

Located in historical southeast Iowa, Shimek State Forest is the largest continuous stand of forest cover in the state. This 8,772-acre area is located 25 miles west of Fort Madison and 30 miles north of Keokuk, Iowa.

The area is named for the late Dr. Bohumil Shimek, Iowa naturalist, one-time botany department head at the University of Iowa and one of the state's early conservationists. The original 4,000 acres were established in the mid 1930s through purchases of depleted farm land. Those individual acquisitions continued until pre-World War II days. The early purchases were initiated by the late G. B. McDonald, head of the Iowa State University forestry department and state forester.

Through a 1964 General Assembly appropriation, an additional 3,000 acres were purchased from the U.S. Forest Service. Since 1964, additional purchases have increased the forest to approximately 8,800 acres. Much of the latter acquisition adjoined the forest.

All of the area was in private ownership. The timber growing sites had been clear-cut at least once; therefore, present timber is second growth. Many acres of old field sites were scattered among the timber sites. Because of soil mismanagement, these sites had lost their productivity. In 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps began planting conifers on these old field sites. Approximately 2,000 acres were planted to various species of conifers. Since this area is midway between the natural range of northern and southern pines, some of each were planted. From these plantings it was found that northern pines were best adapted. The following conifers in order of acreage can be found: white pine, red pine, Scotch pine, jack pine, Virginia pine, Ponderosa pine, and Austrian pine. The latter two are not planted now because high rainfall and humidity in this area makes them susceptible to a needle blight.

White spruce, pitch pine, shortleaf pine, table mountain pine, larch and several hybrid pines can also be found in small plantings.

The original function of the area was to serve as a demonstration for the people of Iowa. The multiple-use concept of forest management was initiated in 1967 with construction of two large ponds, one each on the Farmington and Donnellson Units. In 1968 and 1978 a third and fourth pond were constructed on the Farmington Unit. These ponds have been equipped with draw down lines through the structure to facilitate lowering the water when needed, for fish management. Largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and other panfish were stocked for the discriminating angler.

Under this type of management, recreational developments, such as picnic and camping areas and more large ponds will be developed in the Farmington and Donnellson Units. The other units will be managed for timber and wildlife production. Deer are abundant over the forest as well as other small game. In 1965 eleven Missouri-trapped eastern wild turkeys were released on the Lick Creek Unit and have since spread through the major forest units and adjacent private land.

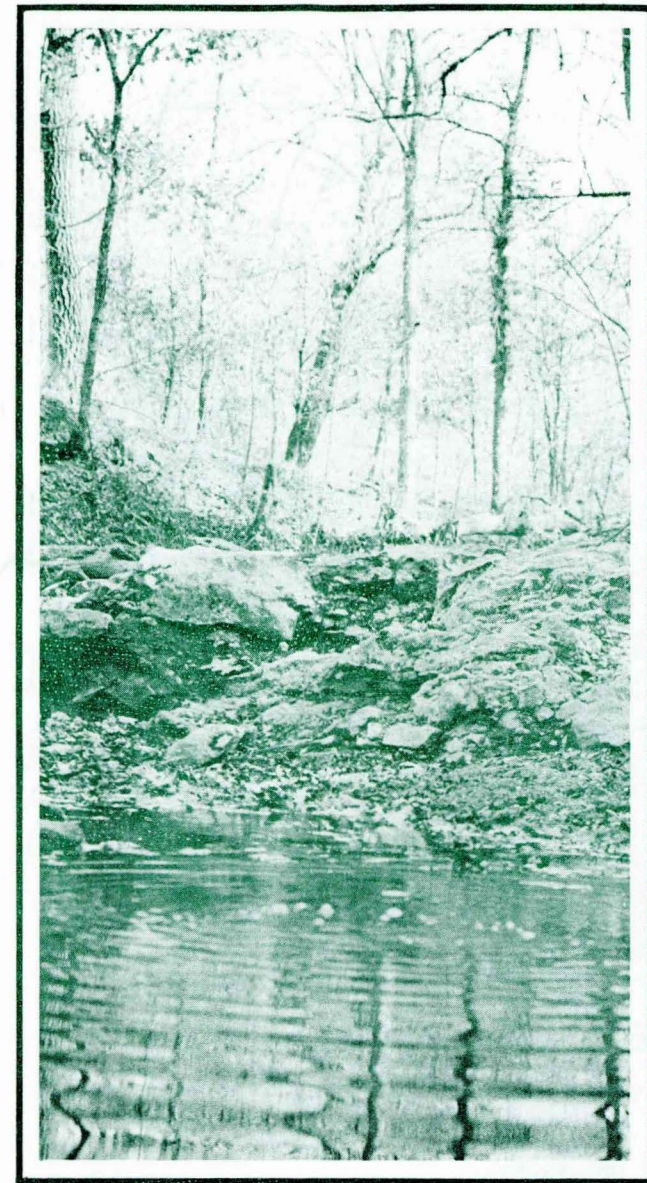
A schedule of timber stand improvement has been continuing for several years. Pulpwood produced goes to Consolidating Packing Corp., Fort Madison and fuel wood is sold locally. Thinnings from older pine plantations go into treated fence posts for use on state forests, other Department of Natural Resources areas and for sale locally.

Facilities available on the Farmington and Donnellson Units include picnic areas with tables and fireplaces, camping areas with rock pads, tables, fireplaces, latrines, four large stocked ponds, five smaller ponds, a nature trail with signs pointing out species of trees, features of natural interest and wild flowers. Water can be obtained at the forest headquarters. Hunting is offered in season for white-tailed deer, turkeys, quail and other upland game. An area is available for group horseback riding on the marked trails. Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are available in season, on marked trails. Signs in conifer plantations indicate species and management practices. Recreation plans should be checked with the area forester prior to any such special use. Enjoy, don't destroy!

FOREST FIRE WARNING

The area contains one of the largest continuous stands of forest cover in Iowa. One careless campfire or discarded match or cigarette can cause a fire which can ruin the area for everyone. Build fires only in established fireplaces and extinguish all fires before leaving the forest. Never leave a fire unattended. Always use care in discarding matches or cigarettes. Report all wildfires at the forest headquarters. All fires should also be reported to nearest fire departments in Farmington, Donnellson or Argyle.

EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors.



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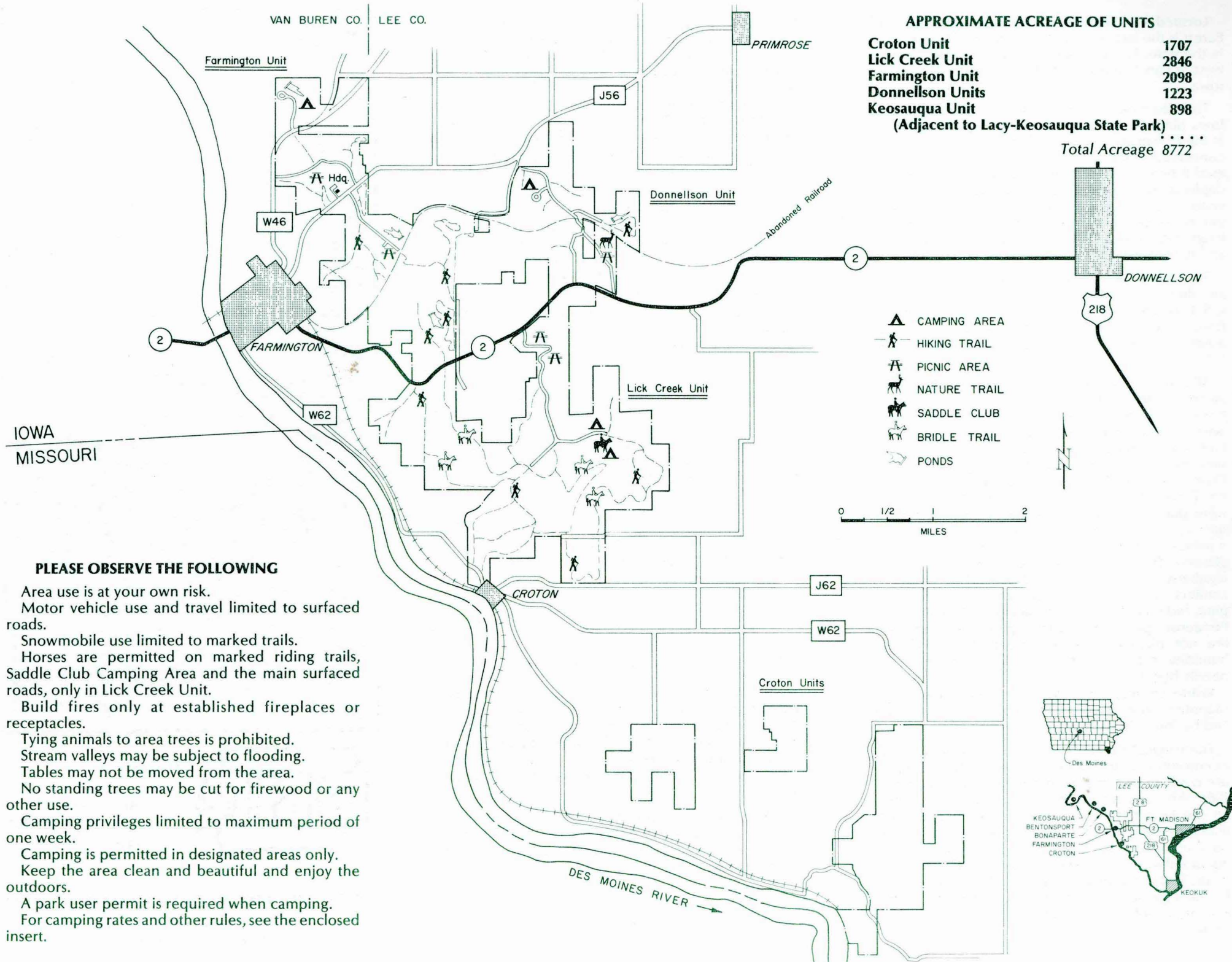
Shimek State Forest
Area Forester
Farmington, Iowa 52626
(319) 878-3811

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

VAN BUREN CO. | LEE CO.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF UNITS

Croton Unit	1707
Lick Creek Unit	2846
Farmington Unit	2098
Donnellson Units	1223
Keosauqua Unit	898
(Adjacent to Lacy-Keosauqua State Park)	
Total Acreage 8772	



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PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING

- Area use is at your own risk.
- Motor vehicle use and travel limited to surfaced roads.
- Snowmobile use limited to marked trails.
- Horses are permitted on marked riding trails, Saddle Club Camping Area and the main surfaced roads, only in Lick Creek Unit.
- Build fires only at established fireplaces or receptacles.
- Tying animals to area trees is prohibited.
- Stream valleys may be subject to flooding.
- Tables may not be moved from the area.
- No standing trees may be cut for firewood or any other use.
- Camping privileges limited to maximum period of one week.
- Camping is permitted in designated areas only.
- Keep the area clean and beautiful and enjoy the outdoors.
- A park user permit is required when camping.
- For camping rates and other rules, see the enclosed insert.

