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Senator Tiffany's Statement on Federal Forest Damage

MADISON, Wis. - State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Minocqua) released this statement regarding the extensive damage in the federal forests:

“The recent storms in the Northwoods did extraordinary damage to personal property, infrastructure, and our forests. Among the lands hardest hit is a section of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) south of Wabeno.

“Initial estimates indicate damage to 23,000 acres of CNNF forests. There are millions of dollars of trees that are salvageable. I am urging the United States Forest Service (USFS) to expedite clean-up on the CNNF to salvage maximum value of the downed trees. The USFS should prioritize the high-value hardwoods first and do so immediately to capture the most value. Also, it is concerning that 5,000 acres of the blowdown cannot be touched due to the 2004 Forest Plan. If timber is not cleared promptly, it will lead to greater fire danger and disease infestations. Both can be deadly for neighboring forest owners.

“A few years ago the USFS was given enhanced authority to quickly react to disaster situations. I am urging the USFS to use that authority to set-up salvage sales immediately including on the ‘no touch’ 5,000 acres. State and local governments are prepared to act quickly, including using the Good Neighbor Authority, to assist the USFS.”