

Wildlife, T&E, Regional Forester Sensitive Species, and Game Species

Key Message

The Chippewa National Forest will continue to provide habitat for a vast array of wildlife species. The Revised Plan gradually reduces the emphasis that the 1986 Plan placed on game species habitat and turns the emphasis toward managing for the entire spectrum of wildlife habitats. The Forest Service worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the Revised Plan contributes to the recovery of three federally listed threatened species by incorporating conservation measures from federal Recovery Plans for the eagle and wolf and from the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.

The Plan:

- ✓ maintains viable populations of all desired species on the Chippewa National Forest within the capability of the land
- ✓ results in no species trends toward listing under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.
- ✓ affords special attention to the conservation of bald eagle, gray wolf, and Canada lynx and the habitats upon which they depend.
- ✓ decreases the amount of aspen and young tree age classes, but will still maintains high levels of important game species habitats such as deer, grouse, and woodcock.

Change from the 1986 Plan

The 1986 Plan focused on stand level management and standards and guidelines for the protection of TES and RFS Species. Wildlife habitat management was focused largely on game species. The Revised Plan focuses on broad-scale or “coarse filter” habitat management.

Change from the Proposed Plan

The Final Revised Plan adds a guideline to protect wolf dens.

The Final Revised Plan adds and refines standards and guidelines to address concerns related to the Canada lynx. Changes largely relate to road and trail density, effective road closures and increases in over- the- snow routes.

Summary of Determinations and Trends for Selected Species

Species	Draft DEIS	Proposed Final*
Canada Lynx	Likely to adversely affect	The determination for these species remains the same, however we expect concurrence with the FWS and with the existing S & G we expect to continue contributing to species recovery
Gray Wolf (MIS)	Likely to adversely affect	
Bald Eagle (MIS)	Likely to adversely affect	
Species Associate with mature, un-fragmented upland or lowland conifer		
Spruce Grouse - CNF	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability	The findings for these species will likely remain the same between the draft and the final, however the spatial arrangement and increase in interior forest, particularly on the CNF, will likely improve the indicator outcomes and habitat conditions. The exception is the boreal owl on the SNF. For this species the determination will remain the same, but there will likely be a decline in habitat conditions for most of its range (Zone 3).
Bay Breasted Warbler - CNF	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability	
Boreal Owl - SNF	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability	
Black Throated Blue Warbler CNF & SNF	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability	
Species associated with mature, un-fragmented upland hardwoods		
Northern Goshawk CNF-SNF (MIS)	May impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability	The findings for these species will likely remain the same between the draft and the final, however the spatial arrangement and increase in interior forest, particularly on the CNF, will likely improve the indicator outcomes and habitat conditions.
Goblin Fern	CNF – suitable ecological conditions distributed SNF- suitable ecological condition isolated and at low abundance	
White Pine (MIS)	Increase WP type and within stand diversity	Remains the same.
Species associated with young, fragmented hardwoods –particularly aspen/birch		
American Woodcock	No change in habitat levels	Habitat for all of these species are maintained at more than adequate levels for sustaining viability.
White Tail Deer	CNF – maintain current levels	
	SNF- improve habitat outside of the BWCAW	
Ruffed Grouse	Relatively high habitat levels	