



Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

New Century Snapshot

Volunteers and Friends help provide cross-country ski opportunities.

By Jeff Herrett, 715-479-2827
USDA Forest Service

Eagle River and Florence, Wis. – If you’ve never experienced cross-country skiing on that “freshly fallen silent shroud of snow,” as the song goes, the opportunity awaits you on several ski trails located in the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Thanks to volunteers, Friends and Forest Service employees, cross-country skiers of all skill levels can find a trail that suits them just fine.

Some friends met up with us last winter at one of these cross-country ski trails located east of Eagle River. These friends were not particularly good skiers but they could really fly down the trails literally. Chickadees – if you’ve never fed chickadees out of your hand, the opportunity awaits you at the Anvil Ski Trail Shelter.

Elsewhere, on the northern portion of the Nicolet side of the forest, volunteers prepare and groom ski trails through the winter. The Phelps Ski Trail near Phelps and the Nicolet North Ski Trail northeast of Three Lakes are both maintained and groomed by Forest Service volunteers through the snowy winter months. Most of the volunteers are experienced skiers themselves.

The Phelps ski trail is connected to the Afterglow Lake resort where even more cross-country ski trails are groomed for skiers. The



Nicolet North ski trails are likewise connected to the Anvil Ski trails and the Adirondack-style shelter on the Nicolet North Trail was constructed by the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation and the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. Just two more examples of volunteers and partners and the Forest Service working together to provide skiing opportunities.

The Lauterman Ski Trail west of Florence is the site of the annual “Chili Ski-In” in February. Hosted by the Friends of the Florence Wild Rivers Interpretive Center and the Forest Service, the Chili Ski-In provides a warm lunch for those willing to ski to mile into the shelter on the trail. Snowshoers also have a trail here to access the trail shelter.

Thanks to volunteers, partnerships and Friends, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest offers a variety of winter silent sport experiences.

Check out our Website

www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/

