

# FOREST SHUFFLE

## SMOKY MOUNTAINS

A card game by Kosch for 2-5 players, ages 10 and up  
Playing time: 60 minutes

Forest Shuffle:  
Smoky Mountains is a  
stand-alone game in the  
Forest Shuffle series.  
It cannot be combined  
with Forest Shuffle, its  
expansions, or any of its  
spin-offs.

scan here for the  
digital appendix



asmodee®

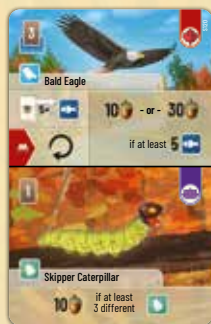
## OBJECT OF THE GAME

In the Great Smoky Mountains of the eastern United States, rivers and streams carve their way through lush forests, offering a diverse home to animals and plants alike. Bald eagles soar majestically overhead, gray squirrels dart from branch to branch, and black bears roam the riverbanks, while brook trout drift peacefully along the flow of the current.

Create a forest according to your own vision—will you focus on densely planted tree lines or varied river landscapes? Skillfully place animals and plants on trees and along rivers to earn the most points. Whether a mighty predator, a humble gatherer, or a water dweller, every creature has its own unique preferences.

## COMPONENTS

180 cards:



58 cards split  
top and bottom



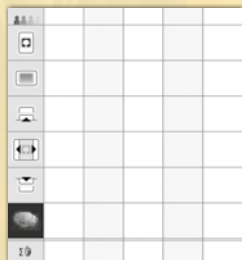
49 cards split  
left and right



9 terrains (rivers)



3 winter cards



1 scorepad



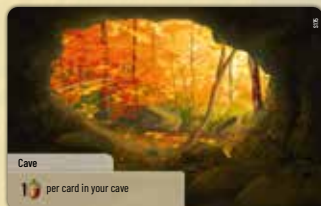
56 trees



back




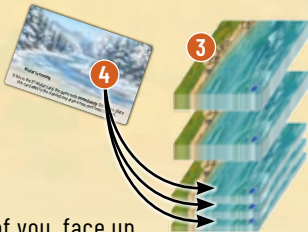
1 game board (the "clearing")



5 caves

## SETUP

If you already know Forest Shuffle, you can skip reading most of this rulebook. Text marked with the **NEW** symbol indicates that a rule is new with regard to the original Forest Shuffle game.

- 1 Place the **clearing** (i.e., the game board) in the center of the play area, within reach of all players.
- 2 **NEW** Set the **3 winter cards** and the **caves** aside. Shuffle the remaining cards and return a certain number of them to the game box, **unseen**, based on the player count:
  - with 2 players → 45 cards
  - with 3 players → 30 cards
  - with 4 players → 15 cards
  - with 5 players → none—you play with all cards
- 3 Divide the remaining cards into **three** face-down **piles** of similar size.
- 4 Shuffle **two** winter cards into **one** of the piles and put the **third** winter card **on top** of that pile.
- 5 Place the other two piles on top of the one containing the winter cards to form a single draw pile, also called the **deck**, and place it next to the clearing.
- 6 Everyone: draw **6 cards** into your hand and place **1 cave** in front of you, face up.
- 7 The player who most recently went for a walk in a forest goes first.



## GAME FLOW

Beginning with the start player, everyone takes turns in clockwise order. On your turn, you must carry out **exactly one** of two possible actions:

### A) DRAW TWO CARDS

*For each card, you may choose to take it from the deck or the clearing.*

OR

### B) PLAY A CARD AND CHECK THE CLEARING

*Pay the card's cost, place it in your forest, and perform its effect and bonus, if any. Then check if the clearing needs to be emptied.*

## A) DRAW TWO CARDS

When taking this action, **draw two cards, one at a time**, and add them to your hand. For each card you draw with this action, you have the choice of either taking a **face-down** card from the top of the deck or a **face-up** card from the **clearing** (which is empty at the start of the game).

**Important:** Your **maximum hand size is 10 cards**. If you have 9 cards in your hand, you may only draw one card. If you are already at hand limit, you cannot choose this action.

## Winter Cards



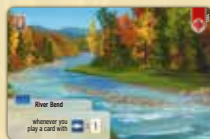
The lower third of the deck contains **3 winter cards**. When you draw the first or second winter card, place it face up **next to the clearing** and immediately draw a replacement card from the deck. When the third winter card is drawn, the game ends **immediately**.


## B) PLAY A CARD AND CHECK THE CLEARING

There are three types of cards:

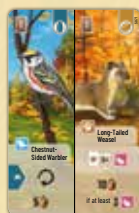
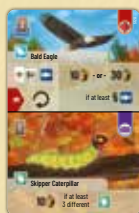


Each **tree** card features **exactly one type** of tree, providing slots for animals and plants on its four sides.



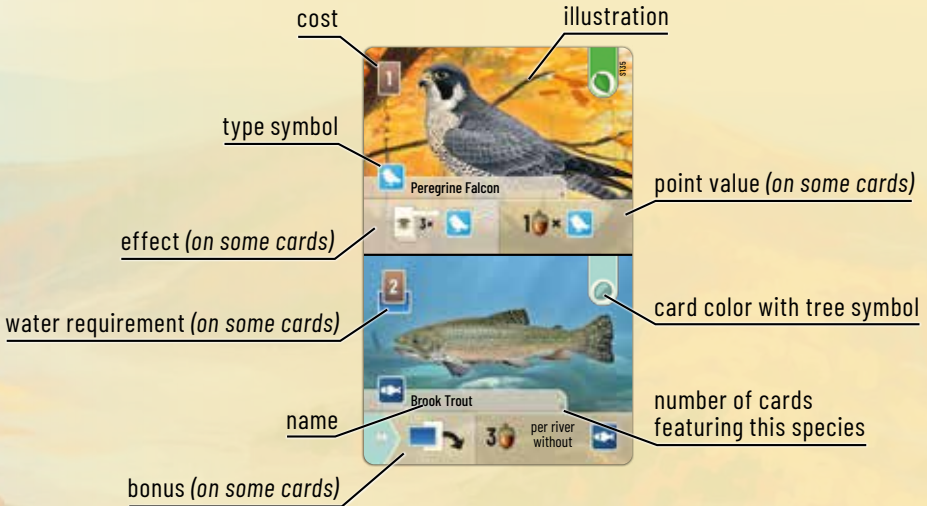
**NEW** **Terrains** are placed into your forest horizontally and only provide slots for animals and plants on the top and on the bottom. Terrains have a **habitat symbol**—in this game, it is the **river habitat** . Furthermore, all card backs show a **universal river**. They are like terrains and also provide slots for animals and plants on the top and on the bottom.

**NEW** **Important:** Universal rivers can only be played when **playing a tree card** (see page 5) or when **effects and bonuses** allow it (see page 12).



All other cards show **animals and plants** and are **split in two**: either horizontally or vertically.

All cards are laid out as follows:



## PLAYING A CARD

To play a card from your hand, you must first pay its **cost** by placing that many (*other*) **cards from your hand face up into the clearing**. When playing a split card, **choose one half** to play and pay only its cost.

Normally, it does not matter which cards you discard as payment. Some species, however, provide a bonus if you pay with specific cards (see "Bonuses" on page 8).

Then, place the card **face up** in front of yourself. The collection of your played cards is called your **forest**.

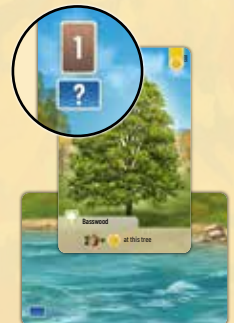
**Note:** Split cards must always be added to tree or terrain.

## Trees and Rivers

**NEW** When you play a tree (*i.e.*, a card with the 🌳 symbol) as an action, you can choose:

- either to play the tree **on its own**
- or -
- additionally, to play **another card** from your hand face down below that tree as a **universal river**; a symbol in the top-left corner of each tree reminds you of this rule (see illustration on the right).

If you play the tree without a river, you cannot add a river to it later.



Trees, rivers, and trees with a river all feature different ways of adding split cards to them.



**Trees without a river provide card slots on each of their four sides: top, bottom, left, and right.**

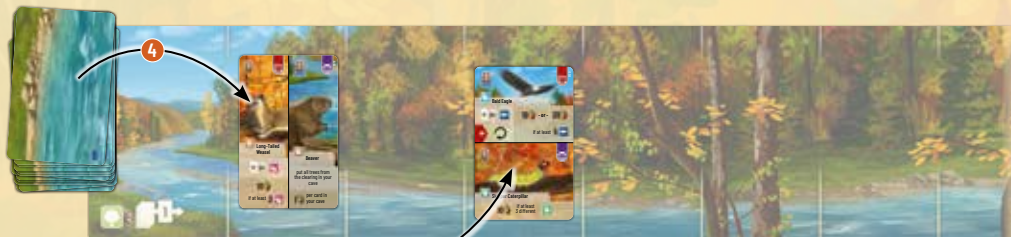


**NEW Rivers also provide four card slots: two on top and two on the bottom. You cannot place any cards on the left and right.**



**NEW Trees with a river provide five card slots: one each on the left and right and on top, and two below.**

Whenever you play a **tree** (with or without a river), you also place **the top card from the deck face up** in the clearing; a symbol on the game board reminds you of this rule during the game. **Note:** If you draw a winter card, proceed as described on page 4.



**Example:**

- 1 You play a Basswood.
- 2 To pay for it, you place one card from your hand face up in the clearing.
- 3 You decide to add a universal river to the tree, so you play an additional card from your hand face down below the tree.
- 4 Because you played a tree, you now also place the top card of the deck face up in the clearing.

## Animals and Plants

The split cards feature various inhabitants of the forest: animals or plants.

When playing a split card, you must place it in an **empty slot** (*i.e.*, a slot without card) on the **corresponding side** of a tree or river in your forest. To play an inhabitant on top of a tree or river, slide the unused bottom half of the card under that tree or river. The same rule applies to inhabitants on the right, left, or bottom halves of cards.

**Note:** Only the inhabitant that is still visible after the card has been placed counts as being in your forest. The hidden half is not relevant for the remainder of the game or for scoring.

*Example: You have just added a Flying Squirrel to your forest by sliding the bottom half of the card under a Yellow Birch.*



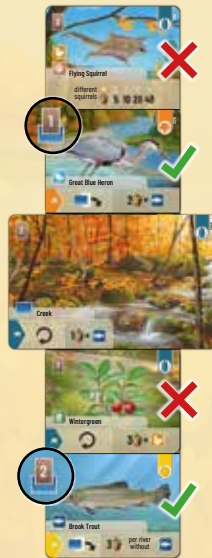
**Important:** Split cards can only be played if one of your suitable cards (*tree or river*) has an empty card slot available on the corresponding side.

**NEW** Some split cards show a **water requirement** below their cost:

Stand-alone rivers only accept cards **with** water requirement.



Trees without a river only accept cards **without** water requirement.



Trees with a river accept **any cards** (*with or without water requirement*) at the top and to the left and right. Below the river, however, you may place only cards **with** water requirement.

## Effect and Bonus

After you paid for the card (and, if you played a tree, placed a card in the clearing), you first resolve its **effect** (if available) and then its **bonus** (if available).

Card effects and bonuses are explained with symbols and/or short descriptions. You can find an overview of all used symbols on the last page of this rulebook. If you would like a more detailed explanation, consult the digital appendix (see QR code).

## Appendix



### Effects


There are two types of effects:

- Most cards provide an **instant effect** that you use **once**. Some of them let you put cards in your cave.
- Other cards provide a **permanent effect** that you can use **for the rest of the game** from now on. They have an effect when certain cards are played in your forest. Each time you play such a card in your forest, you use the effect immediately.

***Example:** You have just played a Wood Thrush. From now on, whenever you play a bird after this one, you draw the top card from the deck.*



### Bonuses

Some species have a colored arrow featuring the  symbol, providing a **bonus** if you pay for the card with **matching cards**. To activate the bonus, **all cards** that you discard as payment must have the **same card color** (i.e., the same tree symbol) as the card being played. When paying with split cards, it does not matter which half of the card shows the required tree symbol.



***Example:** You are about to play this Brook Trout.*

- 1 To activate the bonus, you pay with a White-Footed Mouse and a Yellow Birch. Both cards have the same color as the Brook Trout (therefore, both show a Birch symbol).
- 2 If you paid with a Silver Maple instead of a Yellow Birch, you would not activate the bonus.

## CHECKING THE CLEARING

At the end of your turn, if there are **10 or more cards** in the clearing, the clearing will be emptied. Remove all cards from the clearing and return them to the game box.

**Then your turn ends**, and the next player clockwise takes their turn unless an effect or bonus grants you another turn 🔄.

### SPECIAL CASE:

**NEW** In the rare case that you **cannot take either action (A or B)**, reveal your hand. Select up to 2 cards from your hand and put them in your cave, then draw an equal number of cards from the deck. This ends your turn.

## END OF GAME

When the 3<sup>rd</sup> **winter card** is revealed, **the game ends immediately** and you proceed to scoring. You **may not** finish your turn.

**Scoring:** Total the points 🍓 of all visible cards in your forest and add 1 point for each card in your cave. Use the scorepad to determine your total.

If you are unsure how a specific card scores, consult the digital appendix (see QR code on page 8).

**The player with the highest score wins.** In case of a tie, enjoy a shared victory.

## CREDITS

**Designer:** Kosch

**Illustrations:** Toni Llobet, Judit Piella

**Graphic design:** Klemens Franz

**Layout:** Andrea Kattinig

**R&D:** Maren Holderbaum

We would like to express our gratitude to all of our amazing playtesters who have played this game with us, both at the table and on

boardgamearena.com. **Special shout-out:** Colin Pfister, Fabian Vollrath, Isa Katte and Mike Wilson. **Kosch says:** I would like to thank my family for their support and time. Special thanks go to Lilly—my little dog—for her loyalty and love. Sören, you are a wonderful friend, biologist, and bon vivant who has always made testing and playing fun for me. And, of course, thanks to all the tireless playtesters who polished this game. Last but not least, a big, enthusiastic thank you to all the fans out there! You are the best!



Manufactured by:  
© 2026 Lookout GmbH  
All rights reserved.  
Elsheimer Straße 23  
55270 Schwabenheim  
Germany  
[www.lookout-games.de](http://www.lookout-games.de)

For rules questions and suggestions, please contact us at:  
[rules@lookout-games.de](mailto:rules@lookout-games.de)

For missing pieces or damaged parts, please contact your point of purchase.

For all other concerns, please find help at:  
<https://lookout-spiele.de/en/contact.php>

No part of the rules of the game may be reproduced or used, in any form, to train artificial intelligence technologies or systems.

asmodee® and all distinctive elements are owned by asmodee entities and protected by intellectual property laws.

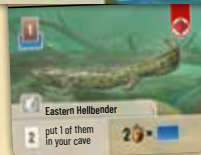


Distributed and imported in the UK by:  
Esdevium Games Ltd t/a asmodee  
Hogmoor House, Templars Way,  
Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9GQ,  
United Kingdom, [www.asmodee.co.uk](http://www.asmodee.co.uk)

Distributed in the United States by:  
asmodee  
1995 County Road B2 West, Roseville  
MN 55113, U.S.A.  
[www.asmodeena.com/en](http://www.asmodeena.com/en)

Distributed by / Distribué par:  
asmodee  
4001 Rue F.-X.-Tessier, Local 100  
Vaudreuil-Dorion, (Québec) J7V 5V5  
Canada  
[www.asmodee.ca](http://www.asmodee.ca)

Scoring example: This display of cards scores a total of 258 🍄.



**Top**

- Great Blue Heron 6 🍄
- Bald Eagle 10 🍄
- Water-Starwort 8 🍄
- Thermometer Cricket 8 🍄 (4 each)

**Bottom**

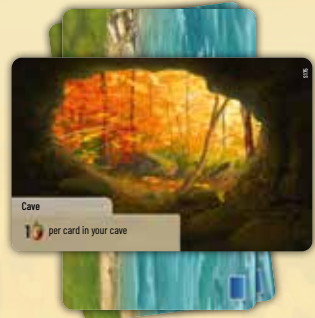
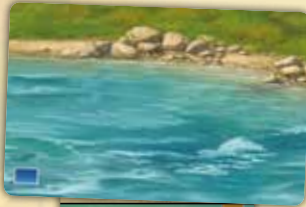
- Eastern Hellbender 20 🍄 (10 each)
- Brown Water Scorpion 2 🍄
- Greenside Darter 12 🍄
- Yellow Perch 2 🍄
- Smallmouth Bass 9 🍄

**Left/Right**

- Coyote 30 🍄
- Black Bear 30 🍄
- White-Tailed Deer 8 🍄
- Rock Vole 5 🍄
- River Otter 18 🍄
- Weevil Wasp 10 🍄

**Squirrels:**

- Red Squirrel
  - Gray Squirrel
  - Flying Squirrel
  - Eastern Chipmunk
- 40 🍄



**Trees**

- Buckeye 20 (10 each)
- Hickory 10
- Black Gum 5

**Rivers**

- River Bend 0
- Creek 3

**Cave 2**





Welcome to the extraordinary World of Players

Sign up & enjoy exclusive benefits












## OVERVIEW


### Special Symbols

-  Water requirement  
(see page 7)
-  Optional river  
(see page 5)









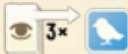


### Type Symbols

-  Amphibian
-  Tree
-  Insect
-  Mouse
-  Hoofed animal
-  Plant
-  Pawed animal
-  Bird
-  Fish
-  Squirrel

### Habitat Symbol









-  River

### Effects and Bonuses

-  Draw 1 card from the top of the deck.\*
-  from the clearing  
Take 1 card from the clearing into your hand.
-  put 1 of them in your cave  
Draw two cards from the top of the deck.\* Put one of them in your cave and add the other one to your hand.
-  Draw as many cards from the top of the deck\* as there are cards in your forest showing the indicated type symbol (e. g. ). (Observe the hand size limit.)
-  Take another full turn after this one, choosing between actions A and B again, as normal.
-  Play a card with the indicated type symbol (e.g. ) from your hand into your forest, without paying its cost. You may not use its effect and bonus. Ignore this effect if you do not have a card with that symbol in hand.
-  Play a  card from the clearing into your forest at no cost, without using its effect and bonus. If there is no such card in the clearing, add cards from the deck to the clearing until you either find one or until you have added 3 cards total, whichever happens first. If then there is still no such card in the clearing, you do not play a card from this effect.
-  Play any card from your hand as a universal river **face down** into your forest. You may not place it below a tree.

\* **Note:** If you draw a winter card, proceed as described on page 4.

### Tree Symbols

-  Basswood
-  Black Gum
-  Hemlock
-  Fir
-  Hickory
-  Birch
-  Maple
-  Buckeye