game water birds and a variety of songbirds.

Deciduous forests are managed for their respective habitat types. Aspen dominates the deciduous community on the WMA and is maintained through even-aged management techniques that provide young forest habitats for deer and grouse. The northern hardwood forests are mainly comprised of silver maple, red maple, and basswood with a lesser red and burr oak component. These are managed for forest-dependent wildlife while emphasizing an increase in the oak component. Management activities try to mimic natural disturbance regimes. The upland and lowland coniferous forests are managed with an emphasis on maintaining these cover types for wildlife habitats and winter thermal control.

Grasslands and lowland shrub habitats are managed to provide open landscape and nesting habitat through the use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatments.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

MN Department of Natural Resources
Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area
29172 100th. Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359
Phone: (320) 532-3537
FAX: (320) 532-3514

MN Department of Natural Resources
Central Regional Office - Section of Wildlife
1200 Warner Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: (651) 259-5756
FAX: (651) 772-7977

MN Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish & Wildlife, Operations Section
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 259-5200
FAX: (651) 297-4961

MN Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 296-6157
1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367) MN Toll Free

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:
Dial 911 or MN State Patrol at (218) 828-2400
Mille Lacs County Sheriff: (320) 983-8250
Kanabec County Sheriff: (320) 679-8400