



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release

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CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST LIFTS AREA CLOSURE, MAKES PROGRESS ON ROADS AND TRAILS

PARK FALLS, Wis. (July 18, 2016) – The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest continues to make progress on re-opening roads and trails that were impacted by the storm.

U.S. Forest Service personnel have assessed more than 1,000 miles of Forest Service roads and more than 100 miles of trail. Nearly 100 obstructions have been identified on Forest roads and trails within the impacted area. These include damaged bridges, culverts, washouts and other impacts.

The U.S. Forest Service currently has more than 50 employees working the incident including heavy equipment operators who are making repairs to priority roads.

The area closure has been lifted and the Forest has issued a new closure order that lists roads, trails and developed recreation areas that are closed due to the storm damage. There are numerous roads and bridges that remain impassable due to washouts and damages sustained.

Please note that closure devices may not be in place indicating the road is impassable.



Damage to the 20 Mile Creek bridge on Forest Road 377 on the Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

For a current status update and listing of roads that are closed please visit www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF and click on the Flash Flooding Affects Forest link in red.

“Conditions are continuing to change; culverts and structures under roads thought to be safe are now showing signs of failure or are failing,” said Mike Martin, District Ranger, Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The potential for additional rainfall and wind may cause further damage to Forest Service roads, bridges, trails and recreation areas. Drivers are advised to practice defensive driving techniques, reduce your speed, drive with your lights on and watch out for washed-out culverts, bridges and roads. In addition, Forest personnel are using heavy equipment to make repairs to the roadways hauling gravel and grading roads.

“The majority of the Forest is open and available for users to enjoy,” said Martin. “We ask that visitors continue to check our website for updates and to refrain from trying to use roads that are closed.

For more information on the Flood Event please visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF. You may also contact the Great Divide Ranger District at 715-634-4821.

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>.

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Photo Caption:

Forest Service engineers placed rock and rubber mats at a washout on Forest Road 198 Sunday as a temporary repair.

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