



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

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Contact: Peter Gray 312-795-3715

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Environmental Groups and Forest Service Settle Cayuga Timber Sale Lawsuit

Today, the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) and Habitat Education Center (HEC) agreed to a settlement with the United States Forest Service on the Cayuga Project timber sale, which approved logging of more than 5,200 acres in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest near Clam Lake, Wisconsin. The Forest Service's earlier approval of the Cayuga timber sale had been declared illegal and reversed and remanded by the United States District Court in Milwaukee in 2005.

The settlement will defer logging and road building for four years on 2,000 acres that scientists have identified as critically important for wildlife habitat, clean water, at-risk species protection and the overall health of the forest. Before approving any future logging in any of the deferred areas, the Forest Service is required to meet with ELPC, HEC and other stakeholders to discuss current scientific data on the health of the forest and whether to re-evaluate the proposed logging in light of new information.

"This settlement is a step in the right direction," said Howard Learner, lead attorney for the environmental groups and executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy Center. "We're pleased that the Forest Service has agreed to step back and reassess the environmental impacts of the Cayuga Project, which would have allowed too much logging, too fast and in too many of the wrong places when it comes to preserving important natural resources and recreational values."

The areas protected by the settlement include rare types of wetlands and large sections of interior forest that are home to threatened and endangered species. "The settlement provides a more balanced approach to forest management so that this part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet can remain a public treasure for future generations to enjoy as important natural resources are preserved," said Learner.

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The Environmental Law & Policy Center is the Midwest's leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization – www.ELPC.org

35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60601-2110
Phone: (312) 673-6500 Fax: (312) 795-3730 www.elpc.org elpcinfo@elpc.org
Harry Drucker - Chairperson Howard A. Learner - Executive Director



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