

backcountry



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa

218-335-8600

Camping

If you enjoy getting back to basics... The Chippewa National Forest offers a range of camping opportunities! The Forest has 23 developed campgrounds but for a more primitive experience, there are over 380 dispersed recreation sites on the Forest. Most of the Chippewa National Forest is open for backcountry or dispersed camping. There are some areas set aside for backcountry camping, or a visitor may pack in and camp wherever he/she feels like enjoying nature's solitude. Access is typically by foot, boat or canoe. Backcountry campsites are located along most lakes and rivers, offering the perfect opportunity to explore the many canoe routes on the forest. There are no fees for primitive camping; however there are some rules intended to protect the resources. Please take the time to read the backcountry camping guidelines on back of this brochure.

ABOUT THE AREA...

Walker Area

The North Country Trail follows a parallel line along the southern border of the Forest. Hikers wishing an overnight experience will find 18 backcountry campsites next to the lovely small lakes along the trail. Beautiful in the fall and excellent fishing lakes! Some campsites provide fire rings and wilderness latrines.

Deer River Area

Those interested in backcountry camping on Cut Foot Sioux Lake may boat to any one of twenty designated backcountry campsites along the shoreline. All of these sites have wilderness latrines and a campfire ring. Some also have picnic tables. Campers must set up in one of these designated campsites on Cut Foot Sioux lake. Watch for camping markers next to the sites.

Marcell Area

Popular backcountry sites in the Marcell area include Spider Lake, the birch forest of the Suomi Hills and Trout Lake. These sites also have wilderness latrines and fire rings. Be prepared with an alternative site in case your first choice is taken. Trout Lake sites are located next to the Joyce Estate, a 1920's style private resort on the National Register of Historic Places.

Blackduck Area

Backcountry sites in the Blackduck area see the most use during the deer hunting season. The district's extensive hunter-walking trail systems provide many opportunities for hunting, trapping and fishing. A number of sites including Big Rice Lake and Hales Landing are located along the Turtle River Canoe Route. These river sites do include wilderness latrines, picnic tables and fire rings.

Cass Lake Area

Canoeists will enjoy the backcountry sites along the Pike Bay Connection canoe route or paddling down the Mississippi River between Knutson Dam and Lake Winnibigoshish. Most sites near Cass Lake are water access and routes are used during the wildrice season and are excellent bird watching sites.



chippewa national forest backcountry camping

Guidelines for backcountry camping:

- **Drinking Water:** Be careful about the drinking water. Even in a natural environment, water from rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds can be contaminated by contact with warm blooded animals. You should purify the water by boiling it at a full rolling boil for a minimum of five minutes. You can also treat it with iodine or a filter.
- **Latrines:** Keep your own human waste at least 200 feet from any water source. Dig a small hole about eight inches deep, and cover it with loose soil and sod after using. Dispose of your toilet paper in this hole; it will decompose naturally. DO NOT attempt to burn the toilet paper.
- **Campfires:** You can have a campfire outside of a fire ring without a permit. However, a few precautions should be taken, especially if the weather is dry. Scrape away leaves, twigs, and organic soil down to bare mineral soil in a 10 foot wide circle. Keep campfire small and water handy. Never leave campfires unattended. Please use only dead or fallen down branches and trees for firewood. Be sure your fire is DEAD OUT. Finally, cover the fire pit with soil when you leave.
- **Leave no Trace:** Pack all trash out, remove all traces of your campsite, fill in pit toilets, etc No structural changes can be made to the area.
- **Parking:** Please don't block Forest roads and gates when you leave your car and pack in. Your campsite should be located at least 50 feet from the edge of any road or boat ramp to reduce the adverse aesthetic effect of camping along roadsides.
- **Sites:** Camping is not allowed at areas that are set aside for day use activities such as picnic areas. If you choose primitive camping, there is a 14 day camping limit.
- **Safety first:** Before your camping adventure notify a friend, relative or one of the district offices of the location where you will be camping.

Chippewa National Forest employees would like to know how you enjoyed your visit to the campsite. Feedback is very important to improve and/or maintain the campsites for future generations. Please write or e-mail us with suggestions you might have. Be specific in your correspondence with location, so we can find the site easily if needed.

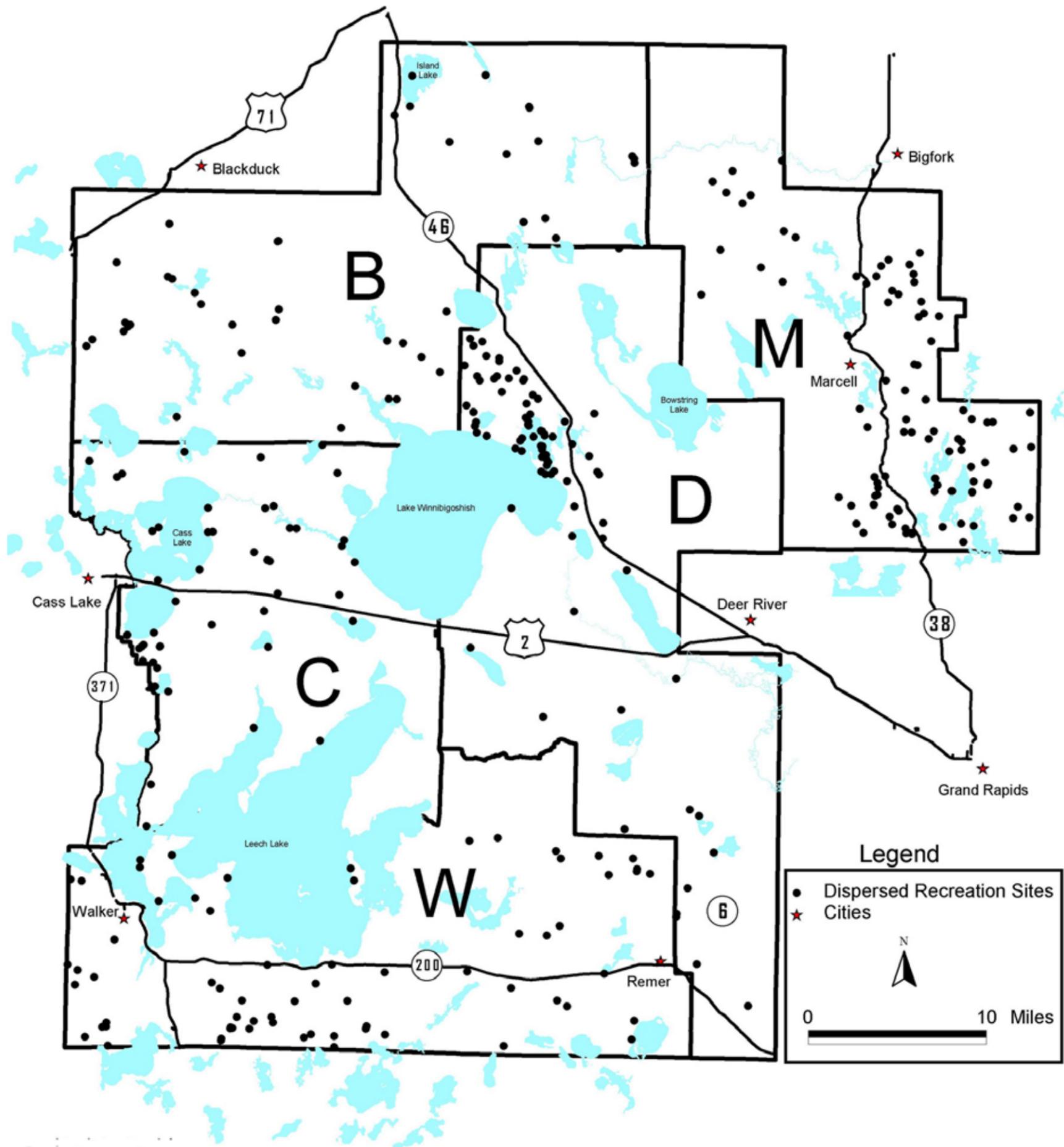


LARGE PRINT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



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For more information on a “backcountry” area you are interested in contact:

- B Blackduck District**, Chippewa National Forest
417 Forestry Drive
Blackduck, MN 56630
PH: (218) 835-4291

- D Deer River District**, Chippewa National Forest
1037 Division Street
Deer River, MN 56636
PH: (218) 246-2123

- M Marcell District**, Chippewa National Forest
49554 State Highway 38
Marcell, MN 56657
PH: (218) 832-3161

- W Walker District**, Chippewa National Forest
201 Minnesota Ave. E.
Walker, MN 56484
PH: (218) 547-1044

- C Forest Supervisor’s Office**, Chippewa National Forest
200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
PH: (218) 335-8600
TTY: (218) 335-8632

Email: r9@fs.fec
www.fs.fec

When selecting your backcountry site, make sure you are on Forest Service land and not private land. A Chippewa National Forest map can be purchased at any of the Forest Service offices to help navigate your trip.

