



LOST 40

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST | USDA FOREST SERVICE

OLD GROWTH FOREST

The Lost 40 is managed by both the USDA Forest Service and the Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources. The area is considered a Biologically Unique Area on the National Forest (169 acres) and a Scientific and Natural Area by the State (114 acres).

The largest red pine in the Lost 40 is 115 inches circumference and 120 feet tall. The oldest tree, a red pine, is about 250 years old. The oldest red pine recorded at Lost 40 was 307 years old. The oldest white pine here is 194 years old. Most white pine live about 200 years. This area is managed to maintain the old growth pine forest character.

Old growth characteristics include: **Canopy**, large trees above that are at least 120 years old; **Habitat**, standing and fallen trees, variety of plants; **Shade-tolerant seedlings** and wildflowers; **Undisturbed forest**, no major natural or human disturbance (fire, wind-throw, logging). As you hike the Lost 40 trail, enjoy the old growth pine towering above you, but look at the tree seedlings on the forest floor. Maple and balsam fir abound, but how many pine seedlings can you find? What will the Lost 40 look like in 100 years?



FACILITIES

There is a parking lot with a loop that can accommodate larger vehicles and busses. The lot also has two picnic tables and a vault toilet. The trail begins across from the parking area. Follow the 0.8 mile outer loop trail (see back for map) or the shorter 0.2 mile inner loop.

HISTORY

Josiah R. King and his three-man survey crew traveled 40 miles from the “Grand Rapids of the Mississippi” in 1882. During their month-long survey, they lived in canvas tents and ate pork, beans and dried apples. King and his crew were completing 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. The crew plotted Coddington Lake nearly one-half mile northwest of its actual location. This 283 acre mapping error spared virgin pines from the logger’s ax during the peak of logging in Minnesota.

This “Lost 40” name refers to the acreage of the smallest subdivision of a parcel delineated in the original Public Land Survey of Minnesota. These surveys were done to delineate land to sell for logging and homesteading.

Old growth trees made up about a third of Minnesota’s forests in the late 1880s. Today, less than 5 percent of Minnesota’s forested land is old growth, with fewer than 2,000 acres of old-growth pine remaining in the state.

LOCATION

To visit the Lost 40 from Blackduck, Minnesota, take County Roads 30/13 to Alvwood. 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 2 miles north on 26 to Forest Road 2240 about 1.5 miles west of this intersection you will find the Lost 40 parking area and trail.

