



# Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

## *New Century Snapshot*

### *Forest Service and Volunteers Improve Deerskin River Fishing*

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USDA Forest Service

Eagle River-Florence, Wis. – Trout fishing along the Deerskin River has improved thanks to the USDA Forest Service along with Trout Unlimited volunteers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Deerskin River is a Class I trout stream that originates from Long Lake in northeast Vilas County. Class I trout streams are considered to be high quality trout waters. Between 1930 and 1940 the Deerskin River was the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps trout hatchery.

The Deerskin River was also used by loggers in the early 1900s to move pine logs to sawmills. Consequently, several logging dams were constructed along the river. The logging dams were removed in the 1930s and 1940s but were replaced by beaver dams, which resulted in heavy sedimentation and bank erosion.

Beginning in the 1960s several miles of the Deerskin River were enhanced by the installation of bank cover structures, stream deflectors, and half-logs. Since 1979 there has been periodic removal of encroaching alder and installation and maintenance of other stream enhancing structures.

Currently the stream channel is being widened by alder branches redirecting stream flow into



the banks. This bank erosion is leading to increased sedimentation and the alder is reducing in-stream fish-ability.

The Forest Service, WDNR, and Trout Unlimited have worked together the past two summers to remove the alder growing out into the stream in addition to constructing brush bundles. Brush bundles narrow and deepen the stream channel by helping new stream banks to form. Over one mile of stream has been treated so far, and work is planned to continue until the stream corridor is fully restored.

The Deerskin River cooperative work is a shining example of what can be accomplished when different organizations come together with a common goal.

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