



## **Tribal Camping Fee Waiver**

### **What You Should Know**

Chequamegon-Nicolet, Ottawa and Hiawatha NFs

#### **What is a tribal fee waiver?**

The Forest Service (FS) has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with nine Ojibwe Tribes that allows fee waivers when camping at certain FS campgrounds. The waiver is for tribal members exercising treaty rights in the treaty areas of 1836, 1837 and 1842. It does not provide for fee waivers for general recreation.

#### **What are treaty rights?**

Treaty rights are addressed in the MOU. They include gathering wild plants or other forest products. (ie. conifer boughs, medicinal plants, berries, firewood, maple sap, and birch bark to name a few). It also may include hunting, fishing, and ceremony. Under tribal self-regulation, and as outlined in the MOU, it is the responsibility of the tribal member to determine if their activity is a treaty right.

#### **Who is eligible for fee waivers?**

Tribal members of the Bad River Band, Lac du Flambeau Band, Lac Courte Oreilles Band, St. Croix Chippewa, Mole Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and Lac View Desert Band.

#### **What campgrounds can they stay at and for how long?**

A campground list including length of stay limits is updated each year as an appendix to the MOU. It is published on the web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnrf/reports/mou>. There is a table for each of the four NFs covered under the MOU (Chequamegon-Nicolet, Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron Manistee).

#### **Who issues fee waiver forms and how are they used?**

Fee waiver forms are issued by each tribal office. Fee waiver forms are **NOT** issued by the Forest Service. The fee waiver form is placed in a fee envelope and deposited in the fee tube.

#### **Do fee waivers apply to camping under the National Reservation System (NRS)?**

No. At this time fee waivers apply on-site on a first-come first-served basis. Tribal members can utilize the NRS; however, fees cannot be waived for reservations or camping through the NRS system.

#### **Who enforces violations?**

Conservation Wardens from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) enforce off-reservation tribal codes in the treaty areas (including National Forests). They work in cooperation with FS law enforcement, state wardens, and local tribal and public enforcement agencies. Talk with your nearest FS LEO to find out information specific to your area.

#### **Monitoring**

Each year, information on tribal free use is gathered from FS recreation staff and compiled for reporting. Reports are posted on the web (use the link provided above).

#### **For more information**

Mary Rasmussen, Tribal Liaison at 715-479-2827.