



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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### Chequamegon-Nicolet NF recipient of two national awards

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, WI – August 31, 2006** – Managing one of the most important timber sale programs in the country as well as excellence in labor and management partnership resulted in two national awards for the Chequamegon-Nicolet this year.

“Being the recipient of two National awards is a great honor and tribute to all the hard work and great things happening on the Forest,” said Forest Supervisor Anne Archie.

Pat Perlberg, a recent retiree from the Forest, was awarded the National Forest Products Person of the Year by the Forest Service Headquarters in Washington. This award was for her “Sustained dedication and expertise to the timber management program on the Forest and in the Region for over 28 years.” Perlberg had been involved in the timber sale program since 1978, and since that time, close to 1,000 timber sale contracts have been prepared on the Forest. She also developed a keen understanding of the complexities of the timber sale contracts over the years. As a result, her advice had often been sought on how past contract interpretations were used and often impacted present-day contract decisions.

The second national award was presented to the National Forest for the excellent working Partnership Council between the National Federation of Federal Employees Local 2165 and the local National Forest Management Team. Mike Andersen, President of the local union said, “It is a celebration of our mutual work to benefit employees on the National Forest. Safe and healthy working conditions are a priority for us.” The Partnership Council engaged in a wide array of activities and initiatives to further the principles and objectives of collaborative collective bargaining. Training for team work and issue-resolution skills were part of the work that took place. Several Forest policies for safety issues were reviewed and implemented.

An award of \$20,000 was given to the Partnership Council. “We plan to use this award for training stewards and supervisors as well as train a cadre of employees to assist in work-place issue resolution,” said Supervisor Archie, “We continue to make the Chequamegon-Nicolet an employer of choice.”