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RESOLUTION # 83-2008

Resolution offered by Supervisors of the Resolutions & Ordinances/Legislative Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service (Forest Service) has published a Forest-wide Travel Management Plan in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest) that proposes closure of 55% of the public roads within the Forest boundaries, and

WHEREAS, The Forest Service fails to recognize the need to manage all National Forests as productive managed forests and continues to regulate them as though they were National Parks, which is contrary to the congressional authority granted to the Forest Service for the purchase and management of the Forest, and

WHEREAS, such management is not consistent with the provisions of the Clark-McNary Act to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use of United States citizens, and

WHEREAS, most of the lands within the Forest were purchased from counties where said lands are located under the pretext and commitment that these lands would be returned to a forested state and that these lands would provide a sound base for the local and regional economy, and

WHEREAS, local governments were to play a major role in the management and operation of the Forest, and

WHEREAS, the proposed closure of these roads will have a negative impact on sound forestry management and will limit the Forest Service's ability to combat fire, disease pests and invasive species within the Forest, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has failed to consider the negative impact of possible reduction in employment, loss of tourism opportunities and loss of sales tax and other local revenues by the reduction in motorized access to public lands within the Forest in its recently published United States Forest Service's Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment, and

WHEREAS, lands within the Forest boundaries are not large tracts of contiguous property common within a National Park, but include a significant number of private parcels that rely on Forest roads for a variety of purposes such as access to employment, access to private lands and routes for emergency vehicles, and

WHEREAS, lands within the Forest should be accessible to all citizens rather than merely experienced from the edges of the Forest boundaries along major highways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors recognizes the tremendous importance of transportation networks within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest) in providing access to recreational, social and economic opportunities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Forest Service's (Forest Service) Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment has failed to address these opportunities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed closure of roads coupled with severe reductions in timber harvesting below the sustainable levels within the Forest constitutes continuing evidence that the Forest Service is unable or unwilling to properly manage the Forest and by doing so has breached its contract with the county, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors demands that unless the Forest Service provides for a Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment that addresses all of the concerns stated above, that all lands within the Forest will revert back to the counties where said Forest lands are located, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be mailed to President Bush, Senators Kohl and Feingold, Congressmen Obey and Kagen, Governor Doyle, Representatives Meyer and Friske, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer, Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell and Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins.

52 Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____
53

54 The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed by the
55 Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____
56

57 Approved by the Resolutions & Ordinances/Legislative Committee this 12th day of September, 2008.
58

59 Offered and passage moved by: _____
60 Supervisor

61 _____
62 Supervisor

63 _____
64 Supervisor
65 _____
66 Supervisor

67 _____ Ayes

68 _____ Nays
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70 _____ Absent
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72 _____ Abstain
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74 _____ Adopted
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76 _____ Adopted
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78 by the County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of October, 2008.
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80 _____ Defeated
81

82 _____
83 _____
84 Robert Brusio, Clerk Andrew P. Smith, County Board Chair