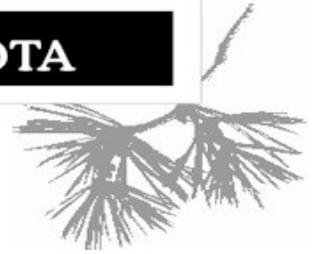


NATIONAL FORESTS IN MINNESOTA



NEWS RELEASE

Name: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Date: January 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Name: Jean Ramstad

Phone Number: 218-246-2123 or 832-3161

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AT NIGHT?

DEER RIVER, Minn. – Imagine cross-country skiing on groomed trails through one of the most scenic areas of the Chippewa National Forest. The quiet solitude, scenery, wildlife, and (of course) healthy exercise draws people in ever increasing numbers to the non-motorized trails found throughout the Forest. Now, add the darkness of night, candle-lit trails, hot cider and snacks – what do you get? A fun evening that will build a lifetime of memories for you, your family and friends.

The Marcell / Deer River Ranger District announced today that the 14th-Annual Cut Foot Sioux Candlelight Ski Event has been scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2003 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Cut Foot Sioux Visitor Information Center. The Information Center is located on Highway 46, 17 miles north of Deer River.

Candles will be lit at dusk and you can enjoy a relaxing tour of the woodland winter night. The luminaries will guide you along a 1-mile groomed loop of the 18-mile Simpson Creek Trail. All levels of skiers will glide smoothly along this trail loop while enjoying the great Minnesota outdoors. Not gliding along smoothly? Then it's time to stop at the Visitor Center for hot cider and a snack.

For more information on this evening of fun, and other winter activities available on the Chippewa National Forest, contact Patti Hines or Jean Ramstad 218-246-2123 (Deer River) or 218-832-3161 (Marcell)

(NOTE: If temperatures drop below –10 degrees F., this Candlelight Ski Event will be held on Saturday evening, February 14th from 4 to 8 p.m.).

-end-

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