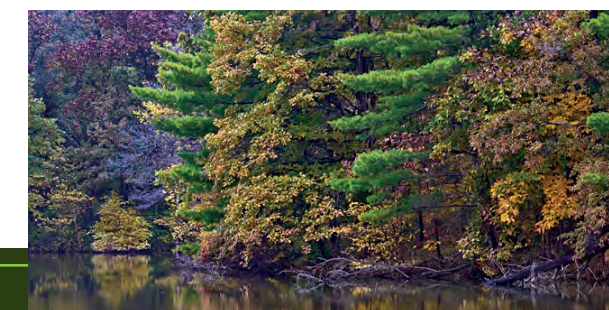


# SHIMEK STATE FOREST

Shimek State Forest was established in the 1930's and named to honor Dr Bohumil Shimek, an early conservationist and former head of the University of Iowa Botany Department. The forest is over 9,000 acres and has large, unbroken areas of forested hills and valleys that endow Shimek with an almost wilderness character. The three main units near Farmington total more than 6,400 acres and comprise one the largest contiguous forests remaining in Iowa.

The native forest includes oak-hickory species on ridges and hillsides and mixed bottomland hardwood species on the lowlands. Native prairie remnants are found in the Donnellson and Croton units. A unique feature of Shimek State Forest is over 800 acres of conifer forests that were planted on severely eroded crop fields in the 1930's through the 1950's. Now forests of red and white pine stand majestic.

Visitors to Shimek State Forest can enjoy four campgrounds, four lakes for boating and fishing, over 60 miles of hiking trails, and over 25 miles of equestrian trails. For bird watchers, Shimek is known for its songbirds plus wild turkey and quail. All public lands within the forest boundaries are open to hunting in season, except the campground areas.

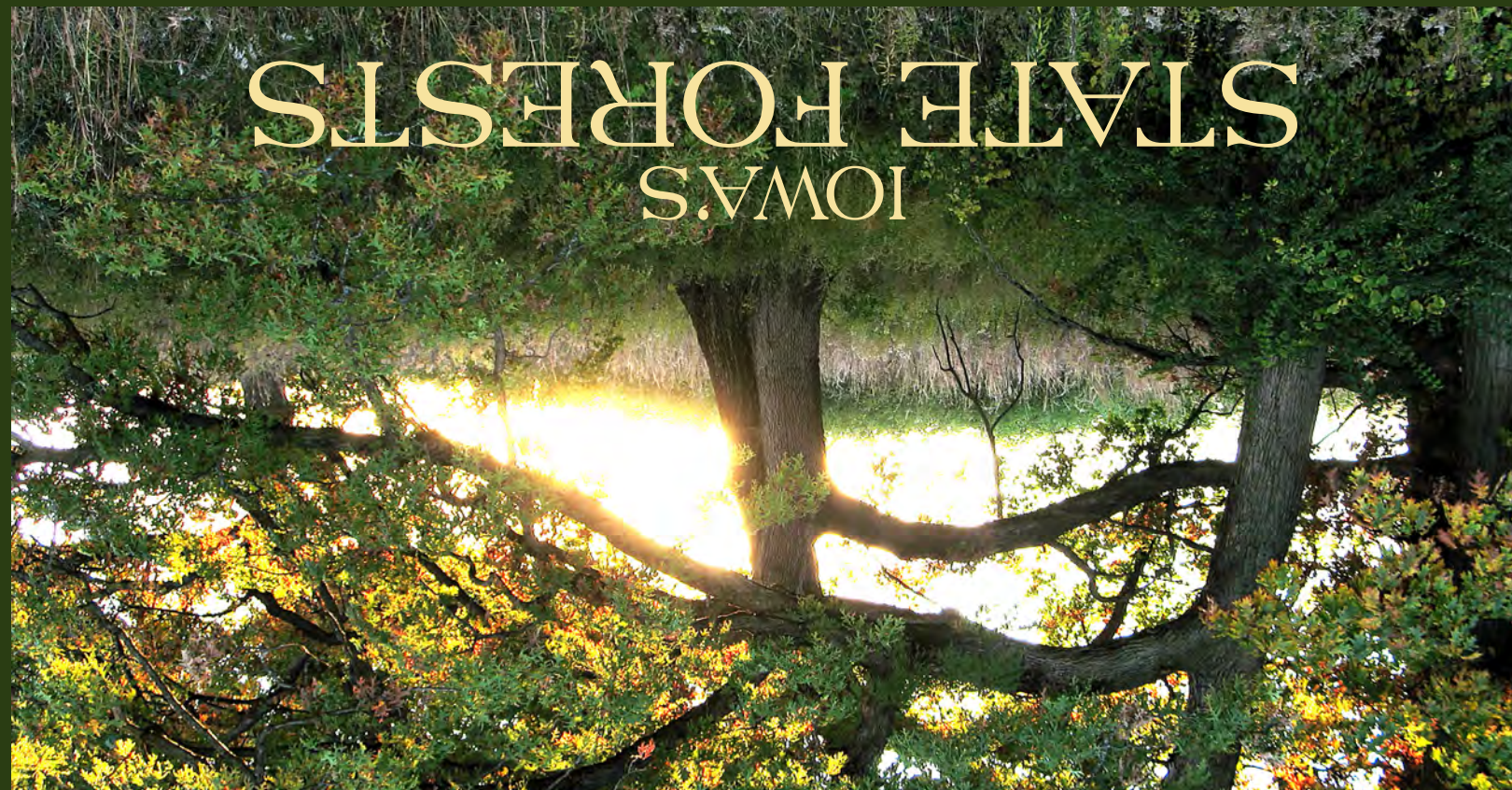


**9,500 ACRES**

**5 UNITS**  
Farmington,  
Donnellson,  
Lick Creek,  
Croton and  
Keosauqua

**COUNTIES**  
Lee, Van Buren

SHIMEK FOREST FACTS



# IOWA'S STATE FORESTS

## TO WALK AMONG THE TREES

and see their quiet, majestic beauty is to appreciate Iowa's State Forests. Iowa established the state forest system in the 1930's; the purpose was to help protect special and unique areas, to teach Iowans about forest management, and to educate about the value of forests and trees.

Today, the public can see and learn about forest ecosystems and about the importance of retaining our forest resources for future generations. As you visit the State Forests, you can begin to understand how a forest changes over time when you see the various stages of development.

**NEW AND YOUNG FORESTS:** Tree seedlings are growing among an herbaceous and shrub layer, the sun is abundant and young stands are regenerating. There are many trees per acre and they are all competing for sunlight and resources; as time goes on, there will be fewer and fewer trees as they start to out-compete each other. Hundreds of acres are planted each year on the State Forests and mature stands are being harvested to begin the regeneration cycle.

**MIDDLE AGE FORESTS:** Natural crowding has begun and the forest canopy is open enough to allow for development of ground vegetation and the beginning of an understory. Forest Stand Improvement techniques are utilized at this stage to maximize growth, improve forest health and improve species composition.

**MATURE FORESTS:** Distinguished by larger trees, complex canopy and a highly developed understory, the stand has reached a maximum point of growth. Harvest systems are applied thoughtfully to mimic natural disturbance; these harvest systems create conditions that are necessary for new and young forests to begin.



**11,600 ACRES**

**5 UNITS**  
Little Sioux,  
Preparation Canyon,  
Pisgah, Mondamin,  
Gifford and  
Preparation Canyon  
State Park

**COUNTIES**  
Harrison and Monona

LOESS HILLS FOREST FACTS

# LOESS HILLS STATE FOREST

Loess Hills State Forest occurs on one of the earth's most unique landscapes – the windblown loess soils. Nearly 14,000 years ago, the glacial silt deposits where the Missouri River now flows were blown into huge sand dune-like hills. With its unique geology of steep bluffs climbing 150 to 250 feet, extreme climatic differences result in dramatic native plants that do not occur anywhere else in Iowa. Native prairies cover the steep south and west slopes while forests dominate elsewhere.

The forest is nearly 11,600 acres with its first land purchased in 1986. That same year, the National Park Service recognized a portion of Iowa's Loess Hills as a National Landmark. Prep Canyon State Park is also managed by the state forest staff.

The "hills" are a destination that has a variety of recreational opportunities. The forest offers hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife watching, native prairie remnants and scenic overlooks. Vegetation is diverse, from hardwood tree species to prairie species including big and little bluestem, Indian grass, yucca, leadplant and many more. Prescribed burning is utilized to keep the prairies and oak woodlands healthy and diverse; thousands of acres are intentionally burned each year.

The Forest Visitors Center located in the town of Pisgah features a Loess Hills diorama, an old bur oak tree and activities for all ages to educate on the Loess Hills and its associated ecosystems. You may also pick up maps and get oriented for your trip into the forest and surrounding areas.

# YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST

Yellow River State Forest is located in extreme northeast Iowa, with land first purchased in 1935. The forest was named for the Yellow River, which meandered through the forest area. In 1949 however, the original 1500 acre parcel was transferred to the National Park Service to become Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Yellow River State Forest, with over 8500 acres, is located in the driftless area that escaped the glaciers during the most recent ice ages. The result was extremely hilly terrain now known as the "Little Switzerland" of Iowa. There are many spectacular overlooks of the Mississippi River and inland views not common to other parts of the state.

There is much to see and do at Yellow River including camping (available all year) and an extensive trail system used by hikers, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and equestrian riders. Trout fishing is popular in two coldwater streams, which flow through the main campgrounds. For wildlife enthusiasts, there is abundant game and over 65 bird species in the forest, including eagles. Yellow River has an active forest management program where you will see young forests being established and old forests standing majestic.



**8,500 ACRES**

**8 UNITS**  
Backbone,  
Luster Heights,  
Mudhen, Paint Creek,  
Paint Rock,  
Waukon Junction,  
White Pine Hollow,  
and Yellow River

**COUNTIES**  
Allamakee, Delaware,  
Dubuque

YELLOW RIVER FOREST FACTS



To protect against further spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), as well as other forest pests such as oak wilt, siren wood wasp and gypsy moth, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources recommends that people do not move firewood out of the county where it was cut. Special restrictions apply for wood products in Allamakee County, Iowa. For more information, please visit [www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/).



Federal law prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sex or disability. State law prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, pregnancy or disability. State law also prohibits public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416 or write to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace Bldg., 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319.



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JUNE 2011

VISIT [www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF FORESTRY TOPICS

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE FOREST SYSTEM

**IOWA DNR MISSION:** To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations.

**BUREAU OF FORESTRY MISSION:** To help Iowans value, protect, expand and enjoy our trees, forests and prairies and the amenities they provide and to serve the people of Iowa by protecting their forest resource.

Our state forests are managed for multiple benefits. The following management goals lay a foundation for the implementation of sound forestry management practices:

- 1. Manage for healthy, sustainable forests and prairies** by increasing age and species diversity; promoting native species; controlling non-native invasive species; and by increasing the quality, quantity and connectivity of public forestlands in Iowa.
- 2. Ensure a sustainable flow of timber and non-timber forest products** for public benefit while promoting vigor by applying proper management techniques. Forest stand improvement techniques and regeneration systems are utilized to enhance tree growth rates, regenerate mature and declining stands, and improve forest health.
- 3. Create and maintain forest management demonstration and research areas** to increase public awareness of the value and role of forests in Iowa. The State Forests will establish demonstration areas, host field days and seek partnerships with supporting agencies and groups to promote forestry education and awareness.
- 4. Maintain and improve natural wildlife habitat for game and non-game species** by utilizing forest stand improvement techniques to improve mast production; manage prairie and grassland habitats by using prescribed fire to promote diversity; and identify, study and preserve unique habitats and threatened and endangered species.
- 5. Create and enhance primitive, low-impact recreational opportunities** by providing trails; camping facilities; hunting, fishing, and other game management activities; and other primitive activities such as backpacking and bird-watching.
- 6. Enhance water quality by protecting watersheds and preventing soil loss.** This can be accomplished by employing sound conservation practices, establishing riparian buffers and using Best Management Practices (BMP's) in all forest management operations.



ROGER HILL



**15,170 ACRES**

**7 UNITS**  
Woodburn,  
Whitebreast, Lucas,  
Cedar Creek,  
Chariton,  
Thousand Acres and  
Unionville

**COUNTIES**  
Clarke, Lucas, Monroe,  
Appanoose and Davis

STEPHENS FOREST FACTS

# STEPHENS STATE FOREST

Stephens State Forest is Iowa's largest state forest with over 15,000 acres spread across five southern Iowa counties. The area was named in 1951 to honor the late Dr TC Stephens for his work as a conservationist and educator. The forest began as a base of operations for the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936.

Native trees and shrubs are planted every year, while existing forest cover is managed to improve Iowa's valuable oak ecosystem. Annual woodland improvement practices, such as thinning and harvesting, promote forest health and diversity, provide forest products and improve wildlife habitat. Most of the 15,000 acres are forested, but there are also native prairies, open grass areas and agriculture fields.

There are many recreational opportunities offered at Stephens State Forest: camping, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, bird watching and many more. The recently renovated backpacking trails in the Woodburn Unit have five pack-in sites for a unique, primitive camping experience. Stephens State Forest is a great example of the beauty of southern Iowa: rolling hills, timbered ridges and abundant wildlife.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANNUAL FIELD DAYS AT EACH OF THE FORESTS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT. CONTACT A STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

# WELCOME TO THE STATE FORESTS

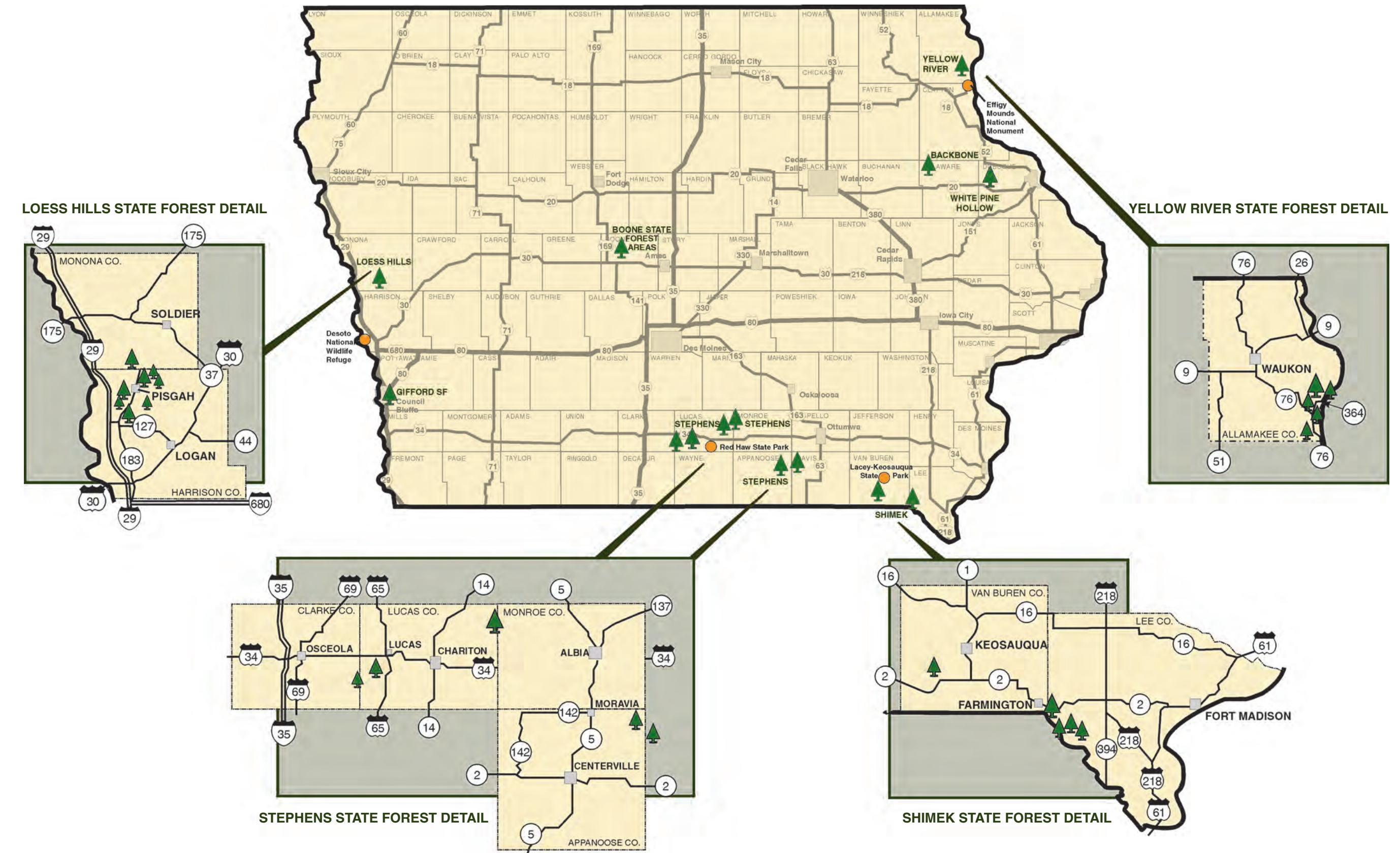
The State Forests are available for the outdoor enthusiast to use and appreciate. While you visit the State Forest remember they are often wild places in remote areas — different FOREST UNITS may be several miles apart. For more information call the forest headquarters. (See the phone numbers listed at the bottom of the chart or refer to the General Information section.)

	ACTIVITIES					FACILITIES				
	Camping*	Hiking	Fishing	Hunting	Cross Country Skiing	Snowmobile Trails	Horse Trails	Pit Toilets	Picnic Areas	
<b>LOESS HILLS</b> Headquarters located in the town of Pisgah										
GIFFORD SF										
LITTLE SIOUX UNIT										
MONDAMIN UNIT										
PISGAH UNIT										
PREPARATION CANYON UNIT										
PREPARATION CANYON STATE PARK	N8									
<b>SHIMEK</b> Headquarters located in Farmington Unit										
CROTON UNIT										
DONNELLSON UNIT	N11									
FARMINGTON UNIT	N8									
KEOSAUQUA UNIT										
LICK CREEK UNIT	E35									
<b>STEPHENS</b> Headquarters located in Chariton										
CEDAR CREEK UNIT										
CHARITON UNIT										
LUCAS UNIT	N27									
1000 ACRE UNIT										
UNIONVILLE UNIT										
WHITEBREAST UNIT	N5 E42									
WOODBURN UNIT	H5									
<b>YELLOW RIVER</b> Headquarters located in Paint Creek Unit										
BACKBONE										
BOONE SF AREAS										
BARKLEY										
HOLST										
PILOT MOUND										
LUSTER HEIGHTS UNIT										
MUDHEN UNIT										
PAINT CREEK UNIT	N136 E34									
PAINT ROCK UNIT										
WAUKON JUNCTION UNIT										
WHITE PINE HOLLOW										
YELLOW RIVER UNIT										

**CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS**  
 BOONE SF AREAS - 515-281-5441 / LOESS HILLS AND GIFFORD SF - 712-456-2924  
 SHIMEK - 319-878-3811 / STEPHENS - 641-774-4559 / YELLOW RIVER, BACKBONE AND WHITE PINE HOLLOW - 563-586-2254

\* Camping abbreviations are as follows: N = non-modern; E = equestrian; H = hike-in. Letters are followed by the number of campsites available.

## IOWA STATE FOREST ROAD MAP



## THE IOWA STATE FOREST RULES

The State Forests are filled with ecosystems unique to Iowa, even the world. Please take a few minutes to read and familiarize yourself with the Iowa State Forest rules. By following the rules, everyone can enjoy their time in the State Forests.

<p><b>FIRE</b> Be careful with fire. Never leave a fire unattended. Fires are only permitted where fire rings are provided. Only dead and downed wood may be collected for use without a permit. <b>Please collect or purchase firewood locally and do not transport firewood across county lines to protect against spreading forest pests and diseases.</b></p>	<p><b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> For more information contact the individual State Forests below or see our website at <a href="http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/">www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/</a>. Each Area Forester can provide times when the forest headquarters is open.</p> <p><b>LOESS HILLS</b> 206 Polk St. Pisgah, IA 51564-0158 712-456-2924 <b>AREA FORESTER</b> Brent Olson Brent.Olson@dnr.iowa.gov</p> <p><b>SHIMEK</b> 33653 Route J56 Farmington, IA 52626 319-878-3811 <b>AREA FORESTER</b> John Byrd John.Byrd@dnr.iowa.gov</p> <p><b>STEPHENS</b> 1111 8th St. Chariton, IA 50049 641-774-4559 <b>AREA FORESTER</b> Jessica Flatt Jessica.Flatt@dnr.iowa.gov</p> <p><b>YELLOW RIVER</b> (also Backbone and White Pine Hollow State Forests) 729 State Forest Road Harpers Ferry, IA 52146 563-586-2254 <b>AREA FORESTER</b> Robert Honeywell Robert.Honeywell@dnr.iowa.gov</p> <p><b>BOONE STATE FOREST AREAS</b> 502 E 9th St. Des Moines, IA 50319 515-281-5441 <b>AREA FORESTER</b> Jeff Goemdt Jeff.Goemdt@dnr.iowa.gov</p>
<p><b>CAMPING</b> Camping is only allowed in designated areas; no overflow camping is allowed. All campsites are non-modern. The State Parks Bureau administers the campgrounds and additional regulations apply.</p>	
<p><b>EQUESTRIAN RIDING</b> Equestrian riding is allowed only on designated trails, roads and campgrounds.</p>	
<p><b>MOUNTAIN BICYCLES AND SNOWMOBILES</b> Mountain bikes are allowed on equestrian trails. Snowmobiles are allowed on designated routes only.</p>	
<p><b>MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION</b> Motor vehicle operation is permitted only on public roads. ATV's are not allowed anywhere on the forest, trails or roads.</p>	
<p><b>FISHING AND HUNTING</b> Fishing is permitted in all lakes and streams in the forests. Hunting is permitted on all of the forests, except for within 200 yards of a residence or campground. Hunters are reminded to check Iowa's hunting regulations for season dates and limits.</p>	
<p><b>SWIMMING</b> There are no designated swimming locations within the forests.</p>	
<p><b>CARRY-IN/CARRY-OUT POLICY</b> Day use visitors must take their garbage and recyclables home unless otherwise indicated. The removal of the garbage and recycling containers eliminates smells, mess and pests. Please leave the area cleaner than when you arrived.</p>	
<p><b>STATE REGULATIONS</b> State regulations require horses, mules and donkeys being transported interstate (from one state to another) must have a current Certification of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) and a negative Coggin's test (EIA). This paperwork must accompany the animal into the State of Iowa. Please refer to <a href="http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalindustry/horseadmissionregs.asp">www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalindustry/horseadmissionregs.asp</a> for more information. This law applies to equestrian camping, day-use and trail riding in any State owned Park or Forest.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONAL CONDUCT</b> Excessive noise in public use areas is not allowed. Disorderly conduct is prohibited on all state lands.</p>	
<p><b>PETS</b> Pets must be on a leash in campgrounds and other designated areas. Please clean up after your pet.</p>	

PLEASE HELP KEEP YOUR STATE FORESTS BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE.

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