

# **APPENDIX D**

Public Involvement

and

Collaborations Information

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST  
Public Engagement for TMR Subpart A

It was imperative to keep our internal and external audiences educated, informed, and included with respect to the Travel Analysis Process. Our unit utilized key messages, strategies, frequently asked questions and answers, and other materials that were developed by the Eastern Region of the USDA Forest Service. This helped us communicate a consistent message regionally with all audiences throughout the process. The following summarizes the public engagement that Superior National Forest implemented throughout the Subpart A - Travel Analysis Process (TAP) of Travel Management.

**Internal Audience**

Employees can be an organization's greatest ambassadors. In light of this, before any communication was shared with the public, the project team provided briefings about the analysis to Superior National Forest employees.

- Throughout the process, information was provided to all Superior National Forest employees via focused emails on September 29, 2014, October 17, 2014, and March 31, 2015 as well as via weekly Forest Staff notes.
- In addition, the project team presented updates to the Forest Leadership Team at FLT meetings on:
  - June 19, 2014
  - October 15, 2014
  - In turn, the FLT provided updates at key points to employees during unit meetings.
- The Forest provided ongoing updates to the Regional Office during and between Regional conference calls.

**External Audience** (Public included citizens, stakeholders, adjacent landowners, interest groups)

It was imperative that our communications instill trust and confidence with the public. The Superior National Forest informed and engaged with stakeholders about this process repeatedly through several means, including:

- Face-to-face conversations, in addition to email communications, with State DNR and county officials during a meeting on 3-25-15.
- Press releases to 36 news outlets (see Media list at end of section)
  - July 2014
  - October 17, 2014,
  - March 31, 2015
- We had prepared packages with information about the Study available at all of our front desks to respond to walk in requests.
- Legal Notice to the Duluth News Tribune, April 3, 2015
- External Forest website – October 2014 – December 2014
  - Existing Forest road maps, East and West
  - Description of Road Maintenance Levels
  - TMR Subpart A Fact Sheet
  - Comment Form
- External Forest Website – March 2015

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- Tabular Summary of Analysis Results
- 10 maps of Forest showing roads likely not needed or recommended modifications
- Description of Analysis Process
- Comment Form
- Track on comments inbox
- External Forest Website – May 2015-September 2015
  - Updated and removed comment form
  - Posted Final Report
- E-mail
  - A notification regarding the upcoming Roads Study was sent to a NEPA contact list including over 100 interested stakeholders
  - Introduction to project was sent to approximately 65 Forest Key Contacts early in the project during July 2014 and again after the Team’s analysis was completed in March 2015.
- Posted notice on Social media-Twitter (over 2000 followers) and Facebook at key points.

**Local/County/State/Other Federal Agencies  
Local and Regional Business Management & Partners**

It was imperative that the communications instill trust and confidence with our agency partners. The Superior National Forest has made every opportunity to inform them about and engage them in this process, included the following:

- On-going, two-way, meaningful and face-to-face conversations as early as possible in the process
  - County Engineers – Meetings with Cook, Lake and St Louis County Engineers in 2013 and 2014
  - County Commissioners and MN Department of Natural Resources – Quarterly Meetings
    - The topic of Travel Management Rule was introduced at meetings with Lake, Cook and St Louis County commissioners, and Representatives for the State of Minnesota September 11, 2014
    - In 2015, the Roads Study Team Leader attended the meetings and shared information and handout materials on study on March 25, 2015 and June 11, 2015.
- External Forest Website (see above under External Audience)
- E-mails (see above under External Audience)
- Individual notifications to key Congressional contacts regarding the results of the Road Study were made by phone in March 2015.

## **Tribal Relations**

The tribal audience is separate and distinct from other audiences; information received from tribes should not be aggregated with input from other groups. On-going, two-way, meaningful and in-person/face-to-face conversations occur as early as possible in the process that may affect treaty rights and access to treaty resources, traditional practices, and access to Sacred Sites and Sacred Places. The Roads Study Team Leader coordinated with the Regional Tribal Relations Specialist and Forest Tribal Liaison to work with tribes from the beginning of the process, in a collaborative manner, through the completion of the report to overcome perceptions of restricted access to traditional places and protected activities. Superior National Forest engaged in early and ongoing, meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials, leaders, members and traditional practitioners with the following tribes:

- Fond du Lac
- Bois Forte
- Grand Portage
- 1854 Treaty Authority
- Early notification of the study occurred by the Regional Forester via letter to all tribes within Region 9 on March 14, 2014.
- A follow-up letter that included additional information and identified Superior National Forest contacts was sent by the Forest Supervisor in October 2014.
- The Forest Supervisor sent letters notifying Tribes and provided the results of the Study on March 23, 2015.
- Individual meetings with each of the tribal boards were conducted in April, May and August 2015. The results of the study were presented and discussed with Tribal contacts.
- External Forest websites (see above)
- E-mails (see above)

## **Communication materials used included the following:**

- Frequently Asked Questions & Answers (internal)
- Comment forms
- E-mails (Press Releases)
- Press Releases
- External Forest website
  - Background information of the travel analysis
  - TMR Subpart A Fact Sheet
  - Existing Forest road maps, East and West
  - Description of Road Maintenance Levels
  - Graphical summary of historic roads maintenance funding
  - Tabular Summary of Analysis Results
  - 10 maps of Forest showing roads likely not needed or recommended modifications
  - Description of Analysis Process
  - Public Comment Forms
- Social media – Twitter and Facebook

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**KEY MEDIA contacts for TMR Subpart A October 2014 and March 2015**

Associated Press- DAILY Minneapolis, MN	WCCO-TV 4 (CBS) WCCO-Radio Minneapolis, MN
Minnesota News Network Statewide	WDIO-TV 10 (ABC) Eyewitness Duluth, MN
MN Public Radio Statewide	Fox News 21 TV, KQDS Duluth
Minnesota Public Radio- St. Paul Minneapolis	WDSE-TV 8 (PBS) Duluth, MN
WELY Radio 94.5 Ely, MN	Cook County News Herald – WEEKLY WEEKLY Grand Marais, MN
WKLK Radio 96.5 Cloquet, MN	Cook News-Herald - WEEKLY Cook, MN weekly
Duluth News-Tribune-DAILY St. Louis Co, MN	Ely Echo – WEEKLY Ely, MN
WTIP Public Radio 90.7 Grand Marais	Lake County News Chronicle WEEKLY Two Harbors, MN
KARE-11 TV (NBC) Minneapolis, MN	Timberjay-WEEKLY Tower, MN Ely, MN Cook, MN
KOZY Radio 1320 AM Grand Rapids, MN	The Daily Telegram- WEEKLY Superior, WI
KBJR – 6 TV (NBC) Northeast MN	Budgeteer- weekly Duluth, MN
KDLH-TV 3 (CBS) Northwest Wisconsin, Duluth, Iron Range	Boreal.org Grand Marais
KDAL 95.7 Radio Duluth, MN	Almanac North-TV -WEEKLY Duluth , MN
KDNW Duluth, MN	Boundary Waters Journal- QUARTERLY Statewide and beyond
KSTP – TV 5 (ABC) Minneapolis, MN	Northern Wilds Newspaper –MONTHLY Cook Co
Mesabi Daily News Virginia, MN	Venture North-TV Public Broadcasting Duluth St. Paul Pioneer Press Dakota, Ramsey, Washington Counties, St. Paul, MN
Range Times - WEEKLY Biwabik , MN	
Minneapolis Star Tribune – DAILY Minneapolis, MN - Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington counties, and western Wisconsin	