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Planning and Project Implementation Update



January 2011

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### ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, *Cass Lake Times*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

#### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

#### **Completed Decision Documents**

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

#### **Proposals Cancelled or On Hold**

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

#### **HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED**

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Appeal Period** - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

**Categorical Exclusion (CE)** - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

**Comment Period** - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

**Decision Memo (DM)** - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

**Decision Notice (DN)** - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

**NEPA** - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

**Proposed Action** - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

**Scoping** - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

**Significance** - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

### Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

### Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who provide comments on a project. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

### Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of days.



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011

### Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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#### Projects Occurring Nationwide

<b>Land Management Planning Rule</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 12/18/2009 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2010	Expected:11/2011	12/2011	Larry Hayden 202-205-1559 lhayden@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Department of Agriculture proposes to promulgate a new planning rule, which will set out the process for development, revision, and amendment of National Forest System land management plans.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule">http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Agency-wide Rule.				
<b>Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Lands.</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 08/27/2010 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 01/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 208-869-5405 gstein@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Forest Service will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				

#### Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)

#### R9 - Eastern Region

<b>EAB Sanitation CE</b> CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 10/06/2010	10/2010	Gary Swanson 218-335-8652 ghswanson@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Quick response and removal of ash trees with emerald ash borer (EAB). Specific to initial EAB detections on the Chippewa National Forest.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. No specific location. Determined by detection of EAB on National Forest Lands.				

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<b>Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>MPCA Monitoring Wells</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/25/2010	Expected:01/2011	01/2011	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Installation, monitoring, maintenance of three wells & one on each district				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. LEGAL - NE S17 T148N R28W (Dunbar Lake), SW S2 T57N R25W (Murphy Lake), NW S3 T144N R28W (Hole-in-Bog Lake). Dunbar Lake (Blackduck), Murphy Lake (Deer River), Hole-in-Bog Lake (Walker).				
<b>Non-native Invasive Plants (NNIP) Management Project</b> EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/14/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 01/2011	Expected:03/2011	05/2011	Thomas Heutte 907-228-4132 theutte@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Use an adaptive management driven multi-agency approach to 1) Prevent the further spread of NNIP 2). Prevent and reduce impacts from existing NNIP infestations in the area. 3). Restore the land's resistance to NNIP				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Forest-wide.				
<b>Qwest Special Use Permit Renewal</b> CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 11/08/2010	10/2010	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Reissue Special Use Permit for telephone line on NFS lands with no change in existing infrastructure.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Numerous locations across the forest.				
<b>Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study</b> EIS	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/02/2009	Expected:02/2011	06/2010	Luke Rutten 218-335-8666 lrutten@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Great Lakes Gas Permit Renewal</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/09/2010	Expected:01/2011	02/2011	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issuance of a new special use authorization to replace an expiring one. The changes are administrative. There are no changes to the facilities.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. Forest-wide. Location available upon request.				
<b>Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Compartment 86 Stand 41, 54, 79 Riparian Planting</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/07/2010	Expected:02/2011	06/2011	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Planting white pine and other species in the riparian zone of a marsh, wetland. Waiting for survey results in July 2010.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N R31W Sections 2 and 3. A marsh, wetland southwest of South Twin Lake.				
<b>Ecological and Hydrological Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer on Black Ash</b> CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Research	Completed	Actual: 10/12/2010	10/2010	Gary Swanson 218-335-8652 ghswanson@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Research project in cooperation with Northern Research and University of Minnesota. Treatments consist of replications of group selection, patch clear cuts, girdling in addition to the control.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. Several locations along Third River road and NW of Round Lake.				
<b>Ladyslipper Interpretive Trail</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/17/2010	Expected:01/2011	07/2011	Patti Hines 218-835-3113 phines@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Construct a one half mile long, interpretive trail by the ladyslipper byway parking lot.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N, R30W, Section 33. West of the Scenic Highway, a mile north of Pennington.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Pennington Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/28/2010	Expected:01/2011	03/2011	Cory Mlodik 218-835-3119 corymlodik@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Improve habitat for woodcock by shearing alder/aspen near water and maybe some mowing in existing wildlife openings. Combined areas total about 45 acres.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R30W Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, and 15. About two miles southeast of Pennington by various creeks.				
<b>Popple River Rock Spawning Reef</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Sept. 15, 2010 decided to put on Hold waiting for DNR approval. Reef of small rocks in Popple River for walleye spawning. Waiting on DNR approval of the project design.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R27W Section 15. In Popple River near bridge on County Road 126 (FR 3673).				
<b>Rabideau CCC Camp Management</b> EA	- Recreation management - Special use management - Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2011	Expected:05/2011	06/2011	Ann Long-Voelkner 218-335-8616 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Updates to the use and management of the CCC camp, including seasons of use, maintained buildings, and non-structural land uses.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N R31N Sections 12 and 13, T148N R30W Section 18. Rabideau CCC Camp.				
<b>Scenic Gravel Pit Expansion</b> EA	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Expand the Scenic Gravel pit downward into the water table to get more gravel. Consider gating the access road.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N, R30W, Section 6 and T149N, R30W, Section 31. East of the Scenic Highway 4 miles south of Blackduck.				

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<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Wagner Lake Resource Management</b> EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 12/2010	Expected:09/2011	09/2013	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Timber sale, reforestation, and various other associated projects.					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R27, 28, 29W; T149N R27, 28, 29W; and T150N R27, 28N. Between Island Lake, Round Lake, and Wagner Creek.					

<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Clark Septic &amp; Lot#5 South Highbanks summer home tract</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/25/2010	Expected:01/2011	05/2011	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Septic tank and mound system					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S31 T146N R27W. Lot #5 South Highbanks summer home tract.					
<b>Six Mile Dam</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/09/2010	Expected:01/2011	09/2011	Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Six mile dam is delapidated and not functioning and is a barrier to fish migration. This poject will replace the dam with a structure that passes fish and has low maintenance.					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T144N R27W S17. Deer River Range District Cass County, MN.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Spruce EA</b> EA	- Research	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/13/2010 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 01/2011	Expected:02/2011	03/2011	Randall Kolka 218-326-7115 rkolka@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Research project with climate change manipulation focusing on the combined response of multiple levels of warming at ambient or elevated CO2 levels.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T158N R25W. Southern unit of the Marcell Experimental Forest.				
<b>Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Trail Project</b> EA	- Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Michael Martin 218-246-3479 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Conversion of low standard roads to trails, new trail construction, building trail shelters, installation of gates/berms on system roads/unclassified roads, and parking areas within the Soumi Hills SPNM Area.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 26 W. The project area is located west of MN Highway 38; south and east of Itasca County Road 48; and north of the forest boundary. The project is within the designated Soumi Hills SPNM Area as defined by.				
<b>White Oak Sled Dog Classic Permit</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/25/2010	Expected:01/2011	01/2011	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Permit for dog sled race				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. Using snowmobile trails from DR to Northome to Bigfork to Marcell.				

<b>Chippewa National Forest Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Chippewa National Forest</b>	<b>Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>			<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>	
<b>Former Cass Lake Ranger District Office</b> CE	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:06/2011	09/2011	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Sale of old district office					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Old administrative site in Cass Lake, MN.					
<b>Ojibway Resort</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/31/2010	Expected:03/2011	04/2011	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> provide recreational opportunities for the general public on National Forest land					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Gov't Lot 2, Section 30, Township 145 North, Range 30 West. resort is located on Chippewa National Forest land on the east shore of Pike Bay, Walker Ranger District.					
<b>South Leech Lake 2 Resource Management Project</b> EA  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2011	Expected:08/2011	12/2011	Deborah Overton 218-547-6002 x130 doverton@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> SLL2 area timber sale, reforestation, timber stand improvement, seeding/planting; road decommissioning for aquatic/soil resources; update MVUM; wildlife habitat maintenance/ improvement using fire; small projects to maintain/improve other resources					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T142N R28-31W and T142-145N R28-31W. South of Leech Lake to Forest boundary, between Ten Mile Lake and County Highway 125.					
<b>West Branch Site</b> CE	- Facility management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Sale of surplus facility.					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. SW 1/4 lying northerly and easterly of the centerline of Township Road 10 as it existed in 1998.					

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