



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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Changes in gathering firewood and mosses on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF takes effective January 1

Rhineland, Wis. – December 13, 2007. New requirements for gathering firewood and certain mosses on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF will take effect on January 1. The new requirements are outlined below.

Club and sheet mosses – Anyone issued a permit to gather these forest products will now be given a monitoring form. The permittee will be required to fill out the form and return it before they can receive another permit. Certain mosses are slow growing and monitoring forms will help the Forest track their growth progress to ensure they are being harvested in a sustainable manner.

Firewood gathering – Individuals who purchase firewood permits will only be allowed to gather firewood from within 150 feet from the tree line along the edge of any roads currently open for motorized use. Previous firewood permits allowed some harvest beyond 150 feet. In addition, only standing dead trees 12 inches or less in diameter at 4 ½ feet from the ground may be removed, and the part of dead and down trees 12 inches or less in diameter can only be removed. There had been no diameter restrictions on the removal of firewood in the past. The new firewood gathering requirements are needed to better meet plant and animal habitat requirements in the current management plan for the Forest.

A permit is required for the gathering of any special forest products in addition to those listed above. All permits contain information, guidelines and requirements for gathering. Permits can be purchased at Ranger District offices in Eagle River, Florence, Glidden, Hayward, Lakewood, Laona, Medford, Park Falls, and Washburn.

Please contact the forest Timber Program Manager, Walt Ruckheim, 715-362-1329, with additional questions about these new requirements.