

3. Westgate Overlook has exceptional views of scenery and wildlife. Next to Rollways Picnic Area, Westgate Welcome Center introduces visitors to the River Road Scenic Byway. At the site are a viewing deck overlooking Loud Dam Pond and interpretive signage, including a detailed map of the byway area. A short hike to the picnic area will allow the visitor to reach the Au Sable River via a hillside trail.

Where: M-65, 7 miles north of Hale, Michigan.

Amenities: Toilets, byway information, interpretive signs, accessible walking trail to Rollways Picnic Area and overlooks.

7. Largo Springs Interpretive Site has a long history of recreational use, starting before white settlers came to the region. In the 1800s the springs were dammed to provide water to riverside logging camps. In the 1920s and 1930s, the springs attracted visitors from the bluff. Today the site is an outdoor education area where visitors are treated to displays explaining history, geology, and plant and animal life of the area. There are displays near the parking lot for those who cannot negotiate the stairs.

Where: On River Rd, 18 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: Accessible parking area, viewing

9. Highbanks Hiking and Cross Country Ski Trail is a 7-mile linear trail running from Largo Springs Interpretive Site to Sidtown, east of Lumberman's Monument. There are many panoramic views from the bluffs overlooking the Au Sable River Valley. The trail is used for hiking and cross country skiing. The hike along the high banks of Cooke Dam Pond will treat visitors to several panoramic views of the Au Sable River and river valley.

Where: Trailheads at Largo Springs (7), Lumberman's Monument (10), and Cooke Dam Rd. (13).

1. Thompsons Landing is a small river access site in a quiet area of the river.

Amenities: fee site, canoe launches, stairs and toilets.

2. Rollways Campground and Picnic Area is an excellent camping area for nature lovers. A rustic campground set in a mixed hardwoods and conifers area, several of the campsites overlook the scenic Au Sable River and Loud Dam Pond. There are 19 campsites, some of which are pull through and are suitable for travel trailers. There is a trail down a steep hillside to the river.

Where: Rollway Rd, 1 mile North of M-65.

Amenities: Fee site, camping, picnic shelter, accessible walking trail to Westgate Overlook, grills, fire rings, water and toilets. Private canoe livery adjacent to the site. Reservation recommended.

4. Loud Dam is a great site for fishing. It was the third hydroelectric dam built on the Au Sable River, built in 1913, by Consumers Energy and is named for Edward Loud, who explored sites along the Au Sable for building hydroelectric plants.

Where: Loud Dam Rd, 5 miles west of M-65.

Amenities: Boat launch and fishing.

5. Five Channels Dam workers camp is listed on the National register of Historic Places. The dam was built in 1912.

Where: M-65

Amenities: Boat launch and fishing.

6. Pine Acres is a small boat launch where visitors might see trumpeter swans.

Where: Pine Acres Rd, off of M-65

Amenities: Fee site, boat launch and fishing.

8. Canoer's Memorial was erected to honor canoers who have participated in the Au Sable River Canoe Race, which is held each year. There is a spectacular panoramic view of Cooke Dam Pond. The Au Sable River Canoe Marathon was the idea of two men, Harold Brubaker and Frank Davis. They conceived the idea in 1947 as an aid to tourism. The first race took place in September of 1947 in canoes made of wood and canvas. There were 46 teams entered; 15 teams finished the race. Allen Carr and Delbert Case of Grayling finished first with a time of 21 hours and 40 minutes.

Where: River Rd, 16.5 miles west of Oscoda

Amenities: Overlook, paved parking and accessible sidewalk.

Sites to See

A National Scenic Byway

Relax and enjoy the surprises nature has to offer "up north."

The 22-mile River Road Scenic Byway extends westward from Lake Huron to the inland lands of the Huron-Manistee National Forests, paralleling the historic Riviere aux Sable (River of Sand).

The Au Sable River is a major waterway, with six hydroelectric dams providing power and water recreation. Travelers enjoy lush forests and breath-taking vistas from high banks along the river.

There are motorized trails for Off-road vehicles and snowmobiles, as well as quiet trail systems for hiking and cross-country skiing. Several boat landings provide easy access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and pleasure boating.

Camping enthusiasts can choose from the modern facilities, more primitive camping at Rollways or Monument Campgrounds or a remote campsite along the Au Sable River shoreline.

For More Information

Huron-Manistee

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf

Email: r9_hmnf_website@fs.fed.us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/huronmanisteenfs

Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263

Lumberman's Monument Visitor Center

Phone: 989-362-8961/TTY: 711+ phone #

Huron Shores Ranger Station

Phone: 989-739-0728/TTY: 711 + phone #

Forest Supervisor's Office

Phone: 231-775-2421/TTY: 711 + phone #



Times and Distances

River Road National Scenic Byway

Length 22.0 mi / 35.4 km

Time without stops: One hour

Time with stops: Two days

Highbanks River Trail

Length: 7 miles

Time: 4 - 6 hours

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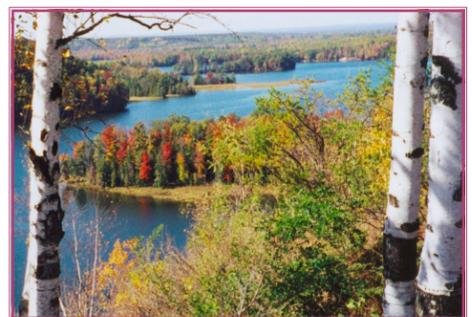
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

River Road

National Scenic
Byway



Destinations



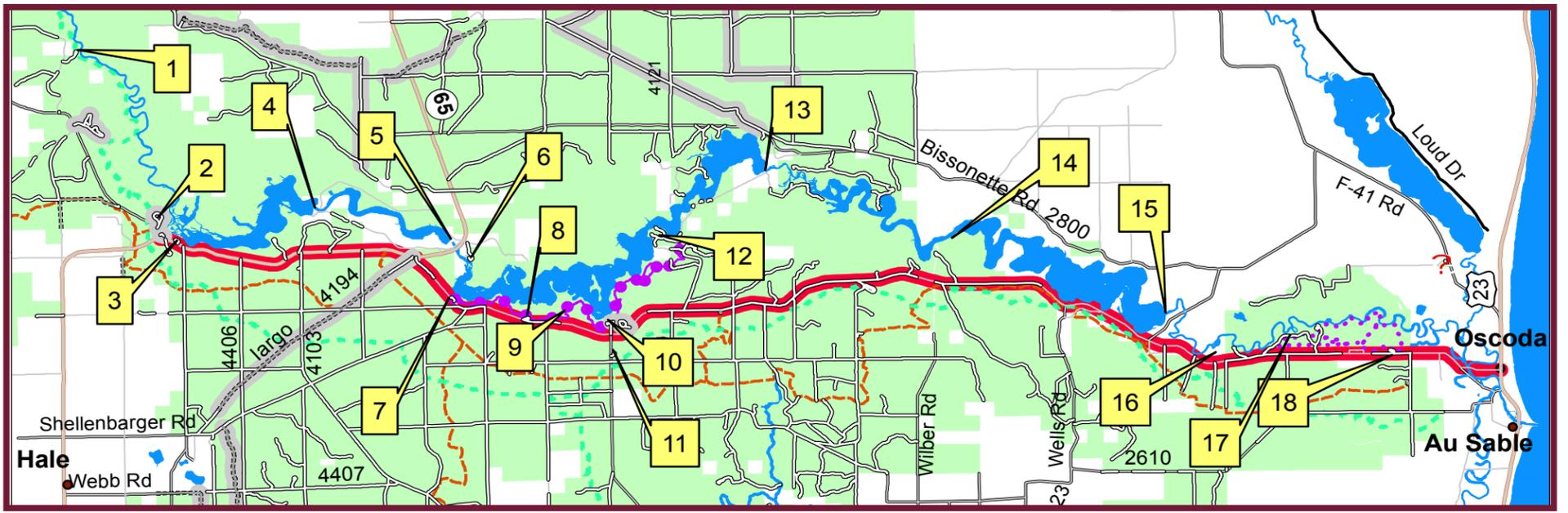
Overlooks



Lumberman's Monument

Huron-Manistee National Forests





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More Sites to See

10. Lumberman's Monument and Visitor Center, Monument Campground

A 14-foot bronze statue of three lumbermen highlights Michigan's logging history, which was significant for the development of Michigan economy in the 1800s.

The statue depicting a "River Rat", a surveyor and a sawyer was first conceived by R.G. Schreck, former Supervisor of the Huron National Forest. Robert Aitken of New York City was contracted to cast the statue, at a cost of \$50,000. The completed monument was dedicated on July 16, 1932.

11. Kiwanis Monument was established by the Michigan Chapter of Kiwanis International to memorialize the contributions which led to replanting over 10,000 acres of the Huron National Forest in the 1920s and 1930s. Kiwanis chapters from all over Michigan provided the rocks and stones used in the statue. Many stones have the chapter's name or number carved into them.

Where: Monument Rd. 1/4 mile south of River Rd.

Amenities: Gravel parking.

12. Sawmill Point has 15 primitive campsites located along the Au Sable River.

Where: Cooke Dam Rd., 3.5 miles north of River Rd.

Amenities: fee site, boat launch, camping. Reservation required for camping.

16. Lower Au Sable Scenic Overlook provides a spectacular view from the high sand bluffs overlooking the lower Au Sable. Enjoy opportunities to watch the spring and fall steelhead and salmon runs.

Where: River Rd., 4.5 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: Parking, two stairways accessing the river and interpretive signs.

13. Cooke Dam Hydroelectric Plant is on the National Register of Historic Places. Work began on the damn in 1909. The dam was completed in 1911 but was not put on line until 1912 because transmission lines were not completed until then. Electricity was transmitted to Bay City, Saginaw, Flint and Owosso.

Where: Cooke Dam Rd., 3.5 miles north of River Rd.

Amenities: Boat launches and accessible fishing pier.

14. Foote Pond Overlook provides a spectacular view from the high sand bluffs overlooking Foote Pond. Visitors may see eagles that nest nearby. The overlook has a paved access road and parking and barrier-free access to a wood deck. The access road and parking lot are too tight for buses or motor homes to negotiate.

Where: River Rd., 9 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: Paved parking, viewing deck and sand dune.

15. Foote Dam provides access to the tailwaters of Foote Dam. This is a prime location for steelhead and salmon fishing. It was built in 1918 and is named for W.A. Foote.

Where: Rea Rd., 5 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: Accessible fishing, parking, toilets and boat launch.

17. Whirlpool River Access is a boat launch for small fishing boats and canoes on the Lower Au Sable. An accessible boardwalk leads to a hardened fishing access area.

Where: River Rd., 3 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: accessible fishing pier, toilets, parking, boat launch, fee area.

18. Eagle Run Trail is seven miles of loop trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing. During the winter the trail is also groomed for fat-tire bikes.

Where: River Rd., 2 miles west of Oscoda.

Amenities: Paved parking, toilets and interpretive signs.

Legend

- ? Ranger Station
- Eagle Run Trail
- Highbanks Trail
- City Points
- Shore To Shore Trail
- Snowmobile & ORV Trail
- Selected M/Roads
- Selected US Roads
- River Road National Scenic Byway
- National Forest Lands



The visitor center is a log cabin built in 1982. The building is 16' by 60' and was built from a kit by the Forest Service and local volunteers at the same time the outdoor displays, landscaped grounds, picnic areas and paved parking lots were added.

Interpretive programs are given often during the summer months.

Monument Campground is rustic and sits in a red pine plantation planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps who operated out of a nearby camp in the 1920s and 1930s. The campground has 20 sites suitable for small travel trailers and has vault toilets and drinking water. It is within walking distance of the Lumberman's Monument Visitor Center.

Where: 5401 Monument Rd.

Amenities - Visitor Center: interpretive signs and exhibits, visitor center, gift shop, interactive visitor activities, sand dunes, accessible walking trails, paved parking, sidewalks, accessible restrooms, accessible picnic areas, accessible picnic pavilion and accessible water fountains.

Amenities - Campground: Fee site, camping, RV camping, group camping, water, toilets and grills.



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