



Planning and Project Implementation Update



April 2009

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, *Cass Lake Times*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

Completed Decision Documents

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

Proposals Cancelled or On Hold

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

Chippewa Corner

The following project was inadvertently omitted from the listing of projects for the Walker Ranger District:

Boy River 2 Resource Management Project

- Vegetation management project that includes: timber harvest, wildlife management, fuels management using prescribed fire and mechanical methods, vegetation management (other than forest products), and transportation system management activities.
- Project scoping was initiated 2/11/09 and the project is in progress.
- Estimated comment period for the EA is August 2009.
- Decision is expected in September 2009.
- Project contact is Deborah Overton @ 218-547-6002 or doverton@fs.fed.us



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2009 to 06/30/2009

Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)	R9 - Eastern Region
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Non-native Invasive Plants (NNIP) Management Project EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/14/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 08/2009	Expected:09/2009	05/2010	Donald Rees 218-335-8649 djrees@fs.fed.us
Description: Use an adaptive management driven multi-agency approach to 1) Prevent the further spread of NNIP 2). Prevent and reduce impacts from existing NNIP infestations in the area. 3). Restore the land's resistance to NNIP					
Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Forest-wide.					
Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study EIS	- Watershed management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Recreation management	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 08/26/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 04/2009	Expected:05/2009	06/2010	Luke Rutten 218-335-8666 lrutten@fs.fed.us
Description: Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul					
Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.					

Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)	R9 - Eastern Region
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Enbridge Energy Pipeline Construction EIS	- Special use management	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/05/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 04/2009	Expected:05/2009	06/2009	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
Description: Construction of two pipelines (18" and 36") from Deer River to Cass Lake					
Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. Utility corridor right of way between Deer River and Cass Lake.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R9 - Eastern Region
Transmission Project -- 230 - kV from Bemidji to Grand Rapids EIS	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. NOI in Federal Register 07/2007	Expected:12/2009	10/2010	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construction of a 230 kV powerline from Deer River to Cass Lake on National Forest Lands.				
	Web Link: http://www.capx2020.com				
Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. Right of way 125 feet in width from Deer River to Call Lake on NFS lands. Entire project runs from Bemidji to Grand Rapids.					

Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Beltrami Electric Buried Cable - Scenic Highway CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/29/2007	Expected:04/2009	06/2010	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Bury the existing powerline along the Scenic Highway in existing location and existing disturbance.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T149N R31W, T148N R30 & 31W, T147N R30W. West and north of the Scenic Highway.				
Compartment 168 and 170 Riparian Planting CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/18/2009	Expected:05/2009	06/2009	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Plant white pine and other conifers in riparian areas by marshes and ponds.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T150N R28W Sections 25 and 27. South east of Island Lake near small marshes.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Continental Divide Resource Management EA	- Road management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Forest products	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 03/29/2009	Expected:05/2009	10/2009	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Timber sale and related reforestation and timber stand improvement projects in the Continental Divide area of the Blackduck Ranger District. Also includes updating of the transportation system and small projects in other resource areas.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Itasca. LEGAL - T147N, R29 to 31 W; T148N R29-31W; and T149N R29-31W. South of Blackduck to Pimushe Lake and east to Moose Creek.				
County Road 33 (Mission Road) Reconstruction EA *NEW LISTING*	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/15/2009 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/2009	Expected:06/2009	07/2009	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: County Road 33 will be widened and have 6 corners straightened. Wider shoulders will be made. This is a cooperative analysis between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Beltrami County, the State, and the Forest Service.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R31W Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, and 30. County Road 33 between County 8 and County 12.				
North Winnie SPNM Forest Plan Amendment EA	- Special area management - Recreation management - Land management planning	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 02/08/2009	Expected:04/2009	06/2009	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Forest Plan Amendment changing the boundary of the North Winnie Semi-primitive Non-motorized area. Moves south boundary to a road. Develops a trail system and decommissions more unclassified roads.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T147N R28W Sections 13-17 and 20-24. North of Lake Winibigoshish. North side of FR 2171 between FR 2382 and 2384.				
Paul Bunyan Buried Telephone Lines - Blackduck_2 CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/20/2008	Expected:08/2009	10/2009	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Bury existing and new telephone lines - fiber optic, about 42" deep, all in existing road rights-of-way. Total in 5 separate locations of about 2.7 miles on NFS lands.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R30W Sections 4, 6, 7, 16, 21, 22, and 23; T145N R30W Section 18. 5 separate locations on NFS lands near Cass Lake.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Popple River Rock Spawning Reef CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2009	Expected:09/2009	02/2010	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reef of small rocks in Popple River for walleye spawning.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R27W Section 15. In Popple River near bridge on County Road 126 (FR 3673).				
Scenic Gravel Pit Expansion EA	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Expand the Scenic Gravel pit downward into the water table to get more gravel. Consider gating the access road.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N, R30W, Section 6 and T149N, R30W, Section 31. East of the Scenic Highway 4 miles south of Blackduck.				
Star Island Toilets EA	- Facility management - Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construct a latrine with vault on the north side at Windigo Lake portage. Based on Cass Lake Vegetation Management EA plus followup analysis.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R31W Section 35. In Cass Lake on Star Island.				
Sugarbush Township Road Easements CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grant easements for existing township roads. On hold waiting for input from the Township.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N R31W. Various locations in Sugarbush Township (around Big Lake).				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Swamp Creek Bridge Replacement EA	- Road management - Facility management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Jeff Allison 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: This will be part of the Continental Divide EA analysis and decision, not at separate analysis. Replace the bridge over Swamp Creek with a 2-lane wood structure. Current bridge is outdated, narrow, and needs extensive repairs.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N R30W Section 32. Bridge is on FR 2236, south of Webster Lake.				

Chippewa National Forest	Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Cottonwood Lake Spur Snowmobile Trail CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/01/2008	Expected:05/2009	12/2009	Michelle Heiker 218-246-2123 mheiker@fs.fed.us
	Description: Snowmobile club would like to reroute the Suomi Snowmobile Trail to allow for access from Cottonwood lake. There would be not net change in the trail miles.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - 57N 26 W Sec 7 & 8. Trail would cross Cottonwood Lake and connect to Suomi trail.				
Eagle Nest Road Improvement Project EA	- Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/26/2004 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/2009	Expected:04/2009	10/2010	Michael Martin 218-246-3479 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	Description: Project includes realignments, reconstructing bridges, and adding bituminous surface to Eagle Nest Road. Includes rehabilitation of East and West Seelye Campgrounds adjacent to road.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T147N R27W Secs 14, 15, 21, 22, & 28. Eagle Nest Road extending from Hwy 46 to South Deer Lake Campground.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Replacement of Underground Telephone Cable with Fiber Optic Cable CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 03/27/2009	05/2009	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: Replace the current existing copper cable, telephone lines for multiple locations with fiber optic cable. It will be installed in the same corridor as the copper cable it is replacing.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T57N R27W Sec 35; T57N R27W Sec 13; T57N R25W Sec 14,15; T57N R26W Sec 13,14,11; T148N R26W Sec 26, 27, 22,32. Multiple locations along County roads, State Hwy 38 and Forest Roads.				
Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Expansion Project EA	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2009	Expected:07/2009	10/2010	Michael Martin 218-246-3479 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	Description: Conversion of low standard roads to trails, new trail construction, building trail shelters, installation of gates/berms on system roads/unclassified roads, and parking areas within the Soumi Hills SPNM Area.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 26 W. The project area is located west of MN Highway 38; south and east of Itasca County Road 48; and north of the forest boundary. The project is within the designated Soumi Hills SPNM Area as defined by.				
Suomi snowmobile Bridge Project CE	- Recreation management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Michael Martin 218-335-8633 / 218-246-3479 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	Description: Snowmobile club want to construct a bridge over the Cranberry Lake flowage..				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - 57N, 26W, Sec. 6, SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4. Part of the Highway 38 trail located across the Cranberry Lake Flowage in the Suomi Hills area.				

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Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Upper East Winnie Vegetation Management EA	- Road management - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Forest products	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/11/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/2009	Expected:07/2009	01/2010	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	Description: Vegetation Management that includes timber harvest, prescribed fire, wildlife and impoundment management and transportation system management activities.				
	Web Link: http://www.fe.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/projects/				
Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. The project area encompasses an area from the northeast shore of Lake Winibigoshish to the southern half of Rice Lake centered on Hwy 46 and north to Rice Lake.					

Chippewa National Forest Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Cass County Land Exchange CE	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/05/2004	Expected:07/2009	08/2009	Gregory Smith 218 335-8661 gdsmith@fs.fed.us
	Description: Cass County has initiated a land exchange proposal for 160 acres.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N, R26W, Sections 9, 10, 11 and 13. Southeast corner of the Walker Ranger District.				
Former Cass Lake Ranger District Office CE *NEW LISTING*	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:07/2009	12/2009	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Sale of old district office				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Old administrative site in Cass Lake, MN.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Gadbolt Lake Road CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 09/25/2008	06/2009	Steven Frick 218-547-1044 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: construction, use & mgmt of road across NFS land				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Sec 9, T142N, R30W. Walker Ranger District, Cass Cty, MN.				
Grave Lake Access CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 10/28/2008	10/2008	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construction, use and maintenance of a road across NFS land to access private land owned by Liebrecht.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T142N, R26W, Section 14. Grave Lake.				
Longville Gun Club Road/FSR 2875 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Land management planning	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2009	Expected:06/2009	06/2009	Steven Frick 218-547-1044 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: construction, use & mgmt of road across NFS land				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Sec 12, T141N, R28W. Walker Ranger District, Cass Cty, MN.				
Oak Point Resort CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 10/06/2008 10/06/2008	11/2008	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: construction, use of RV Park & Cabin expansion				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Sec 23, T143N, R31W. Walker Ranger District, Cass Cty, MN.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Sale of Surplus Facilities CE	- Facility management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Sale of three surplus properties: former Cass Lake Ranger Station; storm pond in Walker; and west branch storage area in Walker. Phase II waiting for analysis.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T145N R31W Sec 23; T142 N R31W Sec 23; T142N R31W Sec 21. Cass Lake and Walker.				
Stony Point Road CE	- Road management - Special use management - Land management planning	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Steven Frick 218-547-1044 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construction use & mgmt of road across NFS Land to private land on shore of Leech Lake				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Sec 9, T142N, R30W. Stony Point on shore of Leech Lake, in Walker Ranger District, Cass Cty, MN.				
Walker Ranger District Administrative Site EA	- Facility management	Completed	Actual: 02/03/2009	06/2009	Steven Frick 218-547-1044 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: Plan and construct Walker Ranger District administrative office and associated buildings.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Along State Highway 371 on the east side of Walker, Minnesota, overlooking Leech Lake.				
Walker Storm Water Pond CE *NEW LISTING*	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:07/2009	12/2009	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Surplus Storm water pond that located in Walker, MN				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Walker, MN; located adjacent to Garden Street and Hwy 371.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R9 - Eastern Region	
West Branch Site CE *NEW LISTING*	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:04/2009	09/2009	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
Description: Sale of surplus facility.					
Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. SW 1/4 lying northerly and easterly of the centerline of Township Road 10 as it existed in 1998.					
Whipholt Radio Tower CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/18/2008	Expected:10/2008 Actual: 12/16/2008	10/2008	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us
Description: construction, use and maintenance of a communications radio tower and road on NFS land					
Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T141N R29W sec 20. Whipholt MN.					

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