

# BWCAW VIOLATION and INAPPROPRIATE USE REPORTING FORM



Please mail form to:  
**Friends of the Boundary  
 Waters Wilderness  
 Suite 290  
 401 N. Third Street  
 Minneapolis, MN 55401**

## VIOLATIONS

1. What type of violation did you observe? Please circle. Definition of terms available on reverse side.

illegal motor boat use	illegal off-highway vehicle use	low-flying aircraft
portage wheel violation	illegal snowmobile use	campfire violations
possession of bottles/cans	illegal camping	oversized group
trash disposal		
other: _____		

2. On what lake, campsite, or portage did this violation occur? Please provide as much detail as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the time and date upon which you observed this violation? \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

4. What details can you provide regarding the violation? (Ex: color of OHV, motorboat registration #, aircraft tail #)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your contact information? Information is recommended and only will be used to follow up on reports.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## INAPPROPRIATE USE

1. What evidence of inappropriate use did you observe? Please circle. Definition of terms available on reverse side.

latrine overflow	excessive noise from other groups	campsite developments	campsite erosion
extra-wide portages	lack of vacant campsites	excessive portage traffic	frequency of encounters
other: _____			

2. On what lake, campsite, or portage was this incident observed? Please provide as much detail as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the time and date upon which you observed this evidence? \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

4. What details can you provide regarding the incident you observed?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your contact information? Information is recommended and only will be used to follow up on reports.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# **Definition of Terms**

---

## **VIOLATION TERMS:**

**Illegal motor boat use** - No motorized equipment or mechanized transportation (including pontoon boats, sailboats, sailboards) is allowed on any paddle-only lake in the BWCAW. Motor-powered watercraft are permitted only on the following designated lakes:

### **LAKES WITH A 10 HORSEPOWER LIMIT**

On these lakes, the possession of one additional motor no greater than 6 horsepower is permitted, as long as motors in use do not exceed 10 horsepower.

- Clearwater - North Fowl - South Fowl - Seagull (no motors generally west of Three Mile Island) - Sections of Island River within the BWCAW.

### **LAKES WITH A 25 HORSEPOWER LIMIT**

On these lakes or portions of these lakes, the possession of one additional motor no greater than 10 horsepower is permitted, as long as motors in use do not exceed 25 horsepower.

- Basswood (except that portion north of Jackfish Bay and Washington Island) - Saganaga (except that portion west of American Point) - Fall - Newton - Moose - Newfound - Sucker - Snowbank - East Bearskin - South Farm - Trout

### **LAKES WITH NO HORSEPOWER LIMITS**

- Little Vermilion - Loon - Lac La Croix (not beyond the south end of Snow Bay in the U.S.A.) - Loon River.

**Illegal OHV use** - Off-highway vehicles are illegal in all parts of the BWCAW. This includes ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, and 4x4 trucks.

**Illegal snowmobile use** - Snowmobiles are illegal in all parts of the BWCAW except on the portages between Crane Lake and Little Vermillion Lake in Canada, and on the portages between Seagull River along the eastern portion of Saganaga Lake to Canada.

**Low-flying aircraft** - It is illegal to fly aircraft lower than 4,000 feet above sea level in the BWCAW. U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Homeland Security aircraft will be exempt from this law in emergency situations.

**Trash disposal** - Trash should be stored in plastic bags or containers that must be packed out with you. It is illegal to burn trash in a campfire.

**Possession of bottles/cans** - Glass bottles and aluminum/metal cans are not allowed in the BWCAW. Exceptions include glass bottles and cans that contain fuel, insect repellent, medicine, personal toiletries, and other necessary items not related to food or beverages.

**Illegal camping** - It is illegal to reside for more than 14 days on any one campsite. Visitors may only camp at sites specifically designated by the Forest Service. Visitors are not allowed to cut down or remove vegetation from the BWCAW.

**Campfire violations** - Campfires are only allowed within the steel fire grates at designated campsites or as specifically approved on your visitors permit. Campfires may only be constructed with dead wood lying on the ground. Campfires should not be left unattended. Updated campfire restrictions on permits must be respected at all times.

**Oversized groups** - Nine people and four water craft are the maximum allowed together in the BWCAW. You may not exceed the limit at any time or anywhere (on water, portages, campsites) in the BWCAW.

**Portage wheel violations** - Portage wheels are allowed only on the Prairie portage, Four Mile portage, Fall-Newton-Pipestone portage, and Back Bay portages into Basswood Lake and Vermillion-Trout.

## **INAPPROPRIATE USE TERMS:**

**Latrine overflow** - Latrines have overflowed and are no longer useable. Latrines may not be used for trash disposal.

**Excessive noise from other groups** - Singing, yelling, or playing radios undermines the wilderness experience.

**Campsite developments** - Visitors should refrain from digging trenches around tents to aid drainage, building furniture, fish bins, or trail markers.

**Portage erosion** - Portages are extra-wide due to excessive use.

**Lack of vacant campsites** - Visitors are forced to paddle past several campsites during daylight hours to find a vacant site.

**Excessive portage traffic** - Multiple groups congregate at beginning of portage and/or on the water near portage.

**Campsite erosion** - Shoreline erosion, many exposed tree roots, damaged trees, and large areas of bare ground and compacted soil due to excessive use.

**Frequency of encounters** - portage traffic, campsite traffic, or other increased encounters with other parties.