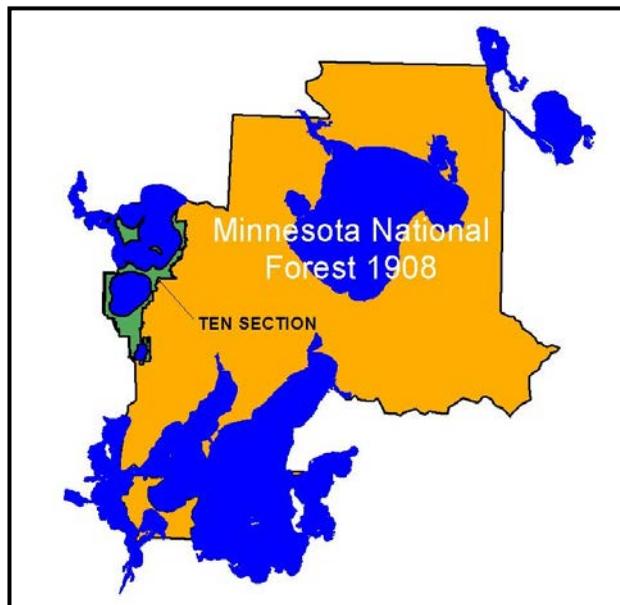


CASS LAKE'S "FIRST HURRICANE"

Ten Section was popularly referred to as a National Park. Even into the 1920's articles in the Cass Lake Times refer to the area as a park. Following the logging boom, Ten Section became one of few large stands of old growth pine left in Northern Minnesota. The magnificent pine dominated the shores of Star Island, Cass Lake and Pike Bay, and became a popular attraction. This widely admired setting remained largely untouched through the early decades of the 20th century and was the focus of early recreational use including summer home groups, resorts and campgrounds.

The dramatic stands of pine, however, were devastated by a windstorm on the morning of July 24, 1940. The *Cass Lake Times* (7/25/1940) at the time called it the "City's First Hurricane":

"Millions of feet of virgin timber on Star Island, Norway Beach, and Pike Bay were laid in windrows at 4 AM Wednesday morning when high wind roared out of the North West and swept an area twenty miles wide from Bemidji to Grand Rapids."



Ten Section Area, MN National Forest.

The newspaper reported that 80% of the tall pines were blown down on Star Island and that the worst damage was at Norway Beach where "...300 year old Norway Pine were laid down in windrows as though some giant reaper had swung his scythe down the beach."

Although the shores of Cass Lake and Pike Bay continued to be prime recreation areas, the crown jewel of the Forest that had inspired much of the original impetus for preservation and recreational use was transformed.

The following photographs of the Norway Beach Recreation Area were taken in the aftermath of the 1940 storm.



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