

***Will the fire still be smoldering in the spring? Could it flare up again and how will I know if this or another fire is burning in the Forest?***

Fires have been known to smolder through the winter and flare-up in the spring. We won't know until spring if this is true of the Pagami Creek Fire. The Forest Service will continue to monitor the fire area and will be prepared to respond and issue public notification as needed. Check the conditions of the area you wish to visit by contacting the nearest Forest Service office. While traveling about the Forest, stay aware of conditions. If a fire occurs anywhere on the Forest, the Forest Service will make all reasonable efforts to notify the public.

***Will I receive a refund on my permit if I don't like what I see?***

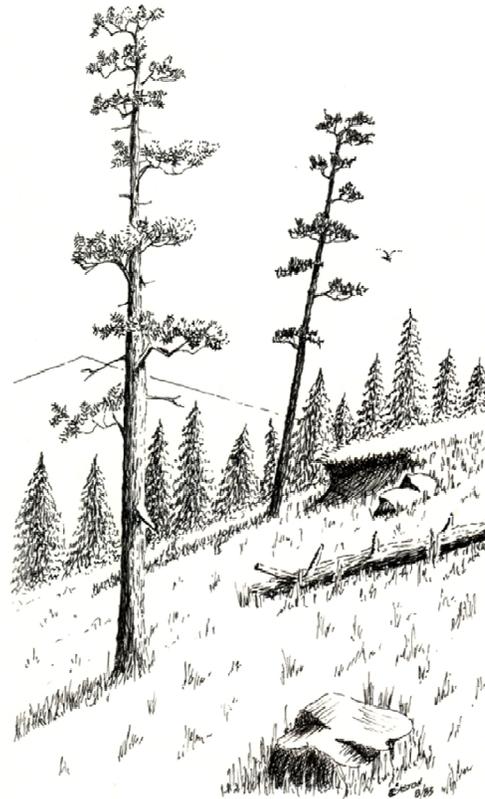
Refunds will not be given after a permit has been issued. Established cancellation policies will apply if reservations are cancelled in advance.

***Is everything going to be black and will I get dirty?***

Some severely burned sites in the fire area will be coated with black carbon and others will not. Be prepared to get dirty whether you're in the fire area or not.



For more information, maps, and photos visit our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior)



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## Visitor Questions & Answers Pagami Creek Fire Area

January 2012



***May I enter the area in the Wilderness where the fire burned? Will I be able to snow shoe, ski, or dogsled this winter in some of the closed areas?***

The area within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) that was affected by the Pagami Creek Fire remains closed due to hazard trees and other unsafe conditions. Our intent is to let the winter snow and wind take down as many hazard trees as possible. In the spring the Forest Service will evaluate the safety of the area and determine what should be opened for visitor use. Check the Superior National Forest website [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior) for details before you decide to visit.

***Are any areas or roads outside of the BWCAW still closed due to the fire?***

No areas or roads outside of the BWCAW are closed due to the fire. Most campgrounds are closed for the winter and will be open in the spring.

***What will I see when I'm traveling in the fire area?***

You will see a variety of burned conditions in the fire area that range from severely burned, blackened sites to sites that show little or no obvious fire effects. This spring you will see new growth of grasses, wildflowers, herbs, shrubs, and possibly tree seedlings. In the coming years you will witness a changing, rejuvenating forest in the fire area. Natural processes will re-establish this fire-dependent landscape through the succession of ground plants like fireweed to shrubs such as raspberry and blueberry, to tree cover including paper birch, pin cherry, jack pine, aspen and red pine.

***Are there trees for hanging food packs in the burned area?***

Similar to pre-fire conditions some BWCAW campsites have trees suitable to hang a food pack to protect from bears and some do not. Many campsites in the area burned by the fire will not have suitable trees. If you might be traveling in an area that may not have suitable trees, consider carrying a bear resistant food container.

***Has the fire affected fishing opportunities?***

Overall, the fire will not affect the fish themselves or your chances of catching fish. There will naturally be a wash of organics into the water in the spring, but it shouldn't be enough to negatively affect the fish. In fact, a certain amount of additional nutrients can actually contribute to long-term productivity of the aquatic system.

***Will there be firewood for campfires in the burned area?***

Campers in the area burned will want to bring a cook stove and not depend on limited wood supplies. Please leave charred wood on the ground at the campsite as this will provide valuable nutrients as it decomposes and will help reduce erosion.

***Are quotas for BWCAW entry permits going to be changed because of the fire?***

Yes, the Forest Service is evaluating campsites and travel routes and will determine the need for temporary and long-term closures, and or quota adjustments. Decisions will be reflected on the Forest website, [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior) and on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

***Will there be any wildlife near the burned area?***

Yes, we have already seen evidence of wildlife in the burned area and the new vegetation growth in the spring will attract various species. Our native wildlife has evolved with fire. Animals that fled during the fire will most likely return to their territories. In fact, some species such as the black-backed woodpecker are only seen after a fire.

***Will there be any privacy on the latrine?***

Some campsites will have more privacy than others depending on the amount of vegetation and topography. In any case, it is essential to use the latrine to protect water quality and campsite cleanliness.

***How will the Forest Service assure that enough campsites are available in the burned area?***

Most of the campsites in the burned area will be open for the 2012 summer season. However, some will need to "rest" for the summer, and a small number may need to be closed for a longer period of time. The Forest Service is evaluating campsite conditions, travel routes and quota to determine the need for any adjustments including campsite replacements.

***Will I smell smoke or burnt smell while traveling in the wilderness?***

If you can see the burned area, you might smell charred wood.