



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet
500 Hanson Lake Road
Rhinelander, WI 54548
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF



News Release

Media Contact: Hilary Markin
Voice: (715) 362-1354
Cell: (715) 482-0115
hilarymarkin@fs.fed.us

Release No.: 160723

PROGRESS CONTINUES FOLLOWING STORMS ON GREAT DIVIDE AND WASHBURN RANGER DISTRICTS

ASHLAND, Wis. (Aug. 5, 2016) – The Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest continues to make progress on temporary repairs to roads, clearing debris from roads and trails and planning efforts are underway for the long-term permanent repairs and clean-up efforts.

“We have assessed all of our roads and trails and the majority of them we have reopened,” said Michelle Davalos, District Ranger on the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “The ones that remain closed have significant damage.”

Forest heavy equipment crews are completing emergency repairs and grading allowing passenger cars to travel on certain routes through the forest. However, in cases where major repairs are necessary such as a bridge that washed out, those roads will remain closed into the foreseeable future.

“We continue to make progress and are working with the towns and our partners to identify issues such as school bus routes and prioritize the repair needs with our crews and resources,” said Mike Martin, District Ranger on the Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The Forest’s website is continually being updated with the list of roads, trails and recreation areas that remain closed from the two storm events.

To get the latest status update for the closures associated with the damages north of Hwy 2 on the Washburn Ranger District please visit www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF and click on Thunderstorm Damages Washburn Ranger District link in red. You may also call the Washburn Ranger District at 715-373-2667.

For the most current information on closures from flash flooding event south of Hwy 2 please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/ and click on Flash Flooding Affects Forest. You may also call the Great Divide Ranger District at 715-264-2511.

“We want to remind folks that there are still areas that are closed and pose a hazard to their safety, said Martin. “We ask that folks respect the barricades and signs and to not drive around them or move them.”

For folks looking to gather firewood in the areas where trees are down, the Forest does have a firewood gathering permit for this activity that includes information on where gathering is prohibited. If you are interested in gathering firewood on the National Forest please contact the office nearest you for more information and to obtain a permit.

“We also want to remind folks of the changed conditions in the areas where the storms produced significant damage,” said Michelle Davalos, District Ranger on the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “There are still a lot of downed and damaged trees so please be careful and stay aware of your surroundings at all times.”

For more information about the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).