Forest Service cuts deal with Wilderness Watch over towboats

The U.S. Forest Service has settled a lawsuit with Wilderness Watch, a wilderness preservationist group based in Montana, that claimed the Forest Service is allowing more towboat use in the BWCA than is allowed by law.

Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins confirmed the settlement will involve a review of all commercial use in the BWCAW. From towboats to dogsledding, the Forest Service will spend 30 months reviewing all commercial operations.

CWCS Vice President Bob LaTourell said not knowing what the outcome will be casts further doubt over how motorboat quotas could be impacted.

“It’s an unknown at this point, what does it mean?” said LaTourell. “We really don’t know what direction this is going.”

Cummins said a team of Forest Service employees from other areas will be contracted with for 30 months to complete the study.

“Basically the settlement is an agreement to prepare a recreational commercial services needs assessment to help us determine whether commercial services are necessary in the Boundary Waters and if they are, to what extent,” said Cummins.

“So it’s pretty board. It’s not a decision, it’s simply an assessment. Part of that assessment is to go through the public input process. There’ll be some meetings and we’ll ask people to respond to the needs assessment as we’re going through it,” said Cummins.

Towboat operation won’t be the only commercial use to be looked at. Cummins confirmed everything from professional photographers to sled dog operations would be included as well.

“We’re looking at the wilderness as a whole in terms of commercial services,” said Cummins. “It will be an assessment of all current commercial use.”

Just how a lawsuit over towboat usage numbers grew into an all encompassing study is a mystery.

Cummins would not reveal how this major review of all commercial aspects of the BWCA came about.

“I’m not sure if it was one party or the other…towboats are part of the bigger picture. We didn’t want to go into a settlement without looking at the whole picture of commercial use. Any changes made in the future, and there’s no guarantee there will be, will have an analysis that wasn’t so arbitrary,” said Cummins.

The original lawsuit was over how many towboats were being used in the BWCA and whether that exempt use pushed the Forest Service over the cap for total motorized use.

“We couldn’t look at towboats alone. We had to assess the total amount of use,” said Cummins.

Once the 30 months are up and the assessment is complete, Cummins will be faced with making a decision on what the next steps will be.

“I believe it will be my decision to determine if we go into a NEPA type document which would generate a decision of some type,” said Cummins.

The settlement does not call for any decision to be made, just that the assessment be completed.

The Forest Service does recognize the importance of commercial operations both to users as well as to the local communities.

“Our outfitters and guides are part of the economic viability of the communities around the Boundary Waters and are important to the people of the area,” said Cummins.

LaTourell said he was concerned commercial operators and the public could be excluded from the process and not be able to comment until the study was complete.

Cummins said that won’t be the case.

“What we would like to do is in the near future sit down with folks who could be affected and talk through what it is and how we will go about it. There will be full public input to the needs assessment. We will talk to people affected directly,” said Cummins.

The Forest Service will contract with an enterprise team, which is made up of employees from outside the Superior National Forest who have experience with this type of issue on other national forests.

“Nobody from the Superior will be on the enterprise team but we’re overall accountable,” said Cummins.

The Wilderness Watch lawsuit claimed the Forest Service is allowing more towboat use than what is allowed by the current management plan and that total motorboat use exceeds the use levels that occurred in 1976-1978 as spelled out by the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act.

The problem that arose was there were no numbers that the Forest Service could provide on motorboat use during that time period. Even with claims that the use was understated in Forest Service estimates, without hard evidence the numbers could not be substantiated one way or another.

During court proceedings on this matter, the Forest Service admitted and courts upheld their findings that a large percentage of use was never included in that “statutory cap” in 1978 that was supposed to be based on actual numbers of motorized use during that time.

It was found that there was no use included in that cap for all of the property owners, resorts, and their guests that occurred on these lakes during the 1976-1978 timeframe, as these groups were considered exempt from permits by the US Forest Service and by the 1978 law, and their use was never counted or recorded. This actual use also included towboat use on the affected lakes. All of these user groups, of course, make up a very large part of the actual use that occurred at this time.
CWCS has been informing our members for several years about the proposed copper/nickel mining projects and also about School Trust Lands. The year-end directive by former President Obama for a withdrawal of over 435,000 acres of federal, state and county lands in the Superior National Forest from future mining included 95,000 acres of School Trust Lands. Mining is a big revenue source for the Trust Fund.

Up North Jobs was established several years ago and they support job growth in areas ranging from mining and logging to the tourism and service industry. They conduct research, raise awareness, prevent migration from the area and create a favorable business environment in NE Minnesota.

Over the past several months there have been a couple other groups that are raising the awareness of the attacks by extreme preservation organizations on the livelihood of the Iron Range, and mining all across the country. The importance of the role mining has on our School Trust Fund is something preservationists have disregarded. Tourism doesn’t contribute a fraction of the dollars to this fund as mining does.

CWCS is working with Up North Jobs and Minnesota Miners. We welcome the involvement of others in fighting for good paying jobs. We are all in this together, and the more help from others the better. Healthy communities depend on a healthy economy to assure our schools and hospitals keep on operating.

Metals mining can be done safely here

When the DFL put forth its anti-mining Resolution 54 last fall and Gov. Mark Dayton listened to extreme preservation groups and pulled Twin Metals’ state leases in northern Minnesota, it had a big impact on the November election. Many people who usually voted for the Democrat said enough was enough.

Those same extreme preservationists got the Obama Administration to deny the renewal of Twin Metals’ federal leases and then went one step further in proposing a land withdrawal in the Superior National Forest of more than 400,000 acres of federal, state and county lands from future exploration and mining.

Embracing this land withdrawal in the Superior National Forest is not looking out for the best interests of the state of Minnesota or our country. The rug was pulled out from under Twin Metals when Twin Metals was still in its exploratory phase. They are years away from a plan to mine.

These lands include 95,000 acres of School Trust Lands that generate revenue for all Minnesota schools. With over two decades of copper-nickel mining, revenue to the School Trust Fund is projected at more than $3 billion. Without mining, what is going to fund the School Trust Fund for Minnesota schools?

Minnesota used to have more than 8 million acres of School Trust Lands. Today, 2.5 million acres remain, more than 92 percent of which are within 10 northern Minnesota counties. School Trust Lands in other parts of the state were auctioned or sold according to state laws to support Minnesota schools.

If anti-mining people knew anything about mining — whether for iron ore, taconite, copper, nickel, or other minerals — they would know it all involves some measure of sulfur, as it is attached to the ore. We have had mining in northern Minnesota for more than 130 years while caring for the environment. We still have pristine lakes.

Copper-nickel mining and other hardrock mining has and is being done safely in the United States. At Flambeau in Wisconsin, a judge praised the company’s “exemplary efforts to protect the environment.”

Dunka Pit, right here in northern Minnesota, despite having higher sulfur content, has been monitored for 40 years with no impact to Birch Lake or to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Other examples of safe mining include the Stillwater Mine in Montana, which is just miles from Yellowstone National Park, and Eagle Mine in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Minnesota has the strictest pollution regulations, and we can mine copper-nickel safely. We won’t be dependent on other countries to provide our mineral needs, including countries that have little or no pollution regulations. We have to think globally and act locally.

Low-sulfur mineral regions like the Duluth Complex contain .31 percent copper with a low sulfur content of .88 percent. In comparison, the Flambeau Copper Mine in Wisconsin had 11 percent copper with 30 percent sulfur. Flambeau operated without harming the environment and is now a tourist attraction.

Locking up lands from future mining puts our entire country at risk of not having the minerals needed for everyday devices. It also jeopardizes the Pentagon’s ability to assure our national defense.

Northern Minnesota has the minerals. Our country needs strategic metals. We need jobs. Minnesota can mine these minerals safely.

Comments to the US Forest Service may be submitted by email to:
comments-eastern-superior@fs.fed.us
Comments must be submitted by 8/11/2017

 CWCS mission statement: To educate the public in order to preserve reasonable access to and sensible, multiple-use recreation of public lands and waters (including motorized uses) in Northeastern Minnesota, especially the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), with care for the environment.
**Message from the President**

2017 started out with a bevy of meetings. In early January I was interviewed by Tom Weber for MPR’s 50th anniversary. They were doing a retrospective of the past fifty years of issues, and included the Ely area and the various Boundary Waters issues they have covered. See the related article about what MPR failed to mention.

At the end of January, I attended an open house meeting in Mt. Iron on MPCA wild rice sulfate standards. They have yet to announce any standards and my question to them was how revised standards would affect municipalities’ wastewater treatment plants and the financial burden to our communities. Their answer was that the standard wouldn’t include wastewater treatment plants. That begs the question, why would industry but not treatment plants affect wild rice?

In February, as a private citizen living in Lake County, I joined Up North Jobs as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against Governor Dayton’s actions in not renewing Twin Metals’ mineral leases and the Governor’s collusion with extreme preservation groups to lead the federal government to deny renewal of Twin Metals’ federal mineral leases. The State said we could not represent ourselves, so Up North Jobs is heading a fundraising campaign to raise money to hire an attorney. Please consider helping Up North Jobs with a donation, which may be made to any Frandsen Bank.

March 16 was the big US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management listening session in Duluth on the year end land withdrawal from future mining of over 400,000 acres in the Superior National Forest by the Obama Administration. Dozens of people spoke for and against the withdrawal. What is lost in the discussion is the revenue that will be lost to the School Trust Fund for all Minnesota schools by such a land grab. Another listening session will be held this summer. No date has been set.

Shortly after the Duluth listening session, it was announced that the public comment period on the land withdrawal had been extended to August 11, 2017. Please send in your comments in opposition to this land withdrawal. There are several talking points, comments and letters available on Facebook pages We Support Minnesota Mining, Minnesota Miners and others to help people with their writing. Or contact me at cwcs@2z.net Comments to the US Forest Service may be submitted by email to: comments-eastern-superior@fs.fed.us

Subject: Reverse Action to Pursue Widespread Mineral Withdrawal

In April I went to Duluth and spoke to the Citizens Research Council about the land withdrawal and showed them all the School Trust Lands included in this plan. I also showed them the picture of one of the brook trout that was netted from a higher sulfide mine pit in northeastern Minnesota. One would think this would disprove all the doom and gloom of the extreme preservationists that mining will destroy our lakes and fish.

As you read through this newsletter, please take note of your mailing address. This may be the last CWCS newsletter you receive by mail. Many members are not current with their dues and we cannot afford to continue sending to those who do not pay. We have to keep up the fight and we need you to step up our support with donations! Remember, CWCS is a 501c3 organization!

Thank you,

Nancy McReady
CWCS President

As you read through this newsletter, please take note of your mailing address. This may be the last CWCS newsletter you receive by mail. Many members are not current with their dues and we cannot afford to continue sending to those who do not pay. CWCS needs to update our member email addresses when you submit your dues, as we are considering sending the newsletter digitally. We have to keep up the fight and we need you to step up our support with donations! Remember, CWCS is a 501c3 organization!

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**U.S. Forest Service authorizes land exchange for PolyMet project, lawsuits filed right away**

On January 9, 2017, the Forest Service authorized a land exchange in a Final Record of Decision, determining the land exchange is in the public interest and that the transaction should proceed. Here are a few important details about this major milestone for the PolyMet project:

In the Final Record of Decision, the Forest Service cites several benefits to the public, including:

- More federal wetlands
- More public water frontage available for public and tribal use
- Improved management effectiveness by exchanging lands that have no public overland access with lands that do have access
- Federal cost savings by eliminating two easements

This land exchange authorization moves PolyMet a big step closer to creating good jobs by building and operating the NorthMet copper-nickel-precious metals mine.

In other updates:

- In February, PolyMet updated its Water Appropriation Permit to include a request for an appropriation of water from Colby Lake, along with appropriations from the mine and plant sites.
- In late March, PolyMet submitted a report titled “Proposed Waste Water Treatment System (WWTS) Relocations”.
- Also in late March, PolyMet submitted a Technical Memorandum titled “Summary of Non-Mechanical Treatment Plans for PolyMet.” This document provides additional information on PolyMet’s ongoing research regarding non-mechanical treatment.
- In April, PolyMet submitted an overall revised set of Water Appropriation Permit applications. The revised applications represent all changes to date, including those made by PolyMet based on initial feedback given by DNR technical experts.

Several lawsuits have been filed by preservation groups against the land exchange between PolyMet and the Forest Service claiming the appraisal of the land was undervalued and violations of federal laws on land transfers and endangered species. The lawsuits were filed by Water Legacy, Center for Biological Diversity, a coalition including the Sierra Club, and a coalition led by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.
Feds threatening future of NE Minnesota

By Frank Ongaro Executive Director, Mining Minnesota

The federal government is threatening our region. Future jobs and our way of life are at risk.

The citizens of Northeastern Minnesota need to take action and let their voices be heard.

On Dec. 15, 2016, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a proposal to withdraw federal land and minerals in northeastern Minnesota from future leasing, exploration and potential development. The targeted federal lands are in an area of historic mining activity where mining is currently allowed and encouraged by federal and state law.

This politically motivated decision, coming in the final days of the Obama administration, is inconsistent with current national policy. It will result in devastating and irreversible damage to the citizens, communities and economy of the region. All a withdrawal will do is chase investment away from Minnesota and make the U.S. more dependent on foreign governments for the metals we use every day.

The USFS-BLM withdrawal proposal encompasses a total area of approximately 425,000 acres (664 sq. miles), including 235,000 acres of targeted federal lands, and 190,000 acres of non-federal state, county and private lands. The Minnesota DNR has identified approximately 140,000 acres of state-owned minerals — 95,000 acres of which are state school trust fund minerals — within the withdrawal area that would be put at risk. Further, the USFS has stated that the EIS process for the withdrawal proposal will also be used to amend the Superior National Forest (SNF) “Forest Management Plan.” Such amendments could remove mining as a “desired condition” throughout the entire 3.9 million acres of the SNF.

If enacted, the USFS-BLM withdrawal proposal will cause the state to lose thousands of potential jobs that would result from future mining projects, billions of dollars in future investment in Northeast Minnesota, and billions of dollars of potential revenues that support the state’s K-12 education system.

In addition, the withdrawal is completely unnecessary. A thorough and comprehensive environmental review process is already established under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is the responsibility of the federal agencies to accept proposed mineral development projects and subject them to the science based review under NEPA. The proposed withdrawal is not based on science or any specific project. It will not make a project better and it will not improve the environment. The unproven concerns raised by BLM and USFS are based only on hypothetical and unfounded fears of generalized impacts from mining.

Mining already and will continue to provide thousands of jobs for hardworking Minnesotans. Additionally, for every job in the mining industry, approximately two additional jobs are created.

According to the Minnesota DNR, the more than four billion ton deposit of copper, nickel, and other precious metals in the Duluth Complex could generate nearly $3 billion in royalty revenue for the state’s Permanent School Trust Fund. This supports the education of nearly 900,000 K-12 students statewide.

A significant amount of this enormous economic opportunity and education responsibility would be lost under this anti-mining withdrawal proposal.

Federal agencies continue to ignore the voices of those most affected by this drastic proposal. Fortunately, many area leaders are speaking up in opposition. The withdrawal is strongly opposed by the entire Minnesota Iron Range Legislative Delegation and over 50 additional Minnesota state legislators, the vast majority of local elected officials throughout the region, and Congressman Nolan, who had lead the fight to reverse the federal action. And, a recent public opinion poll shows two-thirds of citizens in the region oppose withdrawal of federal minerals from future development.

There is an opportunity for all of us to add our voices to the opposition. The USFS and BLM has extended the public comment period until August 11. Comments can be submitted via mail and email. Through a public information effort, we will be letting everyone in the region know how they can submit their comments to the agencies.

I urge everyone to speak up and tell the Forest Service and BLM to reverse their decision to pursue widespread mineral withdrawal in northeastern Minnesota and stop this effort that will have devastating and widespread impacts on the livelihoods of families all across our state.

Comments to the US Forest Service may be submitted by email to: comments-eastern-superior@fs.fed.us
Comments must be submitted by 8/11/2017

What Minnesota Public Radio failed to tell you

In January MPR celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Tom Weber’s article included mentions of Ely and the Boundary Waters. Here is what Weber failed to include.

What started out as a review of the 1964 Wilderness Act by Congressman Jim Oberstar when he first came into office in 1974 pretty much blew up in his face.

According to the Wilderness Act: Report to President. (c) Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments, and other units of the national park system and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or non-suitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness.

The Boundary Waters didn’t fit. It had been logged multiple times, it had roads and railroad tracks, it had motor uses of boats, canoes and snowmobiles, and it had been developed with numerous resorts and private properties.

Oberstar’s review of the Boundary Waters and his proposal for a wilderness area and a national recreational area is what led to the so-called compromise of the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act.

Gone is logging at the edge of the Boundary Waters as the 50,000-acre portal zone became part of the Boundary Waters in 1978. Gone too are the established use of snowmobiles which had been a big part of our culture of ice fishing and riding in the Boundary Waters.

Now if you look at the 1964 Management Plan, it states pack and saddle stock (horses) were permitted except on portages

(Continued on Page Five)
Four Mile Portage still not passable to Hoist Bay

Every year Nancy and Doug McReady hike the Four Mile Portage off Fall Lake to check on its condition and to see if it is passable to Hoist Bay of Basswood Lake. After last July’s windstorm they were anxious to see the damage. They were surprised to see that the Forest Service had cleared the huge downfalls across the portage for over two miles. Past Rice Lake the portage wasn’t as damaged but it was still not passable to Hoist Bay. Beavers have dammed the area one mile from Basswood. Sadly the lone Norway pine that survived the 1999 blowdown didn’t survive the July 21 storm of 2016.

As CWCS has stated before, the Forest Service is supposed to maintain Four Mile Portage as a wheel portage. All the remains in order to do this would be to get rid of the beavers and the dam.

The Four Mile Portage is a historic portage. It should be maintained all the way to Hoist Bay of Basswood Lake. Sled dogs and skiers traverse the portage in the winter, but it needs to open for other seasons as well. It would be a great asset to the area for all hikers. A four mile hike after motoring or paddling to the portage, have a picnic at Hoist Bay and return to Fall Lake.

After their hike, McReadys went to the center campsite of Mile Island. What a devastation to see this favorite spot absolutely demolished. Nearly every huge pine downed. It was very sad to see this waste of good timber.

What Minnesota Public Radio failed to tell you

(Continued from Page Four)

and on trails specifically excluded from such use by the Regional Forester. But, draft animals were prohibited. Sled dogs are considered draft animals – Sled dogs were important for transportation in arctic areas, hauling supplies in areas. The use of dogs as draft animals was widespread in North America.

Over the years, numerous people have asked why CWCS hasn’t pushed to have dogs removed from the Boundary Waters according to the 1964 Management Plan. It’s because we really don’t want to see another use banned from the Boundary Waters, even though the original intent was to exclude them.

The Forest Service has conveniently changed Boundary Waters management on the use of dogs as draft animals, but when asked to allow snowmobiles, pontoon boats or sailboats on lakes that have that imaginary Boundary Waters line running through it (to the first portage) we are told no. I remember Congressman Oberstar saying that this was an issue of the management plan of the Boundary Waters that could be changed.

If only the so-called environmental groups who want to see every last motor out of the Boundary Waters would be just as giving. The original intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act is to allow limited motor uses, and more importantly, the original intent of the exempt permit for resorts, outfitters and property owners on the Chain of Lakes was for the entire chain of lakes to the first portage. The Forest Service still hasn’t addressed this issue, other than saying they don’t have sufficient data to reverse the court ruling that exempts permits to only the first lake of the chains. There isn’t sufficient data to justify the entire permit system!

As to Willard Munger’s statement - “There is an increased need for solitude in our lives. There is an increased need for the opportunity to appreciate nature and to experience the land in its natural, undisturbed state.”

People evidently have been finding other places for their solitude as the visitors numbers to the Boundary Waters have been seen a steady decline the past ten years.

“Everyone has a listening-point somewhere. It does not have to be in the north or close to the wilderness, but some place of quiet where the universe can be contemplated with awe.” - Passage from Listening Point by Sigurd Olson
Boundary Waters Canoe Area cannot sustain our communities

Here are some sobering facts from the US Forest Service reports, data bases and presentations that dispute the long-term viability of the BWCA to create the economic driver that some claim. Mike Banovetz waded through a Forest Service BWCAW Permit and Visitors Use Trend study for the years 2009-2015, and another report from 2007.

In 2007, a Forest Service report documented BWCA users, uses and management challenges. The purpose of the study was to determine trends in use and user characteristics for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness based on data from 1969, 1991, and 2007. It should be noted that there are no updated reports of this type since 2007, however there are permit and visitation data reports though 2015 updated as of August, 2016 supplemented to the 2007 information in the following.

Permit data suggested the majority of day and multiday visits occurred during the 142-day peak quota period from May 1 to September 30 of which day use permits accounts for approximately 40% of all BWCAW visitations.

While 1969 reported an average age of 26, and the average age in 1991 had increased to 36, in 2007 this average had increased further to 45 years old. About two-thirds of overnight visitors in 2007 described themselves as being 40 years of age or older. As of 2010 the average BWCA user increased to 49 and now the average has increased to mid-50s.

Nearly one-third of visitors in 1969 were on their first trip to the BWCAW. This number dropped to 12% in 1991 and dropped further to only 6% in 2007. In 2007, overnight visitors reported an average of roughly 12 previous visits to the BWCA. Just less than half of the visitors in 1969 had visited other wilderness areas besides the BWCA at that time, but this rose to 57% by 1991 and 75% by 2007. This means that the same people that comprise the aging users of the BWCA are going other places, instead of the BWCA.

Regarding the Frequency of Wilderness Trips, about 68% of overnight visitors reported taking a wilderness trip at least once a year in 2007. Visitors in 1991 reported similar numbers, with also about 67% taking wilderness trips at least once per year. In 1969, the reported number was 67%. However, the proportion taking more than one wilderness trip per year decreased significantly from 44% in 1969 to 34% in 1991 and further decreased to 31% in 2007. This means the BWCA is in competition with other wilderness experiences.

Regarding method of travel within the BWCAW the samples included different proportions of visitors who reported using private non-motorized boats for their trips, (72% in 1991 and 68% in 2007), this did not represent a significant shift in method of travel. There was an increase from 18% renting non-motorized boats in 1991 to 26% in 2007. However, less than 40% of overnight visitors in 2007 used the services or purchased supplies from an outfitter. Only 6% of overnight groups describe themselves as fully outfitted.

Trends are toward fewer students in the BWCAW. In 1969, almost half students (47%) were age 16 or older. This dropped to 18% in 1991 and dropped further to only 11% by 2007.

When we look at all of the available data from Minnesota Tourism for the top 10 tourist attractions in Minnesota, the BWCAW is at the bottom of the list for every year but one, and this is only because they use the same erroneous visitor usage data point of 250,000 for every year. If the actual real data points were used the BWCAW would not even make the list. Some news articles have used a lower number of 150,000 visitors.

Various groups state the BWCA as the “most visited wilderness” in the USA. While technically true due to the wilderness tag added in 1978 to what was supposed to be a multiple use National Park; the wilderness experience is available in many other national parks with the Smokie National Park at 11 million visitors down to #10 Glacier National Park at 2.9 million visitors and many other national parks that are significantly more popular than the BWCA. BWCAW visitations are paltry in comparison to other wilderness experiences that people want compared to what the BWCA provides.

In this most recent study, the reported quota usage was 114,029 in 2009, 108,781 in 2010, 109,158 in 2011, 107,257 in 2012, 100,983 in 2013, 97,731 in 2014, and 104,882 in 2015. The study further showed that 18% were from NE Minnesota, 39% from the Twin Cities, 7% from other parts of MN and 36% from adjacent states, Canada, and other countries. 20% of use is at one entry point and 70% is at 6 out of 75 entry points, and 60% of the quota visitations were destination and day trips.

The reason so many people get rejected in the lottery is the popularity of some entry points everyone tries to get. Also important is that there is a 98% chance you will get the overnight canoe trip permit of your choice which means canoe trips supplied by outfitters is insignificant to overall usage.

The Forest Service who had never promoted the BWCA in the past is now working with some entities to try to increase the number of wilderness users, and in particular the youth that has declined significantly. Our youth should be the backbone of sustained wilderness usage and thus the associated economy. We need to get more kids interested in the Boundary Waters!

The above information does not support the basis for a sustaining and growing robust economy based on BWCAW usage. It is one of the main reasons CWCS is supportive of the proposed mining projects. Healthy communities depend on a healthy economy.
You could win this “Wilderness Approved” Boat

- **1st Prize** - Lund WC-14 with bunk trailer & 15hp Mercury 4-stroke (provided by Aronson’s in Tower, MN)

- **Grand Ely Lodge Fishing package valued at $425** One Night Stay in a Lakeview Whirlpool Room and $50.00 Lodge Dollars and 4 hour use of a Fishing Boat

- **3rd Prize** - Framed ‘Boundary Waters Camp’ print

Drawing at Annual CWCS Boat Raffle Fundraiser
Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017 at Whiteside Park at close of Harvest Moon Festival

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