



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Bagley Rapids Campground and the Mountain Fire Tower reopen following July storm

LAKEWOOD, Wis. (August 13, 2019) – The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has been working to clean-up areas damaged by the July 19 windstorm and reopen them to visitors.

Last week, crews worked to reopen popular areas such as the Bagley Rapids Campground and the Mountain Fire Tower. In addition, several dispersed camping areas such as Nelligan Lake, Mountain Lakes and Bear Paw are also open. For a complete list of what is open and closed please visit the website at <http://go.usa.gov/xyA8D>.

“Our employees have been working hard to clear areas of the damage so that visitors can once again enjoy their favorite places on the National Forest,” said Greyling Brandt, Recreation Program Manager for the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we work to reopen sites.”

Visitors are reminded to check the website before visiting the Forest for the latest updates on what is open and closed. A closure order is in place for roads, trails and recreation sites that were damaged during the storm.

“There is still quite a list of closed recreation areas, trails and roads on the Forest. Folks are reminded to adhere to these closures for their safety,” said Brandt. “In many places there are limbs caught up in the canopy or leaning trees that pose a significant safety risk.”

In addition to the impacts to recreation areas, there is a significant amount of downed timber on the National Forest in Langlade and Oconto counties. The Forest has been working to size up the impacts to existing timber sales, timber stands that were being prepped for a sale, areas being considered for management and other places that were damaged on the Forest.

“We have already modified some existing timber sales to account for the downed timber from the storm,” said Karl Welch, Timber Program Manager for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “Contractors are actively working to harvest the remaining standing timber as well as what was damaged during the storm as prescribed in the modification for some of our timber sales.”

The Forest will continue to work on identifying the paths towards recovery and finding the most efficient ways to reopen recreation areas, roads and trails, utilize the downed timber, restore the Forest and reforest the damaged areas in the coming weeks, months and years.

For more information on the Storm Event please visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest 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>. You may also contact the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District at 715-276-6333.





The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 30 percent of the nation's surface drinking water to cities and rural communities and approximately 66 million Americans rely on drinking water that originated from the National Forest System. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.)

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