



**Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
2016 Flood Status Update
July 17, 2016 10 a.m.**

Current Status	<p>Management of the emergency response on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is under the command of a Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) led by Jim Grant. Incident objectives for the IMT include protecting Forest employees and the public; assessing damage to bridges, dams, roads, trails and developed recreation sites within the storm track area of the National Forest; and prioritizing repairs.</p> <p>Visitors to the Forest are asked to modify their trip to avoid the impacted area and instead visit the many other areas of the Forest that safe for summer fun and recreation.</p>
Current Damage Assessment	<p>More than 1,000 miles of roads and more than 261,000 acres were impacted. All initial assessments have been completed on the main Forest Roads in the impacted area; some areas are still inaccessible and have been identified on the status map at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/. There are four main bridges and culverts that received significant damage.</p> <p>Trail assessments have been ongoing and are nearly complete. Forest Service personnel are continuing to assess the North Country Trail, clearing downed trees and documenting washouts. Assessments and clearing on the Dead Horse Trail are anticipated to be complete today as well.</p>
Activities Conducted Today	<p>More than 75 Forest Service employees are assigned to this effort. Forest Service heavy equipment operators and engineers will begin making a major repair at Forest Road 187 near Mineral Lake. Personnel will be hauling material on County Road GG. We ask that the public refrain from using County Road GG, Highway 77 is the re-route to Mellen.</p> <p>Forest Service gravel trucks, excavators, graders, end-loaders and dump trucks are making repairs. To date 7 culverts have been replaced on damaged roads. For your safety, please obey all road closed signs and the Forest Closure.</p> <div data-bbox="1084 1052 1450 1535" data-label="Image"></div> <div data-bbox="1084 1535 1450 1707" data-label="Caption"><p>Surveying the culvert on Forest Road 187 where the repair is starting today near Mineral Lake.</p></div>
Closures	<p>For the public’s safety, a closure order has been issued for the National Forest area, including roads, trails and developed recreation sites, West of Highway 13, North of Highway 77 and East of Highway 63. The closure</p>



Forest Service

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	<p>also includes the area within the Washburn District, bordered by Delta-Drummond Road (FR 223) to Forest Road 397 to Forest Road 224 west of Highway 63. The closure order and corresponding map will be updated daily on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf/.</p> <p>Beaver Lake Campground, Namekagon Campground, and St. Peter's Dome-Morgan Falls Recreation Area are closed until further notice. Campers with reservations for Namekagon Campground are being notified. Campers may relocate to Day Lake, East Twin, Moose Lake and Black Lake Campgrounds.</p>
<p>Safety Concerns and/or Advisories</p>	<p>The State of Wisconsin has declared a State of Emergency for eight counties including Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer.</p> <p>Numerous roads have been washed out, culverts blown and blocked and bridges impacted by the flash flooding. Note that closure devices may not be in place indicating a road is impassible. The high amount of moisture in the soil may cause some areas to continue to deteriorate and increase risk of trees falling. Heavy equipment and dump trucks may be on roadways making repairs.</p> <p>Drivers are advised to practice defensive driving techniques, reduce speed, drive with lights on, and watch out for flooded roadways, washed-out culverts and bridges. Stay abreast of current and predicted weather conditions. Use caution near rivers and creeks and other low-lying areas. Narrow roads, damaged bridges and washed-out trails are hazardous and will continue to deteriorate until repaired. Remember that conditions are still changing. Road shoulders may be damaged or non-existent. Remember, drive slow, yield to others, stay on solid roadway or trail tread and avoid damaged bridges.</p> <p>In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, counties and towns are reporting road closures elsewhere in northern Wisconsin. For more information on travel routes please go to www.511wi.gov or call 511 for incident alerts and traffic information. For a listing of roads in Bayfield County please visit http://bayfieldcounty.org/934/2016-Flood.</p>
<p>Weather</p>	<p>Sunday a complex frontal boundary and low pressure system will migrate eastward across the region today. This system will bring showers and thunderstorms to the northland through this evening. The weather will dry out as the night wears on...with dry weather and lower humidity values expected on Monday. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent. Temps 67-79. South winds 4 to 11 mph shifting to the southwest 9 to 13 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 22 mph.</p>
<p>Information</p>	<p>For further information regarding flood effects and emergency response on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest lands, visit the Forest website http://www.fs.usda.gov/cnnf/. Please contact the Great Divide Ranger District at Hayward 715-264-2511. You may also call the Public Affairs Officer, Hilary Markin, at 715-482-0115 or by email at</p>



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	<p>HilaryRMarkin@fs.fed.us. 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.</p>
Incident Background	<p>The northern part of the Great Divide Ranger District in Sawyer, Bayfield and Ashland Counties and the southern part of the Washburn Ranger District in Bayfield County were most affected by the rainfall event. The majority of damage is on the Great Divide Ranger District. Numerous Forest Roads received varying degrees of damage including blocked and blown-out culverts, road washouts, bridge issues, fallen trees, and flood debris.</p>



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