Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area (DLWA) is a 46,271-acre ecological reserve owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. DLWA was established in 2002 for the protection of the native fish, wildlife, forest, and wetland habitats found here, and for the recreational enjoyment of the people who visit.

Native people named this area Debsconeag (pronounced debs-con-egg), meaning carrying place, because of the many portage trails used here to carry canoes between lakes and ponds and around river rapids. 215 plant species have been documented in DLWA and an abundance of wildlife inhabits this rich forest.

### Camping & fires

- **Camp only in designated campsites.** Divide large groups into multiple campsites if necessary. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations or fees required. Camping is limited to a two-week maximum stay. Do not leave camping gear unattended overnight or store any gear on the preserve.
- **Latrines have been placed at an appropriate distance from campsites and water. Please use the latrines.** Wash yourself and your dishes away from lakes and streams and use small amounts of biodegradable soap only if needed. Sorry, dogs are not permitted at campsites.
- **Campfires are allowed only in existing fire rings at designated locations marked with fire permit signs. Collect and burn only dead and downed wood. Do not cut or remove dead wood from within 25 feet of streams or shorelines.** Keep campfires small and under control. Be certain your fire is completely extinguished.