



## News Release

# Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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**NR 07-08 For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Phil Barker, Recreation Program Manager, 715-362-1373**

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### **Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Scheduled**

#### **Proposals for fee increases on the Chequamegon-Nicolet will be reviewed**

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wisc. – April 10, 2007.** The first meeting of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) will be held in Milwaukee, WI, April 24 and 25, 2007. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., and conclude at approximately 3:30 p.m. It will be held at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 916 E. State St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet has proposed increasing camping fees at 50 of their 53 developed campgrounds on the Forest, as well as increasing daily and annual vehicle-based fees for day use sites. Fees are used to help the forest continue its historical high level of maintenance and services at the sites. Fees at Boulder Lake campground in Langlade County will be higher because of an extensive reconstruction project during 2004 and 2005.

To keep the public informed and receive public perspectives, the Chequamegon-Nicolet has been posting signs announcing the Forest's proposal at campground and fee areas for over a year, and recently issued a news release regarding the proposed increases. According to Phil Barker, Forest Recreation Program Manager, "We appreciate the comments we've received from individuals on the proposed fee increases and will be sharing these with the Resource Advisory Committee to aid them in making their recommendations."

The RRAC, developed under guidance in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture concerning recreation fees on National Forests. The RRAC Committee is composed of a diverse group of 11 citizens, including 5 members from Wisconsin. The proposed fee increases for the Chequamegon-Nicolet, along with 5 other National Forests in the Eastern Region, will be reviewed by the Committee at this meeting.

People interested in recreation fees in the Eastern Region (Allegheny, Chequamegon-Nicolet, Chippewa, Green Mountain, Hiawatha, Hoosier, Huron-Manistee, Mark Twain, Midewin, Monongahela, Ottawa, Shawnee, Superior, Wayne and White Mountain National Forests) are invited to attend the meeting. The public comment period is scheduled to begin at 2:00 CT, April 25. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits of the comment period. Written comments may be submitted by sending them to: Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official, US Forest Service, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902.