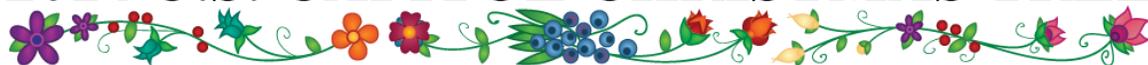




2014 U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE



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News Release

Local Partnership Creates National Opportunities for 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

Cass Lake, Minn. (June 6, 2014) – This week staff from Chippewa National Forest and members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe gathered with Choose Outdoors, Inc. to further enhance their relationship as primary partners for the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree project.

Working with the non-profit organization Choose Outdoors not only helps give the project support by working with local sponsors and companies; but also adds experience. They were the primary non-profit that successfully brought the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C. in 2013 as well as 2012.

“Having the opportunity to work with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Choose Outdoors on the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree has been a wonderful opportunity for our communities and will only further strengthen our ties,” shared Forest Supervisor Darla Lenz.

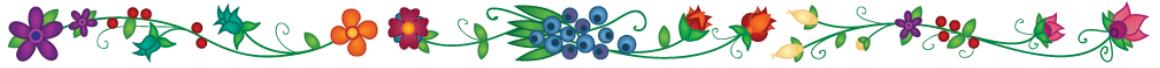
Just over two decades ago the Leech Lake Reservation helped provide our nation’s Capital with a tree for the holiday season. “Being selected to provide the Capitol Christmas tree is an honor for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe,” said Chairwoman Carri Jones. “It brings national exposure to our community showing the country our incredible natural resources, and continuing our partnerships with Choose Outdoors and the Chippewa National Forest will raise awareness for the community and the Band as we will be well represented at the Capital ceremonies by students from our Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school and area Youth.”

With Choose Outdoors meeting with various organizations, there was a perfect opportunity for all three partners to get together face to face. One of the highlights of the meeting was the unveiling of the official logo for the project. Highlights of the logo include important elements such as the bald eagle, traditional Ojibwe floral design, use of the Capitol building and a Christmas Tree. Other unique features include the use of the floral pattern for the garland on the tree and the star atop representing Minnesota as “The Star of the North” – Minnesota’s state motto.

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2014 U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE



Bruce Ward, President and founder of the national non-profit Choose Outdoors said, "This 50 year old tradition, celebrating the spirit of the Christmas season, represents the epitome of partnerships that have been a hallmark of the US Forest Service. We are honored to be a private sector partner, joining forces with local volunteers, businesses and elected officials to make this the best People's Tree ever."

In the coming weeks, a website will be released for the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. There Minnesotans and others across the nation can learn about upcoming events in their community, learn how preparations are progressing, and how they can help and support this once in a lifetime opportunity.

About Chippewa National Forest

Chippewa National Forest is the first National Forest established east of the Mississippi with nearly 660,000 acres at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in north-central Minnesota. Chippewa National Forest shares boundaries with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and contains outstanding cultural resources, premier habitat for aquatic, riparian and terrestrial wildlife and plants, leads in conservation of the bald eagle and in protection for vast wetland resources. Visit the Chippewa National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/chippewa> for more information.

About Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

The Leech Lake Indian Reservation is located in the north-central Minnesota counties of Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, and Hubbard. The reservation forms the land base for the federally recognized Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; one of six bands comprising the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, organized in 1934. With over 864,000 original acres, nearly 300,000 are surface area of the three big lakes: Lake Winnibigoshish, Cass Lake and Leech Lake. Visit the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's website at <http://www.llojibwe.org> for more information.

About Choose Outdoors

Choose Outdoors is focused on connecting all Americans to our public lands through outdoor recreation activities. Through these activities Americans will seek to engage in healthy, active lifestyles, support our public lands legacy, and value our natural environment for its many uses and enjoyment. For more information visit <http://www.chooseoutdoors.org/>

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