

NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts:

Duane Lula or Kris Reichenbach, Superior National Forest - 218-626-4300
Brenda Halter-Glenn or Kay Getting, Chippewa National Forest - 218-335-8600

REVISED NATIONAL FOREST PLANS COMPLETED

The revised forest land and resource management plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests are now available. These plans present strategic direction for managing the two National Forests for the next 10 to 15 years. According to Jim Sanders and Norm Wagoner, Forest Supervisors, the plans focus on outcomes, recognizing that what is left on the landscape is vitally important. At the same time, the plans recognize how important forest management is to people and their social and economic well-being.

The revision has been a collaborative effort. More than 7,000 letters were received during the process. These comments and several years of work with tribal governments, members of the public, elected officials, and other agencies helped guide Forest Service staff as they developed the revised plan. The Forest Supervisors stressed that creating the plan has not been easy, and creating one that is supported by most members of the public is even more difficult. There are divergent views and values when it comes to what the Forests should look like, provide, and how they should be managed. The revised plans are a balanced approach in addressing these views; and they will help meet the mission of the Forest Service, which is "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

Regional Forester Randy Moore made the decision to select a modified version of the management direction described as "Alternative E" in the proposed plans that were released in 2003. Mr. Moore said he was pleased to make his decision based upon "the best available science" and "solid relationships that have evolved through coordination and cooperation."

The Regional Forester continued by saying that this is an exciting time; and he is excited at the prospects and possibilities as the Forests go forward. While he emphasized the importance of public participation in the revision process and sincerely thanked all of those involved, he said continued interest and participation will be even more important as the plans are implemented, monitored, evaluated, and if needed, changed.

To learn more about the revised Forest Plans via the internet, log on to:
www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa or www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior.

Copies of the final plan revision documents are being sent to all who commented on the draft documents, those who requested copies, and to several area libraries.