



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release

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WASHBURN RANGER DISTRICT NORTH OF HIGHWAY 2 CLOSED



Downed trees cover the Valhalla ATV Trail of the Washburn Ranger District after the July 21 thunderstorm. All National Forest lands north of Highway 2 remain closed to the public.

WASHBURN, Wis. (July 23, 2016) –

Thunderstorms early Thursday morning caused significant damage to the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest forcing the area to be closed for the safety of everyone.

“Forest Service personnel including saw teams and heavy equipment operators are working hard to clear roads, trails and recreation areas so they are once again safe for the public,” said Jim Grant, Incident Commander overseeing the response efforts. “We ask the public to please stay out of the areas that were damaged. It is putting our employees at risk as well as the public.”

The closure order includes all Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest system lands on the

Washburn Ranger District north of Highway 2 including all roads, trails and recreation areas.

Crews are making steady progress and today there are a few exceptions to the closure order – Long Lake Day Use Area is open, with access from the east only (off FR 251/Wannebo Road).

“This is a very popular recreation area, especially during the warm weather we are experiencing,” said Michelle Davalos, District Ranger on the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

To read the closure order please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/ and click on Thunderstorms Damage Washburn Ranger District. You may also call the Washburn Ranger District at 715-373-2667.

“Our top priority is clearing areas and ensuring the safety of our visitors,” said Davalos. “We are working as diligently as we can and will be reopening areas once they are deemed safe again.”

In addition to the storm event July 21, portions of the Washburn and Great Divide Ranger Districts were damaged by thunderstorms and flash flooding on July 11. For the most current information on closures from that event please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF/ and click on Flash Flooding Affects Forest.

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>.

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