



# Chippewa National Forest

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## Semi Primitive Non-motorized Areas

**Q: What has changed in the new Forest Plan regarding OHV, motorized and non motorized use?**

Regarding OHVs, the new Plan is similar to the previous Plan. There is still no cross country (off road) travel and you can still ride on designated roads and trails. Regarding non-motorized use, the new Plan designates two areas including additional federal acres in the Suomi Hills area as non-motorized.

**Q: I'm concerned that I can not ride my OHV in the new or expanded Semi-Primitive Non-motorized areas in the Chippewa National Forest.**

The 2004 Forest Plan states that SPNM areas continue to be closed to public motorized use, with the exception of Forest Roads 2153, 2376, 3464 and 3494, the West Suomi Snowmobile Trail during the Grant-in-Aid season and motorized grooming of cross country ski trails. In addition, the Chippewa National Forest will conduct an analysis of all SPNM areas within 5 years to assess the need for the existing roads.

**Q: Does the non-motorized policy apply to private land and other lands within the SPNM boundary?**

No. The Forest Plan designation applies only to national forest lands within the Chippewa National Forest.

**Q: How can I get a map of the new Winnie North Semi Primitive area or the expansion as it compares to the existing Trout Lake SPNM area?**

The best way to view a detailed map of this area is at a national forest District Office. Photocopies are available.

**Q: Why can't I retrieve game in these semi primitive areas using my OHV?**

Cross country OHV use was previously prohibited on Chippewa National Forest and will continue to be. A national Proposed OHV Rule affecting the Forest Service further proposes that cross-country OHV travel be prohibited on all national forests. Cross country means travel off of roads and trails. For more on the national proposed rule see <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/>

**Q: I moved up here to retire and hunt but now I can not use my OHV! If the FS can't build OHV trails in SPNM areas where will we ride?**

You can still use your OHV in most areas of Chippewa National Forest although a national Proposed OHV Rule may guide the Forest Service nationally to prohibit cross-county OHV travel on all national forests. Consistent with the national proposed rule, the Chippewa National Forest will designate roads and trails open to OHV use. This is a change from posting areas "closed" to use. OHV travel is allowed on designated low standard roads and trails. Of the 2600 miles of roads lacing the Forest, approximately 2000 miles are lower standard roads where OHV use can be designated. Ninety new miles of OHV trail will also be constructed over time.

**Q: In the 1970's when the FS first established SPNM areas I was not contacted. How were opinions collected this time?**

Extensive public involvement occurred during this 7 year planning process. Public meetings were held annually in the Grand Rapids area from 1998 to 2003. For a list of all public involvement that occurred, see the Final EIS Volume 2, Appendix A. Semi Primitive Non-motorized areas were identified in Proposed Plan along with a 120 day public comment period from May to Sept 2003. Public comments helped the Regional Forester modify the proposal. His reasons for changes in allocating SPNM areas are described in the Record of Decision on page 18.

**Q. How can I see the letters of those who commented on this proposal, if they are local or from other areas?**

All letters and comments received were cataloged in a database, and grouped by subject. A list of all organizations and individuals who commented is provided in the Final EIS Volume 1, in Chapter 5 on page 5-6 through page 5-18. To view the comments, see the Final EIS Volume 3 Response to Comments. Beginning on page J-377 comments specific to SPNM areas are listed and a Forest Service response is provided. Comments on recreational motor vehicles begin on page J-319. The Final EIS Volumes 1 and 3 are available by request on CD, in hard copy at all local Forest Service offices, on the Chippewa National Forest website [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa) and at the Bemidji and Grand Rapids Public Libraries.

**Q: Can I challenge this decision?**

A 90 day appeal period began August 27<sup>th</sup> and an appeal may be filed until approximately Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. Instructions for filing an appeal are provided in the Record of Decision on page 39. There are 8 minimum requirements and appeals must be addressed to Washington DC.

**Q: When will the change from motorized to non-motorized road use in a new SPNM area start? Can I still hunt in this area with a motorized vehicle in 2004?**

Implementation of the 2004 Forest Plan is allowed 30 days after release of the Plan, beginning Sept. 14, 2004. The Forest Plan states that motorized use is prohibited in designated SPNM areas. Current Minnesota DNR Hunting Regulations state that you can not use OHV's off roads and trails anywhere in national forests, so enforcement will occur during the 2004 hunting season.