



National Forests In Minnesota

Current Issues

- **Forest Plan Completed**

Final Plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests were announced on August 12, 2004. A separate Final Plan and Record of Decision was issued for each Forest. All commentors were sent a CD ROM of all documents, and paper copies are available after August 23. The documents and background facts are also available on the national forest websites and at larger local libraries. Implementation may begin 30 days after the announcement. A formal 90 day appeal period begins approximately August 27th when a legal notice is published in the Milwaukee Journal newspaper.

- **Hunting on National Forest Lands**

Hunting is allowed on national forest lands. Only portable stands (for hunting and other activities) that do not damage live trees and are removed at the end of the hunting season are permitted on Chippewa National Forest lands. Forest, county and tribal law enforcement officials have been cooperatively marking unlawful stands and will remove any remaining after the 2004 Hunting Season (Dec 31, 2004). Permits are required for bear-guiding businesses using national forest lands.

Links to National Issues

- **National Roadless Area Conservation Rule reinstated**

The new proposed rule establishes a process for governors to work with the Forest Service to developing locally supported rules for conserving roadless areas in their states. State-specific rulemaking for inventoried roadless area management will fully consider environmental effects in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws. The Forest Service is reinstating an interim measure for conserving roadless areas that reserves to the Chief and Regional Foresters most decisions on proposed road construction and timber harvesting in roadless areas with limited exceptions. The Chippewa National Forest has 3 inventoried roadless areas (three islands) totalling 77 acres.

- **Proposed National OHV Rule**

Was published in the Federal Register July 15, 2004 for 60 days public comment which ends Sept 14, 2004. The Chief of the Forest Service has identified unmanaged recreation – especially impacts from Off Highway Vehicles – as one of the key concerns facing the nation's forests today. This proposed rule would prohibit cross-country OHV use and provide the Forest Service with a system to clearly designate roads and trails for OHV use.