

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES (More fully describe the proposal)

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yard., etc.)

The major manipulation of this site will be the removal of stumps and land clearing in preparation of the development of this property into a site suitable for use as a cemetery. The site will be seeded to grass and maintained in an open state for future use.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, MGD, etc.)

There will be no manipulation of any aquatic resources on this property. Areas too wet for use as part of the cemetery will be left in their natural state.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures (include size of facilities, road miles, etc.)

Tentative plans will be a storage building approximately 16' x 20'. This building will be used to store grounds keeping equipment. No other buildings are planned at this time. One main road will be developed for access to the cemetery. Small access lanes will be developed as needed. Immediate road development will be less than one mile.

8. Emissions and Discharges (include relevant characteristics and quantities)

None

9. Other Changes

One access from Blueberry Road will be developed for access to the cemetery.

10. Identify the maps, plans and other descriptive material attached

Attachment County map showing the general area of the project
Attachment USGS topographic map
Attachment Site development plan
Attachment Plat map
Attachment DNR county wetlands map
Attachment Zoning map
Attachment Other _____

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT (Describe existing features that may be affected by proposal)

Information Based On (check all that apply):

Literature/correspondence (specify major sources)

Personal Contacts (list in item 28)

Field Analysis By: Author Other (list in item 28)

Past Experience With Site By: author Other (list in item 28)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air)

Soil is a well-drained sandy loam to the west changing to heavier soils on the eastern side with clay under the sandy loam impeding drainage. Topography slopes to the east with some impeded drainage on the eastern edge of the

property. Location of the site is not affected by any known air quality concerns. There are no known waterways within this property boundary, although it is evident water drains to the east.

12. Biological (dominant aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species and habitats including threatened/endangered species; wetland amounts, types and hydraulic value)

No aquatic vegetation present. Dominant forest type is fourteen-year-old aspen regeneration. Other species present are - red oak, white birch, red maple, sugar maple, cedar and balsam fir. This area would be capable of providing habitat for most animal species presently occurring in Bayfield County. East of this property are listed the Frog Bay Hemlocks as an endangered resource. This is part of the Northern Mesic Forest and located on the clay ravines draining into Frog Bay.

13. Cultural

- a. Land use (dominant features and uses including zoning if applicable)

Present land use is Forestry. Future land use would be to develop a cemetery on approximately twenty-five acres of land.

- b. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups)

The Red Cliff band is in need of an acceptable burial site for Tribal members and local residents affiliated with the Red Cliff community. The social impact of an appropriate burial site would have a positive impact on the local community. Lack of an adequate site will have an adverse social and economic impact on the local population.

- c. Archaeological/Historical

There is no significant archaeological/Historical information known at this time on this site.

14. Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)

This land has no special resources known to date. The primary past activities on this parcel has been related to timber stand management.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including primary, indirect and secondary impacts)

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

The physical changes would be to move from a natural stand of timber to a more controlled environment and habitat to many species of animals. The controlled environment of a cemetery may be more aesthetically pleasing by providing open areas in a location where a closed forest is dominate. Many species of animals may also benefit from using the openness within the cemetery.

16. Biological (include impacts to threatened/endangered species)

Flora and fauna will change when timber cover is removed and replaced with park like habitat. There should be no impact to any threatened/endangered resources.

17. Cultural

- a. Land Use (include indirect and secondary impacts)

The land use change would not significantly impact on the county forest due to the minor acreage being withdrawn. The benefit to the local population in withdrawing the parcel would be the availability of a burial site currently not available.

- b. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)
It is very important to all societies to provide adequate burial sites for their families. The economic benefits to a community to have adequate burial grounds within the community cannot be measured in a monetary amount. To many, the spiritual ties are of the greatest importance. . The natural stand of timber would provide sustained income to the county.

- c. Archaeological/Historical
None known

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands))
None known

19. Summary of Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided (more fully discussed in 15 through 18)
Reduction of the County Forest acreage.
Removal of some forest type.

ALTERNATIVES (no action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

Other Locations - Find a suitable site that is not within the County Forest Boundaries. This option has already been investigated with no suitable site found.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE (Complete each item)

21. Significance of Environmental Effects

- a. Would the proposed project or related activities substantially change the quality of the environment (physical, biological, socio-economic)? Explain.
No, the proposed project would not substantially change the quality of the environment. The environment would be changed, but taking in all aspects of the change, the overall benefits may increase the quality of the environment.
- b. Discuss the significance of short-term and long-term environmental effects of the proposed project including secondary effects; particularly to geographically scarce resources such as historic or cultural resources, scenic and recreational resources, prime agricultural lands, threatened or endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas. (The reversibility of an action affects the extent or degree of impact)
Short term environmental effects are minor. Removal of trees whether for land clearing or forest management has similar effects. Long-term effects may improve recreational opportunities by maintaining a park like setting in the form of a cemetery. Land use will change, but will not dramatically affect the environment.

22. Significance of Cumulative Effects.

Discuss the significance of reasonably anticipated cumulative effects on the environment. Consider cumulative effects from repeated projects of the same type. What is the likelihood that similar projects would be repeated? Would the

cumulative effects be more severe or substantially change the quality of the environment? Include other activities planned or proposed in the area that would compound effects on the environment.

No other activities similar to this one are presently proposed for county forest. It is inevitable the future will require closer scrutiny of the method our society deals with burial of the dead. This currently is not a major concern.

23. Significance of Risk

- a. Explain the significance of any unknowns which create substantial uncertainty in predicting effects on the quality of the environment. What additional studies or analyses would eliminate or reduce these unknowns? Explain why these studies were not done.

A portion of the requested withdrawal area is wet and would be unsuitable for burial sites. This area is included within the withdrawal request simply to streamline and simplify property ownership. It is believed these areas will not be developed and will remain in their natural state, therefore no further analysis was done at this time.

- b. Explain the environmental significance of reasonably anticipated operating problems such as malfunctions, spills, fires, or other hazards (particularly those relating to health or safety). Consider reasonable detection and emergency response, and discuss the potential for these hazards.

There are no anticipated operating problems of environmental significance. If the site was eventually unacceptable as a cemetery, other uses may present a hazard to the environment.

24. Significance of Precedent

- a. Would a decision on this proposal influence future decisions or foreclose options that may additionally affect the quality of the environment? Explain the significance.
Allowing a cemetery may open the door for cemeteries in other communities within the county forest blocking. Each request would need to be studied and approved by their own merit.

- b. Describe any conflicts the proposal has with plans or policy of local, state or federal agencies that provide for the protection of the environment. Explain the significance.
None known.

25. Discuss the effects on the quality of the environment, including socio-economic effects, that are (or are likely to be) highly controversial, and summarize the controversy.
This withdrawal does not appear to be highly controversial.

26. Explain other factors that should be considered in determining the significance of the proposal.

Burial of our dead is a very important issue.
Burial sites must meet certain criteria.
There is strong support with little opposition to this withdrawal.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

27. Summarize citizen and agency involvement activities (completed and proposed).
Proposed withdrawal by the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas.
Area to be withdrawn approved by the Bayfield County Forestry Committee and the County Board.
Area to be withdrawn identified physically by the County Forest Administrator.
Environmental assessment by the WI DNR
Approval by the WI DNR
28. List agencies, groups and individuals contacted regarding the project (include DNR personnel and title).

Date

Contact

Comment Summary

DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

29. Complete either A or B below.

A. EIS Process Not Required [x]

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process..... []

The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Timothy W Davis
Signature of Evaluator

7/9/99
Date Signed

Darryl Fenner (w.g.)
Noted: Team/Sub-team Supervisor or Bureau Director

7/19/99
Date Signed

Copy of news release or other notice attached? Yes [] No

Number of responses to public notice 1

Public response log attached? Yes [] No

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WPEA

William Gault
Regional Director or Director of ISS (or designee)

7/19/99
Date Signed

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review and does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Note: Not all Department decisions respecting environmental impact, such as those involving solid waste or hazardous waste facilities under sections 144.43 to 144.47 and 144.60 to 144.74, Stats., are subject to the contested case hearing provisions of section 227.42, Stats.



