

ATTENTION: Lost Forty Detour

The main road leading to the Lost Forty is currently under construction until the end of November. Visitors who would normally travel on Itasca County 29 from Alwood through Dora Lake to reach the Lost Forty must now take the following detour to reach the site. From Highway 46.....

Wagner Lake Road: Take Forest Road 2229 (approximately two miles south of Island Lake) east to Dora Lake. From this point, continue on 29 to County 26. Turn north on 26, travel two miles to Forest Road 2240. Follow signs to Lost Forty.

Welch Lake Road: Take Forest Road 2240 (1/2 mile south of Island Lake) and travel east approximately 11 miles to the Lost Forty.

Construction begins again on this road in the spring of 2004. Visitors may wish to contact the Forest in the spring for details.

lost forty



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

BLACKDUCK DISTRICT

www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa

218-835-4291

HISTORY

The year is 1882. Josiah A. King and his three-man survey crew travel 40 miles from the nearest white settlement "the Grand Rapids of the Mississippi." For a month, canvas tents are their homes and flour, pork, beans, and dried apples their rations. Josiah and his crew are finishing the last of three contracted townships in one of the first land surveys of Minnesota's north woods.

November winds swirl snow around the hearty men as they survey the six square mile area between Moose and Coddington Lakes. Perhaps it was the chilling weather, or all the desolate swamps that caused the crew to plot Coddington Lake about a half mile further northwest than it actually lies. Josiah's error is our fortune. Since the towering pines were mapped as being under water, this mapping error caused the virgin pine of the area to be left behind by loggers. The Lost Forty is 144 acres.

Like our National Monuments in Washington, D.C., the old growth pines of the Lost Forty bear witness to our heritage. These white and red pines are 300-400 years old, originating when the pilgrims came to America. The trees remain as remnants of the natural resources that drew people to new frontiers; shaping America's character.

LOCATION

Experience the forest of old at the Chippewa National Forest's "Lost Forty." From Blackduck, take County Roads 30/13 to Alvwood (about 13 miles), travel north on State Highway 46 for 1/2 mile to County 29. Follow 29 east for about 11 miles to Dora Lake and County 26. Travel 2 miles north on 26 to Forest Road 2240. About 1 1/2 miles west of this intersection you will find a sign for the Lost Forty.

MANAGEMENT

Most of the mature red and white pine is found on the east end of the Lost Forty. These trees are up

to 350 years old and between 22 and 48 inches in diameter. In other areas of the Forest, white pine is managed for pulp (paper), lumber, wildlife and aesthetics, and the trees are harvested at about 80 to 150 years. Biologically, pine can live up to 500 years. Most of the aspen growing in the area is about 60 years old and is beginning to deteriorate. Aspen reaches its biological old age at about 85 years. Old growth such as the Lost Forty is valuable for wildlife, including bald eagles, a number of hawks and woodpeckers, red squirrels, weasels and numerous other species.

The Lost Forty is considered a unique area in the Chippewa National Forest and will be managed to maintain its old growth character. Today, less than two percent of the Minnesota's forested land is considered old growth. The Lost Forty stands as a proud monument of its legacy.

FACILITIES

A one-mile self-guided trail winds its way through the majestic pines of the Lost Forty. Carry-in boat access is located on the north side of Coddington Lake. The lake offers northern pike fishing, mallard and wood duck hunting and wild ricing.

You may camp anywhere on National Forest System land, but if you prefer a developed campground, Noma Lake Campground is located just 5 miles east and 2 miles north of Wirt on County 31.



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