

Legendary Forests

North Dakota Forest Service

State Forests *Guide*

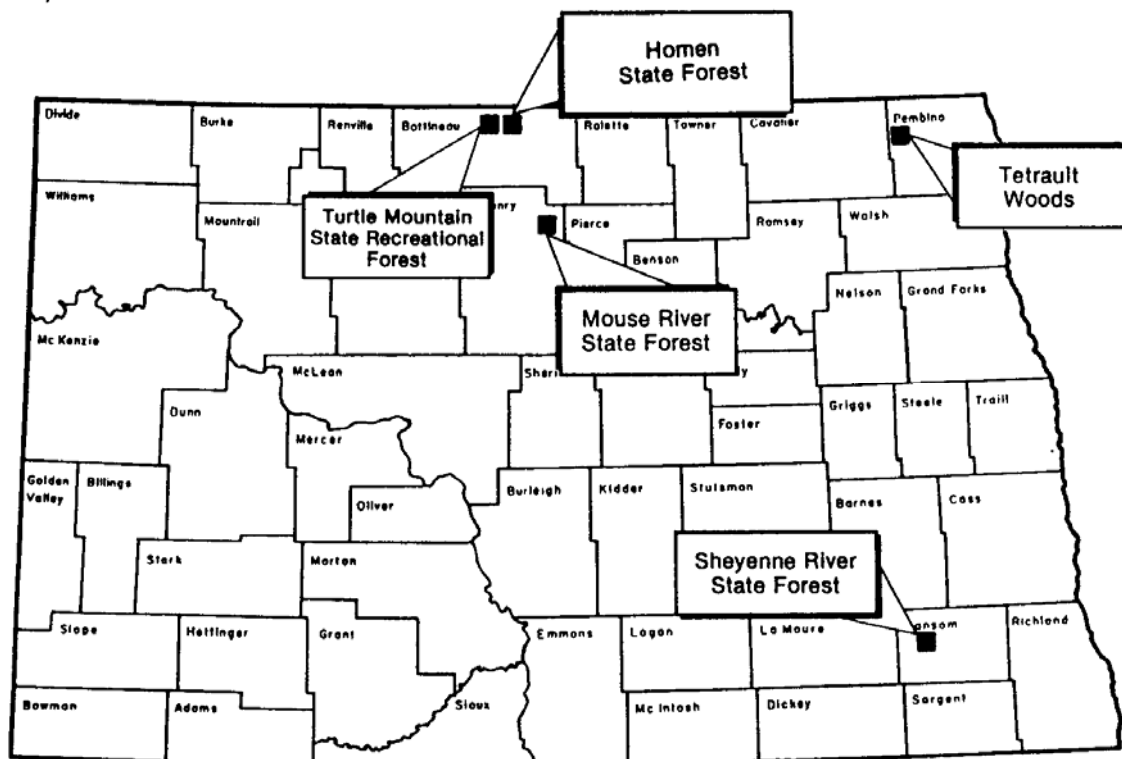


Notes

North Dakota State Forests

“The mission of the State Forests coordination area is to provide good stewardship of our natural resources and provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities.”

The North Dakota Forest Service owns and manages five State Forests for hunters, hikers, campers, skiers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, wildlife viewers and other outdoor enthusiasts. In 1966, the North Dakota Forest Service began a program of land acquisition to permanently protect a portion of North Dakota’s limited native forest resources. With the help of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, 13,278 acres of native forests were set aside for preservation and recreation. The State Forests contain samples of aspen forests, elm-ash riparian forests, oak savanna forests, tree plantations, wetlands, small lakes and native prairie. The varied plant communities provide excellent habitat for wildlife and numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation. The State Forests contain three campgrounds, two picnic areas, 50 miles of wooded trails; protect 2.5 miles of river riparian forest; and provide public access to four fishing lakes and canoe access to three major rivers. In addition, the State Forests provide the general public with opportunities to collect common berries and harvest firewood, as well as observe native wildlife and plant communities, and examples of active forest management.



The North Dakota Forest Service is fully committed to equal opportunity in employment decisions and education programs and activities, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and including appropriate affirmative action efforts, for all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, Vietnam Era Veterans status, sexual orientation, status with regard to marriage or public assistance, or participation in lawful activity off the employer’s premises during nonworking hours which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of the employer.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request by calling (701) 228-5422.

Recreation and Camping on the State Forests

All State Forests are open to the general public. All State Forests are open to hunting. There are no developed campgrounds on the Sheyenne, Tetrault Woods or Mouse River State Forests. However, backcountry camping is allowed on all State Forests. Developed campgrounds are located on the Turtle Mountain and Homen State Forests. All developed campgrounds are primitive with vault toilets, drinking water, grills and tables. There are no electric or water hookups. There is limited space for large motor homes. Equestrian camping is allowed at the Strawberry Lake Recreation Area in the Turtle Mountain State Forest. Campgrounds are patrolled and open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Pets are allowed provided they are kept on a leash and personally attended at all times. In mowed or maintained areas, owners must clean up after their pets. There are no **public telephones** on the State Forests. **Firewood** is available for a nominal fee.

Rules Governing Activity on the State Forests

NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE	P I C N I C T A B L E S	F I R E G R I T L S	D R I N K I N G W A T E R	P I C N I C T A B L E S	V A L U E T R A I L S	H I K I N G T R A I L S	H O R S E T R A I L S	F I S H I N G	F I S H I N G	B O A T R A M P	S W I M B E A C H	C A M P I N G	C A M P I N G F E E
TURTLE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST													
STRAWBERRY LAKE RECREATION AREA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HAHNS BAY RECREATION AREA	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
TWISTED OAKS PICNIC AREA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
HOMEN STATE FOREST													
PELICAN-SANDY RECREATION AREA	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
LONG LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS					X			X		X			
HARTLEY BOUNDARY PRIMITIVE AREA						X							
SHEYENNE RIVER STATE FOREST						X		X					
TETRAULT WOODS STATE FOREST						X		X					
MOUSE RIVER STATE FOREST						X		X					

- No fee is required for day use or backcountry camping where all supplies are carried in and all trash is carried out. Registration and a **fee** are required of all overnight campers. The campgrounds are open only to registered campers between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- In designated campgrounds, quiet hours are from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Camping in excess of 14 days and leaving equipment or campsites unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited.
- Posting signs, distributing literature, advertising, soliciting or transacting any business or commercial enterprise on State Forests is prohibited without permission of the State Forester.
- Hunting is permitted on all State Forests except in the vicinity of the campgrounds. All hunters are subject to federal, state and local laws governing hunting and the use of firearms.
- Harassing or chasing wildlife is prohibited.
- Unauthorized travel by motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles on established trails, is prohibited.
- Destroying or defacing any tree, shrub, rock, sign, building or other structure or object is prohibited.
- Removal of any object, natural or created, such as plants, animals, signs or artifacts is prohibited without the permission of the State Forester.
- Dumping or throwing of any trash or refuse except in authorized containers is prohibited.
- Visitors must obey all posted signs and are subject to all federal, state and local laws.

Sheyenne State Forest

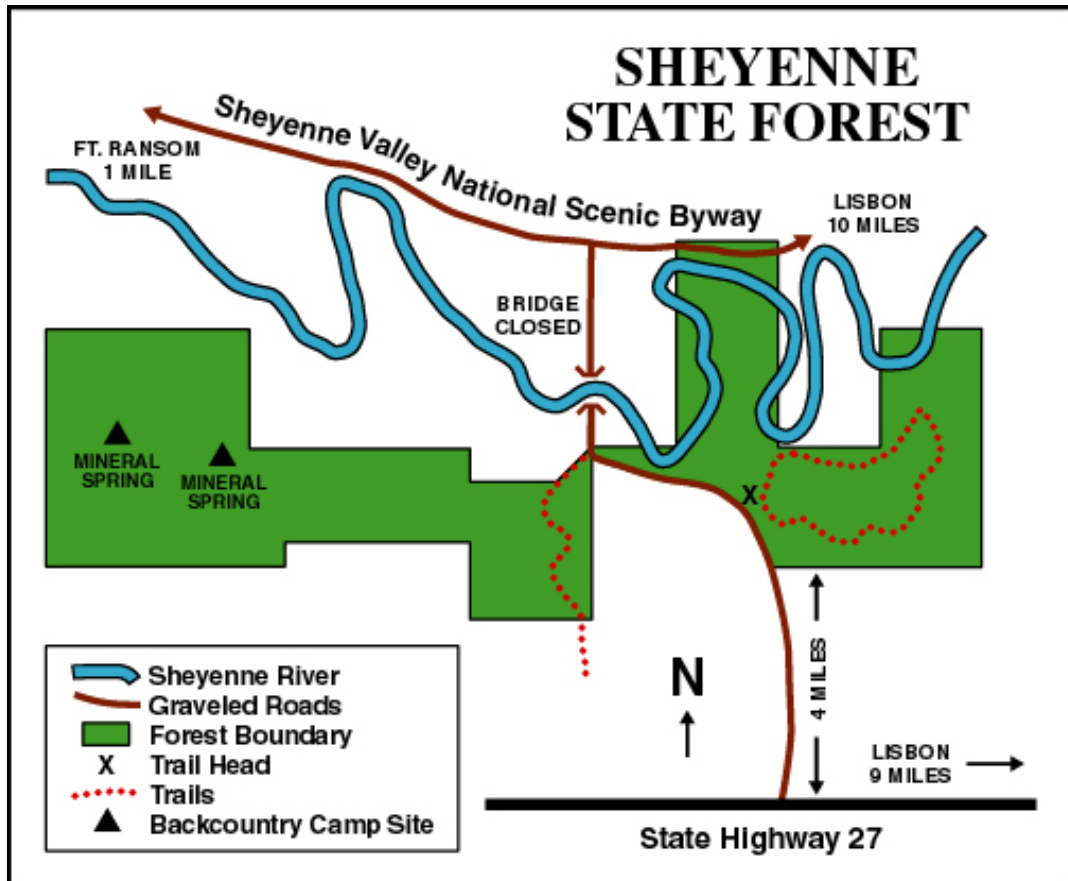


The area surrounding the Sheyenne State Forest is rich in history and plant diversity. The forest encompasses part of the Sheyenne River valley, with deep draws and steep banks. Deer and other wildlife are common to the area.

The Sheyenne State Forest, which covers 509 acres, is located along the Sheyenne River between Lisbon and Fort Ransom. In 1984, a one-mile segment of the nature/hiking trail was certified as part of the **National North Country Trail**. In 2006 an additional 2 mile segment of trail was added. The new trail leads to the mineral springs and the only recognized waterfall in North Dakota. The State Forest is located next to the Sheyenne Valley National Scenic Byway. Back-country camping is allowed at the mineral spring and waterfall sites, but visitors are asked to carry out anything they bring in. The State Forest is located next to the Sheyenne Valley National Scenic Byway.

Trees found within the state forest are part of the River Bottomland Hardwood and Upland Oak Forest types. American elm, aspen, basswood, boxelder, bur oak, chokecherry, cottonwood, green ash, hawthorn, ironwood, Juneberry and sumac are common.

The Sheyenne State Forest is located nine miles west of Lisbon, ND, on State Highway 27 and four miles north on the Township Road. From Fort Ransom it is two and a half miles east and a half mile south across the Martinson Bridge. It is in Springer Township of Ransom County – Sections 16, 17, 18T-135 North, R-57 West.

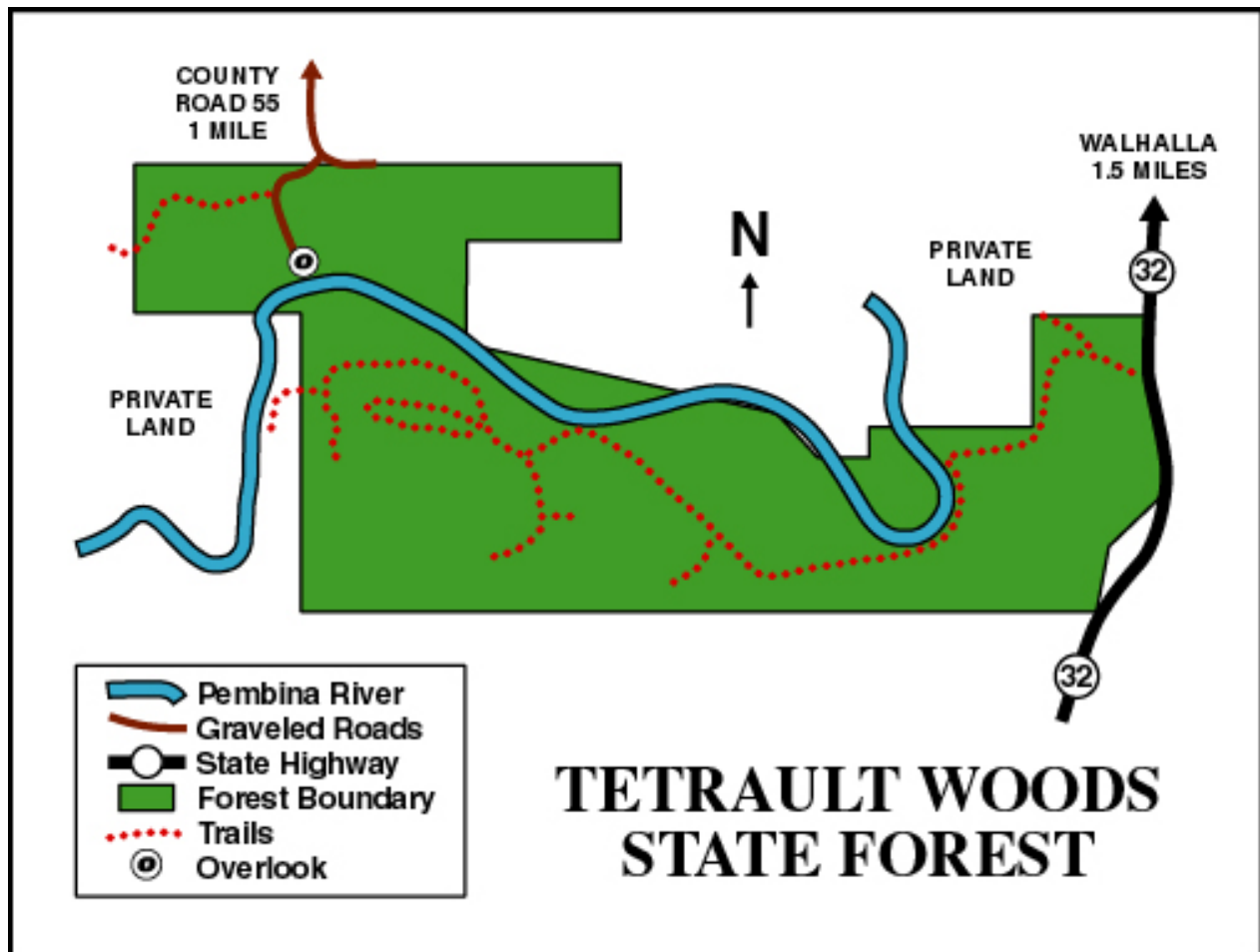


Tetrault Woods State Forest

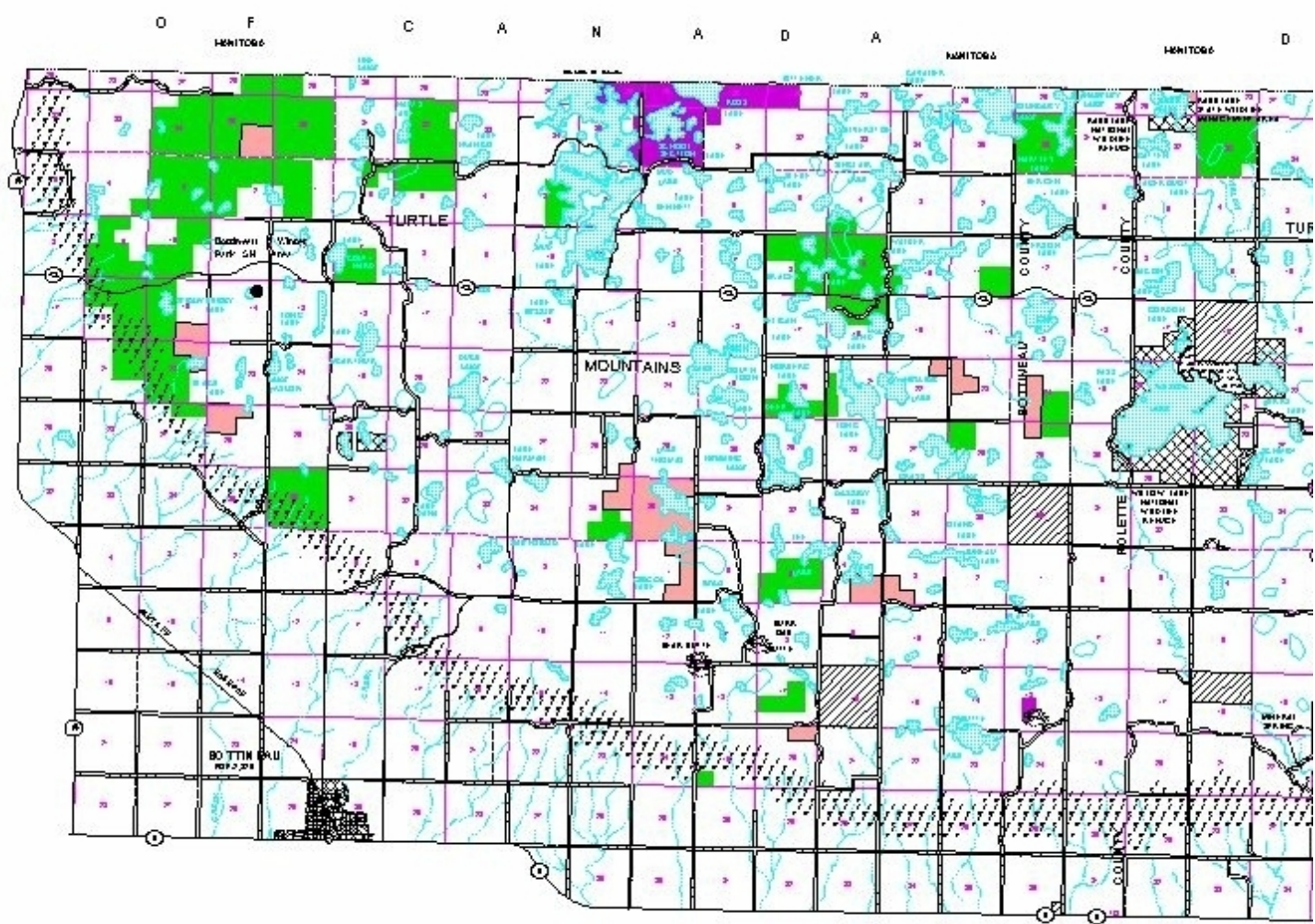
The Tetrault Woods State Forest is located in the Pembina Gorge along the banks of the Pembina River near Walhalla. The forest provides a diversity of forest, water and wildlife resources. It preserves part of the riparian forest typical of the Pembina River, with bur oak, ash, elm, birch and aspen as the common forest species. The Tetrault Woods State Forest was established in 1970 and covers 432 acres. The Pembina Gorge contains a rich diversity of plant and animal life.



The Tetrault Woods State Forest is located one-half mile south of Walhalla, ND, on the west side of State Highway 32. It is in Walhalla Township of Pembina County, Section 31, T-163 North, R-56 West and in Fremont Township of Cavalier County, Section 36, T-163 North, R-57 West. Hiking trails may be flooded due to beaver activity. Canoeing is a favorite springtime activity on the Pembina River.



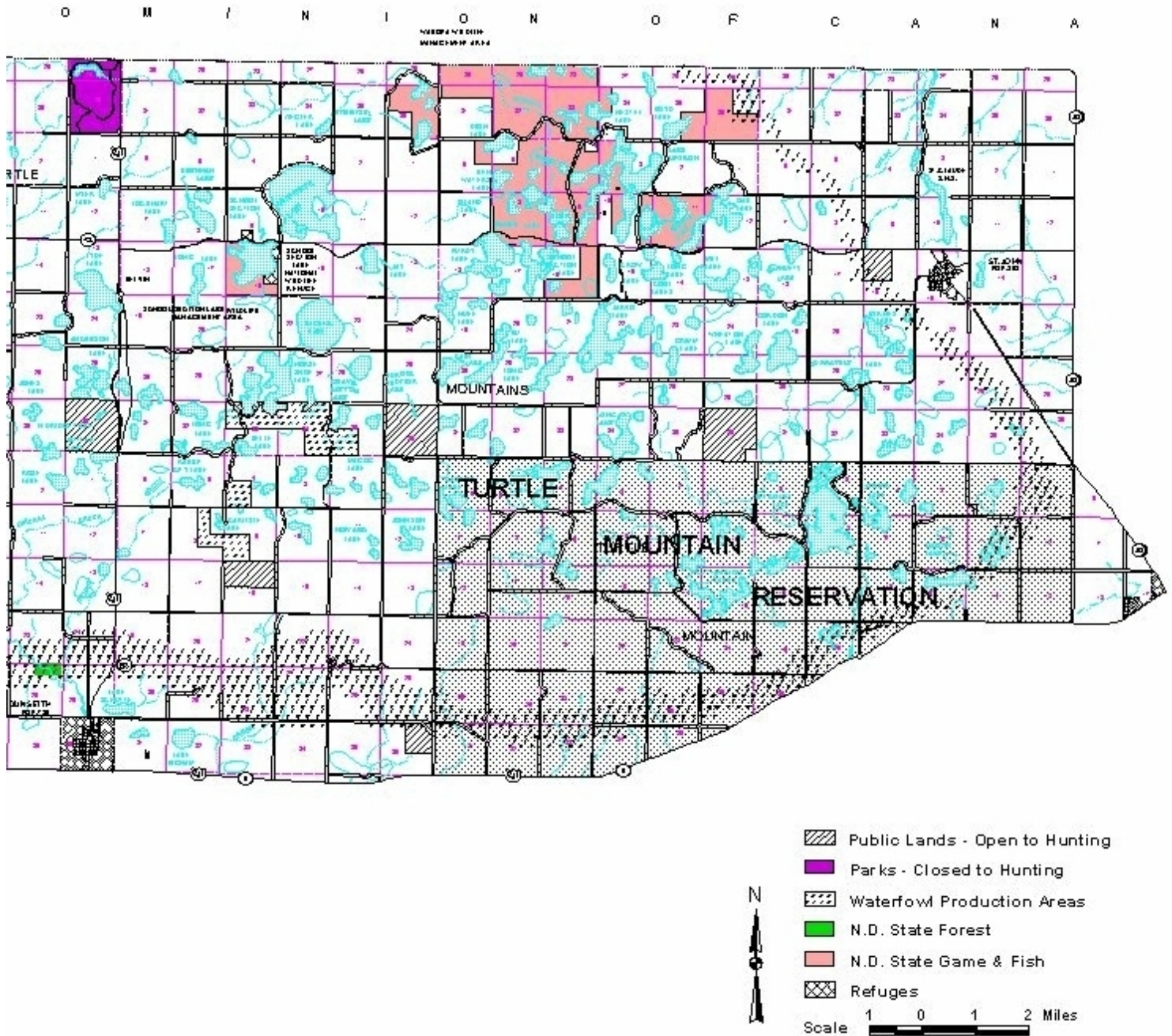
Turtle Mountain



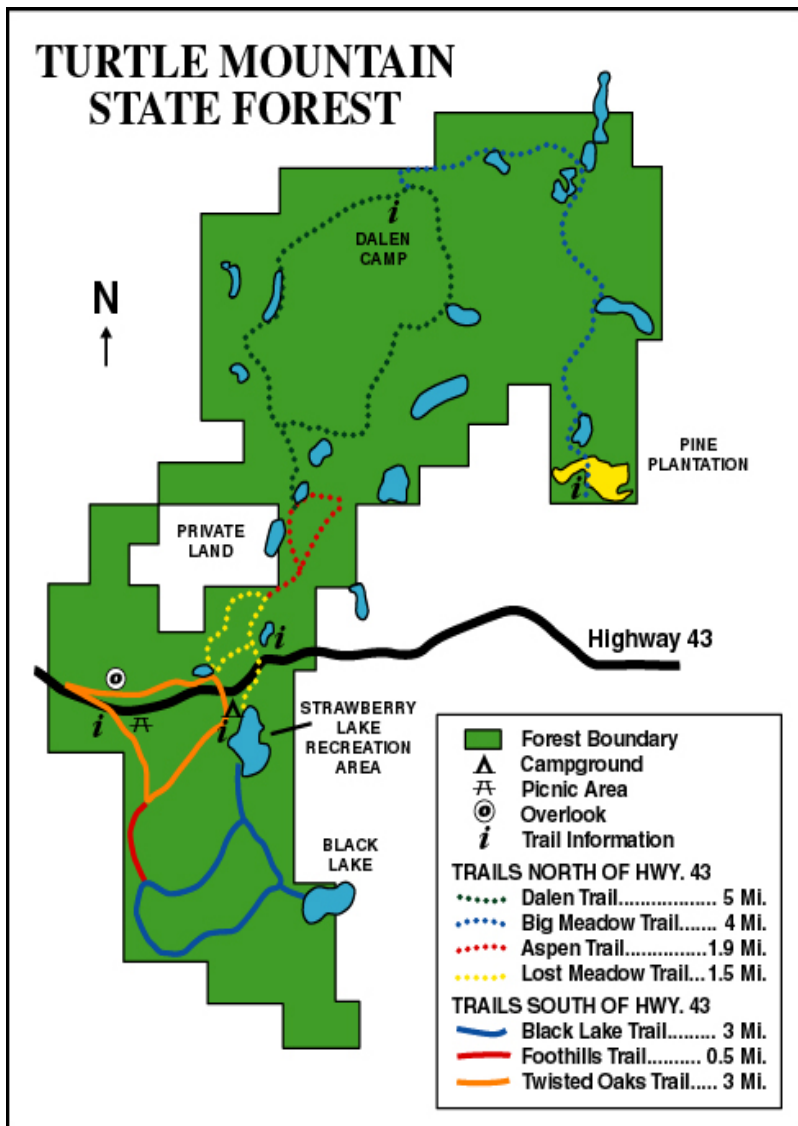
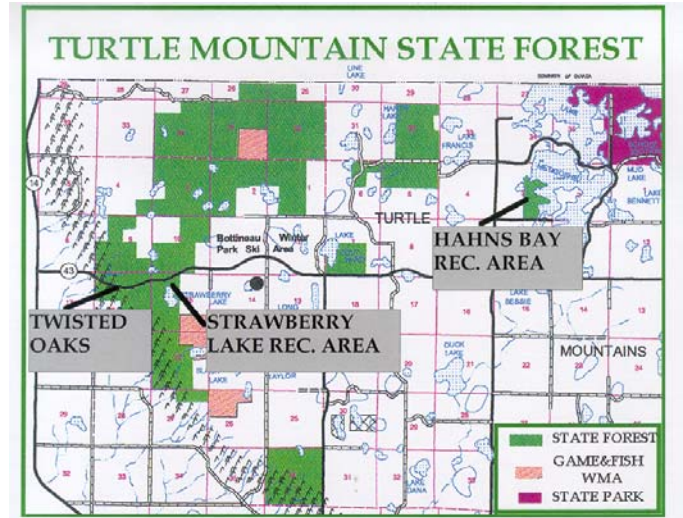
NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE



State Forest



Turtle Mountain State Forest



The Turtle Mountain State Forest is located in the Turtle Mountains north of Bottineau and is open to hunting. It consists of several scattered land parcels totaling 7,814 acres of diverse forest, grass, water and wildlife resources. Common forest species are aspen, bur oak, green ash, balsam poplar, paper birch, hazelnut, red dogwood, chokecherry and highbush cranberry. Wildlife includes deer, moose, ruffed grouse, squirrel and a wide variety of songbirds and waterfowl.

Strawberry Lake Recreation Area provides primitive camping (no electric or water hookups); fishing and canoeing access to Strawberry Lake; a swimming beach; picnicking, and access to an extensive trail system open to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and cross country skiing (not groomed). There is also an equestrian camping section. For equestrian camping and large groups, please call (701) 228-3700 in advance because space is limited.

Hahn's Bay Recreation Area provides primitive camping (no electric or water hookups), fishing and boating access to Lake Metigoshe, and a picnic shelter. There are a number of short hiking trails around the campground and access to the Lake Metigoshe paved hiking and biking trail.

Twisted Oaks Equestrian Campground

Also located in the Turtle Mountain State Forest is the newly developed Twisted Oaks Equestrian Campground.

This campground has been developed in order to accommodate people interested in camping on the state forests with their horses, while minimizing conflicts and safety concerns between other state forest users.

Situated on the west end of the Turtle Mountains, Twisted Oaks offers easy access from Scenic Byway #43, breathtaking views of the prairie, and access to an extensive trail system.

The campground offers corrals for horses, primitive camping, drinking water, auxiliary water tanks for horses, fire rings, picnic tables and access to over 16 miles of trails. Self-registration is available.

A small added fee of \$3 per horse/night for individuals camping with their horses is required. Groups larger than 10 people are asked to call ahead to check for availability at (701) 228-3700.



Mystical Horizons Scenic Overlook

This unique site offers visitors panoramic views of the prairie surrounding the Turtle Mountains.

It is located at the western “gateway” to the Turtle Mountains on the north side of the scenic byway along Highway 43. The site features a sundial, structures to view the equinoxes and solstices, and a sighting tube to view the North Star.

Homen State Forest



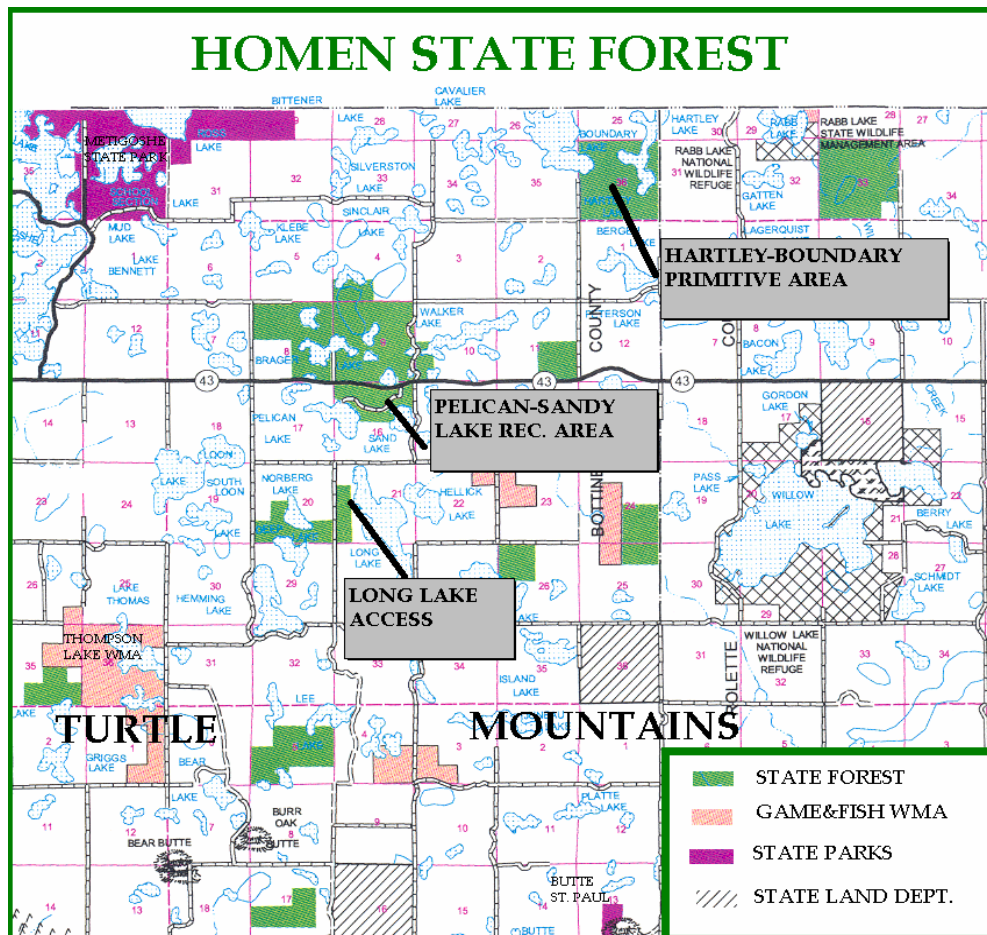
The Homen State Forest is located in the Turtle Mountains on **Scenic Highway #43** east of Lake Metigoshe. It consists of several land parcels with a total area of 4,184 acres. Common species found in the forest include aspen, balsam poplar, bur oak, green ash, paper birch, willow, highbush cranberry, hazelnut and red dogwood. Deer, moose, ruffed grouse and a diversity of songbirds and waterfowl are abundant in the area. All areas are open to public hunting.

This State Forest contains the Pelican-Sandy Lake Recreation Area, Hartley-Boundary Primitive Area and public access to Long Lake.

Pelican-Sandy Lake Recreation Area provides opportunities for primitive camping (no electric or water hookups), a picnic shelter, drinking water, and fishing and canoeing access to Pelican and Sandy Lake. Hartley-Boundary Primitive Area has no developed recreation facilities, but has four miles of hiking trails. The Long Lake Public Access provides public fishing and boating access to Long Lake.



The State Record or largest aspen and balsam poplar in North Dakota are located on the Homen State Forest.



Mouse River State Forest



The suspended walking bridge provides a convenient place to fish for northern pike in the early spring when the water is high.

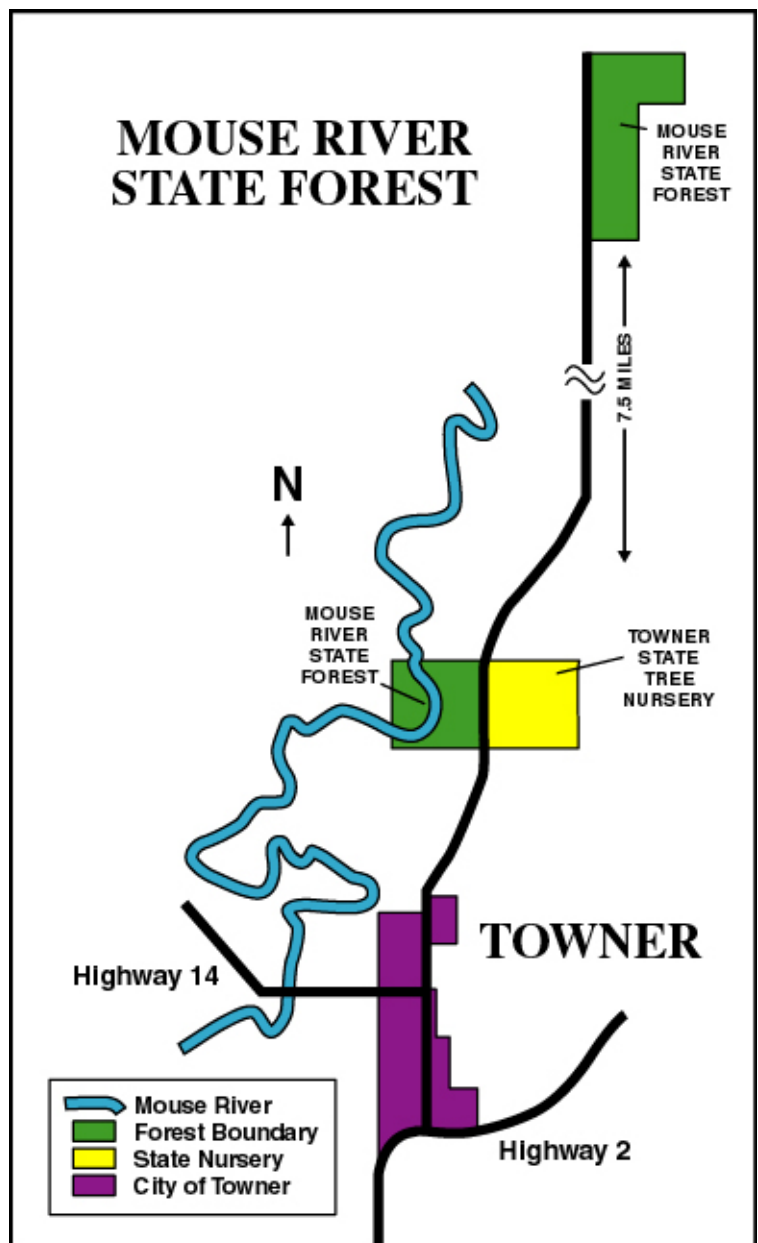
When visiting this State Forest, the public is invited to stop at the **Towner State Nursery**. The nursery is the only conifer (evergreen) seedling nursery in North Dakota. The North Dakota Forest Service has operated the 160-acre facility since 1951. The nursery annually produces 1.2 million trees for landowners in North Dakota. The trees are sold in North Dakota, surrounding states and Canada. The nursery grows 13 different species of both bare-root and container stock. Primary species include Colorado Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, Ponderosa Pine, Eastern Redcedar, Scotch Pine and Rocky Mountain Juniper. The trees are used for farmstead, living snow fence, field windbreaks, wildlife, forestry and other conservation plantings.



Young seedlings are lifted out of the ground to be sold for conservation purposes.

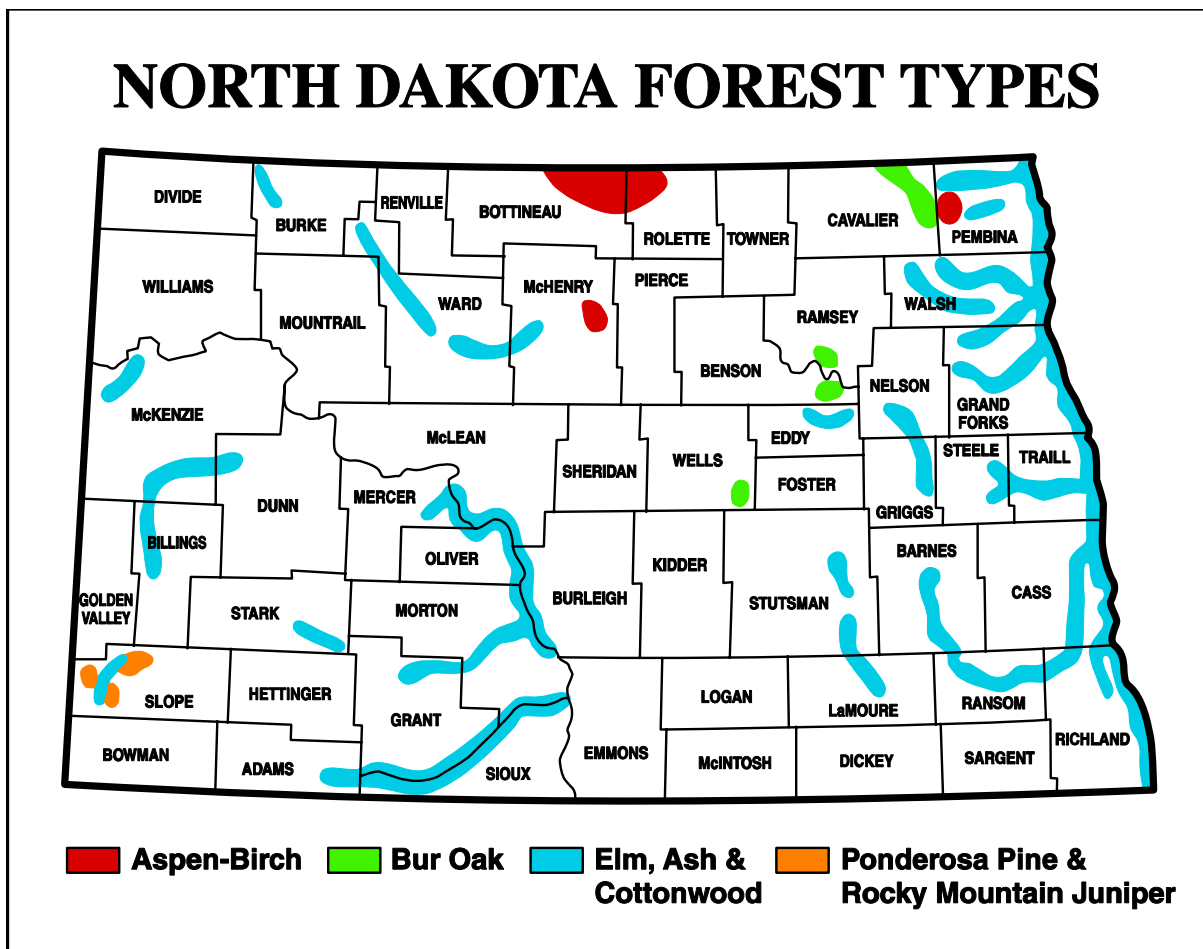
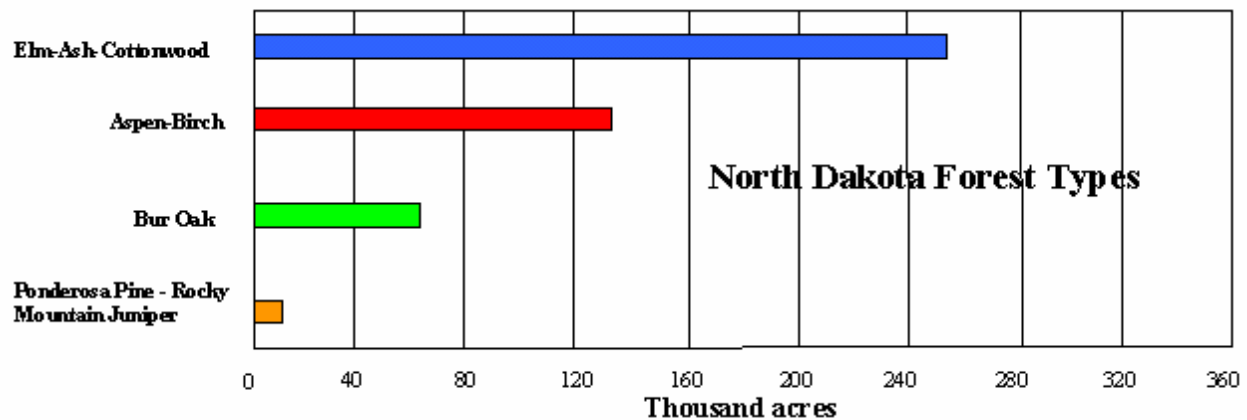
The Mouse River State Forest consists of two land parcels north of Towner with 259 total acres. Both parcels are open to public hiking, hunting, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing. There are no developed recreation opportunities at either site.

One parcel is located along the Mouse River just west of Towner State Nursery and provides an excellent opportunity to observe a riparian forest setting. The second parcel consists of stunted aspen forests found on very sandy soils with a high water table.



About North Dakota's Forests

A forest, like any other ecosystem, exists in a certain place due to such things as climate, weather, topography, soils and surrounding vegetation. A forest is a living system, and as it grows, it is affected by a variety of disturbances, such as tornadoes, fires, storms and pollution. Depending on the combination of disturbances, the forest evolves into different plant and animal communities, sometimes creating a different type of forest than what was originally there. The following graphics depict the amount and location of forest types found in North Dakota.



About the North Dakota Forest Service

The North Dakota Forest Service, a state agency under North Dakota State University, has been part of Higher Education since 1907. The agency's mission is *"to care for, protect and improve forest and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations."*

The North Dakota Forest Service manages the State Forests and administers forestry programs statewide. Technical assistance relating to the management of private forest lands, urban and community forests, state forest lands, tree planting and wildland fire protection is provided by the agency.

The agency has seven coordination areas including: Community Forestry, Fire Management, Forest Resource Management, Information and Education, State Forests, Sustainable Forestry and Tree Production. For questions about the North Dakota Forest Service programs, call the headquarters at (701) 228-5422.



For State Forest Information, Contact:

TURTLE MOUNTAIN AND HOMEN STATE FOREST

NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE
State Forest Specialist Tel: (701) 228-3700
1037 Forestry Drive
Bottineau ND 58318
E-mail: forest@state.nd.us
Web Site: www.state.nd.us/forest

MOUSE RIVER STATE FOREST

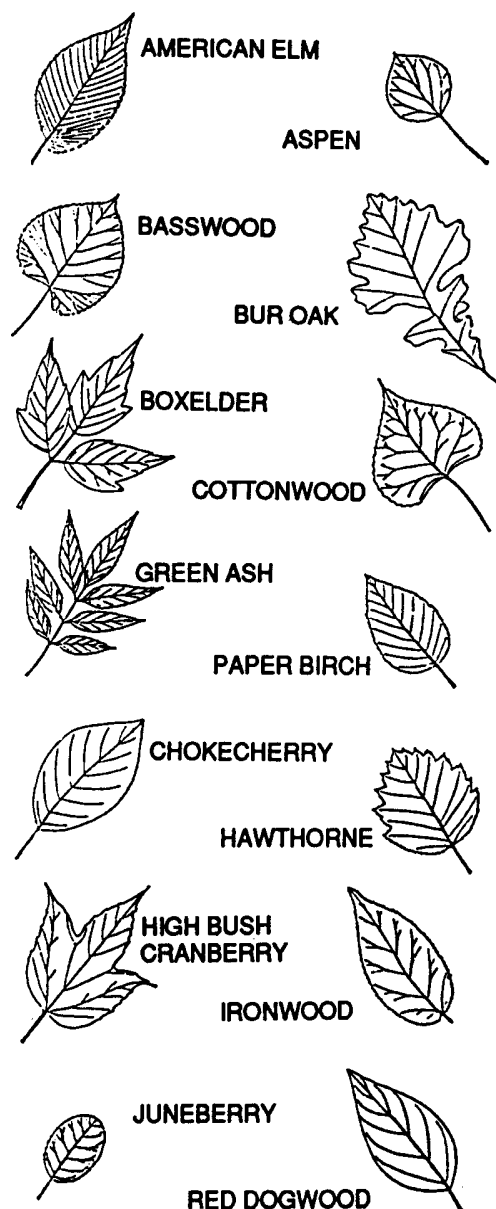
Towner State Nursery Tel: (701) 537-5636

SHEYENNE STATE FOREST

Lisbon Forest Service Tel: (701) 683-4323

TETRAULT WOODS STATE FOREST

Walhalla Forest Service Tel: (701) 549-2441



Common Leaves

Above are leaves from the most common trees found on our State Forests. See how many you can find while hiking the trails. For more information on ND trees, get a booklet called "Trees and Shrubs of North Dakota" from any County Extension Office or nearest ND Forest Service office.