



Northwest Florida is known as the home of some of the world's most beautiful beaches, but hidden treasures lie beneath the branches of its state forests. More than 400,000 acres of Panhandle woods are now protected by state forestry systems, including Blackwater, Pine Log, Lake Talquin and Tate's Hell.

Blackwater River State Forest

Don't miss the forest for the trees

Blackwater State Forest

Located in Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties, this park features some of the best canoeing and camping available in its neck of the woods. Blackwater is adjacent to Conecuh National Forest.

One feature of Blackwater River State Forest is its streams that meander throughout the forest. Darkened by the tannins from trees (hence the name), waterways are clear, crisp and cool. The most notable are Blackwater River, Juniper Creek, Coldwater Creek and Sweetwater Creek. Canoeing, tubing and kayaking are popular activities, as is camping. Blackwater is home to eight camping areas, including one dedicated youth group site (by reservation), seven full-facility sites and one offering horse facilities. Proof of a current negative Coggins test is required for all horses on state lands. There also are hiking and cycling trails located within the forest.

Pine Log State Forest

Pine Log forest, located in the northwest corner of Bay County and Washington County, became Florida's first state forest in 1936. Utilizing an ecosystem management approach, the Division of Forestry provides for multiple use of forest resources, which include timber management, wildlife management, outdoor recreation and ecological restoration.

Pine Log State Forest is home to a diverse mixture of animal and plant species. Endangered, threatened or species

of special concern sighted in Pine Log State Forest include: flatwoods salamander, Eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, southern milkweed, Southern red lily, white-top pitcher-plant and Chapman's crownbeard. Communities include sandhills, flatwoods, cypress ponds and titi swamps. The forest has three named streams (Pine Log Creek, Little Crooked Creek and Ditch Branch) as well as several small lakes and ponds.

Recreational opportunities offered for outdoor enthusiasts include full-facility camping, picnicking, hiking, off-road bicycling, swimming, fishing and hunting.

Lake Talquin State Forest

Lake Talquin State Forest is just west of Tallahassee between Leon and Gadsden counties. The presence of Lake Talquin and the Ochlockonee River provide Lake Talquin State Forest with varied topography. Examples of the seepage slope and ravine forest communities are located on the west side of the Talquin Tract and throughout the Fort Braden and Bear Creek Tracts. Other communities found on the forest include flatwoods, rolling uplands, swamps, marshes and hardwood forest.

The forest offers various recreational opportunities on its many diverse tracts. Hiking, birding and nature study can be enjoyed utilizing existing service roads, old road beds and established trails. A looped hiking trail is found on the Fort Braden Tract. A series of nature trails are on the Bear Creek