



USDA-FOREST SERVICE

NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

KAWISHIWI FIELD LABORATORY BUILDING DISPOSITION

SCOPING REPORT



FEBRUARY 2007

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The USDA-Forest Service Northern Research Station (NRS) has conducted scoping in order to determine what viable alternatives exist for permanent disposition of its buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory. The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located on the Superior National Forest along the eastern bank of the South Kawishiwi River, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, Minnesota. This scoping is an initial part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process of preparing an Environmental Assessment for the disposition of the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory buildings.

There are twelve structures on site, nine of which are being considered eligible for inclusion as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The historical significance of the buildings relates to their high quality construction workmanship and representation of various styles of log and framed construction characteristic of an historical era. Seven of the historic structures are Rustic/Adirondack Style log cabins built in 1934 and 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Additionally, there is a stand-alone underground concrete cellar poured by the CCC at the site, and a balloon framed residence, built in 1931 with funds from Herbert Hoover's Public Works Administration.

The NRS is seeking to dispossess the buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Lab, as NRS itself has not had a research interest based out of the lab for over twenty years and has no future plans for the buildings. Additionally, the buildings are in poor condition and the NRS has no plans to rehabilitate them, or to continue supporting the high annual maintenance and utility costs associated with the buildings.

The current sole tenant of the lab is the US Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Wildlife research has been conducted out of the laboratory buildings since 1968.

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

To support the preparation of the Kawishiwi Field Lab Building Disposition alternatives development process, NRS solicited input from interested parties and the general public to help identify issues, concerns, and subject matter that should be addressed in the future Environmental Assessment. The intent of this process is three-fold:

- Provide interested parties and the general public with information about the lab buildings and their proposed disposition;
- Provide interested parties and the general public with the opportunity to provide input and voice any relevant issues or concerns regarding various options related to building disposition; and,
- Provide parties and the general public with an opportunity to propose alternative courses of action regarding the disposition of the Kawishiwi lab buildings.

As part of the scoping process, the NRS held two public scoping meetings on December 13th, 2006. The meetings were held at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely, MN at 1:00PM to 3:00PM and 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Both sessions began with a one-hour open house, during which the public was invited to peruse display boards discussing the historical significance and current condition of the buildings, as well as an introduction to the NEPA process. Additionally, attendees were provided with a handout covering many of these same issues. The open house was followed by a presentation including representatives of the USDA-Forest Service (Research & Development: NRS and Heritage Resources Program), the USGS-Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, and the Mangi Environmental Group.

Public notices of the scoping process and opportunities to participate were distributed widely prior to the December 13th meetings. Public notices were published in the following local newspapers:

- Duluth News Tribune (published Wednesday, November 29)
- Mesabi Daily News (published Wednesday, November 29)
- Ely Echo (published in the weekly edition beginning November 25)
- Ely Timberjay (published in the weekly edition beginning November 30)

Public notices were also submitted to the following radio stations for broadcast as public service announcements:

- WELY 94.5FM “End of the Road Radio” Ely, MN
- WEVE 97.9FM Eveleth, MN
- WSCN 100.5FM/WSCD 92.9FM “Minnesota Public Radio” Duluth, MN

These press releases invited all interested members of the general public to participate in the December 13th public meetings. Additionally, the NRS mailed 30 letters to federal and state agencies and 318 letters to private groups and citizens, inviting all recipients to participate in the public meetings. The press release was also posted on the NRS’ website.

The general public and interested parties were invited to submit comments regarding the possible future directions of the Kawishiwi Field Lab buildings disposition during the scoping period, which ended January 17, 2007. Opportunities for providing comments included:

- Verbally or in writing at the December 13th scoping meetings
- Postal Mail
- Facsimile Transmission
- Electronic Mail
- Phone

In addition to comments from the general public, comments were also received from the US Geological Survey (USGS), the International Wolf Center, Vermillion Community College, Superior National Forest, NRS, Ely City Council, Ely Chamber of Commerce, and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. All comments will be given equal consideration in the scoping process, regardless of how a specific comment was submitted or received.

3.0 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

Each comment received during the scoping period was considered and summarized below by themes which identify important information and concerns regarding alternatives for the disposition of the Kawishiwi Field Lab buildings. Content summaries were developed for each issue and are presented below. The order of the issues presented in the summary of scoping comments does not reflect any significance or relative importance of the topics addressed. Additionally, the information reported in the summary of scoping comments does not reflect any value assessment of the comment or topic addressed.

Why is the Forest Service no longer using the buildings for research?

There was some interest amongst members of the public as to why the Forest Service is no longer in need of the buildings for its' own purposes.

- Chuck Wick, a former ranger in the Superior National Forest and former educator at Vermillion Community College, stated that “the lab seems like an ideal place to study the effects of global climate change in cold climates due to its proximity to the transition zone of the deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and prairie ecosystems.”
- There was a concern that the loss of the Kawishiwi Field Lab would represent a loss of forest research opportunities in the Superior National Forest

It was also suggested by Walter Medwid of the International Wolf Center that the buildings could be maintained by NRS for use other than research, namely an interpretive center. He also inquired as to the fate of other forest service buildings that are no longer used by the forest service. The question was rhetorical and was not answered.

Wolf Research

Mike Nelson of the USGS reported that wolf research has been continuously based out of the Kawishiwi Field Lab since 1968. The wolf research based at the lab represents one of the longest running continuous wildlife studies in the world. It is rivaled in length only by another of Dr. L. David Mech's wolf research initiatives in Isle Royal, MI.

Mike Nelson also discussed the role of the lab in developing early radio telemetry techniques for wildlife research. Radio telemetry continues to be a valuable contribution of the lab to regional and global wildlife conservation; scientists and wildlife managers from around the country and the world have been coming to the lab over the years to learn radio telemetry techniques.

The wolf research conducted at the lab has had a variety of contributors beyond the current occupants, the USGS. Several universities have contributed resources and conducted field research at the lab including: University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, the Natural Resources Research Institute (University of Minnesota - Duluth), Vermillion Community College (Ely, MN), and Macalester College (St. Paul, MN). Several students have also headquartered their master's and PhD research out of the lab. State and federal collaborators include: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, International Wolf Center, USDA Wildlife Services, Superior National Forest, and the NRS.

The USGS and the International Wolf Center attributed the recovery of the wolf population, and the subsequent return of the wolves to Yellowstone National Park, to the research based at the lab.

The Kawishiwi Field Lab has been highly valued by researchers due to:

- The infrastructure/utilities present at the site, including: indoor plumbing, heat, indoor sleeping quarters, sufficient lab and office space
- Its proximity to the city of Ely, MN
- Its proximity to an Airport and Seaplane Base
- Its proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

These features are unique to the lab. Mike Nelson reported that visiting wildlife researchers are always impressed with the amenities provided at the lab, as they are used to operating out of remote locations with little, if any, permanent infrastructure.

Other Research

The Kawishiwi Field Lab has been used for research on plant ecology, forest fire histories, recreation, and environmental impacts of mining. Also, several non-wolf wildlife studies have been conducted at the site, including studies on: beaver, loon, black bear, deer, lynx, and moose populations.

The Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa has also collaborated on research projects conducted at the lab.

Educational and Experiential Learning at the Lab

Several local institutions use the lab buildings for learning exercises and hands on experiences for students of all ages. Vermillion Community College educators Lori Schmidt and Bill Tefft both discussed the value of the lab to their students' educational experiences. Lori Schmidt and Mike Nelson discussed the partnership that Vermillion Community College has with the wolf research conducted at the lab; Vermillion students are frequently called upon to help collect field data, including such tasks as retrieving carcasses and doing measurements and weights of animals.

It was suggested by Lori Schmidt that the educational role of the field lab is not recognized by the people in St. Paul as an important part of the educational experience of her students.

Data collected at the lab is also disseminated via the internet to enable people who do not have access to the lab to share in the learning experiences.

Walter Medwid, Executive Director of The International Wolf Center, and Cree Bradley, a Board of Directors member for the Center, discussed the value of the lab as a base for their educational programs for youth and adults. The proximity of the lab to the city of Ely, where the International Wolf Center is based, has helped to facilitate this partnership. The International Wolf Center has also supported the research at the lab, as it relates to their educational programs.

Connections with Mining Interests

There was some concern amongst the public that the disposition of the buildings is related to nearby Copper-Nickel mining interests. A gentleman in the audience reported that when management of the majority of the Kawishiwi Experimental Forest was reverted back to the Superior National Forest, several mining operations began in the region at about the same time. Mike Nelson (USGS) seconded that mining is taking place in the surrounding area ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the lab). However, at this time there is no known connection between the building disposition at the lab and mining interests.

Who pays to maintain and or rehabilitate the buildings?

Erik Troumbly (NRS) stated that it seemed that everyone in attendance could agree on the importance of the lab, but the USDA-Forest Service is paying for the buildings and they are the only agency without research interests based at the lab. While there are several disposition options on the table, a representative of the Kawishiwi Ranger District stated that no Special Use Permits will be issued by the USFS authorizing the buildings to stay, but not be owned or managed by NRS.

Funding options if Lab buildings were able to remain in present location:

- USDA-Forest Service
- USGS
- International Wolf Center
- Conversion to a designated Recreation Site or Resort
- Private citizen or group (*Connections to Ted Turner*)
- Private Fundraiser
- Local government
- Eco-tourism

Historical Significance of the Buildings, Builders, Construction, and Funding Sources

Everyone in attendance expressed an interest in maintaining the structures for their historical importance to the area and as a marker of a point in time in the country's history. There are many local connections to the buildings in terms of the men who built them and the construction materials.

William Clayton of the Superior National Forest's Heritage Resources Program discussed the history of the buildings on site. At least three locally experienced men (LEMs) worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps on the construction of the log structures at the lab. All of the materials for the log structures were from the local area; the logs were harvested from within the Superior National Forest and the granite for the fireplaces and chimneys was quarried just outside of Ely, in a now defunct quarry.

The balloon framed structure is the oldest remaining administrative building in the Superior National Forest and the first to have an indoor bathroom. The bathroom is reported to have attracted a lot of attention from the surrounding community, as Ely gets quite cold during the winter and it was a novelty to not have to go to the outhouse. Another important feature is the

building style which was typical of the era in which it was built; it was an early light framed structure. The building's construction was funded by the Hoover Administration's Public Works Administration.

The buildings would all need extensive rehabilitation, but none are beyond repair at this point.

What happens to the buildings if they are sold?

The possible sale of the buildings brought some people to the meeting. They had several questions regarding the building disposition.

- Would it be possible for the buildings to remain on site?
- Would the buildings need to be maintained as historical structures, including rehabilitating them back to a condition reminiscent of their original state?
- How do you bring historical structures up to date with current building codes, if needed? Is it even possible?

Concerns related to the moving of the buildings following sale were similarly multi-faceted. The site on which they were built has contributed to the value of the buildings, so it would be most desirable for all of them to be able to stay from a historical perspective.

- Would moving them off-site detract from the historical context in which they were built and used?
- Even if they retain some of their historical importance, is moving the buildings a desirable outcome, from a historical perspective?
- What happens if organizations who may be interested in the buildings do not have a use for them in their current location?
- If the buildings are moved do they need to be moved together? In the same layout?

Summary List of Comments Received

- Why doesn't the forest service reclaim the buildings for their own research or for future use?
- The research conducted at the Kawishiwi Field Lab on the Wolves represents the longest continuous study in the world.
- The wolf research has historical significance of its own; the historical significance of the lab is more than just the buildings themselves, but the research conducted within them.
- The Kawishiwi Field Lab had a role in the return of the wolf to Yellowstone National Park.
- The research and training based at the Kawishiwi Field lab has had an impact on conservation both domestically and internationally.
- Is Eco-tourism at the Kawishiwi Field Lab a funding option?
- The Kawishiwi Field Lab from a Forest Service perspective is one of many field stations. Also, the Forest Service has had no research interests at the lab for the past 20 years and has no current plans for future research.
- Does the building disposition have any connections to mining interests?
- The Kawishiwi Field Lab has provided Vermillion Community College students hands on research experiences in wildlife and forestry.
- Who is going to maintain the buildings and with what money?
- Everyone can agree that the contributions of the Kawishiwi Field Lab are valuable, but someone needs to pay for the maintenance of the buildings.
- The Kawishiwi Field Lab has been offering citizen science outreach for young students and adults.
- The internet has brought the work based at the Kawishiwi Field Lab to the world, through data sharing.
- What about the city acquisition of the buildings and possibly relocating them?
- What will happen to the land?
- How will NRS account for the spiritual significance of the events at the Kawishiwi Field Lab?
- Estimated cost of the rehabilitation of the buildings over \$1million.
- There will be no Special Use Permits granted.
- Why not offer the historical buildings separately at auction and sell the others for materials?
- Be aware of the Copper-Nickel mineral resources in the land if the buildings are taken off-site.
- There was a general show of support for not having the buildings destroyed.

- Several people mentioned eco-tourism possibilities.
- Concerns about historical significance status no longer applying if the buildings are taken off-site as part of the disposition process.
- Connections with the Kawishiwi Field lab have contributed greatly to the student experience at Vermillion Community College and are an integral part of some degree programs, including the Natural Resource Technology degree.

4.0 DISCUSSION

Topics included in the summary of scoping comments represent issues addressed by the general public, interested parties, and organizations during the scoping period. All comments submitted by individuals and groups will be given full consideration as preparation of the Kawishiwi Field Lab Building Disposition/EA moves forward.

During the scoping period two significant issues of concern were raised: the historical significance of the buildings and the ongoing wolf research operating out of the Kawishiwi Field Lab. As the EA proceeds, these issues will need to be addressed, analyzed, and mitigated.

The historical significance of the buildings is well established; they are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historical Places. Ideally, the buildings would remain on the site where they were built, however representatives of Superior National Forest have said that no Special Use Permits will be given in this case. In terms of historical significance the fact that the buildings were built on that site is significant, but it is not the only criteria that was used to establish their historical significance. Therefore moving the buildings offsite would not detract from the historical significance of the individual buildings, although it would still be recognized as a loss by the historical preservation community. Keeping the buildings together and within the Ely region, would help to mitigate some, but not all of the historical losses. If the buildings are sold, the buyers must be willing to accept responsibility for maintaining the buildings as historical structures. This will likely require a significant initial investment which has been quoted at a minimum of \$200,000 to over \$1 million dollars. Annual long-term maintenance costs are not currently available.

The wolf research has many facets that will be important to address as the EA proceeds. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) holds federal agencies responsible for “carrying out programs,” that assist in the conservation of Threatened and Endangered species. The buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Lab do not provide habitat in the traditional sense, however it is arguable that the research based out of the lab for the last nearly 40 years has had a significant role in wolf recovery. The buildings’ provision of infrastructural support for the research has been fulfilling the NRS’s role of “carrying out programs.” If the buildings are dispossessed NRS has a responsibility to the continuation of the research conducted at the lab. Assisting in the transition from the lab to another location would be part of the mitigation process. Throughout the transition it will be important to address the factors that have made the lab so valuable as a research hub: indoor plumbing; heat; indoor sleeping quarters; lab and office space; proximity to

the city of Ely, MN; proximity to Airport and Seaplane Base; proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. While in many ways these seem trivial, it was noted by some that having a permanent base of operations is relatively unique in wildlife research.

The wolf research conducted out of the Kawishiwi Field Lab also has had impacts both locally and globally. The recovery of the wolf is one of the most successful conservation efforts on record. Through the research and outreach of L. David Mech's team at the Kawishiwi Field Lab the wolf has recovered from years of demonization and near extinction to probable delisting sometime in the next few years. This shift in the public's perception of wolves has had a global effect, as researchers from around the world have come to the lab to learn conservation techniques to apply to the wolf populations in their home countries.

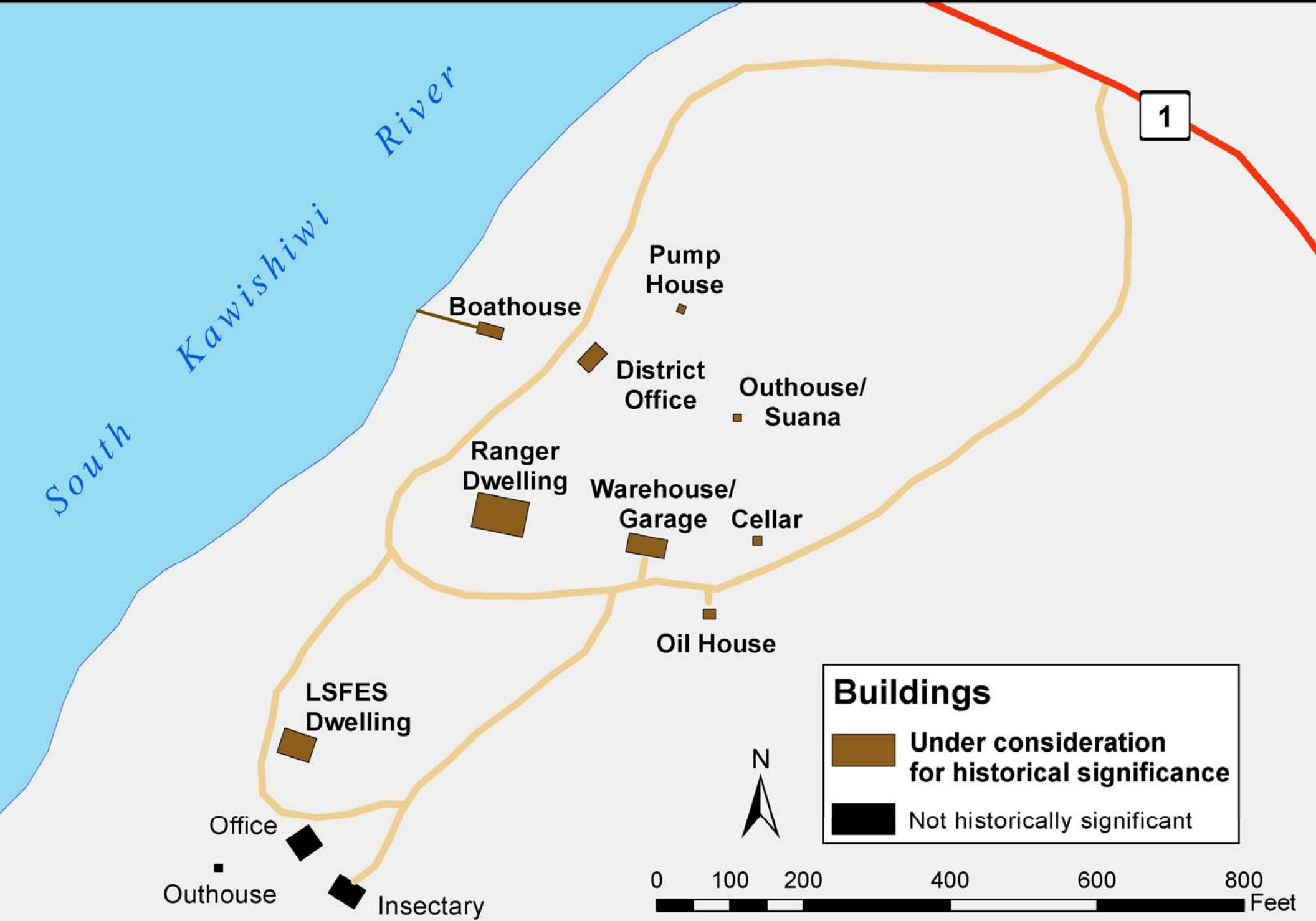
Another factor to consider if the research becomes displaced as a result of the building disposition is the connections the USGS research has made with other local groups. Vermillion Community College and the International Wolf Center have been closely associated with the lab's wolf research. Students have a long history of going to the lab to gain experience with wildlife field techniques and a variety of vegetative studies. Because both of these institutions are located in Ely, it would be desirable for the research to remain based out of Ely, to allow for the continuation of wolf research based partnerships.

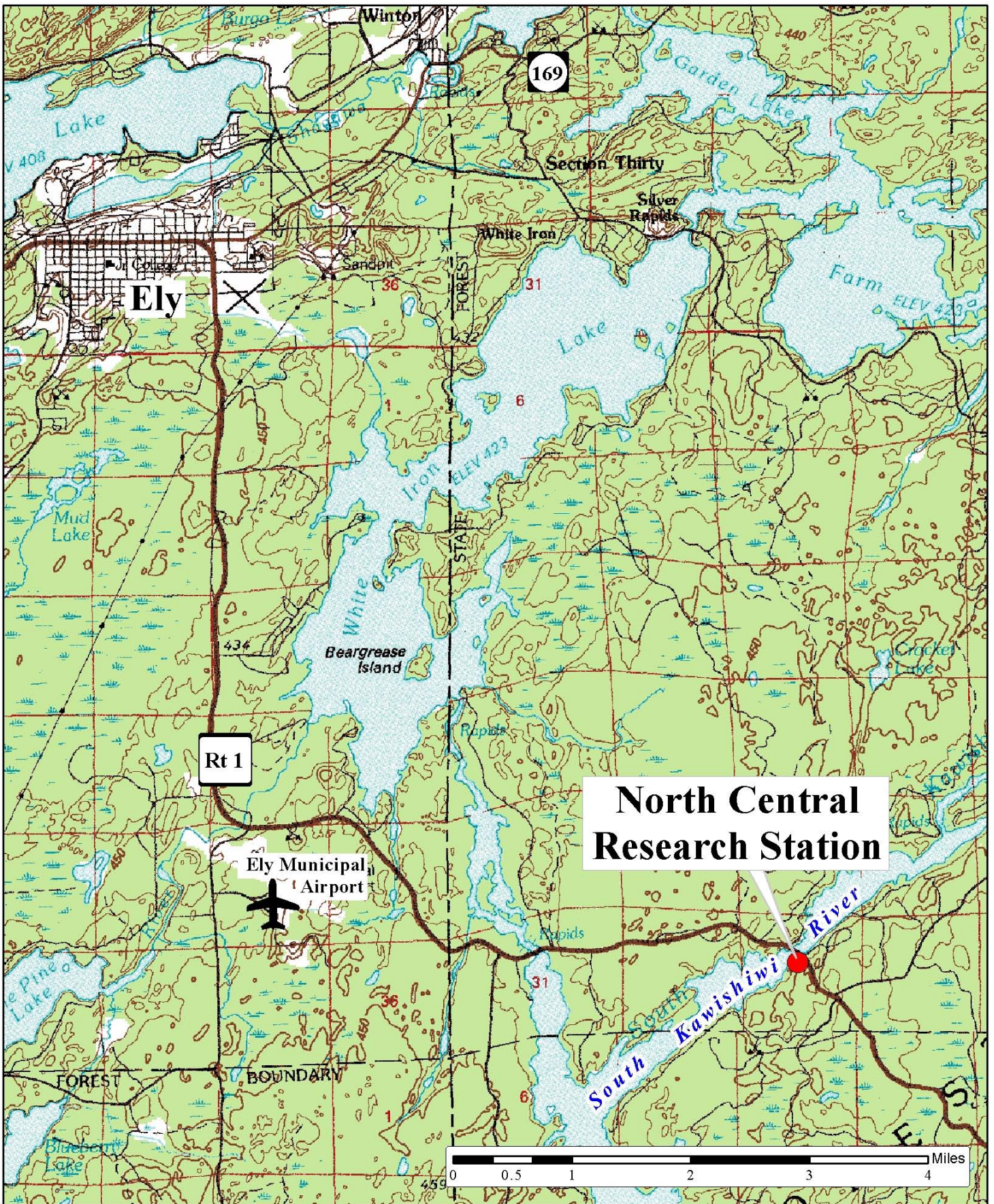
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

MAPS: BUILDING LAYOUT AND VICINITY

Northern Research Station - Ely, MN





General Location: The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located along the eastern bank of the South Kawishiwi River in the Kawishiwi Experimental Forest. The Kawishiwi Experimental Forest is located within the Superior National Forest, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, MN, on the south side of U.S. Highway No. 1.

APPENDIX B
COMMENTS RECEIVED

Appendix A: Summary Table of Comments Received

Commenter	Association	Comment Method	Date
Sue Spencer	Private Citizen	Website	11/29/2006
Chris Clay	Great Lakes Log Crafters Association	Website	12/13/2006
Susan Replogle	Private Citizen	Website	12/14/2006
John Zimmerman	Private Citizen	Website	1/1/2007
Walter M. Medwid	International Wolf Center	Email	1/17/2007
Cynthia Cantrell	Private Citizen	Email	12/29/2006
Joe Rokala	DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals	Email	1/9/2007
Gary Duane Warner	Private Citizen	Email	1/7/2007
Kathy Hamilton-Dix	Private Citizen	Letter	1/2/2007
Dennis Gimmetstad	MHS, SHPO	Letter	12/20/2006
Mary Koski	Vermilion Community College	Letter	1/9/2007
Rosemary Berens	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, THPO	Letter	1/12/2007
David Jones	Private Citizen	Letter	12/15/2006
L. David Mech	Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center	Letter	1/17/2007

Date: 11/29/2006 8:07:19 PM

Name: Sue Spencer

Organization:

Address:

2744 Echo TRail

Ely, MN 55731

United States

Email: lilapa@2z.net

Comment:

If you are selling the buildings, let me know. Thanks.

Privacy: Withhold my name and address from the public record

Date: 12/13/2006 11:51:12 PM

Name: Chris Clay

Organization: Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

Address:

24355 Esquire Blvd

Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025

United States

Email: cclay_nslogs@earthlink.net

Comment:

Dear Mr. Sindt,

I just learned of your meeting today and was not able to attend. We would like to find out more about what's contemplated for a future use of this site. Our association has been looking for a permanent location and are in the process of evaluating different locations. Our use consists of having a meeting location, doing handcrafted log building workshops/education, log structure research, presenting public informational seminars. We're a 501c non-profit organization. I'll contact you at your St. Paul office for more information.

Chris Clay

Privacy: Don't withhold my name or my address from the public record

Date: 12/14/2006 7:15:39 PM

Name: Susan Replogle

Organization:

Address:

1971 Pine Tree Trail

Ely, MN 55731

United States

Email: rayret@frontiernet.net

Comment:

I attended your meeting on Wednesday evening and found it to be very interesting. I would be inclined to support any projects that would have to do with preservation of historic sites and buildings in our area. The buildings are definitely worth saving and restoring and I am not sure why this hasn't been done all along. What I think would be ideal is...keep all the buildings together either on the site they are on or somewhere else. Restore them to the period in history that is appropriate, inside and out, and turn them into a museum much like what was done with Dorothy Molter's cabins. I think that many people would be interested in the history of the buildings, how they looked inside and out and what went on in them. Personally, I would love to work on the research and try to acquire historically correct items for the buildings. But ,of course, I don't have funding for such things. And I couldn't do it alone. Some things I might acquire on my own and donate to the project. Photo displays of past activities and people would be great too. Perhaps a grant? Just some thoughts that I am throwing out there!
Susan Replogle

Privacy: Don't withhold my name or my address from the public record

Date: 1/1/2007 4:29:17 PM

Name: John Zimmerman

Organization:

Address:

1644 Hawleyton Road
Binghamton, NY 13903
United States

Email: jzimmerman1@stny.rr.com

Comment:

Thanks for including me (and the public in general) in this project. Here are my thoughts...

- 1) would it be possible to lease the property to someone (outward bound like - to draw city children to the wilderness)...funding could be sought to improve buildings...
- 2) if the buildings are to be torn down (or some of them) as was done on the Joyce estate property in the Chippawa forest - offer the buildings for sale and allow removal

Privacy: Withhold my name and address from the public record

January 16, 2007

Dear Rick: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the possible disposition of the ranger dwelling and other structures at Kawishiwi Field Laboratory.

As indicated in the public meeting handout, many of these buildings have historic-structure status and, for that reason alone, their future requires serious consideration. These buildings, particularly the “ranger dwelling,” have another significant layer of importance that, in fact, may be more significant than their relevance as CCC-era treasures.

For nearly four decades these buildings have housed an historic wolf research project that nearly stands alone as the world’s longest continuous wildlife study. Only the wolf-moose studies begun by Dr L. David Mech, and now carried on by Dr. Rolf Peterson, exceed in duration the studies at Kawishiwi. These Kawishiwi Lab studies under the direction of Mech coincide with a major shift in American attitudes towards the long maligned and misunderstood gray wolf—a species that served as the icon of the endangered species act and for America’s changing attitude towards the environment.

Perhaps most significantly, the work done at K Lab was instrumental in making possible one of the greatest conservation achievements of the last century—the restoration of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and the wolf releases in Idaho. These achievements were made possible by the knowledge gained through Mech’s field work and hundreds of technical publications. Additionally, dozens of biologists cut their teeth on wolf- and field-research as technicians on the project. Many of these technicians have since become the generation of wolf biologists who now manage wolf populations around this nation.

Beyond Americans, biologists from many countries have similarly learned the ropes of this research and brought the fruits of that education to their own countries and to their own resident wolf populations. The impact of work at the Kawishiwi facilities is significant to the recovery and preservation of wolves around the world.

The disposition of the facilities must take these historic American conservation milestones into consideration. While this research could have happened in other locations, the important point is that the K Lab facilities housed more than a generation of researchers and research, the impact of which is felt internationally.

Related to this is the fact that the Superior National Forest served as the only reservoir of wolves in the contiguous United States (outside of the small isolated population on Isle Royale) as this country continued an amazingly effective eradication program that killed hundreds of thousands of wolves across the country. Furthermore it was the Superior National Forest in which Sigurd Olson’s field work resulted in the first published scientific study of wolves. Today, another extension of the wolf research centered at K Lab, the International Wolf Center, has become the first and most prominent facility in the world where the public comes to learn about wolves and their relationship to other species, including humans. More than a half-million visitors have passed through its doors since 1993. The Center has an international membership of about

10,000, operates on a \$1.5 million budget and employs more than 20 individuals. This not-for-profit institution would not exist were it not for the wolf research conducted at Kawishiwi.

The western Great Lakes region is home to the largest population of wolves in the country outside of Alaska, adding further to the significance of this region.

The import of the K Lab facilities to wolf recovery around the world is difficult for us to truly measure today. Although Sigurd Olson was vilified in his time, today many people know him as someone far ahead of his time whose good works helped to protect important wilderness areas. Similarly, K Lab and the research made possible by its resources will be seen by future generations as the literal and symbolic birthplace for a major shift in our thinking about wolves and the environment.

Preserving those buildings as a living museum should be one of the options considered. The International Wolf Center would be willing to serve as a partner in such a venture.

If you decide to remove the buildings, the International Wolf Center would like to be considered as a new home for the ranger dwelling in an effort to preserve the historic structure and recognize its importance to wolf conservation. This addition to the Center would serve our public and also benefit the ecotourism economy of the region.

The International Wolf Center would like to be updated as your work to address the future of the buildings continues. The board and staff of the Center hope that we can serve as a partner in ensuring the best outcome for all.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Medwid, Executive Director
International Wolf Center

From: "cindy cantrell" chcantrell@verizon.net
Sent: 12/29/2006 03:05 PM
To: "richard sindt" rsindt@fs.fed.us
cc: chcantrell@verizon.net

Subject
Buildings at the Kawishisi Field Laboratory
Attn: Richard D. Sindt

Dear Mr. Sindt:

Regarding the disposition of the buildings at the Kawishisi Field Laboratory, I suggest they be auctioned with the buyer responsible for taking them down and removing them from the property.

You stated in your letter of November 29, 2006 that several were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and are considered historic log structures eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If each building were auctioned separately, the historic buildings would likely bring a very good price, either from individuals eager to have them rebuilt on personal property or from local museums, Chambers of Commerce, merchants, etc. The non-historic buildings, if not needed for storage, etc. in their present location, would be valued for their materials.

I apologize for being late in responding. We were out of town and received the notice just today. By the way, please note our change of address:

John and Cynthia Cantrell Jr
10512 Morning Mist Trail
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

(Our previous address was in Watkinsville, GA) I will be interested in learning the outcome of this scoping process.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Cantrell

From: "Joe Rokala" Joe.Rokala@dnr.state.mn.us
Sent: 01/09/2007 11:21 AM
To: "Richard Sindt" <rsindt@fs.fed.us>
cc: "Dave-HIBBING Dahl" <Dave-HIBBING.Dahl@dnr.state.mn.us>
Subject: Disposition of the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory Buildings

Hi Richard,

Thank you for giving the Department of Natural Resources an opportunity to comment on the disposition of the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory Buildings. Department staff reviewed the information you sent in a letter dated November 29, 2006. Our review identified natural resource issues or concerns for the property, and this information is provided for your consideration.

The facility lies in the immediate area of known Copper-Nickel mineral resources known as the Maturi Deposit and the Spruce Road Deposit. When planning for future uses of the facilities, please take into consideration the presence of these mineral resources and the potential for their development.

If you questions concerning these resource comments, please feel free to contact Dave Dahl, DNR Lands and Minerals, 218/262-7322.

Thanks,

Joe Rokala, Regional Operations Supervisor Division of Lands and Minerals
218/999-7894

From: "Gary Duane Warner" garydwarner@earthlink.net
Sent: 01/07/2007 10:29 AM
To: "Debra J Dietzman" <ddietzman@fs.fed.us>
cc:

Subject: Kawishiwi Site Buildings>

If possible please keep me advised (news releases?) as to the disposition of the Kawishiwi site buildings. I am a frequent Ely visitor and am planning a move to northern Minnesota in the coming summer. I would not want the buildings destroyed because of disinterest.

January 2, 2007

Richard D. Sindt
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ae.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Richard,

I had sent you an email regarding the Research Center buildings
On Kawishiwi River.

I would like to know if anything has been decided regarding the
buildings?

I wish I had an answer to keep all intact for it's a lovely spot.
It would be a great "mini-resort" for sending off canoeist into
The Boundary Waters.

If the buildings can not be salvaged at the Field Laboratory
spot, I was wondering if there is a chance to buy one of
the log structures?

You can respond to me via my email at : khdx@sprintmail.com
or call my cell phone: 816/213-4357 , orwrite me at

Kathy Hamilton-Dix
5404 Windsor Lane
Fairway, KS 66205

Looking forward to your response.


Kathy Hamilton-Dix



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Historic Preservation Office

December 20, 2006

Mr. Richard Sindt
Station Engineer
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Re: Possible disposition of the buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory
Fall Lake Twp., Lake County
SHPO Number: 2007-0668

Dear Mr. Sindt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

As your notice indicates, the Halfway District Office complex meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. Your transmittal indicates that the specific future alternatives for conveyance of this property area are not developed at this point. It also indicates that the land will remain in the ownership of the Forest Service.

It is important that alternatives that preserve the historical integrity of the property are developed and investigated. Moving the buildings to new locations would likely result in the loss of eligibility of the complex. It is not clear if the Forest Service intends to consider an alternative that would include retention of Forest Service ownership of the land, with potential long-term lease(s) of the buildings. Such an alternative, with appropriate planning, could retain the historical integrity of the complex. There may be other alternatives as well.

We note that our previous correspondence with the Forest Service (17 April 2001) indicated the need for clarification of the appropriate boundaries for the National Register determination. We would recommend that this issue be addressed at the earliest stage of the planning process for this proposal.

We look forward to working with you as this proposal proceeds. Contact me at 651-259-3456 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Walt Okstad, USDA-FS



1900 East Camp Street
Ely, MN 55731
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January 9, 2007

Rick Sindt
USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Mr. Sindt,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am the Provost at Vermilion Community College in Ely, Minnesota. One of my roles is to oversee cooperative opportunities with government agencies, thus the purpose for this letter.

Vermilion has a Natural Resource Technology degree created in the 1970's, to provide hands-on curriculum for students entering the profession as either forestry or wildlife technicians. In the last few years, our curriculum has expanded to include a Wildlife Management transfer program. Our Natural Resource and Wildlife Management students have been awarded many field opportunities radio-tracking, data mapping and studying wolves, deer and moose through cooperative efforts by the US Geological Survey project at the Kawishiwi Field Lab.

This is a letter of support for the preservation of the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory and buildings to continue wildlife research efforts in the Superior National Forest. The lab has value in the active research projects and the critical management of wolves within Minnesota as they become delisted as an Endangered species. In addition, this site has significant historical value in the physical structures as well as the historical significance of training personnel that have made landmark efforts in conservation. Many of Vermilion's students started at the Kawishiwi Lab and have gone on to further their academic and professional endeavors.

We recognize the difficulty in maintaining a facilities that are aging, but the historical significance and active field research of this site warrants an investigation of resources to preserve and enhance this valuable resource.

Please consider our students as you make your decision to maintain or dismantle the Kawishiwi Field Lab.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Koski
Provost
Vermilion Community College



"LEGEND HOUSE"

January 12, 2007

Rick Sindt
USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwel Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Mr. Sindt:

This letter serves to convey the comments of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Historic Preservation Office concerning the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory Buildings. Nine of the Field Laboratory's buildings were constructed by the CCC and are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places due their high quality construction workmanship and representation of various styles of log and framed construction (Public Meeting Handout). Due to a lack of funds, necessary maintenance has not been undertaken for more than a decade and the buildings are deteriorating. The buildings are not needed by the Northern Research Station and there are no plans for rehabilitation or ongoing maintenance.

Ideally, monics should be found to maintain and rehabilitate the structures as they are in use by various entities and constitute an historic property. However, since the structures have historic integrity due to their workmanship and construction their original physical setting is not vital to their interpretation. Preservation could be served by dismantling, moving and reconstructing the structures at another location. A course of action the Bois Fort THPO supports under the circumstances. As the buildings were constructed, inhabited and for many years maintained with public funds, we also recommend the structures be moved to a location with public access.

The Bois Forte THPO appreciates the opportunity to comment on this action. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely;

Rosemary Berens
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Bill Latady

838 Blair Ave.
St. Paul, Minn. 55104
12-15-2006

Mr. Richard D. Sindt
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, Minn. 55108

Dear Sir;

I have received your letter regarding the field lab buildings in the Kawishiwi district of the Superior NF. I have never seen them personally, it would seem a waste to destroy them. While this strays from the motorized issues that I usually restrict my comments to I would wonder if these buildings could be sublet, such as leasing them to either therapy groups, churches, or adventure organizations such as camping schools like boy or girl scouts for winter use, or retreats. This done with an agreement for the care and cleaning of them afterward.

I hope that it would be of some value in suggesting this kind of use for these facilities.

Sincerely,
David Jones

JANUARY 17, 2007

HISTORY OF THE USE OF KAWISHIWI FIELD STATION

AS HEADQUARTERS FOR RESEARCH

L. David Mech

*U.S. Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center,

8711 – 37th St. SE, Jamestown, ND 58401-7317

The purpose of this statement is to document the past and present value of the Kawishiwi Field Station (K. Lab) complex to field research related to the Superior National Forest (SNF) and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

K. Lab has been used as a headquarters for research by various agencies for about 40 years (Table 1). Several attributes make it an ideal location as a staging area for such research: (1) the completeness of its accommodations in the form of sleeping, eating, and office facilities, storage areas, garage, and shop; (2) proximity to the central SNF and the BWCAW; (3) proximity to the community of Ely, (4) proximity to airport and seaplane bases, and (5) its uniqueness as the only suitable field research headquarters north of Duluth and east of Grand Rapids, and west of Grand Marais.

Because of K. Lab's ideal properties for field research in the SNF, many types of studies have been headquartered there (Table 2). To my knowledge, the first research headquartered at K. Lab was that sponsored by the North Central Forest Experiment

*Mailing address: U.S. Geological Survey, The Raptor Center, 1920 Fitch Ave., University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108

Station (NCFES) (now North Central station) on the forest fire history, plant ecology, and recreational use of the BWCAW starting about 1966. The work was conducted primarily during summer, and the researchers were housed in the log cabin along the shore and in two mobile homes (since removed) on the complex.

In 1967, the eastern timber wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*) was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the federal Endangered Species List (ESL), and I began to conduct pilot research in the SNF under the auspices of Macalester College. In 1968, the USFWS, and NCFES contributed funding to this research, and NCFES assigned Dr. Robert Ream to assist with it. NCFES also invited the project to headquarter out of the main lodge at K. Lab. In 1969, the USFWS hired me to continue with the wolf research. Since then, the division of the USFWS that administered the wolf research had its name and even its lead agency changed several times, but was always part of the Department of the Interior (DOI), so for simplicity this document, the sponsoring agency for the wolf research will be identified as the DOI.

As the value of K. Lab as a headquarters for field research became increasingly apparent, the University of Minnesota (UMN) also sought NCFES approval for its use. Thus UMN research in the SNF on moose (*Alces alces*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), ravens (*Corvus coyax*) and loons (*Gavia immer*) began, with several graduate students receiving master's and doctoral degrees based on this research (Tables 3,4).

Meanwhile, the DOI wolf research expanded. Additional personnel were added, and research on the wolf's main prey, the white-tailed deer, became an integral part of the research. DOI also conducted incidental research on the American marten (*Martes Americana*) and the Canadian lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*).

NCFES then changed the emphasis of its field research in the area from plant to wildlife-oriented work. Thus the station invited me and my secretary to office at NCFES in St. Paul (1973) to collaborate with its wildlife staff, and I was also invited to become an adjunct professor at the UMN. As part of this shift, NCFES began research out of K. Lab on black bears and beavers (*Castor canadensis*) and continued surveying forest visitors for information about forest recreation.

We continued DOI-sponsored research on wolves and white-tailed deer throughout the 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, and the 2000's to the present, headquartering out of K. Lab and with supplemental flying supplied by the SNF. The wolf research employed the latest technologies and techniques and developed new ones. Thus wolf biologists from around the world visited K. Lab, often for months at a time, to learn these new research approaches (Table 3).

As a result of the availability of K. Lab as a headquarters for field research in the SNF, hundreds of scientific articles, books, and monographs have been published as listed in the bibliography at the end of this document.

The wolf remains on the Endangered Species List, but was most recently proposed in March 2006 for delisting. A final delisting decision is expected in March 2007. However, an attempt to reclassify the wolf in Wisconsin and Michigan a few years ago in preparation for delisting in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and surrounding area was overturned by a court judgment. Litigation is also expected in response to the next final delisting decision, so it is unknown whether that decision will hold.

In any case, after delisting, the federal government remains obligated to monitor wolf recovery for 5 years. In addition, a separate wolf delisting proposal is proceeding in the West, and a controversial wolf reintroduction is underway in the southwest. Information (and trained

personnel) resulting from wolf studies in the SNF headquarters at K. Lab is often valuable to these other DOI programs. Thus there continues to be a need for continuing the SNF wolf research program, and K. Lab remains the only suitable headquarters for staging this work.

Table 1. Institutional Collaborators with Research at Kawishiwi Field Lab

- University of Minnesota
- International Wolf Center
- Natural Resources Research Institute
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Vermillion Community College
- USDA Wildlife Services
- Superior National Forest
- North Central Forest Experiment Station
- Macalester College

Table 2. Past and present field research use of Kawishiwi Lab

- Plant ecology studies – Ohmann et al.
- Forest fire history studies – Heinselman et al.
- Social science and human dimension studies of wilderness use – Lime et al.
- Moose studies – Peek et al.; Lenarz et al.
- Black bear studies – Rogers
- Beaver – Buech
- Loon studies – Cuthbert et al.
- Environmental impact of mining studies – Huemphner et al.
- Wolf, deer, lynx – Mech, Nelson et al.

Table 3. Students whose Master's research was headquartered out of Kawishiwi Lab

- L. Irwin
- V. Van Ballenberghe
- R. Hoskinson
- M. Nelson
- K. Kunkel
- R. Rothman
- N. Demma
- H. Hertel
- D. Groebner
- J. Wetzel

Table 4. Students whose Ph.D. research was headquartered out of Kawishiwi Lab

- J. Peek
- L. Rogers
- D. Bruggers
- M. Nelson
- R. Peters
- F. Harrington
- G. DelGiudice
- R. Buech

Table 5. Countries which have sent trainees to Kawishiwi Lab

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Canada
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Great Britain
- India
- Israel
- Italy
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Turkey

7

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APPENDIX C

SCOPING MEETING AUDIENCE COMMENTS BY SPEAKER AT DEC 13TH, 2006 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Kawishiwi Field Lab Public Scoping Meeting Notes
December 13, 2006
1-3pm Meeting

Attendance:

11 members of the general public

7 representatives of regulatory agencies participating in presentation

Comments:

Chuck Wick (Retired; worked for FS and Vermillion Community College)

- Why does the forest service not reclaim the lab and use it for its own research?
- The Kawishiwi Field Lab would be a good place to study the effects of Global Climate Change, because it's an intersection point of three ecosystems: deciduous forests to the South, coniferous forests to the North, and prairie to the West. Also, being in the coldest and northernmost regions of the country climate change could have a more profound impact on species composition and Endangered Species.
- Asked for clarification on the Forest Services desire to dispossess the lab. Rick Sindt responded with an explanation of the Forest Service Assessment Management Plan and the role of Congress in changing that plan.
- Asked about time frame, Rick Sindt explained what stage of the process the meeting represented and the budget constraints in proceeding with a timeline.

Walter Medwid (Executive Director of the International Wolf Center)

- The research conducted at the Kawishiwi Field Lab on the Wolves represents the longest continuous study in the world
- Argued that the wolf research has historical significance of its own, likened it to the historical significance of the lab and buildings.
- Discussed the role of the research and training conducted at the Kawishiwi Field Lab, in the return of the wolf to Yellowstone National Park.
- Discussed contributions of the Kawishiwi Field lab on conservation both domestically and internationally.
- Discussed public access to American History, through educational programs based at the Kawishiwi Field Lab.
- Could the buildings be used for a Forest Service interpretive center?
- How have other historical Forest Service Buildings been dealt with after their useful life with the Forest Service?
- What are alternative sources of future funding?
- Eco-tourism at the Kawishiwi Field Lab as a funding option.

Brian Palik (USDA-FS Grand Rapids)

- Offered clarification of the buildings and location as separate from the research that was conducted there.

- Kawishiwi Field Lab from a Forest Service perspective is one of many field stations. Also, the Forest Service has had no research interests at the lab for the past 20 years and has no plans for future research.

Unidentified Speaker #1

- Copper and Nickel exploration began in the vicinity the same year the much of the Kawishiwi Experimental Forest was reverted back to the Superior National Forest
- Questions about current State Mineral Leasing in the area
- Something about Sulified Ore Bodies

Lori Schmidt (Vermillion Community College: Natural Resources Program Leader & curator at the International Wolf Center)

- Spoke of the role of the Kawishiwi Field Lab in providing Vermillion Community College students hands on research experiences in wildlife and forestry.
- Asked about issuing a Special Use Permit.
- Stated that [the Forest Service] in St. Paul, [MN] does not appreciate the significance of the Kawishiwi Field Lab to the local community.
- Suggested a private fundraising effort on the Forest Services Behalf.

Erik Troumbly (USDA-FS Grand Rapids)

- Who is going to maintain the buildings and with what money?
- Everyone can agree that the contributions of the Kawishiwi Field Lab are valuable, but someone needs to pay for the maintenance of the buildings.

Mike Nelson (USGS-Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center & International Wolf Center)

- Suggested maintaining the building as they were where the research that brought the Wolves population back up following listing on the Endangered Species Act
- Gave list of contributions of people trained at the Kawishiwi Field Lab
- Mentioned a past student doing work with Ted Turner, implying a possible funding option

Unidentified Speaker #2

- Suggested “someone” rehabilitate the buildings and rent them out.

Nancy Tubb (International Wolf Center Board Chair)

- Importance of citizen science and the role of the Kawishiwi Field Lab in offering that type of outreach for students and adults.
- The role of the internet in bringing the work based at the Kawishiwi Field Lab to the world.
- Links between the International Wolf Center and the Kawishiwi Field Lab in terms of research and educational programs.

Mark Zupek (Many affiliations: Historical society, City Council, Chamber of Commerce,...)

- Interested in city acquisition of the buildings, possibly relocating the buildings.

- Inquired about NRHP and the role of the State Historical Society

Bill Latady (Bois Forte Heritage Center Curator)

- What will happen to the land?
- Spiritual significance of the events at the Kawishiwi Field Lab
- Offered estimates of the cost of rehabilitation of the buildings in the millions.

Forest Service (Kawishiwi District Ranger Representative)

- No special use permits
- Designated Recreation Site
- Resort Buyouts

Kawishiwi Field Lab Public Scoping Meeting Notes
December 13, 2006
6-8pm Meeting

Attendance:

10 members of the general public

7 representatives of regulatory agencies participating in presentation

Comments:

Cree Bradley (International Wolf Center Board)

- International Wolf Center connections to the Kawishiwi Field Lab in terms of educational programs
- Linked the importance of the craftsmanship of the buildings and the historical significance of the buildings role in the wolf research and wolf recovery in the larger sense.

Brian Palik (USDA-FS Grand Rapids)

- Suggested that those using the buildings offer to pay for them, specifically referencing USGS and the International Wolf Center as possible funders.

Bill Tefft (Vermillion Community College)

- Asked for clarification of NHPA and its place in the discussion of the Kawishiwi Field Lab Buildings

APPENDIX D
SCOPING PRESS RELEASE

The United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USDA-FS) Northern Research Station is conducting scoping to determine what viable alternatives exist for permanent disposition of its buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory. The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located within the Superior National Forest, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, MN, on the south side of U.S. Highway No. 1. This scoping is part of an Environmental Assessment that is being conducted on disposition of the buildings.

The Field Lab consists of nine buildings, several of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid 1930s and are considered historic log structures eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is currently being used by the U.S. Department of Interior Biological Survey for wildlife research. The USDA-FS will consider a wide range of alternatives regarding the future of the buildings; however, any future uses will not affect the land itself. Superior National Forest will retain ownership of the land and the experimental forest regardless of what alternatives for building disposition are considered.

Two Public Meetings will be held on December 13, 2006 to provide information about the buildings and to solicit ideas and opinions about what USDA-FS should consider in the full range of options for building disposition. Each Public Meeting will consist of a 1-hour open house session and a 1-hour formal presentation and meeting session.

Public Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Times: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 2:00 p.m.
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Grand Ely Lodge; 400 North Pioneer Road; Ely, MN 55731

Comments or requests to be included on the mailing list can also be submitted by email (rsindt@fs.fed.us), fax (651-649-5107), the project website located at <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/projects/kawishiwi/>, or letter to Richard D. Sindt at the Northern Research Station, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, by January 17, 2007.

APPENDIX E

LETTER SENT TO AGENCIES

DNR Northeast Regional Director
1201 E Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

File Code: 6320
Date: November 29, 2006

Dear Sir/Madam:

The United States Forest Service (USFS) Northern Research Station is conducting scoping to determine what viable alternatives exist for permanent disposition of its buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory (formerly Halfway District Office). The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located along the eastern bank of the South Kawishiwi River in the Kawishiwi Experimental Forest. The Kawishiwi Experimental Forest is located within the Superior National Forest, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, MN, on the south side of U.S. Highway No. 1. This scoping is part of an Environmental Assessment that is being conducted on disposition of the buildings.

The Field Lab consists of nine buildings, several of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid 1930s and are considered historic log structures eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is currently being used by the U.S. Department of Interior Biological Survey for wildlife research. The USFS will consider a wide range of alternatives regarding the future of the buildings; however, any future uses will not affect the land itself. Superior National Forest will retain ownership of the land and the experimental forest regardless of what alternatives for building disposition are considered.

You are cordially invited to attend one of the two Public Meetings to be held on December 13, 2006 to learn more about the buildings and to provide your comments or concerns regarding any environmental or cultural resources that may potentially be affected by building disposition. Each Public Meeting will consist of a 1-hour open-house session and a 1-hour formal presentation and meeting session.

Public Meeting Date:	Wednesday, December 13, 2006
Times:	1:00 – 3:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 2:00 p.m. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 7:00 p.m.
Where:	Grand Ely Lodge 400 North Pioneer Road Ely, MN 55731

Your comments will be considered in defining the range of alternatives evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. Comments can also be submitted by email (rsindt@fs.fed.us), fax (651-649-5107), the project website located at <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/projects/kawishiwi/>, or letter to Richard D. Sindt (address below) by January 17, 2007.

Richard D. Sindt
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact Richard Sindt as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Sindt
Station Engineer

APPENDIX F

LETTER SENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Dear Interested Party:

The United States Forest Service (USFS) Northern Research Station is conducting scoping to determine what viable alternatives exist for permanent disposition of its buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory (formerly Halfway District Office). The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located in the Kawishiwi Experimental Forest within the Superior National Forest, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, MN, on the south side of U.S. Highway No. 1. This scoping is part of an Environmental Assessment that is being conducted on disposition of the buildings.

The Field Lab consists of nine buildings, several of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid 1930s and are considered historic log structures eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is currently being used by the U.S. Department of Interior Biological Survey for wildlife research. The USFS will consider a wide range of alternatives regarding the future of the buildings; however, any future uses will not affect the land itself. Superior National Forest will retain ownership of the land and the experimental forest regardless of what alternatives for building disposition are considered.

You are cordially invited to attend one of the two Public Meetings to be held on December 13, 2006 to learn more about the buildings and to provide your ideas and opinions about what we should consider in the full range of options for building disposition. Each Public Meeting will consist of a 1-hour open-house session and a 1-hour formal presentation and meeting session.

Public Meeting Date:	Wednesday, December 13, 2006
Times:	1:00 – 3:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 2:00 p.m. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. with formal presentation at 7:00 p.m.
Where:	Grand Ely Lodge 400 North Pioneer Road Ely, MN 55731

During the public meetings, individuals will have the opportunity to provide verbal comments or submit written comments. These comments will be considered in defining the range of alternatives evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. Comments can also be submitted by email (rsindt@fs.fed.us), fax (651-649-5107), the project website located at <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/projects/kawishiwi/>, or letter to Richard D. Sindt (address below) by January 17, 2007.

Richard D. Sindt
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance should contact Richard Sindt as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Sindt
Station Engineer

APPENDIX G
COMPLETE MAILING LIST

**NONPROFITS/
ADVOCACY/
RESEARCH**

Conservationists With Common Sense
PO Box 1046
Virginia, MN 55792

SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS
2030 E Sheridan St
Ely, MN 55731

Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2327 E. Franklin Avenue
Suite 1
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Izaak Walton League of America
MINNESOTA DIVISION
161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 910
St. Paul, MN 55103

John Lindgren
Izaak Walton League of America
5882 Cant Rd.
Duluth, MN 55804

Paula West
Minnesota Waters
17021 Commercial Park Dr, Ste. 4
Brainerd, MN 56401

Len Price
Minnesota Conservation Corps
2715 Upper Afton Road
Suite 100
Maplewood, MN 55119

Ed Nelson – RETURNED to SEND
Ironworld Discovery Center
P.O. Box 392
Chisholm, MN 55719

Wever Weed
Friends of the Boundary Waters
401 North 3rd Street
Suite 290
Minneapolis, MN 55401

James Flynn
Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness
401 N. 3rd St.
Suite 290
Minneapolis, MN 55401

MN Forest Resources Council
2003 Upper Buford Circle
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Jerold Bahls
Audubon Society
7514 Alden Way
Fridley, MN 55432

Craig Prudhomme
Audubon Center of the Northwoods
PO Box 530
54165 Audubon Drive
Sandstone, MN 55072

Janet Green
MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
(MCEA)
1754 Old North Shore Road
Duluth, MN 55804

Larry Martinson
Wilkinson Township/MN Trappers Assoc.
6588 S. Steamboat Lake Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Peter Smerud
Wolf Ridge Env. Learning Ctr.
6282 Cranberry Road
Finland, MN 55603

Tim Quincer
MN Chapter The Wildlife Society
11586 Rivervista Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

Dr. Craig Allin
Cornell College
600 First Street West Sw
Mount Vernon, IA 53214

Al Ek
U of M College of Natural Resources
1530 Cleveland Avenue N.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Chris Clay
Great Lakes Log Crafters Association
24355 Esquire Blvd
Forest Lake, MN 55025

The Minnesota Land Trust
P.O. Box 298
Ely, MN 55731

John Baird
Minnesota Land Trust
5732 Norwich Circle North
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082-6474

Bonnie McDonald, Executive Director
The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
219 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1406

Director
Great Lakes School of Log Bldg
1350 Snowshoe Trail
Isabella, MN 55607

Wasa House Moving
11 Daisy Lane
Babbitt, MN 55706

Pat Maus
Northeast Minnesota Historical Center
University of Minnesota, Duluth
10 University Drive
Duluth, MN 55812-2496

Outward Bound Wilderness
130 E. Chapman Street
Ely, MN 55731

Northern Tier National High Adventure - Boy
Scouts of America
P.O. Box 509
Ely, MN 55731

Town of Embarrass – RETURNED
SENDER
Heritage Homestead Tours
PO Box 118
Embarrass, MN 55732

LOCAL/TRIBAL

Ely Chamber of Commerce
1600 East Sheridan St.
Ely, MN 55731

Duluth Public Library
520 West Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802

Vermilion Community College Library
1900 East Camp Street
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Grand Rapids Public Library
140 NE Second Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Forestry Library, University of MN
B50 Skok Hall
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146

Ely Public Library
30 S 1st Ave E
Ely, MN 55731

Two Harbors Public Library
320 Waterfront Drive
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Silver Bay Public Library
9 Davis Drive
Silver Bay, MN 55614

Virginia Public Library
215 5th Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792

Lake County Board of Commissioners
Lake County Courthouse
601 Third Avenue
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Derrick Goutermont
Lake County Commissioner
20 Marks Drive
Silver Bay, MN 55614

Brandt Heikel
St. Louis Co. Land Dept.
Gov't Services Center
320 W 2nd Street, Room 607
Duluth, MN 55802

Denny Bone
St. Louis Co. Land Dept.
7820 Highway 135
Virginia, MN 55734

Dennis Fink
St. Louis Co. Commission
100 N. 5th Ave. W. 202 Courthouse
Duluth, MN 55802

Clair A. Nelson
Lake County Commissioner, Chairman
P.O. Box 472
Finland, MN 55603

Commissioner Keith Nelson
St. Louis County 6th District
Virginia Courthouse
300 South 5th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792

Lolita Schnitzius
Ely Area Community Foundation
209 East Chapman Street
Ely, MN 55731

Lee Tessier
City of Winton
PO Box 163
Winton, MN 55796

Bernice Norregaard
City of Babbitt
71 South Drive
Babbitt, MN 55706

Commissioner Mike Forsman
St. Louis County 4th District
Government Services Center
118 South 4th Avenue East
Ely, MN 55731

Thomas Martinson
Lake Co. Land Dept. (MFRP)
Lake Cnty Courthouse, 601 3rd Ave.
601 Third Ave.
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Ely Heritage Preservation Commission
Ely City Hall
209 East Chapman
Ely MN 55331

Heart of the Arrowhead Association
7344 Hwy. 1
Finland, MN 55603

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
Bonnie McDonald
219 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1406

First Lutheran Church
915 E Camp St
Ely, MN 55731

George Kirk
St Louis County Land Dept
7820 Hwy # 135
Virginia, MN 55792-2934

John Leinen
MN Parks & Trails Council
14205 St. Croix Trail No.
Stillwater, MN 55082

Jim Lemmerman
MN Board of Soil & Water Res.
394 Lake Ave South, Suite 403
Duluth, MN 55802

Ely Area Development Association
Ely Economic and Technology Cen
102 East Sheridan Street
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
P.O. Box 428
Grand Portage, MN 55604

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
P.O. Box 16
Nett Lake, MN 55772

Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
P.O. Box 217
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Finland MN Historical Society
P.O. Box 583
Finland, MN 55603

The Bay Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 33
Silver Bay, MN 55614

Gordy Anderson
Two Harbors Area Chamber of Commerce
1313 Fairgrounds Road
Two Harbors, MN 55616

ITASCA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 664
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Rachelle Maloney
LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOC
P.O. Box 128
Two Harbors, MN 55616-0313

CARLTON CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
History and Heritage Center
406 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720

St. Louis County Historical Society
506 W. Michigan St.
Duluth, MN 55802

Virginia Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 736
Virginia, MN 55792

Tower-Soudan Historical Society
P.O. Box 413
Tower, MN 55790

Ely-Winton Historical Society
1900 Camp Street East
Ely, MN 55731

SISU Heritage, Inc.
PO Box 127
Embarrass, MN 55732

Iron Range Historical Society
P.O. Box 786
Gilbert, MN 55741

Nick Wognum
Ely Echo
15 E. Chapman Street
Ely, MN 55731

Connie Wirta
Duluth News Tribune
424 West 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Sam Cook
Duluth News Tribune
424 W. 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Anne Swenson
Ely Echo
15 E. Chapman Street
Ely, MN 55731

Bob Kelleher
Minnesota Public Radio
207 West Superior Street
#224
Duluth, MN 55802

Ely Timberjay - **RETURNED to SENDER**
11 E. Sheridan St.
Ely, MN 55731

Ely Shopper
243 E. Chapman St.
Ely, MN 55731

Greg Grell
WDSE-TV
632 Niagara Court
Duluth, MN 55811

Stephanie Hemphill
Minnesota Public Radio
207 West Superior Street #224
Duluth, MN 55802

KDAL (AM Radio)
715 E. Central Entrance
Duluth, MN 55811

Mesabi Daily News
704 7th Avenue South
Virginia, MN 55792

Kim Skyelander
Wolf Ridge Env. Learning Ctr.
6282 Cranberry Road
Finland, MN 55603

International Wolf Center
1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731

Virginia Area Chamber of Commerce
403 1st St. N.
Virginia, MN 55792

Ely Lions Club – **RETURNED to SENDER**
2854 Tulla Road
Winton, MN 55731

Ely Kiwanis Club
P. O. Box 201
Ely, MN 55731

Ely Jaycees
P. O. Box 92
Ely, MN 55731

Knights of Columbus
231 E. Camp Street
Ely, MN 55731

Ely Rotary Club
P. O. Box 222
Ely, MN 55731

Stu Osthoff
Boundary Waters Journal
9396 Rocky Ledge Road
Ely, MN 55731

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

John Gephart
NORTH SHORE FOREST PRODUCTS
P.O. Box 16286
Duluth, MN 55816

Don Beans
Jasper Creek Guide Service
14295 Canadian Border Road
Ely, MN 55731

Log Cabin Hideaways
1321 North Highway 21
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Steven Earley
Boise Cascade Corp. (MFRP)
400 Third Avenue East
International Falls, MN 56649

Duluth Timber Company
P.O. Box 16717
Duluth, MN 55816

Wayne Brandt
MN Forest Ind/MN Timber Producers Assoc
903 Medical Arts Bldg.
324 W Superior St
Duluth, MN 55802

Not on our original list.
RETURNED to SENDER
Paul A. Gamers
Melbourne Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

GERALD & JEANNE ABELSEN
PO BOX 596
Ely, MN 55731

DAVID & MARY ALLEN
5710 MT NORMANDALE DR
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55437

AMERICAN COPPER & NICKEL CO
922 19TH STREET
GOLDEN, CO 80401-2307

THOMAS & SHARON ARENDSHORT
A-4664 66TH STREET
HOLLAND, MI 49423

MARTY BETHKE & ANN MARIE B
232 KUNTZ RD
MAPLE PLAIN, MN 55359

GLENN & SANDRA BINSTEIN
2430 PFINGSTEN ROAD
GLENVIEW, IL 60025-1305

EUGENE A BJORAKER
PO BOX 637
ELY, MN 55731

BRUCE A BLOCKER
2126 N HWY 21
ELY, MN 55731

AUNE BOBENCE
5333 165TH LANE NW
RAMSEY, MN 55303-5822

EMERY & DOLORES BULINSKI
1950 W SHAGAWA RD
ELY, MN 55731

PATRICIA E BULINSKI
311 SHAGAWA ROAD
ELY, MN 55731

JO HERN CURRIS
5610 WISCONSIN AVE #307
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

TERRY DULLE
1923 2ND ST
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

DANIEL & MICHAEL DUSICH
401 E SHERIDAN ST
ELY, MN 55731

CHRISTOPHER & NICHOLAS EILRICH
570 KELLYS LOTS ROAD
ELY, MN 55731

BRUCE FILSON & OLIVI ROBERTS
227 NORTH 3RD STREET
BAYPORT, MN 55003

HENRY FILSON JR
637 E BOUNDARY
ELY, MN 55731

RICHARD P FLOYD
1264 WALSH RD
ELY, MN 55731

MARY K FORTIER-SPALDING
2514 KELLER PARKWAY
MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109

BERNARD & SHARON GOBLISH
9450 219TH ST E
LAKEVILLE, MN 55044

ELDON & JANE HALL
9 E HARVEY ST
ELY, MN 55731

REID HALSTENRUD & CHERYL STRAIGHT
484 WEST MORTON STREET
ST PAUL, MN 55107

TIMOTHY J HIGHLAND
2705 GARFIELD NE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

STEPHEN & ANNE JAY
7435 CENTRAL
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240

VINCENT WYCKOFF & SYBIL AXNER
4424 30TH AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55406

MARTHA JOHNSON
544 E PATTISON ST
ELY, MN 55731

STEVEN LOUIS & MARYJANE KOSCHAK
PO BOX 397
ELY, MN 55731

MITCHELL H LEKATZ
403 E HARVEY
ELY, MN 55731

KEVIN MAKI
4713 AYERS ROAD
SAGINAW, MN 55779

GERALDINE E MARTIN
7617 SOUTH SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60649

KATHLEEN MCINNIS
313 WINDCREST
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78239

WILLIAM & MUGGLI JO MILLER
1375 SIMPSON
ST PAUL, MN 55108

MINNESOTA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
30 W SUPERIOR ST
DULUTH, MN 55802-2030

LINDA M MYKLEBUST
2110 S 12TH AVE
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

MIKE OLSON
25009 ETHAN AVE
WYOMING, MN 55092

JOHN & NANCY PENN
818 EVENSON STREET
ST PETER, MN 56082

GENEVIEVE A PERRY
2 RED FOX ROAD
ST PAUL, MN 55127

POTLATCH CORPORATION
PO BOX 504
CLOQUET, MN 55720-0504

REDFIELD LAND CO INC
30 WEST SUPERIOR ST
DULUTH, MN 55802

EDWIN ERNEST & MARY RINGBERG
3311 56TH ST
MOLINE, IL 61265

MICHAEL J & SANDRA ROE
11877 DOGWOOD ST
COON RAPIDS, MN 55448

SEVEN SHORT SEISINS
215 SOUTH 11TH ST
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403

SOUTH KAWISHIWI CABIN GROUP LLC
1708 N 21ST STREET
SUPERIOR, WI 54880

MELISSA P STAHL
PO BOX 566
ELY, MN 55731

DORENE STEKLASA
138 E HARVEY ST
ELY, MN 55731

GERTRUDE STUKEL
544 E PATTISON ST
ELY, MN 55731

PAT LARSON & ROBERT TAMME
BOX 398
SOUDAN, MN 55782

JOHN HANSEN & SARAH TERWILLIGER
744 S 5TH AVE E
ELY, MN 55731

KEITH M THOMPSON
PO BOX 337
STONE LAKE, WI 54876

LOUIS E & LINDA TOMSICH
5333 165TH LANE NW
RAMSEY, MN 55303-5822

PRIVATE CITIZENS

Lori Andresen
3025 E. Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Frederick Anderson
323 17th St
Cloquet, MN 55720

Curt Anderson
101 Banks Blvd.
Apt. 106
Silver Bay, MN 55614-1268

Bob Anderson
1502 15th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720

Bob And Connie Barnabee
260 Washout Road
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Tom & Ralston Bauer
Camp Buckskin
PO Box 389
Ely, MN 55731

Robert Beymer
Po Box 766
Ely, MN 55731

Stanley Bezek Jr
842 South 3rd St
Virginia, MN 55792

Ray Bisco
P.O. Box 62
Preston, MN 55965-0062

Bart Boyer
PO Box 863
Bemidji, MN 56619

James Brewer
6619 Boot Lake Rd. SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Jim Campbell
408 Maple Lane
Shoreview, MN 55126

Christopher Carlson
16025 Boulder Creek Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Joseph B. Caulfield
314 North 3rd Avenue West
Virginia, MN 55792-2416

John Chelesnik
215 E Ahola Rd.
Ely, MN 55731

Thomas Christiansen
7701 Stonewood Ct
Edina, MN 55439

Rob Corbett
North Country Trail Assoc.
229 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

William Corrigan
2011 South Lake Irving Dr. SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Robert Dunn
708 Fourth Street South
Princeton, MN 55371

Duane Eckstrom
Indep. Order of Foresters
16294 US Hwy 169
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Andy Edwards
1854 Authority
4428 Haines road
Duluth, MN 55808

Lindberg Ekola
Ekola & Associates LLC
434 East 7th Street North
Melrose, MN 56352

Roy Erickson
3868 97th Lane N.E.
Circle Pines, MN 55014

D Felton
Kego Township
238 Forbes Lane
Longville, MN 56655

Marc Fink
FSEEE
4515 Robinson Street
Duluth, MN 55804

Geraldine Floyd
Town of Morse
PO Box 660
Ely, MN 55731

Adam Fornear
Camp Nebagamon
17405 24th Avenue N
Plymouth, MN 55447

Joel Forstrom
4753 1st Ave
Hibbing, MN 55746

Jennifer Fort-Strietzel
10332 Bachelor Square Road
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WEVE 97.9FM
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KDAL 610AM
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WSCN 100.5FM/WSCD 92.9FM
Minnesota Public Radio
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APPENDIX H
SCOPING MEETING HANDOUT



USDA FOREST SERVICE – NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION DISPOSITION OF THE KAWISHIWI FIELD LABORATORY BUILDINGS PUBLIC MEETING HANDOUT

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station (NRS) is conducting scoping to solicit public input to help identify viable alternatives for permanent disposition of its buildings at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory and to voice their concerns about the potential impacts of the alternatives. The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located on the Superior National Forest along the east bank of the South Kawishiwi River, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, MN, south of U.S. Highway No. 1. This scoping is part of an Environmental Assessment that is being conducted on disposition of the buildings.

Nine of the Field Lab's twelve buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the early to mid 1930's and are considered historic structures eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The historical significance of the buildings relates to their high quality construction workmanship, and representation of various styles of log and framed construction characteristic of an historical era.

These buildings include:

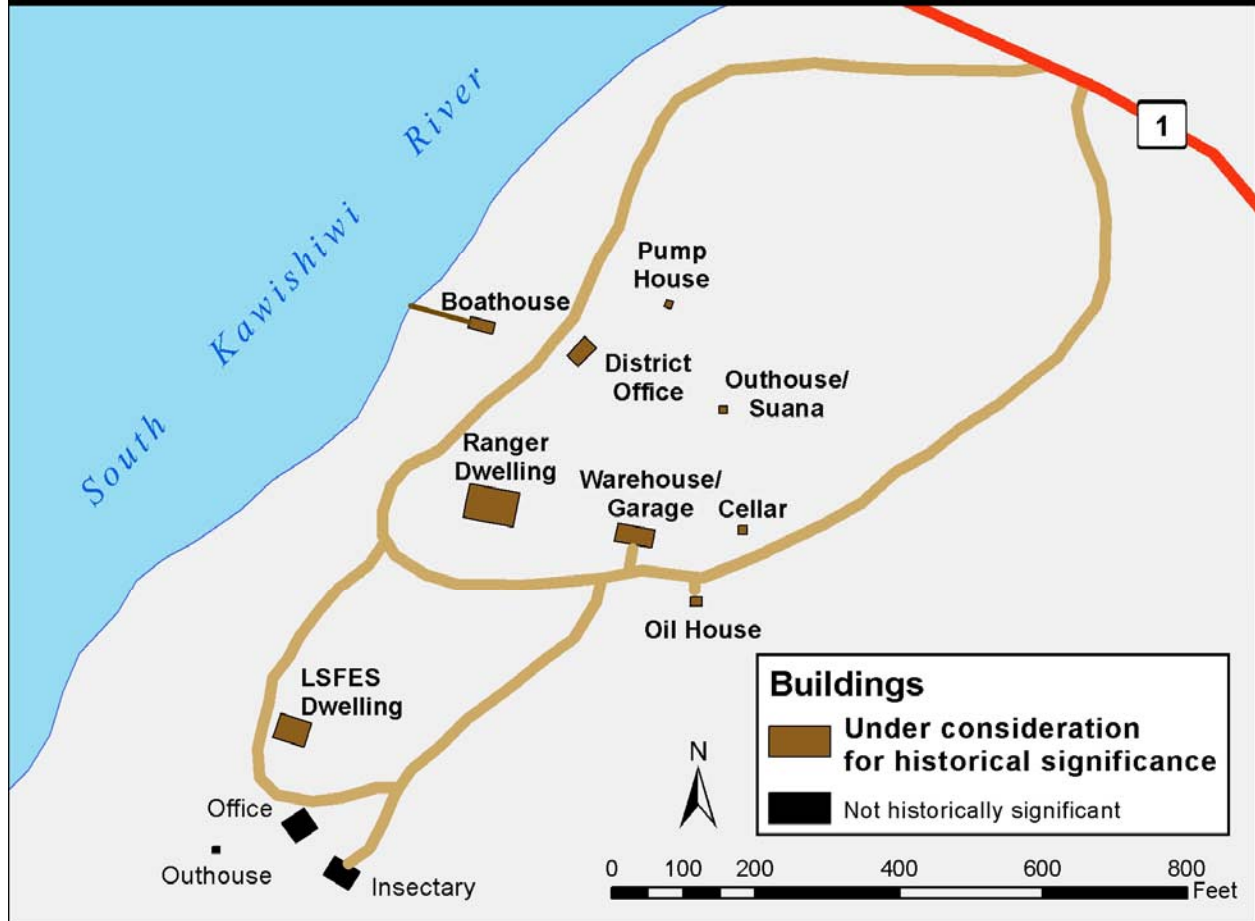
Ranger Dwelling (Main Lodge)
District Office (Wolf Cabin)
Storage Cellar
Oil House
Warehouse/Garage
Pump House
Boathouse
Outhouse/Sauna
LSFES Dwelling (Bunk House)

Seven of the buildings are Adirondack or Rustic style log structures. Most of the construction occurred in 1934 and 1935, when the CCC hired "Locally Experienced Men," Emil Neimi, Ed Salo, and Urho Charles Salimen to work on the Halfway Ranger Station, now known as the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory. These men directed the project and were responsible for fitting the logs. Logs were rounded on the underside to fit the log below. The logs were also fitted with a particular style of saddle notching, used to secure building corners. In addition, the buildings exhibit extended log corners typical of the Adirondack or Rustic style. The storage cellar was constructed of cement prior to the log structures. The ninth historic building at the lab, the LSFES Dwelling, was constructed in 1931 in a "balloon-framed", or a simple lightweight wood-frame, style.



Ranger Dwelling (top, 1934; bottom, 2006)

Northern Research Station - Ely, MN



The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory buildings are managed by the NRS. However, the buildings have not been used by the NRS in over 20 years, and due to lack of resources to address the high annual utility and maintenance costs, the buildings are deteriorating. The NRS has no need for the buildings and has no plans to rehabilitate them or provide ongoing maintenance. The site is currently being used by the U.S. Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey for wildlife research. The NRS will consider a wide range of alternatives regarding the future of the buildings; however, any future uses will not affect the land itself. The land will remain Superior National Forest land regardless of what alternative for building disposition is ultimately selected.

Please provide any comments and concerns you may have regarding the disposition of the buildings. Your comments will be considered in defining the range of alternatives evaluated in the Environmental Assessment and their potential impacts. You may also request to receive a copy of the environmental assessment. Comments can also be submitted by email (rsindt@fs.fed.us), fax (651-649-5107), the project website located at <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/projects/kawishiwi/>, or letter to Richard D. Sindt (address below) by January 17, 2007.

If you have any comments on or concerns about the Kawishiwi Laboratory Building Disposition, we would welcome your written comments. You can separate this page and use the space below. Then fold the page in half and fasten it. If possible, please mail the comments in an envelope to ensure that we receive them undamaged. Otherwise, you may go ahead and send the fastened page directly. To be most useful, comments should be sent by **January 17, 2007**. Thank you.

Return Address

Place
Stamp
Here

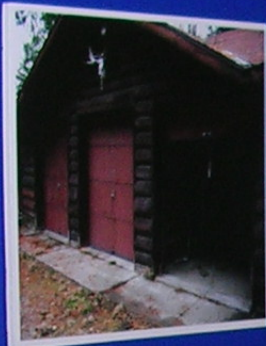
Rick Sindt
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Northern Research Station
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APPENDIX I

SCOPING MEETING DISPLAYS

Warehouse/Garage

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - Foundation comprised of cement masonry units with a poured concrete slab
 - Original doors have been replaced
 - Roof trusses are adjustable to allow for tightening of the turnbuckles as the structure settles
 - This prevents the walls from bowing outward as the structure settles
 - Settling is a universal issue in log dwellings
- Current Conditions:** Generally fair, a powder post beetle infestation is ongoing, and some wood is rotting.



by Peter and Rachel Post 2008



Boathouse

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - The structure is one story high and a deck is present
 - It features a four paneled sliding front door
 - The deck was replaced in 1978, nothing is known of the previous deck
- Current Conditions:** Fair, experiencing a powder post beetle infestation.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008



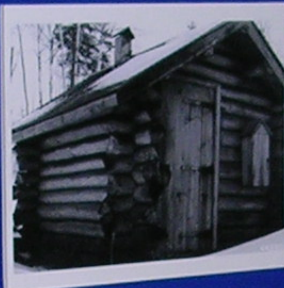
by Peter and Rachel Post 2008

Oil House

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - There is a cross-gable roof over the front door, covered with asphalt shingles
 - The foundation is a poured concrete slab
- Current Conditions:** Poor, largely as a result of insect infestations.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008

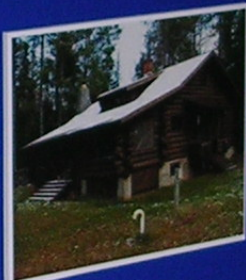
Structures Under Consideration for Historical Significance



Pump House

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1930 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - The foundation was constructed of 2000 lb of concrete (all in place of the previous foundation of substandard material)
 - The original door has been replaced
 - An exhaust stack comes through the roof
- Current Conditions:** Generally good, powder post beetle infestation prevalent and could compromise the building if untreated.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008



Ranger Dwelling/Main Lodge

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - Craftsman Style
 - Similar to Dwellings at Tofu and Isabella
 - The interior is largely unchanged over time unlike at the Ranger Dwellings at Tofu and Isabella, therefore it retains more historical significance.
 - Full basement
- Current Conditions:** Fair, routine maintenance largely ignored, but no major repairs are needed. Problems with bees and bat guano are ongoing.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008

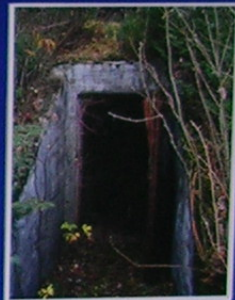
The Outhouse/Sauna

- History**
 - Built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - Originally used as an outhouse, later converted to a sauna, which may have involved a change of location
- Current Conditions:** Ongoing insect infestations have caused severe deterioration. It is not suitable.

District Office/Wolf Cabin

- History and Design**
 - Built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - Wood burning stove historically present
 - Currently no suitable indoor plumbing or heat
- Current Conditions:** Many areas of disrepair; plumbing in its poor condition and to not up to code; canopy at the front entry needs replacement; there is an active powder post beetle infestation.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008



Cellar

- History and Design**
 - Built in the early 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps
 - Constructed into hillside and consists of concrete walls and an earthen floor
 - Originally used for storing food during construction and later used for storing wine and other forestry supplies
 - Has an above ground ventilation and refrigeration system, which appears to be electric, although it is not clear if it is functional.
- Current Conditions:** Generally good.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008

Lake States Forest Experiment Station Dwelling/Bunkhouse

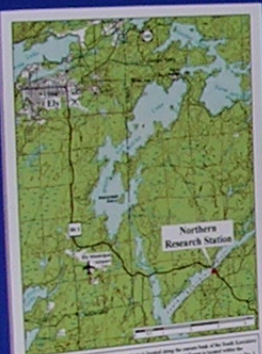
- History and Design**
 - Built in 1933
 - Ballroom Frame Structure
 - Older remaining administrative building in the Superior National Forest
 - Funding for construction provided by Hoover administration's Public Works Program
 - First admin building in the forest with a bathroom
- Current Conditions:** Good. Original siding and framework are intact, but needing water attention.

by Peter and Rachel Post 2008



Early History of the Site

- 1909 – Theodore Roosevelt establishes the Superior National Forest and other national forests
- 1910 – Superior National Forest Halfway Ranger District administrative site established
- 1924 – USDA-Forest Service R&D begins to occupy space in the buildings administrative site
- 1949 – Superior National Forest Vacates Site
- 1955 – Management of Kawishiwi administrative site transferred to FS Research & Development: Northern Research Station



General Location: The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located along the western bank of the Park, located on the border of the Superior National Forest. The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located on the border of the Superior National Forest, approximately 11 miles north of Ely, MN on the south side of U.S. Highway 101.

History of Occupants at the Site

- 1968 to Present – the lab has been used for wildlife research by teams from the U of MN, International Wolf Center, and USGS.
- 1974 – the site no longer serves as a Ranger Station
- 1980's – USDA-FS Research discontinued research activity at site but retained management of the buildings
- Currently – the sole tenant of the lab is the USGS-Biological Resources Discipline: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center.



Non-Historically Significant Structures

- Buildings were constructed between 1940s and 1960s, and were not built by the CCC
- Office
 - Used as office workspace
 - Generally well maintained, no major issues
 - Laboratory
 - Total disaster, not used
 - Southern Outhouse
 - Total disaster, not used

Kawishiwi Field Lab Buildings: Past, Present, and Future

Why Dispose of the Kawishiwi Field Lab Buildings?

- Buildings are managed by NRS, but they have not been used or maintained by the NRS in over 20 years.
- High annual utility and maintenance costs; deterioration due to lack of adequate maintenance funding
- The cost of rehabilitating buildings would be prohibitively expensive.
- Ultimately, the NRS has no need for the buildings and as a result has no plans to rehabilitate them or provide ongoing maintenance.

Note: Superior National Forest will retain management of the land and the experimental forest regardless of what alternatives for building disposition are considered.

NRS & The Kawishiwi Field Lab

- USDA-FS manages National Forest lands for public use
- Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is an administrative site within Superior National Forest
- Superior NF manages the land
- The Northern Research Station (NRS) is the division of USDA-FS Research and Development which manages the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory buildings



Balloon Frame Construction

- Light weight, quick construction technique
- Light weight lumber walls held together by nails rather than joints
- Originally considered weak, as though it could be blown around in flat wind like a balloon. This myth was quickly dispelled and now most modern construction techniques are similarly light-framed.



Rustic/Adirondack Log Construction and the Kawishiwi Field Lab

- Style of construction used in the 7 historic log structures
- Designed to blend in with the natural environment
- Exaggerated log crowns on corners
- Exposed rafter tails extend to the edges of the roof
- Saddle notching was used to secure the corners
- Logs were rounded on the underside to fit the log below
- Herringbone, Diamond, and panel style wood doors were originally on many of the buildings, including the garage doors on the Warehouse.

Current Condition of the Kawishiwi Field Lab Buildings

- The current condition of most of the buildings is fair to poor, due to several decades of neglect.
- Ongoing problems:
 - Rotting wood
 - Powder post beetle infestation
 - Substandard plumbing
 - Inadequate heat
 - Rodent and bat feces
 - Loss of density in the wood
 - The general wear and tear of use with little or no maintenance



NEPA and USDA-FS

- 1969 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) law
- NEPA requires Federal Agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on the human environment before taking such actions-focus is on major Federal actions significantly affecting the human environment
- NEPA requires Federal Agencies, to the fullest extent possible, to encourage and facilitate public participation in agency decisions that affect the quality of the human environment
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations on NEPA are in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1598.

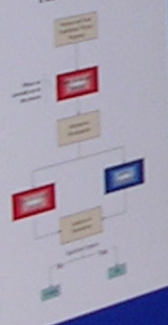
USDA-Forest Service: Research & Development

- The Forest Service is an agency within the US Department of Agriculture, charged with managing public lands in national forests and grasslands.
 - USDA-FS Research & Development is a division within the USDA-FS responsible for research on the forest's effects on social, biological, and physical processes.
- Major Issues**
- Resource Values and Use Research
 - Science Policy, Planning, Research and Information
 - Vegetation Management and Protection Research
 - Wildlife, Soil, Water, and Air Research

USDA-Forest Service Environmental Assessment Process

- The Purpose of an EA are to:
- Assist Federal agencies in planning and decision-making
 - Determine whether or not significant impacts to the environment would be caused by the alternatives, results in either Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The EA Process



NEPA Steps Taken to Date

- March 2006 - Superior NEP agrees to conduct a General Environmental Assessment of the site
- May 2006 - Representatives of the Northern Research Station and Superior NEP meet with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to discuss the NEPA process for the trail to determine future alternatives for the buildings at the site
- September 2006 - Change Environmental Impact Statement to meet NEPA in conducting the NEPA process
- Nov 29, 2006 - Public meeting held

National Environmental Policy Act Process & National Register of Historical Places

Meeting Purpose

To Solicit Public Input to Help Determine the Alternative Courses of Action for Disposition of the Kawichewi Field Laboratory Buildings



Public Participation

NREL is conducting open house meetings to give members of the public information on the status of the buildings at Kawichewi Field Lab, discuss the management planning/NEPA process, and solicit public input on their views and concerns.

People who cannot attend either meeting or wish to submit additional comments, or request to receive a copy of the scoping plan, may contact:

Rick Smith
Engineering & Facility Services
1325A Front Street - Northern Research Station
1902 Federal Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 651-465-1130
E-mail: comments@statehills.net



National Historic Preservation Act & NEPA

- NEPA requires evaluation of the effects of a project on the human environment and "the degree to which the action may adversely affect historic sites, buildings, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places or any other sites or structures of significant scientific, cultural, or historic interest." (40 CFR 1508.27.5)
- Potential impacts recognized by NEPA & NEPA focus on buildings, structures, or landscapes
- Cultural resources of historic significance
- Changes to visual quality or visual impacts
- Changes to public patterns or land use

National Historic Preservation Act

- 1966 - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) signed into law
- NHPA established guidelines regarding "historic properties"
- Historic Properties are districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- NHPA Section 106: Mandates Federal agencies accountable for the effects their actions have on historic properties
- NHPA Section 110: Mandates consideration of historic properties and affirmative stewardship of federally managed historic properties



Civilian Conservation Corps Role

- 1933 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt creates the Civilian Conservation Corps to help reduce unemployment
- The CCC hired men ages 18-25 and provided training and employment opportunities
- 1934 to 1936 - "Locally Experienced Men," Fred Neuman, Ed Sells, and Lyle Charles Sullivan were hired to work on the Halfway Ranger Station, near the Northern Research Station. They directed the project and were responsible for firing the logs.
- All of the building materials were from local sources
- Quaking Aspen and Red Pine logs were harvested from within the Superior National Forest.
- Grants for the foundation and chimneys was quarried just outside of Ely.