



HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

USDA – Forest Service

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Date: March 18, 2009

For Immediate Release

Munising Ranger District Dispersed Campsites move to National Reservation System

Munising, MI – The Munising Ranger District has three dispersed campgrounds: Cookson Lake, Council Lake and Ewing Point (on McKeever Lake). Those who have camped at one of these dispersed sites know that they are a little off the beaten path, a little quieter, a little smaller, and offer more of a rustic camping experience than some of the larger developed Forest Service Campgrounds. These dispersed sites have always been reservable and required a permit, which was available from the Munising Ranger District.

However, as of April 1, 2009, campers will no longer go to the local ranger district office to reserve one of these campsites or to pick up a permit. In an effort to comply with Forest Service direction to utilize the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS), the Munising Ranger District has placed these three dispersed sites on the system. The National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS), is an interagency recreation portal, providing campground/tour reservation services and trip planning information for Federal recreation sites.

What does this mean for you? In order to reserve a campsite at Cookson Lake, Council Lake, or Ewing Point, you will need to contact NRRS by phone at 877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. They are available to help you 7 days a week, 10 am to 10 pm. You will use a credit or debit card to make your reservation and they will mail you a confirmation letter with the rules and regulations printed on it that will serve as your permit while you are camping.

Some of the notable changes that dispersed campsite users will see are as follows: Campers will now be able to make reservations up to 6 months in advance, which will be more convenient than the current reservation process. All campers must make a reservation at least 24 hours in advance. Same day reservations (also known as walk-ins) will not be allowed. There will be a reservation fee (\$9 for on-line and \$10 for call center) in addition to the camping fee (\$8 per site per night). There is a cancellation process for those people who wish to cancel after making a reservation. For details on the cancellation process, please visit the NRRS website at www.recreation.gov.

“We realize that the area public has become accustomed to making reservations through our office. We are confident the transition to the National Reservation System will be as smooth as with the McKeever cabin, which was placed on the reservation system two years ago,” stated Teresa Chase, District Ranger.

With the NRRS, 95% of the funds collected go back to the local Forest to be used for recreation enhancements. For questions about the dispersed campsites or the new reservation system, call the Hiawatha National Forest at 906-387-2512.

END