



News Release

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

04-09 For Immediate Release Contact: John Lampereur, 715-276-6333

Ban on gathering oak firewood still in effect

Lakewood, Wis. – June 22, 2004. An outbreak of oak wilt, a disease lethal to oak trees, continues within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In an attempt to contain the disease, the Forest Service has banned the collection of oak firewood across two quarantine areas surrounding the site of the infected oaks in Oconto County on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District. The ban will be in effect until further notice.

The south quarantine area is bordered by Hay Creek Road to the north, Riverview Road and the Powerline Corridor to the south, Flower Lake Road to the east (at the Marinette County Line), and Sunrise Lake and Mc Cauley Creek Road to the west. The north quarantine area is bordered by County Highway F to the north and west, Smyth and Buck's Ranch Road to the south, and North Fork Road to the east. Bright yellow warning signs are posted around the perimeter of the areas.

Oak Wilt is not new to Wisconsin. It is estimated to have been in the state for as long as a century, gaining prominence in the 1940s. Until recently, it has been largely confined to the southern two thirds of the state.

Caused by a fungus, the disease works by clogging the vascular system of oak trees, blocking the flow of water and nutrients. Once infected, the entire tree literally wilts and dies. It is unclear how long a tree may have the disease before displaying symptoms, but once symptoms appear, most oaks die within weeks. There is no cure, which is why it is important to prevent the spread of this disease.

“We are banning the collection of oak firewood to help control this outbreak,” said John Lampereur, District Silviculturist, “we want people to be aware that if they collect firewood infected with this disease it could spread to oaks in their yards or neighborhoods.”

For more information on oak wilt, including a map of the quarantined areas, please visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>.

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Oak Wilt Quarantine Areas on the Lakewood/Laona Ranger District

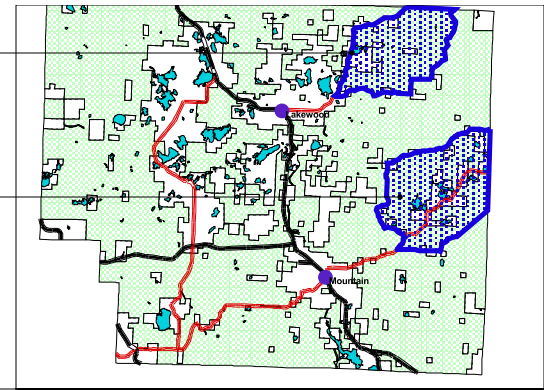
No Cutting or Removal of Oak Firewood From the Designated Areas.

Approximate Scale: 1:80000

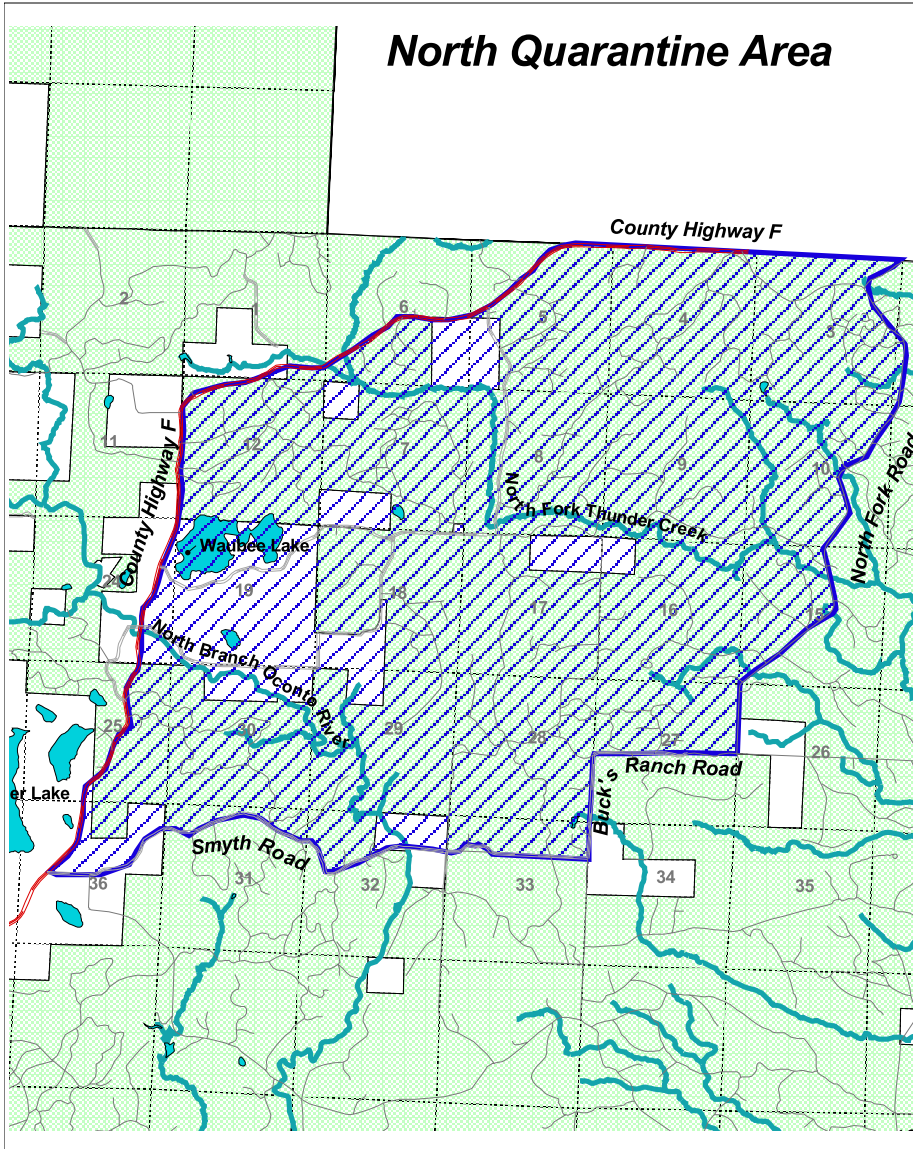


North Area

South Area



North Quarantine Area



South Quarantine Area

