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Ames Forestry Club

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Notes On The Holst State Forest

ACTIVITIES at the Holst State Forest have been numerous and varied during the past year. A number of forestry students at Iowa State College are gaining practical experience by helping with the projects. At the same time, they are contributing towards the establishment of a sustained yield forest and public recreational area.

The Holst State Forest is a 340 acre wooded area northwest of Boone, Iowa. It is owned by the state of Iowa, but administration of the area is carried out by a committee of forestry students from Iowa State, with the help of a faculty advisor and the State Conservation Commission. Work is done principally on Saturdays, when groups of students travel to the area in trucks.



Planting on the Holst State Forest—spring 1948.

In the spring of 1948, some 75 students planted 3,000 seedlings on an area which had been cultivated during the war. The species planted were red pine, white spruce, and blue spruce. With the help of a fine summer, the seedlings are doing well. An estimated 50 per cent of the young trees are surviving to date. The spruce looks exceptionally good. There is little land now which is not forested or has not been planted recently. The 1947 planting of pines, spruces, firs, ash, and oaks suffered heavily during the first year, but those surviving are doing well.

The cruising project is almost completed. Several crews have spent considerable time on this project. When the cruise is

finished and tabulated, plans for cutting and thinning may be carried out.

The railroad boxcar standing inside the west gate is being repaired. This will furnish shelter against storms and cold weather. A new wood-burning stove has been installed, and shutters put on the windows. It is hoped that the roof can be remodeled and the building painted this spring.

The Holst State Forest received a large appropriation from the state for the twelve months from June 1948 to June 1949. Most of this will be used in building fences in addition to the one already renewed along part of the south side of the forest.

A relief model of the area is now being made. This will aid in planning work on the area, and in demonstrations. More tools were secured in the past year, which are a great help in carrying out the various work projects.

The advisory committee and their fellow students look forward to continued and increasing success in their work on a managed forest in Iowa in the coming year.

