



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

NR 07-30 For Immediate Release

Contact: Walt Ruckheim, Timber Program Manager, (715) 362-1354

Bough permit fees increase on Chequamegon-Nicolet

September 24, 2007 - Rhinelander, WI--- The cost to purchase permits to gather boughs has increased from 37.50 per ton to \$40.00 per ton. This year the minimum permit will be \$80, which authorizes the gathering of up to 2 tons of material. Additional material may be purchased with a new permit for \$40.00 per ton.

Forest Service Handbook direction is to value special forest products at 10% of what they can be sold for by the permittee. Currently, local bough purchasers are paying an estimated \$0.20 per pound which equates to \$400 per ton. Therefore, the Forest will charge \$40 per ton for bough permits this year.

Transport Authorization Tags are required and must be properly filled out prior to removing boughs from the harvest site. Transportation authorization tags are issued in denominations of 200 pounds per tag. Prior to harvesting in a timber sale area (normally marked with paint and having signs of active or recent harvesting), the permittee needs to contact the nearest Ranger District Office for approval on areas within the sale area where gathering can occur.

Only balsam fir boughs will be available for collection. Requests for boughs of other conifer species may be granted on a case by case basis.

Only branches from the lower half of the tree may be removed. The permittee is encouraged not to harvest more than one-third of each branch in order to continue regrowth.

Permits may be purchased at Ranger District offices in Eagle River, Florence, Glidden, Hayward, Lakewood, Laona, Medford, Park Falls, and Washburn.