



LOST FORTY

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST SERVICE

HISTORY

Josiah R. King and his three-man survey crew traveled 40 miles from the nearest white settlement at the “Grand Rapids of the Mississippi” in 1882. Canvas tents were their home and flour, pork, beans, and dried apples their rations for a month-long survey. King and his crew were finishing the last of three contracted townships in one of the first land surveys of Minnesota’s north woods.

November winds swirled snow around the men as they surveyed the six square mile area between Moose and Coddington Lakes.

No one knows if the chilling weather or the desolate swamps caused the crew to plot Coddington Lake nearly one half mile northwest of its actual location, but their error is now the fortune of those who visit this unlogged Lost Forty on the Chippewa National Forest.

This mapping error of this 144 acres spared virgin pines from the logger’s axe during the peak of logging in Minnesota.

The old growth pines of the Lost Forty bear witness to the nation’s heritage. The white and red pines are 300 to 400 years old, originating from when pilgrims came to America. The trees are remnants of the natural resources that drew people to new frontiers and shaping America’s character.

LOCATION

To experience the forest of old at the Lost Forty drive from Blackduck, Minn., take County Roads 30/13 to Alvwood, Minn. Travel north on State Highway 46 for one half mile to County Road 29. Follow 29 east for about 11 miles to Dora Lake and County Road 26.

Travel two miles north on 26 to Forest Road 2240 about one and one half miles west of this intersection you will find a sign for the Lost Forty.

There is a parking lot with a loop that can accommodate larger vehicles and school buses. There are also picnic tables and vault toilets.

MANAGEMENT

Most of the mature red and white pine is found on the east end of the Lost Forty. The trees are up to 350 years old and between 22 and 48 inches in diameter. White pine is managed for pulp (paper), lumber, wildlife, and aesthetics, and the trees are harvested at about 80 to 150 years in other areas of the forest. Pines can live up to 500 years. Most of the aspen growing in the area is about 60 years old and 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, hawks, woodpeckers, red squirrels, weasels, and many other species.

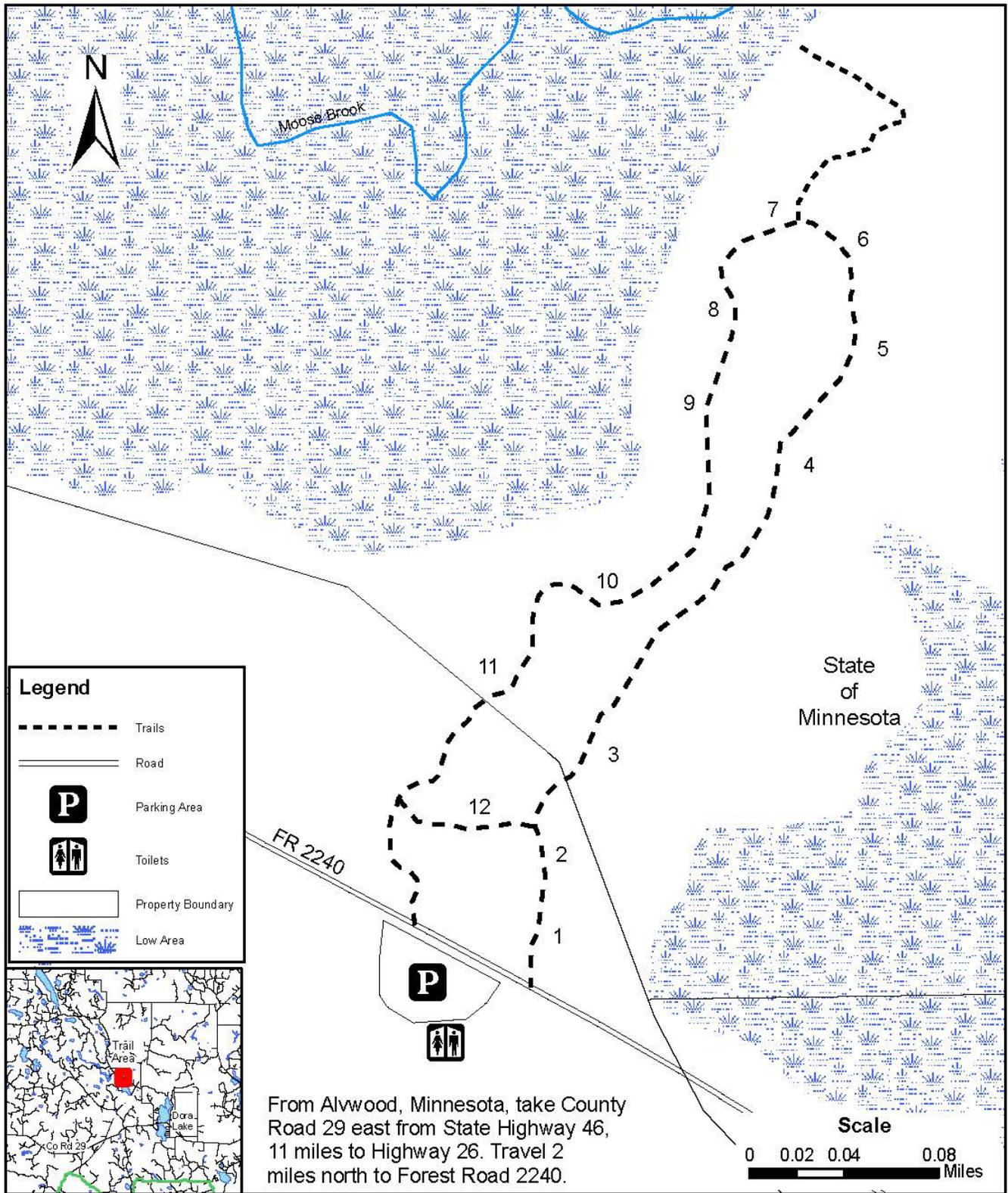
The Lost Forty is considered a unique area in the Chippewa National Forest and is managed to maintain its old growth character. Today, less than two percent of Minnesota’s forested land is considered old growth.

FACILITIES

A one-mile self-guided trail (see back for map) 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.

Noma Lake Campground is located five miles east and two miles north of Wirt on County Road 31 and offers developed campground sites.





Forest Service

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