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

CWCS holds 13th annual picnic

Inclement weather with 40 m.p.h. winds couldn’t keep supporters of Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS) away from CWCS’s 13th Annual Meeting and Fundraiser held at the Winton Long Branch.

Numerous fishermen decked out in their rain gear were entered in the Hawg Fishing Contest, sponsored by the Ely/Winton Rod & Gun Club. They made their ways to area lakes surrounding the Ely on Saturday, August 17, 2002.

More than 100 people came out to the Long Branch throughout the day and enjoyed the fish fry prepared by Fortune Bay.

At 5 p.m. CWCS president, Guy Holmes, called to order a brief meeting to welcome back four of its board of directors for another two-year term. The members, Jeep LaTourell, Jim Kovich, Dean Doering, and Gary Gotchnik received a round of applause in approval from the 50 or more people present.

Two new board members were also welcomed to the board of directors. Cliff Noble from Ely, owner and operator of Skube’s Bait & Tackle, and Sharon Hahn from Two Harbors, former Lake County commissioner and now Executive Director of Associated Contract Loggers. CWCS looks forward to working with Noble and Hahn.

USFS upholds Chain of Lakes decision

The US Forest Service’s Milwaukee Regional office recently upheld the Superior National Forest office’s decision to increase permit numbers on three chain of lakes affected by a 1999 court ruling – Moose/Newfound/Sucker, Farm/South Farm and Saganaga/Gull Lake/Sea Gull River. The court ruling had severely reduced motorized access of those affected lake chains by eliminating the exemption property owners and their guests had held until that time. The USFS plan was in response to that decision, and attempts to bring the use levels on the affected lake chains into compliance with the use levels that were determined by the current plan of management of the Boundary Waters.

Since that 1999 ruling, previously exempted property owners and their guests were forced to obtain permits. The number of permits within that system was originally set up for the use of non-property owners on the chain of lakes in question. Because of this, the use of those areas in the past four seasons has been reduced drastically below the levels deemed appropriate by the current Boundary Waters plan of management.

The new plan attempts to reconstruct the use of the affected property owners and their guests during the years 1976-1978, which the permit system was to be based upon. With the estimation of those numbers, the USFS formulated the potential alternative plans to address the inadequate permit situation. Although we at CWCS believe that many points can be made to show how the USFS undercounted the numbers during this reformulating, it was at the very least an attempt to address the problem.

Preservationist groups, such as the Friends of the Boundary Waters and the Sierra Club, attempted to disrupt and delay the task of correcting the situation and have appealed the decision. They have attempted to further reduce the use of the Boundary Waters by stating that the USFS should not increase the quota because it would cause an increase in motor use. This is not the case, since the USFS is only attempting to allow for the amount of use that was deemed appropriate by the current plan of management governing the Boundary Waters.

CWCS appealed the USFS plan on several points. (Continued on next page)
Forest Service delays new Forest Plan

The Chippewa-Superior Forest Plan Revision process has been delayed until December 2002 to allow more time to address changes in land conditions.

The current revision was initiated in 1996 but stalled when most of the planning team was reassigned to assist storm recovery efforts following the 1999 blowdown.

Seven preliminary alternatives were developed during public and employee workshops during 1998, based on a variety of themes.

All alternatives provide a wide range of multiple uses, goods and services. They responded to the issues needing change in different ways and describe a different desired future condition for the next 10-15 year period.

The final Forest Plan and EIS are expected to be released by fall 2003.

USFS upholds Chain of Lakes decision

(Continued from previous page)

which caused their estimated numbers to be lower than the actual use. (2) The creation of a separate entry point for “Moose Lake Only” which effectively will reduce access on Newfound and Sucker Lakes. A percentage of permits for the Moose Chain was subtracted and placed into this permit category. We strongly feel that the USFS used faulty logic and methodology in the creation of this new entry point and that its creation was beyond the scope of this plan. (3) The special mitigation measures that were created for the Moose Lake Chain were not adequately researched. Because of this, the recommendations may cause undesirable consequences and further restrictions in the future.

The USFS determined that their preferred alternative didn’t need to address any of the concerns of either CWCS or the preservationist groups. Therefore the plan seems to be going forward. The USFS plans to implement the new permit system for the 2003 season.

New border country course offered by WRFI

This summer, six Wild Rockies Field Institute (WRFI) students and two instructor/guides took part in the first Border Country: Ecology and Management of the Boundary Waters Ecosystem course. Pam Uihlein and Bill Lambert are co-creators and instructors/guides of WRFI’s new Border Country accredited course.

Pam has worked with students of all ages as an environmental educator and currently works as an Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Great Bear Foundation in Missoula, Montana. Bill teaches aquatic ecology and environmental science at the College of St Benedict/St John’s University in central Minnesota.

Wild Rockies Field Institute was founded in 1993. Several instructors at the University of Montana (Missoula) felt that education about ecological processes and relationships, as well as land management policy and human relationships with the land, could be more deeply and honestly explored on site, in the field.

The Border Country course begins with a 12-day canoe trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. They also canoe into Ontario’s Quetico Provincial Park for an opportunity to experience the Canadian side of the international border. During their canoe trip, students learn the fundamentals of safe canoeing and backcountry living.

Presentations from Conservationists with Common Sense (CWCS) and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) were also a part of the course. The group met with Nancy McReady for CWCS and Bill Hansen for NMW for their individual takes on living so near the Boundary Waters; protecting their beliefs, values and cultures of the area; and learned about the principles of each organization. The students were attentive and asked numerous questions of McReady about the affects of the 1978 BWCAW Act on the surrounding communities.
Sierra Club’s version of Wildfire Management

Last month, conservation chairman of the Minnesota Sierra Club North Star Chapter, Clyde Hanson, stated the Sierra Club had come up with their own plan for wildfire management. This plan focuses on communities, not logging. Hanson was prompted by President Bush’s August 22, 2002 forest fire management plan.

The Sierra Club’s plan is to “urge the Forest Service to focus their resources and manpower on protecting people and homes first...” Hanson said, “We think it’s important to protect trees, but we think it’s much more important to protect people first.”

When has the Sierra Club ever put people before trees or before anything else? It has always been the spotted owl, some rare bug or minnow first, with people last.

The following is from the Forest Service’s Mission Statement:

**** “CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE,” captures the Forest Service Mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

Some points the Forest Service includes:

• Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
• Listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions.
• Protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept. ***

The Sierra Club says the best way to save homes is to have buffer zones 500 yards around communities, 35 yards around houses and to use sprinkler systems. This is all true, but none of this is the responsibility of the U. S. Forest Service. Their responsibilities are first and foremost the protection of public lands, not private lands. Communities and individual homeowners have been fighting environmental groups like the Sierra Club, especially in California, to use these fire prevention measures for years.

The Sierra Club has’t appealed or delayed community protection measures, and in the Arrowhead they negotiated expedited process for reducing fuel in the Gunflint Trail blowdown area. That’s because this is an area where many environmentalists/preservationists have their own piece of the rock and they wanted to save their own property.

But, when the health of our nation’s forests are at risk, Forest Service reports show that 48% of all USFS plans for dealing with excess hazardous forest fuels were appealed by outside anti-logging groups. The USFS report revealed every single one of the projects in its Northern Region for fiscal year 2001–2002 was appealed. Others in the agency’s nine regions reported appeals at 67% to 79%. The Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Wilderness Society were listed as the groups that filed the most appeals. (Information from Minnesota Snowmobiling magazine, Sept. 2002).

The Sierra Club negotiated an expedited process for reducing fuel in the Arrowhead. Senator Tom Daschle from South Dakota (D) did the same when he included language in the defense Supplemental Appropriations Bill that would expedite the process of thinning the forests in the Black Hills. There was no outcry from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups about Daschle’s actions, but there sure has been a lot of noise from them over President Bush’s similar proposal for our National Forests.

This summer, more than 6.5 million acres of forestlands have burned throughout the United States, with most acreage lost in the Western states. That’s over 11,000 square miles! The Forest Service has identified over 20 million acres of fire-prone forests. President Bush’s Healthy Forest Initiative proposes the same thing the Sierra Club urged in the Arrowhead and what Senator Daschle did in the Black Hills.

President Bush’s plan proposes the sale of mature trees to pay for the reduction of forest floor fuels by the loggers. Environmental groups cry that the loggers will get rich. Do these groups know the cost of logging equipment, or the price of their education and experience?

Maybe the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society should invest millions of dollars in logging equipment and they can be the ones that get rich. Their claim that the proposed Healthy Forest Initiative would undo decades of work by environmentalists is right. It will undo decades of creating the unhealthiest forests we’ve seen in over fifty years.

The Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and other environmental groups, along with their paid activists that they bring onto logging sites, could be a lot more productive and respected if they invested their time and money into replanting efforts as the Civilian Conservation Corps did in the forests of northern Minnesota in the 1930s and 1940s. Be a part of the solution, not the problem.

We need to contact our congressmen and ask them to suppose President Bush’s Healthy Forest Initiative, to save our national forests for future generations.

ACTION ALERT!!!

The Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness and other preservation groups are sending out alerts for people to contact your Senators and Representatives to oppose President Bush’s Healthy Forest Initiative. They are citing everything from the Forest Service needs to protect people and homes, to the devastation of the Endangered Species Act’s right to sue.

CWCS supports President Bush’s Healthy Forest Initiative.
Contact your congressman and tell them:
* Our National Forests are in the worst shape they have ever been in over 50 years.
* Allow the U.S. Forest Service to do their job... promote the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
* Protect our public lands from devastating wildfires because of decades of inactive management and over 50 years of fire suppression.
* All national forests deserve the same protections Senator Daschle has given forests in South Dakota.
* Protecting communities alone does not protect wildlife habitat or valued recreation lands.

Send letters to:
c/o Representative___________ c/o Senator___________
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.  20515 Washington, D.C.  20510
President's Column:

Candidates who support multiple-use issues

As part of the CWCS annual meeting, several area candidates were invited to give a brief presentation and tell us what multiple-use means to them. We were very pleased to hear that all in attendance were strong supporters of multiple-use issues.

The candidates present from House 6a were Dave Dill, Paul Kess, Scott Johnson, and Roger Skraba. Tom Bakk for Senate district 6. Tom Rukavina and Scott Dane for House 5b. Matt Matasich for Senate 5. Dave Tomasoni was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Bill Hamm for Senate 3. Mike Forsman and Ernie Lund for County Commissioner. Orr Mayor Dave Glowaski personally endorsed and spoke for US Senate candidate Norm Coleman.

The primary election has since passed and we extend our congratulations to those who attended and continue on.

Tom Bakk DFL Sen.6
Roger Skraba Independence 6A
Tom Rukavina DFL 5B
Scott Dane Independence 5B
Matt Matasich Republican Sen. 5
Dave Tomasoni DFL Sen. 5
Mike Forsman County Commissioner

These candidates asked that all who support multiple-use support them.

-Guy Holmes, President, CWCS

CWCS candidate surveys for Nov. 5 election

The following is a synopsis of candidate surveys, screenings, press releases, voting records and multimedia information gathering.

FOR U.S. SENATE - MINNESOTA:

Paul Wellstone
- Supported the Grams-Oberstar bill that reopened the BWCA truck portages that environmentalists’ law suits had closed.
- Supported the Clinton-Gore roadless plan that created another 60 million acres of de facto wilderness.
- Supported President Bush’s plan to thin and reduce understory on federal lands in order to limit the losses to catastrophic forest fires.
- Endorsed by Sierra Club.

Norm Coleman
- Supports multiple-use of public lands and waters.
- Supports sustainable yields of harvest in National Forests.
- Supports snowmobiling in our National Parks where it has traditionally been allowed.
- Opposed Clinton-Gore roadless plan that created another 60 million acres of de facto wilderness.
- Supported President Bush’s plan to thin and reduce understory on federal lands in order to limit the losses to catastrophic forest fires.
- Supports the Grams-Oberstar bill that reopened the BWCA truck portages.
- He is endorsed by MNUSA (Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association), National Rifle Association, and numerous sporting and recreational groups.

FOR MINNESOTA GOVERNOR:

Tim Penny
- Supports balanced approach between environment, resource management, and multiple-use. He is self-labeled as “the sensible center”.
- Supports Conservation Reserve Program.
- States that he wants to include local levels of Government in on decision-making process.
- Supports using renewable Energy.

Tim Pawlenty
- Has made several statements supporting multiple-use.
- Supports renewable energy and conservation reserve easements.
- Supports sustainable yields in forest production.

Roger Moe
- Supports a plan that would haul corn by truck from Southern Minnesota as a fuel source for Northern Minnesota mines. No plan was made regarding using blown-down timber readily available as a fuel source.
- He states on his web site “As pressures on our natural resources increase my Administration will focus on environmental protection and natural resource preservation.”
- Endorsed by Sierra Club.

GET INVOLVED!

CWCS needs the input of our members on public land and water issues. Help us determine the direction you want CWCS to go in the 21st century and what issues to tackle. Please send your letters, comments, interests and concerns to: CWCS Issues, c/o Nancy McReady, P.O. Box 252 Ely, MN 55731

CWCS
DNR commissioner speaks on trail issue

by Allen Garber, Minnesota DNR Commissioner

The Minnesota State Court of Appeals recently ruled in favor of the Department of Natural Resources in a lawsuit filed against the DNR demanding an environmental review of plans being drafted for off-highway vehicle trails. The case has frequently been characterized as an attempt by the DNR to fight environmental review. That is simply untrue. The DNR has already begun the environmental review process on a number of OHV trail projects and will be reviewing many more. Indeed, some of the trail projects mentioned in the court’s ruling were already targeted for such review. The lawsuit was an attempt to force us to do environmental review on plans rather than projects. It is an important distinction, because the trail plans we create do not have the details that are necessary to do meaningful environmental review. The court agreed with us that it only makes sense to do environmental review as trail projects are ready to begin, when we have the specific data we need. That was the DNR’s policy before the lawsuit. The court has told us that it should continue to be our policy.

The DNR’s goal is to have managed OHV use on a system of managed trails. The primary effect of this lawsuit and others has been to delay the designation of appropriate OHV trails - while unmanaged OHV use continues to do significant environmental harm. Of course, we need thoughtful planning and environmental review. The DNR has never disputed that - and we need to get on with the job before more harm is done.

If our critics are to be believed when they say they support appropriate OHV use in Minnesota and they want to protect the environment, then they need to recognize that their actions are counterproductive - and the public needs to understand that as well. It is time to get out court and let us get on with the work of protecting Minnesota’s environment.

Maybe Smokey Bear needs to have a comeback. This time around, his saying should be “Only good forest management & common sense can prevent wildfires.”

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Fall 2002 Prescribed Burning on the Superior National Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Overlap</td>
<td>18 of 18 acres completed on 9/12. Unit was hand ignited. No significant events reported. This unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Iron/Mash</td>
<td>30 of the last 68 acres completed on 9/12. This unit had 56 acres burned last fall before weather halted operations. Unit was hand ignited. No significant events reported. This unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Meditation FTU 393</td>
<td>129 of 129 acres completed on 9/13. Unit was ignited with heli-torch and some minimal hand ignition. Area of concern along the shoreline had extra personnel on scene until mopped up - otherwise no significant events reported. This unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown and is completely w/in the BWCA Wilderness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Magnetic Rock and FTU 382</td>
<td>2,486 acres of 2,486 acres completed on 9/16 and 9/17. Unit was ignited with a heli-torch. Some spotting and slop-overs occurred but were handled with personnel on scene. Approximately 1,000 acres are w/in the BWCA Wilderness. The entire burn unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Three Mile Island/FTU 244</td>
<td>1,034 acres of 1,034 acres were completed on 9/18. Unit was ignited with a heli-torch. No significant events reported. This unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown and is completely w/in the BWCA Wilderness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunflint</td>
<td>Arc Lake</td>
<td>A burn of 26.33 acres near Arc Lake, 1 mile SW of the Seagull Area is also planned for the fall of 2002. This unit is associated with the 1999 Blowdown, is mostly in the BWCAW and includes some acreage in the Gunflint corridor on the East side. The Canadian border is about 4 miles to the East of this planned burn unit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total for fall burning on the Superior NF to date: 3,701 acres
Total burned on the Superior NF in FY 2002 to date: 8,174 acres
Need a Holiday gift idea? Check out these books

Down from Basswood: Voice of the Border Country, by Lynn Laitala

Down from Basswood is a compilation of stories of the Native Americans and Finnish immigrants of the northern region of Minnesota. It tells how lives were carved out of the rugged North Country, living off the land - fishing, hunting, trapping, ricing, and berry picking. Stories of how Native Americans were driven from their lands and forced to live on reservations after the government destroyed their villages on Basswood Lake.

Laitala mixes fact with fiction, weaving stories with insight, humor and a great understanding of the culture of these first tenants of Northern Minnesota. Included are a few stories about Sigurd Olson’s first canoe trip and how he came to realize “that there had to be a way to make money off this country.”

This is the history of the North Country. A history we shouldn’t forget.

Down from Basswood can be ordered for $17 ppd.
From: BASSWOOD 10549 Grange Rd N W Bemidji, MN 56601

Mittens in the Boundary Waters by Larry Ahlman

Set in the 1930s, Mittens in the Boundary Waters is a story about a big, hefty buffalo, Charles Perkins.

Known as Mittens because of his penchant for wearing big gloves, he was a fellow from St. Paul, MN in search of his dream like so many people, even today.

Mittens and his faithful dog, Millie, made their way to northern Minnesota, with their first stop in Hibbing. Clumsy by nature, Mittens wasn't able to hold onto a job. Leaving Hibbing, Mittens walks the railroad tracks and jumps on a boxcar thinking he was heading to Duluth. He ends up in Tower and hears about a fellow in Winton who needs a trapping partner.

Thus begins Mittens learning experience of trapping and living off the land. He faces many challenges as he travels and traps the Roadless Area east of Winton.

Whether fact or fiction, Mittens in the Boundary Waters is a good read about the tough times of living off the land and realizing that the solitude of the wilderness isn't always your friend.

Mittens in the Boundary Waters is available in bookstores or may be ordered by phone for $14.95 ppd. Call 800-552-6531.

Hunters cautioned on use of hunting stands

A recent press release from the U.S. Forest Service welcomes visitors to the Chippewa or Superior National Forest to hunt under State, Federal, and Tribal hunting regulations. Hunters may use portable hunting stands that do not damage live trees and that are removed at the end of the hunt. Portable stands are defined as those that are chained, belted, clamped, or tied with rope and do no permanent damage. Portable stands must be removed within a week after the general big game hunting season. Hunters are cautioned not to erect permanent stands or blinds on national forest lands.

Unlawful activity associated with permanent stands and blinds includes cutting and damage of trees and timber, construction of roads and trails, and storage or abandonment of personal property, trash, and litter. Persons or parties engaged in the placement and use of permanent stands often attempt to reserve large areas of public lands for their exclusive use through acts of implied ownership or intimidation. No special use permits for permanent stands or blinds are issued for the Chippewa or Superior National Forests.

The Forest Service will continue to address the increasing resource violations related to the permanent placement of stands.

CWCS asked if permanent stands would be removed by the Forest Service, and was informed it’s up to the District Ranger on how the hunting stand will be dealt with. A permanent hunting stand on Forest Service land is considered abandoned property. If a Forest Service maintenance crew is available, the permanent stand may be dismantled and hauled out of the woods. If it can be determined who constructed the permanent stand, then that person may be contacted to remove their permanent hunting stand. The permanent stand may need to be removed immediately -- not necessarily after the hunting season.

CWCS hopes everyone has a safe hunting season and asks that all hunters respect private property.

CWCS has new hats!

The hats come in three colors - all moss, dark green & moss bill and khaki & moss. Each are embroidered with the CWCS logo shown on this newsletter.

The price of the hats is $20, postage paid. Order yours today. Send a check to: CWCS, P.O. Box 1046, Virginia, MN 55792-1046.

Need an idea for a birthday, anniversary, graduation gift, etc.? How about a CWCS membership or hat!

www.cwcs.org
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) naturally occurs in North American deer and Rocky Mountain Elk. It belongs to a group of infectious diseases known as “transmissible spongiform encephalopathies” (TSEs). An abnormal protein called a prion, which affects the animal’s brain and is invariably fatal, causes it. Usually, months to years pass from the time an animal is infected to when it shows signs of the disease.

As of this printing 25 deer have been tested for CWD in Minnesota, none have tested positive. The MN DNR will further test 5000 more throughout the state to see if there is any incidence of CWD among the MN deer herd.

Experts recommend that heart shots be preferred and that barrier gloves be worn when skinning. Also avoid cutting through bone, brain, liver and spleen. These areas have been identified as having the highest concentration of the protein prions. Bleach and water solutions make for a good disinfectant for knives.

Most hunters don’t think it’s a problem here but many will freeze their venison meat and wait and see if any of the DNR’s tests results are CWD positive. Labs are gearing up in the state to provide individual testing in the future for a fee.

Several meat-processing stores were contacted in the local area, which have stated they will not be de-boning venison this year but will process the de-boned venison into sausage and hamburger. Hunters should contact your preferred meat-processing store and find out what type of venison processing is offered.
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!

Fill out & Save This Record
CWCS Membership paid on ____________, 2002
with check number ____________.

Additional Contribution of $___________ also paid.
Thanks!

q $500 Patron
q $100 Defender
q $50 Advocate
q $25 Supporter
q $15 Advocate
q New
q Renewal

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