



# Chippewa National Forest



2000 ANNUAL REPORT



## Chippewa National Forest

200 Ash Avenue NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
(218)335-8600  
TTY (218)335-8632  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa)

# FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR.....



LOGAN A. LEE  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

During 2000, new rules and policies affecting the Forest Service and Chippewa National Forest were announced at a rapid pace.

These changes included a new Land and Resource Management Planning Rule for National Forest Systems, a Forest Service Roads Management Policy, and the

President's Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Each change helped us implement the Forest Service Chief's Natural Resource Agenda (watershed health and restoration, sustainable forest management, national forest road systems and recreation services). Linking all of these together is the 2000 Revision of the Forest Service Strategic Plan, which focuses on defining program priorities for the next five or more years.

Sustainability has been the root of USDA land and natural resource management from the very beginning of the Forest Service in 1909. The Forest Service Strategic Plan is national in scope and presents four overarching goals with objectives related to the agency's mission: promoting ecosystem health; providing multiple benefits to

people; developing and using scientific and technical assistance; and ensuring effective public service. New policies in 2000 reminded us how much the Chippewa is part of a national system, and how important local resources are to national publics. As the Chippewa manages public land into the new millennium our actions and investments must support and reflect these goals.

Other changes in national policies affected the Chippewa. We expanded consultation efforts with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, revised and improved environmental analysis procedures, joined partners in broader scale assessments, and prepared to hire new employees for wildfire suppression.

We also recognized the success of our nationally-unique Traditional Resources Inventory program, and the rural economic development efforts of two local communities who received regional or national honor awards during 2000.

As we look toward 2001 with a new president and new Chief of the Forest Service, we expect rapid changes to continue and public involvement to keep pace.

In this Annual Report we share the Chippewa's progress during 2000.

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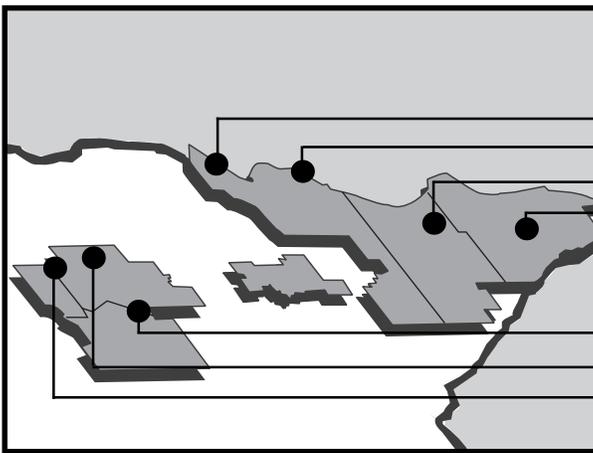


# PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

Seven Minnesota counties received a total of \$3,769,212 from the Forest Service in 2000. These payments, called the 25% Fund, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Thye-Blatnik, are based on a formula of total Forest revenues, acres of National Forest and population within the counties. These funds have provided revenues to counties to compensate for the lost tax base of federal lands since 1911.

During 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act, allowing counties a choice in receiving payments that will be implemented for 2001. Some Minnesota counties may choose a stable payment until 2006, while others may decide to continue receiving 25% of Forest revenues.

A breakdown of payment by program and county is shown below.



| SUPERIOR     |  | PILT         | Thye-Blatnik<br>(Superior only) | 25% Fund     | TOTAL          |
|--------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Koochiching: |  | \$3,135.00   | NA                              | \$151.00     | \$3286.00      |
| St. Louis:   |  | \$454,560.00 | \$510,000.00                    | \$334,774.00 | \$1,312,526.00 |
| Lake:        |  | \$109,671.00 | \$887,250.00                    | \$261,193.00 | \$1,258,114.00 |
| Cook:        |  | \$6418.00    | \$704,250.00                    | \$246,190.00 | \$1,017,858.00 |
| CHIPPEWA     |  | PILT         |                                 | 25% Fund     | TOTAL          |
| Cass:        |  | \$107,512.00 |                                 | \$491,916.00 | \$599,428.00   |
| Itasca:      |  | \$117,321.00 |                                 | \$526,704.00 | \$644,025.00   |
| Beltrami:    |  | \$23,244.00  |                                 | \$109,587.00 | \$132,831.00   |

# 2000 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

|                                  |                 |  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>TIMBER</b>                    | <b>CHIPPEWA</b> | <b>WILDLIFE/FISHERIES</b>                                  | <b>CHIPPEWA</b> |
| Harvested (Million Board Feet)   | 58              | Terrestrial Fauna Inventory (Acres)                        | 90,000          |
| Reforestation (Acres)            | 3,022           | Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Habitat Enhanced (Acres) | 666             |
| Timber Stand Improvement (Acres) | 5,118           | Inland Streams Enhanced/Restored (Miles)                   | 2               |
| Fuelwood Permits                 | 272             | Inland Lakes Enhanced/Restored (Acres)                     | 14              |
| Christmas Tree Permits           | 414             | Soil/Water Resource Improvement (Acres)                    | 7               |
| Bough Permits                    | 86              | <b>LANDS</b>   |                 |
| <b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>           |                 | Rights-of-Way Cases  | 0               |
| Senior Employment                | 71              | Special Use Permits  | 115             |
| Volunteers                       | 100             | Land Acquisition (Acres)                                   | 0               |
| Youth Conservation Corps         | 5               | Mineral Permits (Metric Tons)                              | 150,000         |
| Full time Employees              | 124             | Total Acreage  | 666,335         |
| Campground Visitors              | 92,000          | <b>ENGINEERING</b>   |                 |
| Visitors at Centers/Offices      | 30,000          | Road Re/Construction (Miles)                               | 9.75            |
|                                  |                 | Trail Reconstruction (Miles)                               | 5.2             |
|                                  |                 | Boundary Management (Miles)                                | 11              |



## A SUCCESSION OF EVENTS

Chippewa National Forest has long been a notable producer of public forest products. During 2000, the Chippewa National Forest was one of several national forests in the Great Lakes area experiencing a change in delivering some of those benefits.

It has become increasingly difficult to offer an even flow of timber from national forests. Some key factors on the Chippewa National Forest include a decreasing workforce size, increasing public controversy and more frequent legal challenges to decisions. Incorporation of new research information and changing forest conditions, such as the 1999 windstorm, also impact available supply.

In 1999, the Chippewa National Forest sold 47 million board feet, harvested 58 million board feet of timber and completed 3,507 acres of timber stand improvement. Over 3,770 acres of land were reforested. During

2000, the Chippewa sold 38.3 million board feet, harvested 57.7 million board feet, completed 5118 acres of timber stand improvement and reforested 3022 acres.

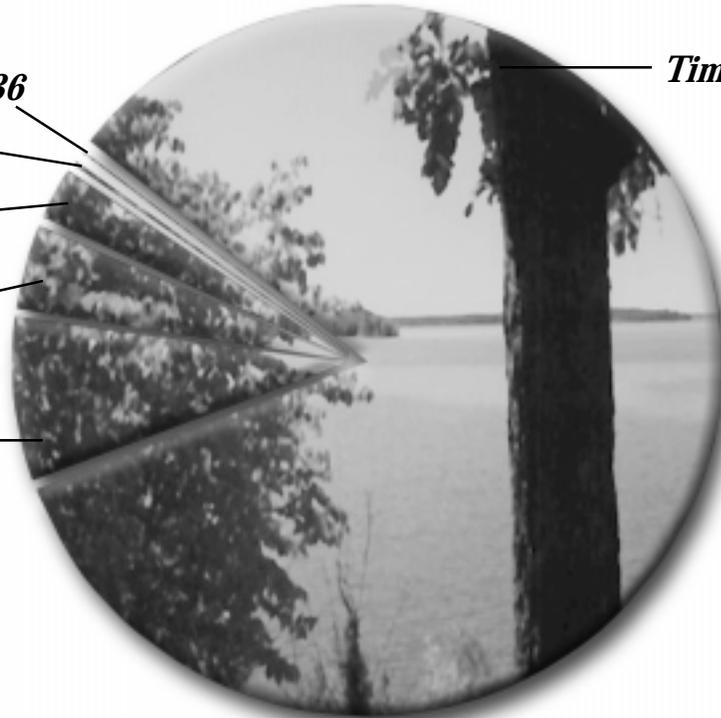
In 2001, Chippewa's timber offer and estimated harvest are expected to change again. In response, the Chippewa National Forest is working to propose projects that benefit multiple resources at one time, considering new markets and strengthening analyses by better utilizing new information. Forest planners will work toward rebuilding a "pipeline" of ready-for-sale timber to create a more even flow of raw materials.

The Chippewa National Forest is also moving forward to revise the 1986 Forest Plan. Completion of Forest Plan Revision, scheduled in 2002, will provide the long-term vision for future management and identification of future outputs, including timber levels.

## INCOME GENERATED

### CHIPPEWA

**Power:** \$736  
**Land Uses:** \$6,776  
**Rec User Fees:** \$109,372  
**Minerals:** \$173,058  
**Rec Spec Uses:** \$357,234



**Timber:** \$3,817,479

*The Knutson-Vanderberg Act authorizes that revenues generated by timber sales may be used for reforestation, timber stand improvement, wildlife and other natural resource improvement projects. In 2000, this amounted to \$1,272,981*

**Total Chippewa  
Income Generated  
\$4,464,655**



## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

What do you get when you cross a hydrologist, two tons of willow, and some hardworking members of the public? How about a shoreline that holds tight when the waves come crashing in!

In 1999, when July storms hit after a wetter-than-normal summer, lake levels on Cass Lake rose significantly. The sandy shoreline along Lake Winnibigoshish and Cass Lake quickly eroded. By September 1999, water levels on Cass were at 1303.44 feet, two feet above normal. Forest hydrologists and fisheries specialists were given the task of finding a solution to the alarming problem. The quick fix was about 18,000 sand bags placed by Forest employees, volunteers and lakeshore owners. The long term fix, bioengineering, was nicer to look at and definitely more secure.

Bioengineering uses both rock and vegetation to stabilize the shoreline. Red-osier dogwood, willow, and



aquatic vegetation such as bulrush are planted to secure the sandy soil. In the summer of 2000, forest hydrologists presented a working

session on bioengineering to local contractors, who had been flooded with concerns about eroding shorelines. The project was completed near the Cass Lake Campground in the Norway Beach Recreation Area and serves as an innovative model for shoreline restoration.

## WATER YOU DOING?

During 2000, the USDA Forest Service and seven other agencies signed onto the Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management. This policy has two primary goals: reduce and prevent pollution of surface and ground water runoff from federally managed lands, and joining federal agencies in cost-effective management as models of good stewardship.

Watersheds are areas that catch rain and snow and drain to specific marshes, streams, rivers, lakes or groundwater. All of us use watersheds for forest products, recreation, fishing, to house cherished heritage sites, bird watch or drive. And all of those actions, or lack of them, affect the watershed.

The Chippewa has 17 identified watersheds within the Forest. Cass-Winnie Watershed will take priority in 2001. The 289,709 acre area includes two of Minnesota's five largest lakes, Cass Lake and Winnibigoshish, as well as the Mississippi River. This expansive area is interspersed with pine, maple, basswood and oak forests. The Winnie Dam area, Cass Lake, Pennington, and Bena are also within the

watershed.

People are a critical part of watersheds and watershed analysis. Upcoming opportunities will give people a chance to voice on opinion how to care and manage this watershed for the future. The Chippewa will look at six key topics when analyzing the Cass-Winnie Watershed:

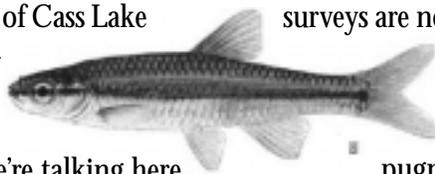
- ① A characterization of the area, including social, biological and physical qualities.
- ① Issues and key questions, especially those important to citizens.
- ① Current conditions within the watershed
- ① Comparable or reference conditions (what would this watershed be without human influence?)
- ① Synthesis and interpretation of differences between current and reference conditions.

Cass-Winnie is just the first of eight watershed analysis projects that will occur on the Chippewa. The Cass-Winnie Watershed Analysis will be completed in 2001. To get involved, log in to [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa/plan/aquatics](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa/plan/aquatics).

# THE SECRET LIFE OF A PUGNOSE SHINER

Somewhere among the weedy waters of Cass Lake lurks a small two-inch silvery fish. Normally, such a “minnow” would scarcely catch our attention unless there was a 10 pound walleye attached to it. But we’re talking here about one of the rarest shiners in Minnesota and a sensitive species on the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list also a state regional concern species. It is the rare and uncommon pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*).

In 1953, researchers discovered the pugnose on five lakes on or near the Chippewa National Forest and in the Mississippi River. In 1992, the pugnose shiner was collected in Allen’s Bay and on the northwest side of Star Island, both on Cass Lake. Surveys in 2000 along the east shore of Cass Lake failed to reveal any new populations of pugnose shiners. Additional



surveys are needed to continue tracking this secretive fish. Across the Great Lakes region, lakeshore development and shoreline erosion have eliminated aquatic vegetation where the pugnose shiners live. Decreasing aquatic vegetation, shoreline erosion and the associated decline in water quality are also growing concerns for anglers and lakeshore owners. The Cass Lake bio-engineering project is one example that increases protection for the fish and the lakes we live and play on.

The shiner is one of 46 sensitive species on the Chippewa and 650 species total listed on the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list, which identifies species to maintain viability and avoid trends toward federal listing. The list was updated in February 2000, and is available by logging on to Chippewa’s web site. Click on Natural Resources and Wildlife.

## ON THE LEVEL

Water can be a blessing or a curse depending on the year, and whether you are a lakeshore owner, an angler, or looking to harvest wild rice among other activities. Three different agencies manage lake levels along the Upper Mississippi River. The US Army Corps of Engineers operates water levels at Lake Pokegama and Lake Winnibigoshish where water regulation must meet legislative mandates. The Chippewa National Forest operates Knutson Dam on Cass Lake upstream of Lake Winnibigoshish. Ottertail Power Company operates the dam at Lake Bemidji. Water levels there are managed to balance inflows from the 400,000 acres of watershed above Lake Bemidji.

In the fall, the Chippewa National Forest brings water levels on Cass Lake down from 1301.25 feet to approximately 1300.40 feet over the winter. In February, Knutson Dam gates are generally closed to maintain average spring

water levels. Under high water conditions, Knutson Dam outflows are restricted by the capacity of the channel downstream and the elevation of Lake Winnie.

Water levels over the last three years have been higher than average on all area lakes. Groundwater levels have also risen to record levels, which means less storage in the watershed. The year 2000 ended with 11 inches of rainfall and higher than average snowfall expected which makes teamwork and coordination essential for water to flow smoothly down river.

The Chippewa’s water level management strategy provides for:

- 💧 Water downstream in the Mississippi that maintains oxygen levels and habitat for fish and other species.
- 💧 Decrease in shoreline damage from shifting ice
- 💧 Storage capacity for spring runoff.

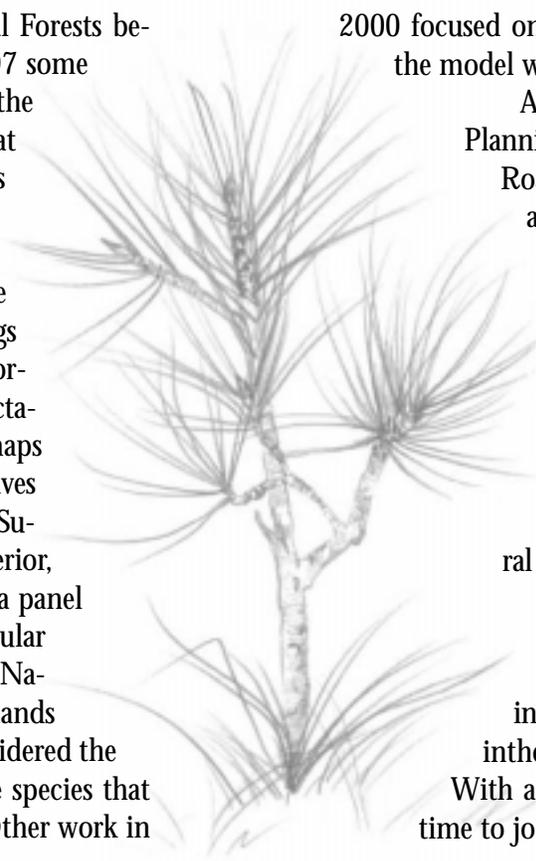
*Cass Lake levels are checked twice a week, and are posted on the Chippewa National Forest web page at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa).*



# PLANNING FOR MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL FORESTS

When Chippewa and Superior National Forests began revising 11 year old Forest Plans in 1997 some change was expected. No one anticipated the firestorm of change, nationally or locally, that raced through 2000 swirling new possibilities like so much confetti.

During 2000, the approval of three major rules affected the pace and depth of future Forest Planning, creating 22 public meetings in and around the Chippewa to provide information, collect comments, and clarify expectations. Publics also had a close up look at maps and descriptions of seven preliminary alternatives for future management of the Chippewa and Superior National Forests. The Chippewa, Superior, and Wisconsin's National Forests convened a panel of over 60 scientists and experts for particular species to help assess population viability. National forests are required to manage public lands in a manner that supports viability, also considered the persistence of native and desired non-native species that currently exist and utilize national forests. Other work in



2000 focused on modeling outputs and testing the model with unconstrained Forest data.

After the approval of new national Planning Regulations, the President's Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and the Forest Service Transportation Policy the path of revising Forest Plans was redrawn. To assure new requirements are met, the Chippewa-Superior will build on strong collaborative work already done with Tribes, counties and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Some additional data collection and analysis will also occur. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement expected in early 2001 will now be available in the spring of 2002.

With all this activity, there's no better time to join our mailing list!

## SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

For 2000, Superior National Forest will include annual report information in the Superior NEPA Quarterly. In 2000, the Superior harvested over 66,000 board feet of timber to reduce fuels, create wildlife habitat, enhance timber growth, promote forest health, and provide wood products for the public. All of the major environmental analyses for fuel treatment in blowdown areas were completed with the exception of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) Fuel Treatment EIS which will be completed in May 2001. By the end of 2000, over 12,000 acres of blowdown were treated to reduce fuels. The total area of blowdown planned for fuel reduction on the Superior is approximately 90,000 acres (77,000 proposed in the BWCAW).

The Forest completed over 3,825 acres of prescribed burns, including 465 acres of blowdown. At the same time, 278 Superior National Forest employees worked on 84 wildfires in 22 states throughout the country.

Routine maintenance was performed on 660 campsites within the BWCAW. The Forest maintained 1,949 miles and constructed/reconstructed a total of 32.6 miles of wilderness trails. Erosion control projects were completed at 9 portages and 10 campsite landings.

Over 30 volunteers worked with the Passport In Time program and completed work on two archaeological digs on the Superior. The digs were located at Norske Point and near Gunflint Lake. Both sites contained artifacts from Paleo-Indian and Archaic life thousands of years ago.



# FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

It was unprecedented. In May 2000, catastrophic fires in Los Alamos, New Mexico became a tragic beginning to a wildfire season that would eventually burn almost seven million acres in the Western United States.

Over 150 firefighters from the Chippewa and other Minnesota agencies signed on for 14-day assignments to Colorado, California, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, or New Mexico. Priorities became protection of human life, initial attack and community protection. An emphasis on safety during the summer of 2000 brought all firefighters home safely.

As a result of the year's severe fire season the Forest Service and Department of Interior will increase firefighting capability to 100% efficiency as part of the National Fire Plan. On the Chippewa National Forest, this plan means 12 new permanent employees and 32 seasonal staff will be dedicated to wildfire protection and



fuels reduction in Spring 2001.

Twenty communities in and around the Chippewa National Forest, of 4000 nationally, are identified as eligible for enhanced federal wildfire prevention assistance. In 2000, a total of 70 wildfires were reported over 225 acres on the Chippewa.



*Firefighters slung pulaskis and fire hose up and down mountains alongside Army and Marine battalions, and international firefighters from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico.*



## PARTNERS IN THE WEEDS



Ox-eyed daisies, spotted knapweed, creeping bellflower, yellow sweet clover...all are beautiful *exotic* plants on the Forest. Non-native plants threaten biodiversity throughout the Chippewa National Forest. Botanists combat invasive plants through essential partnerships with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and County and State officials.

Some of the most interesting work comes from the biological control projects for purple loosestrife, leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. In the purple loosestrife

project, Galerucella beetles were released on Dunbar Lake near Blackduck and 12 non-Federal sites. The beetles destroy these very aggressive wetland plants by mining the roots. Aphthona beetles are being used at leafy spurge sites, while the Urophora fly may provide the answer to controlling the very persistent spotted knapweed. Spotted knapweed is proliferating on roadsides within Reservation and Forest boundaries.

*Botanists from the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management and the Forest are working together on weed identification cards and a native planting program. The two agencies produced brochures on "Wildflowers and Weeds", "Wildflowers of Northern Minnesota" and the booklet "Weeds of the Northern Lakes Region."*

## GHOSTS OF CAMP RABIDEAU

Just north of Pennington, Minnesota, visitors are nostalgically transported back to the 1930's. They hear the cheers from the field or the clang of the dinner bell, calling the boys of Civilian Conservation Corps Company 708 to breakfast.

In July 2000, 18 volunteers from the Passport In Time (PIT) program helped make that leap of time a little easier, by donating 496 hours to rehabilitate the old Camp Rabideau Education Building. Of the 25 original buildings that once stood at the 1930's camp, just 13 remain. The education building was in sore need of repair, and most closely linked to the CCC mission...to provide jobs and training to young men during the depression.

Earlier partnerships at the Camp helped to install a foundation and replace the roof of the education building. In July, PIT volunteers installed doors and windows, painted, sealed the floor, replaced wainscoting and installed an accessibility ramp.

In June 2001, a second group of PIT volunteers will



temporarily move into the camp. Work will focus on completing the interior and entrance to the Education Building. Once again, the desks will be polished, blackboards will gleam and a new era of learning will rush

through the halls. You wouldn't want to be late for class!

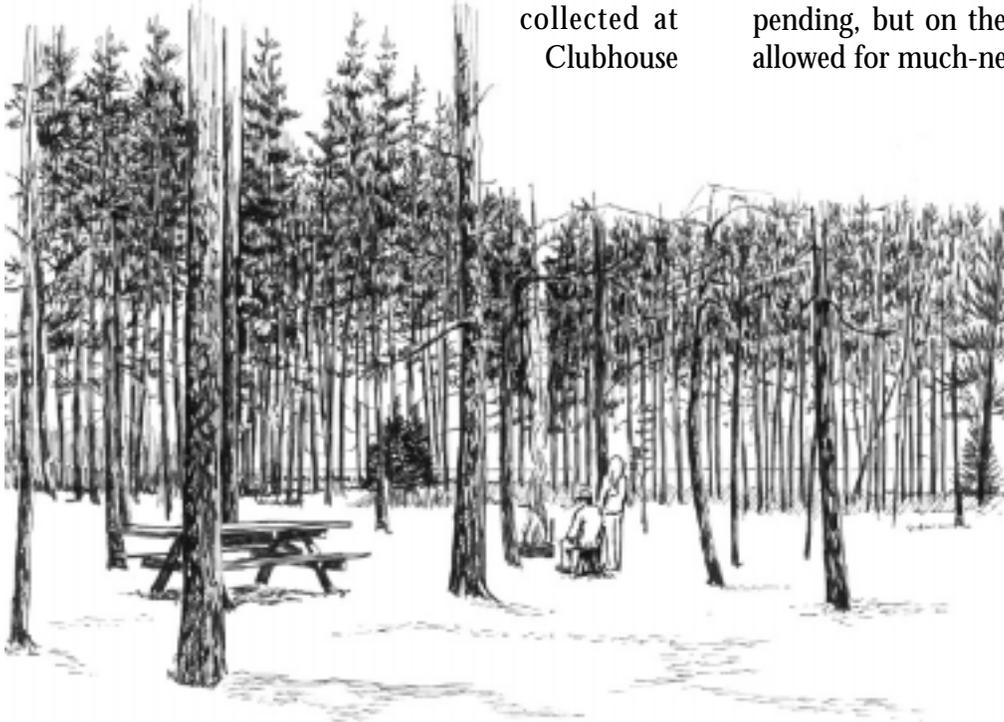
*Camp Rabideau is located 6 miles south of Blackduck on County Rd. 39. It is open to the public year-round. The Passport In Time Program brings volunteers from across the country to work on Heritage Preservation projects. If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact the PIT Program at 1-520-722-2716.*



# SHOW ME THE MONEY

Five campgrounds on the Chippewa National Forest are a part of the National Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Fees collected at these campgrounds are used for specific projects to maintain and upgrade sites in that specific campground. In 2000, \$176,403 was collected at Clubhouse

Lake, Deer Lake, Onegume, Norway Beach, and Stony Point campgrounds. In 2001, three more campgrounds—Cut Foot Horse Camp, Williams Narrows and Mosomo Campgrounds — will be added to the Rec Fee Demo Program. Permanent legislation for Rec Fee demo is still pending, but on the Chippewa National Forest, it has allowed for much-needed improvements at campsites.



## YOUR CAMPING FEES AT WORK!

Your camping fees have allowed parks:

-  to replace 34 picnic tables
-  to provide more uniformed Forest Service employees in campgrounds
-  to replace a well and waterline
-  to provide bi-weekly mowing at 5 campgrounds which include 355 campsites
-  to increase Law Enforcement presence in campgrounds

For additional information, complete and return the information request form

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



**CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST**  
200 Ash Avenue NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
(218)335-8600

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEPA Quarterly            | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping             | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Motor Vehicles (CNF)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Plan Revision      | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1997 TSPIRS Report        | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Viewing (CNF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Maps - 1/2" (\$4) or 3/8" scale (\$6 ea) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Program         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake States Interpretive Catalog                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resort Naturalist Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome             | <input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa/Superior Mini-map - (free)             |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildflower/Weeds Brochure                       |
- Yes. Please keep me on the annual report mailing list

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

# HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR FOREST?

During the fall of 2000, visitors to the Chippewa National Forest hiked the Suomi Trail, fished off Stony Point on Leech Lake, hunted grouse at Jingo Lake and talked with orange-vested Forest Service employees.

The visitors are taking part in the National Recreation Use Survey which will gather basic visitor information the USDA Forest Service now lacks. The survey not only identifies the type of recreation people enjoy, but also how satisfied they are with their visit. Surveys will be conducted at over 100 sites across the Chippewa National Forest throughout the next year.

The national survey is entirely voluntary. All responses are totally confidential and the visitor's name is never written anywhere on the survey. The basic interview takes

about 6 minutes.

During the 2000 surveys, approximately 298 separate interviews occurred over 56 days. Many people surveyed were local, and most responded positively about their Chippewa National Forest experience. Final survey results will be available December 2001.

## Forest Trivia

 How many people camped on the Chippewa National Forest in 2000?

 How many people visited Norway Beach and Cut Foot Visitor Centers in 2000?

*The answers can be found under "Accomplishments" in this Annual Report!*

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