Shimek State Forest

Shimek State Forest was established in the 1930's on 800 acres in Allamakee County, as an outgrowth of the national effort to protect the nation's forests. The forest has spectacular overlooks of the Mississippi River and inland views not common to other parts of the state. 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. The forest is over 9,000 acres and has large, unbroken forests of a wide variety of species including white pine, black walnut, and aspen. The forest is managed for multiple uses, with emphasis on timber production. Forest stand improvement techniques and regeneration systems are utilized to enhance tree growth rates, regenerate mature and declining stands, and improve forest health. Techniques are utilized at this stage to maximize growth, improve forest health and improve species composition.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE FOREST SYSTEM

1. Manage for healthy, sustainable forests and prairies
2. Promote the wise use of forest resources to provide a continuing supply of wood products
3. Create and maintain forest management demonstration and research areas
4. Maintain and improve natural wildlife habitat for game and non-game species
5. Create and enhance primitive, low-impact recreational opportunities

To protect against further spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (Aphyllophora insularum), all treated ash trees in the Shimek State Forest have been killed or removed from the forest. The forest is now utilized for multiple uses, including timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE FOREST SYSTEM

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Yellow River State Forest

Yellow River State Forest is located in eastern Iowa, near the towns of Delphi and Farley. The forest contains over 8,500 acres of conifer forests that were planted on severely eroded crop fields 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.

The Forest Visitors Center located in the town of Pisgah features a loess Hills diorama, an old bur oak tree trunk, and a history of the forest. The center also has maps and other information about the forest and the surrounding areas.

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Loess Hills State Forest

Loess Hills State Forest covers an area of about 17,000 acres and is located in the northwest corner of the state. The forest is managed for multiple uses, including timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

To walk among the trees

Today, public use and use on forest management increase in importance, and it is clear that the forest is more than just a supplier of wood products. The forest is also a source of recreation and a place for people to enjoy nature. The forest is managed for multiple uses and is open to the public for activities such as hiking, picnicking, fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching.

Goals and Objectives of the State Forest System

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5. Create and enhance primitive, low-impact recreational opportunities

Stephens State Forest

Stephens State Forest is the largest state forest in Iowa, with over 12,000 acres spread across five southern Iowa counties. The forest is managed for multiple uses, including timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

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Goals and Objectives of the State Forest System

1. Manage for healthy, sustainable forests and prairies
2. Promote the wise use of forest resources to provide a continuing supply of wood products
3. Create and maintain forest management demonstration and research areas
4. Maintain and improve natural wildlife habitat for game and non-game species
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To learn more about forest management and the value of forests, visit the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website at www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/.
Welcome to the Iowa State Forests

You are in a natural environment. The Iowa State Forests have many areas where there are no roads. These are often trails and remote areas. Some areas in the State Forests have active mines that are not open to the public. Always be cautious and watch for potential hazards.

State Forests

The Iowa State Forests are located in five counties: Linn, Scott, Washington, Warren, and Winneshiek. They are surrounded by a network of public roads and trails. The Forests consist of over 500,000 acres of mostly forested land with many lakes and streams.

The Iowa State Forests are available for the outdoor enthusiast to use and appreciate. While you visit the State Forests, remember they are often wild places in remote areas — different forests have different ecosystems. Always be aware of your surroundings and take care not to disturb the natural habitat.

Please help keep your State Forests beautiful and safe.

For more information contact the individual State Forester.

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.

General Information

State Forests

- 1000 Acre Unit
- Lucas Unit
- Chariton Unit
- Cedar Creek Unit
- Lick Creek Unit
- Farminston Unit
- Croton Unit
- Lock Horn Unit
- Pisgah Unit
- Little Sioux Unit
- Gifford SF
- Loess Hills SF
- Anamosa Unit
- Keosauqua Unit
- Farmers Unit
- Farmington Unit
- Haysville Unit
- Green Mountain Unit
- Chariton River Unit
- Chariton Unit
- Lucas Unit
- 319-878-3811
- 515-281-5441
- 641-774-4559
- 563-586-2254
- Jeff GOerndt@dnr.iowa.gov
- Robert Honeywell@dnr.iowa.gov
- Jessica Flatt@dnr.iowa.gov
- Brent Olson@dnr.iowa.gov
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Please help keep your State Forests beautiful and safe.

For more information on a variety of forestry topics visit the Iowa Forest Service Web site at.

www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/.