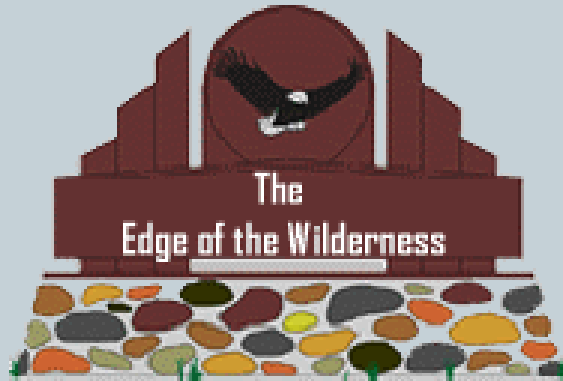


Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center

Collaborating to Succeed



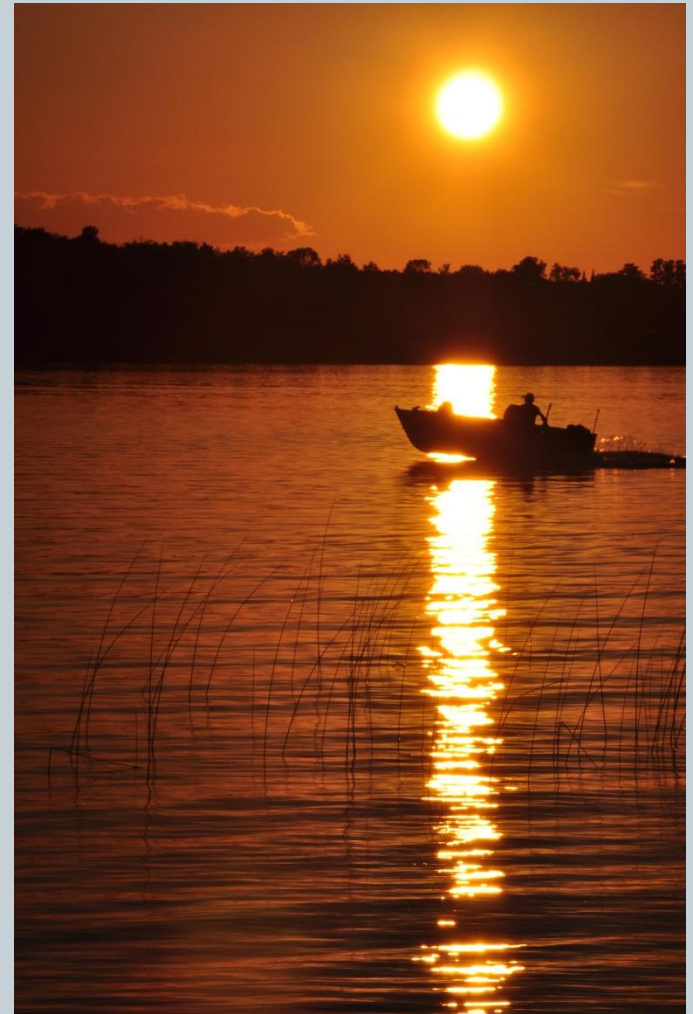
**A JOINT VENTURE:
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN ITASCA JOINT POWERS BOARD
HIGHWAY 38 LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Jason Kuiken, District Ranger, Chippewa NF, Deer River RD, Minnesota

Overview



- Where is Marcell, MN?
- History
- Involved Partners
- Phase I
- Phase II
- Future Plans



Up North



- North of the Twin Cities (255 miles)
- West of Duluth (135 miles)
- Northeastern portion of Chippewa National Forest



http://adventuresofacouchsurfer.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/img_7530-ranger-station.jpg



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chippewa_National_Forest

Brief History of Marcell Area



- Timber, Railroads, Lakes
- Marcell Ranger District Office
 - Civilian Conservation Corps, 1934-1937 – National Register of Historic Places
 - Main Office Constructed in 1967
- Combined with Deer River RD



Edge of the Wilderness



- HWY 38 Designated a National Scenic Byway (1996)
- Local Communities (~3,000 residents)
 - City of Bigfork
 - Township of Bigfork
 - Township of Stokes
 - Township of Marcell
 - City of Effie
- Large Estates



Discovering a New Purpose for a Building



- Chippewa NF Commitment to Marcell
- Highway 38 Leadership Board
- Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board
- Minnesota Department of Transportation



Phase I – Interpretive Center



- Naturalist Programs
- Interpretive Displays
- Gift Shop
- Office Space



Phase II – Outdoor Fun



- Amphitheater
- Picnic Shelter
- Fishing Pier
- Interpretive Trail
- Vault Toilet
- New Sign



The mission of the Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center is to enhance people's byway experience by providing interesting and interactive interpretation, information, education, merchandise, and amenities for people traveling the Edge of the Wilderness region and National Scenic Byway.

Looking to the Future



- Assistant Ranger House
- Granger-Thye Agreement
- Connecting with others
 - School Groups
 - Elderhostel
- Campgrounds



Questions

*To sustain the health,
diversity, and productivity
of the Nation's forests and
grasslands to meet the needs
of present and future
generations*

