

109C
P O Box 155
Big Falls, Mn. 56627
September 9, 2003

Forest Plan Revision
Chippewa National Forest
200 Ash Ave. N. W.
Cass Lake, Mn 56633

Gentlemen:

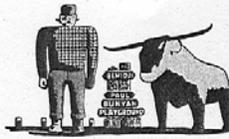
After reviewing all the facts and data that have been submitted for review by the Forest Service, I feel that the only thing lacking is common sense.

If the object of this plan is to decimate the economy of Northern Minnesota, you should select any plan other than plan "C". If not, Plan "C" is the only alternative.

It is my hope that cooler heads prevail and the overall picture is considered instead of special interests.

Sincerely,
Rodney Rissanen
Mayor,
City of Big Falls

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**CITY OF BEMIDJI**

City Hall ~ 317 4th Street NW
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-3116
Web Site: www.ci.bemidji.mn.us

August 5, 2003

Forest Plan Revision
Chippewa National Forest
200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633-8929

RE: Chippewa and Superior National Forest Plan Revision DEIS

Dear Sir or Madam:

As Mayor of the City of Bemidji, Minnesota, I would like to go on record as recommending that the Forest Service find a compromise in the development plan that is outlined in the Forest Plan Revision DEIS at a level somewhere between Alternative C and Alternative E.

As a community heavily reliant on the forest industry we also must consider the recreation aspect of the Plan. Chippewa National Forest provides both jobs in the timber industry and the recreation industry. To limit the scope of the plan to one alternative or the other would suggest that one economic engine is worth more consideration than the other. In Bemidji's case both are strong economic tools. We rely on the forest to not only create the higher paying manufacturing jobs but to support our tourism industry as well. The plan needs to address both issues to be of great value to Bemidji.

A compromise between the two plans can address both issues and yet accomplish the goals of protecting the natural resource. The forests surrounding the Bemidji area help to create the buffer around our lakes that in turn help to maintain the water quality yet harvesting these forests properly can add to the economy of our region for the timber producers. The trails and lakes within the Chippewa National Forest are prime recreation areas that help bring people from all over to the Bemidji area and yet the timber is very important to our manufacturing sector therefore a compromise between the two plans should be given all due consideration.

I would like to thank you for your time and careful consideration of my comments. I do support a balanced approach to the management of our national forest that provides both the needed wood resources for our timber industries and natural environments for wildlife and recreational users. A compromise between Alternative C and Alternative E would represent such a balance.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Lehmann
Mayor, City of Bemidji

RRL/kms

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