



## Chippewa Update – June 2008

### Chippewa National Forest Centennial

- We began our next 100 years by hosting the public, retirees and local media at Centennial Open Houses May 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. With this attention, we are focused on where we're headed, the importance of working with partners, and opening the discussion of the challenging issues ahead.
- Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) and the Leech Lake Tribal Council joined us May 27<sup>th</sup> to briefly discuss our working relationship and future. *[Photo right: Rob Harper, Cass Lake Mayor Wayne LaDuke, Leech Lake Chairman George Goggeley and Senator Coleman]*



### Meeting Our Commitments

- We will visit the RO June 19<sup>th</sup> with an overview of the Chippewa and our current partnerships.
- We continue to have successful bid openings with multiple bidders. Our largest sale of the year, the Holly Sale, was let to Boise Cascade in early June.
- The Recreation Facilities Analysis is currently out for public comment
- A Draft of the Lower East Winnie Resource Management Project EA on the Deer River District was circulated for public comment on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Connecting Citizens to the Land

- Summer sessions of “Woods in the Wolves”, our outdoor classroom project, have started in two communities by hosting Art, Science and Nature Camp and Kids Club. Approximately 200 youth are expected to participate.
- Among the seasonal and student employees on Chippewa NF this summer are 3 adult STEP students learning to teach conservation education in their local community. Partners in this effort with us include the Boys & Girls Club, local Headstart Program, and the City of Cass Lake. The students bring skills in Ojibwe language and cultural activities, act as role models, and gain teaching skills and college credit.
- Norway Beach Recreation Area is one of the National Get Outdoors Day sites, in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chippewa Centennial Triathlon June 14<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of spectators were attracted to exhibits, recreation and firewise information, and many organized outdoor activities to participate in.

### Working Across Boundaries

- **Plans for a proposed new Walker Administrative Office are moving forward. The city of Walker unanimously supported sharing a new facility with the Leech Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, developing a bike path and highway access tunnel and working with us on remaining conveyance projects.**

- Our Centennial year has initiated some new partner interest. Mickman Brothers, a leading Minneapolis-St. Paul wreath manufacturer, has contacted us about donating funds for tree planting activities.
- Anderson Log Homes of Walker has also contacted us about donating and planting 2 trees for each log used in their business.
- Samuel Garcia (Garcia Tree Service) was the recipient of the Small Disadvantaged Business of the Year Award. Garcia has been a primary contractor here for many years and will be honored at a Ceremony on June 25, 2008, in Washington, DC.

## Jumping Ahead in Sustainability

- Employees (23) who attended a workshop in Grand Rapids May 20<sup>th</sup> on the current state of riparian emphasis stimulated discussions about our proactive Forest Plan emphasis, and how we might accomplish restoration in riparian management zones such as the Mississippi River.
- An interagency training in Bemidji and Grand Rapids in June raised awareness of Best Management guidelines for biomass removal. The use of BMPs developed by the MN Forest Resource Council is part of our Forest Plan. The Chippewa NF will host a session for employees in July including field stops.
- The Blackduck District conducted an annual riparian planting at 3 sites near Wagner Lake. Ferrying to the planting site, crews planted 5 acres with 3000 trees.
- The former Ruby Lake Organizational Camp, eligible for the National Register, is in transition. Needed hazard tree removal is being used as a demonstration fuel reduction project for the Itasca County CWPP, the debris chipped and transported as biomass, in anticipation of a new permittee. *[At right, hazard tree removal at Ruby Lake Camp and below, work at Ruby Lake Camp today.]*



- Phase 3 of the Ruby Lake project is to develop and market a prospectus this year for future operation and maintenance of the 25 buildings.
- Ongoing bird monitoring, the status of American Elm restoration, and a summary of FY07 accomplishments are all found in this quarter's Wildlife-Fish-Rare Plants (WFRP) Newsletter. See it on the Chippewa website at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/publications/misc/wfrpnewsletter\\_May08.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/publications/misc/wfrpnewsletter_May08.pdf)

## An Employer of Choice

- Mitch Bouchonville, Walker Public Services Leader, was recently honored for ten years of service to the Kego Lake Local Indian Council and presented with honorary membership and an Indian name.
- Our second Multicultural Heritage Day occurs June 18<sup>th</sup>. Among the speakers are the Leech Lake Tribal Chair, Tribal College Historian, former CNF employee Jane Cliff, the 1965 Chippewa Forest Supervisor, and a ceremonial tree planting accompanied by the Cass Lake Drum Group.
- A Diversity Day May 29<sup>th</sup> was hosted by the Leech Lake Band, including speakers on workplace culture, Indian boarding schools, and overcoming barriers in the workplace. Future sessions are planned for multi-agency audiences.
- Employee Safety Training Week occurs June 16 -20.