

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Annual Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2008

Founded in 1976, the mission of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness is to protect, preserve and restore the wilderness character of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Quetico-Superior ecosystem.

Major Programs

Public Advocacy
Education & Awareness
Wilderness Stewardship Development



Revenue and Expenses

Support & Revenue

Contributions, Gifts, Grants	542,165
Investment Income (Loss)	(44,220)
Other Income	<u>6,227</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$504,172
Grants Restricted for 2009	<u>(100,000)</u>
Total FY 2008 Revenue	\$404,172

Expense

Program Services	324,153
Management & General	39,494
Fundraising	<u>37,387</u>
Total Expense	\$401,034

Accomplishments 2008

- Initiated broad public awareness regarding potential environmental impacts from sulfide mining in Minnesota
- Conducted extensive on-the-ground research and submitted substantive comments to SNF regarding Travel Management Plan to prevent harmful impacts to the wilderness from off-highway vehicles. Advocated for protection of Superior National Forest lands against SNF Land Adjustment Act for 2007-2008
- In collaboration with the National Forest Foundation and the USFS, sponsored 450 days of volunteer service to restore areas of the wilderness.
- Produced 10,000 copies of two full length newsletters educating on issues affecting the BWCA. Developed new, interactive website and Facebook group for awareness on wilderness issues. Sponsored Wild and Scenic Film Festival for Awareness on sulfide mining pollution
- In collaboration with REI, Inc. and the USFS, produced 20,000 Non-Native Invasive Species information guides for use by the USFS

- In collaboration with the Thomas Flint Fund, the YMCA International Committee and YMCA Camp Menogyn, sponsored 14 underprivileged youth for week-long BWCAW canoe trips teaching environmental stewardship and wilderness values

Our Member Supporters

About 52 percent of our members reside in Minnesota, the remainder mostly in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and other states. We serve these members' interest to protect, preserve and restore northern Minnesota's signature wilderness, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Board of Directors

Our board is composed of knowledgeable, engaged and talented individuals who are passionate about keeping the wilderness experience pure and accessible for the benefit of future generations.

Paul Aslanian - Treasurer
 Reid Carron
 Jeff Evans - Chair
 Pete Fleming
 Jerry Greenberg
 Steve Hoffman
 Lynn Maclean

Jon Nelson
 Nicole Rom - Secretary
 Carolyn Sampson – Past Chair
 Besty Schmiesing – Vice Chair
 Rolf Thompson
 Kris Wegerson
 Barbara West

Goals for 2009

- We have already sponsored legislation at the state level to bring additional financial assurances and to block non-ferrous mines that would require perpetual water treatment.
- We will continue to lead our collaboration with many Minnesota environmental organizations in the effort against any form of acid mine drainage in the Boundary Waters ecosystem
- Submit thoroughly researched and substantive comments on the expected PolyMet Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Create statewide awareness campaign about the real environmental and economic impacts of this new form of mining to Minnesota
- Sponsor 21 underprivileged youth to experience the wilderness and gain appreciation for its value through our collaboration with YMCA Camp Menogyn
- Promote the economic sustainability of public lands in the Quetico-Superior region through involvement with the Heart of the Continent Partnership
- Collaborate with the Superior National Forest on combating non-native invasive species using volunteers
- Ensure that the Travel Management Plan prevents OHV use that negatively impacts the wilderness character of the BWCAW
- We will continue to monitor and comment on factors affecting Regional Haze – air clarity in the wilderness