

Recreation Opportunities

Key Message:

The Chippewa National Forest and northern Minnesota are renowned locally, regionally and nationally for the quality and variety of recreational opportunities provided. Many people come to northern Minnesota specifically to experience solitude, watch wildlife and birds, hunt for game and to enjoy our lakes and streams. The Forest has and will continue to provide ample access through roads and trails, and in the future will also offer greater opportunities to experience solitude and more remote recreational experiences. The Plan recognizes the incomparable value of the many developed and dispersed recreation activities, and the contribution to local economies by those using recreation opportunities .

The Plan:

- ✓ continues to offer a natural setting with road access to many areas
- ✓ maintains existing developed camping sites, although some sites may be restored or have upgraded facilities.
- ✓ places a high priority on scenery management in areas with many resorts and recreation facilities such as the Norway Beach and Cutfoot Sioux areas.
- ✓ adds more road corridors to the Scenic Management System
- ✓ recommends no areas as wilderness study areas

Change from the 1986 Plan:

The Revised Plan increases the amount of National Forest System lands that are managed with a primary emphasis on recreation. When compared to the 1986 Forest Plan, the Revised Plan provides the following:

- a 9,500 acre increase in the Recreation Use in a Scenic Landscape management area
- a 9,500 acre increase in the Semi-primitive Non-motorized Recreation management areas

Under the Revised Plan, the Chippewa National Forest will be managed for the following mix of recreational experiences:

- 3% of the Forest provides a semi-primitive non-motorized experience
- 91% of the Forest provides a roaded-natural experience
- 35% of the Forest provides a more rural type of experience

Change from the Proposed Plan:

The amount of areas emphasizing Recreation Use in a Scenic Landscape increased to include Norway Beach and all of the Cutfoot Sioux Recreation Area. Norway Beach was previously part of the Ten Section area and proposed as a Unique Biological, Aquatic, Geological, or Historical Area. However, management and use in this area is for developed recreation and scenic view emphasis. The Recreation Use allocation better matches existing and intended use. At Cutfoot Sioux, additional acreage was added to the Recreational Use Management Area so that the entire recreation area would be managed under the same management direction.

Semi Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) Areas increased due to expansion of an existing area and an addition of a new area. Since 1986, the Chippewa largely emphasized roaded-natural recreation opportunities. After review of public comments, the Recreation Opportunity issue and

the need for change, we decided that a greater effort needed to be made to identify areas that could provide SPNM experiences on the Chippewa. The North Winnie SPNM area was added and the existing Suomi Hills SPNM area was expanded to help provide a broader spectrum of recreational opportunities to forest visitors. These areas were removed from the General Forest and General Forest-Longer Rotation Management Areas.