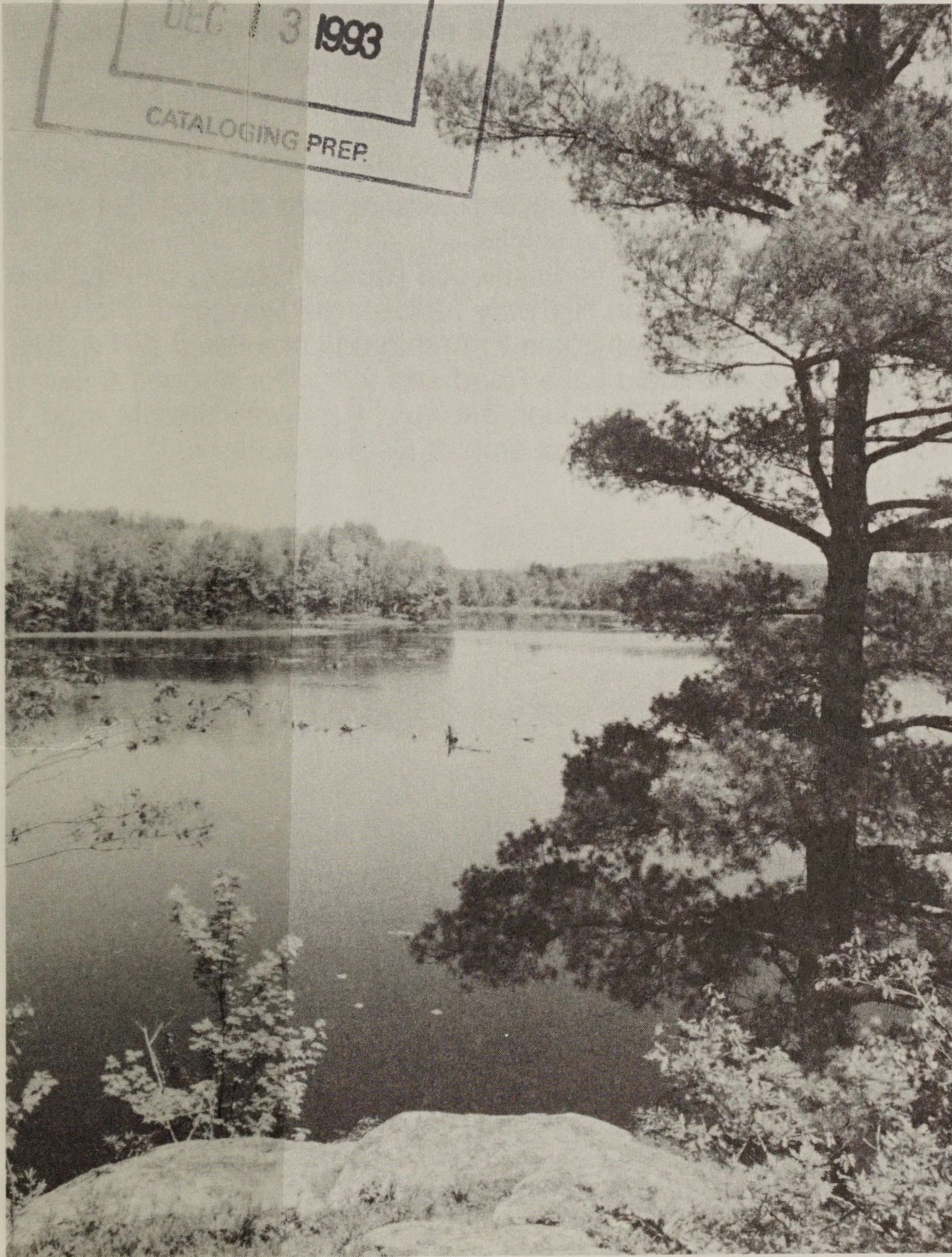
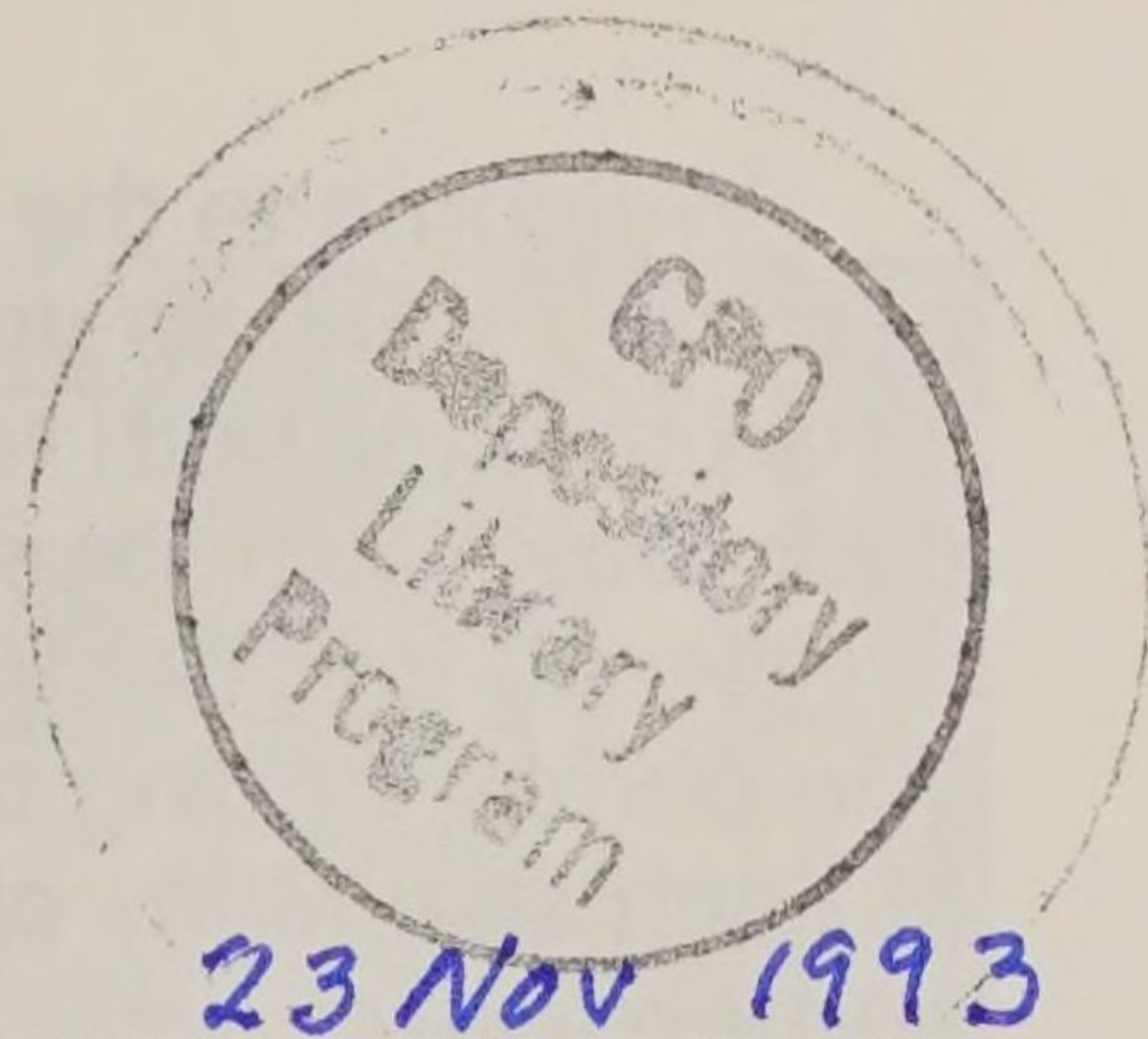
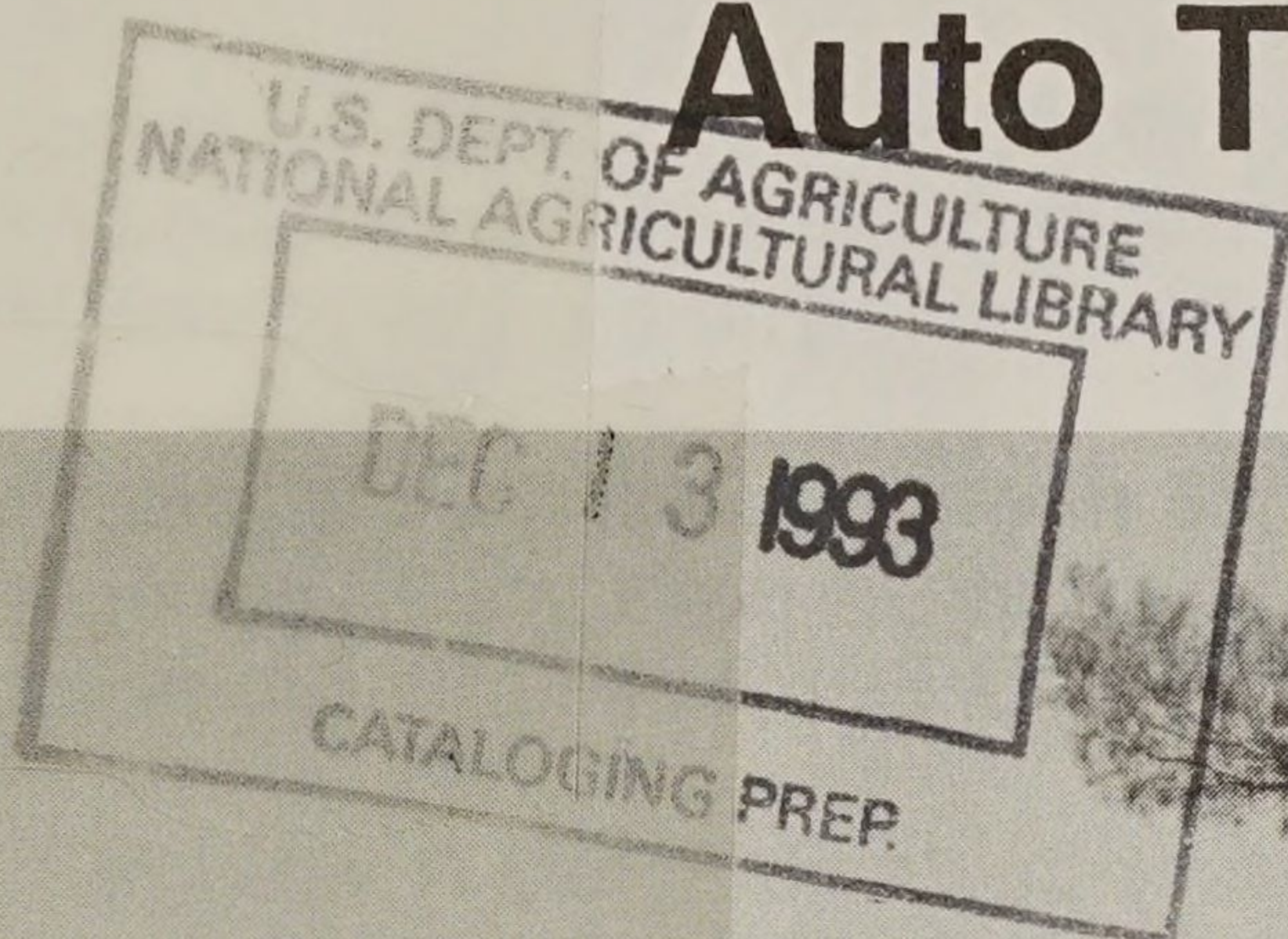


Lakewood Auto Tour



United States
Department of
Agriculture

PREPARED BY
Forest
Service

Nicolet
National
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**United States
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Agriculture**



National Agricultural Library

Welcome to the **Nicolet National Forest**. This self-guided auto tour will help you discover more about the Nicolet and what it has to offer both recreational users and the people who make their living from forest products.

There are 17 stops on the tour marked by numbered signs. The corresponding numbers in this brochure give an explanation of each site. Many of the stops have trails you are free to walk and explore.

The total trip covers about 65 miles. You will want to keep an eye out for the **AUTO TOUR** signs that will point you in the right direction, and also watch for the **AUTO TOUR** site-number signs that will tell you where you are.

We ask that you drive carefully because Forest Roads (FR 2121, for example) are narrow and winding and are used by many vehicles, including logging trucks.

The route starts at the Lakewood Ranger Station on Highway 32. If you head north on Highway 32 from the Ranger Station for about 1.6 miles, you will come to Archibald Lake Road (FR 2121). Turn left onto Archibald Lake Road and follow for about 1.5 miles. Watch for an **AUTO TOUR** sign and turn right onto the dirt road. This will take you to your first stop at Cathedral Pines.



Cover Photograph--Stop 11. Waupee Flowage



Stop 1. Cathedral Pines

The original 40-acre Cathedral Pines area was purchased by the Forest Service in 1968. Since then, additional lands have been acquired, expanding the area called Cathedral Pines. This special area contains white pines and eastern hemlocks that escaped the lumberjack's axe in the early 1900s. Stands of hardwood trees also make this area a beautiful place to hike, explore, or just imagine what the early forest was like.

Many of the large white pines in this area contain nests of the great blue heron. There are nearly 100 nests in this area, called a rookery. You would be amazed at the noise these birds make during nesting season, which lasts from May through July. To reduce human disturbance, we ask you to stay at least 300 feet away from the nesting area.

When you leave, follow the same route back to Archibald Lake Road (FR 2121). Turn right onto Archibald Lake Road and continue for 3.8 miles until you come to a stop sign. Turn left and continue along Boot Lake for 1.1 miles to County T. Turn right onto County T and follow until you come to Fanny Lake Road (about 1.2 miles). Turn left onto Fanny Lake Road. This will take you to the next tour stop.

Stop 2. Jones Spring Area

The 2,000-acre Jones Spring Area is managed for non-motorized recreation use. Ten miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails are marked and maintained for visitor use. Five walk-in campsites are located around Fanny Lake, and an Adirondack shelter is located on an overlook between Upper and Lower Jones Lakes. Fanny Lake is a short walk of about one-quarter mile down the main trail. Please feel free to walk around and enjoy the forest and the wildlife that can be seen in this area.

When you leave the Jones Spring Area you will return to County T. Turn left onto County T and proceed until you come to Sawyer Lake Road (FR 2122) on your left, a distance of 1.5 miles. Watch for the AUTO TOUR signs, as they will direct you through a couple of intersections. The next tour stop is about 2.9 miles ahead.

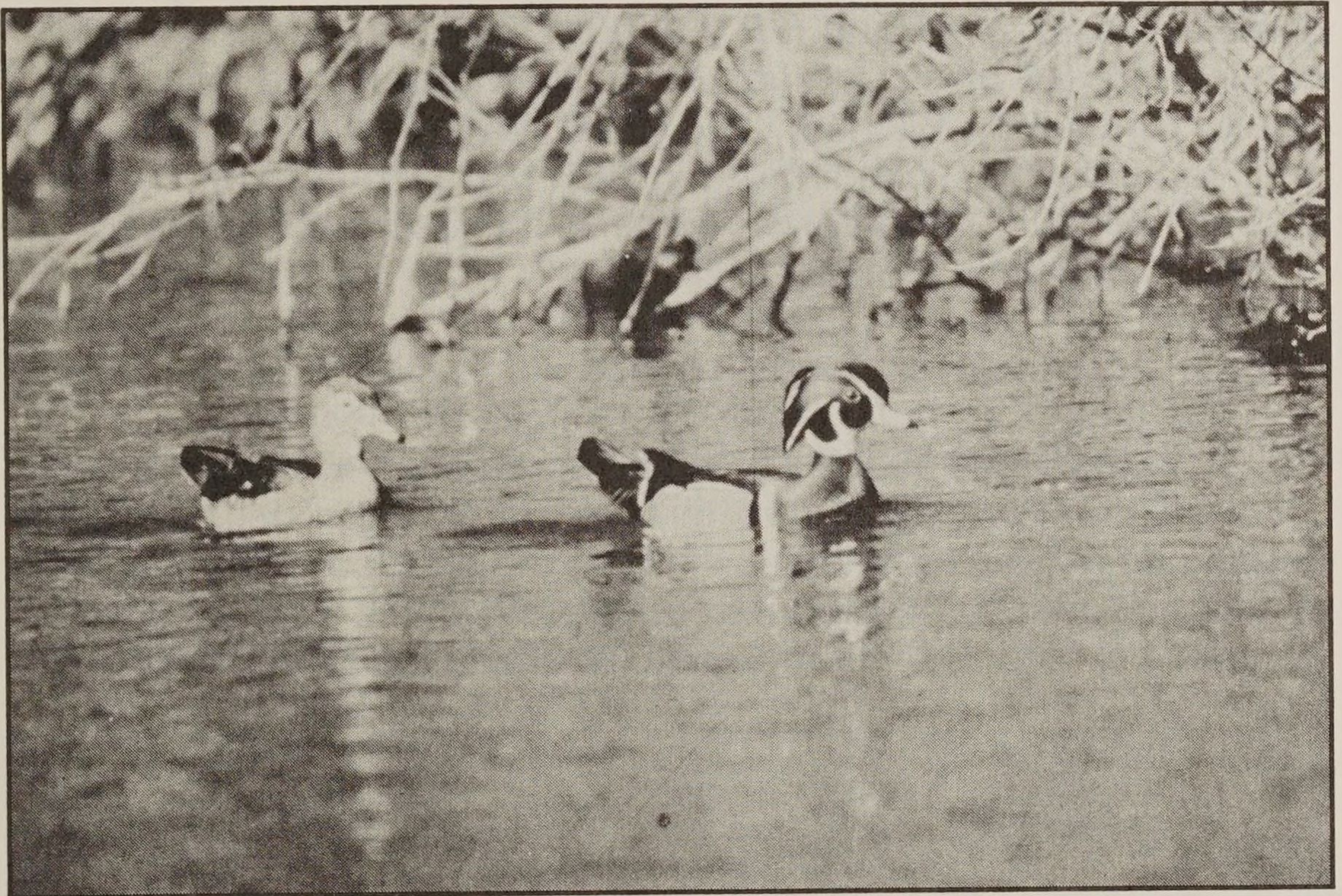


Stop 3. Wildlife Opening

If you walk down this trail just a little way, you will see an example of a constructed wildlife opening. These areas are created throughout the forest to make habitat and food sources for a

variety of wildlife species, including deer, birds, and other animals. Diverse habitat types, including open areas, provide for a variety of wildlife species. Here the opening is managed to maintain a grassy condition that provides food sources for ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, songbirds, and small mammals. Butterflies and other insects also thrive in this condition. Nearly all butterflies found in the Nicolet require open areas for some or all of their needs. Openings also are maintained or developed to enhance scenic views for forest visitors.

Continue down the Sawyer Lake Road (FR 2122) until you see the next AUTO TOUR sign, 0.3 miles from here, that will direct you to the left on a short road to a parking area.



Stop 4. Jones Spring Impoundment

A short walk down the trail will take you to the large earthen dam on Mary Creek that forms Jones Spring Impoundment. This area is a haven for many species of animals. When you stand on the dam and look out over the impoundment, you will see a number of large boxes. These boxes were erected to provide nesting sites for wood ducks. Wood ducks are cavity nesters, and few trees in this area are large enough to provide natural nest sites.

As you leave the parking area, turn left and continue 0.8 miles down the Sawyer Lake Road until you come to Setting Lake Road (FR 2283). Turn left onto Setting Lake Road and follow it for 2.0 miles until you come to the next AUTO TOUR sign.

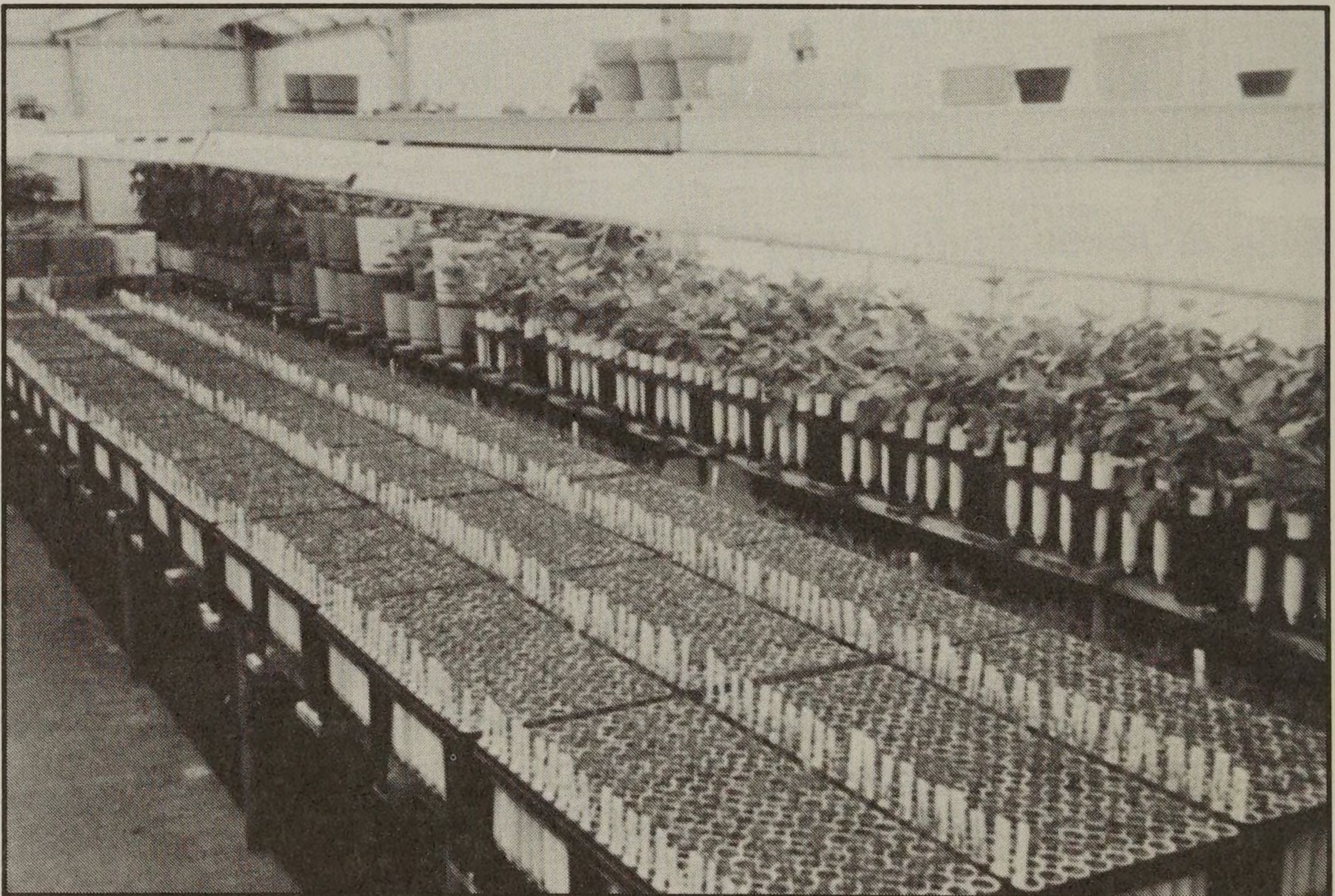
Stop 5. Wetlands

Wetlands--swamps, marshes, and bogs--once covered one-fourth of Wisconsin. Many have been lost due to construction of roads and cities. Wetlands like you see here were once considered wastelands. We now know they play a valuable role in our ecosystem. Wetlands provide habitat for a variety of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and insects. These areas are also valuable to people because they provide natural flood control by acting like sponges, soaking up excess water and storing it until dry periods. They also give us fresh, clean water by filtering out silt and sediments in the water as it slowly moves through the area.

Continue south 0.8 miles on Setting Lake Road until you come to Rose Lake Road (FR 2336) on the right. Turn right and continue for 0.3 miles until you come to Wichser Lake Road (FR 2283). Turn left on Wichser Lake Road and follow for 2.7 miles until you come to Eickhoff Road (FR 2118). Turn right and follow for another 0.5 miles until you come to the Oconto River Seed Orchard, your next tour stop.

Stop 6. Oconto River Seed Orchard

Oconto River Seed Orchard was founded in 1967 to "develop an aggressive, practical tree improvement program based on needs and research." It also produces the best possible seed for seedling production and for direct seeding of the Lake States National Forests. The seed orchard is also used to develop and



demonstrate cultural methods and procedures for the production of timber and other forest products through the use of sound genetic principles.

Orchard staff is available at the office from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays to answer questions and give tours. To reach the office, continue 0.8 miles on Eickhoff Road until you see a gate on your right. You may enter here. Follow this road and bear left at the intersection. The office is just ahead.

When leaving here, travel Eickhoff Road south 0.7 miles to Highway 64. Turn left onto Highway 64 and continue until you reach County T, another 3.5 miles. Turn right onto County T and continue south for about 0.9 miles. Watch for an AUTO TOUR sign and turn left onto the dirt road. This will take you to your next tour stop.

Stop 7. Natural Red Pine

Most of the pines you will see on the Nicolet National Forest have been planted since the 1930s. However, this unusual group of red pines started from natural seeding. There are very few areas like this in the Nicolet.

Having begun as seedlings before the turn of the century, these trees are now producing sawlogs for lumber and pulpwood for Wisconsin's paper industry. Thinning some of the lower quality trees provides optimum conditions for the higher quality trees to develop. Another harvest of some of the high quality sawlogs in this stand will take place about the year 2000.

When leaving this stop, continue south on County T for about 0.6 miles to the next tour stop.

Stop 8. Bear Trail Fire

Here, a careless angler was responsible for the fire that burned 550 acres on Memorial Day 1961. Before it was controlled, at a cost of \$6,000, the fire had burned an area one-half mile wide and three miles long. It burned with such intensity that it easily jumped County T, the road you just travelled. In twenty minutes it travelled three-quarters of a mile. The combined efforts of 125 firefighters, 6 bulldozers, 2 fire plows, 2 pumpers, and many other pieces of firefighting equipment were needed to control the blaze. The Bear Trail Fire received its unique name because the area used to be inhabited by many bears.

Three hundred and fifty acres of 15-year-old plantations were destroyed in the fire. Other economic losses--including the destruction of merchantable timber and damage to watershed, wildlife, and other values--exceeded \$25,000. Carelessness with one match cost a total of \$31,000.

The task of replanting the area began in the fall of 1961. Today, this is an example of how an area can recover.

When you leave this stop, turn around and head back to Highway 64. Turn right onto 64 and continue for 4.9 miles to Highway 32. As you travel along Highway 64, perhaps you will notice the absence of advertising signs and utility poles. Special cutting practices are also used within the roadside zone to protect its scenic beauty. When you come to Highway 32, turn right and drive to the Town of Mountain, a distance of 2.2 miles. This is a good spot to take a break and decide whether you would like to continue the tour or come back another day. If you wish to continue, turn left in Mountain onto County W and immediately make another left turn. This road is called Old 32 (FR 2106). Follow Old 32 about 2.7 miles until you see the next AUTO TOUR sign.



Stop 9. Mountain Fire Tower

The Mountain Fire Tower, just a short walk up the trail, is the last fire tower standing on its original location in the Nicolet National Forest. It was erected in 1934, one of a series of 20 towers that were built in the Forest during the '30s. These towers allowed uniform fire spotting coverage of the forest. By the early 1970s, forest fire spotting was being done by airplane, and almost all of the fire towers were dismantled. The Mountain Fire Tower was left standing because it was used as a Forest Service communication tower and a relay station for the Oconto County Sheriff's office.

When leaving this tour stop, continue north on Old 32 about 0.2 miles. Turn right on Sunrise Lake Road (FR 2319). This will take you to your next tour stop, 3.1 miles ahead.

Stop 10. Pine Release Area

In 1979, all the aspen (or popple) on the north side of the road was harvested to give the pines that were there more room to grow. Now the pines are larger in diameter and taller than the young aspen. As the pines get even larger they will block more sunlight from the aspen. As a result, some--but not all--of the aspen will die, and a mixed stand of pine and aspen will result.

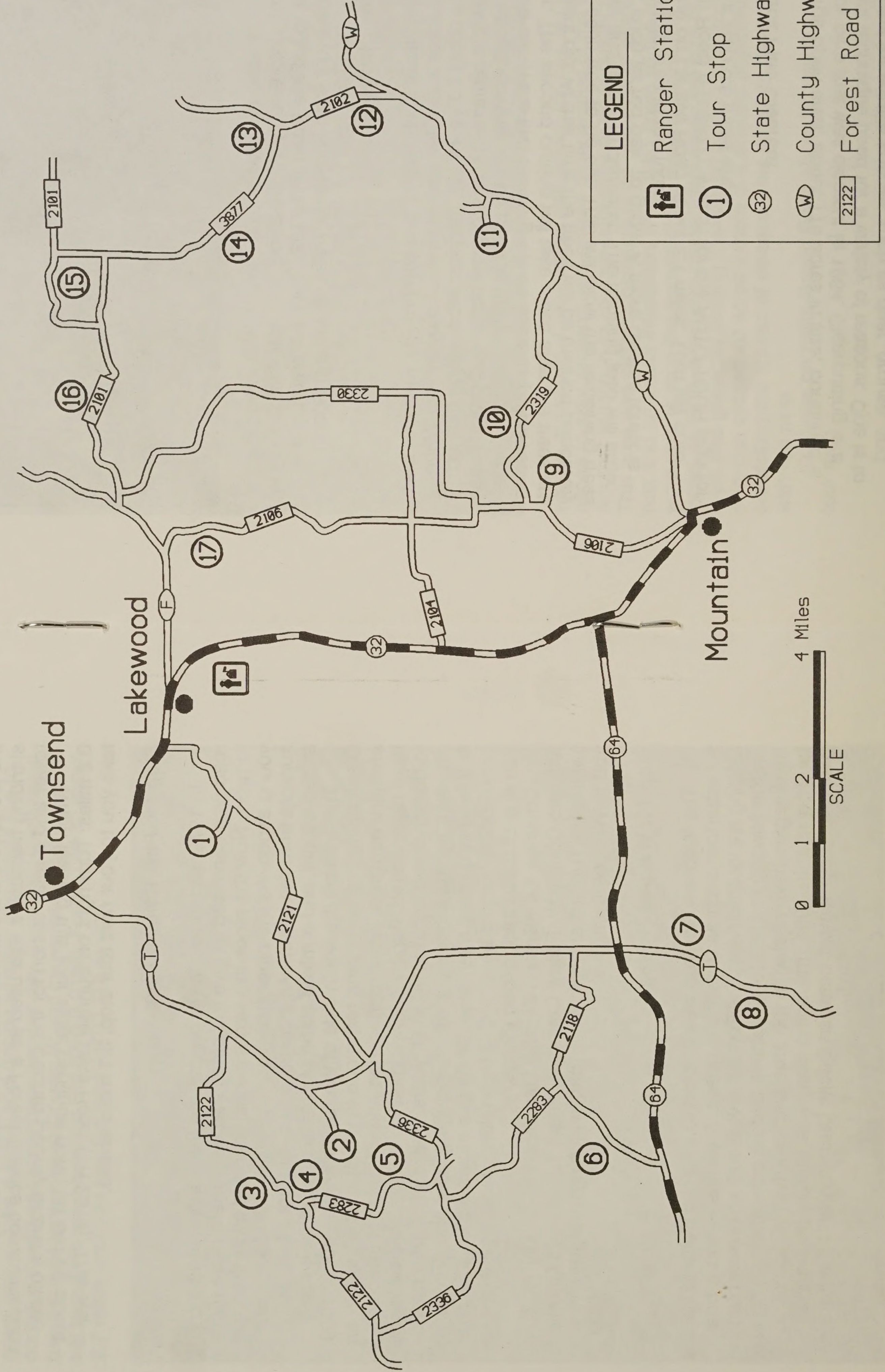
The area on the south side of the road was clearcut in 1989. Clearcutting is a harvesting technique in which all the trees in an area are removed. Since then, aspen and a few other species have regenerated. Aspen is a fast growing tree and will be ready to be harvested again in 40 to 50 years. This sort of area provides excellent habitat for many animals, including deer and grouse, to find food and cover they need. While this allows for healthy deer populations, hunters have a hard time taking deer once they get into one of these thick aspen stands.

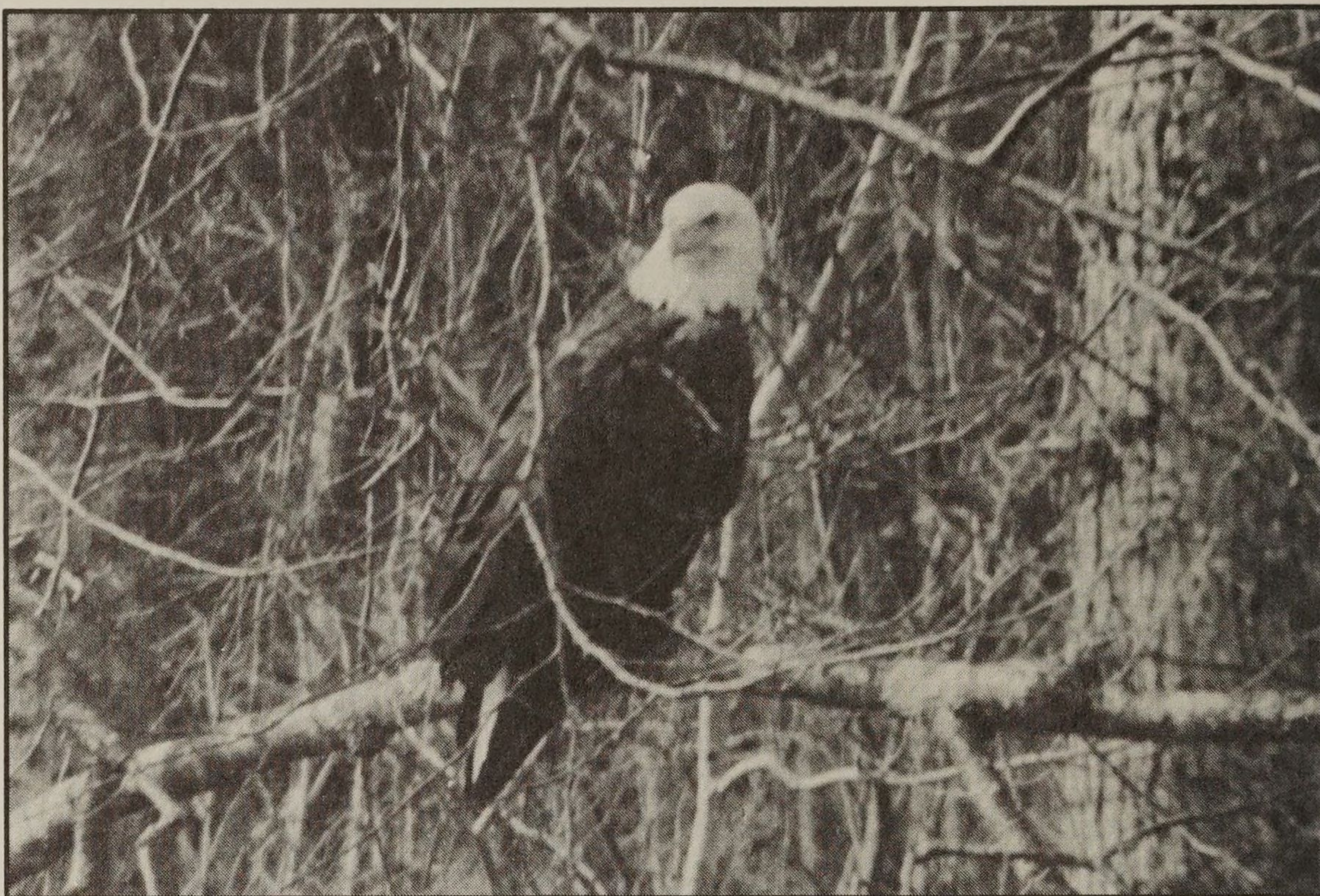
Continue 1.4 miles on Sunrise Lake Road to County W. Turn left onto County W. Follow County W about 1.8 miles to Grindle Lake Lane. Turn left and follow this road, watching for signs directing you to Waupee Dam.

Stop 11. Waupee Flowage

The Waupee Flowage was created to improve wetland habitat for waterfowl such as ducks and geese. A campsite and a boat landing are located here. The Forest Service built an osprey platform on the flowage in 1989 to give these birds a potential nesting site. Bald eagles have nested in the area and use the flowage as a feeding site. In 1991, the aging dam was replaced under a partnership agreement between Ducks Unlimited and the Forest Service.

Lakewood Auto Tour





You now need to head back to County W. When you get there, turn left onto County W. Go about 1.75 miles on County W until you get to LaFave Road (FR 2102). Turn left onto LaFave Road. The next tour stop is only 0.1 miles on LaFave Road.

Stop 12. Pine Plantation

Tree plantations such as this one can provide wood for the paper and lumber industries and aid the local economy. When the trees are about 30 years old, the plantation will be thinned. This will allow the remaining trees to grow faster and provide room for logging equipment that will be used in future cuttings. The trees that are cut in the first thinning will be used as pulpwood to make paper. The second cutting will take place after the trees are about 40 years old. At that time the trees will be thinned selectively by marking each tree to be cut. This will allow the remaining trees to grow taller and larger in diameter. The thinning also will allow other trees, such as red oak, to grow. A more diverse forest is expected in this area in the future.

Continue on LaFave Road about 2.1 miles. Turn left onto Holts Ranch Road (FR 3877). Watch for the AUTO TOUR sign for the next tour stop 0.5 miles ahead.

Stop 13. Jack Pine Clearcut

This large open area, about 115 acres in size, contained a stand of jack pine that was clearcut in 1984. Clearcutting is a management technique used for a variety of reasons. One is to provide habitat for wildlife species such as deer, grouse, and



various songbirds. Clearcutting also allows for species such as aspen to start growing and ensure regeneration of the forest. Another reason is to remove unhealthy or poor quality timber. This area was clearcut because of an outbreak of eastern gall rust and an insect infestation. By cutting down all the trees, we were able to stop the spread of the disease to the rest of the forest. In 1976, a law was passed regulating the size of harvest units and generally limiting them to 40 acres. Units, such as this one, can exceed 40 acres if there is a specific objective, such as controlling the spread of disease. This area has been replanted with red pine.

Continue on Holts Ranch Road about 2.1 miles to your next tour stop.

Stop 14. Logging Camp

At this stop you will be able to see the remains of a logging camp dating from the turn of the century. This was the site of a Holt and Balcom logging camp where the lumberjacks were provided bunkhouses and a cookhouse. Feel free to walk around



and explore, but remember it is illegal to take anything from or dig in a heritage resource site.

Across the road you will notice some very large white pines. They are an excellent example of the size of the trees that made Wisconsin's timber industry so important in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Try to imagine a whole forest with trees this size.

Continue on Holts Ranch Road 1.4 miles to the next tour stop.

Stop 15. Forbes Spring

Forbes Spring is a natural spring that forms the headwaters of Forbes Creek, an important supplier of cold water to the South Fork of the Thunder River. In a combined effort between the Forest Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forbes Spring was dredged in 1987 to provide deep, cool water for trout, and to maintain its spring pond condition for the future. Without dredging, Forbes Spring would have eventually filled in with vegetation. A large dredge was used to dig down 8 feet all the way around the spring, leaving a shallow area in the middle as shelter for invertebrates and small fish. You will have to get out

and walk about 200 feet to see the spring. It is very pretty and well worth the chance to stretch your legs.

Turn around here and proceed back down Holts Ranch Road for about 0.25 miles. Turn right onto Smyth Road (FR 2101). Follow this road about 1.3 miles to the next tour stop.



Stop 16. Oconto River

The Oconto River, a popular canoeing and trout fishing river, is being cleared of overhanging trees and brush to enhance its use as a canoeing river. This river offers fast moving water and rapids from this bridge all the way down to Chute Pond. It offers a good trip for both canoeists and trout anglers.

Continue on Smyth Road for 2.8 miles until you reach County F. Turn left and travel about 0.7 miles to Old 32 (FR 2106). Follow this road and the signs to the next tour stop.

Stop 17. McCaslin Brook Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Area

To the east is the McCaslin Brook Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Area. About 1,200 acres are intensively managed for these popular game birds. The Ruffed Grouse Society, in cooperation with the Forest Service, helps manage and maintain this area. The Society has provided financial support for many similar projects in the Nicolet. Ruffed grouse need aspen habitat for their food and shelter. This habitat can be obtained through timber management practices designed especially to benefit grouse and woodcock.



The Forest Service offers several recreation activities in this area. Just down the road are two of about 250 dispersed campsites that are located throughout the Lakewood Ranger District. There is no charge to camp at these spots.

In addition, the Lakewood Cross-Country Ski Club maintains a cross-country ski trail in this area under a special use permit administered by the Forest Service. These permits can be obtained by groups or individuals that have particular needs from the forest, depending on what the needs are.

When you leave this stop, return to County F. Turn left on County F and travel to Lakewood. This concludes the tour.

We hope you enjoyed the tour and learned something about the Nicolet and about the things we do to help protect and maintain your National Forests. We hope you will come back often to explore and enjoy the Nicolet National Forest.