



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Jeanne Higgins (715) 762-5175 or Connie Chaney (715) 634-4821

Court Rules in Favor of Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; Twenty-Mile Vegetation Management Project

Rhineland, WI January 15, 2009 – Federal Judge Lynn Adelman, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, ruled in favor of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) and dismissed a court case involving the Twenty-Mile Vegetation Project. The ruling gives the green light to the CNNF to move forward on actively managing approximately 8,800 acres of northern hardwoods. The Twenty-Mile vegetation project is located 30 miles northeast of Hayward on the Great Divide District.

The Twenty-Mile project was appealed in June 2007 by the Habitat Education Center of Madison, WI and the Environmental Law and Policy Center of Chicago, IL. Judge Lynn Adelman held oral arguments on the case in December 2008 resulting in the ruling in the favor of the CNNF.

One of the purposes of the Twenty-Mile project is to enhance and restore the forest health and diversity of the plants and animals. A tool to accomplish this is the use of selective cutting for timber harvest. This process improves the quality of residual trees as well as allowing a diversity of tree species to grow.

“This is very positive and significant news for the Forest Service. The forest health, local economies and the public in general will be beneficiaries of this ruling.” said Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins.

The CNNF revised its Forest Plan in 2004. The Plan is the framework that provides a holistic approach to forest management. All vegetation projects address resource and public concerns as well as moves the Forest closer to the desired condition as outlined in the Forest Plan. The CNNF has the responsibility to manage the forest to assure it will be sustainable into the future. This favorable ruling allows the CNNF to begin implementing the Forest Plan for that area of the Forest.

“Public involvement is critical to managing these public lands. We appreciate the willingness of people to be involved and we hope people continue to offer input as we design future projects.” said Great Divide District Ranger, Connie Chaney.

The CNNF expects to offer several timber sales from the Twenty-Mile project over the next few years. For more information or to view the Environmental Analysis for this or other projects visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>

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