

# Your Lands, Your Wildlife

## Your Lands, Your Wildlife, Your Story Contest

### HUNTING

Submitted by Aaron Bialke -Virginia, Minnesota

I grew up in the heart of the Superior National Forest near beautiful Lake Vermilion, where you can visit one island for every day in the year. I have had some of the most memorable moments of my life submerged in state and national forests. Whether it's chasing the elusive white tail with my dad and closest friends, hunting for ruffed grouse, or trying to net a trophy walleye from a public fishing pier or a boat, national forest land is for me. And here's my story:



One cold fall morning about two hours before sunrise, my father and I were busy with lanterns out putting the boat in the water. We were all packed up and ready to go for opening hunting season. But the motor didn't start. Well, we had a choice: either find someplace new or row. Dad rowed and he rowed, alright, nearly two miles. I fell asleep as the boat rocked back and forth with every stroke.

When we finally got to the other shore we had about an hour before sunrise. So we began our trek about two miles deep into the Superior National Forest land that we like to hunt and got set up on a red pine covered a ridge where previously we had built a blind out of fallen down brush and trees overlooking a large beaver pond swamp. We waited for what seemed like days and minutes at the same time. As a kid, it truly was the only time I could sit still. Finally after all of our preparations, a nice seven point buck stepped out a hundred yards away.

I will never forget my first deer or any of the other special moments in this beautiful country, where I am blessed to be from. And I hope that we all can remember how special this country truly is.