



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

05-19 For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathy Fox, 715-362-1354

ATV Route Signs showing up on Chequamegon-Nicolet

Park Falls and Rhinelander, WI – November 10, 2005. People may be noticing some new signs on roads and trails on the Chequamegon side of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. That's because the Forest is in the process of implementing a new ATV policy that took effect when the final revised Forest Plan was released in March 2004.

The revised Forest Plan requires that all ATV routes on the Forest be posted open for ATV use. The areas being posted are currently and have been open to ATV use. They are not new routes.

In the Record of Decision for the revised Forest Plan, Regional Forester Randy Moore stated, "I want a more balanced policy across these Forests (the Chequamegon-Nicolet). To that end, I have decided to restrict ATV access to designated trails and roads on both Forests and to prohibit cross-country travel to avoid the associated resource degradation. ATV trail mileage will be increased on the Forests. The 284 miles of developed trail on the Chequamegon [side] will continue under this decision."



Sample of a sign found on the Forest

In June 2004, cross-country travel was banned on the Forest. In addition, Forest Supervisor Anne Archie issued a closure order closing an ATV play area near Washburn.

According to Deputy Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins, "We are now in the process of implementing the revised Forest Plan by starting to place signs along ATV routes. We are striving to have all the signs installed by mid-spring 2006."

The signs will generally be placed in the ditch, to the right of the main intersection with a higher level road, such as a Township Road. The fiberglass posts are ¼ inch and nearly 4 inches wide and 4 to 5 feet above the ground. The ATV symbol is an 8 x 8 plastic sign. The Forest Road numbers appear above the ATV symbol.