

Appendix D: Partnerships

Resource	Partnerships
Air	<p>The air resource program on the SNF enjoys the benefits of its wide network of partners. At its air monitoring site at Fernberg, partners include: MPCA, EPA, Central Regional Air Planning Organization, and the Midwest Regional Planning Organization. To accomplish monitoring of resources sensitive to the degradation of air quality, partners include: Northern Research Station, USGS, MPCA, University of Minnesota, Vermillion Community College, University of Wisconsin – Superior, and Voyagers National Park. Partners in addressing the impacts from industrial air pollution include the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and many tribes in Minnesota. Opportunities for enhancement and expansion of this network of partners are always being assessed.</p>
Cooperation and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Approximately 21,000 acres were inventoried for heritage resources resulting in the documentation 34 new sites. * The total value of the work provided by our Partners through grants and agreements; special use permits and other non-agreement based funds; and through the work of our volunteers to the SNF equals over \$ 1,621,527. * Volunteers to the SNF provided 28,817 hours of service at an appraised value of \$540,897. * Hosted Senior Program contributed 15,406 hours of service at a value of \$289,172. * Special Use Agreements and other Non-Agreement Based Funds provided \$96,210 * There were a total of 71 signed agreements that provided or obligated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ \$690,490 worth of cash and services to the SNF from partners ➢ \$429,291 worth cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF. * Partners and Forest Service Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiated 42 new agreements. ○ Enacted 85 modifications on existing agreements. * Individuals donated \$4,758. * Comparatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ FY 05 Volunteers provided 20,228 hours of service. ➢ FY 06 Volunteers provided 27,308 hours of service. ➢ FY 07 Volunteers provided 28,817 hours of service. ➢ FY07 - 71 signed agreements that provided or obligated to the SNF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$690,490 worth of cash and services. • \$429,291 worth cash, goods and services. ➢ FY06 - 82 signed agreements that provided or obligated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$447,206 worth of cash and services. • \$524,384 worth of cash and services. ➢ FY05 - 71 Agreements that provided or obligated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$601,955 worth of cash, goods and services to the SNF from partners • \$1,178,839 worth of cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF
Fire	<p>The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) efforts with Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties are an efficient way to increase collaboration and cooperation with neighbors and partners. Substantial efforts have been ongoing to define, develop, and complete unique CWPPs for each county. These CWPPs will describe and define what the local residents and cooperators view as fuel hazards as well as drive prioritizations within the Wild-land Urban Interface areas. Projects included Lutsen Township, Maple Hill, and Mid Trail.</p>
Heritage	<p>Contributions from 3 partners helped the Forest complete 3 projects during 2007. The partners were: (1) Passport In Time (PIT), Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS), and University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). Projects completed included the Disturbing the Dust I Archival PIT project at the Iron Range Research Center, Chikwauk Lodge rehabilitation PIT project (GTHS), and the Table Rock Falls site evaluation (UMD Field School).</p>

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Insects & Disease	<p>The SNF has coordinated with numerous partners to monitor and treat insect/disease conditions. These partners included other Federal governmental agencies such as: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USFS State and Private Forestry, National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers. The partners also included State agencies such as: Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Gypsy Moth Program Advisory Committee. Tribal Governments in northeastern Minnesota, and local governmental agencies (such as St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties) also participated in the monitoring and treatment.</p> <p>Coordination with these groups is essential in a successful effort across multiple ownerships. Failure to achieve results in any one ownership, would result in failure of a program in its entirety.</p> <p>Research</p> <p>The Superior NF continues to promote a Participating Agreement with the University of Minnesota to conduct research into ways to improve resistance of eastern white pine to blister rust, a fungal disease. This disease, originally brought to the United States from Europe in the early 1900's, is an obstacle to the Forest Plan objective of successfully re-establishing white pine on the Forest. Four separate study sites, totaling 65 acres, have been formally established on the Gunflint and Tofte Ranger Districts.</p>
Lands	<p>The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a vital partner for the Superior National Forest. TPL has intervened in securing parcels of land that would otherwise have been sold on the open market and then possibly subdivided and developed. Over the last 18 years, the SNF has developed an immeasurable working relationship with TPL. They have been successful in securing dollars for the SNF, which provided funding to purchase lands through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. TPL has taken the extra step to provide whatever assistance they could in securing tracts of land crucial to the SNF.</p>
Minerals & Geology	<p>BLM - The BLM is the agency responsible for federal hardrock mineral exploration proposals, prospecting permits and leases. The Forest Service works cooperatively with the BLM on permitting and administration of federal hardrock mineral projects and is the lead agency for the project permitting environmental analysis process. The BLM is the lead agency for compliance. However, the Forest Service assists the BLM by completing project compliance inspections and works with the BLM to resolve compliance issues. In 2007, the SNF and BLM entered into a MOU for the completion of the Kawishiwi Mineral Exploration EA. The EA covered three mineral exploration proposals submitted by Franconia Minerals Corp., Encampment Resources LLC, and Duluth Metals Corp.</p> <p>Minnesota DNR and Army Corps of Engineers - The SNF, Minnesota DNR and Army Corps of Engineers have entered into a MOU for the environmental analysis for PolyMet Mining Inc.'s NorthMet Mine proposal. The Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency and the Minnesota DNR is lead state agency for the EIS.</p> <p>Minnesota Geologic Survey – Geologic mapping after the Ham Lake Fire resulted in an unusual discovery of rocks associated with the Sudbury Impact; a meteorite impact. Mark Jirsa presented his findings to the SNF and will provide the forest with a copy of his report when it is completed. Coordination of mapping after large fires will provide the SNF will additional geologic information and could potentially be used in future project planning.</p>
Non Native Invasive Species (NNIS)	<p>In 2008 it will be important to increase collaborative survey and monitoring efforts with other partners including the Minnesota DNR, Minnesota See Grant, University of Minnesota-Duluth, The Nature Conservancy, Voyageurs National Park, Quetico Provincial Park, and other interested partners. It will also be important to pursue collaborative information/education opportunities with State, Federal, and local partners including NNIS billboard advertising, brochures and signage, and youth education programs.</p>
Public Health	<p>The SNF was involved with four partners or stakeholders to monitor public health. These groups include the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, US Geological Survey, and Lake Associations. The involvement with the MDH is particularly important in analyzing nitrate concentrations in campground drinking water.</p>
Recreation Motor Vehicles	<p>The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties have been the primary partners involved in planning and implementing recreation motor vehicle management on the Superior National Forest. The 1854 Authority and tribal bands have been consulted.. The public and interest groups have been involved in providing comments on the Forest-</p>

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	<p>wide Travel Management Project. Once a decision is made in 2008, many opportunities for collaborative management with other governments, agencies, user groups, interest groups, and individuals are possible. Opportunities for collaboration include marking routes, maintaining routes and trails, monitoring use and condition of routes, and assisting in education efforts.</p>
Soils	<p>Contributions from the Tribal 1854 Authority, Timber Bay Lodge, MN DNR, MN Power, Friends of the MN Conservation Corp, and South St. Louis County SWCD helped the SNF complete the Birch Lake projects during 2006. These projects had been on the Watershed Improvement Needs List for a decade, waiting for the time when personnel and dollars were available to accomplish the needed treatments. The cooperative effort made all the difference in order to complete these projects.</p> <p>The SNF is cooperating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to validate both NRCS soil mapping units and SNF ECS mapping units. This process utilizes the field experience and administration skills of both agencies to analyze and portray mapped units in a usable format. Maps of the Virginia area containing both NRCS soil mapping units and SNF ECS mapping units will be posted on the NRCS website for use by the Agencies and the public.</p> <p>As part of the MFRC biomass guideline development, research needs on biomass were organized and will be presented to MFRC. MFRC will provide direction and funding for research. Research on harvest equipment and techniques to obtain biomass will be completed on an ongoing basis as biomass demand continues to increase.</p>
Timber	<p>The primary stakeholders involved in implementing timber management on the SNF were contractors associated with Stewardship contracts. Two Stewardship contracts were awarded in 2007.</p>
Transportation	<p>The Superior National Forest worked with the state, counties, and local clubs to achieve common outcomes.</p>
Tribal Rights & Interests	<p>The Superior National will coordinate with the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage Bands of Ojibwe as well as the 1854 Treaty Authority. Monitoring efforts would relate to common resource interests and facilitated treaty rights. Through cooperating on these monitoring efforts there is a potential to increase efficiencies and further develop collaboration with Ojibwe bands to help sustain American Indians way of life cultural integrity, social cohesion and economic well-being.</p>
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to work closely with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local governments in coordination and documentation of vegetation manipulation activities across multiple ownerships. ➤ As the imagery portion of the Individual Tree Crown (ITC) remote sensing forest inventory project is carried forward, collaborate closely with the multiple partners (St. Louis, Lake and Cook county governments; MN Department of Natural Resources; The Nature Conservancy; and other Forest Service entities to include Northern Research Station and State & Private Forestry). ➤ Continue to collaborate with Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) and Minnesota County Biological Survey in the area of native plant community inventory and classification. ➤ Continue to work with American Forests, and other private entities, in implementing the reforestation program across the Forest.
Watershed/ Riparian	<p>Partnerships</p> <p>During 2008 the SNF coordinated with other agencies and governments including Tribal Governments, NGO's, and organizations to inventory and monitor management indicator species, Regional Forester Sensitive Species, non-native invasive species, riparian habitat conditions, air quality, and water quality particularly mercury in fish. Partners included EPA, MPCA, Minnesota DNR, Fond Du Lac Band of Chippewa, Minnesota Forest Resource Council, the Nature Conservancy, Quetico Provincial Park, and Voyageurs National Park among others. Efforts will be made to coordinate future monitoring activities, share monitoring data, and potentially collaborate to fund future monitoring efforts.</p> <p>Research</p> <p>There is one research project related to watershed processes that is occurring in 2008 within the</p>

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	SNF boundary. The University of Minnesota is conducting research on the movement of large woody habitat (also commonly called large woody debris). The project involved the marking and measurement of hundreds of logs within on north shore streams. Field investigation in 2008 will be performed to determine the how and when wood moves in streams along the north shore.
Wilderness	<p>Contributions from our partners helped the Forest complete wilderness projects and field tasks during 2007. They included campsite restoration and trash removal, visitor information and education contacts, trail and portage maintenance, winter user contacts via the sled dog program, heritage surveys, monitoring for solitude, inventorying NNI weeds, and assisting with other wilderness ranger-type duties. Several grants were also pursued via the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, the National Forest Foundation and REI. These collaborations produced a NNIS booklet for the public, funded a volunteer dog sled visitor contact program through Outward Bound, and provided seed money to support the creation of "The Superior Volunteer Program" to provide wilderness volunteer support.</p> <p>Visitor Use Levels Wilderness Experience We will continue to support, recruit, and collaborate with volunteer organizations and individual volunteers, and search for grants and other alternative funding.</p>
Wildlife. Sensitive Species. Aquatic	The SNF coordinated with other agencies and governments to inventory and monitor management indicator species, Regional Forester Sensitive Species, non-native invasive species, and riparian habitat conditions. Efforts will be made to coordinate future monitoring activities, share monitoring data, and potentially collaborate to fund future monitoring efforts. Potential partners in 2008 and 2009 include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, USDA-FS Northern Research Station, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 1854 Authority, Trout Unlimited, Arrowhead Fly Fishers, Potlatch Corporation, Laurentian Environmental Center, Minnesota Forest Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, Voyageurs National Park, and Quetico Provincial Park.
Wildlife. Sensitive. Plants.	Partners the SNF worked with included the MNDNR and Minnesota Native Plant Society. The SNF worked with the MNDNR to jointly monitor RFSS populations across ownership boundaries with MNPS volunteers to monitor known RFSS plant populations.
Wildlife. MIH. Aquatic Species.	In 2007, the SNF coordinated with several other agencies and governments to inventory and monitor management indicator habitat, Regional Forester Sensitive Species, non-native invasive species, and riparian habitat conditions. Potential partners in 2008 and 2009 include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute, USDA-FS Northern Research Station, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, 1854 Authority, Trout Unlimited, Arrowhead Fly Fishers, Potlatch Corporation, Laurentian Environmental Center, Minnesota Forest Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, Voyageurs National Park, and Quetico Provincial Park.
Wildlife. Terrestrial. Management Indicator Habitats.	It is important to continue to partner with Natural Resources Research Institute to monitor forest songbird population trends and their associations with MIHs. Other State and agency monitoring programs are also important to maintain.