

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2
3 Date of enactment: **12/9/08**
4 Date of publication: **12/19/08**

5 **VOTE**

6 **2008 RESOLUTION 46**

7
8 **Opposition to the Forest-Wide Travel Management Project Plan**
9 **In the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest as**
10 **Proposed by the United States Forest Service**

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service has published a Forest-wide Travel Man-
13 agement Plan in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest that proposes closure of 55% of the
14 public roads within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service fails to recognize the need to manage the
17 National Forests as productive managed forests and continues to regulate National Forests as
18 though they were National Parks, which is contrary to the congressional authority granted to the
19 United States Forest Service for the purchase and management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet Na-
20 tional Forest; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service has not managed the National Forests con-
23 sistent with the provisions of the Clark-McNary Act to furnish a continuous supply of timber for
24 the use and necessities of citizens of the United States; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, for the most part, these lands were purchased from the counties where said
27 lands are located under the pretext and commitment that these lands would be returned to a fo-
28 rested condition and that these lands would again provide a sound base for the local and regional
29 economy and that local governments would play a major role in the management and operation
30 of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service has failed to consider the negative impact
33 of reduced employment and loss of local and state tax generation, that otherwise would be
34 created by tourism opportunities that rely on motorized access to public lands within counties
35 and communities where the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is located in its recently pub-
36 lished United States Forest Service's Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment;
37 and

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39 **WHEREAS**, lands within the National Forests should be accessible to the citizens of
40 these United States of America and not just experienced from the edges of the forest boundaries
41 along major highways; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, the proposed closure of the roads in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National
44 Forest eliminates a reasonable level of public access to recreational pursuits including but not li-
45 mited to hunting, fishing, wood cutting, mushroom and berry picking, birding, wildlife viewing,
46 ATV and snowmobile travel, and general access by the young, elderly, physically and or mental-
47 ly impaired, or provide emergency and/or rescue services to visitors to the Chequamegon-Nicolet
48 National Forest; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the lands within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest boundaries are
3 not large tracts of contiguous property such as within National Parks, but include significant pri-
4 vate property that relies upon travel upon these roads for a variety of purposes such as access to
5 employment, their private lands, routes for emergency vehicles, and emergency evacuation
6 routes in times of disaster; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, the proposed closure of these roads within the Chequamegon-Nicolet Na-
9 tional Forest will have a negative impact on sound forestry management and will limit the United
10 states Forest Services' ability to combat fire, disease, pests and invasive species;

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12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of
13 Supervisors that this Board recognizes the tremendous importance of transportation networks
14 within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and that the Chequamegon-Nicolet National
15 Forest is an exceptional natural resource that has the capacity to provide recreational, social and
16 economic benefits on a sustainable basis provided that the lands within the Chequamegon-
17 Nicolet National Forest remain accessible to the traveling public and local units of government;

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19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Forest Service's Travel Man-
20 agement Project Environmental Assessment has failed to properly address forest ecology, local
21 historic uses, multiple use principals and social and economic needs of the region.

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23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proposed closure of roads coupled with severe
24 reductions in timber harvesting below sustainable levels within the Chequamegon-Nicolet Na-
25 tional Forest constitutes continuing evidence that the United States Forest Service is unwilling or
26 unable to properly manage the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and that this Board of Su-
27 pervisors demands that unless the United States Forest Service provides for a Travel Manage-
28 ment Project Environmental Assessment that addresses all of the stated above, that all lands
29 within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest should revert back to the counties where said
30 forest lands are located by virtue of a breach of promise by the Federal Government and their
31 failure to comply with the Clark-McNary Act.

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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution be presented to President
34 George Bush, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Chief of the
35 Forest Service, Joan Marburger, Project Coordinator, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest,
36 Governor Jim Doyle and Washington County's State Legislatures.

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40 VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

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42 RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory resolution opposing road closures within the Che-
43 quamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
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1 APPROVED:
2 **(signed by Kimberly A. Nass)**
3 Kimberly A. Nass, County Attorney

4 Dated **12/9/08**

5
6 Considered **12/9/08**

7 Adopted **12/9/08**

8 Ayes **29** Noes **0** Absent **1**

9 Voice Vote _____

10
11 (Advisory resolution.)

Introduced by members of the EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.

(signed by Herbert J. Tennies)
Herbert J. Tennes, Chairperson