



## Chippewa NF Update – February 2009

### Meeting Our Commitments

- Chippewa NF is actively outlining details of potential Economic Stimulus projects and organizing development of an advisory committee for the Secure Rural Schools Act. Dennis Parker will be our point of contact for Stimulus, and Kay Getting our point of contact for the Resource Advisory Committee.
- Two timber sales sold in the first quarter as planned, and as many as 5 are expected during this second quarter. Bid openings are expected to occur Feb 18, 24<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The North Winnie EA is currently out for public review from the Blackduck District.
- The Walker Admin Site decision was signed Feb. 3, after receiving only supportive comments. This project and our community relations have strengthened nicely in the last year.

### Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries

- The first update of our Motor Vehicle Use Map is underway with public and employee input (*Photo right: Ranger Tracy Beck, Law Enforcement Officer Paul Nordeen, and District Recreation Team Leader Nancy Salminen review changes to the MVUM*)



- The Chippewa National Forest will host a Forest Health Workshop on March 11th. The presenters at this year's Workshop include Steve Katovich, Forest Service Entomologist, and Joe O'Brien, Forest Service Pathologist, from State & Private Forestry in St. Paul, and Jana Albers, Forest Health Specialist with the Minnesota DNR.

- Silviculturist Gary Swanson will present the American Elm restoration project to the MN Forest Resource Partnership on Feb 18th. The Partnership, developed by state statute in 1995, is a voluntary, self-funded partnership of forest landowners, managers and professional loggers dedicated to improving the health and productivity of Minnesota's forest resources and communities. The American Elm restoration project will also be featured in an upcoming issue of **BetterFORESTS** magazine.

### Connecting Citizens to the Land

- The Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota and MN DNR sponsored "Connecting People, Parks, Trails and Communities" a regional workshop January 30-31 in Walker, MN. Congressman Oberstar was a featured speaker, who took time to learn about our proposed Walker Administrative site and the Shingobee Connection, a bike route between the Heartland and Paul Bunyan state trails. [*photo right: Team Leader Dennis Parker talks with Congressman Oberstar*]



▪ In response to President Obama's call to make an enduring commitment to our neighborhoods, the Chippewa NF hosted Community Day at Shingobee Hills on January 17. Over 70 people participated, and the Cass Lake High School Science Club, part of the STAR program, also came prepared for a winter campout. Participants were also happy to learn that the chalet will be open on winter weekends, thanks to the Leech Lake Band's temporary employment program (*Photo left : STAR students build their first quinzhee or snowshelter.*)



▪ Deer River District employees participated in the North School's Winter Forestry Days, by teaching about wildlife and tree survival, tracks and birding.

▪ A Chippewa LEO and four firefighters from the Walker and Blackduck Districts assisted the Cass County Sheriff and Cass Lake Fire Department with the 8th Annual Multi-Agency Winter Ice Rescue Training Exercise on Cass Lake. Three holes were cut in 22 inch thick ice, for open water rescue training

and dive team practice. See a short video of the event on the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper site: [http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/video/index.cfm?videos=3\\_0203iceicebaby&app=bemidji](http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/video/index.cfm?videos=3_0203iceicebaby&app=bemidji)

▪ The Chippewa NF episode of the North American Fishing show filmed during last summer's Centennial is scheduled to air the week of March 2nd on Versus (formerly the Outdoor Life cable channel) and the week of March 16th on Fox North, Fox SportSouth, Lonestar, the Sportsman Channel, & Wild TV (Canada).

## **Efficiency and Effectiveness**

- The Chippewa National Forest is now among the early adapters migrating website information to the new web portal system.
- Chippewa NF has completed realigning our fire and fuels organization, into a zone-based group working across administrative boundaries to address Forest-wide priorities. District FMO's and detailers have already begun to demonstrate how maximizing their strengths and skills can enhance our effectiveness.

## **Walking the Talk for Sustainability**

- The Chippewa Green Team is setting new goals for 2009 and has started a Sustainable Operations news brief for employees. See it on our FsWeb Green Team page <http://fsweb/greenteam/index.shtml>

## **An Employer of Choice**

- The Chippewa Leadership Team is spending Feb 18-19<sup>th</sup> sharpening our leadership skills with facilitator Terry Tipple of Tipple Consulting. We intend to focus on communications, elements of high performing teams, and develop leadership priorities for the coming year.
- Nick Schmal Feb 5-6 visited with us about Fish and Aquatic program effectiveness and partnering. The Chippewa National Forest will be host to professional fishing tournaments on Lakes Bemidji, Leech, and Winnibigoshish during 2009.