



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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For Immediate Release

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Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Releases Cayuga Final Environmental Impact Statement

Rhineland, WI November 19, 2008 – After reviewing public and agency input, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins has made the decision to implement the Cayuga Project. The project area is located northeast of Clam Lake in the CNNF's Great Divide District.

Implementation of the project to enhance and restore wildlife habitat as well as forest health will include harvesting 5,242 acres of timber, of which 2,130 will be deferred for four years. This delay allows the American marten (a member of the weasel family) to become established following three years of supplemental stocking program. The CNNF worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the agency responsible for marten management) when choosing an alternative that best protected the marten while still allowing for enhancement of marten habitat. The DNR has determined that appropriate types of timber harvesting will not be a detriment to the marten population.

“The Forest has carefully considered the input we received from all groups who have commented on this project. We feel our decision best addresses the need to enhance habitat while minimizing American marten exposure during harvest operations, reduce forest health issues, and provide wood products that will contribute towards local economic needs.” says Connie Chaney, Great Divide District Ranger.

The CNNF has also been responsive to concerns that were raised with the original Decision made in 2003 by taking a more in-depth assessment of the cumulative effects as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and by a 2005 court ruling.

The Notice of Availability the Federal Register will signal the start of a 45-day comment period. The decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to [36 CFR Part 215]. For more information please call the Great Divide District office at (715) 634-4821. The Final Environmental Analysis will be posted to the web-site after November 26, to view visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/> .

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