



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

May 22, 2008

NR 08-13 For Immediate Release

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A Celebration of National Trails Day and Historic Preservation: Hidden Lakes Trail and Butternut-Franklin Lakes Archaeological District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

- When:** Saturday, June 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
- Where:** Hidden Lakes Trail footbridge as it crosses the North Branch of the Pine River (near Luna-White Deer Campground)
- Directions:** From the intersection of highways 45 and 70, east of Eagle River, take Highway 70 east for 13 miles to Forest Road (FR) 2176 (Divide Road). Turn right (south) on FR 2176 and proceed four miles to FR 2140 and turn right (west), then proceed one mile until you see a pull-out on your left where participants will gather. At 10:00 a.m. those interested will take a short hike – less than a quarter mile – to the point where Hidden Lakes Trail crosses the Pine River, the location of an interpretive kiosk.

The Butternut-Franklin lakes area, located east of Eagle River in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, is distinguished by its scenic beauty and ecological diversity. Increasingly, hikers have been drawn to the area and to accommodate access, the Hidden Lakes Trail was developed in the 1990's. The 13 mile trail encircles the Butternut-Franklin lakes area and passes through numerous scenic vistas. Though largely unknown to trail users, it also crosses through 20 archaeological sites that represent a 4,000 year continuum of Native American settlement and history. During the past 30 years with the help of many partners and hundreds of volunteers, archaeological research has resulted in the designation as a National and State Register of Historic Places archaeological district.

Further, through cooperation with the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the Lac Vieux Desert Band Historic Preservation Office, three interpretive panels were recently developed and placed in a trailside kiosk along the Hidden Lakes Trail.

To celebrate both the popularity of the trail as well as the designation as a National Register Archaeological District, a ceremony and celebration is scheduled to take place on Saturday June 7th, National Trails Day. Hosted by the Butternut-Franklin Lake Foundation and the Forest Service, the event will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the footbridge where the trail crosses the outlet of Butternut Lake, the location of a newly developed interpretive kiosk. Attending the ceremony will be Ms. Giiwe Martin, Tribal Historical Preservation Officer from the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Bud Mohns, president of the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation; and Forest Service Representatives Mark Bruhy, Geoff Chandler, and Jeff Herrett.

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