



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Ave. Place
Duluth, MN 55808-1122
Phone (218) 626-4300
Fax: (218) 626-4398

Chippewa National Forest
200 Ash Ave. N.W.
Cass Lake, MN 56633-8929
Phone: (218) 335-8600
Fax: (218) 335-8637

File Code: 1920-2/1950-3

Date: July 30, 2004

Dear Friends of the Minnesota National Forests:

We are pleased to present the revised Forest Plans and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests. If you requested paper copies of documents, you will receive them shortly. Because we wanted to get this information to you as soon as possible, we are enclosing a CD-ROM that contains electronic versions of the following documents:

- Final environmental impact statement (EIS Volume I)
- Summary of the final environmental impact statement
- Appendices to the final environmental impact statement (EIS Volume II)
- Response to Comments (EIS Volume III)
- Record of Decision for the Chippewa National Forest
- Revised plan for the Chippewa National Forest
- Record of Decision for the Superior National Forest
- Revised plan for the Superior National Forest

The final environmental impact statement documents the analysis and effects that were a basis for the Regional Forester's selection of an alternative to become the Forest Plans. The summary presents this information in abbreviated form. The appendices include additional information used to analyze effects of the alternatives. The Response to Comments summarizes the comments received from the public on the proposed plans and draft environmental impact statement, and the Forest Service response to the comments.

The Record of Decision documents the Regional Forester's selection of an alternative to become the revised plan, and explains the reasons for his choice.

The revised plans will guide the management of the Chippewa and Superior National Forests for the next 10 to 15 years. These revised plans are strategic in nature, with an emphasis on ecological, social, and economic sustainability over the long-term.

Implementation of the revised Forest Plans will begin 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement is published in the *Federal Register*. That date is expected to be August 13, 2004. A legal notice of the decision is expected to be published in the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel in mid-August. This date of the legal notice in the Milwaukee newspaper will serve as the beginning of the 90-day appeal period. You will have received hard



copy versions of the revision documents by this time, if you requested them.

We thank you for staying involved in the plan revision process, and for your comments on the draft environmental impact statement and proposed Forest Plans. Your comments helped us to prepare the revised plans and final environmental impact statement. The Forest Service considered all of the letters and e-mails received during the comment period for the draft environmental impact statements and proposed Forest Plans, which were published in April 2003. Public comments were used to improve and clarify the environmental impact statement, and were considered by the Regional Forester in making his decision. A summary of public comments and agency responses is concluded in Volume III of the final environmental impact statement.

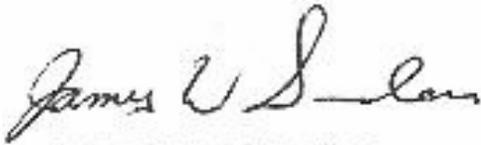
For additional information, please visit the Chippewa or Superior websites, or contact the individuals indicated below:

Chippewa National Forest
website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa
Brenda Halter-Glenn, Forest Planner
(218) 335-8651

Superior National Forest
website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior
Duane Lula, Forest Planner
(218) 626-4383

We appreciate the time and effort that you took to review and comment on the draft documents, and we hope that you choose to continue to participate as the revised plans are implemented.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SANDERS
Forest Supervisor, Superior



NORMAN L. WAGONER
Forest Supervisor, Chippewa

ENCLOSURE