

Responses to Inquiries on Upcoming Recreation Season - Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Answering Recreation Users (response to any external inquiries (i.e. phone, e-mail, Facebook comment)):

Key Messages

- In alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be delaying the opening of all recreation sites and not allowing camping or campfires until further notice.
- The Forest is implementing a group-size limitation of 10 people or less per group across the entire Forest.
- The Forest is prohibiting the building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove until further notice. Talking Points:
 - This is in alignment with the Wisconsin DNR's suspension of burning permits.
 - Eliminating ignition sources on the landscape reduces wildfire risk, smoke for vulnerable populations and person-to-person contact.
 - Emergency responders and firefighters have an increased need to take pandemic precautions, so they remain available to continue to protect the public from wildfires and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - We appreciate your patience and understanding. Remember to report wildfires by dialing 911 immediately.
- All restrooms on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest have been shut down and garbage receptacles at recreation sites have been removed.
- Sites and activities impacted on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest include:
 - All Developed Campgrounds
 - Reservations will be cancelled, and refunds issued for the month of May. The Forest will continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly with additional cancellations in June and/or the reopening of sites on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - The Forest will initiate the cancellation of reservations.
 - If visitors choose to cancel or change reservations past May 31, standard cancellation or refund policies apply. As such, if the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest chooses to close and cancel reservations, all standard rules and policies will apply.
 - All Day Use Areas (trailheads, picnic areas, boat landings, beaches and the Mountain Fire Tower)
 - Lost Lake Cabins, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and Forest Lodge

- Dispersed (roadside/Forest) camping on the National Forest
 - Trails (motorized and non-motorized designated trails) – Forest Roads remain open for travel as designated on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Visitors are encouraged to check with local towns and counties for other information and restrictions.
 - All restroom facilities
- The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has issued a Forest Supervisor’s order prohibiting the use of all recreation areas, camping in the National Forest and the use of campfires. Please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf and select Alerts & Notices to read the full orders.
 - The General Forest remains open to the public including Forest Roads for hiking, biking and scenic driving. To protect public health and safety, all visitors to the Forest are encouraged to:
 - Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the Forest.
 - Take your trash with you when you leave.
 - Please make arrangements to use the restroom before or after your visit to the forest. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for our employees and for other visitors.
 - If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location. Also consider avoiding the Forest during high-use periods.
 - The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest takes the safety of our personnel, contractors, volunteers, and visitors seriously. COVID-19 poses unique and unprecedented risks to our workforce, visitors, and the communities we live in and support.
 - The potential for crowded conditions in the coming days and weeks as spring arrives in parking areas, trailheads, and at popular forest destinations are undermining the country’s critical efforts to contain the spread.
 - The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will continue to coordinate its COVID-19 response in alignment with all federal, state and local guidance. When visiting your public lands, it is important to be aware of current forest limitations.
 - Everyone is urged to take the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The most recent CDC guidelines are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>. Additional information is also available at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.
 - The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has moved to virtual services.
 - Please visit us at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf> for updates and access our forest maps at <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

- **Recreation Volunteers/Clubs** – At this time, all recreation volunteer and partner activities and agreements on the Forest are currently on hold until further notice. We will need your help when it's much safer for all of us.