



# BIG FALLS EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

## Big Falls, Minnesota



Reprinted from Experimental Forests of  
the Northern Research Station NRS-INF-07-09

The Big Falls Experimental Forest was established in 1961 entirely on state land in Minnesota that was set aside primarily for management of lowland black spruce forest. At the time, research goals included silvicultural, harvesting and utilization, and economic studies.

### Assets:

**Scientists:** No Northern Research Station scientists are currently working on the Big Falls.

**Cooperators:** In the past, studies have been carried out with the Minnesota Division of Forestry.

### Needs:

**Annual operating costs:** none

**Critical needs:** none

**Long-term needs:** none

## More About the Big Falls Experimental Forest

**Location:** Lat. 48° 10' N, long. 94° W

Big Falls EF is located about 80 miles north of Grand Rapids, MN.

**Vegetation:** Primary overstory species on Big Falls are black spruce and tamarack, with associated understory vegetation of alder, swamp birch, blueberry, calamus, sedges, grasses, bog Labrador tea, raspberry, willow, and moss.

**Climate:** The climate is continental. Maximum summer temperatures are > 90 °F (32 °C) with high humidity (80 percent) and minimum winter temperatures to -31 °F (-35 °C). Growing season length is 100 to 120 days. Average annual precipitation is 20 to 26 inches (500 to 640 mm). About two-thirds of precipitation occurs as rain and one-third as snow. Snow depths average 1 to 2 m. Although prolonged summer droughts occur, rainfall is usually adequate during the growing season.

### The Big Falls Experimental Forest is administered by:

U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station

1831 Highway 169 E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Key Contact:

Brian Palik, 218-326-7116, email [bpalik@fs.fed.us](mailto:bpalik@fs.fed.us)

**Research—past and present:** Research on the Big Falls Experimental Forest has focused on Black spruce regeneration, growth and yield, cutting methods, prescribed burning studies, and general wetland ecology

**Research opportunities:** Currently there is no formal research program on the Big Falls Experimental Forest. Research proposals can be directed to the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**Facilities:** There are no facilities at the Big Falls Experimental Forest.

More information can be found at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/ef/locations/mn/big-falls/>