

ten section



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa

218-335-8600

LOCATION

Truly the heart of the Chippewa National Forest, the "Ten Section Area" lies immediately east of the city of Cass Lake. Visitors to Norway Beach, Star Island, Pike Bay Campground and Knutson Dam seldom realize they have just spent time in one of the most historical areas on the Forest.

HISTORY

In the late 1800's, a number of the State's more influential citizens and organizations were interested in the area that is now the Chippewa National Forest. Congressmen proposed a National Park, lumbermen set their sites on the big pine. It was the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs who helped form a compromise. In 1902 the Morris Act established the Minnesota Forest Reserve. Ten Section was an important piece of the original Chippewa National Forest.

In 1908, the Minnesota Forest Reserve became the first national forest east of the Mississippi and by 1928 was renamed the Chippewa National Forest. What started as 225,000 acres set aside in 1902 is now the 666,325 acre Chippewa National Forest.

MANAGING THE PINES

Managing the resources of Ten Section provides a unique challenge. A windstorm in 1940 brought down many of the large pines. The Forest Service contracted to have the fallen trees salvaged. Live timber was not harvested from the area until 1962.

Today, the Ten Section Area is under consideration in the Forest Plan Revision process as an Old Growth Complex. There is no active timber management in the Area except for hazard tree removal in campgrounds and along trails.

RECREATION

Along with the massive pines, bald eagles, some of Minnesota's best walleye and muskie fishing, and

miles of sand beach, the Ten Section Area has much to offer. Points of interest include:

- Over 210 camping sites are located in the **Norway Beach Recreation Area, Knutson Dam, South Pike Bay and Nushka Campgrounds**. If you are seeking a more primitive experience there are also several dispersed sites throughout the area.
- You will also find the **Pike Bay Connection**; a historic eight-mile canoe route.
- A two-mile **Nature Trail** weaves its way through old growth red pine at Norway Beach Campground. There are also six miles of the **Star Island Hiking Trail**.
- The **Mi-Ge-Zi Bike Trail** offers four miles of paved trail passing through the Norway Beach Recreation

Area.

- Over 8,000



visitors pass through the **Norway Beach Visitor Information Center** each summer, enjoying one of the many interpretive programs offered.

- Interpretive displays tell the story of the **Chippewa National Forest Supervisor's Office** in Cass Lake. The three story log building was constructed in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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