



NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE • Northern Research Station

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Public Comment Sought on Disposition of Historic Kawishiwi Buildings

St. Paul, Minnesota, July 15, 2020 -- The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station (NRS) this week released a report analyzing alternatives for disposition of historic and other structures at the Kawishiwi Field Laboratory. The Kawishiwi Field Laboratory is located approximately 11 miles south of Ely, Minnesota, on public land managed by the Superior National Forest.

The NRS is interested in disposing of the buildings at the Kawishiwi lab due to their high maintenance costs and poor fit with NRS's mission. The Kawishiwi buildings exhibit various levels of deterioration, including some wood rot and powder post beetle infestations.

The Station has operated the laboratory since 1955 and has not conducted any forest research there since the 1980s. The current sole tenant is the US Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, which continues to conduct wildlife research based from the buildings.

The NRS will hold public meetings to discuss the proposed action and alternatives and receive public comments at the Grand Ely Lodge, 400 North Pioneer Road, Ely, Minnesota, from 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Interested parties can download the report at the NRS website:

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/projects/kawishiwi>, or request a copy of the report by contacting Rick Sindt, at the comment address listed below.

The NRS is accepting comments from interested parties until August 10, 2010. Comments may be mailed to:

Richard Sindt
Engineering & Facility Services
USDA Forest Service – Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108, by facsimile at: 651-649-5285.

Comments will also be accepted electronically in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to the following email address: rsindt@fs.fed.us.

The report analyzes six alternatives for disposition of the Kawishiwi buildings: 1) No Action, or continuation of current use with no additional restoration; 2) Increase of Forest Service Maintenance Funds; 3) Transfer of the Buildings to a Different Owner; 4) Transfer of Management and Use of the Buildings to a Different Party while Retaining NRS Ownership; 5) Relocation of the Buildings to a Different Site; and 6), the NRS proposed Action, Demolition of the Buildings after Architectural, Landscape and Engineering documentation. Under all alternatives, the site on which the buildings sit remains public land.

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