



Chippewa Stories “Dibaajimowinan”

NOVEMBER 2016 | Chippewa National Forest



SUSTAIN | OUR NATION’S FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

Service work on the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) Pine Stewardship project with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) was completed in November. The service work included mechanical mowing to reduce brush encroachment and improve visibility along forest roads. They also completed mechanical chipping of the tops, limbs and woody debris left in the red pine stand after it was recently thinned. Workers from the Leech Lake Day Labor program were able to complete the service work with brush saws and mechanized equipment. This was the first TFPA project implemented on the Chippewa National Forest to improve forest health and diversity, reduce fuels and generate commercial forest products used by local mills benefitting the local economy. More TFPA projects are being planned and considered across the Chippewa National Forest.



The Chippewa National Forest is home to a series of experimental silvicultural trials known as Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) project. The ASCC project is a cooperative effort involving the Forest Service Northern Research Station, the Chippewa National Forest, University of Minnesota, the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, and Michigan Technological University. The ASCC project is being implemented in the Cutfoot Experimental Forest in the heart of the Chippewa’s red pine. This long-term, adaptive silviculture study applies climate change adaptation treatments of resistance, resilience and transition. The ASCC project is one example of how the Chippewa National Forest partners with scientists in looking toward the

future of the forest in light of climate change. The Forest is interested in exploring how forests can be managed in a manner that supports healthy, resilient ecosystems in a changing climate. At the juncture of the boreal forest to our north, hardwood ecosystems from the east, and prairie to the west, it is recognized that the Chippewa National Forest is located in an area that is predicted to undergo ecosystem change as climate continues to change. It is widely anticipated that species assemblages not previously experienced will develop as climate change winners and losers emerge. Although the rate of change is rapid in comparison to change experienced in the past, forests take a while to develop, so engaging in this topic in a timely manner is important to timely influencing the outcomes. Initial timber harvest treatments have been completed, and the Forest Service continues to engage with researchers on this long-term project. #CALLTOACTION

Ojibwe word of the month: “Gashkadino-Giizis” meaning November



DELIVER | BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC

The Chippewa National Forest's Steve Frick was recently featured in an article "[Cycling the Heartland State Trail in Northern Minnesota](#)" for the Hike Bike Travel website. Minnesota's Heartland State Trail slices right through the heart of northern Minnesota. The 49-mile length of trail offers biking and hiking between Park Rapids and Cass Lake. This part of the trail is one of the first of the rails-to-trails in the United States. Rails-to-trails is a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines that connects corridors to build healthier places for healthier people.

APPLY | KNOWLEDGE GLOBALLY

Large fires have been blazing in the USDA Forest Service's Region 8. The southeastern part of the United States has been at preparedness level 5, which is the highest level and unusual for November. The Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS) team travelled to Knoxville, Tenn. for two weeks in November coordinating the Main Operating Base (MOB) center, where nearly 1,500 wildland firefighters checked in and/or demobilized, since early November. About 150 Minnesota personnel were in the region and a number of engines as well. There were 12 Chippewa National Forest employees mobilized in November to fight the fires in Region 8. These employees filled requests for overhead positions, engines, suppression modules and aviation management. Forest Service employees are mobilized year-round, but it is uncommon to this extent for November.



Photo: Quarry Creek Fire near Tellico Plains, Tenn.

The Chippewa National Forest and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) signed a participating agreement in August that provides an opportunity to sustain cooperative efforts in landscape restoration within the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Specifically, TNC and the Chippewa NF expressed interest in projects in and around the

Mississippi River that further goals for riparian forest restoration, maintaining and enhancing large mature patches, landscape-scale fire management, and hydrologic connectivity. A meeting was held in November at the Chippewa National Forest Supervisor's Office to start discussing assessment needs within the areas of interest. Field inventory and data analysis is scheduled to begin the summer of 2017.



EXCEL | AS A HIGH-PERFORMING AGENCY

The National Collective Recruitment and Hiring (NCRH) team participated in a hiring event held at the Annual Society of American Foresters (SAF) Convention that was hosted by the Washington office forest management staff and the Eastern Region. Hiring managers throughout the agency submitted 125 student and recent graduate positions to fill using this event.

Over 250 applicants were interviewed during the SAF Convention and in early October, online applications were also accepted. Over 700 applicants were interviewed. In total, 114 candidates were selected for positions using this hiring event. Region 9 filled all 42 positions including three positions on the Chippewa National Forest; two through the intern indefinite program and one through the recent graduate program.



Forest Service

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