

## YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST

In the heart of northeast Iowa, one of the nation's most picturesque regions, lay the timbered hills and valleys of the Yellow River State Forest. North of McGregor just off Iowa 76 this 6,548-acre forest is located in the midst of spectacular bluffs along the Mississippi River. The area offers outdoor recreation in its most primitive form.

Of primary recreation interest is the Paint Creek Unit. Hiking through the acres of native timber, one marvels at the sheer limestone bluffs, clear trout streams, wildlife and the quiet beauty of Mother Nature undisturbed.

This 4,364-acre timbered area has two bubbling trout streams, Big Paint and Little Paint Creeks. Campers at the Paint Creek Unit are lulled to sleep by the gurgling of the clear cold water and awaken in the morning to try for some trout.

A quiet walk along one of the creeks often brings a visitor upon a deer stopping to drink. Stop and listen, and with luck, romance fills the air at the gobble of a wild turkey along the hills and valleys. In Indian days, this region was a utopia for this noble bird, but with white man's pressure it was exterminated. The wild turkeys have been successfully reintroduced.

A hike to the bluff tops on the north side of the unit brings the sawmill, operated by the Forestry Division of the Department of Natural Resources, into view across the road. The pine plantings edging the campground and the picnic area are also seen from this point.

A drive south from the sawmill on a narrow, winding road takes you to the fire tower, Iowa's first. The tower is for use by Department of Natural Resources' employees only.

Continuing on this road eventually takes you to Iowa 76 toward Waukon and east to Iowa 364 toward Waukon Junction and Harpers Ferry, old river towns rich in history. Pioneer explorations of Marquette and Joliet, Zebulon Pike, Indian battles, fur traders and tales of the Mississippi River are a few contributing examples of this region's great past.

In the areas not specifically designated as recreation areas, an operating program of forest and game management is underway.

Areas currently accessible have been inventoried to determine the kinds of trees, number of trees, quality and volume in board feet that are growing on the forest unit. All units of the forest are operated under multiple use management plans to regulate the periodic timber harvest.

Game management practices are a part of the operating plans. Adequate den trees are left, food patches are cleared and planted with corn, milo and other grains for game birds. Deer use these areas in the fall and winter. There are two marshes and 52 water erosion and wildlife ponds on the unit.

The state sawmill near the forest headquarters is active year round although most sawing is done in spring months. When trees are marked for cutting, all possible products are considered. In a normal year, such things as veneer logs, barrel stave bolts, railroad tie cuts and pulpwood may be sold from the forest area to commercial outlets. Most lumber logs are brought to the sawmill and the lumber produced is used by various sections of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Paint Creek Unit of the Yellow River Forest is a plan in action where the visitor enjoys the views and natural benefits such as hunting and fishing near his campsite while at the same time, development projects, commercial forest operations, game management and research go on all around him.

### FACILITIES OFFERED AT THE PAINT CREEK UNIT

Facilities include fireplaces, picnic sites, excellent trout streams, hiking trails, primitive camping spots, a drinking water supply at the sawmill, toilets, areas for seasonal hunting, bridle trails and unloading ramps for horses. Camping privileges are for overnight, weekend or a maximum two-week period. Camping is allowed only in the designated camp areas.

### FOREST FIRE WARNING

The area contains one of the largest continuous stands of forest cover in the state.

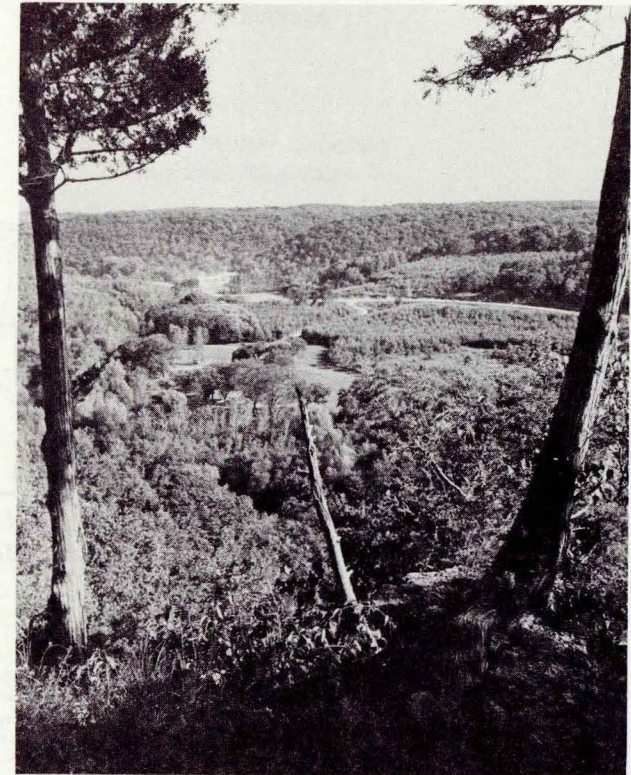
One careless campfire or discarded match can cause a fire which can ruin the area for everyone. **Build fires only at provided fireplaces and receptacles** and use care in discarding matches or cigarettes.

Report all wild fires at the forest headquarters building. All fires should also be reported to the nearest town fire department.

### PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING

1. Area use is at your own risk.
2. Motor vehicle use and travel limited to rock-surfaced roads, maximum speed 20 MPH.
3. Snowmobile use limited to marked trails.
4. Horses are permitted on marked riding trails, area roads as well as the 80-acre stable and loading area.
5. Camping privileges limited to maximum period of two weeks.
6. Camping is permitted only at designated camp areas.
7. Build fires only at provided fireplaces or receptacles.
8. Tying animals to area trees is prohibited.
9. Stream valleys may be subject to flooding.
10. Keep the area clean and beautiful and enjoy the outdoors.
11. Tables may not be loaded and moved from the area in which they are located.
12. No standing trees may be cut for firewood or any other use.

## YELLOW RIVER FOREST



### UNITS OF THE YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST

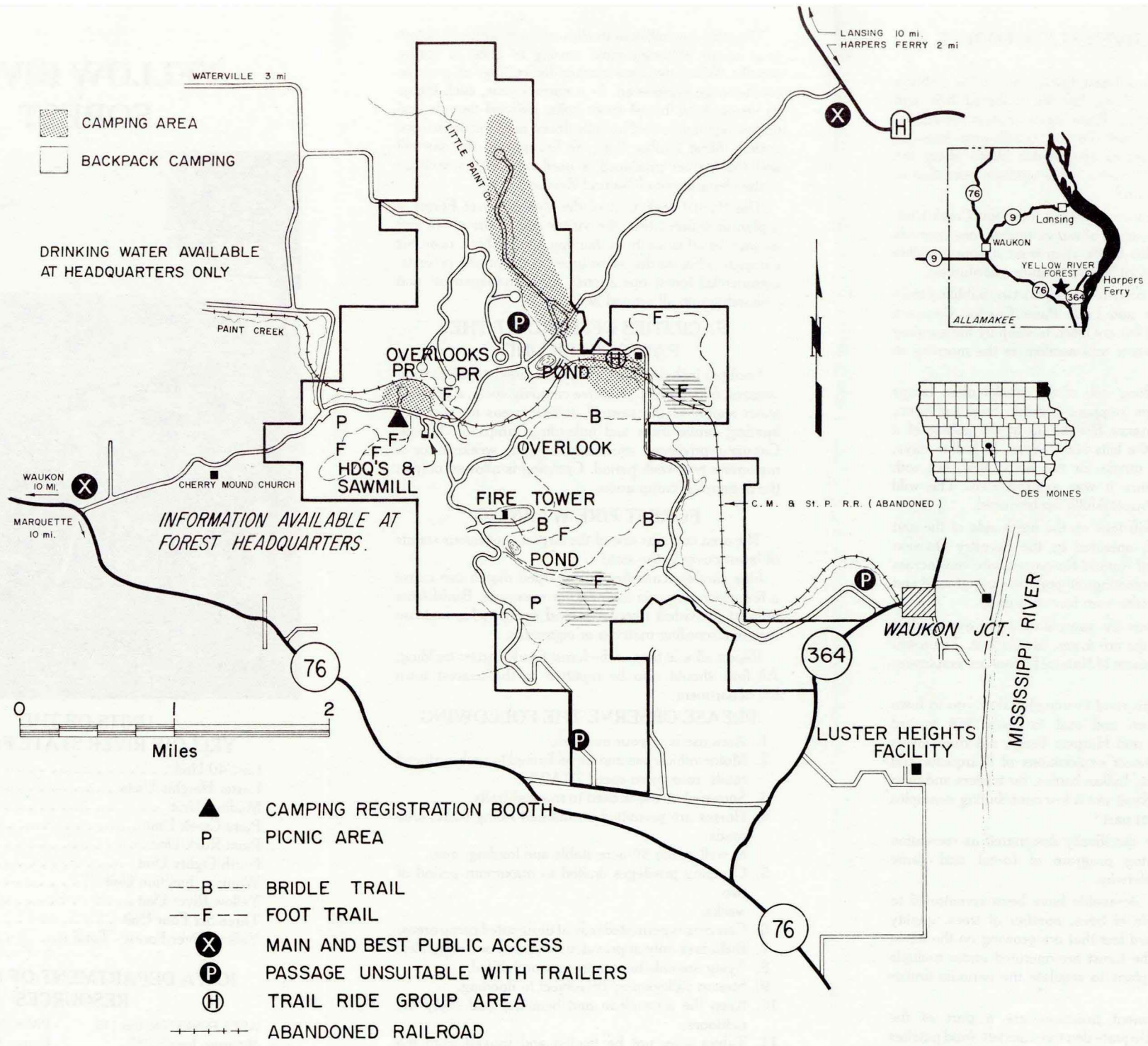
Lost 40 Unit . . . . .	160 acres
Luster Heights Units . . . . .	651 acres
Mudhen Unit . . . . .	196 acres
Paint Creek Unit . . . . .	4,364 acres
Paint Rock Unit . . . . .	629 acres
North Eighty Unit . . . . .	80 acres
Waukon Junction Unit . . . . .	208 acres
Yellow River Unit . . . . .	200 acres
Three Six Four Unit . . . . .	60 acres
Yellow River Forest - Total . . . . .	6,548 acres



### IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AREA FORESTER, Box 115  
McGregor, Iowa 52157  
Phone: (319)586-2254

PARK RANGER, Box 146A  
Harpers Ferry, Iowa 52146  
Phone (319)586-2548













 CAMPING AREA  
 BACKPACK CAMPING

DRINKING WATER AVAILABLE AT HEADQUARTERS ONLY

INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT FOREST HEADQUARTERS.

-  CAMPING REGISTRATION BOOTH
-  PICNIC AREA
-  BRIDLE TRAIL
-  FOOT TRAIL
-  MAIN AND BEST PUBLIC ACCESS
-  PASSAGE UNSUITABLE WITH TRAILERS
-  TRAIL RIDE GROUP AREA
-  ABANDONED RAILROAD