Appendix C

Response to Scoping Comments

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
1-1	02/03/2010	Matthew Davis Regional Trail Coordinator for MN & ND North Country Trail Association PO Box 1805 Detroit Lakes MN 56502-1805	We thank you for planning to obliterate the couple of roads (FR2117C & FR2324) that impact the North Country Trail by facilitating OHV use of the Trail	The effects of obliterating or closing forest system roads to all motorized vehicles is an interdisciplinary effort analyzed in Chapter 3.3.2 (Aquatics) and 3.3.3 (Soils). Chapter 3.6, Travel Management considers recreational/social effects of changes in use from "open to highway licensed vehicles" to "closed to all motorized vehicles." Direct and indirect effects on the nonmotorized North Country Trail are analyzed in Travel Managment.
1-2	02/03/2010	Matthew Davis Regional Trail Coordinator for MN & ND North Country Trail Association PO Box 1805 Detroit Lakes MN 56502-1805	We thank you for proposing to change the status of several forest roads (FR2117A, FR2793, FR2792, etc) that negatively impact the North Country Trail by facilitating OHV use of the Trail	The Proposed Action analyzes effects of closing forest system roads currently "open to highway licensed vehicles only" to "closed or opened to all motorized vehicles." The proposed action alternative direction follows the 2004 Forest Plan and the 2007 Off-Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access decision (2007 OHV Decision). Forest Plan desired conditions include clearly defining and providing road and trail riding opportunities while protecting natural resources (D-RMV-1, 2, pg. 2-42 and D-TS-1, 2, 3, 4, pg. 2-47). Forest Plan objectives and standards include the expectation that Forest roads will be identified as appropriate or inappropriate for OHV use (O-RMV-1, 2; G-RMV-4; S-RMV-1, 2, 4, pg 2-42; O-TS 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, pg. 2-48).
1-3	02/03/2010	Matthew Davis Regional Trail Coordinator for MN & ND North Country Trail Association PO Box 1805 Detroit Lakes MN 56502-1805	For the vegetation management parts of this project, we ask that steps be taken to minimize disturbance to the NCT trail tread by logging equipment (e.g. minimize crossings by equipment, avoid skidding on NCT, remove slash from NCT, etc).	Direct and indirect effects on the NCT trail tread by logging equipment will be mitigated (Appendix B). Mitigation of any direct impacts have been successfully applied in the past and will be used again. Public service staff will work with you to ensure that the trail tread is maintained and protected (Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, G-TRL-2, pg2-42; G-REC-2, pg 2-40 and North Country Trail Association's (2003) Timber Harvesting Policy paper).
1-4	02/03/2010	Matthew Davis Regional Trail Coordinator for MN &	We are also concerned about increased access to the NCT by OHVs resulting from the vegetation management activities. We currently	The ID Team has field checked potential access points. District staff will work with you to ensure that OHV access to the trail due to management activities

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		ND North Country Trail Association PO Box 1805 Detroit Lakes MN 56502-1805	have ATV problems near Co. Rd. 4, Co. Rd. 52, and Milton Lakes. Steps should be taken to minimize OHV access to the NCT during and following the activities.	is minimized (Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, S-RMV-2, pg 2-42; G-TS-12, pg 2-48; S-TS-3, pg 2-49 and North Country Trail Association's (2003) Timber Harvesting Policy paper).
1-5	02/03/2010	Matthew Davis Regional Trail Coordinator for MN & ND North Country Trail Association PO Box 1805 Detroit Lakes MN 56502-1805	Would it be possible to expand the scope of this project to also include a re-route of the NCT from the existing trail near Spring Lake heading northeast to the Forest Boundary by St. Hwy 6? This section, which is part of the proposed NCT Arrowhead Re-route, has been flagged and GPS'd.	The Moon EA proposed actions do not include analysis of an NCT reroute. This is outside the scope of the project.
2-1	02/05/2010	Joshua Stevenson Cass Cty Land Commissioner PO Box 25 Backus MN 56435	Please consider gates or signs to close roads to all vehicles, some of the roads listed provide management access to County Administered land. These include: 2793, 2069B, 2077C, & 2321G. We will need access for hauling on these roads into the future.	Signs will be posted on all road closures. In some circumstances a gate is the preferred method for closure; however gates are quite expensive and give some members of the public the perception that they can't access the area but others may. Gates have been considered for closures, but other methods were determined to be just as effective and may be less controversial. Of the roads you spoke of, FR2077C is not part of the proposed MVUM changes. The remaining roads were proposed for closure to all motorized vehicles, yet the method of closure will continue to allow Cass County management access. Treatments would only consist of materials such as rock, berms, slash, or combination thereof, which can be removed by logging equipment when management access is necessary and replaced when activities are completed. Where possible, the Chippewa National Forest will coordinate the timing of closures to occur after Cass County management activities are completed.
3-1	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest	Forest Plan Age Class Objectives: In general, the forest plan recommends 5-9 percent of the forest area to be in the 0-9 age-class. Currently, the project has 5.4 percent of the forested area	The Moon EA Proposed Action alternative contributes to forestwide 0-9 age class objectives. Preliminary analysis showed that the Proposed Action would reach or come very close to reaching

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	within this age-class. However, analysis of the proposed final harvest acres shows that over the next ten years (by 2010) the forest will move from 5.4 percent of the acres in the 0-9 age-class to approximately 4 percent in 2020.	individual LE, 0-9 age class Forest Plan objectives when *calibrated* to the Project. Our analysis process is shown in the EA, chapter 2.5 and Project Record\1_Background Information\ MFI Briefing handout(2010-01-19).
3-2	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	MFI analyzed the landscape ecological system (LEs) land types in the project area. This analysis revealed that an additional 529 acres of final harvest acres (e.g., clearcutting with reserves) should be proposed in order to meet young forest age-class objectives of the Forest Plan. [*MFI tables 1-7, 0-9 age classes*] The shortfall of young forest acres was broken down further to indicate whether this deficit occurred in the upland or lowland forest types. This revealed that regeneration harvests should occur on an additional 336 and 193 acres of lowland and upland forest types, respectively. From Summary: Increase the amount of final harvest acres (clear-cut with reserves) by 530. This would provide for young forest habitat objectives outlined in the forest plan. Tables 1-7 provide information as to how additional harvest acres would meet forest plan objectives.	The contribution each project makes toward the Forest Plan landscape ecosystem age class objectives receives much attention. Harvest treatments that create young forests (0-9 age class) include even-aged and two-aged harvests. MFI tables 1-7 show forestwide age classes by landscape ecosystem. These 0-9 age classes are not meant to be applied at the project level; rather, they need to be calibrated to the Project. Our analysis process is shown in the EA, chapter 2.5 and Project Record\1_Background Information\ MFI Briefing handout(2010-01-19) The Proposed Action alternative would create 1,268 acres in the 0-9 age class (plus a remaining 192 acres upland forest in existing, young, untreated stands for a total of 1,460 acres in the 0-9 age class (see Chapter 3, table 3-4 in Vegetation). No additional acres were identified from lowland forest types in the project area.
3-3	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	Table one [see MFI letter] summarizes the shortfall of young forest by 2020 by LEs. This was compared with stands that have completed stand surveys and not scheduled for a timber harvest. This shows that more than 3,200 acres have completed surveys and were scheduled for harvest. Clearly, additional final harvest acres could be added to the proposed timber harvest actions to meet young forest objectives that are clearly outlined in the Forest Plan.	In addition to achieving other resource objectives within the project area, our efforts to provide timber sales across the forest, do not allow us to treat every stand that could be harvested. We use the survey as a starting point to review each stand critically for multiple resource issues which lead to the Proposed Action. We recognize that many stands will be deferred and considered in our next entry. Project Record\1_Background Information\ MFI Briefing handout(2010-01-19) describes the process we followed. See EA, chapter 2.5 for detailed

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				process discussion.
3-4	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	Additional review of the data [*MFI letter, tables 1-7*] reveals that in most LEs the 10-39 year age class has a deficit of acres, similar to the 0-9 age class. Overall, there would be a deficit of 3,127 acres in this age-class by 2020. The age classes greater than 39 years of age have an abundance of acres of approximately, 1,308 acres. The Forest Service should consider additional harvest that exceeds the 0-9 age class objectives in order to meet the 10-39 year age class in the future. from Summary: Consider final harvest of acres that would exceed young age class objectives, balance older forest objectives and work to meet age class objectives in the 10-39 age class. It appears that it is acceptable to the Chippewa National Forest to exceed old forest objectives while not meeting young forest age class objectives.	The vegetation objectives for the Chippewa Forest Plan were developed primarily to manage amounts of young forest and amounts of mature/older forest. The Forest Plan recognized that “Limited short-term options exist to increase mid-aged sapling-pole sized tree growth stages to meet objectives, though in the long term these can be met.” (Forest Plan p. 2-53)
3-5	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	The proposed actions recommended treatment of approximately 485 acres of red pine. The vast majority of the harvest would be through commercial thinning (484 acres). The Forest Service surveyed nearly 1,500 acres of red pine stands, however. More than 1,000 acres of red pine stands were surveyed for treatment and only 1/3 of this acreage was proposed for management. MFI recommends that additional red pine stands be managed. Appendix 1 provides a listing of red pine stands that were surveyed where no management action was proposed. Some or all of these stands should be added to proposed alternative. Management of these stands would improve red pine health and productivity. Since many of these stands are plantations, additional thinning should not be controversial.	The MFI Appendix 1 list was considered in detail by the ID Team, see Chapter 2.5, table 2-6. Some stands (22) totalling 490 acres were added for management.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			from Summary: Identify additional red pine thinning and final harvest opportunities. A list of stands to consider is included in appendix 1.	
3-6	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	Single Tree Selection: It is unlikely that this type of timber harvest prescription would be marketable in today's timber markets. If these stands could be held an additional 5 years, the district should consider holding these stands until the next EA. Additionally, from our past visits to similar stands proposed for this type of management, these stands may be best suited for even-aged harvest. Moving these stands to a regeneration harvest assist the district towards meeting the even age management goals outlined in the forest plan, which the district is significantly lagging behind. These acres would additionally move the district towards meeting forest plan young-forest habitat objectives. from Summary: Consider alternative silvicultural treatments in stands identified for single tree selection harvest. We question the soundness of this management action in achieving forest plan goals.	Our experience with timber markets today indicates that single tree selection harvests are marketable. As of spring 2010 on the Walker Ranger District, every timber sale that has been put up for bid since 2006 has been sold. This includes many acres of single tree selection harvest. Uneven-aged management methods, including single tree selection, were among the harvest methods projected to be used to accomplish Forest Plan objectives (Forest Plan, Appendix D). Through 2008, the Chippewa had accomplished 4.4% of the projected acres of uneven-aged harvest for the first decade of plan implementation (Chippewa Monitoring and Evaluation Report for 2008). This was the lowest among all harvest methods projected to be used in the Chippewa Forest Plan. Clearly, uneven-aged methods are being underutilized on the Chippewa. Uneven-aged methods are important tools for meeting a range of vegetation objectives in the Forest Plan (e.g. Forest Plan objectives O-VG-10, O-VG-19). Forest stands that may be reasonably treated with even-aged management have been considered for this type of management. Many of those that we are considering for uneven-aged management are northern hardwood forest. While some even-aged harvest methods could be used in hardwoods (e.g. shelterwood), northern hardwood stands would have to be at least 90 years old before a regeneration harvest could occur (Forest Plan standard S-TM-5).
3-7	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior	Economics: It is critical that the Chippewa National Forest recognize its role in contributing to an economically challenged forest products industry. As you are aware several mills in the state have permanently shut down, displacing more than a thousand families. The remaining	Thank you for your comments, we share your concerns. The Chippewa National Forest recognizes that markets are difficult for local mills. The Forest, in late 2009-early 2010, responded to industry requests for consistent supplies of pine by moving selected pine sales from previous environmental assessments

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	mills continue to struggle but are making headway in difficult markets. The Chippewa National Forest has within its boundaries or nearby several mills that have survived these hard economic times. The timber from the Chippewa is critical to assist these mills in remaining economically viable. Secondly, the Chippewa National Forest manages a large amount of pine stands. The vast majorities of these stands were planted and need treatment to improve forest health and productivity. Our assessment of the additional timber from final harvest and thinning would produce an additional 10 million board feet of timber, 110 jobs, and economic activity of $830,000. from Summary: Design timber sales that can be sold under existing market conditions. Implementation of above recommendations would provide an estimated additional 110 jobs and economic activity of $830,000.	forward to make the timber available this year. Walker Ranger District provided over 1,000 acres of pine for thinning (2009 Boy River 2 DN) and will continue to consider pine harvest.
3-8	02/11/2010	Tim J. O'Hara Vice President of Forest Policy Minnesota Forest Industries 324 W. Superior Street, suite 903 Duluth, MN 55802	Maintain road system to access forest lands for protection and management.	Access to forest lands via the Forest Service transportation system has been considered. Natural resource, social, and economic drivers affecting transportation management decisions are represented in the proposed action.
4	02/16/2010	Ray Higgins Director of Operations MTPA 324 W Superior St, suite 903 Duluth MN 55802	See Comment Letter 3; letters are the same.	See responses to comment letter 3
5-1	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director	While we support the proposed reduction in aspen cover type acres, there will be a negative	The 2004 Forest Plan vegetation objectives for the Chippewa National Forest called for an overall

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	effect on wildlife species that depend on this forest type, particularly Ruffed Grouse. When possible we recommend that an aspen component be maintained in stands that will be converted to a different forest type. Some aspen clones or islands within the converted stand should be traditionally clear cut to promote high stem density aspen and fruiting shrub regeneration. This harvest method can mimic a natural fire event, resulting in a mixed species stand with patches of young, even-aged aspen/hardwoods within an older conifer type. Research has indicated that aspen 'islands' as small as one acre within other cover types can maintain Ruffed Grouse within the stand.	decrease of aspen forest types (Forest Plan p. 2-57). The emphasis of the Forest Plan is towards managing for the entire spectrum of wildlife habitats (which helps account for the decrease of aspen), though habitat for game species such as ruffed grouse will remain high. The modest acreage shifts from aspen to other forest types in the Moon Project Area fall in line with those prescribed by the Chippewa Forest Plan.
5-2	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	In stands to be maintained as aspen types we recommend winter harvest and that the reserve trees be clumped or left in islands rather than evenly scattered across the entire stand, to promote high stem density aspen regeneration.	Mitigation measures for aspen harvest typically restrict the harvests to either frozen or dry soil conditions, depending on specific stand conditions and soil moisture characteristics. Forest Plan Management Direction G-TM-4 identifies a minimum number of 4,000 trees per acre, 5 years following harvest. Past monitoring indicates that the Walker District has not had any instances of summer harvest where this minimum stocking requirement has not been met. Along with the "Gold Book" guidelines to reserve 6-12 live trees per acre and reserving all standing dead trees during coppice or clear-cut harvests, the Chippewa Forest Plan's guideline G-TM-5 compels managers to retain a minimum of 5% of stands 20 acres or greater in live legacy patches. Where possible, these legacy patches would be at least 2 acres in size.
5-3	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne	Managing the open sedge meadows around the shores of Big Rice and Laura lakes was not mentioned in the proposal. It is important to maintain these sedge meadows in an open condition to provide habitat for species such as yellow rails, sandhill cranes, and to provide	A proposal to burn sedge meadows around Big Rice Lake and Laura Lake was not included in the Moon proposal because a decision and burn plans currently exist for the Big Rice Lake and Laura Lake sedge meadows. These burns have not been conducted in a number of years, but we may consider conducting

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		bemidji mn 56601	nesting cover for waterfowl such as Ring-necked ducks.	these burns in the future.
5-4	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	DNR – Wildlife maintains a staff gage at the bridge at the outlet of Laura Lake. If the bridge is improved or replaced, we would appreciate notification so that we can preserve benchmarks to make transitioning the gage to the new bridge easier.	If the Laura Lake Bridge is improved or replaced, the Chippewa National Forest will coordinate activities with the DNR to address the existing staff gage and benchmarks and any other concerns that may arise.
5-5	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	We ask for continued support for wild rice enhancement and management in shallow lakes in the project area. This includes the ability to use access trails to lakes for management purposes, allowing DNR to remove beaver dams that impede water flows, and coordination of any culvert replacements that may affect lake levels.	The Chippewa National Forest fully supports the DNR endeavor to protect or enhance shallow lakes and wild rice. Vegetation management activities proposed within riparian areas would enhance riparian health and function and therefore provide for conditions favorable to stream or lake health. Existing access to lakes for management would be retained and any watershed improvement projects such as removal of beaver dams or culvert replacements would be coordinated between Chippewa National Forest and DNR staff.
5-6	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	We recommend replacement of a failing culvert at the outlet of West Twin Lake to promote water flow and wild rice growth.	The Chippewa National Forest will review conditions of the culvert you have mentioned and evaluate management options in conjunction with DNR staff.
5-7	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	Vegetative management activities are proposed in the following stands that contain or are adjacent to DNR-inventoried rare resources or areas of biodiversity significance identified by the MN County Biological Survey (MCBS). Efforts should be made to verify the existence and extent of the rare resources and mitigate impacts to the resource of concern where possible.	We agree that efforts should be made to verify existence and extent of rare resources and mitigate impacts where possible. The Forest Service implements MFRC management guidelines when managing forest resources on the National Forest (p. 1-5). Standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan are intended to provide equal or greater protection to the resources addressed by the MFRC guidelines.
5-8	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont	Compartment 179, Stand 4: This stand is proposed as a 91 acre shelterwood harvest for red oak. This stand occurs within an MCBS currently ranked “high” site. Furthermore, the stand is centered in a larger, contiguous forest of	We have added the red-shouldered hawk nest site to the sensitive species locations for the Moon Project Area and we are examining some potential changes to the proposed shelterwood harvest. Overall, we have considered how our proposed management

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	the same cover type with known red-shouldered hawk nesting sites. Hawks prefer to hunt in these small, interspersed wetlands, as opposed to the lakeshores and large lowland areas surrounding swamps that exist to the south of the stand.	would affect the "high" biodiversity area.
5-9	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	Compartment 179, Stands 55, 56, 93: Proposed management for these sites is thinning of aspen for stands 55 & 93, and spruce/fir for stand 56. On the 2008 aerial photo, all three stands look to have a relatively high conifer component as the main canopy tree species. They do fall into a larger site that is currently ranked "high" on the biodiversity scale.	It appears to us that stands 179/55,56,93 are actually pine or spruce plantations. There are obvious windrows indicating past bulldozing or clearing. While it isn't possible to correct the damage from past heavy-handed management, we believe that thinning these stands will begin to create a more natural stand structure and increase species diversity. Achieving these objectives will enhance the biodiversity of the area.
5-10	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	Compartment 194, Stand 27: This stand includes the rare plant Matricary grapefern (*Botrychium matricariifolium*). There are also several documented locations of this plant in the forested area to the northwest of the proposed stand. There is also a record of the State threatened species Triangle Moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum)* in Section 15, T142N, R26W.	The matricary grapefern is not currently listed as sensitive on the Chippewa National Forest and, from our records, it appears to be relatively common compared to other grapefern species. It does not appear that this species requires site level protection. We recognize that this species can serve as an indicator for other Botrychium species, but our site level surveys did not detect any listed sensitive species. Direct impacts to listed sensitive species, including the triangle moonwort that you mention, would be mitigated with protective measures.
5-11	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	Compartment 180, Stand 47: The eastern half of the proposed 21 acre stand falls within the range of a known Great Blue heron nesting site from 1991. Herons nest in colonies and, usually, avoid areas of human disturbance. The last recorded nesting was a while ago, and we don't currently know if any herons are still nesting there.	We field checked the area around stand 180/47 in March 2010, but did not locate a great blue heron nesting colony in that area. The Chippewa Forest Plan's management direction for the great blue heron prohibits management activities within 330 feet of active colonies and prohibits management activities from March 1 through August 31 for the area within 330 feet to 660 feet of active colonies. If a heron colony is located, we will implement these protective measures at this or other sites.
5-12	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont	Compartment 157, Stand 30: There is a recorded occurrence of the State threatened species St. Lawrence Grapefern *(Botrychium rugulosum)* in the vicinity of this stand.	The location information that we have for this occurrence of *B.rugulosum* shows that it is well outside of stand 157/30. Preliminarly, we do not anticipate any direct adverse effects to this occurrence. Additionally, it is far enough outside of

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		beach road ne bemidji mn 56601		stand 157/30 that indirect effects are unlikely. An analysis of effects to this species will be included in the biological evaluation for the project. We will prescribe a mitigation if direct or indirect effects are anticipated.
5-13	02/18/2010	Michael Carroll Regional Director Department of NaturalRresources 2115 birchmont beach road ne bemidji mn 56601	Within the Moon Resource Management Project area there are a number of lakes and some streams with quality fisheries. Protection of water quality and riparian habitat is important for maintaining these fisheries. This is identified as a goal in the scoping document. Management actions proposed by the US Forest Service should protect or enhance water quality and riparian habitat.	Although voluntary, the Chippewa National Forest has chosen to adopt Minnesota's best management practices for forest management as guidelines (G-FW-1, p.2-8). All activities proposed in the project area will adhere to these practices, which have been shown through monitoring as being effective at protecting water quality (Dahlman 2008 and USDA 2008). Vegetation management activities proposed within riparian areas would enhance riparian health and function and therefore provide for conditions favorable to aquatic organisms. They will be discussed in greater detail in the Environmental Assessment.
6-1	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club supports maintaining and increasing mature and older upland forest patches greater than 300 acres. How many of these patches currently exist in the project area and where are they located? What is the current acreage of these patches? What is the potential for creating more of these patches or increasing existing patches?	There are a total of 8 large mature/older upland forest patches totaling 7,337 acres within the Moon Project Area (Chapter 3.4, table 3-28). They are found primarily in the south and north end of the project area. A map of large mature/older upland patches can be provided if desired. As with the Cuba and Boy River 2 projects, large mature/older upland patches would be maintained or increased in the Moon Project following implementation of the proposed activities.
6-2	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	Attachment 4 states that one of the purposes of this project is to improve the growth and vigor of plantation origin red pine; increase or maintain within stand species diversity and begin to create more natural spacing and structure within plantation origin red pine stands. The Sierra Club would like to see plantations returned a natural range of diversity; we support efforts to do this on the Chippewa. Tree plantations do not contribute to restoring our National Forests to conditions more representative of native vegetation communities. How do these tree	The stands included for thinning in the proposed action are all considered to be of plantation origin (1930-1978). Thinning activity in these stands will follow a variable density prescription that will maintain within stand diversity and promote a more natural appearance. Stands to be thinned for the first time will have corridors identified and removed in order to provide access for future thinning entries. Sustainability of diverse, functioning ecosystems is a key component of the Revised Plan. One reason for changing from the 1986 Forest Plan was the need for

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			farms contribute to the many goals and objectives in the Forest Plan aimed at restoring health, vigor and diversity to the forest?	an ecological approach to forest management that takes into account the physical, biological, economic and social factors that make ecosystems dynamic. The Revised Plan makes use of landscape ecosystems to help determine what ecological conditions are desired from the forest. (Appendix J Response to Comments, PC# 1.0.1-3, Forest Plan Revision Final EIS, Chippewa and Superior National Forests)
6-3	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club has concerns as to how logging will affect soil and water resources. Logging can lead to compaction, erosion and nutrient depletion. The Sierra Club would like to see an analysis of potential effects to soil and water resources in the Environmental Assessment. What project activities are planned for riparian maintenance or improvement?	The Chippewa National Forest will analyze the effects of proposed actions on soil and water resources in the Environmental Assessment, as well as discuss, in detail, what activities are planned for riparian maintenance or improvement. See Chapter 3.2 (Aquatics) and Chapter 3.3 (Soils). Road obliteration and closure are two of the activities planned.
6-4	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	How many impoundments/dams and drainage crossings occur within the project area and what state are they in?	There are no Forest Service managed dams or impoundments in the project area and no proposed actions regarding impoundments/dams.
6-5	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	Attachment 4 states that this project will maintain, protect, or improve habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered species. Which species specifically will benefit from this project? What plans does the Agency have to protect and improve sensitive species habitat (for the most part, in Minnesota, this is large, unfragmented, older, mature and old growth forest patches)? Of particular concern is the Canada lynx, the gray wolf and the northern goshawk. How will contributing to early successional forest habitat benefit wildlife? Which species will this benefit? Clearcutting a forest does not return it to a range of natural variation.	The Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessment for the Moon Project contain a list of sensitive, threatened, or endangered species in the project area. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to these species are addressed in these documents. These species include the Canada lynx, gray wolf, and the northern goshawk. The Biological Evaluation also contains an assessment of large upland forest patches and Management Indicator Habitats (MIHs) which are considered the coarse filter habitat conditions. The species that benefit from the creation of young forest and early successional forest are addressed in the MIH analysis contained in the BE and EA.
6-6	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club	The Sierra Club is pleased to see so many roads	The 2009 Chippewa National Forest Monitoring &

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	slated to be closed and rehabilitation efforts to take place. We very much support this. These kinds of efforts will improve the health of the Chippewa National Forest and the species that live there. How will the Agency assure that these roads stay closed and cannot be accessed by OHV's?	Evaluation report contains information on ATV use. Several road closures on the Chippewa National Forest were monitored in 2005 and 2007 M&E reports. On average, more than half of the roads observed had effective closures. Results of these monitoring efforts has caused the Chippewa National Forest to make a shift toward closing roads more frequently with rock berms and natural closures such as live trees and slash. These structures have generally been more effective than other options (USDA 2008).
6-7	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	It appears that several of the roads to be obliterated are unclassified roads. Are there any other unclassified roads in the project area? Will this project obliterate *all* unclassified roads in the project area?	No unclassified roads were identified for obliteration as the decision to obliterate unclassified roads on the Chippewa National Forest was made in the 2004 Forest Plan (S-TS-4, p.2-49). Thus, there is no decision to be made through this document. All unclassified roads within the project area will be obliterated as funding allows. Five unclassified road segments have no proposed obliteration because these segments (total 1.78 mi) have already grown shut (U3065, U3140, U5077, U5107, U5114) and three unclassified road segments (total 0.83 mi) are in other jurisdictions (U5116, U5152, U5153). Two unclassified road segments (total 0.42 mi) provide access to dispersed campsites (U9915, U5111). These will be closed via rock or barrier posts to all motorized uses.
6-8	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club is concerned that the benefits of obliterating roads will be offset by the opening of additional roads to OHV's and the building of 10 miles of temporary roads.	Temporary roads built for timber harvest access will be decommissioned after administrative use is completed, which is consistent with Forest Plan standard S-TS-3 (p.2-49). See Chapter 2.2, table 2-4. Miles of temporary roads was revised down from 10 to 1.2 miles.
6-9	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN	What is the need for opening up road 2703?	Forest Road (FR) 2703 is currently open to Highway Licensed Vehicle (HLV) use only, as decided in the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Road Travel Access Management Project decision in 2007. To address the inconsistency of allowing that use over OHVs,

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		55406-1024		when impacts may be more closely associated with HLV use, roads such as 2703 were recommended either open to all vehicles or closed. FR2703 was recommended open, because the road can generally support the use with minimal impact to natural resources. Portions of the road that may be degraded will be repaired or rebuilt as needed.
6-10	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club is concerned with how this project will contribute to climate change. The Chippewa National Forest is already a highly fragmented forest – the best defense our boreal forest ecosystems have against rising temperatures is to remain as intact, and unfragmented, as possible. Large blocks of forest will be most resilient, plus provide the most carbon sequestration capacity. Climate change will alter existing ecosystems and make it more difficult for plants and animals to adapt successfully to these changed ecosystems. How will the Moon Resource Management Project further impact existing ecosystems in combination with the effects of climate change within the Chippewa National Forest?	Because the majority of Forest Service projects are extremely small in the global atmospheric CO2 context, it is not presently possible to conduct quantitative analysis of actual carbon change effects based on individual or multiple projects. With respect to our project, knowing the effects on carbon is not key information the line officer would use in deciding among the project alternatives. Rather meeting the purpose and need for the project, addressing the issues, and achieving a balance of resource objectives are key considerations when making a decision. The Chippewa National Forest contains Forest Plan direction for moving toward increased diversity in amounts, conditions and patterns of vegetation (Vegetation Desired Conditions Forest Plan pp 2-41 and 2-22). This will result in forests that are more resilient to change. Not taking action to improve ecological health will likely result in lower carbon capture and storage (carbon sequestration) and increased carbon emissions in the future as the result of wildfire and losses from insects and disease. The Moon Project maintains or increases mature/older forest patches and creates diversity through uneven-aged vegetation management (Table 2-7).
6-11	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club would like to see the Agency prepare a climate change ecological resilience and resistance plan. This plan would identify the biological and ecological elements in the Chippewa National Forest that are most at risk by climate change, as well as the additional risk by implementing the Moon Resource Management Project. The plan should identify	The Chippewa National Forest's 2004 Final EIS does this. Forest Plan direction for moving toward increased diversity in amounts, conditions and patterns of vegetation (Vegetation Desired Conditions Forest Plan pp 2-41 and 2-22) will result in forests that are more resilient to change. Not taking action to improve ecological health will likely result in lower carbon capture and storage (carbon sequestration)

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			methods that would assist plants, animals and ecosystems in adapting to climate change.	and increased carbon emissions in the future as the result of wildfire and losses from insects and disease.
6-12	02/19/2010	The Sierra Club North Star Chapter 2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1 Minneapolis, MN 55406-1024	The Sierra Club also believes that it is time to start addressing what the increase in CO2 is from agency actions. The cutting of trees has been shown to create a pulse of carbon as a part of the activity – what amount does this create? Is there a way to monitor the increase of CO2 this project will create?	As long as growth exceeds removals, the forest is sequestering carbon. A 2004 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/catalyst/fa04-catalyst-forest-carbon-sequestration.html) stated that; " Even a forest that undergoes regular harvesting can act as a carbon sink as long as yearly growth exceeds the amount of carbon removed during harvest." In Minnesota, the "Overall net growth for all species continued to outpace harvest levels. According to 2007 FIA figures, annual net growth of growing stock on timberland was approximately 5.8 million cords and net mortality of approximately 3.10 million cords." (Minnesota's Forest Resources, December 2008, p. 3.) The 2000 RPA assessment also notes that "production and use of wood products in place of alternate products can reduce carbon emissions" (Interim Update of the 2000 Renewable Resources Planning Act Assessment, pp 83-85). Forest Plan direction for moving toward increased diversity in amounts, conditions and patterns of vegetation (Vegetation Desired Conditions Forest Plan pp 2-41 and 2-22) will result in forests that are more resilient to change. Not taking action to improve ecological health will likely result in lower carbon capture and storage (carbon sequestration) and increased carbon emissions in the future as the result of wildfire and losses from insects and disease.
7-1	02/19/2010	Brian Bignall Procurement Forester Potlatch Forest Products Corporation 50518 Cty 45 Bemidji MN 56601	Over 1500 acres of plantation pine were evaluated, which resulted in only 536 acres of commercial thinning. This is too few acres; widen the options to include more acres of pine thinning in the Moon project area. Also include natural origin pine in the evaluation process, these stands need management also.	There is a small amount of natural origin pine in comparison to the amount of plantation pine that is present on the district. The stands contain a substantial amount of diversity in comparison with plantation origin stands. This EA does look at natural origin pine and recommends regenerating 3 stands under the proposed action.
7-2	02/19/2010	Brian Bignall Procurement	Plantations should be on a consistent schedule of every 7- 10 years be evaluated for a thinning	All pine stands in the project area with a year of origin between 1930 and 1979 (30 years old) were

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Forester Potlatch Forest Products Corporation 50518 Cty 45 Bemidji MN 56601	starting at or near age 25, and final harvested at age 70.	reviewed for thinning needs before including them in the proposed action. This is the age span that we consider to be of plantation origin. The 30 year age minimum was chosen because it has been found to have a better representation of trees that have reached a merchantable size, and results in more volume available for harvest. From this list, pine that have not been thinned within the past 8 years were field reviewed. We have made an effort to see that all plantations are reviewed for harvest needs every 7 to 10 years. Many of the stands that were field checked and have carried through to the proposed action have been harvested as recently as 2002. Stands to be thinned for the first time will have corridors identified and removed in order to provide access for future thinning entries. Variable density thinning will be implemented across multiple LEs within the project area. Forest Plan objectives (D-VG-6 pg 2-21; O-VG-7 pg 2-22) identify the need to preserve and manage stands for both maintenance and increased diversity. The plantations that are included for thinning in the proposed action are all considered to be of plantation origin (1930-1978). Thinning activity in these stands will follow a variable density prescription that will maintain within stand diversity and promote a more natural appearance.
7-3	02/19/2010	Brian Bignall Procurement Forester Potlatch Forest Products Corporation 50518 Cty 45 Bemidji MN 56601	Pine areas north of Mabel lake on or near FR 2878 should be evaluated for a thinning again. Some of these stands were thinned under the Mabel II contract. These areas should be ready again and are not listed on the maps.	Pine stands to the north of Mabel Lake were analyzed in the Boy River 2 EA and are currently being prepared for sale. Anticipated sell date is 2010 or 2011.
8-1	02/26/2010	Bruce Johnson LLBO 115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E	Tribal values: The Moon RMP area includes sites used by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) members for traditional gathering. The quality and abundance	All forest management alternatives and activities incorporate tribal cultural resources, values, needs, interests, and expectations (Forest Plan D-TR-1, S-TR-3, 4, 6, G-TR-3, G-TR-4, pages 2-35, 2-36).

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Cass Lake MN 56633	of traditional resources in this area should therefore be protected, restored, or enhanced by the CNF. We will provide specific comments following receipt of the cultural resource information you are assembling, further analysis of LLDRM cultural resource information, and further communication with tribal communities near the Moon RMP area. We welcome future opportunities to partner with the CNF on activities aimed at enhancing traditional resources	Traditional resources and gathering rights receive high consideration. We balance these trust responsibilities across the Forest's multiple uses and diverse resources while moving toward meeting Forest Plan desired conditions. D-TR-1 expresses the desired condition on lands within the Forest to sustain American Indians' way of life, cultural integrity, social cohesion, and economic well-being. This broadly describes the Federal Government''s trust responsibility to the Band. A respectful government-to-government relationship is recognized between the Federal Government and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. This means the Forest provides opportunities for traditional American Indian land uses and resources, facilitates the exercise of the right to hunt, fish, and gather as retained by Ojibwe whose homelands were subject to treaty in 1855 (10 Stat. 1165). Ongoing opportunities for such use and constraints necessary for resource protection are reviewed and determined in consultation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (Forest Plan, D-TR-3, pg 2-35). We look forward to meeting with LLBO DRM again after your staff have had an opportunity to review the EA and cultural resource information.
8-2	02/26/2010	Bruce Johnson LLBO 115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E Cass Lake MN 56633	We are concerned about timber harvests in stands adjacent to wetlands and riparian areas. Harvest in riparian-emphasis areas, under the current Forest Plan, should only occur if the harvest enhances the function and aesthetics of the area. The CNF needs to develop a means of demonstrating to LLDRM that this practice is being followed.	Vegetation management activities proposed within riparian areas are specifically designed to maintain or enhance riparian health and function through a variety of treatments. Specific treatments will be discussed in greater detail in the EA, chapter 3, Aquatic and Soils sections. Proposed treatments are consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines of vegetation management in riparian management zones (p.2-12 through 2-15) and riparian emphasis areas (p.3-30). The proposed action has one stand that falls within Forest Plan, Riparian Emphasis management area

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				(p. 3-29). Compartment 189/stand 57 is a 3-acre, red pine stand (Scoping attachment 1). Actions not directly tied to watershed improvements are carried out in such a way that, at a minimum, maintains watershed conditions. This is done by following Best management practices in the FP and MFRC Gold Book (FY2008 M&E report, p.86). The Forest Plan contains guidance for buffer strips, filter strips, and visual strips; which will be followed and monitored. We have and will continue to monitor the effects of harvest and nonharvest activities based on the Forest Plan. We show these results in the annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (found on the Chippewa NF website). Results from site monitoring of wetlands and riparian areas the last several years indicate FP S&G, BMPs are being followed (M& E reports from FY2005 through 2008) Anyone can monitor our work by comparing our documentation with what they see in the forest. We welcome opportunities to visit with DRM in the field.
8-3	02/26/2010	Bruce Johnson LLBO 115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E Cass Lake MN 56633	Recommendations for revised Riparian Guidelines for Minnesota forestlands have recently been released for review. Rob Harper, Don Rees, and Gary Swanson attended a recent meeting of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership in which these recommendations were explained. Please comment on how the CNF will consider these recommendations in current or future projects.	The Chippewa National Forest has been an active stakeholder in recent discussions of changes to riparian management guidelines for Minnesota. The Chippewa National Forest will continue to hold current best management practices as standards for management of Forest Service lands and will adjust to the new guidelines as they are finalized.
8-4	02/26/2010	Bruce Johnson LLBO 115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E Cass Lake MN 56633	Rare and TES Species: The Moon RMP area contains suitable habitat for several rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Due to the degree of cross-ownership in this area and the complex habitat requirements of many rare and TES species, tribal, federal, state, and county agencies must work together at the landscape scale to protect critical habitat. We strongly recommend that you evaluate your proposed actions in conjunction with the other	To the degree that proposed management activities of other agencies are available, the Forest Service does consider these in landscape scale cumulative effects at the project level. The Chippewa Forest Plan objectives were set in consideration to other ownerships's management objectives. In some cases the Chippewa objectives compensate for actions on other lands and in other cases they compliment management on other lands. TES considerations are built into all alternatives (Chapter

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			resource management agencies operating in the Moon RMP area.	1.4)
8-5	2/26/2010	Bruce Johnson LLBO 115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E Cass Lake MN 56633	Unique Biological Areas: Under Forest Plan objective O-WL-31, the CNF is to "Enhance or restore high-quality habitat on a minimum of 20 known sites of sensitive plants." It is our understanding that the CNF has not yet completed designation and management plans of any new high-quality habitat sites since the Forest Plan was established in 2004. The Moon RMP area may include several features such as wild rice lakes and lowland conifer bogs that would qualify for proactive management as high-quality sites. We therefore request that the Moon RMP area be specifically surveyed and evaluated for sites that qualify for protection under O-WL-31. Proposed activities would then be re-evaluated with this protection in mind. For example, creating "wildlife openings" in close proximity to a Unique Biological Area could increase deer browse, which negatively impacts rare and TES species such as orchids.	The Walker Ranger District proposed and completed enhancement of a Canada yew site in the Portage Project Area to meet O-WL-31. Planting of Canada yew occurred in 2008. We did not identify any opportunities to conduct enhancement activities to contribute to Objective O-WL-31 in the Moon Project Area. We are protecting many rare species occurrences and, therefore, maintaining them in the Moon Project Area. We conduct extensive surveys for TES species in years prior to forming a project proposal. This is a key step that allows us to maintain and protect rare species occurrences. We are also maintaining landscape elements, like large mature/older upland forest patches, that contribute to rare species conservation. It is not clear what is meant by the term "Unique Biological Area" in your comment. In the context of the Chippewa Forest Plan, Unique Biological Areas are management area designations (MAs). Various MAs used in the Forest Plan help to zone multiple use management across the Forest. The Unique Biological Area MA is addressed on page 3-23 of the Forest Plan. We recognize that your meaning may be more generalized. To this end, we did examine the proximity of forest management activities in relation to known rare species occurrences or to landscape elements like wetlands or large mature/older upland forest patches as we formed the vegetation management proposal. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to these resources are disclosed in the EA, BE, and BA for the Moon Project.
9-1	03/01/2010	Bud Stone – President Grand Rapids Area Chamber of	We believe, as the Minnesota Forest Industries organization does, that the proposed management actions for the Moon Resource Management Project offer additional	See letter 3 response

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Commerce One NW Third Street Grand Rapids MN 55744 bud@grandmn.com	opportunities to come closer to meeting forest plan objectives than outlined. We would appreciate your taking into consideration the Minnesota Forest Industries comments on the Moon Resource Management Project when making your final decisions regarding this project.	
10-1	12/13/2009	Ted Dick theod@centurytel.net	…I wanted to take the opportunity to once again bring up the issue of ATV damage on trails in the Big Rice Lake Area. The attached photo is from USFS 2076 off of Wagenbach Road just west of Highway 6. This trail was gated off in the mid-ninties until vandals started cutting down the gate (the gate is still laying in the woods). After numerous complaints of ATV damage and numerous instances of having the gate removed, the agencies in charge designated the route as an ATV trail. Now the trail has sustained enough damage that it is unsuitable for nonmotorized recreation. The attached photo shows a typical stretch of the trail.	The IDT field checked this road segment and found much of the route has continuous portions of deep rutting and ponding of water (impacts primarily by HLVs and large OHVs but a significant amount of damage from ATVs as well); rogue trails are common (often around poor sections of the roads); and soils (heavy loam tills and wetlands) would not support any motorized use without major surfacing and maintenance (less so if just ATVs were allowed). Portions of 2076 are shown as open to HLVs on the 2009 MVUM. The effects of opening or closing forest roads to all motorized vehicles is analyzed in Chapter 3.2.3 (Aquatics), 3.3.2 (Soils), and 3.3.6 (Travel Management).
10-2	12/13/2009	Ted Dick theod@centurytel.net	I assume that the programs that allowed for motorized designation also provide funds for fixing the damage. It seems that even though we lost the discussion on whether or not to close the trail to motorized vehicles, walkers did not lose the right to use the trail and it is unusable in its current state. We would like to see it rehabilitated or closed again to motorized traffic. There are many other areas of damage like this between Big Rice and Johnson Lake.	We concur that portions of the roads and trails you've mentioned have been damaged due to motorized use. In response to your comments, the IDT has developed alternatives to the proposed action that would close some of the road and trail segments you mention to all motorized vehicles in order to allow impacted natural resources to recover. Portions proposed to be opened would be repaired or rebuilt in order to support recommended uses and protect natural resources.
10-3	12/13/2009	Ted Dick theod@centurytel.net	I have heard in the past that the CNF is reducing the percentage of young early successional habitat on the landscape but one thing I would like to see is some habitat work that promotes young brush types or cutting of some brushy habitat for woodcock use around edges or openings. We've really enjoyed some fun hunting in young patchy regenerating areas and would like to see more of that. Seems some	To contribute to ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat, the Walker Ranger District is proposing about 91 acres of forest opening maintenance, about 40 acres of small patch clearcuts in the Johnson Lake Hunter Walking Trail, and approximately 800 acres of traditional clearcut and coppice harvests across the Moon Project Area. Some brush types will be affected by this management proposal.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			hydroaxing, shearing, dozing could be done in areas that aren't great aspen types and also aren't suitable for longer-lived species.	
10-4	March 2010 written clarification 12/13/2009 Letter	Ted Dick theod@centurytel.net	(In reference to opened portions of FRs 2066 & 2076) "… My opinion on using this as ATV or vehicle (OHV) route is even if you get to use it for ATVs; they should not be able to wreck it without repairing it so it's walkable. We may have to share, but now walkers can't use it all… We don't mind getting off the trail to hunt, but it's still nice to get away from highway vehicles for the sake of the dogs. ATVs usually aren't a safety issue and they don't go there that often, but the few times they do they wreck it so it's still bad when we want to use the trail later. They should fix the damage… Allowing OHV or highway vehicles on the trail would wreck it to the point where we would not go back and would primarily benefit the few locals that we've seen putting up permanent deer stands. Please keep them out. This was a great place for walking hunters when it was gated. Now they race to the west end to hunt because that is all that's left. We've hunted here for 40 years without any problems. The big changes have been in the past 10 years when people cut down the gate and were rewarded by having the trail become an ATV trail despite our years of phone calls and letters" (referencing the north end of FR 2066, roughly ½ mile east of FR 2076).	We concur, that under current conditions, portions of the roads and trails you've mentioned are not suitable for motorized use. To respond to your concerns we've generated alternatives to the proposed action that would close some of the road and trail segments you mention to all motorized vehicles in order to allow impacted natural resources to recover. Portions proposed to be opened would be repaired or rebuilt in order to support recommended uses and protect natural resources.
10-5	March 2010 written clarification 12/13/2009 Letter	Ted Dick theod@centurytel.net	There seems to be an under representation of walking trails here as far as I've seen. We need more walking trails and fewer ATV trails. (referencing the road system, roughly 6 miles southwest of Remer, MN).	The proposed action and the alternatives generated in response to your comments give equal consideration of both motorized and nonmotorized options in the area you mention. The EA will discuss alternative effects and associated mitigation necessary to protect the resource.
11-1	2/18/2010	Lee Chambers 6265 State 200 NE Remer MN 56672	I'm responding to your proposal on the possible closing of Road # 2069B. …we use that road to access our hunting and wood gathering activities. ... If need be the people I represent would gladly agree to volunteer to do	The effects of opening or closing roads to all motorized vehicles, including effects specific to prohibiting motorized vehicle use on Forest Road 2069-B, will be analyzed in Chapter 3.6.3, Travel Management. The IDT has field checked portions of

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			maintenance and upkeep on Road 2069B. Also I've noticed some people are dumping buildling and used siding and sheetrock along Road 2069. We could organize and help clean those eyesoars up. Working together we could do a lot of good. Also if some roads must be closed, we would like to see them opened during the fall hunting, I think it would create good public relations in doing so.	this road. We appreciate your offer to volunteer. Please contact the District Ranger or Public Service staff when your volunteer resources are organized and able to collaborate on cleaning garbage dumping sites. Due to safety issues, it is imperative to meet with District personnel prior to operations to ensure the mission would be conducted safely and efficiently.
11-2	2/18/2010	Lee Chambers 6265 State 200 NE Remer MN 56672	Another idea that's been mentioned is why not reintroduce the spruce grouse back into the area. They used to be quite abundant in the early 1900s before all the logging back then, destroying their habitat.	The spruce grouse is considered a Regional Forester's Sensitive Species for the Chippewa. As such, we will protect habitat for this species where we know it exists. Regarding reintroduction of this species, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would be the lead agency in any species reintroduction of this type. The Forest Service primarily manages species habitat and defers to the State to manage populations of animals.
12-1	2/13/2010	Tom Chambers, 6241 State 200 NE, Remer, MN 56672	"I was planning on sending a letter this spring anyway to become a volunteer, and specifically to have the opprotunity [sic] to maintain parts of Roads #2069 and 2069B. These roads do receive a fair amount of traffic and with a little help from volunteers, from my neighbors and I, we can keep these roads in a better condition for those who use them with minimal impact on the environment. Now we don't have heavy equipment to properly grad the roads, but we do have some manpower, and with the use of hand tools, we can clear downed trees and fill some of the low spots to keep the roads in shape…If this option sounds like something you would consider, please let me know."	The effects of opening or closing roads to all motorized vehicles, including effects specific to prohibiting motorized vehicle use on Forest Road 2069 and 2069B, will be considered in Chapter 3.6.3. The IDT has field checked portions of these roads and other roads in the area. We appreciate your offer to volunteer. Please contact the District Ranger or Public Service staff when your volunteer resources are organized and able to collaborate. Due to safety issues, it is imperative to meet with District personnel prior to operations to ensure the mission would be conducted safely and efficiently.
13-1	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan comment attached to Dennis G Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	'Forest Road '2308" as shown on your map is on private land. It was agreed by the Deer River District Ranger to take it off your system. Please take action to do so."	This comment has been passed onto the Deer River Ranger District.
13-2	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan	'The 20 miles of additional logging roads should	Logging roads are temporary roads. Forest Plan

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		comment attached to Dennis G Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	be seeded and maintained for hunter walking trails."	Standard, S-TS-3 (pg 2-49) requires these roads to be closed to motorized use and vegetation established within 10 years after termination of the contract, lease, or permit. The public is welcome to use these roads for hunter walking trails.
13-3	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	"The closing of the Forest Road '2057" would close a heavily used access to the North end of Rice Lake. For users of the North end of the lake it shortens a 2 mile paddle from the access off Highway 6 (and a 3 mile paddle from the DNR access). Often times there is no parking available except on the side of the highway, which has very limited shoulder space."	The Forest Service access to Big Rice Lake is not a part of this project. We understand the limitations of this access. FSR 2057 is proposed to be obliterated as part of this project because of the poor condition of the road and the impacts it is having.
13-4	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	You need to consider the economics of stand size….Under "Purpose and Need for Action" the 300 acre goal is not being obtained in a single stand	It is unclear as to the reference to "300 acre goal." We will consider patch sizes of 300 or more acres in the EA, chapter 3, MIH13 analysis.
13-5	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	You are not increasing the conifer forest type to any great extent in this proposal. None in the BHC. Numerous opportunities for stand conversions exist in the MNH and DMP landscape.	We proposed to convert 337 acres to Upland conifer in DMP, MNH, and TS LEs. No opportunity for conversion was found in BHC. Converting forest types costs more and we have considered stands for conversion based on site factors and the ability to meet other Forest Plan objectives.
13-6	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	Your MNH is a true Mesic ecological type. That is meaning dry. This ecological type will never grow into an economical northern hardwood stand. The trees on these soils are not productive enough to grow valuable hardwood trees. They frost crack, develop poor form and are susceptible to insect and disease because they are not thrifty. These stands should be converted to White Pine stands, or Red Pine or Spruce, depending on soil types.	In addition to economic considerations, the Forest Plan for the Chippewa contains management objectives for multiple resources including wildlife habitat and riparian requirements. Management objectives for the MNH LE include increasing or maintaining the percentage of hardwood forest type. Historical data indicates that the canopy of the MNH LE was dominated by sugar maple, basswood and paper birch with minor amounts of yellow birch and oak.
13-7	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	With Emerald Ash Borer in our back door, what plans are in your proposal to convert these stands? A great opportunity here for planting white pine. …Under what landscape ecosystem would the Ash stands be classified? Then, would they be clear cut, shelterwood, group selection etc?	The current Forest Plan does not identify clearcutting as an acceptable method of regeneration for black ash, due to a resulting increased rise in water levels. Currently we are looking at black ash stands on an individual basis for conversion opportunities through selection harvests. The black ash stands are typically located on wetter soils and are more suited

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				to conversions that include lowland species.
13-8	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	You have not mentioned Ruffed Grouse in your proposal.	A habitat approach is used and referenced in Purpose and Need statements (Attachment 4, pg 2). Ruffed grouse are considered through Wildlife MIS/MIH, along with many other wildlife species. Contributions to grouse habitat will include creation of 868 acres of early successional forest habitat through cleacut and coppice harvests.
13-9	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	As to wildlife openings in the rest of the proposal plan, you nearly forgot about 20 acres. Lets work on at least 1% of the forest area for permanent wildlife openings. (40,000 acres=400 or 2700=27 acres in this proposal outside the JLA).	We believe that the amount of permanent opening maintenance is adequate in the project area. We propose to maintain 93 acres of existing permanent forest openings. Additionally the 868 acres of clearcut and coppice harvests will create temporary forest openings for wildlife species that prefer this habitat. This includes 52 acres of small patch clearcuts in the Johnson Lake HWT. Overall fewer permanent forest openings are to be maintained under the 200 Forest Plan (O-VG-6) than previously.
13-10	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	An objective of the US Forest Service and directed by Congress in about 1980 was to have all the National Forest property boundaries to standard by year 2020. Along with this goal was to maintain these lines once they were established- on a 10 year maintenance schedule….this proposal takes numerous actions along your neighbors land where the lines are approximate. This should not be done as it is inviting trespass.	Proposed actions along or near boundary lines are generally coordinated with the forest land surveyor for scheduling the surveying or maintenance as budget and time allow. When we are not able to survey property lines, the Forest Service has made an effort to operate well within the National Forest boundaries to avoid instances of trespass. Further details regarding Forest Service policy are in the project record (Specialist Input\email(2010-04-30)_Hayes&Klinkhammer property lines).
13-11	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	What is your references to the Forest Plan D-TR-1 and O-TR-1? This proposal is all outside the Leech lake Indian Reservation so why would you be consulting with the Band on this proposal?	D-TR-1 expresses the desired condition on lands within the Forest to sustain American Indians' way of life, cultural integrity, social cohesion, and economic well-being. This broadly describes the Federal Government''s trust responsibility to the Band. O-TR-1 expresses a Forest objective to improve relationships with American Indian tribes in order to understand and incorporate tribal cultural resources, values, needs, interests, and expectations in forest management and develop and maintain cooperative partnership projects where there are shared goals.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				A respectful government-to-government relationship is recognized between the Federal Government and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. This means the Forest provides opportunities for traditional American Indian land uses and resources, facilitates the exercise of the right to hunt, fish, and gather as retained by Ojibwe whose homelands were subject to treaty in 1855 (10 Stat. 1165). Ongoing opportunities for such use and constraints necessary for resource protection are reviewed and determined in consultation with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (Forest Plan, D-TR-3, pg 2-35). (See response 34-4.)
13-12	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	What is the duration of this proposal? Is it not reasonable to enter a compartment once in a 10-year period? If this proposal is for one year, then you should be entering maybe 10 compartments, not 40, concentrating your efforts for economic efficiencies.	There is no “expiration” date. The proposal is a first step in a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process that will conclude later this year with a signed decision by the District Ranger. Management activities in the decision document (for example, timber sales, reforestation, road decommissioning) would be ongoing until completed. The project area would likely be re-entered in about 10 years or sooner if on-the-ground conditions changed (for example, fire, wind storm damage). Typically timber sales take from 3-5 years to complete after the Decision Notice is signed by the District Ranger. NFMA (National Forest Management Act) planning efforts will likely begin in preparation for the next EA in about 7 years (collection of CSE data, review of stands by District staff, plant and animal habitat/species surveys, tribal consultation).
13-13	2/8/2010	Milo E. Stefan 7018 74th Ave NE Remer MN 56672	What is the definition of CCFs?	One-hundred cubic feet (volume).
14-1	2/12/2010	John Dickerman, 313 Viking Dr., Mankato, MN 56001-4103	“My first comment is on trail 2071 and 2069 being open to all vehicles. This is part of the Lost Girl Snowmobile Trail. There has been repair work done in the past on either side of where the two trails meet. During the spring it would be good to keep 4 x 4 trucks off of this	The IDT visited portions of FR2071, 2069, and the Lost Girl Snowmobile Trail. The effects of opening or closing roads to all motorized vehicles, including effects specific to prohibiting motorized vehicle use on these roads is considered in the EA, Chapter 3.6.3

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			section of the trail."	
14-2	2/12/2010	John Dickerman, 313 Viking Dr., Mankato, MN 56001-4103	"Every mile of trail on Federal Land is becoming more valuable each year because of the closure of trails over the past twenty years. This project is dealing with 40 some trails from .12 miles in length up to 2.42 miles. I would agree some of these closures would be good since the trail is in wetlands."	The effects of opening or closing motorized roads through wetlands will be considered in the EA, chapter 3.2.3, Aquatics.
14-3	2/12/2010	John Dickerman, 313 Viking Dr., Mankato, MN 56001-4103	"I question the closure of the trails 2792 through 2792F. These trails are in the Mesic Northern Hardwoods area. It would be different if they were in a Tamarack Swamp area. They are adjoining and valuable for public use."	The IDT visited portions of FR 2792 system and the effects of opening or closing these roads to all motorized vehicles is analyzed in the EA, Chapter 3.6.3 (Travel Management),
14-4	2/12/2010	John Dickerman, 313 Viking Dr., Mankato, MN 56001-4103	"Please take into considerations the cumulative loss that every one of these trails represents. I strongly endorse preserving our Natural Resources for the Forest Service's use, my use and that of future generations."	We agree that preserving our natural resources is important—that is why we disclosed these proposed changes in use to the public. Cumulative effects of opening or closing roads to all motorized vehicles is part of the EA, Chapter 3.2.3 (Aquatics), 3.3.3 (Soils), 3.4/3.5 (Wildlife/TES), and 3.6 (Travel Management) analyses.
15-1	2/18/2010	John S Novicki Jnovicki.mn@comcast.net	I am a disable veteran that uses the area…for both deer hunting and grouse hunting! I have a permit to shoot from a motorized vehicle and utilize Road #2069B for both grouse and deer hunting…If the DNR shuts down Road #2069B, then I will no longer be able to hunt there…Please take into consideration my situation before the DNR makes the decision to close down any roads especially Road #2069B.	These proposals are on Forest Service administered public lands only and do not reflect proposals from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Comments are used to create the range of alternatives described in the EA, Chapter 2.
15-2	2/18/2010	John S Novicki Jnovicki.mn@comcast.net	"..I would eve[n] try to perform some maintenance of the road."	Thank you for your offer. We will share this information with the District Public Service Staff.
Road management letters specific to the MVU map update process follow. The purpose of scoping was to disclose to the public that possible changes to the decisions from the 2007 MVU DN are now being considered. These comments will contribute to future updates of the 2007 MVUM update process.				
16-1	2/10/2010	Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association c/o John G. Schnorr: PO Box 1865, Fond du Lac, WI, 54936-1865,	"…it simply does not make sense to further limit motorized recreational activities by closing already available and popular riding opportunities."	The *2007 Chippewa National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Project Decision* is part of the national travel management framework and provides implementation direction under the 2004 Forest Plan. Over the past ten years, there has been a dramatic

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		ceo@WOHVA.com		increase in off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in relationship to advances in motor vehicle manufacturing and technology. Management activities are designed to address how OHVs are now used on the Chippewa National Forest towards the goals, objectives, and desired conditions of the 2004 Forest Plan and to meet the requirements of the national 2005 Travel Management Rule. See Appendix G, Travel Management Rule Summary.
16-2	2/10/2010	Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association c/o John G. Schnorr: PO Box 1865, Fond du Lac, WI, 54936-1865, ceo@WOHVA.com	"WOHVA encourages the Forest Service to work with motorized recreational groups to develop a partnership with these groups….[to] find solutions to some of their financial and budgetary restrictions, thus avoiding closures such as those you've proposed."	The Walker Ranger District is working with motorized recreational groups and continues to do so. This includes three area snowmobile clubs, as well as area OHV/All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) groups. Determining funding sources for road maintenance and improvement projects is not part of the Moon project analysis, but is critical to getting work done to maintain or improve public access. Several funding opportunities exist and are being actively explored for work in the Moon area. This includes stewardship contracting, partnering with local governments and working with interested recreation groups. The availability of funding resources will affect the timeliness of and ability to open or maintain access to roads that have erosion and watershed problems.
16-3	2/10/2010	Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association c/o John G. Schnorr: PO Box 1865, Fond du Lac, WI, 54936-1865, ceo@WOHVA.com	"With the growing demand for motorized recreational opportunities, WOHVA does not support any Forest Plan which does not list as an alternative, the expansion of motorized recreational riding opportunities. Again, your Plan did not."	This comment refers to Forest Plans. The Forest Plan for the Chippewa National Forest was completed in 2004 and comments on that Plan are not part of the scope of the Moon project. Alternatives within the Moon project do respond to public comments. See Chapter 2 for a description of alternative development as well as Chapter 3, Travel Management, for a more specific discussion of road use alternatives and effects. An expansion of motorized recreation opportunities was not part of the Purpose and Need for this project. The purpose and need for the project is stated in Chapter 1 and was shared in the scoping documents. The 2007 Chippewa National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Project Decision is part of the national travel management framework and

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				provides implementation direction under the 2004 Forest Plan. Chippewa Forest Plan, pages 2-42, Desired conditions, D-RMV-1: "The Forest provides Recreational Motor Vehicles (RMV) road and trail riding opportunities with experiences in a variety of forest environments, while protecting natural resources." Chippewa Forest Plan, pages 2-42, Objectives, O-RMV-2: "A maximum of 90 additional ATV trail miles and 100 snowmobile trail miles with associated trail facilities (trailhead parking, signs, toilets, etc) may be added to the designated National Forest Trail system.
16-4	2/10/2010	Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association c/o John G. Schnorr: PO Box 1865, Fond du Lac, WI, 54936-1865, ceo@WOHVA.com	"WOHVA requests that we be added to any and all written announcements, documents, or correspondence mailing lists so as to remain updated on this and all matters pertaining to motorized recreation in the Chippewa National Forest."	WOHVA will be added to the mailing list for all Chippewa National Forest projects, as well as being kept current on the Moon EA Project mailing list.
17-1	2/11/2010	Eric and Lisa Hillger 8635 Emerson Ave. So. Bloomington, MN 55420	"It's surprising to me that we have to learn of these changes of how we can use our federal land indirectly in the middle of winter when communication methods today are so vast…people who will be impacted and will not receive the information until it's too late to respond to the 30 day open to comments period."	See Response 19-2.
17-2	2/11/2010	Eric and Lisa Hillger, 8635 Emerson Ave. So. Bloomington, MN 55420	"We ask that you implement a more reasonable multiple-use alternative that will meet the needs of ALL the public wanting to have access [to] the Chippewa National Forest.	See EA, Chapter 2 for alternative development responding to a variety of public issues and concerns about access.
17-3	2/11/2010	Eric and Lisa Hillger, 8635 Emerson Ave. So. Bloomington, MN	"I ask that you work with local ATV clubs to seek a preferred alternative that would allow a 50/50 sharing and equal opportunity of non-motorized to motorized trails."	See Response 16-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		55420		
18-1	2/11/2010	Dick and Carol Beam 2065 Peninsula Rd Outing MN rbeam@brainerd.net	"…we use these trails when we go riding, so we would like to use these trails when we go out, so please keep these trails open for us older group to use."	Forest Service motorized vehicle opportunities are open to all legally authorized riders to use.
19-1	2/10/2010	Eric Bunkers, 6687 Forest St. Farmington, MN 55024	"I'm writing this letter to state my opposition to shutting down a net of 21 miles of road access that overturns a decision made by Forest Supervisor Rob Harper in 2007. I disagree with shutting down these roads since it will result in vehicle concentrations, keeps people away from our forests that as tax payers we all pay for, and…reinforces OHV's negative public opinions that already occur…"	The road use proposals made in the Moon project that pertain to the 2007 OHV decision made by Rob Harper do not overturn that decision. Instead, the 2007 OHV decision recognized that there will be inconsistencies and inaccuracies that will need to be addressed at the site-specific project level, and it states that such changes be made with public involvement. By including proposed changes to the MVUM map within the Moon project, the intent of the 2007 OHV decision is being met. The 2007 OHV Decision Notice states: --On page 2: "One of the issues complicating management is that this decision will address only ORVs, not highway licensed vehicles." --On page 8: "I recognize that there is a difference in how ORVs [OHVs] and highway licensed vehicles[HLVs] are used and therefore, some roads may be open to highway licensed vehicles while closed to ORVs. Many of the roads that are closed to ORV use while remaining open to highway licensed vehicles will be considered in future project specific analysis to determine if they should be closed to all motorized use." The Moon Project EA addresses this travel management inconsistency and confusion it causes by analyzing roads currently open to HLVs only (passenger cars, trucks, SUVs) and closed to OHV use and proposing, in alternatives, that these roads are either "open to all" or "closed to all". For clarity, snowmobile use is not affected and

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				outside the scope of the Moon EA. "Open to all" means open to both off-highway-vehicles (OHV) and open to highway-licensed-vehicles (HLV). "Closed to all" means closed to both OHV and HLV. All current snowmobile use will remain unchanged. Travel management remains an ongoing process on the Walker Ranger District. The District recognizes that all MVUM inconsistencies cannot be identified or implemented at one time in one project. As partnerships and funding sources increase, more access opportunities may become available. The *2007 Chippewa National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Project Decision* is part of the national travel management framework and provides implementation direction under the 2004 Forest Plan.
19-2	2/10/2010	Eric Bunkers, 6687 Forest St. Farmington, MN 55024	"I'm also questioning the timing of this proposed action. During the winter in MN, there are less people and part-time residences in the area, thus, if controversial actions are proposed, they are more easily passed due to lack of resistance. At the very least, I would hope the Forest Service would post-pone this action until July and at that time would post this proposal more publically [sic] on line, in local and Twin City newspapers, and on local television."	We have learned that we need to scope Resource Management Projects, including travel management actions, differently than we have in the past. It is important to note that the scoping period is not the only opportunity that the public has to comment on the road issues in the Moon project area. There is an additional 30-day comment period upon completion of the Environmental Analysis document. And, public partnerships and cooperative activities are critical to the long term maintenance and improvement of road systems and therefore public access. These activities are ongoing and not limited to comment periods on the Moon project. For NEPA process references: The *Chippewa* [National Forest] *Quarterly* provides a summary of project environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. The *Quarterly* is issued in January, April, July, and October of each year and compliments other public involvement opportunities. Analysis projects are described in three "planning categories" and provide the name of a project contact

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				person. Legal notices for each proposed analysis project are published in local newspapers of record. The Walker (MN) Ranger District's newspaper of record is ***The Pilot-Independent,*** a weekly newspaper publication. The Chippewa National Forest website also serves as a place the general public can learn of Forest events, news, and proposed projects. http://fs.usda.gov/chippewa
20-1	2/9/2010	Dennis G. Stefan, 7018 74th Ave. NE, Remer, Mn 56672	"The major concern I have is the closing of roads. After reading your plan there were no reason's given for closing the trails and roads. We as business owners need all types of recreational use of our forests, not less. The more reason[s] for people to visit and create 'jobs' in our area is most important."	Scoping letter Attachments 2 and 3, listed "reasons for obliteration" and "reasons for proposal", respectively. The Moon EA project area provides a range of recreational opportunities, including motorized recreation (e.g.Soo Line ATV Trail) and nonmotorized recreation uses (e.g. North Country National Scenic Trail).
21-1	2/8/2010	Tom and Kathy Maus, 254 Hwy 33 North, Cloquet, MN 55720	"We recently became aware that Chippewa National Forest – Walker Ranger Station is planning to close approximately 27 miles of roads in the Remer area to all vehicles. Unfortunately this was brought to our attention not through public communications from this government agency, but through private concerns."	See Response 19-2.
21-2	2/8/2010	Tom and Kathy Maus, 254 Hwy 33 North, Cloquet, MN 55720	"We have been involved in using these roads for the past 25 years and more recently purchased property in this area for recreational use based on viable accessibility to these roads."	Thank you for your comment.
21-3	2/8/2010	Tom and Kathy Maus, 254 Hwy 33 North, Cloquet, MN 55720	"As an older couple we enjoy being in the forest during much of the year but find our stamina precludes us from only walking the roads. Using four wheelers to transport ourselves from one area to another along these trails/roads is essential to our physical well being."	The travel management proposal discloses pending changes to the Motorized Vehicle Use Map to consistently designate forest system roads as either closed or open to motorized uses and, importantly, it affords opportunities for public comment.
22-1	2/08/2010	John Roscoe, 5077 Inqua Trail, Remer, MN, 56672	"In the last few years the trails have been slowly been closed, one trail in particular was used by my family and fourteen other families to get into our deer hunting area. We all drove in this trail about one half mile and walked whatever we	See Response 21-3. Moon Lake may still be accessed.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			needed. In the spring you could not tell anyone had used the trail. Not only did we use the trail in the fall a lot of other families used the trail all summer to gather berries, which supplied many needy families with fruit. I have lost my and my families deer hunting area we are not capibable [sic] of walking the distance, and if we got a deer we would never be able to get it out….I and my friends like to go into [M]oon [L]ake for fishing…Due to the fact if the two trails into the lake are closed we will not be able to get into it, nor anyone else."	
22-2	2/08/2010	John Roscoe, 5077 Inqua Trail, Remer, MN, 56672	"Our economy in the area has taken a large hit in the last few years, WE NEED TO KEEP THESE TRAILS OPEN and open some of the closed trails."	Reasons for road management proposals are discussed in responses 19-1 and 17-2. Public access and road use is a significant issue discussed in detail throughout the EA.
22-3	2/08/2010	John Roscoe, 5077 Inqua Trail, Remer, MN, 56672	"A thirty day notice is very short and a sneaky way of getting trail closures without the public support."	See Response 19-2.
23-1	2/8/2010	Harold Wagenbach, Remer, MN 56672	"Would you be so kind as to explain why it is that the DNR (or special groups) think that it is necessary to close these trails to the public…this is public land that should remain open for everone [sic] and there choosen [sic] means of using those trails."	The reasons for proposing changes to the road system are discussed in: Response 19-1, EA Chapter 1 (the Purpose and Need for the project), Chapter 2 (development of alternatives) and Chapter 3 of the EA.
24-1	2/1/2010	Jeff Herfindahl, 48828 US Hwy. 2, Deer River, MN 56636	"I continue to question your logic and goals concerning further road closings and decommissioning. First, after my many years of travels in our north woods forests, I can tell you that motorized vehicles disturb wildlife very little and certainly less that a person on foot…I hereby request you to revise your 'Reasons for Proposal' to be changed to not include, 'and wildlife disturbance'"	Conditions of individual roads in the project area are documented in the scoping package and in the administrative record. These conditions were used to propose changes in use or to identify mitigations needed to address issues (See Appendix B for mitigations to road proposals). In many cases there are several reasons for a proposed change in road use and the reasons are considered together. Some issues can be mitigated and these mitigations and associated costs are addressed in the EA as alternatives to closures. An interdisciplinary approach was used that considered both the recreation and the natural resource values and concerns.
24-2	2/1/2010	Jeff Herfindahl,	"My next point is these roads are needed for	See Response 24-1.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		48828 US Hwy. 2, Deer River, MN 56636	long term management for F.S. lands…access to fight forest fires. Without these roads to access and put out fires, fires will become larger and burn more forests…If we don't manage our forest by building and maintaining roads, harvesting timber and fighting fires but instead continue to let them burn we need to consider this…I hereby request you to revise your 'Reasons for Proposal' to be changed to not include, 'not needed for long term management of F.S. lands;"	
24-3	2/1/2010	Jeff Herfindahl, 48828 US Hwy. 2, Deer River, MN 56636	"What you fail to consider here is the forest user themselves! How about the ATVers, hunters and berry pickers that actually use these roads. Why, isn't this public land? I hereby request you revise your 'reasons for Proposal' to be changed to not include 'no apparent concern to other ownerships."	See Response 24-1.
24-4	2/1/2010	Jeff Herfindahl, 48828 US Hwy. 2, Deer River, MN 56636	"I cannot support any E.A. that changes the mileage of the 2007 Off Highway Vehicle Road Travel Decision."	See Response 19-1.
25-1	2/11/2010	Scott & Janet Rayman, 2885 Quaker Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441	"It's surprising to me that we have to learn of these changes of how we can use our federal land indirectly in the middle of winter when communication methods today are so vast…people who will be impacted and will not receive the information until it's too late to respond to the 30 day open to comments period."	See Response 19-2.
25-2	2/11/2010	Scott & Janet Rayman, 2885 Quaker Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441	"We ask that you implement a more reasonable multiple-use alternative that will meet the needs of ALL the public wanting to have access [to] the Chippewa National Forest."	See Responses 19-1 and 23-1.
25-3	2/11/2010	Scott & Janet Rayman, 2885 Quaker Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441	"I ask that you work with local ATV clubs to seek a preferred alternative that would allow a 50/50 sharing and equal opportunity of non-motorized to motorized trails."	See Response 16-2.
26-1	2/3/2010	Jim Lewis, 3552 8th Ave. NW, Hackensack, MN	"…I am concerned by recent and continuing closure of access roads in the CNF. I can understand taking action to protect the North	See Response 19-1.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		56452	Country Trail particularly where there have been abuses by OHV's, by many other closures just make it more difficult to access the CNF by the public. Using the proposed closing of 3572 as an example, this action eliminates access to a large portion of land adjacent to Hwy. 200."	
26-2	2/3/2010	Jim Lewis, 3552 8th Ave. NW, Hackensack, MN 56452	"I also understand budget are tight. I would be happy to volunteer time and equipment to help maintain trails if that is an issue and others would also.	Thank you. We will share this information with the District Public Service Staff.
26-3	2/3/2010	Jim Lewis, 3552 8th Ave. NW, Hackensack, MN 56452	I would also like to see the NFS work with the state and county in developing loop trails which would improve the experience of those venturing into the CNF. Cooperation is much more effective in solving problems then alienation."	The Chippewa National Forest and Walker Ranger District have are working with State of Minnesota and the Cass County Lands Department and will continue to do so. Hence, we are aware of the respective agencies' current positions on the development of loop trails and motorized trail opportunities in general. See Response 19-1.
27-1	2/18/2010	Darrel Palmer, 22752 Serenity Lane, Nisswa, MN 56448	I am opposed to further trail closing in the Chippewa National Forest!..It seems like the trend is away from allowing motorized vehicle use in these areas and I am opposed to this trend…Very few individuals like walking cross country through the heavily timbered/brushy/swampy areas that are encompassed within the Chippewa National Forest without a trail and therefore less public use will occur in these areas if they are off limits to motorized use because no one will maintain the trails and they will disappear in a short period of time if not maintained.	See Response 19-1.
27-2	2/18/2010	Darrel Palmer, 22752 Serenity Lane, Nisswa, MN 56448	I am attaching for your reference a study that was done by the Minnesota Department of Tourism in 2005 and from which I pulled the following benefits for Minnesota…Can we afford to shut down trails and therefore have residents…go to other states like Wisconsin or out west where they have more trails to ride and we as Minnesota lose the jobs /revenues /tax benefits	The Purpose and Need for the Moon Project includes making travel management opportunities consistent with the 2007 OHV decision. The 2007 OHV decision contained a detailed economic analysis that tiered to the Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement economic analysis. These economic analyses were reviewed are included by reference and do contain important information for this project. These documents are available on the Chippewa National Forest website at fs.usda.gov/chippewa.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				Because the OHV and the associated economic and social issues were analyzed at the forestwide scale, these issues are not addressed in detail at the project scale. The information available information from the Forest Plan and the OHV FEIS will be fully considered by the Deciding Official.
27-3	2/18/2010	Darrel Palmer, 22752 Serenity Lane, Nisswa, MN 56448	Our ATV club is mainly made up of people in their mid 60's to almost 80 years of age – ATV's allow them to enjoy the woods. ATV's also allow veterans, who have been disabled in defending our count[r]y's freedoms, to still use the woods, and enjoy friends and family and a sport they love.	Thank you for your comment.
27-4	2/18/2010	Darrel Palmer, 22752 Serenity Lane, Nisswa, MN 56448	As opposed to closing trails the Chippewa National Forest should be looking for areas that ATV riders can ride in that provide scenic riding areas so people will want to ride their ATV's and increase the use of our forests and help Minnesota's economy.	See Response 19-1 and 27-2.
27-5	2/18/2010	Darrel Palmer, 22752 Serenity Lane, Nisswa, MN 56448	In summary, I cannot see that ATV's are harming this area from an environmental standpoint based on the uses that I have observed in the last 40 years, the trails that are used and maintained by ATV's allow easier access to timber harvest, provide a return on investment to the taxpayers by providing a higher value for the timber harvest, increase the potential for additional tourism to occur in this area which brings significant economic	Thank you for your comment.
28-1	2/12/2010	Dennis Halverson rdhalvy@q.com	We are taxpaying seasonal property owners in Rogers Township in Cass County. We do not understand the continual federal closing of motorized recreational opportunities especially in the current economic climates for working individuals.	See Response 19-1.
28-2	2/12/2010	Dennis Halverson rdhalvy@q.com	We have learned about these requested changes of how we can lose motorized access to public land in the dead of winter from business owners out of the affected area.	See Response 19-2.
28-3	2/12/2010	Dennis Halverson rdhalvy@q.com	"I would think the federal government would cherish visitor's spending money in this area.	See Responses 19-1 and 27-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			Reasonable alternatives must be investigated and a more reasonable multiple-use alternative that meets needs of all of the public must be chosen. The Chippewa National forest has a lot to offer and we do not want to lose motorized recreational opportunities."	
29-1	2/12/2010	Josh Haen jjhaen@comcast.net	"It's surprising to me that we have to learn of these changes of how we can use our federal land indirectly in the middle of winter when communication methods today are so vast…people who will be impacted and will not receive the information until it's too late to respond to the 30 day open to comments period."	See Response 19-2.
29-2	2/12/2010	Josh Haen jjhaen@comcast.net	"We ask that you implement a more reasonable multiple-use alternative that will meet the needs of ALL the public wanting to have access [to] the Chippewa National Forest."	See Responses 19-1 and 23-1.
29-3	2/12/2010	Josh Haen jjhaen@comcast.net	"I ask that you work with local ATV clubs to seek a preferred alternative that would allow a 50/50 sharing and equal opportunity of non-motorized to motorized trails."	See Response 16-2.
30-1	2/15/2010	Nicky Sneen, 2355 Polaris Lane North, Suite 100, Plymouth, MN 55447	"The repeated loss of motorized recreational opportunities is our primary concern. We ask that you put into operation a more sensible multiple-use alternative that will meet the needs of ALL the public wanting to have access to the Chippewa National Forest."	See Response 19-1 and 16-2.
30-2	2/15/2010	Nicky Sneen, 2355 Polaris Lane North, Suite 100, Plymouth, MN 55447	"I ask that you work with local ATV clubs to seek a favored alternative that would allow a 50/50 sharing and equal opportunity for non-motorized to motorized trails. "	See Response 16-2.
31-1	2/16/2010	Daniel & Alice Olmschenk, 10570 West Lake Road, Rice, MN 56367	"The intent of this letter is to let you know who we are and the importance of open trails for atv riding and other recreational use…We are ATV instructors and volunteer "Trail Ambassadors" for the Mn. DNR. We spend a lot of time in Cass County riding our machines, fishing, and hunting. Our grown children and grand-children do also. We are sharing this information with you so you realize the importance of open trails in	See Response 19-1 and 16-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			the Chippewa National Forest. Multiple use benefits many people and provides needed revenue to help maintain the forest."	
32-1	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	My family, friends, club members and I enjoy riding OHVs on primitive trails and roads and a number of our members have enjoyed national forests in Minnesota including the Chippewa National Forest. We feel all multiple-use land managed by the Forest Service provides a significant source of these OHV recreational opportunities.	Thank you for your comment.
32-2	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	I feel that we are representative of the needs of the majority of visitors who recreate on public lands but are not being organized with a collective voice to comment on their needs during the public input process…All of these multiple-use visitors use roads and motorized trails for their recreational purposes and the decision must take into account motorized designations serve many recreation activities, not just recreational trail riding."	Thank you for your comment.
32-3	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	"In the last several years, many federal actions have led to the continual closure of motorized recreational opportunities and access, especially toward OHV use, and at the same time the number of OHV recreationists has grown to 50 million and at the same time other outdoor activities have declined 18-25%."	Thank you for your comment.
32-4	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	"The Moon project is outside the Ojibwa reservation, yet it also says one of the objectives of the project is to incorporate tribal cultural resources, values, needs, interests, and expectations. This makes no sense."	The Chippewa National Forest has a unique Government to Government relationship with Tribal Governments as directed and mandated by the U S Congress and National Preservation Act, Section 106. See response 13-11.
32-5	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	"Also, why is there no (or very little) publicity of these continued motorized closings and why is it done in the middle of winter when many people aren't even in the area and with a comment period of just 30 days?"	See Response 19-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
32-6	2/12/2010	Jeff & Jane George Woodtick Wheelers ATV/OHM Club PO Box 83 Hackensack MN 56452	"The general public believes that these comments will do no good, and that the CNF folks will do whatever it is that is on their agenda no matter how large the public outcry…Please, re-think your past actions, current ideas, and future endeavors concerning the continued shutting down of motorized travel and denial of motorized access within the CNF."	The decision maker has reviewed all of the scoping comments. She believes that public comment is critically important as is following policy and direction contained in existing decisions such as the Forest Plan and the 2007 OHV decision. Decisions on road use are very difficult because of the diversity of public interests and values. However, it is important to her to continue an active discussion on this issue and to continue to do on-the-ground work with partners on roads and trails.
33-1	2/19/2010	Gerald Goble, 13930 12th Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319	"I am very concerned about the lack of support from the Forestry Service to maintain access to our public lands…In the scooping letter the following statement has no grounds other than restricting access to our forest and should not be in this plan: "*Road management (Recommended Changes to System Roads Currently Open Only to Highway Licensed Vehicles map, attachment 3) activities aimed at contributing to purpose and need statement #5: Recommend changes to the 2007 Off Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access decision made by Forest Supervisor Rob Harper; specifically, recommend closing 27 miles of system roads to all vehicular use and opening about 6 miles of system road to all vehicular use."*	See Response 19-1.
33-2	2/19/2010	Gerald Goble, 13930 12th Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319	"I would also like you to consider when planning harvesting areas of the forest to consider making trails designed only for ATV's…Eventually creating a trail system. It would be most beneficial for everyone if there where access trails to most areas of the forest open to all vehicle use, some areas open w/ hiking trails away from vehicle use (like the North Country trail) and some areas w/smaller ATV and snowmobile trails. Again the ATV trails should be a series of trails or a loop of some sort w/ access to open areas to camp and trail access to camp by some lakes."	Our current policy is to close new temporary roads built to access timber harvest units. This direction is found in the Chippewa Forest Plan, page 2-47, Transportation System, Objective O-TS-3: *"New roads built to access land for resource management will be primarily OML 1 or temporary and not intend for public motorized use. Temporary roads will be decommissioned after their use is completed. All newly constructed OML 1 roads will be effectively closed to motorized road and recreation vehicles following their use unless they are needed for other management objectives."* Forest Plan, page 2-49, Transportation System, Standard S-TS-3: *"As soon as access use is*

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
				completed, stabilize temporary roads and effectively close them to motorized traffic."
33-3	2/19/2010	Gerald Goble, 13930 12th Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319	"The number of ATV's and Snowmobile registered in Minnesota and other states increasingly goes up each year. Let's not reduce the trails we have as this will increase the negative effects of more concentrated use."	Thank you for your comment.
34-1	2/18/2010	Tony Elfelt 316 East Main Street Suite 120 Anoka MN 55303	"The Chippewa National Forest should be managed to allow as many uses for as many people as possible. Certainly there are situations where multiple uses are incompatible and should not be allowed. However, before one person's use of the forest should be favored over the [an]other person's use, there should be compelling reasons why one use is restrained. It should also be shown that there are no reasonable alternatives employable to accommodate both uses of the forest. As I see it, there is no compelling reason to limit riding ATVs on roads that already exist."	The Chippewa National Forest is managed for multiple uses.
34-2	2/18/2010	Tony Elfelt 316 East Main Street Suite 120 Anoka MN 55303	"Finally, I request that you schedule another opportunity this summer for public comment regarding the trail closing. Asking for public comments in February when the vast majority of the users are not even in the area and will be unlikely to hear about the proposed trail closing calls into question whether the Forest Service truly desires public input."	There is another opportunity for public comment in the summer. The Environmental Analysis will be made available for another 30 day comment period. During that time, the decision-maker will be meeting with individuals, Cass County representatives, and user groups (snowmobile and ATV). In addition, the District offers opportunities for partnerships and cooperative projects in an ongoing effort to address road management and access issues. See Response 19-2.
35-1	2/11/2010	Duane R. Flynn duflynn@msn.com	"Again I support protecting our resources from those who might abuse it, but that is not the bulk of us out there! As I age, I find it harder to get to some of the areas I used to frequent. In some cases forest roads and trails I used to walk I noe[sic] ATV on to allow me to continue to enjoy these areas. I see a trend to eliminate more and more of these areas and I am upset!"	Thank you for your comment.
36-1	2/19/2010	David Halsey 14848 64th Pl. N.	"The public needs more motorized trail opportunities in the Chippewa National Forest,	See Response 19-1.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
		Maple Grove, MN 55311	and not less…The Forest Service has proposed less motorized trail opportunities…The National OHV policy was not intended to be a massive motorized closure process but that is how it is being used."	
36-2	2/19/2010	David Halsey 14848 64th Pl. N. Maple Grove, MN 55311	"People who are more familiar with the roads in the Moon Resource Management Project will be able to provide road-by-road comments regarding the 27 miles of road closings or "obliteration" involved in this proposal."	The IDT field checked specific forest roads mentioned in comment letters, these Forest roads are analyzed in Chapter 3.6.3 (Travel Management) and field notes are in the Project Record.
36-3	2/19/2010	David Halsey 14848 64th Pl. N. Maple Grove, MN 55311	"As far as I could ascertain, there was no publicity of this action in local media in terms of press releases or articles, Considering the extent of the road closings and impact it will have on thousands of land owners, hunters, hikers, trail riders and other recreationists, this lack of transparency is unacceptable from a federal agency….Yet a legal notice was published in only one newspaper – Walker's Pilot Independent. This one legal notice did not mention "road closings", only the misleading phrase road "update…No one reading this legal notice would take away from it that roads were being closed…Be clear in your legal notices and distribute them wider." "Thirty days for a comment period , with no publicity, in winter when many residents and cabin owners are not in the area, and the roads are unavailable to review to see if your reason for closing are appropriate, also is not in the public interest…Extend the comment period , do not make proposals to close roads in the winter."	See Response 19-2.
36-4	2/19/2010	David Halsey 14848 64th Pl. N. Maple Grove, MN 55311	"[T]here is a perception that the Chippewa National Forest holds meetings with state and county officials as well as public hearings and comment periods as a matter of procedure only, with little or no impact on decisions…change your process to build public awareness and confidence."	See Responses 32-6 and 34-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			'"[T]he problem with lengthy, involved process is that it feeds upon itself, creating more confusion than clarity, more complexity than common sense, and rarely creates solutions…work to make process less	
37-1	2/19/2010	Dennis Carlson Bemidji, MN	"I love to use the forest by ATV and Snowmobile and I really hate to see parts of it or roads closed to use by the general public. It's especially difficult when you close a connecting road or trail requiring one to have to back track to get where you want to go."	We agree that connecting roads need to be considered; that is why the IDT proposed opening 6 miles to all motorized vehicles. The effects of opening or closing roads to all motorized vehicles, including access to other trails or land areas will be considered in the EA, Chapter 3 analyses for Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife/TES, and Travel Management.
37-2	2/19/2010	Dennis Carlson Bemidji, MN	This is one thing lacking in the signage project is to not designate roads or trails that are thru [sic] and sign dead ends as such.	The Chippewa National Forest follows national sign protocols. In addition, the 2007 OHV Decision included a statement that: "*Road number identification signs will correlate with identification numbers on the Motorized Vehicle Use map."* – from, Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Off-Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Project, page 9, Mitigation Measure 4.
38-1	2/19/2010	John Leuthard 1974 Coontail Dr. NE Outing, MN 56662	"The businesses around here are really hurting and to do something that would be detrimental to their already declining revenues, due to the turndown in the economy, would certainly not be serving the interests of our community. Please consider carefully before closing any more trails to ATV's."	See Response 27-2.
39-1	2/19/2010	Mark & LeAnn Werner, 43958 State Highway 6, Emily, MN 56447	"A very large part of our business is from people coming to the area [to] ride their ATVs and Snowmobiles on the trails and forest roads. If the roads and trails are closed in the Chippewa Forest it will have a large negative impact on our business. If there is no where to ride people will go somewhere that has trails and roads that they can use and enjoy. Our business and income will be lost….This is public land to be used by all. We are opposed to the closing of any roads or trails in the Chippewa National Forest."	See Response 27-2.
40-1	2/20/2010	Theresa Bloomquist	"My husband and I have been 4-wheeling in this	See Response 27-2.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			area since 2005, my very first year…We belong to the Over the Hills Gang, and we all are responsible riders. I also believe that taking trails away hurts the local businesses, with the economy the way it is, taking business away will effect a lot of people."	
41-1	2/19/2010	Nancy & Leroy Scott, 6907 Woods Bay Drive, Outing, MN	""It's very frustrating to me that we have to learn of these changes of how we can use our federal land indirectly in the middle of winter when communication methods today are so vast…It's unfortunate to think of the number [of] other people who will be impacted and will not receive the information until it's too late to respond to the 30 day open to comments period."	See Response 19-2.
41-2	2/19/2010	Nancy & Leroy Scott, 6907 Woods Bay Drive, Outing, MN	"We ask that you implement a more reasonable multiple-use alternative that will meet the needs of ALL the public wanting to have access [to] the Chippewa National Forest.	See Response 19-1 and 16-2.
41-3	2/19/2010	Nancy & Leroy Scott, 6907 Woods Bay Drive, Outing, MN	I ask that you work with local ATV clubs to seek a preferred alternative that would allow a 50/50 sharing and equal opportunity of non-motorized to motorized trails.	See Response 19-1 and 16-2.
42-1	2/12/2010	George & Frances Alderson, 112 Hilton Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228	"We heartily support your proposal to close 27 miles of routes to all vehicular use, in the interest of restoring and protecting watershed values….Too many obsolete vehicle routes exist in the forest, far beyond the agency's budget to maintain them for correct drainage. These unmaintained roads lead to erosion, sediment deposited in streams and fragmentation of wildlife habitat. It is time to close obsolete roads and obliterate the, to restore watershed values and fish and wildlife habitat."	See Response 19-1 and 16-2.
43-1	2/17/2010	Debby & Dave Ortman, 3547 Haines Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811	"We support the recommended changes below: Recommend changes to the 2007 Off Highway Vehicle road Travel Access decision made by Forest Supervisor Rob Harper; specifically, recommend closing 27 miles of system roads to all vehicular use and opening about 6 miles of system road to all vehicular use….Public lands	See Response 19-1. Thank you for the reference to the Star Tribune article series.

Letter-Comment Number	Date Comment Received	Name/Address	Comment	Response
			should not be the playground for OHV owners who are more often than not – irresponsible and insensitive to the damage they cause…The [Mpls.,MN] Star Tribune carried a series of articles on the devastating impact on our state forests of 'Renegade Riders' of ATVs…In our opinion, all public forests should be closed to OHV's and only OHV's should be allowed in OHV parks."	
44-1		Blue Ribbon Coalition	"Information and Issues That Support A Pro Motorized Recreation Alternative," dated February 7, 2010: issue # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12,	To be clear, most of the issues identified in statements cited are outside the scope of the Moon Resource Management Project environmental assessment because this project tiers to the 2004 Chippewa National Forest Land and Management Plan and previous environmental assessment decisions. The *2007 Off Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Decision* met requirements of the national 2005 Travel Management Access Rule which required the CNF and every National Forest and Grassland to designate roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use, identify on a motor vehicle use map designated routes, involve the public and coordinate with other government entities in travel access planning, and to prohibit motor vehicle use off designated routes (paraphrased from 2007 OHV DN, pg 5).The 2007 OHV decision considered how the Chippewa National Forest would respond to the goals and objectives of the Forest plan, the 2005 Travel Management Access Rule and the trend indicating increasing ORV use within the area of the Chippewa National Forest (2007 OHV DN, pg. 5). Thus issues (1-68) have been previously addressed and are outside the scope of the Moon Resource Management Project EA. The *2007 Off Highway Vehicle Road Travel Access Decision Notice* tiers to the Chippewa National Forest's Land Management Plan.