



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release

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ADDITIONAL TRAILS OPENING ON WASHBURN RANGER DISTRICT

WASHBURN, Wis. (June 21, 2018) – The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has completed all initial road and trail assessments following the storm event June 15-17.

Yesterday, motorized trails on the Park Falls and Great Divide units were re-opened after assessments were completed. Today, some trails are opening on the Washburn Ranger District while others will remain closed.

“Several motorized trail segments were reopened today on the Washburn Ranger District including the Buckskin (North/South trail between Iron River and Barnes), Battle Axe (Northeast/west trail between Iron River and Port Wing), Lenawee (East/West trail between Port Wing and Bayfield/Washburn), Northwest section of the Valhalla Trail Loop to access the Valhalla Parking Area and Bayfield/Washburn Area.” said Brad Turberville, the new District Ranger on the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “Crews have been working hard since Monday to assess roads and trails for damages. We appreciate everyone’s efforts including those from our partners.”

Trails remaining closed include the Drummond Connector Trail (Trail 63) which was damaged nearly two years ago by another storm event. At that time, the Forest worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Bayfield County to make repairs to the trail.

“We are still in the early stages of our discussions on what to do next,” said Turberville. “We have been communicating with Bayfield County, the DNR, the Town of Drummond, trail partners and others affected by this closure. We anticipate many more conversations as we consider the options regarding this particular trail segment.”

Since Monday, crews have been working to assess roads and motorized trail conditions and mobilize heavy equipment to priority areas to begin making repairs.

“We will be shifting our focus now to emergency repairs on priority roads,” said Turberville.

The Forest Service has been working with townships to coordinate priority roads and the emergency repairs needed.

“It has truly been a joint effort,” said Turberville. “We appreciate all of the coordination and everyone pitching in to help one another.”

The Forest is also starting to assess non-motorized trails along with the help of partners. Updates will be posted to our website as trail conditions are known and closures are put in place if needed until they can be repaired. In addition, two boat ramps will be closed until further notice Star Lake and Perch Lake due to storm damage. All other recreation areas are open to the public.

“As a reminder – please use caution if driving in the impacted area. We have a lot of people working on roads, making repairs with dump trucks, excavators, and the like. We want everyone to be safe out there,” he added.

For more information, visit Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5852/>; or the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF or call the Great Divide Ranger District at 715-634-4821 or Washburn Ranger District at 715-373-2667. YOU can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

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