



Cass/Winnie Watershed Ecosystem Analysis

What is a Watershed Analysis?

Ecosystem Analysis at a watershed scale is an important step in bridging strategic planning to project specific analysis. The analysis is not a decision document, but the results will lead to and define the scope of future decisions on the Chippewa. During the analysis we will consider the human values and natural resources and their processes and interactions within the watersheds. We hope to better address issues and identify opportunities for actions. The perspective gained from assessments at the watershed scale will provide information for managers and the public on the relationships and between projects and set priorities for social, economic and ecological needs within watersheds.

Watersheds?

The Chippewa National Forest's boundary intersects 25 watersheds that are between 51,000 to 331,124 acres in size. The current analysis will include two watersheds, Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish totaling 289,700 acres.

What's up in Cass/Winnie?

Currently we are proposing that the analysis address: 1) Lake and stream water quality 2) Lake levels and flow regimes in rivers 3) Erosion and sedimentation 4) Vegetative composition and habitat features including riparian and aquatic features 5) Biodiversity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems 6) Land use including development and

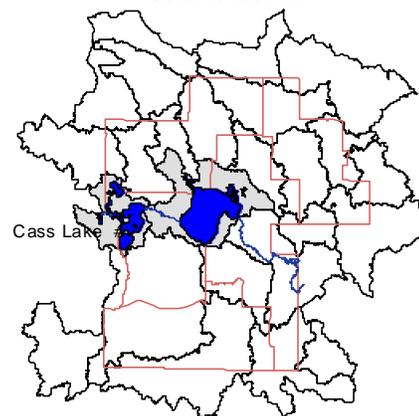
transportation systems 7) Recreation and social considerations.

How Can You Get Involved?

In January we held two public meetings to solicit input. Information gathered at those meetings will be used to formulate final analysis questions.

We would like to know if the issues we have identified and the elements we are preparing to analyze best represent your values for these watersheds.

Chippewa National Forest Watersheds



We would also like your ideas and feedback about proposed recommendations that result from the analysis. Our current plans are to complete the analysis by the end of March. Visit our Web site at www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa and get on our Cass/Winnie mailing list. We'll keep you updated on the progress of the assessment or call Nancy Salminen (218) 335-8666.