



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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**09-08 For Immediate Release Contact: Catherine Pinegar, 715-362-1373**

### **Chequamegon-Nicolet trails close to ATVs, horses, and mountain bikes March 15; Forest Service roads also closed to ATVs**

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wisc. – March 6, 2009** – Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins would like to remind people the annual spring closure that prohibits ATV (including motor bikes), horse, and mountain bike use on Forest trails will be in effect between March 15 and April 30, 2009. During this same time period, ATVs are prohibited from using all Forest Service jurisdiction roads.

Catherine Pinegar, Forest Recreation and Lands Officer states “ATV use during the spring thaw can cause significant damage to roads and soils. Rutting, soil erosion, and other resource damage can occur when ATVs are ridden on ground that is saturated and muddy, resulting in costly repairs. This spring closure order protects the public’s investment in roads and trails, and protects the Forest’s soil and water resources.”

ATV routes designated by towns under state law are not affected by this closure. Snowmobile trails in Taylor County that also allow ATV use will remain open until the snowmobile trails are closed.

Pinegar encourages ATV, horse, and mountain bike enthusiasts to do their part in helping to protect recreation opportunities by honoring this closure.

Designated ATV, horse, and Mountain Bike trails open for use again on May 1. Forest Service jurisdiction roads open to ATV’s can also be used beginning May 1.