

Appendix F: 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	<p>* Volunteers provided 27,308 hours of service at an appraised value of \$409,620 to the SNF.</p> <p>* There were a total of 82 signed agreements that provided or obligated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ \$447,206.13 worth of cash and services to the SNF from partners ➢ \$524,384.23 worth cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF. <p>* Partners and Forest Service Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Initiated 48 new agreements ➢ Modified 68 existed agreements
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.</p>
Heritage	<p>Contributions from 3 partners helped the SNF complete 3 projects during 2006. The partners were: (1) Passport In Time (PIT), Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS), and University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). Projects completed included the Chikwauk Lodge rehabilitation PIT project (GTHS), Sand Lake PIT project, and the Knife Lake Lillian Joyce site evaluation (UMD Field School).</p>
Insects & Disease	<p>The SNF collaborated with numerous partners to monitor and treat insect/disease conditions. Their involvement is critical in successful management of invasive insects and diseases. These partners included other Federal governmental agencies such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USFS State and Private Forestry, National Park Service, and Army Corps of Engineers. The partners also included State agencies such as the 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>
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 17 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>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.</p> <p>The SNF is cooperating with the Minnesota DNR and Army Corps of Engineers on PolyMet Mining Inc.'s NorthMet Mine permitting project under a memorandum of understanding. All three agencies are involved in an EIS analysis and permitting.</p>
Non Native Invasive Species (NNIS)	<p>In 2007 it will be important for the SNF to increase collaborative survey and monitoring efforts with other partners including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota-Duluth, The Nature Conservancy, Voyageurs National Park, Quetico Provincial Park, and other interested partners to increase NNIS public information and education efforts. It is recommended that the Superior National Forest work closely with these partners to address the recent infestation of spiny water flea in Crane and Namakan Lakes and other waters, if they occur.</p>

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Public Health	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.
Recreation Motor Vehicles	To date the primary partners involved in implementing recreation motor vehicle management on the Superior National Forest have been the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the counties. The 1854 Authority and tribal bands have been consulted. Once a proposal to implement the Travel Management Rule is developed, the public and interest groups will be involved in developing and managing RMV use as well as assist in education efforts.
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	The primary stakeholders involved in implementing timber management on the SNF were contractors associated with Stewardship contracts. No Stewardship contracts were awarded in 2006.
Transportation	The Superior National Forest worked with the state, counties, and local clubs to achieve common outcomes.
Tribal Rights & Interests	The Superior National Forest will coordinate with Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, and Bois Forte Ojibwe bands as well as the 1854 Authority. Monitoring efforts 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.
Vegetation	The SNF will continue to work closely with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local governments in coordination and documentation of vegetation manipulation activities across multiple ownerships. If the Individual Tree Crown (ITC) remote sensing forest inventory project is carried forward, the SNF will 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 such as Northern Research Station and State & Private Forestry). The SNF will continue to collaborate with Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) and Minnesota County Biological Survey in the area of native plant community inventory and classification.
Watershed	During 2006, the SNF coordinated with other agencies and governments including Tribal Governments and NGOs 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 US EPA, 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.
Wilderness	Contributions from our partners helped the SNF complete wilderness projects and field tasks during 2006. These included campsite restoration, 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 NNIS, 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.

Resource	Partnerships
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 2006 included 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 and with MNPS volunteers to monitor known RFSS plant populations.
Wildlife. MIH. Aquatic Species.	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 2006 included 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. 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.