

### **III. Monitoring And Evaluation**

#### Cooperation and Partnerships

##### (1) Overview

Partnerships and collaboration are essential throughout all levels of the Forest Service. The Chief of the Forest Service Dale Bosworth has stated that **“As we enter the Forest Service’s second century of caring for the land and service people, a strong spirit of partnership and collaboration is more important than ever.”** The Superior National Forest (SNF) has worked with partners throughout its history to achieve social, economic and ecological goals. Each year the SNF continues relationships with existing cooperators and enters into new ones. This collaboration has resulted in increased public service and improved land stewardship, both which enhance the Forest’s effort to meet desired conditions.

This overview will share information on both formal agreements and informal cooperative efforts concluded on the Superior National Forest in FY 2005.

##### **Formal Agreements:**

The Forest Service uses many types of agreements to document its work with others. Each of these has specific Congressional legal authority and requirements. The appropriate instrument depends on what the partnership will accomplish, who will benefit, and who is providing funding. The Forest Service must have appropriate statutory authority prior to entering into any agreement, which could result in the use, obligation, or other commitment of any Forest Service resources.

##### **-During Fiscal Year 2005 there were a total of 71 signed agreements that provided or obligated;**

- **\$ 601,955 worth of cash, goods and services to the Superior National Forest from partners, and**
- **\$ 1,178,839 worth of cash, goods and services to partners from the Superior National Forest.**

##### New Agreements

To provide a better understanding, a review of our formal agreements<sup>i</sup> shows that in Fiscal Year 2005 partners:

- Signed 55 agreements and
- Initiated, (but did not sign) an additional 14 agreements

The 55 agreements signed in FY 2005:

- Provided \$439,989 in cash and non-cash (supplies & materials) to the forest
- Supplied \$14,680 of in-kind support to the forest

### Previous Agreements

There were 16 agreements that<sup>iii</sup>:

- Provided \$43,224 in cash to the forest
- Provided \$104,062 in supplies & materials to the forest

Between the 55 agreements signed in FY 2005, and the 16 agreements signed in previous years there were 71 agreements that led to work on the forest that would not have been accomplished without the help of partners

### Volunteer Agreements

In FY 2005 we had 496 volunteers which provided 20,228 hours of service and an appraised value of \$123,801 to the forest.

### Total to the Forest:

Added all together, partners gave a value of \$725,756 to the Superior National Forest in FY 2005.

### Total to Partners:

Contributions also went to various partners for the work they provided to support the forest. In FY 2005 there was \$881,316 in funds and \$297,522 in non-cash contributions that have been obligated and/or provided by the Superior National Forest to partners<sup>iii</sup>. Examples include funds given to: MN DOT for roadwork; local volunteer fire departments for fire protection and services; and local law enforcement for protection. There were also partnerships where Forest Service's and partner's funds are combined to pay for land improvements. See below for photos demonstrating cooperative projects.



Formal Agreement. MN Conservation Corp students taking a well deserved break.



Formal Agreement. Working with youth from the MN Cons Corps On portage trails after the landing on Lake One.

## Informal Agreements:



Former District Ranger, Township Officer,  
DNR staff and local Tofte Ranger District

The SNF has had numerous on-going informal agreements with state, county, local and other federal agencies, and non-profits that benefit the Superior National Forest. These informal partnerships have not been documented through the formal agreement process and are not accounted for in the numbers listed above. However they do greatly benefit the Forest. Examples of informal partnerships include:

(1) Work on Community Wildfire Protection Plans to develop management practices across land ownership to reduce the threat of wildfire (partners include Forest Service staff, local residents, local elected officials, volunteer fire departments, the Department of Natural Resources, businesses and others).



Broad group of partners during a session at the USFS Forest Products Lab in Madison.

(2) Work on Forest-related economic development opportunities in northeastern Minnesota by strengthening connections and seeking out research to help retain and grow small businesses (Partner include locally elected policy makers, public land managers, representatives from County, State and Federal governments, and key economic development entities).

Table 1 displays some of the Superior National Forests Partners. To see a more complete listing see appendix G.

<b>Table 1. Examples of Superior National Forest Partners</b>		
Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Bois Forte (Nett Lake) Band of MN Chippewa 1854 Authority Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Cook County Koochiching County Lake County St. Louis County US Fish and Wildlife Service North Central Forest Experiment Station USDA-FS North Central Research Station Minnesota Conservation Corps	University of Minnesota Voyageurs National Park Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Minnesota Forest Resources Council Regional partners with the Lake Superior Lake wide Management Plan and Great Lakes Ecological Assessment Minnesota Department of Transportation MN Dept of Agriculture The Nature Conservancy State Historical Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Minnesota Department of Health	Private Landowners U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Minnesota Pollution Control Agency U.S. Geological Survey Friends of the BWCAW Bio-Diversity Research Institute Trout Unlimited Potlatch Corporation Laurentian Environmental Learning Center Law enforcement Interested public

## (2) Monitoring Activities

### **Monitoring Question**

**To what extent does the Forest emphasize agency, tribal, and public involvement and inter-governmental coordination with federal, state, county governments and agencies?**

**Monitoring Driver(s): Objective. D-CM-1.** "The Forest works cooperatively with other landowners and land managers to protect, enhance, and restore physical and biological resources as well as social and economic values. Cooperative management includes tribal, state, county, local governments as well as other federal agencies."

<b>Cooperation</b>			
<b>Applicable Monitoring Activity, Practice, Or Effect Measured</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>When Monitored</b>	<b>Location or Project Area</b>
# of Agreements initiated	IWeb Reports	Yearly	Forest wide
# of Agreements signed	IWeb Reports	Yearly	Forest wide
Financial Value of cash, non-cash and in-kind services generated from partners	IWeb Reports	Yearly	Forest wide
# of partners	IWeb Reports	Yearly	Forest wide
Variety and diversity of projects & resources worked on in cooperation with partners	IWeb Reports Staff interviews	Yearly	Forest wide

(3) Evaluation and Conclusions.

**Desired Conditions/Objectives**

**Monitoring Driver(s): Desired Condition. D-CM-1.** “The Forest works cooperatively with other landowners and land managers to protect, enhance, and restore physical and biological resources as well as social and economic values. Cooperative management includes tribal, state, county, local governments as well as other federal agencies.”

**2005 Accomplishments**

See Overview.

**2005 Accomplishment Contribution Towards Desired Conditions & Objectives**

<b>A. FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION</b>				
<b>Record of Decision (7/04)</b>	<b>(DECADE 1)</b>		<b>2005 Accomplishments and/or Condition</b>	
Existing Condition	FP DC, Obj, or S&G's	FEIS Projected or Proposed Condition	Actual Accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
NA	NA	NA	<p><b>Formal Agreements</b>                      Number; .....71 Agreements.                      Contribution Value (Cash &amp; Non Cash)...\$600,000</p> <p><b>Volunteer Agreements</b>                      Number; .....497 Volunteers                      Contribution Value (Cash &amp; Non Cash)...\$124,000</p>	NA

<b>B. ACHIEVEMENT OF FOREST PLAN DIRECTION/FEIS CONDITION</b>			
<b>% Achievement of Decade 1 Direction/Condition</b>		<b>Trend</b>	
Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions	Actual accomplishments implemented	Actual Accomplishments & Approved NEPA Decisions
NA	NA	NA	NA

**Standards and Guides**

NA

#### (4) Necessary Follow-up and Management Recommendations

The Superior National Forest is in the midst of developing a database of all partnerships, including those with formal grants and agreements and those who contribute to the forest through non-formal relationships. Once this database is completed it will give a more accurate picture of how partnerships are benefiting the National Forest. It is our plan that throughout FY 2006 and 2007 that many of these informal partnerships will become formalized. Volunteer Agreements and their benefit to the forest will be documented and added to the monitoring guide.

Monitoring Driver	Follow-up Actions
D-CM-1	In 2006, continue interviews of Forest Service Staff to ensure their work with partners is captured.
D-CM-1	Update the key contacts database to reflect all existing partners and potential partners.
D-CM-1	Formalize informal partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding and other Agreements.

Monitoring Driver	Recommended Management Actions
D-CM-1	Systematically seek partners as part of the Forest Prioritization approach. Involve RO programs to bring regional and national partnerships to the Forest.

## (5) Collaborative Opportunities To Improve Efficiency And Quality Of Program

The Partnership Coordinator and SNF staff will work to increase the Forest’s effectiveness in its work in partnerships and collaboration with citizens, communities, and organizations. The Superior National Forest will coordinate with other agencies, governments, and universities to monitor and document research and activities on and off the Forest.

Efforts will be made to share data, coordinate future activities, and potentially collaborate to fund future efforts to initiate our five year plan as part of our implementing the Forest Plan. Superior National Forest employees will actively seek partners as they plan and initiate their program of work. By engaging the energy, passion and commitment of others through partnerships and collaborative processes, we will work together to care for the land.

Collaborator/Partner	Monitoring Activity	Accomplishment
For a complete list of partners and collaborators see Appendix G		

<sup>i</sup> IWeb G&A Numbering Log for the FY 2005. GARP011L two reports, one by GA-Closed and one by GA-Executed during FY 2005; run on 01/24/06 by Agreement No. Fs.\$ Match, Fw.\$ In kind, Coop.\$ Match, Coop.In-kind, Total Agr. Value, Execution Date, Expiration Date, Status, # of Mods, Cooperator Name

<sup>ii</sup> IWeb G&A Numbering Log For the FY%, GARP011L report by GA-Executed during FY 2005; run on 1/23/06 by Agreement No., Fs.\$ Match, Fs. \$ Inkind, Coop.\$ Match, Coop.\$ Inkind; Total Agr. Value, Execution date, Expiration Date, Status, # of Mods, Cooperators Name. Add in IWeb G&A by Cooperator Type and Associated Funds GARP001L report run on 01/23/06 by Cooperator Type, Funding Year, Agreement Number, Total Mod.No., Fund Source, Fund Type, &Funding Amount.

<sup>iii</sup> IWeb G&A Incoming and Outgoing Funds GARPO040L of GA-Executed in Fiscal Year 2005 sorted by G&A number, Cooperator Cash Contribution, Cooperator Other Contribution, Cooperator Total Contribution, FS Cash Contribution, FS Other Contribution, FS Total Contribution, Total G&A Amount run on 04/06/2006. Tables used – II\_AI\_GA\_APP\_V, II\_AL\_GA\_COOPERATORS\_V, II\_AI\_GA\_SUMMART\_TAB\_V