



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: (715) 362-1354 or (715) 482-0115

Hilary.R.Markin@usda.gov

Crews making progress on assessing areas damaged by the July 19 storm

LAKEWOOD, Wis. (July 22, 2019) – The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest responded to the July 19 storm event and have been conducting assessments of recreation sites, roads, trails and the Forest since Saturday.

Many of the Forests developed and dispersed recreations sites including trails are closed until further notice. There are numerous trees down in these areas and roadways are impassable.

“We are asking the public to refrain from using the National Forest in the damaged area,” said Mike Brown, District Ranger on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “Things may look relatively normal however, some of the damage occurred higher up in the tree canopy and dangers may be looming above your head that you are unaware of. Please avoid the area until we can ensure the areas are safe for visitors.”

A closure order is in place for roads, trails and recreation sites that were damaged during the storm. As areas are cleared the closure order will be updated daily. Please continue to check the Forest’s website and social media for updates.

“Forest Service crews assessed Boulder Lake Campground and have determined that it is safe for camping,” said Brown. “We have a few sites closed along the lake but will be working to clear them as soon as we can and reopen them.”

Drivers are advised to practice defensive driving techniques, reduce your speed, drive with your lights on and watch out for flooded roadways, washed-out culverts and bridges, trees on roadways and other storm debris. In addition, Forest employees are out assessing roads and will be operating heavy equipment and dump trucks as repair work and clean-up efforts continue.

For more information on the Flood 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.





United States Department of Agriculture

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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