

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.

The Revised Plan provides for increased scenic quality in the ¼ to 3 mile area as viewed from popular travel routes and use areas.

Recreational Motor Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicles, Off-Highway Motorcycles, Four-Wheel Drives and Snowmobiles (RMVs): The Revised Plan provides for the designation of up to an additional 90 miles of ATV trail and 100 miles of snowmobile trail. With this decision, Recreational Motorized Vehicle use is not allowed on unclassified roads and is generally prohibited on higher maintenance level roads (OML 3, 4, and 5). Cross country RMV travel is prohibited. Generally, RMV use of low standard roads (OML 1 and 2) will be allowed pending site level decisions. Low standard roads where RMV use may cause unacceptable resource damage will be closed to such use (for example: summer use of winter use only roads).

Water Access

The number of new water access sites will be limited to five or less during the first 10 years. Facilities at those lakes identified as “Natural Environment Lakes” and small bodies of water would be limited to low development levels, such as a footpath and carry-down access.

Special Designations

Wilderness Study Areas

After reviewing public comments, I have decided to stay with my original proposal of not recommending any additional areas for wilderness study. Despite the continued high degree of public interest in potential wilderness additions, the analysis did not reveal compelling reasons that warrant my recommending wilderness study areas to the United States Congress.

Candidate Research Natural Areas

I have identified three areas (about 1,700 acres) as Candidate Research Natural Areas (CRNAs). These are in addition to the four Research Natural Areas (about 2,140 acres) that already exist on the Chippewa National Forest. As candidates, these areas will be further considered for their eligibility to become part of the national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and to provide important components of biological diversity for the Forest.

