

# backcountry

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST



## Camping

If you enjoy getting back to basics... The Chippewa National Forest offers a range of camping opportunities! The Forest has 21 developed campgrounds but for a more primitive experience, there are over 345 dispersed recreation sites on the Forest. In addition, most of the Chippewa National Forest is open for backcountry or dispersed camping. Access is typically by foot, boat or canoe. Backcountry campsites are located along most lakes and rivers, offering the perfect opportunity to explore the many canoe routes on the forest. There are no fees for primitive camping; however there are some rules intended to protect the resources. Please take the time to read the backcountry camping guidelines on back of this brochure.

### ABOUT THE AREA...

#### Cass Lake Area

Canoeists will enjoy the backcountry sites along the Pike Bay Connection canoe route or paddling down the Mississippi River between Knutson Dam and Lake Winnibigoshish. Most sites near Cass Lake are by water access. Routes are used during the wild rice season and are excellent bird watching sites.

#### Walker Area

The North Country Trail parallels an east-west line along the southern border of the Forest. Hikers wishing an overnight experience will find backcountry campsites next to the lovely small lakes along the trail. Additionally there are more than 20 backcountry campsites on small lakes that are beautiful in the fall and excellent fishing lakes! Some campsites provide fire rings and wilderness latrines.

#### Deer River Area

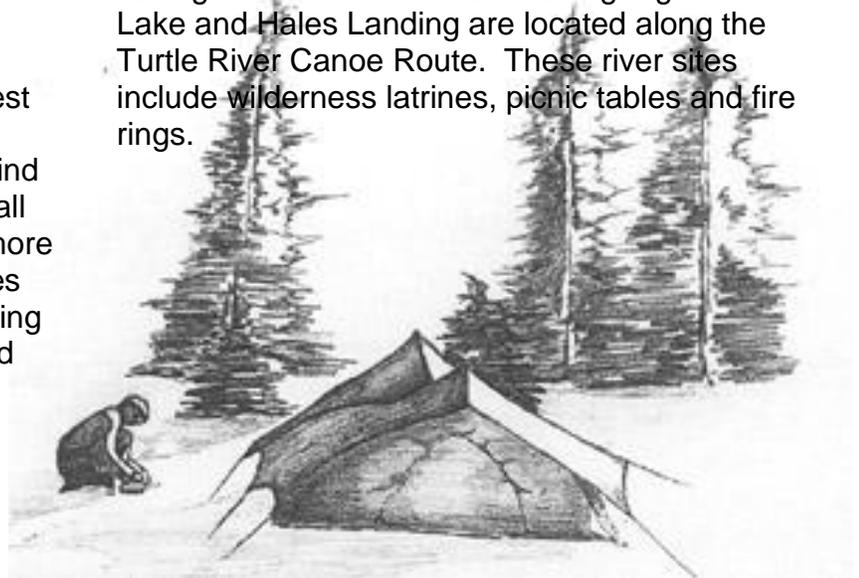
Those interested in backcountry camping on Cut Foot Sioux Lake may boat to any one of twenty designated backcountry campsites along the shoreline. All of these sites have wilderness latrines and a campfire ring. Some also have picnic tables. Campers must set up in one of these designated campsites on Cut Foot Sioux Lake. Watch for camping markers next to the sites.

#### Marcell Area

Popular backcountry sites in the Marcell area include Spider Lake, the birch forest of the Suomi Hills and Trout Lake. These sites also have wilderness latrines and fire rings. Be prepared with an alternative site in case your first choice is taken. Trout Lake sites are located near the Joyce Estate, a 1920's style private resort on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Blackduck Area

Backcountry sites in the Blackduck area see the most use during the deer hunting season. Extensive hunter-walking trail systems provide many opportunities for hunting, trapping and fishing. A number of sites including Big Rice Lake and Hales Landing are located along the Turtle River Canoe Route. These river sites include wilderness latrines, picnic tables and fire rings.



# chippewa national forest backcountry camping

## Guidelines for backcountry camping:

- **Drinking Water:** Even in a natural environment, water from rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds can be contaminated by contact with warm blooded animals. You should purify the water by boiling it at a full rolling boil for a minimum of five minutes. You can also treat it with iodine or a filter.
- **Latrines:** Keep your own human waste at least 200 feet from any water source. Dig a small hole about eight inches deep, and cover it with loose soil and sod after using. Dispose of your toilet paper in this hole; it will decompose naturally. DO NOT attempt to burn the toilet paper.
- **Campfires:** You can have a campfire outside of a fire ring without a permit. However, a few precautions should be taken, especially if the weather is dry. Scrape away leaves, twigs, and organic soil down to bare mineral soil in a 10 foot wide circle. Keep campfire small and water handy. Never leave campfires unattended. Please use only dead or fallen down branches and trees for firewood. Be sure your fire is DEAD OUT. Finally, cover the fire pit with soil when you leave.
- **Leave no Trace:** Pack all trash out, remove all traces of your campsite, fill in pit toilets, etc No structural changes can be made to the area.
- **Parking:** Please don't block Forest roads and gates when you leave your car and pack in. Your campsite should be located at least 50 feet from the edge of any road or boat ramp to reduce the adverse aesthetic effect of camping along roadsides.
- **Sites:** Camping is not allowed at areas that are set aside for day use activities such as picnic areas. If you choose primitive camping, there is a 14 day camping limit.
- **Safety first:** Before your camping adventure notify a friend, relative or one of the district offices of the location where you will be camping.

Chippewa National Forest employees would like to know how you enjoyed your visit to the campsite. Feedback is very important to improve and/or maintain the campsites for future generations. Please write or e-mail us with suggestions you might have. Be specific in your correspondence with location, so we can find the site easily if needed.

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