Why CWCS continues to fight:
“(We will) embark on a 10 year campaign to get every single motor out of the Boundary Waters”
– Brian O’Neill, quoted in May 20, 1998 Minneapolis Star-Tribune

Chain of Lakes Lawsuit appeal heard

On September 16, Nancy McReady, President of Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS), attended the appeal of the Chain of Lakes lawsuit – The Friends of the Boundary Waters vs U.S. Forest Service with CWCS as interveners. The case was introduced as being between the Friends vs Conservationists with Common Sense, even though it was the Forest Service’s attorney, Katherine Hazard, arguing the case.

The three judge panel consisted of Judge Gerald Heaney from Duluth, appointed in 1966 by President Johnson; Judge Kermit Bye from Fargo, appointed in 2000 by Clinton; and Judge Steven Colloton from Des Moines, appointed in 2003 by Bush, Jr. All three were very attentive, seemed to have a good understanding for the Chain of Lakes permit situation and asked several questions.

Most notable in the proceeding was that Judge Heaney said the Forest Service attorney, Katherine Hazard, was comparing apples to apples in its recalculation of the permit quota. Judge Heaney said the Friends of the Boundary Waters attorney, Colette Routel, was comparing apples and oranges in the Friends’ argument against any change to the cap and the actual use. Judge Heaney disagreed, stating that there was a change in circumstance.

Hazard was asked to clarify for the judges towboats were not double counted as the Friends stated. In the original permit quota cap only towboat operators who were not property owners on the Chain of Lakes were added, as resort and property owners who operated towboats were originally exempt from needing a permit. The adjustment to the permit quotas by the Forest Service now includes these towboat operators. Routel argued that the number of towboats should be reduced. When asked by Judge Heaney, Routel agreed that the number of canoeists should also be reduced.

Judge Heaney said, “That means if you include the towboats and that brings the number over… that when they’re setting their quotas they (USFS) could reduce the number of towboats, which reduce the number of canoeists that would be able to go into the Chain of Lakes. And that’s your position… you want that to be reduced as well those people who get in their motorboats down at the point of entry and go up with the others?”

And the Friends attorney then said, “Correct your honor.”

Without the towboats, Moose and Saganaga Lakes would be bottlenecked with canoes comparable to the bottleneck of vehicles at rush hour at Highways 494, 694 and 94. It is doubtful canoeists really want to begin their Boundary Waters trip with the same frustration they experience in the cities.

Routel argued that the quota on the Moose Lake chain was increased by 856% by the Forest Service when they increased permits to accommodate Moose Lake property owners’ legal use of Newfound and Sucker Lakes. The judges said the original statutory cap was calculated erroneously, but Routel argued that the Forest Service must stick with the erroneous calculation of permits and that the Forest Service should not be allowed to recalculate the statutory cap. The judges said this would then mean that Chain of Lakes property owner use of Newfound and Sucker Lakes was zero. The judges disagreed.

Routel tried to bring other issues into the argument, such as enforcement of current use and the environmental impact of increased permits. In the Forest Service’s three minute rebuttal Hazard stated that neither of these issues was in the original lawsuit.

(Continued on Page Two)
**Chain of Lakes Lawsuit appeal**

(Continued from Page One)

Attending the hearing were two U. S. Forest Service personnel, Barb Soderberg and Norma Malinowski; and Nancy and Doug McReady for CWCS. Joining the Friends were no less than a dozen young staffers, along with a few representatives for the Sierra Club.

Hopefully the three judge panel will have a decision by the end of the year. If they rule in favor of the Forest Service and Conservationists with Common Sense, we should have the return of permits to the Chain of Lakes by next spring.

**Trout Lake Portage maintenance**

Earlier this summer, the Forest Service La Croix District, gave notice that maintenance work would be conducted on Trout Lake Portage. The work would include brushing and clearing, shaping of the trail, establishing drainage ditches, resurfacing with gravel, and rehabilitating the shorelines to address erosion issues. There would also be major changes to the Trout Lake side turn-around.

Jim Zak, operator of the Trout Lake Portage service, contacted Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS) about the maintenance plan to eliminate the loop turn-around on the Trout Lake side of the portage. The plan was to make a T turn-around instead, to lessen the footprint and impact on the wilderness area.

Zak showed the Forest Service that the proposed T turn-around would not work with the use of his ATV and trailer portage service.

Zak and CWCS wrote a letter to the Forest Service stating that the Trout Lake Portage must be maintained as a viable truck portage with an adequate turn-around to accommodate Zak’s ATV and trailer, as well as future possible return of truck use to the portage.

CWCS President Nancy McReady also met with Congressman Oberstar at Gunflint Lodge after the 4th of July and informed him about the elimination of the loop turn-around. Oberstar included the return of mechanized portage uses to Trout Lake and Prairie Portage in a 1998 Transportation Bill and CWCS maintains this portage must accommodate the possible return of truck use on the portage.

The Forest Service listened to Zak’s and CWCS’s concerns and made the appropriate changes to their maintenance plans. The T turn-around was enlarged to assure adequate room for Zak to turn around his ATV and trailer.

Work on the portage was done by Low Impact Excavators with the use of hand carts for hauling gravel and rock to the Trout Lake side of the portage. The Forest Service would not allow the use of mechanized means in conducting this work, as half of Trout Lake Portage is within the Boundary Waters. CWCS contends that the 1978 BWCA Wilderness does allow mechanized use for administration purposes, but the Forest Service chooses not to do so.

**Chain of Lakes Lawsuit appeal**

(Continued from Page One)

Another treasure of the Boundary Waters is the giant cedar tree off of Bayley Bay of Basswood Lake.

**Need a gift idea for Christmas?**

Get the outdoorsman on your list a CWCS membership!

Just fill out the form on the back page and mail it in!
Congressman Oberstar hears Gunflint area complaints

By Rhonda Silence

Representative James Oberstar ended a fishing trip with a visit to approximately 40 constituents at a July 7 meeting at Gunflint Lodge. Oberstar listened to a laundry list of complaints about federal government actions, primarily those of the Forest Service.

Bruce Kerfoot of Gunflint Lodge introduced Oberstar, telling the crowd that the Congressman had a relaxing day of fishing on Lake Saganaga, but that he had not “endangered the walleye population.”

**Border permits cumbersome**

A security measure put in place after the 9-11 attack on the United States was the first issue discussed—the US Customs and Border Protection “I-68” permits. Gunflint area residents and business owners were upset at the inconvenience of obtaining the permits, the rigorous background check necessary (which includes a fingerprint), and the impact the permitting system has on US-Canadian relations.

Seagull Lake resident Jim Raml noted that the Canadian government issues Remote Area Border Crossing Permits (RABC) which are valid for border crossings for two years, whether an individual hikes, skis, snowmobiles, or boats across the border. He pointed out that the US I-68 permit applies only to crossing by boat.

Mike Prom of Voyageur Canoe Outfitters spoke for several resort owners when he said it is very inconvenient for guests who were only going across the border for a brief fishing trip to have to drive to Grand Marais or Grand Portage to obtain the I-68. Prom suggested establishing some Outlying Area Reporting Systems (OARS) on the Gunflint. However the approximate $10,000 cost of each OARS station could be prohibitive.

Oberstar said he had already talked to Michael Jackson of the Department of Homeland Security about this and had directed him to begin work to set up 8 – 10 OARS stations on the Gunflint Trail.

Citizens still expressed concern about the need for the permit and the requirements that permit holders phone OARS stations after every crossing. Harry Fisher, representing an Ontario Cabin Owners Association, said his group wouldn’t mind the permit if it was handled like the Canadian RABCs. He said people wouldn’t make the required calls. “If someone is coming across the border to get groceries or to check their mail, they’re going to do it and head back home. If they have the permit the government has their information. That should be enough!” he said.

Marsha Lange agreed, noting that her driver’s license and passport are sufficient when she makes the border crossing by car. Bud Beyer pointed out another problematic difference between the US and Canadian permits. “We can get remote border passes from the Canadians—but we have nothing for them. This puts a strain on US-Canadian relations.”

Finally, citizens pointed out that the laminated of the I-68 made the permit to large to fit in a wallet or pocket. Oberstar agreed that the I-68 system seemed flawed. “There is a need after 9-11 to be more cautious, but it can be done in a practical and user-friendly manner. This is outlandish.”

He said he would be meeting with Homeland Security officials when he returned to Washington.

**Non-motorized Vegetable Lakes**

Oberstar started the discussion of the creation of a Semi-primitive Non-motorized Recreation Management Area (SPNM) in Cook County, in an area known as the Vegetable Lake Chain by questioning how the non-motorized designation made it to the final Forest Service plan without his knowledge. He said although it somehow made it “under the radar,” he didn’t think the discussion on this popular fishing spot was over.

Nancy McReady, president of Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS) said she had attended many of the public meetings on the Forest Plan revision and said she never saw maps of the SPNM in Cook County, or another in the Ely area near Big Lake. McReady had informed Kawishiwi District Ranger Mark VanEvery when the new Forest Plan was released that the SPNM near Big Lake would possibly interfere with getting a snowmobile trail from Ely to Buyck. This trail was first suggested by the late Senator Paul Wellstone at the International Falls Forest Field Hearings in 1995.

John McClure of Grand Marais said the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, an entity accustomed to reading forest plans, was surprised by this designation—and unhappy about it. The Grand Portage Band has written a letter of opposition. McClure added that the Vegetable Lake SPNM closely resembles the Friends of the Boundary Waters “Cucumber Unit,” in its proposal for an additional 90,000 acres of wilderness. He said the Forest Service had yielded to the “Friends” group by creating this SPNM.

“The ‘Friends of the Boundary Waters’ have made it very clear that they want to expand the Boundary Waters wilderness by 90,000,” agreed Oberstar, adding emphatically, “I said ‘over my dead body.’ I’ve always said if wilderness was added to the Superior National Forest, it would be through an act of legislation and I’m not introducing it.”

Bud Beyer of Gunflint Lake said the SPNM designation is part of a larger issue. “I spent my youth paddling these waters. Now when I’m getting older and am looking at using motors to get around, I’m losing access? I don’t want to drive anything into the Boundary Waters—I just want to enjoy the woods.”

Several in attendance echoed his opinion and Commissioner Johnson said, “When we went through the establishment of the BWCA in ‘64 and then the expansion in ’78, there was a lot of tension, a lot of hard feelings. Things finally stabilized. We all adapted and could live with the existing boundaries. Now all these tensions are popping up again.”

**Prescribed burn plan questioned**

Citizens said that following the July 1999 windstorm, Gunflint Trail residents for the most part approved the Forest Service plan for storm cleanup. However, they noted that it was five years later, and little had been completed in the Boundary Waters.

Ted Young of Boundary Country Trekking said the job was too big to be done without using mechanized equipment, noting that the BWCA fuel treatment plan said 73,124 acres were to be treated by 2007, of which 56,000 acres were to have been done by 2004. Young said to date only a fraction had been done. “They tell us it’s a huge threat, but they aren’t getting it cleaned up. They just can’t do it by hand.”

Beatty said the Forest Service had instead conducted prescribed burns where they weren’t needed. “They’ve burned our hiking trails; they’ve burned right down to the lakeshores, on Magnetic and Poplar.”

Raml said the Forest Service should take the money budgeted for unnecessary burns and use it for reforestation. He said invasive species from the storm clean-up equipment had already spread, such as spotted knapweed and herbicide use was needed to reestablish spruce and pine.

Fisher said, “All you need to do is look at the Canadian side. That was done right.”

Oberstar recalled talking to the Forest Service shortly after the blowdown and getting the House of Representatives to appropriate money for the clean-up. He said the Forest Service’s first priority was the Gunflint Corridor, where there was human habitation. However, he said he shared the Gunflint resident’s concerns and would look into them.
Looks like people in the Twin Cities may get a taste of the same medicine northeastern Minnesota was served when the 1978 BWCA Wilderness Act was passed.

Residents are getting upset with the possibility of camping regulations along the St. Croix River. One of their concerns is the fear that their spontaneity of camping on the river will be gone.

A few other comments have been: “I don’t want anybody to tell me that I can’t go to the spots that I enjoyed as a child.”

“My son and his children should be able to go in places where I used to be able to go. I think it’s a public waterway and should be used as such.”

“Regulations of where to go and what to do and how fast we can go is getting out of control.”

Hmmm? Doesn’t that sound familiar? People visiting the Boundary Waters weren’t too keen on the permit system and then the camping fee reservations needed before going on their Boundary Waters trip. Most would agree that some regulations were in order, but the continuation of stricter and stricter rules for the Boundary Waters has been overkill of regulating the users, not protection of the land.

Just as there were changes needed in how people would visit the Boundary Waters, the same thing is happening along the St. Croix National Riverway north of Stillwater. Shoreline damage, deposits of human waste and erosion are the main concerns of the National Park Service which has jurisdiction over the waterway. The National Park Service has managed the St. Croix River north of Stillwater since it was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System in 1972.

According to an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, park officials regularly hear complaints about people trespassing on private property, making too much noise, hogging campsites, trampling on vegetation, even using chain saws to cut firewood.

North of Stillwater, the Park Service is proposing about 40 designated campsites that would consist of campsite signs, fire rings, areas for tents and, pit toilets. Picnic tables also may be provided if the site is not prone to flooding.

Two alternatives are being considered. Either all sites would be for tied-up boats with on-board sleeping, dining and toilets, or tent campers would also be allowed if they brought their own self-contained portable toilets. Any changes would be phased in over time.

It should be interesting to see how the people of the Twin Cities handle these proposed changes to their recreational area.

Canoeists rescued on Basswood Lake

Even in a 16 ft boat, the waves on Bayley Bay of Basswood were pretty rough for the backtrolling/fishing CWCS board member Dave DuFresne, his wife Ronnie and Ronnie’s brother Don Stocks were doing on August 4.

On this particular day, Ronnie saw some activity on the lake with her binoculars. It turned out to be a swamped canoe with the canoeists in the water.

Another boat was already at the canoe, so the DuFresne boat headed over to see what help they could offer.

A man and two boys were hanging onto the canoe. They were staying with the canoe and trying to direct it to the shore. The first boat had picked the canoeists’ equipment out of the water and was taking it to the next point for them. But the swamped canoeists weren’t making much headway and they were still pretty far from shore. DuFresne offered to tow them in.

On the shore there was another canoe and those people also looked pretty wet. The two canoes were evidently traveling together. Needless to say, the wet canoeists were not having a good time.

The DuFresne party continued up the lake. The wind never abated that day, the waves continued to roll. After an excellent day of fishing they noticed at least a half dozen canoes and canoeists dotted along the shore just waiting out the wind. When they got back to Prairie Portage they heard that another boat had also towed swamped canoeists that day.

All in all, it was a good day, no one drowned. But, you can bet these rescued canoeists were glad to see the motorboats on Basswood that helped them.

With BWCAW permits getting harder to come by, be more accommodating to others. Take advantage of 9-person/4 boat limits. Ask your friends to join you on your permit. Share your Boundary Waters experience!
Critical habitat proposed for Canada Lynx

A few questions addressed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding critical habitat proposed for Canada lynx:

Q - What action is the Fish and Wildlife Service taking?
A - The Service is proposing critical habitat designations for the Canada lynx, a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), in portions of northern Maine, northeastern Minnesota, the northern Rocky Mountains (northwestern Montana and a small portion of northern Idaho), and the Okanogan area of the northern Cascades in north-central Washington.

A final decision regarding the critical habitat designation will be made in November 2006 following the completion of an economic analysis and an extensive public comment period with public hearings and informational meetings.

Q - Why is the Service proposing critical habitat?
A - This critical habitat proposal is in response to a lawsuit filed by the Defenders of Wildlife and others and is made in compliance of a court order requiring the Service to propose critical habitat for the Canada lynx by November 1, 2005 and issue a final determination by November 1, 2006.

Q - What is critical habitat?
A - Critical habitat is a term in the ESA. It identifies geographic areas that contain features that contribute to the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and may require special management or protection. The designation of critical habitat does not affect land ownership or establish a refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area. It does not allow government or public access to private lands. Critical habitat has no regulatory impact on private landowners taking actions on their land, unless they are doing something that involves Federal funding or permits. However, landowners must consult with the Service before taking actions on their property that could harm or kill protected species or destroy their habitat, regardless of whether critical habitat has been designated.

Critical habitat is determined after taking into consideration the economic impact it could cause, as well as any other relevant impacts. The Secretary of the Interior may exclude any area from critical habitat if the benefits of exclusion outweigh the benefits of inclusion, as long as the exclusion would not result in the extinction of the species.

Q - Would the Canada lynx only be protected in critical habitat areas?
A - No. All other protections afforded by the ESA apply to all members of the species within the range where listed, regardless of whether they inhabit designated critical habitat or not. Listed species, both inside and outside critical habitat, are protected from ‘take,’ which includes harming (e.g., shooting, killing, trapping, collecting) and harassing individual animals. However, incidental taking that may result from, is not the purpose of, otherwise legal activities may be allowed with a permit from the Service.

Q - What is the historical and current range of the Canada lynx?
A - The historical and current range of the lynx in the contiguous United States is within the boreal forest in five geographic regions: the Northeast, the Great Lakes, the Northern Rocky Mountains, the Southern Rocky Mountains, and the Cascade Mountains.

The Canada lynx was protected in 2000 as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act throughout its current range, which includes Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Montana, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until February 7, 2006. The Service is particularly seeking input on whether lands in three additional areas, a) the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (Wyoming, Montana and Idaho), b) the “Kettle Range” in Ferry County, Washington and c) the Southern Rocky Mountains, are essential for the conservation of the species and the basis for why they might be essential.

Written comments can be submitted via e-mail to FW6_lynx@fws.gov or mailed to Montana Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 100 N. Park Avenue, Suite 320, Helena, Montana 59601.

Oral and written comments will also be accepted at a public hearing Wednesday, December 7, 2005, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Inn on Lake Superior, 350 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, Minnesota.

The hearing will be preceded by an informational session from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Isle Royale National Park draft wilderness plan is now available for public comment

Isle Royale National Park Superintendent Phyllis Green announced recently that the park’s draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (WBMP/EIS) is now available for public review and comment. The Environmental Protection Agency has published the draft document in the October 21, 2005, Federal Register. The public comment period will be open until December 21, 2005.

CD copies of the draft are available by contacting the park by mail or email (see below for addresses). The document is also available for review on the park’s website, providing for the use and enjoyment of the park’s Wilderness and backcountry by current and future generations; and 2) To provide accountability, consistency and continuity in managing Isle Royale’s Wilderness and backcountry.

To request a copy of the draft or final plan, or submit comments, please use any of the following methods: By mail: Superintendent, Attn: WBMP, Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931.

By e-mail: isro_wbmp@nps.gov
CWCS asks for no petition on roadless area decision

Governor Tim Pawlenty set a Dec. 9 deadline to provide him with written recommendations from the Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) regarding whether or not he should petition the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture regarding inventoried Roadless Areas on the Superior and Chippewa National Forests.

Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS), an organization with over 4,000 members, which works to preserve access to and multiple recreational uses of public lands and waters, has sent its recommendation on the Roadless Area issue to Governor Pawlenty.

“CWCS agrees with the Bush administration’s decision to overturn the Clinton administration’s 58 million acre Roadless Rule, which was pushed through in the final hours of Clinton’s administration in 2001,” said CWCS president Nancy Mc-Ready.

Bush’s decision allows the Roadless Areas of each state’s National Forests to be reviewed individually, as each state is unique and a blanket ruling does not fit all.

Input from state, county and local governments, along with that of experienced loggers and resource professionals, will be used to make a final decision.

CWCS has determined that it would be best to work with the U.S. Forest Service to amend their new Forest Plan to address the recreational concerns over Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) areas in both the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, rather than recommend the governor petition the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on the Roadless Areas of Minnesota.

“The petitioning process of the Roadless Areas may end up opening a Pandora’s box, leading to further restrictions that most people would not want to see happen,” said Mc-Ready.

Although this discussion concerns the petitioning of the Roadless Areas within the two National Forests of Minnesota, there is a concern of future restrictions to Federal lands in Minnesota to people living elsewhere.

CWCS has over 2,800 signatures from people from all over the United States who oppose the 62,800 to 90,000 acres of Roadless Areas within the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, as well as any expansion and/or buffer zones to the Boundary Waters. These signatures were gathered over the past 12 months.

Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties, and members of the Grand Portage Tribal Council have asked Governor Pawlenty for a meeting to discuss the 62,000 acres of Roadless Areas in Cook, Lake, St. Louis counties and 1854 Treaty Lands.

“CWCS recommends Governor Pawlenty not petition the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on the Roadless Areas of Minnesota,” said McReady. “But, we also urge him to have the MFRC stay involved in all future land management decisions that may affect the access, safety, forest health, and recreational uses of these lands.”

West coast court ruling halts local USFS lands sales

Efforts by the U. S. Forest Service to sell land in Winton and Isabella, Minnesota have been placed on hold following a court decision in California.

Superior National Forest Supervisor Jim Sanders sent out a letter explaining the need for an additional comment period.

The court case, Earth Island Institute vs. Ruthenbeck has been interpreted to impact certain Forest Service decisions made across the country.

Known as categorical exclusions, the decisions now require an opportunity for the public to comment pursuant to the Appeals Reform Act.

Categorical exclusions are used by the Forest Service on everything from gravel pit permits to logging sales.

In northern Minnesota, the Forest Service has been trying to sell four parcels of land. Two of the properties are in Winton, the former Border Lake Outfitters building and the Hibler property east of Border Lakes.

The third parcel is a portion of the former Isabella Ranger Station on Highway 1 where over 20 acres of land and 14 buildings have been subdivided into nine lots.

The fourth parcel is a vacant tower site located just south of Ely on Highway 21.

The new comment period for the Forest Service lands sales stated October 14 and continues for 30 days.

Sanders told interested parties that the sale of the four parcels will not be cancelled.

The online auction will continue once the additional comment period is over in November. For more information about the parcels, go to: http://auctionrp.com/auctions2
A letter from Dave Johnson

I would like to thank CWCS for their varied efforts in preserving multiple use of the Boundary Waters. But, I would particularly like to thank for the organization for the prize I gratefully received and used as a result of getting my dues in early – a day of fishing with Lee Borgersen on Basswood Lake near Ely. I was greeted with a great breakfast, and we were off early in the morning. Prairie Portage into Basswood Lake, managed by the LaTourell family, was a great adventure. Even though the temperatures were in the 90s, Lee put us onto some great fishing. I caught a 7 pound walleye, and Lee caught one that was in the 10 pound class. We also caught numerous smallmouth bass in the 5 to 6 pound range. Conversation was great and so were the fishing tips.

I would once again like to thank CWCS, Lee Borgersen and the LaTourell’s Moose Lake Resort and Outfitters for a great time. It pays to get your CWCS dues in early!

Fishing with Lee Borgersen

The winner of the CWCS free Basswood trip with Lee Borgersen was Dave Johnson from Virginia MN. Dave arrived at Lee’s cabin at 5:20 a.m. and was served up eggs, bacon, sausage, American fried potatoes, and toast with blueberry jam washed down with some hot java.

Lee explained to Dave that he searches for quality fish over quantity of fish. Dave was fine with that. So, of course, the first fishing spot yielded no fish after trying for one and half hours. The next spot the fishing duo caught three nice 20 inch smallies and a 3# walleye, along with some medium size bass.

The next spot was to be Frog Bay next, but Lee had to try that first spot once more. When Lee pulled in for the second time he could almost feel Dave’s eyes roll back in his head. He told him that a lunker spot can turn on at any time, so it needs to be checked out often. Within 5 minutes Dave slammed a nice 26 inch walleye. Within 10 more minutes Lee managed a 29 inch walleye (released) on the same spot. As fast as it started the area went dead. Dave and Lee wound up having a swell time and Dave really enjoyed his first time on Basswood.

MFRC recommends the Governor not petition the roadless areas

At their November meeting in Cloquet, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) passed a resolution, with a ten to four vote, recommending that Governor Pawlenty not petition the roadless areas to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Several county commissioners, including Cook County Commissioner Bob Fenwick, Lake County Commissioner Clair Nelson and St. Louis County Commissioner Dennis Fink attended the meeting held at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The three counties had written at letter to Governor Pawlenty in July requesting a meeting with him to discuss the impact of the roadless areas to each of their counties. The Governor has not replied to that request.

In much discussion about the petitioning process, it was acknowledged MFRC has been placed in an awkward position between the State and counties, as counties were not represented on the council.

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President’s Message

It’s been a busy summer and fall for CWCS. We once again manned a booth at the Blueberry Arts Festival to sell boat raffle tickets and memberships. We had a steady stream of visitors to our booth with many signing their name to our petition opposing the roadless areas and any expansion or buffer zone to the Boundary Waters.

This year CWCS decided to do something different for its annual meeting and fundraiser on Saturday, August 27. At board member Ken Schluter’s suggestion, we held an auction of white elephant items at one of Rod Loe’s storage buildings at R & R Transfer. Donations at first came in rather slowly, but by the day of the auction the warehouse was close to full.

As with doing anything new, there is always a risk of the event failing. The crowd wasn’t the greatest in number, but their generosity in bidding was. The auction alone brought in over $2700 to go toward the Chain of Lakes lawsuit and appeal.

‘Trader Craig’ Loughery, a professional auctioneer and supporter of CWCS, was a great auctioneer for this event, and we thank him and his wife Linda for their donation of their time. Thank you again to all the fine businesses who donated items for the auction.

The winner of the CWCS boat, motor and trailer package was Ely’s John and Suzie Scholz; the 2-night stay at Trail Center and $50 Gift Certificate to My Sister’s Place went to Steve Verbick from Chisholm; the framed Boundary Waters Camp print was won by Paul Kerwin from River Forest, IL.

As you read in the Chain of Lakes lawsuit appeal, I attended the appeal hearing in St. Paul. Hopefully the three judge panel will make their decision before the end of the year so the Forest Service will be able to make any adjustments to the permit system before the lottery begins. This is if the judges rule in our favor.

I also attended the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) meetings in Grand Rapids and Cloquet on the issue of the Roadless Areas. CWCS submitted its recommendation to the MFRC and Governor Pawlenty of not petitioning to the Secretary of Agriculture. (see related article)

CWCS will try to work with the Forest Service about the Semi Primitive Non Motor designations of the Vegetable Lakes near the Gunflint and near Big Lake off the Echo Trail.

As always, CWCS is doing its best to keep on top of issues that affect access to public lands and waters. We keep up the fight, and we hope you will continue to support our efforts. If anyone is interested in serving on the CWCS board, especially from the Tower/ Vermilion area, please contact me at 218-365-2922 or email me at cwcs@2z.net

Nancy McReady
CWCS President
You could win a round trip
Moose Lake tow with the CWCS Membership Drive

CWCS supports multiple use recreation of the Boundary Waters, which includes the use of boats and motors, as well as canoes. Often canoeists choose the use of towboats to get to their destination faster, so this year CWCS is having a special Membership Drive.

Membership dues received by June 1st will be entered into a drawing for a Round Trip Tow on the Moose Lake Chain for 4 from Moose Bay Company/John Herrick. This is a $200 value.

All new and renewing members will be entered in the drawing.

Thank you for your continued support!

Join CWCS Today!
Preserving access to and multiple-use of public lands & waters

Contribution Level:
___ Enthusiast (Hardcore Fisherman) — $500
___ Patron (Serious Angler) — $250
___ Defender (Long Weekend) — $100
___ Advocate (Overnight Motor) — $50
___ Supporter (Cano/Boat Day Trip) — $25
___ Member (License & Bait) — $15

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send your membership in today! Get a friend to join!

Name________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________
City __________________________ State ____ Zip ____________
Phone ______________________ Fax __________________
E-mail _____________________________________________

Please enclose your check payable to CWCS and mail to:
CWCS, PO Box 1046, Virginia, MN 55792-1046.

All Donations are Tax Deductible! Thank you!