



United States
Department of
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Forest Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forests



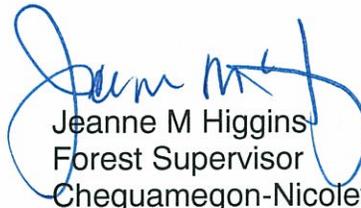
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests

Fiscal Year 2008 Monitoring and Evaluation Report

July 2009

A note from the Forest Supervisor:

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, I decided to make some changes to the way in which we monitor and communicate our annual accomplishments. Since signing the Forest Plan in 2004, we have used the annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report as both an internal management tool to guide our project planning as we implement the Forest Plan and as a means to communicate our accomplishments. As time passed, it became clear that separate documents would better meet these goals. As a result, to summarize accomplishments of FY 2008 we are producing two separate documents, each geared to a different audience. The Monitoring and Evaluation Report is now designed more concisely. Its reporting will focus entirely on Forest Plan monitoring; its content is technical and related directly to the monitoring elements included in the Plan. The second document, The Year-in-Review, will provide an overview of significant achievements during the past year that may or may not relate directly to the Forest Plan. It will be a more colorful document that you will likely find more engaging. We made these changes to improve public engagement and improve our efficiency in interpreting and applying our Forest Plan monitoring information. Copies of the Year-in-Review are available at CNNF offices or at our website. Thank you for your continued interest in the CNNF. And as always we welcome your feedback.



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Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests

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I. INTRODUCTION AND FOREST PLAN OVERVIEW

In April 2004, the CNNF released the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), which was a revision and combination of the Chequamegon Forest Plan and Nicolet Forest Plan, both released in 1986. The Forest Plan provides guidance for all resource management activities on the CNNF. It establishes: forestwide multiple-use goals and implementing objectives; forestwide management requirements (known as Forestwide Standards and Guidelines); Management Area direction, including area-specific standards and guidelines, desired future conditions and management practices; identification of lands suited/not suited for timber management; monitoring and evaluation requirements, and recommendations to Congress for additional Wilderness. To determine the efficacy of a Forest Plan, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations (36 CFR 219) have required regularly scheduled monitoring and evaluation. Fiscal Year 2008 was the fourth year of monitoring the Forest Plan.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate activities. Monitoring is the process of collecting data and information. Evaluation is the analysis and interpretation of the information and collected data. A key requirement of a monitoring strategy is that the public be given timely, accurate information about Forest Plan implementation. This is done through the release of an annual monitoring and evaluation report (Report). The monitoring program must be efficient, practical and affordable, and may make use of data that has been or will be collected for other purposes.

Monitoring tasks are scaled to the Forest Plan, program or project to be monitored. Each of these entails different objectives and requirements. Monitoring is not performed on every single activity, nor is it expected to meet the statistical rigor of formal research. Budgetary constraints affect the level of monitoring that can be done in a particular fiscal year. If budget levels limit the Forest's ability to perform all monitoring tasks, then those items specifically required by law are given the highest priority. This document reports only on objectives that have not yet been completed in previous years. The Report provides the summary and, at scheduled intervals, an evaluation of the monitoring results.

II. MINIMUM LEGALLY REQUIRED MONITORING

Minimum monitoring and evaluation requirements have been established through the NFMA at 36 CFR 219, and at intervals prescribed in the Forest Plan. All legally required monitoring tasks for FY 2008 are reported below.

Lands are adequately restocked (36 CFR 219.12(k)5(i))

During FY 2008, the CNNF certified the adequate restocking of trees for 3,137 acres of land (Table 1). An additional 239 acres of land did not meet certification

standards during this time (Table 2) due to the environmental factors (ex., drought, herbivory) that typically exert a minor influence over stocking success. These acres are planned for restocking during the next three to five years. The success of restocking efforts will be determined through monitoring regeneration during the 3rd and 5th years after planting.

Table 1. Acres of land certified on the CNNF during FY 2008 by Ranger District: Medford-Park Falls (MPF), Great Divide (GD), Washburn (WASH), Eagle River-Florence (ERFL), and Lakewood-Laona (LKLN).

Method	MPF	GD	WASH	ERFL	LKLN	TOTAL
Natural Regeneration w/ Site Preparation	40	76	351	87	1,167	1,721
Natural Regeneration w/o Site Preparation	559	414	0	0	402	1,375
Planted	0	0	0	41	0	41
Total	599	490	351	128	1,569	3,137

Table 2. Acres of land not certified on the CNNF during 3rd and 5th year surveys in FY 2008.

Survey Type	MPF	GD	WASH	ERFL	LKLN	TOTAL
3 rd Year	12	0	39	0	0	51
5 th Year	0	0	21	0	167	188
Total	12	0	60	0	167	239

Lands not suited for timber production (36 CFR 219.12(k)5(ii))

To determine if lands are suited for timber production, a comprehensive assessment is required during each forest planning cycle (10-15 years). During FY 2008, 49,782 acres of land were assessed for timber production (Table 3), of which 46,749 were determined to be suitable. See the following table for the breakdown of the assessment.

Table 3. Acreages of land arranged by land suitability class (LSC) and Ranger District as determined from surveys during FY 2008.

LSC*	MPF	GD	WASH	ERFL	LKLN	TOTAL
200	3	18	169	0	0	190
300	0	0	0	1,895	0	1,895
500	14,112	12,573	7,212	5,266	7,852	46,749
710	0	0	0	503	0	503
720	0	0	0	5	0	5
801	0	75	1	0	0	76
808	0	0	0	245	0	245
810	0	0	8	0	0	8
820	0	0	24	6	0	30
830	0	6	0	17	0	23

840	46	0	6	6	0	58
Total	14,161	12,672	7,420	7,943	7,852	49,782

- *LSC 200 = non-forested lands
- LSC 300 = withdrawn lands
- LSC 500 = suited forestlands
- LSC 710/720 = physically unsuitable (slopes, seeps, etc.)
- LSC 801 = areas set aside for threatened or endangered species habitat
- LSC 808 = corridors of candidate wild, scenic, or recreation rivers
- LSC 810 = other multiple use objectives (campgrounds, seed orchards, etc.)
- LSC 820 = not cost efficient
- LSC 830 = not appropriate (high transportation costs)
- LSC 840 = not appropriate (low site index)

Control of destructive insects and disease (36 CFR 219.12(k)5(iv))

The State and Private branch of the Forest Service conducts an annual aerial summer survey to detect insect and disease problems on the Forest. The assessment of this aerial survey and follow-up ground investigation revealed nothing of any great concern. There was some Jack Pine budworm activity on the Washburn district in very isolated small patches. There was some crown thinning in aspen on the Great Divide, Eagle River-Florence and Lakewood-Laona districts. All of these areas will be monitored as repeated defoliation could lead to mortality.

The Spruce Decline epidemic which was very active in 2004-2007 has waned considerably. Very little additional damage was noted in 2008.

The number of sites detected with oak wilt also declined in 2008. Approximately, 909 trees on 14 sites were detected with oak wilt during the summer of 2008.

Gypsy moth is present on the Forest but to date there has been very limited defoliation. However, the western portion of the Forest is within the leading edge of gypsy moth expansion. As a cooperator with the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection we have located 4 sites on the Medford-Park Falls district which warrant a Slow-the-Spread treatment.

As a result of on the ground monitoring for Spruce Decline in the summer of 2007, eight timber sales were sold in 2008 to salvage damage. The stands in the sales were all stands being monitored as part of the 2004 Spruce Decline EA or Spruce Decline II EA. The total area to be salvaged is 1,186 acres.

As a result of on the ground monitoring for Oak Wilt in the summer of 2008, slightly more than 900 infected oaks on 14 sites were removed through a stewardship contract. As part of the stewardship contract, the oak stumps were removed to break any root grafts between infected and uninfected trees. This technique has proven to have high success for several years after treatment.

As a cooperator with the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, we treated 3 sites (38,598 acres) with pheromone flakes and 1 site (24 acres) with the pesticide spray Btk to slow the spread of gypsy moth.

Population Trends of the seven Management Indicator Species in relation to habitat changes (36 CFR 219.19(a)(6))

Estimating population trends can be accomplished through aggregating survey data that has been collected on the CNNF during FY 2008. However, if trends become strongly negative or if populations are very small, a more focused survey effort for these species is conducted.

Gray Wolf

Wisconsin's gray wolf population has been increasing annually since 1993. The gray wolf has demonstrated an ability to live across all habitats on the CNNF, but generally avoids open roads. Since the Forest Plan has a goal of reducing open road density, it is expected that the gray wolf will continue to thrive on the CNNF.

Bald Eagle

Wisconsin's Bald Eagle population has also exceeded its recovery goals and was de-listed in 2007. The most recent statewide surveys projected well over a thousand pairs in the state—many of which are found along lakes and rivers of the CNNF. As the Forest Plan protects stream and lakeside habitats, it is expected that the Bald Eagle will continue its recovery on the CNNF.

Northern Goshawk

Northern Goshawk populations on the CNNF have remained fairly steady during the last 10 years. While survey efforts have traditionally focused on northern hardwoods, recent survey data suggest Northern Goshawk will also nest in older aspen in some parts of the CNNF. As a result, there is more habitat suitable for Northern Goshawk (in all life stages) on the CNNF than previously believed. In FY 2008, the amount of Northern Goshawk habitat on the CNNF was estimated at 494,634 acres.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk populations on the CNNF have remained fairly steady during the last 10 years as the amount of habitat has increased. During the FY 2008, the amount of Red-shouldered Hawk habitat on the CNNF was estimated at 530,365 acres.

American Marten

The population of marten is small and very well studied. As of FY 2008, it is estimated that 35 marten live on the Chequamegon land base and 250 on the

Nicolet land base. Marten habitat on the CNNF is estimated at 620,596 acres for FY 2008. It is not believed that these populations are limited by habitat; as a result, the WDNR is conducting a marten stocking effort to augment the Chequamegon population during FY 2009.

Brook Trout

It is estimated that there are 1,072 miles of stream habitat suitable for brook trout on the CNNF. This quantity is not expected to change during the life of the Forest Plan, but the quality of the habitat may. During FY 2008, 241.1 miles of trout habitat were improved. According to WDNR trout monitoring data, brook trout populations are responding favorably to habitat restoration and stream protection measures.

Canada Yew

No new sites of Canada yew were discovered during FY 2008. The number of known sites remains the same as last year (Table 4).

Table 4. Number of known Canada yew sites on the CNNF per district.

DISTRICT	Canada Yew Sites
Washburn	3
Great Divide	16
Medford-Park Falls	12
Eagle River-Florence	116
Lakewood-Laona	70

Effects of off-road vehicles (36 CFR 219.21)

Effects of off-road vehicles were monitored during the summer of 2008 near ATV trails of the Chequamegon landbase. The frequency of off-road/off-trail travel and the effectiveness of closure devices were the emphasized topics.

Table 5. Amount and location of monitoring effort.

Trail System Area	Trail Miles	Road Miles	Total Miles
Washburn ATV	10.0	24.0	34.0
Deadhorse Run	4.8	34.0	38.8
Flambeau	9.3	17.5	26.8
Perkinstown Motorized	8.4	17.4	25.8
Total	32.5	92.9	125.4

Table 6. Location of sites and observation rates

Location	Miles Monitored	Number of Sites	Sites per Mile	Miles per Site
Trail	32.6	31	0.95	1.05
Road	92.8	25	0.27	3.71
Total	125.4	56	0.45	2.24

Table 7. Success rates for closure devices by type

Device	Sites Observed	Successful	Success Rate
Gate	26	17	0.65
Boulders	9	7	0.78
Total	35	24	0.69

Table 8. Success rates of closure devices by location

Location of Device	Sites Observed	Successful	Success Rate
Trail	10	4	0.40
Road	25	20	0.80

Comparison of projected and actual outputs and services (36 CFR 219.12(k)(1))

Outputs and services are projected throughout the Forest Plan by way of objectives. Accordingly, the assessments of progress towards these objectives are found throughout this report. One notable output that is not addressed as a separate objective is timber output as a forest commodity. Timber outputs are reported below (Table 9).

Table 9. Volume (MMBF) of timber harvested on the CNNF during FY 2008.

Species/Product Group	Volume Harvested	Allowable Sale Quantity*
Hardwood Sawtimber	1.5	7.6
Softwood Sawtimber	13.5	8.8
Hardwood Pulpwood	22.5	53.2
Softwood Pulpwood	28.6	29.9
Aspen Pulpwood	16.2	31.3
Total	82.3	131.0

*Annual average based on a 10-year life of the Forest Plan (see page 2-66 of FEIS).

Comparison of actual and estimated costs (36 CFR 219.12(k)(3))

In Tables 2-21 and 2-22 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Forest Plan, the cost of full Forest Plan implementation was estimated to be \$29,561,700 annually (not adjusted for inflation). The funding for the CNNF during FY 2008 was \$23,420,555.

III. GOAL AND OBJECTIVE MONITORING

For a comprehensive list of monitoring objectives to be conducted throughout the life of the Forest Plan, please refer to Table 4-2 of that document. Monitoring accomplishments for FY 2008 will be reported herein by the corresponding Forest Plan goal and objective. In order to complete an ambitious monitoring schedule during FY 2008, different programs integrated and relied heavily on our cooperators to accomplish activities for selected goals described in the Forest Plan. Only those items to be reported annually are included in this report.

1.1 – Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species

Objective 1.1a: *Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), implement established recovery or conservation strategies.*

During FY 2008, the act of implementing established recovery or conservation strategies included conducting focused population surveys for federally listed species on the CNNF. The gray wolf and Bald Eagle have been de-listed, but are included.

Table 10. The amount of potential habitat formally surveyed by CNNF employees or partners during FY's 2005 – 2008.

Species	Acres Surveyed			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Canada Lynx	500	500	1,500	3,000
Gray Wolf	500,199	500,118	10,070	21,140
Kirtland's Warbler	0	0	0	3,100
Bald Eagle	9,625	0	0	0
Fassett's Locoweed	*35	*35	*35	35

**Surveys for Fassett's locoweed occur annually, but before 2008 surveys were tallied by the number of sites surveyed rather than total acres. Since survey effort in FY 2008 was typical and was quantified in acres, it can be estimated that the efforts during 2005-2007 also approximated 35 acres annually.*

The population trends for federally Threatened and Endangered species appear positive. Gray wolf and Bald Eagle have greatly exceeded population goals in the state of Wisconsin; Kirtland's Warbler appeared on the CNNF for the first time in FY 2008; and populations of Fassett's locoweed are expanding within their known locations. Canada lynx have yet to establish any kind of presence on the CNNF, though surveys are regularly conducted.

1.3 – Aquatic Ecosystems

Objective 1.3a: *Reduce the number of road and trail stream crossings. Reduce sedimentation and improve fish passage in existing road and trail stream crossings.*

No road or trail stream crossings were created or removed in FY2008. However, 4.0 miles of the Deadhorse Run ATV Trail were relocated to reduce drainage and wetland impacts and to move the trail out of the East Fork Chippewa River potential wild and scenic river corridor. Numerous improvement projects were completed in FY 2008 (Table 11).

Table 11. Number of stream habitat improvement activities by type and fiscal year.

Fiscal Year	Stream Crossings Replaced	Road Segments Reconstructed	Trails Constructed or Reconstructed
2005	8	0	1
2006	9	1	1
2007	10	0	2
2008	14	1	1

Objective 1.3e: Improve or restore habitat in streams and lakes.

Table 2-21 of the Forest Plan FEIS projected outcomes that may be achieved with “Full Implementation Budget Levels” over the life of the plan. To match these outcomes, the CNNF would need to average 200 miles of stream habitat and 1,200 acres of lake habitat improvement annually.

Table 12. Amount of aquatic habitat actively restored FY’s 2005 - 2008.

Category	Miles of Stream Improved				Acres of Lake Improved			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Coldwater	227.5	228.0	303.0	241.1	0	0	0	0
Warmwater	0.0	1.0	0.6	0.5	1,487	1,328	1,407	1,301

Objective 1.3f: Apply lime to some lakes to improve productivity or make pH suited for desired species.

Lime was applied to the 5-acre Little Cub Lake on the Lakewood-Laona district to improve the habitat for a popular trout fishery; this has occurred annually during the life of the Forest Plan.

1.4 - Terrestrial Ecosystems

Objective 1.4d: Maintain or expand existing dwarf bilberry populations.

Fourteen acres of dwarf bilberry habitat were surveyed and assessed during FY 2008. As part of the Red Pine Plantation II sale, pollinator corridors were created between existing and suitable locations to enable population expansion.

Objective 1.4g: Annually treat non-roadside and roadside NNIS sites. Develop an NNIS strategy to guide amounts and locations of treatment.

776 acres of NNIS were treated during FY. The NNIS strategy was completed in 2007.

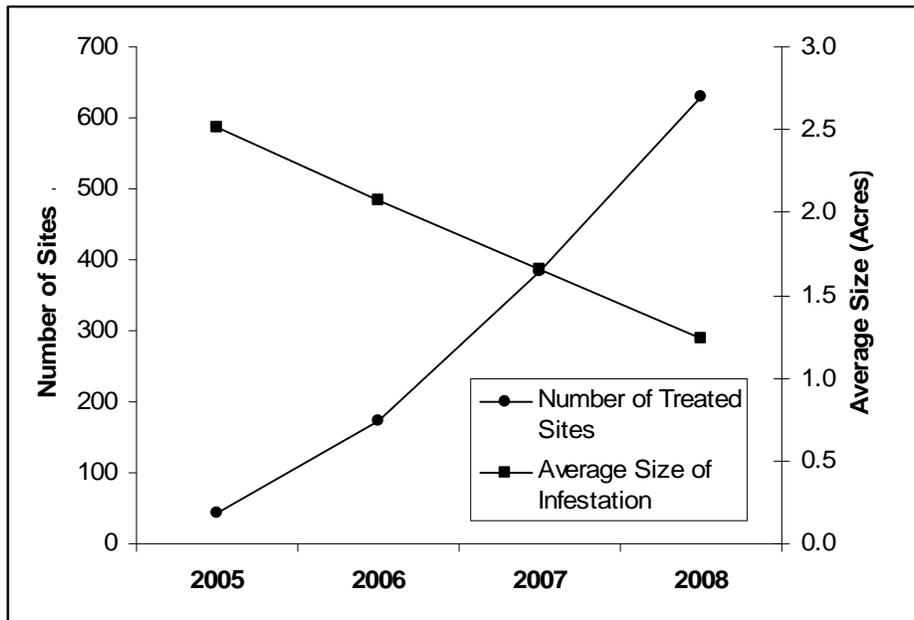


Figure 1. Total number of NNIS sites treated and the average size of infestation treated on the CNNF during FY 2008.

Objective 1.4h: Increase use of prescribed fire as a management tool within fire-adapted land-type associations. Reintroduce fire disturbance within RNA's where establishment records allow.

Prescribed fire was applied as a management tool on 3,450 acres of fire-adapted land-type associations.

Objective 1.4j: When large disturbance events (over 100 acres) occur within forested areas, maintain a portion of the damaged vegetation to provide additional site level structure and coarse woody debris.

There were no disturbance events greater than 100 acres on the CNNF during FY 2008.

1.6 – Air Quality

Objective 1.6: Conduct forest management activities to protect or maintain local air quality.

The alkalinity and pH of seven lakes has been monitored several times beginning in 1984. Except for 2006, each lake was monitored once per year in late summer from 1999 through 2008. Alkalinity concentrations that average less than 10.0 $\mu\text{eq/l}$ indicate adverse impacts from acidification are likely occurring to aquatic resources.

Table 13. Average alkalinity concentrations of seven lakes in the Rainbow Wilderness from 1984-2008.

Lake	Average (ueq/l)	Standard Deviation	Number of Samples	Standard Error of Mean	t-value	Lower 95% Confi Limit	Upper 95% Confi Limit	Surface Area (acres)
Anderson	15.4	9.4	22	2.1	2.1	11.1	19.7	33
Bufo	16.2	11.6	22	2.5	2.1	10.9	21.5	21
Reynard	22.3	11.0	20	2.5	2.1	17.0	27.7	33
Wishbone	29.2	12.7	23	2.7	2.1	23.5	34.9	21
Clay	35.7	11.9	24	2.5	2.1	30.5	40.8	31
Flakefjord	54.3	10.0	23	2.1	2.1	49.8	58.8	11
Beaver	54.7	13.3	21	3.0	2.1	48.4	61.0	19

1.7 – Soils

Objective 1.7: Provide desired physical, chemical and biological soil processes and functions on the Forest to maintain and/or improve soil productivity.

During FY 2008 soil resource impacts from timber harvest activities were monitored on 20 harvest units, from 10 different timber sales, across 3 Ranger Districts, on 11 different soil types. Approximately 8-10% of each area was traveled on by timber harvesting equipment. Vegetation management during dry ground conditions leaves about 2-3% of the area detrimentally compacted at the landings and main skid trails, with no soil rutting. Activities during frozen ground conditions resulted in about 1% compaction. Harvest operations on wet soil with a silt loam surface texture in 4 of the sale units resulted in isolated short ruts from heavy equipment tires that were 6 to 10 inches deep and 10 to 20 feet long. No detrimental soil erosion, displacement or organic matter removal was observed.

2.1 – Recreation Opportunities

Objective 2.1d: Construct up to 85 miles of ATV trail on the Nicolet landbase.
and

Objective 2.1e: Construct up to 100 miles of ATV trail on the Chequamegon landbase.

Table 14. Miles of ATV trail created each year on the CNNF.

Landbase	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Nicolet	0	0	2	4	6
Chequamegon	0	0	0	3	3

Objective 2.1j: Provide well-maintained developed campgrounds that meet Forest Service guidelines.

Forest Service guidelines call for developed campgrounds to be “managed to standard.” During FY 2008, 78% of developed campgrounds met this standard.

Objective 2.1j: Inventory and manage remote campsites to minimize environmental impacts of recreation use.

No remote campsites were identified in FY 2008 as damaged or need of major repair.

Objective 2.1i: If maintenance methods prove ineffective and monitoring confirms unsafe conditions or unacceptable resource damage, close and rehabilitate the existing 25-mile 4WD ORV trail. Then construct a replacement trail up to 25 miles long elsewhere on the CNNF providing an agreement with a non-Forest Service entity is developed to maintain and monitor trail conditions.

The existing trail continues to be monitored for resource damage, and the Lakewood-Laona district continues to work with partners to improve the trail.

2.4 – Cultural Resources

Objective 2.4a: Promote the scientific study of a selected heritage resource, primarily through public participation and institutional/governmental partnerships.

A partnership was continued with the Wisconsin Historical Society to survey the CNNF historic records, and a partnership was formed with Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., to assist in the field phase of the investigation of Lake Owen North.

Objective 2.4b: Consult with tribal governments, institutions, and other interested parties to ensure the protection and preservation of areas, objects, and records that are culturally important to them.

Six tribal governments have requested to be apprised of all cultural resource management activities proposed for the CNNF; this request is consistently fulfilled.

Objective 2.4c: Conduct scientific studies to further our understanding of human adaptation and influences on the landscape and to provide important information for NEPA analysis.

Accomplishments include:

- 26 Priority Heritage Assets were managed to standard;
- 95 known cultural resources were monitored for damage (zero were damaged);
- Two National Register of Historic Places nominations were completed;
- 30,000 acres of Phase I cultural resource surveying was completed;

Objective 2.4d: Increase awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage through educational programs, university-sponsored archeology field schools or other programs.

One interpretive media plan was completed for the Armstrong Creek Bridge historic site.

2.5 – Forest Commodities

Objective 2.5: Ensure that harvest levels of special forest products are within sustainable levels.

The amount of permitted special forest product harvested each year has varied considerably (Table 15). No significant adverse effects are being documented. The amount harvested and the locations of the harvest will continue to be monitored to ensure the forest can sustain the production of these products.

Table 15. The amount (lbs.) of special forest products permitted for harvest on the CNNF from 2004-2007.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Princess Pine</i>	<i>Sheet Moss</i>
<i>2004</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>5,500</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>4,900</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>6,100</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>504</i>	<i>4,800</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>810</i>	<i>3,600</i>

2.6 – Minerals and Energy Resources

Objective 2.6: Ensure that reclamation provision and environmental protections measures of operating plans and surface use plans of operations are completed to standard in field operations.

In FY2008 there were 23 permits issued for internal and external use of mineral materials for cooperative road maintenance activity, timber sales and recreation facility maintenance. In FY2008 four pit management plans were updated and/or completed to insure adequate resource utilization and environmental protection. All active gravel pits were monitored for NNIS, resulting in the treatment of 50 acres. In FY2008 one gravel pit site (totaling 1.0 acre) was reclaimed and planted with Jack Pine.

2.8 – Fire Management

Objective 2.8a: The safety of employees and the public is the highest priority during any fire or fuels management incident.

There were no escaped prescribed burns on the CNNF during FY 2008. Operational effectiveness and safety were reviewed for 20% of prescribed burns and 5% of wildfires on the CNNF.

Objective 2.8b: Expedite safe extinguishments of wildfires by the use of ground and/or air resources.

There were a total of 38 wildfires on the CNNF during FY 2008—all were safely suppressed. The largest fire totaled 3.6 acres; the wildfire mean size was 0.4 acres.

Objective 2.8c: Reduce hazardous fuels within communities at risk, in cooperation with local, Federal, and State agencies.

A total of 2,770 acres of hazardous fuels reduction treatments occurred within the wildland/urban interface adjacent to communities at risk during FY 2008.

Objective 2.8d: Apply fire management as part of natural ecological disturbance regime.

A total of 3,450 acres of prescribed burns were conducted to restore 2,570 acres of jack pine barrens and forest. Another 515 acres were burned to restore 50 acres of northern pine-oak forest. To safely reduce fuel loads, 155 acres of land were burned.

2.9 – Treaty Rights

The CNNF outlines its policies and responsibilities on tribal relations in a 1999 Memorandum of Understanding (that is, the MOU regarding tribal – USDA Forest Service relations on National Forest Lands within the territories ceded in treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842) including tribal consultation on proposed forest projects and policies. Annually in October, Forest Service leadership meets with the MOU tribal signatories to discuss MOU implementation, to facilitate on-going communication, and to discuss issues arising under the MOU. The MOU has been in place for ten years and continues to fulfill the objectives to support tribal treaty rights.

3.2 – Land Ownership

Objective 3.2: Convey, purchase or exchange lands where needed. High priority areas for acquisition include those lands that: Protect TES or RFSS; Consolidate federal ownership within Wilderness; Increase public ownership on lakes and rivers; Provide unique ecological, scientific, heritage, or recreational qualities; and, Consolidate land ownership for efficient resource management purposes.

A total of 1,450 acres were acquired through eleven purchases during FY 2008, while three sales of CNNF land totaled 180 acres.

3.3 – Public and Organization Relations

Objective 3.3a: Consult with Tribes and intertribal agencies during decision-making processes. Consider effects of natural resource management decisions on the ability of tribes to exercise gathering rights. Site-specific project analyses address how project proposals might protect or impact the ability of tribes to exercise gathering rights.

It is a policy of the CNNF to notify tribes and intertribal agencies of proposed projects early in the decision-making process. This policy is being consistently applied with the participation of approximately 40 groups.

Objective 3.3b: Through partnerships, encourage, establish and sustain a diverse and well-balanced range of recreational services and facilities on the CNNF.

The CNNF works with individual volunteers and partners with user groups and the WDNR to maintain and create a wide variety of recreational opportunities. In FY 2008 the CNNF provided recreation services and facilities including developed campsites, primitive campsites, motorized and non-motorized trails

Objective 3.3c: Cooperatively work with federal, state, and county agencies and other non-governmental organizations to control NNIS.

While there were no new MOU's with CWMA in 2008, there were numerous joint projects conducted on the Districts for NNIS eradication. Example projects include: working with middle school kids and local CWMA partners to eradicate NNIS at the Medford Mill Pond Park, roadside weed spraying, traveling NNIS display to libraries, and pulling garlic mustard at Presque Isle. Additionally there is on-going work on MOU's in Vilas County and the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative. For more information refer to the Year-In-Review.

Objective 3.3d: Cooperatively work with federal, state, and county agencies and non-governmental organizations to integrate fire prevention programs and suppression resources. Cooperatively work across agencies to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects that will reduce the risk of wildfire.

More than 25 fire department agreements and annual operating plans were updated and three new MOU's were created. Multiple fires occurred within various jurisdictions and resources were dispatched across each others' agency boundaries. All agreements continue to be a success and aid the suppression of wildfires.

Objective 3.3e: Work collaboratively with other agencies and the public to protect and restore watersheds. Conduct assessments of all 5th level watersheds with more than 25 percent federal ownership.

When the Forest Plan was being written, there were on going interagency efforts to conduct 5th level watershed assessments. However, those efforts have come to a close and the CNNF now conducts 3rd and 4th level watershed assessments as part of the project planning process.

Objective 3.3f: Collaborate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the collection and dissemination of information indicating the possible presence of Canada lynx and Kirtland's Warbler.

The CNNF continues to consult with the USFWS concerning the Canada lynx and Kirtland's Warbler. No lynx sightings or potential sign for this species was detected in 2008 on the CNNF. The CNNF surveyed over 2,000 acres of suitable habitat for Kirtland's Warbler in 2008 with a detection of at least one singing male. In 2009, the Forest will survey over 5,000 acres of suitable habitat for this species.

IV. LITERATURE CITED

Frater, Ben. 2008. Effects of Off-Road Vehicles. Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Unpublished technical report. 7pp.