



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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Lower Wilson Flowage drawdown begins in September

Medford, Wisc. – September 17, 2008. The Medford-Park Falls Ranger District on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF will begin drawing down the water level in the Lower Wilson Flowage, approximately 12 miles east/northeast of Phillips, on or about September 15, 2008. Water levels will drop 3-4 inches per day, reaching a final water level of 5-6 feet lower than the present level by the end of October 2008. The flowage will be refilled in the spring of 2009, most likely in early April or whenever the major snowmelt run-off occurs.

The drawdown is being conducted to improve the fishery and boating and angling access by controlling weed densities. A survey conducted on September 8, 2008 by US Forest Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries personnel determined that approximately 40% of the flowage had thick weed densities that would hinder fishing and boating activities. There are additional concerns for the trophy northern fishery given that the present water level conditions are 18" below normal. The drawdown action was part of an analysis and decision memo issued by District Ranger Bob Hennes in 1996.

The Lower Wilson Flowage is located in T38N, R2E Sections 2,3,10, and 11 in Price County, Wisconsin.

A previous drawdown of the Lower Wilson Flowage took place in 2006.

Anyone with questions or concerns can contact Susanne Adams, Wildlife Biologist on the Medford-Park Falls District at 715-748-4875, or email smadams@fs.fed.us.