The January 30th massive failure of the US Forest Service’s BWCA permit reservation system was a huge story in Northern Minnesota and beyond this winter. Its impacts will be long lasting and many issues are still causing concern as the damage caused by this clunky and often times non-operating system persist.

The changes that were proposed to the launching of the 2019 BWCA permit reservation system have long faced criticism as the final details of how it would proceed were finally unveiled last fall. Local businesses known as co-operators who are authorized to issue permits through the USFS system had expressed concern as early as the fall of 2017.

Bits and pieces of the system’s components were starting to come out at that time, including the hugely controversial elimination of the lottery process for the day-use and overnight motor permits which are the most sought after type of BWCA permits.

Many businesses and visitors had hoped to gain answers and be a part of a process to provide input to the US Forest Service as news of these huge changes emerged. However an opportunity to provide input to the decisions that were to be made never materialized.

When it was evident that it was too late to persuade the US Forest Service to make some improvements to their proposed reservation system, voices of concern grew louder. When pressed on why the lottery was to be eliminated for these motorized BWCA permits, the USFS claimed the reason was that these permits weren’t rare enough to warrant a lottery and that the no-show rate was too high on these types of permits.

The first of these justifications was correctly predicted to be false by Ely resident Ross Peterson as he stated, “By day two there won’t be any motorized day-use available”.

His prediction was overly optimistic as most of these permits ended up being unavailable within 10 minutes. He also voiced concern over the ability for a fair playing field to exist when areas such as northern Minnesota have slower internet access.

“It’s going to be Elyites that take it on the chin,” said Peterson. Many critics also made predictions of the system not being able to handle the huge demand that would be placed on the system.

The logic behind the no-show rate being remedied by the lottery elimination was also disputed.

Local resort owner Bob LaTourell voiced concern in regards to the lack of any real solutions to the no-show rate and questioned how eliminating the lottery would improve this.

“There are so many tools that the USFS could use in addressing the no-show problem, and we’re very concerned that they haven’t even attempted to use any of these tools,” said LaTourell.

“Monetary incentive to cancel the permits, improved ease of the process in how to cancel them, and allowing cancellations to more easily be returned to the system are

(Continued on Page Five)

We can wait for BWCA land exchange to be done right

In a recent letter by Rep. Rob Ecklund, he wrote about School Trust lands and their purpose of generating revenue for all Minnesota schools. Under the law, the DNR is directed to maximize long-term economic returns while maintaining sound natural resource conservation and management principles. Ecklund also rightfully stated that the lion’s share of the funding comes from mining.

More than 92 percent of these remaining 2.5 million acres of School Trust lands is located within ten northern Minnesota counties where mining is done.

Since the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, over 86,000 acres of School Trust lands have been landlocked inside the BWCAW. Because of restrictions on land in the wilderness area, this land has not generated any revenue for Minnesota schools.

There is a hybrid proposal being shopped around to members in Congress to exchange 31,000 acres of School Trust Lands landlocked in the Boundary Waters and purchase the rest – 56,295 acres. This plan may still even include the purchase of Potlatch land for the exchange.

But, according to the 1964 Wilderness Act… in any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owners shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value.

Over the years, the private lands were addressed as mandated, but state lands have not.

(Continued on Page Two)
Landwehr hypocritical with move to environmental group

Submitted by Gerald M. Tyler of Ely, chairman of the nonprofit Up North Jobs (upnorthjobs.org)

Stories have recently appeared in the print media regarding the hiring of former Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr by Ely based Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness to serve as its Executive Director. Landwehr was hired to lead their organization to fight copper-nickel mining within the BWCA watershed, focusing on Twin Metals Minnesota’s proposed copper-nickel underground mine, which would be located near Ely, Minnesota. It is believed Becky Rom, Vice Chair of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, no doubt had something to do with Landwehr’s hiring.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Landwehr was paraphrased saying a commissioner must follow the laws and regulations when facing a project. In other words, an agency head should be guided by the laws, science and due process afforded to a company, and not by their personal beliefs, politics or unfounded potential outcomes. Landwehr’s words drip with hypocrisy. He chose to remain silent when Governor Dayton issued a directive to then DNR Commissioner Landwehr in March 2016 “not to authorize or enter into any new state access or lease agreements for mining operations on state land in the Superior National Forest in close proximity to the BWCA.” This, although Dayton’s action to deny access to state land in the Superior National Forest where mineral development is expressly permitted is contrary to Minnesota law, the Minnesota constitution and Public Law No. 49-495 that expressly permits mining in the Superior National Forest.

In reference to the Trump administration reinstating Twin Metals’ leases and canceling an environmental review that had been launched to study a proposed 20 year mining ban by the Obama administration on 234,000 acres of federal land in the BWCA watershed, Landwehr was quoted as saying, “Federal agency leadership in D.C. are ignoring laws and policies in order to push this project through”. “Those laws and policies are intended to protect people and the environment, and I simply can’t stand by and watch that.” “The agencies don’t have the latitude of saying, ‘Well, we just don’t like this project, we’re not going to put it in process.”

Oh yes, Mr. Landwehr, the process! Perhaps lobbyist Landwehr has not closely followed the process and the precedent setting litigation occurring in the federal courts in Alaska regarding the proposed Pebble mine project, litigation that supports Twin Metals’ right to continue minerals exploration in the BWCA watershed. The facts are not in dispute. In 2013, the EPA issued an assessment of the impact of proposed mining plans by the Pebble Limited Partnership on the fisheries, wildlife and Alaska native tribes in the region. In 2014 the final assessment was released, questioning the future of salmon habitat should the mine be opened.

In 2014, before the mine owners submitted their EIS study, the Obama Environmental Protection Agency preemptively quashed the Pebble mine project by proposing restrictions that would have effectively prohibited the project. The owners filed an action in federal court contending the EPA did not have the authority to preemptively veto or otherwise restrict development projects prior to the onset of federal and state permitting.

In 2017 the EPA settled its lawsuit with Pebble. The court found that pursuant to the agreement Pebble reached with the EPA, they could proceed with its studies and the EPA did not have the authority to preemptively veto or otherwise restrict development projects prior to the onset of federal and state permitting. Pebble had a right to proceed with its exploration and feasibility studies and submit an application to obtain a permit to conduct mining operations.

Now fast forward to March 2019. Pebble has applied for permits to develop its mining project. The Army Corps of Engineers has released a 1400 page Environmental Impact Statement and has scheduled a 90 day public comment period to take comments from the public regarding the proposed project.

The facts regarding Pebble’s exploratory activities in Alaska and Twin Metals minerals exploratory activities in the BWCA watershed of the Superior National Forest are quite similar. Each have or are utilizing permits to conduct mineral exploratory activities, each are preparing feasibility studies that are required in order to obtain federal and state mine operating permits, each are in good standing with the state and federal regulators and each have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in their respective projects.

Landwehr was the chief regulator for the statutory process of permitting for the state of Minnesota. Now he wants to eliminate the statutory process. By throwing out the statutory process, the long sought-after goal of a mining ban is achieved by Landwehr and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness. For lobbyist Tom Landwehr to now pretend that he supports a Twin Metals permitting process based upon the facts, science and the law, is self-serving, hypocritical and intellectually dishonest.

Back in the day, President Eisenhower said: “When you put your privileges before your principles, you will soon have neither”. When former DNR Commissioner Landwehr accepted the job to serve as a lobbyist for Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Landwehr’s credibility as a non-partisan regulator spilled into the Boundary Waters along with his principles.

We can wait for BWCA land exchange to be done right

(Continued from Page One)

The Forest Service and Minnesota’s DNR have identified 39,074.65 acres of federal lands outside of the Boundary Waters for an exchange. It is now time to exchange them for 39,074.65 acres within the Boundary Waters. Minnesota and the Forest Service must follow laws mandating these exchanges, especially the Grand Daddy of all legislation, the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Bottom line, federal law – the 1964 Wilderness Act – trumps state law. States and federal agencies cannot change federal laws no matter how many Senator and Congressman Offices are visited. In fact, I believe an amendment to the Wilderness Act would be required to change how these state lands are addressed, and I don’t believe anyone wants to open that box.

Lake County passed a resolution in support of the land exchange but opposes any purchase of land in the Forest Service’s hybrid approach. A majority of the School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters is in Lake County. St. Louis County passed a resolution to ignore federal law and support the hybrid plan. CWCS supports the exchange of 31,000 acres of School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters. We do not support the purchase of the remaining 55,000 acres. We have waited fifty-five years for this exchange; we can wait however long it takes for the remaining acres to be exchanged.
Message from the President

After November’s meeting with the Forest Service regarding the elimination of the lottery for the BWCA permit system CWCS wasn’t too optimistic about how things were going to work out. We weren’t wrong. It was a major failure on January 30 with computers crashing within an hour of going online. On January 31, I did an interview on WTIP radio about this. https://www.wtip.org/bwca-permit-reservation-system-crashes-opening-day

The relaunch didn’t go much better, and resorts and outfitters are still upset. Congressman Pete Stauber came to Ely before the relaunch and met with resort and outfitter owners to discuss the permit system. He is adamant in pushing for the return of the lottery system. We will have to see where that goes.

In December I was invited to speak to a Junior and Senior Environmental Studies class at Memorial High School. I spoke about the forming of CWCS and the history of the Boundary Waters. I talked about the big controversy of today – mining – and that mining is not allowed in the Boundary Waters but it is an allowable use in the Superior National Forest.

I told the small class that living in northern Minnesota has always been about the three Ts – Taconite, Timber and Tourism, and a fourth T for Technology can also be added. There are great opportunities for graduating seniors interested in skilled trades jobs by attending vocational-technical schools for two years rather and 4-year colleges; jobs in welding, plumbing, electricians, diesel mechanics, millwrights, engineers, etc. There are great job opportunities at taconite mines as baby boomers are retiring and also at the proposed copper nickel mines, as well as in road construction and logging which CWCS supports for healthy communities.

In reading the Fox & Friends article about logging – the reason the Ely area doesn’t have any sawmills in the area is because they closed down due to the restrictions of the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act. But, logging is still very much an important part of our economy.

In the November newsletter I told the small class that living in northern Minnesota has always been about the three Ts – Taconite, Timber and Tourism, and a fourth T for Technology can also be added. There are great opportunities for graduating seniors interested in skilled trades jobs by attending vocational-technical schools for two years rather and 4-year colleges; jobs in welding, plumbing, electricians, diesel mechanics, millwrights, engineers, etc. There are great job opportunities at taconite mines as baby boomers are retiring and also at the proposed copper nickel mines, as well as in road construction and logging which CWCS supports for healthy communities.

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PolyMet Update: More permits approved

In March 2019, the company received the federal record of decision and wetlands permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is the last key permit or approval needed to construct and operate the NorthMet Project.

In March 2019, the company and Glencore AG agreed to extend the term of the outstanding debentures to provide the company time to prepare for and complete a rights offering by June 30, 2019, fully backstopped by Glencore, to raise sufficient funds to repay all outstanding debt.

In December 2018, the company received all Minnesota Pollution Control Agency permits for NorthMet for which the company had applied, including air and water permits.

In November 2018, the company received all Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permits for NorthMet for which PolyMet had applied, including the permit to mine, dam safety and water appropriations permits.

In June 2018, the company and U.S. Forest Service completed the federal land exchange giving PolyMet title and control over both surface and mineral rights in and around the NorthMet ore body.

In March 2018, the company issued an updated technical report incorporating process improvements, project improvements and environmental controls described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and draft permits. The update also included detailed capital costs, operating costs, and economic valuations for the mine plan being permitted, as well as a discussion of potential future opportunities.

Its goals and objectives for the next 12 months include:

- Maintain political, social and regulatory support for the project;
- Complete its project optimization plan;
- Complete its project implementation plan;
- Strengthen its balance sheet through restructuring or repaying outstanding debt; and
- Execute construction finance, subject to typical conditions precedent.

PolyMet has installed a meteorological station at the old LTV mining site. The station is 200 feet tall and is powered by a solar panel. Weather data will be gathered for air modeling and air monitoring. This information will be used for PolyMet’s water appropriations and related dam permits.

This past winter, twenty of 140 monitoring wells were drilled to monitor water quality and water depth.

CWCS congratulates PolyMet in obtaining this final federal wetlands permit! I have followed the progress of the NorthMet project since 2005, reporting on it in the Ely Echo and in CWCS Newsletters. Looking back at the original timeline for this project, it is unbelievable it has taken 14 years to get to this final permitting stage. Hopefully the Iron Range will see the next generation of good paying mining jobs soon.

The last few months have not been great for Ely. With the permit registration fiasco many resorts and outfitters lost customers even with the reboot of the online system. Then there was the announcement that Shopko Pharmacy was closing, followed with the store itself going out of business. This will be a big loss to our community.

More recent losses to Ely include the closing of the Goodwill Store and now the Ely Bowling Alley. Last summer it was the closing of Taste of Ely and Two Gringos restaurant. A bit of good news, several people have worked together and are opening a similar used goods store in the old Goodwill building called Shop and Drop.

You will notice a big change in the CWCS annual raffle this year and I hope you will still be as supportive as you have in the past. The cost of a boat, motor and trailer package has gotten more and more expensive and even raffling just a motor last year was very expensive. This year the first prize will be $2500 cash. Tickets will remain at five dollars each and we will try to sell as many as we can. This is CWCS’s only fundraiser, which enables us to update you on all the issues with our newsletters.

See you at the Blueberry Arts and Harvest Moon Festivals in Ely.

Remember, CWCS has PayPal options for online payment of dues and donations to our website www.cwcs.org

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Nancy McReedy
CWCS President
Fox and Friends comes to Ely to learn about logging  

by Nick Wognum of the Ely Echo

A national news crew was in Ely this past week and toured logging sites in the area. The focus of their story included how logging can help prevent wildfires and how the industry is key to the biofuel movement.

Todd Piro from Fox and Friends was here to shoot a story on the need for active forest management to reduce wildfires, as well as other national timber policies that will improve and strengthen the timber industry across the country.

Answering Piro’s questions were local loggers Elroy Kuehl and Mike Nielsen. They were joined by Scott Dane, the executive director of the Association of Contract Loggers and Truckers.

For the logging industry these are trying times.

As recently as 2006, Minnesota cut 4.5 million cords of wood per year. Today that number is closer to 2.3 million cords. The logging industry is trying to survive without enough product for the marketplace.

“Minnesota can harvest five million cords a year and have healthy forests. It’s both a lack of timber being sold and a current lack of markets,” said Dane.

“If the agencies flooded the market with wood it would trigger mills to expand and encourage new mills to locate in Minnesota. Agencies are hesitant to make more wood available which may keep prices high but in the end provides less wood to market.”

This leaves Minnesota as one of the smaller players in the wood market.

“In the view of some states and especially Canada, we’re almost like hobby logging,” said Dane.

While Kuehl is heading to the twilight of his logging career, Nielsen is the future. Both are third generation loggers dating back to using horses and hand saws.

Nielsen has a young family and has invested heavily in new equipment that can process more trees in an hour than Kuehl’s father did in a day decades ago. Wallace Kuehl logged until he was in his 90s before passing away last year. Elroy now has his 10-year-old grandson learning the ropes in the woods.

Nielsen’s logging site just east of Tower was a flurry of activity Tuesday morning.

A feller-buncher machine sawed off a tree, held on to it and did the same to three more before laying them on the ground. Later a skidder operator used a grapple on the back of the machine to haul the trees to a delimber. There the trees were stripped of limbs and piled to be later cut to length.

Just down the road at a gravel pit area another skidder brought trees to a Barko slasher that cut them to 100 inch lengths and stacked them in piles 20 feet high and nearly a football field long.

In a week, this 33 acre logging site would produce 1,000 cords of wood that will be trucked to Two Harbors to a Louisiana Pacific plant where it will be used for smart siding for homes. Smart siding is a market growing 12-14 percent per year, according to Dane.

The days of flannel clad lumberjacks wielding axes and chainsaws are long gone in the logging industry here in northeast Minnesota. Skilled equipment operators use hydraulic equipment to drop, drag and cut trees that are then made into paper, building lumber or other wood products.

Piro was interested in how logging can be used to limit the extent of wildfires across the country.

At a site off of Highway 1, Piro interviewed Kuehl on how the chipping industry can be used for biofuels. But in Minnesota the state cut a deal with Xcel Energy to get out of the biofuel industry, shutting down plants in Benson and on the Range at Laurentian Energy.

Soon Kuehl won’t have a market for wood chips and his chipping operation will come to an end. Dane said government agencies like the Forest Service would like to see a biofuel plant in northeast Minnesota but something to replace Laurentian Energy is still at least two years away.

“We’re working to attract a company to build a plant here that would take wood chips,” said Dane. “Especially with the areas impacted by blowdown where there isn’t really anything else you can do with it.”

In the end, either the wood is harvested or forest fires rage out of control as has been the case in the recent past with the

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Fox and Friends comes to Ely to learn about logging

(Continued from Page One)

Highway 1 fire near Ely and the massive Pagami Fire the Forest Service lost control of after dumping 700 gallons of gasoline on it.

“You can manage the forest or you can manage the fire,” said Dane.

“We gotta get the Forest Service straightened out in Washington D.C. and we need more wood available so we can get more plants up here,” said Kuehl, a founding member of the 29-year-old ACLT.

“We need another sawmill here too,” said Kuehl. “Right now it’s either 120 miles or 160 miles away to the nearest sawmill.”

Nielsen said the margins make logging a very difficult industry to survive in. The cut near Tower had three pieces of equipment that easily top $1 million to purchase.

With the logs there selling for around $100 per cord, the money just isn’t there once the government agency gets $30 per cord, production on the site runs around $40 and trucking can be another $30 per cord.

“This is a tough business but we’re trying to make it work,” said Nielsen, who is serving as the president of ACLT this year.

Piro and his film crew stayed at Grand Ely Lodge and took in breakfast at Britton’s Tuesday morning.

Piro is known for his diner broadcasts where he sits with local residents and talks about national issues.

“This would make a pretty good place to do a broadcast,” said Piro of Britton’s.

The broadcast of the Ely segment on logging does not have a scheduled air date yet.

Many questioning Forest Service process on permits

(Continued from Page One)

all suggestions that were given to the USFS. I still don’t see the logic or connection in how the elimination of the lottery would be chosen as a solution rather than these other common sense solutions.”

When the January 30th launching of the permit system arrived, the worst of fears were realized. The system suffered a catastrophic and complete failure. After reports and monitoring of the system showed that most visitors were not able to access or navigate the system, the USFS shut the process down and the launch was halted. The negative effects of this failure were felt immediately as the USFS was forced to answer tough questions on what went wrong and why the concerns of the public were not given more attention. It also caused irreparable harm to area businesses with the disruption in trip planning for their customers.

Willy Vosburgh, of Custom Cabin Rentals on Moose Lake, said that the Forest Service needs to shoulder some of the blame for what happened. “We had predicted there would be some potential issues but there was constant reassurance from the Forest Service and the contractor, so we put our trust in them and it didn’t work out,” said Vosburgh. “It was disappointing they didn’t invite cooperators and individuals alike in the development process of the program. I think there’s still a lack of transparency on how things are being done and even moving forward. The solution is to reinstate the lottery for day-use motor and overnight motor permits. There are still lottery systems being used by the federal government across the country. The Forest Service pointed to a lack of desire for these permits but yesterday’s failure points to a need for a lottery system.”

The uproar caused by the permit system failure caused a flurry of activity by the area’s elected officials – mayors, state legislators and US legislators all expressed their concern and pressed for answers from the USFS. US Representative Pete Stauber drafted legislation to return the lottery to the BWCA reservation system and he convened a meeting on February 9th in Ely to address the permit debacle. This meeting included many elected officials including Stauber and aides from both Senators Smith and Klobuchar offices.

Others included officials from the US Forest Service as well as many area residents and business owners. Ely resident and former mayor Ross Peterson again expressed his concerns that the online system “is not fair to poor people and rural people” as he charged that local residents are at a disadvantage when competing for permits with people with high speed internet. Local canoe outfitter Jason Zabokrtsky said, “this was probably a lot more predictable that it would fail...They really did not involve people in the process to get a successful solution.” Virginia Nelson, another local outfitter concurred and said, “It just should not have gone live when it did.”

At this meeting the USFS said that February 27th, 2019 was set as the new launch date for the permit system. However, this plan would also have problems and the permit system launch was again later delayed until March 4th. This launch occurred to very mixed reviews.

Although permits were finally able to be distributed to some, many users were still left out in the cold as they were unable to navigate the very cumbersome and complicated system. There were still reports of individuals and businesses that experienced problems ranging from password resets not allowing access to the system, to payment not being allowed on permits selected, as well as numerous other issues relating to the performance of the system. The USFS justification of the motor permits not being rare enough was blown out of the water as well, as the prediction of all motor permits being reserved in a very short time did indeed occur.

At this date, there are still major concerns that have yet to be addressed. The same unanswered questions with the need for a lottery and the need for real solutions to address the no show rate haven’t even been considered by the USFS. The USFS and the contractor they are using for the permit system are still much too busy attempting to address the many unresolved issues with the existing cumbersome permit system.

As local businesses have had more time to utilize the system and become familiar with it, it is very evident to them and to the USFS that the existing system is not anywhere close to being a satisfactory system. Several days of training for local businesses have been provided by the USFS to attempt to both familiarize and provide help in trouble shooting issues that still exist with the system. Reports from these business owners seem to show that much work is still needed. Many individuals and local businesses still have very grave concerns.

As the upcoming season approaches, worry exists that more unforeseen problems will occur with the major issues that still exist with functioning of the system. There also has still not been any indication that the USFS will initiate a formal process to involve a public process into the future of the permit reservation system. CWCS will continue to push for resolution and real solutions to address the current permit system deficiencies.
A balance between mining and the environment

Recently the proposed Green New Deal is focusing on the use of renewable energy without much thought about the minerals required for wind turbines, electric vehicles, solar panels, electronics, batteries, etc.

Most of these minerals can be mined right here in the United States with strict pollution regulations that protect our water and land, and provide good paying jobs. Mining here also eliminates the expense of transporting minerals from foreign lands and makes the United States more mineral independent.

Surprisingly in 1980, Democrat President Jimmy Carter signed the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act into law. Better known as The Minerals Policy Act, it clearly states we must protect the environment and develop minerals:

The Federal Government, as a fundamental aspect of national minerals policy, must seek balance between the environmental, health and safety statutes and regulations…and the need to ensure the reliable availability of strategic and critical minerals.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior are supposed to give equal weight to mineral production and environmental protection.

Like so many laws, Congress has neglected or forgotten why the laws have mandated what they are to do, especially when it comes to public land management. The focus has been more on environmental preservation which restricts mineral exploration and delays development of mine plans.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. is 100 percent import-reliant on at least 21 critical minerals, and at least 50 percent import reliant on an additional 29. China, Russia or other geopolitical foes and unstable third-world nations have monopolies on producing many of these minerals. Most of these countries lack adequate environmental and safety regulations and some even mine using child labor.

Today’s mining is not the mining of one hundred years ago or even fifty years ago. Mining technology today has found that balance of industry and environment. Strict pollution regulations are followed to protect our environment and reclamation technology is better than ever.

This is what CWCS has been supporting all along. To balance the economic needs of our community with good paying jobs in the mining industry we must work together. This can be done with care for the environment to protect our wonderful recreational areas, including the Boundary Waters. We can do this by bringing all stakeholders to the table to ensure this next generation of mining – copper nickel mining – is done right.

Department of the Interior celebrates recovery of the gray wolf with proposal to return management to states, tribes

The gray wolf, an iconic species of the American West, had all but disappeared from landscape in the lower 48 states by the early 20th century. Now it roams free in nine states and is stable and healthy throughout its current range. This constitutes one of the greatest comebacks for an animal in U.S. conservation history. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is re-affirming the success of this recovery with a proposal to remove all gray wolves from protection under Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Thanks to the partnerships involving states, tribes, conservation organizations and private landowners galvanized under the ESA, the Service is now able to propose turning management of all gray wolves back to the states and tribes who have been so central to the species’ recovery. This proposal excludes Mexican gray wolves, which would remain listed under the ESA.

The gray wolf joins the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, American alligator, brown pelican and 33 other species of animals and plants in U.S. states, territories and waters that have been brought back from the brink with the help of the ESA. Countless more have improved or stabilized.

The gray wolf has already been delisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains. The states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington have shown their ability to manage this delisted wolf population responsibly so that it remains healthy and sustainable. Populations in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are also strong and wolves have begun to expand into northern California and Western Oregon and Washington.

In total, the range-wide gray wolf population stands at more than 6,000, exceeding the combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations.

CWCS fully agree with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision to take the gray wolf off the endangered and threatened species list. The gray wolf no longer meets the definition of a threatened or endangered species. The Endangered Species Act has done exactly what it was meant to do - rebuild the population of the gray wolf. This population has been restored for decades and this proposal to remove the gray wolf from the endangered and threatened species list is long overdue.

It is time for management. Each state should be able to determine the management needs for their state. Whether a gray wolf hunting and trapping season is to be allowed should be determined by each state’s DNR. States must be able to properly manage their own gray wolf population and alleviate the impacts this species has on our local farmers, their livestock, numerous family pets, and big game herds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s proposal to delist the gray wolf throughout the contiguous United States will be open for public comment until May 14, 2019.

Three great prizes! Maximum 2000 tickets to be sold!

Drawing at Annual CWCS CASH Raffle Fundraiser
Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 at Whiteside Park at close of Harvest Moon Festival

1st Prize
- $2500 Cash

2nd Prize
- 1-night Stay Premium Room at Fortune Bay (donated by Fortune Bay Resort & Casino) & Leech Lake Fillet Knife (donated by Lee Borgersen)

3rd Prize
Birch Bark framed ‘Boundary Waters Camp’ print (framed by Rob Fineday)

CWCS RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Name_________________________ 
City____________________________State______ Zip__________
Phone_________________________E-mail____________________
Number of raffle tickets__________ Total amount enclosed, $5 per ticket__________

When ordering raffle tickets, be sure to send address labels! We will put the labels on the ticket stubs and hand write your telephone number.

Please enclose check, payable to CWCS. Mail to: CWCS, P.O. Box 1046, Virginia, MN 55792
EARLY BIRD DRAWING: Membership dues received by July 1st (dues may be paid online at www.cwcs.org) will be entered into a drawing for a Round of Golf at the Ely Golf Course in Ely, MN. All new and renewing members will be entered in the drawing.

Please check your mailing label!
If you have paid your membership, there will be a PD 2019 amount above your name. If you have not paid your membership, the top line will be blank. See examples:

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