

# Partnerships and Cooperation

## Introduction

Since its designation as a National Forest in 1909, the Superior National Forest (SNF) has benefited from the efforts of partners and volunteers working together with Forest Service staff to achieve social, economic and ecological goals. Within this chapter, partnerships and cooperation are discussed.

Each year the SNF continues relationships with existing cooperators and enters into new ones. Collaboration with others has resulted in increased public service and improved land stewardship, which has enhanced the Forest's efforts to achieve desired conditions. This report provides information on groups and organizations with whom the SNF routinely cooperates, along with those with whom the SNF has entered into formal agreements, including work contributed by volunteers. Forest Plan direction related to partnerships and cooperation can be found on page 2-6 of the Forest Plan.

## Monitoring Question

To what extent does the Superior National Forest involve the public, including agencies, landowners and land managers, non-profits, tribal entities, intergovernmental coordination and volunteers in carrying out its mission?

Forest Plan direction regarding partnerships and cooperation is provided by desired condition D-CM-1, which states that "the Forest works cooperatively with other landowners and land managers to protect, enhance, and restore physical and biological resources as well as social and economic values. Cooperative management includes tribal, State, county, local governments as well as other federal agencies."

The monitoring question was selected because it is the Chapter 4 monitoring question associated with partners working cooperatively with forest managers to implement the Forest Plan.

There are four monitoring units of measure for partnerships and cooperation. These are; the number of formal agreements by type, dollar value of cash, goods and services included in formal agreements, hours of volunteer service at an appraised value, and dollar value of donations.

The unit of comparison selected is the cumulative trend of number and value of volunteer agreements, grants, donations, and other agreements since 2004. The selected units of measure and comparison are appropriate because they represent how items are currently tracked and they can be compared. The informal and international partnerships are not compared as there is no measurement for good will and planning.

## Monitoring Methods

Data concerning formal agreements was gathered from IWEB<sup>i</sup>, an internal Forest Service database. Data concerning volunteers came from the U.S. Forest Service Report No. FS – 1800\_AR, Senior, Youth & Volunteer Programs Accomplishment Report (Reference FSM 1800) also known as the 1800-16 Database.

## Results

The SNF had 170 formal agreements in active status in FY09.<sup>1</sup> The majority of these agreements (98 agreements) did not include exchange of funds. Of these 98 agreements, 62 agreements had no money attached to them in the FY09 report. The other 36 agreements had money attached to them, but no money was transferred to or from partners.

The projects that had no money attached included:

30 Co-op fire agreements Garbage Collection Service Airnet radio frequency Environmental Education Cooperation Winter monitoring in BWCAW Sand Lake/Seven Beavers Recreation Opportunities on Lake Vermilion Interpretive Association Agreement Water System Maintenance Forest Program Officer Training Program Counter Drug Program Elrod Moose Foot Point Federal Bureau of Prisons Black Moose Foot Point Kasbeer Moose foot Point Stallard Moose Foot Point St. Louis County Road Agreement South Kawishiwi Campground Boat Access Space at the Fernberg Monitoring Site Mud Creek Road Oak Habitat Management Friends of the MN Conservation Corp Forest Road Agreement with Cook County MN Dot Road Agreement MN DNR 2005 Bald Eagle Surveys Consultation Agreement with US Fish & Wildlife MNICS Prescribed Burn & Wildland Fire Use Agreement Establishing Relationship between Fond du Lac and SNF Provide Access to USGS Water Resources Division to BWCAW Water Quality Data Collection and Water Resources Gratuitous Agreement for use of the USDA-F.S. Tower for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter System
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<sup>1</sup> G&A Numbering Log for all Fiscal Years, GARP011L queried by region, unit and agreement status GA executed.

There were 72 agreements active in FY09 which had funding tied to the agreement<sup>2</sup>. In addition there were 34 modifications of Agreements in FY09.<sup>3</sup> The 72 agreements with funding attached included 22 collection agreements, 17 challenge cost share agreements, 10 interagency and intra-agency agreements, six participating agreements, three law enforcement agreements, one road agreement and 13 fire agreements.<sup>4</sup>

The total dollar value of the agreements with funding attached to them is \$5,076,000. This figure includes the Forest Service dollar match of \$2,391,000, Forest Service in-kind match of \$1,400; cooperators dollar match of \$2,590,000; and cooperators in-kind match of \$93,000.<sup>5</sup> These funds include all the funding attached to each open agreement so the total includes funding from *all* fiscal years of the agreement.

The total value of cash and services to and from partners for FY09 totaled \$2,363,000<sup>6</sup>. The total value of cash and services provided to the SNF from partners in FY09 was \$1,223,000. Cash contributions from cooperators in FY09 totaled \$579,000.

Other contributions from cooperators totaled \$504,000. These include in-kind items cooperators have been given at no cost such as volunteers and donated equipment, and non-cash items such as salary, use of equipment and travel costs. This amount does not include funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA funds equaled \$139,000. The combined funds from ARRA and other cooperator contributions total \$643,000.

Forest Service contributions to partners, including cash and services totaled \$1,140,000. Cash Contributions from the Forest Service totaled \$1,089,000. This includes ARRA funds of \$557,000, plus \$403,000 in funds provided to other entities from appropriated Forest Service funds. Other Forest Service contribution totaled \$180,000.

Table 17.1. Value of Agreements to SNF and Partners from FY 2005 to FY 2008.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b># of Agreements</b>	<b>Value of Cash &amp; Services Provided to the SNF From Partners</b>	<b>Value of Cash &amp; Services Provided to Partners From SNF</b>
2005	71	\$601,995	\$1,178,839
2006	82	\$447,206	\$524,384
2007	71	\$690,490	\$429,291
2008	50	\$663,000	\$683,000
2009	170	\$1,223,000	\$1, 140,000

<sup>2</sup> G&A Numbering Log for all Fiscal Years, GARP011L queried by region, unit and funding fiscal year 09.

<sup>3</sup> G&A Workload by Forest for FY09 only, GARP010L queried by region, unit, funding fiscal year 09.

<sup>4</sup> G&A Numbering Log for all Fiscal Years, GARP011L queried by region, unit and funding fiscal year 09.

<sup>5</sup> G&A Numbering Log for all Fiscal Years, GARP011L queried by region, unit and agreement status GA executed.

<sup>6</sup> G&A GARP40L queried by Region 9, Unit 0909 funding fiscal year 09 and GARP40 L queried by Region 9, Unit 44 (specific to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects) funding fiscal year 09.

Figure 2.1 Partners celebrating the centennial, 1909-2009, of the Superior National Forest and Quetico Provincial Park with a paddle around the “Heart of the Continent”



Volunteers to the SNF provided 53,190 hours of service at an appraised value of \$ 1,062,000<sup>7</sup> in FY 2009. Donations of \$810 we received in 2009.<sup>8</sup>

Fiscal Year	Hours of Service Provided
2005	20,228 Hours
2006	27,308 Hours
2007	28,817 Hours
2008	36,342 Hours
2009	53,190 Hours

### Implications

The benefits of working collaboratively with our partners and volunteers continue to grow. With increased numbers of volunteers and increased agreements with organizations, the Forest is able to get more work completed and reach more of its goals and priorities.

### Recommendations

1. Streamline process for staff and partners to enter into agreements with one-another.
2. Systematically seek partners with a focus on areas of work highlighted in the Forest Prioritization document.
3. Continue to increase the number of volunteers, partners and agreements in order to best meet the needs of our Forest and our public.
4. Involve Regional and Washington Office programs to bring regional and national partnerships to the SNF.

<sup>i</sup> G&A Numbering Log for all Fiscal Years, GARP011L queried by region, unit and agreement status GA executed. G&A Workload by Forest for FY09 only, GARP010L queried by region, unit, funding fiscal year 09. G&A GARP40L queried by Region 9, Unit 0909 funding fiscal year 09 and GARP40 L queried by Region 9, Unit 44 (specific to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects) funding fiscal year 09

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Forest Service Report No. FS – 1800\_AR, Senior, Youth & Volunteer Programs Accomplishment Report (Reference FSM 1800)

<sup>8</sup> Transaction Register: Billing and Collections Report by Job Code and Month Eastern Region, Superior FY09