



Planning and Project Implementation Update



April 2005

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, *Cass Lake Times*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

Completed Decision Documents

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

Proposals withdrawn or deferred

Some projects are initiated and published in this Quarterly but may be withdrawn or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date. Project summaries include reasons for discontinuing the project.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. We value your site-specific involvement. A generic statement of interest in all projects is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development. Project specific comments are required during the Notice and Comment period to obtain standing to appeal a project.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Appeal Period - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Comment Period - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

Decision Memo (DM) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

Decision Notice (DN) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

Proposed Action - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

Scoping - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

Significance - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who submit written comments to any projects. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of day



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2005 to 06/30/2005

Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time the data was published. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study EIS	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management - Recreation management	In Progress: NOI in FR 12/12/2003 Estimated Scoping start 06/2004	Exptd:12/2006	06/2007	Chantel Cook 218-335-8662 cmcook@fs.fed.us
	Description: Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul				
	Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.				
Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R9 - Eastern Region
Bridge Replacements EA	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 04/15/2003	Exptd:07/2005	06/2006	William Yourd 218-335-8672 wyourd@fs.fed.us
	Description: Replacement of 6 bridges across the forest				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District, Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Mitt Lake Ck- T150N R27W Sec 21; Crane Ck- T147N R29W Sec 1; Swamp Ck- T148N R30W Sec 32; Laura Lake Ck -T141N, R27W, Sec. 25; Two Mile Ck- T147N R26W Sec 30; Long Lake. Blackduck- Mitt Lake, Crane , Swamp Creeks; Walker --Laura Lake Creek ; Deer River - Two Mile Ck, Long Lake Ck (T143N R25W Sec 3), Batson Lake Inlet (T60N R26W Sec 26).				
Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Ardenhurst Township Road Easements DM	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping start 11/01/2003	Exptd:04/2005	06/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grant easements to the township for existing township roads that cross NFS lands in Ardenhurst Township. About 1 mile in 5 segments in sections 19, 30, and 32.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T150N R28W. Ardenhurst Township around Island Lake.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bowstring River Bridge Replacement DM	- Special use management - Road management	Completed	Actual: 01/26/2004	06/2004	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grant and easement (about 400 feet by 66 feet) and replace a narrow bridge.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R27W Sections 23 and 26. Bowstring River and County Road 145, north of Rice Lake.				
Buck Lake Road Easement DM	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 12/20/2001	Exptd:05/2005	06/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Issue an easement to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Beltrami Electric Coop for widening the Ten Lake Trail East and Chief Boyd Roads and the burying of an electric line in the same right-of-way.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R31W Sections 11, 12, and 14.. Between Cass Lake and Big Lake, connecting Highways 12 and 33..				
Dunbar Lake Access EA	- Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeff Allison 218 835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Road reconstruction and construction of small parking lot. Coop. project with DNR.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R28W Sec. 9. East side of Dunbar Lake off of County Road 32.				
Northwoods Aspen Resource Management EA	- Road management - Forest products	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 06/2005	Exptd:11/2005	02/2006	Leo Johnson 218-835-4291 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Timber harvesting and reforestation of primarily aspen stands and thinning of pine plantations, with associated road system management. May include some wildlife habitat and riparian area management.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Itasca. LEGAL - T147N R28, 29W; T148N R28, 29, 30W; and T149N R29, 30W. Blackduck Ranger District between Lake Winnebigoishish and Blackduck, between Dunbar Lake and Rabideau Lake..				
Norway Fuels Treatment DM	- Fuels management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Tate Fischer 218-835-3136 tdfischer@fs.fed.us
	Description: Prescribed burning and mechanical treatments to reduce fuel loading near Norway Beach Recreation Area and scattered residences (WUI).				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass. LEGAL - T145N R30&31W and T146N R30&31W. East of Cass Lake by Scenic Highway and Norway Beach Recreation Area.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Round Island Resource Management EA	- Road management - Fuels management - Forest products	In Progress: 215 Comment period legal notice 03/06/2005	Exptd:04/2005	06/2005	Leo Johnson (218) 835-4291 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Timber harvesting and reforestation, riparian area management, stream crossing rehabilitation, transportation system management, wildlife habitat maintenance, and fuel loading treatments.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R27&28W, T149N R27&28W, and T150N R27&28W. Blackduck Ranger District between Round Lake and Island Lake.				
Scenic Highway Reconstruction (County Roads 10 and 39) EA	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 01/13/2004	Exptd:08/2005	06/2006	Leo Johnson (218) 835-4291 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reconstruct the road with wider lanes, wider shoulders, gentler ditch slopes, wider clearings, and gentler curves. Federal Highway Administration is lead agency: FS is cooperating.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass. LEGAL - T149N R30W, T148N R30W, T147N R30W, T146N R30W. Between Blackduck and Highway 2 east of Cass Lake.				
Shallow Pond Boat Access EA	- Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Nancy Salminen 218-335-8666 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construct a small, native-surfaced boat landing and parking lot on Shallow Pond. On hold waiting for Heritage Resources Site Evaluation. Possible DNR partnership.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R28W Section 5. North or south side of Shallow Pond along Highway 46.				
Star Island Toilets EA	- Recreation management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping start 02/21/2002 Estimated 215 comment 05/2005	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reconstruct an existing toilet on south side of island and replace a portable toilet with a vault toilet on the north side at Windigo Lake portage. Based on Cass Lake Vegetation Management EA plus Supplemental Information Report.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R31W Section 35. In Cass Lake on Star Island.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Streambank Stabilization on Bowstring River and associated recreational fishing improvement DM	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping start 02/01/2005	Exptd:08/2005	09/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-335-8666 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Remove rock cribs, planks, and reinforcing rods from riverbed, scattering the rocks for fish habitat and safer boat/canoe navigation in the river. Construct a small fishing platform or stairway to make access/fishing better.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N, R27W, Section 26. Shogren Recreation Area on the Bowstring River.				
Sugarbush Township Road Easements DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 05/2005	Exptd:08/2005	09/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-335-8666 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grant easements for existing township roads				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N R31W. Various locations in Sugarbush Township (around Big Lake).				
Ten Lake Road Easement DM	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 05/04/2004 Estimated Scoping start 09/2004	Exptd:04/2005	06/2005	Nancy Salminen 218-335-8666 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Realign the existing road to remove two unsafe corners. Make this two dead end roads rather than a loop road due to landowner request.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R31W, Section 21. North of Cass Lake off of County Highway 33 - Ten Lake Township Road TL9 (formerly Buckley Road).				

Chippewa National Forest	Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Benham Road Access DM	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping start 11/01/2003	Exptd:05/2005	06/2005	Michelle Heiker 218-246-2123 mheiker@fs.fed.us
	Description: Request for Special Use Road Permit to access private land.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R26W Sec 23 SWNW. T148N R26W Sec 23 SWNW.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Eagle Nest Road EA	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 03/26/2004	Exptd:07/2005	09/2005	Michael Martin 218-335-8633 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	Description: Project includes realignments, reconstructing bridges, and adding bituminous surface to Eagle Nest Road. Includes rehabilitation of East and West Seelye Campgrounds adjacent to road.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T147N R27W Secs 14, 15, 21, 22, & 28. Eagle Nest Road extending from Hwy 46 to South Deer Lake Campground.				
Marcell and McDonald Lake Gravel Pits Expansion EA	- Minerals and Geology	In Progress: Scoping start 06/24/2004	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Michael Jimenez (218) 246-2123 mjimenez@fs.fed.us
	Description: Evaluate proposed expansion of Marcell and McDonald Lake Gravel Pits.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T59N R26W Sec 20 NWNE, T58N R27W Sec 35 NWNE. South of town of Marcell and south of the community of Soumi near McDonald Lake.				
Mississippi River Vegetation Management Project EA	- Fuels management - Forest products	In Progress: Scoping start 06/30/2004 Estimated Scoping start 07/2004	Exptd:05/2005	07/2005	Michael Jimenez (218) 246-2123 mjimenez@fs.fed.us
	Description: Evaluates the options related to vegetative and fuels management in the northwestern portion of the Mississippi Watershed on the Marcell/Deer River Ranger District.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. LEGAL - T144N R26W, T144N R27W, T145N R144W, & T145N R27W. Northwest portion of the Mississippi Watershed on the Marcell/Deer River Ranger District.				
Private Road Access to Bowstring Lake Property - Rothstein DM	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping start 02/02/2004 Estimated Scoping start 04/2004	Exptd:07/2005	08/2005	Gregg Alle (218) 832-3161 galle@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has requested special use permit for a road crossing NF lands to access private land				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T147N R26W Sec 2 SWSW and Sec 11NWNW. Bowstring Lake.				
Re-issuance of Various Lands Special Use Permits DM	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping start 02/01/2004	Exptd:09/2005	10/2005	Michelle Heiker 218-246-2123 mheiker@fs.fed.us
	Description: Evaluate the renewal of Special Use Permits near expiration.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. Marcell/Deer River Ranger District.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Steward Land Exchange DM	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping start 06/24/2004	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Michael Jimenez (218) 246-2123 mjimenez@fs.fed.us
	Description: Exchange of 40 acre parcel of NF land for a 40 acre tract of private land.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R26W Sec 27 SWNW, T147N R26W Sec 26 NENE. Sand Lake Vicinity.				

Chippewa National Forest	Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Boy River Resource Management Project EA	- Road management	Completed	Actual: 03/01/2005	09/2005	Thomas Somrak 218-547-1044 tsomrak@fs.fed.us
	Description: Decommissioning of 3.8 miles of system road and 2.9 miles of unclassified temporary roads; repair or replacement of three stream crossings.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R26, 27 and 28W; T142N, R26, 27 and 28W; T143N, R27, 28 and 29W.. Various roads located within the central part of the Walker Ranger District.				
Cass County Land Exchange DM	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping start 07/05/2004	Exptd:05/2005	06/2005	Gregory Smith 218 335-8661 gdsmith@fs.fed.us
	Description: Cass County has initiated a land exchange proposal for 160 acres.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R26W, Sections 9, 10, 11 and 13. Southeast corner of the Walker Ranger District.				
Forest Road 2862 Special Use Permit DM	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping start 08/01/2004	Exptd:05/2005	06/2005	Mitch Bouchonville 218-547-1044 x 121 mbouchonville@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has requested a temporary use permit to maintain a portion of FR 2862 in order to access private property.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R28W, Section 7. Marshall Lake.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Forest Road 3767A Special Use Permit DM	- Special use management - Road management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 11/2004	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Christine Brunner 218-547-1044 cbrunner@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has requested a temporary special use permit to reconstruct 1/2 mile of FR 3767A and a special use permit to construct 1000 feet of new road on NFS land.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R31W, Section 27. Gadbolt Lake.				
Grave Lake Access DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 05/2005	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Mitch Bouchonville 218-547-1044 x 121 mbouchonville@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construction, use and maintenance of a road across NFS land to access private land.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T142N, R26W, Section 14. Grave Lake.				
Itasca Mantrap Electric Cooperative DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 04/2005	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Mitch Bouchonville 218-547-1044 x 121 mbouchonville@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has applied for a special use permit to bury and maintain an existing overhead power line.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R31W, Sections 7, 8 and 18. Shingobee .				
Jack Lake Access DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 04/2005	Exptd:05/2005	06/2005	Mitch Bouchonville 218-547-1044 x 121 mbouchonville@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has applied for special use permit for construction, use and maintenance of FR 2657CA to access private land.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R30W, Section 2. Jack Lake.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Metzger Rec Residence DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 05/2005	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Mitch Bouchonville 218-547-1044 x 121 mbouchonville@fs.fed.us
	Description: Applicant has requested to build an addition on a garage.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T142N, R31W, Section 14. Walker Bay Recreation Residences.				
Sale of Surplus Facilities DM	- Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 08/2004	Exptd:06/2005	07/2005	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Sale of four surplus properties: former Cass Lake Ranger Station; former ranger house in Walker; storm pond in Walker; and west branch storage area in Walker				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T145N R31W Sec 23; two facilities in T142 N R31W Sec 23; T142N R31W Sec 21. Cass Lake and Walker.				
South Leech Lake Resource Management Project EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Road managem	In Progress: Scoping start 12/01/2004	Exptd:06/2005	08/2005	John Casson 218-547-1044 x 153 jcasson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Ecosystem burning, timber harvesting, road decommissioning, designation of 18 miles of OHV trail, and development or improvement of several recreation areas.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Southern portion of the Walker Ranger District.				
Various Lands Special Use Permits DM	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start : 06/2005	Exptd:08/2005	12/2005	Christine Brunner 218-547-1044 cbrunner@fs.fed.us
	Description: Re-issuance of expired special use permits				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Various locations on the Walker Ranger District.				

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To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This report contains the best available information at the time the data was published. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Chippewa Corner.....

The Chippewa *Quarterly* (Schedule of Proposed Actions or SOPA), Environmental Analysis, and Monitoring Reports are available on the Chippewa website. Check out www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa. Click on NEPA/Projects on the left side. You will find the most recent copies of the *Quarterly*, EAs, and our latest Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

You can find SOPAs for other forests on our national webpage: www.fs.fed.us/sopa. They will automatically be posted four times a year: January, April, July, and October. This will increase the timeliness and availability of information. Since many people seem to prefer obtaining information from the web, we are optimistic that this will also reduce administrative costs associated with copying and mailing the SOPAs, as well as the amount of paper used.

Did you know? With the new appeal regs (June 4, 2003)

- The line officer has discretion in determining when the best time for the comment period is. It could be early in the process--after the proposed action, issues and alternatives have been identified; late in the process—after the EA is completed; or somewhere in between.
- Only those who provide substantive comments during the comment period have appeal rights.

Status of Forest Plan appeals process

Nineteen appeals are currently under review on the Chippewa Forest Plan. Issues in each appeal have been identified and the Forest's response information and project record were transmitted to the Washington Office in March. The earliest date for any outcome on the appeals review is late May or June 2005.

National Planning Rule and comment period

On January 5, 2005, the Department of Agriculture adopted planning regulations for the National Forest System. The final 2004 planning rule provides broad programmatic direction in developing and carrying out land management planning. The rule explicitly directs the Chief to establish planning procedures in the Forest Service Directive system.

The directives were published March 23, 2005 in the Federal Register, and are immediately effective upon publication. The publication also starts a 90 day public comment period.

The directives can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/index. Comments can be provided through the internet, by email or by Fax. The Forest Service will not be able to receive hand-delivered comments.

Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov> or www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/index and follow the instructions provided.

Email: planningdirectives@fs.fed.us Include "RIN 0596-AC02" or "planning directives" in the message subject line

FAX: (801) 517 - 1015 Include "RIN 0596-AC02" or "planning directives" on the cover sheet or first page.

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