

1 **4.3.10 Socioeconomics**

2 The Land Exchange Proposed Action study area for socioeconomics is the same as for the
3 NorthMet Project Proposed Action: all of Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties, as well as
4 individual cities in St. Louis County (see Figure 4.2.10-1). This geography includes the federal
5 and non-federal tracts. Socioeconomic data are not available, and thus are not reported, for the
6 individual non-federal tracts and their parcels.

7 The federal Land Exchange area is similar to that of the Mine Site previously discussed, but
8 excludes the privately owned land bordering Dunka Road to the south of the Mine Site. Section
9 4.2.10.1 provides additional discussion of the existing conditions on the federal lands. The
10 socioeconomic information in Section 4.2.10.1 broadly applies to the study area, which
11 encompasses all of the non-federal parcels involved in the Land Exchange Proposed Action. The
12 following provides additional information as it relates to the federal and non-federal parcels.

13 **4.3.10.1 Economic Activity**

14 There is no ongoing forestry activity on the federal lands and no evidence of recent past forestry
15 activity. The non-federal parcels are all privately owned or otherwise have no official public
16 access. There is some evidence of timber harvesting on Tracts 2, 3, and 4; this activity could
17 generate income, employment, or revenue.

18 **4.3.10.2 Recreation**

19 Recreation in national forests can generate direct revenue to the USFS and the state in the form
20 of entry fees and hunting and fishing license fees, as well as via indirect economic activity
21 related to the multiplier effect of such activity (e.g., purchase of fishing tackle and bait).

22 In 2006 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were approximately 1,376,000
23 recreational visits to Superior National Forest (USFS 2012). "Recreational," as used in USFS
24 2010, is very broadly defined, and primarily distinguishes (and excludes) transient visitors such
25 as commuters or restroom visits. On average, visitors to the forest spent \$643 per visiting party
26 per day (i.e., the group participating in the visit, such as a family).

27 Currently, the federal lands are not easily accessible. The non-federal parcels are all privately
28 owned or otherwise have no official public access, although ~~However~~, evidence of recreational
29 activity has been observed on some of these parcels. Such activity is discussed in Section 4.2.11.

30 **4.3.10.3 Other Socioeconomic Characteristics**

31 Currently, there is no demand for public safety services on the inaccessible federal lands and
32 only limited demand on the non-federal lands. As described in Section 4.2.11, the non-federal
33 parcels generally consist of undeveloped woodlands, wetlands, and other natural features. There
34 is evidence of past extractive activity (quarrying and/or borrowing of sand and gravel) and
35 ongoing private recreational hunting and fishing on Tract 1. Tract 5 was previously used by
36 Wheaton College. In their current state, the non-federal parcels have minimal, if any, effect on
37 public services and facilities.

38 Subsistence activity, as it relates to the federal lands, is described in Section 4.2.10.1.6. ~~Non-~~
39 ~~federal lands are private and cannot be used for subsistence activity (i.e., hunting, fishing, or~~

40 | ~~gathering) without landowner permission.~~ There is no available information that any of the non-
41 federal tracts are being used for this purpose.

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