

VICTORY!!!

WE WON THIS BATTLE, BUT THE WAR GOES ON!

TRUCKS WILL RETURN TO PRAIRIE AND TROUT LAKE PORTAGES

U.S. Forest Service awards BWCAW truck portage contracts - Jim Zak will operate Trout Portage between Vermilion and Trout lakes; LaTourell's Inc. will operate Prairie Portage between Sucker and Basswood lakes.

A federal court order in 1992 banned trucks from the BWCAW. Since 1993, anglers have had to use small wheels or carts to portage their boats. The fee for having boats trailered across Prairie Portage will be \$10 per boat one way. Information on hours of operation at Prairie Portage can be obtained by calling (218) 365-4531.

The fee at Trout Portage will be \$15 per boat one way or \$25 for a round trip information on Trout Portage can be obtained at (218) 753-2070.

BIG THANKS to U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar of Minnesota and U.S. Senator Rod Grams for fighting this battle with us, introducing legislation and holding House and Senate hearings.

Last year Rep. Oberstar amended the federal transportation bill to include a provision allowing trucks to return to the portages. Earlier this year, Superior National Forest officials approved a plan to allow trucks to haul boats between four lakes in the Boundary Waters, saying the motorized portages are compatible with the overall plan for the wilderness.

The fight for our rights is not over! Environmental groups are still pushing for zero-cut in all national forests, and they want \$1 BILLION permanently earmarked for land acquisition in the Land and Water Conservation Fund! (See related story).

Chain of Lakes Decision

If you thought you had problems getting BWCAW day-use motor permits for the Moose Lake chain, Farm Lake chain or Gull Lake chain in years past, you haven't seen anything, yet!

On January 7, 1999 the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals handed down its judgment in the lawsuit against the 1993 BWCAW Management Plan. The ruling states, "it is clear to us from the context that each individually named lake is to be considered a particular lake" For the 1999 fishing season, this decision has the potential of being disastrous not only to property owners and resort owners on the affected lakes, but to the greater general public as well.

In the Ely area this means that homeowners, resort owners and their guests who were allowed to motor on Moose, Newfound and Sucker, or on White Iron, Farm,

Garden, and South Farm with the permit exemption sticker, will have to obtain a day-use permit to motor beyond the individual lake their property is actually located on. On the Gunflint side, use of Gull Lake, Seagull River and Saganaga Lake are affected. These people will now be vying for the limited permits available to the general public.

The Forest Service held meetings in Grand Marais and Ely to provide more information discuss options and seek input. They recognized that their biggest problem is the lack of sufficient data of yearly average 1976, 1977 and 1978 motor users before the exemption permit policy. These are the years the permit quotas are based on. Needless to say, the present permit quota system does not provide for the number of permits that will now be needed. The Forest Service realizes that they have a great task before them in trying to gather hard facts in order to make any permit increases and adjustments.

The Forest Service has contacted the environmental consortium to consider postponement of the ruling, and to negotiate on the number of permits needed to replace the exemptions. They have refused, so the Forest Service has gone back to the judges for a one year stay of the ruling. The judges have not given their decision.

"The court did not intend to destroy the '99 season with an impossible situation," said Lyle Williams, President of the Ely Area Outfitters Association. "We need to request a stay of implementation based upon the reasonableness of the decision."

CWCS is writing letters to the City of Ely, Winton, St. Louis and Cook County Commissioners, Rep. James Oberstar, Senators Rod Grams and Paul Wellstone. CWCW is requesting that these representatives to urge the Forest Service to go back to the judges to delay implementation for one year. The Forest Service needs time to gather information about the motor use of the lakes involved in order to increase to permit quotas.

Boundary Waters Essay Receives 1st Place in Contest

The Boundary Waters Controversy was the title of the essay written by Bridget McReady, daughter of Doug and Nancy McReady of Ely. It was chosen as the first place winner in the local essay contest by the Ely Rotary Club, AND also in the District Rotary Club contest. Bridget was awarded \$50 from the Ely Rotary Club and a \$2000 scholarship from the district Rotary Clubs. The district covers the most of northern Minnesota, from Fargo to Cloquet, from Brainerd to Nipigon Ontario, all of North Dakota to the western parts of Wisconsin. This was the first time that Ely had a winner in the district contest. Congratulations Bridget!

In her essay, Bridget addressed the four following questions in Rotary's 4-Way Test - Is it the TRUTH? Was it FAIR to all concerned? Did this build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Was it BENEFICIAL to all concerned? - answering no to each question. Entrants in next year's District Rotary Club will all receive a copy of *The Boundary Waters Controversy* essay as an example of a winning paper, plus people will have an excellent opportunity to learn about the Boundary Waters.

If you would like to read the winning essay, go to the Ely Echo website at www.elyecho.com and click on local news for April 12.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

In January, the Clinton Administration, supported by the Gore 2000 Campaign, announced a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative -- the largest one-year investment ever in the protection of America's land resources. This FY 2000 budget proposal -- a 125-percent increase over FY 1999 -- expands federal efforts to save America's natural treasures and provides significant new resources to states and communities to protect local green spaces. The President wants Congress to create a **permanent** \$1 billion funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund beginning in FY 2001.

This initiative is meant to give municipalities greater opportunities to establish urban parks and save open spaces **near heavily populated areas**, and also to prevent urban sprawl. Environmentalists decry the tens of millions of Americans living in cities and suburbs plagued by traffic congestion, air and water pollution, loss of open space and wildlife habitat, but the President is calling on Congress to extend permanent wilderness protection to more than **5 million acres within 17 national parks and monuments**.

Rep. James Oberstar quote:

Write to your Senators and Congressman. Tell them to oppose more wilderness designation in sparsely populated areas, where our communities and schools are suffering from already declining populations and enrollments. Tell them NOT to support any legislation that takes appropriations of funds for land acquisition out of the hands of Congress!

Wolf Management

The debate continues over the possible hunting and trapping of the gray wolf in the Minnesota House and Senate. The excellent recovery of the wolf because of the Endangered Species Act has exceeded all expectations. The federal government will more than likely remove the wolf from the endangered species list within the next 18 months. Management of the wolf will then be taken over by the state Department of Natural Resources.

Lawmakers have rejected the recommendation of the wolf roundtable which the DNR has endorsed. This plan would prohibit hunting and trapping for at least five years after the wolf is removed from the list. Farmers and lawmakers don't think this plan goes far enough to control the population.

Wolf biologist, David Mech, predicts that the state's wolf population will reach 3500 and has called for a major wolf control effort in the state. Environmentalists and wolf advocates are trying to turn wolf management into a political fight. They claim hunting and trapping will affect tourism and funding for the International Wolf Center in Ely.

CWCW supports the delisting of the gray wolf and management turnover to the state of Minnesota. A recent study showed that Boundary Waters visitors who pick up their over night or day-use motor permits are more likely to pay the \$4 to see the wolf exhibit than the canoeist. We believe fishermen will continue to support the center in the future.

Voyageurs National Park Management Plan

Voyageurs National Park is in the process of rewriting the General Management Plan for the park. Management plans are to be reviewed every 15 to 20 years, and the current plan is from 1980.

The General Management Plan is to follow the guidelines of the Park's mission statement, the National Park Service's mission statement and legislative commitments and mandates.

There are three management areas that will be addressed - the no-wake area, Motorized lakes (all lakes within VNP are motorized) and developed areas. Some of the issues that will be considered are more campsites, separate launch sites for motor and non-motorized crafts, and building a visitor center at Crane Lake.

Public meetings will be held in Duluth and Orr, with a comment period until the end of June. The public is urged to participate, either at the meetings or submitting your comments to the Voyageurs' website. The new general management plan is to be done by October of 2000. Get involved!

Board of Directors – New CWCS telephone # 218-749-0739

Guy Holmes/Virginia - President
Mike Madden/Britt - Vice President/Treasurer
Nancy McReady/Ely - Secretary
Ardis David/Grand Marais – ex officio
Jeanne Franson/Tower
Gary Gotchnik/Ely
Bill Hamm/Bovey
Jim Hofsommer/Palo-Markham
Jim Kovich/Eveleth
Bob LaTourell/Ely
Jim Nelson/Tower
Bill Sharich/Britt
John Smrekar/Ely – ex officio
Dea Whitten/Ely

CWCS encourages all visitors to the Boundary Waters to leave no trace. If you packed it in, pack it out.

Take a Stand (or in the words of Dorothy Molter's, "If you don't think you are getting what you want out of life, you are probably getting what you deserve.")

Get involved! CWCS needs our members' input on public land and water issues of concern to you. Help us determine the direction in which you want CWCS to go in the 21st century and what issues to help you tackle. Please send your letters, comments, interests and concerns to: CWCS Issues, P.O. Box 252 Ely, MN 55731

Little East Creek Protest/The Ruckus Society

Here we go again! Remember the Little Alfie logging protest? Now it's the Little East Creek logging protest. Doug Wallace and Peggy Hunter don't want 'their' back yard logged. No, they don't own land, but their property abuts federal and state land on which Boise Cascade Corp. bought the trees in 1995.

Under the 1986 Forest Service Management Plan, sale of these trees is allowable but the Forest Service is delaying any logging on its Little East Creek land. The state has decided to go ahead with their planned logging though.

Expect more protesting at future state and federal timber sales. The Ruckus Society, a California organization that teaches non-violent protest techniques, has come to Minnesota. To quote their director, John Sellers, "We're trying to teach people that direct action doesn't happen in a vacuum. **To create the political will** to make changes that will save forests, we want our actions to resonate with the public." Sellers also stress the importance of media, lobbying, legislative and public education skills.

One element Sellers fails to mention is for people to get involved and to participate in the public processes available, such as the Forest Service workshops, to help influence public policy for forest management.