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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa's Recreation Program Anticipates Change

Ironwood, MI. -- The Ottawa National Forest has released its "Proposed Program of Work," for its developed recreation program. The Proposed Program of Work provides an inventory and ranking of the Forest's developed recreation facilities and suggests a five-year management strategy for those sites.

The Ottawa's Proposed Program of Work is part of an agency-wide Recreation Facility Analysis project aimed at achieving four overall goals:

- Operate and maintain sites to standard with limits of available funding,
- Reduce deferred maintenance backlog by 20% over the five-year life of the Program of Work,
- Focus available resources on sites which best represent the Forest's Recreation Program Niche, and
- Maintain and enhance customer satisfaction with available sites.

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The Proposed Program of Work serves as a planning document that will help the Forest implement the *2006 Ottawa National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (the Forest Plan). Site specific decisions to implement components of the Program of Work will be addressed through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as appropriate and public involvement will be solicited.

“The Proposed Program of Work has been developed to meet the Ottawa’s recreation strategy and is another tool that helps us provide the best developed recreation opportunities possible within the constraints of a tight budget,” Forest Recreation Program Manager Bill Baer stated.

For more information about the Recreation Facility Analysis process and the Ottawa’s Proposed Program of Work, visit our website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa/recreation/rfa/rfa_index.htm. If you have questions or comments about our Proposed Program of Work or about Recreation Facility Analysis in general, please contact Bill Baer, Recreation Program Manager, 906-932-1330. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

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