

# FRIENDS of the BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS



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[www.friends-bwca.org](http://www.friends-bwca.org)

The Friends' mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the wilderness character of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and the Quetico-Superior Ecosystem. The organization was founded in 1976 and is joined by its tax-exempt sister organization, the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation.

Masthead Photos: JimBrandenburg.com

## National Forest Lands at Risk

In July, the Bush Administration proposed to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, putting 58.5 million acres of our national forests, including 62,000 acres in the Superior National Forest, at risk to destructive road building and logging. Under the new proposal, protection of wild national forest lands will require state governors to petition the federal government.

The Friends and its allies are organizing to stop this shortsighted proposal, but we need your help! A public comment period started July 9, 2004 and ends Sept. 14, 2004. We need to generate thousands of comments to let the administration know that the public wants our national forests protected rather than given away to corporate special interests.

On July 23, former *Minneapolis Star Tribune* columnist Jim Klobuchar kicked off the Minnesota campaign to generate 6,000 comments in 60 days. A broad coalition of concerned organizations and citizens joined Klobuchar, including representatives from the Minnesota Conservation Federation, Republicans for Environmental Protection, Audubon Minnesota, and the outdoor industry. Nationwide, conservationists hope to collect one million comments.

### Take Action

Send a comment letter to the Forest Service asking the agency to keep the Roadless Rule in place in the lower 48 states and in Alaska's Chugach National Forest, and to reinstate the rule in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Handwritten, substantive letters are always the best. To see talking points, visit [www.friends-bwca.org](http://www.friends-bwca.org). Comments can be sent to:

Content Analysis Team  
 ATTN: Roadless State Petitions  
 USDA Forest Service  
 P.O. Box 221090  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84122  
 Fax: (801) 517-1014  
 E-mail: [statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us)  
 Web: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

Wisconsin and Minnesota have long had a healthy rivalry. Minnesotans like nothing better than to watch the Vikings clobber the Packers while the cheeseheads rejoice in Badger wins over the Gophers.

Today, our rivalry focuses on conservation. In early May, Wisconsin U.S. Forest Service officials announced their support for protecting 15,000 acres of Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest as wilderness.

In August, attention turned to Minnesota when Superior National Forest officials released their 10-year management plan. This document guides all forest policies, from recreation use and logging to recommending lands for wilderness protection. Unfortunately, the agency's plan deemed no lands on the Superior worthy of wilderness protection.

Despite the agency's finding, the Friends last year identified nearly 90,000 acres on Superior National Forest deserving of wilderness protection. These areas have largely remained free of logging and road building over the past several decades, and they represent some of Minnesota's last remaining unprotected wild places.

By protecting these forested lands, we leave a legacy of cleaner air and water. For example, one of the areas targeted for protection, Seven Beaver, contains the headwaters to the St. Louis River, the largest U.S. tributary to Lake Superior.

Protecting these nearly 90,000 acres also helps to maintain wildlife habitat. Several of the areas slated for protection are potential habitat for the Canada Lynx. The largest wolf population in the continental United States resides on these lands. And migratory songbirds rely on unfragmented forests like these 90,000 acres as their refuges.

Forest Service officials in Minnesota should have followed the lead of their Wisconsin colleagues. If the Superior National Forest fails to protect these 90,000 acres as wilderness, Minnesota risks losing some of its best recreational lands and wildlife habitat to bulldozers and chainsaws.

Minnesotans can live with a Vikings' loss to the Packers. But loss of land is something tougher to swallow. Because once these lands are gone, they're gone forever. Let's hope that in Minnesota, we won't have to hear Wisconsinites remind us of this lesson for decades to come.

*This is an excerpt of a column written by Melissa Lindsay which was published July 2, 2004 in the Duluth News Tribune.*



Melissa Lindsay

## Friends, Foundation Unveil Online Giving

Are you looking to help the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation in a fast and easy way?

To better serve our supporters, both organizations now offer online giving. By visiting [www.friends-bwca.org](http://www.friends-bwca.org) and clicking on "join or give," members, donors, and allies may join the Friends, renew their Friends' membership, or make contributions to the Foundation. All of these secure transactions can be completed with a credit card in less than five minutes.

Giving online or renewing your membership is quick, eliminates paper, and reduces operating expenses for the Friends and Foundation. All of this is intended to help you as we continue our work defending our national treasure - the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For more information about online giving, call (612) 332-9630.

## Friends Weigh-in on Echo Trail Timber Sale

In June, the Friends announced its support of a Sierra Club lawsuit to stop a timber sale near the BWCAW. The Friends' legal brief asserts that the Forest Service failed to consider significant effects of the Big Grass Project on the BWCAW, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is required to study the impact on the wilderness.

The Big Grass area lies along the Echo Trail corridor, and as proposed, the sale will involve logging on approximately 1,689 acres. Approximately 399 acres slated for clear-cutting are directly adjacent to the BWCAW. Moreover, a few of the logging units overlap with roadless areas identified in the Friends' 2003 study, *Preserving the Canoe Country Heritage*. Finally, the sale will add approximately 37.5 miles of roads in the project area.

The Friends is concerned that logging and road building along the edge of the BWCAW could lead to accidental cutting or off-road vehicle use in the wilderness. Logging in potential roadless areas may also discourage the Forest Service from considering these areas for roadless area protection or additional wilderness.

A hearing on the case is expected in September.

# Protect Minnesota's Wilderness - A Community Campaign



Raising visibility at July 24 parade in Shoreview, Minn.



Friends' interns table July 17 at Raspberry Festival in Hopkins, Minn.

The Protect Minnesota's Wilderness campaign hit the streets this summer, with stops at a variety of community events and activities in Minnesota. Campaign volunteers enjoyed summer days staffing tables, walking in parades, and distributing campaign stickers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sarah Strommen at (612) 332-9630 or [sarah@friends-bwca.org](mailto:sarah@friends-bwca.org).



Author Jeff Forester discusses his book, *The Forest for the Trees*, July 15 in Minneapolis.

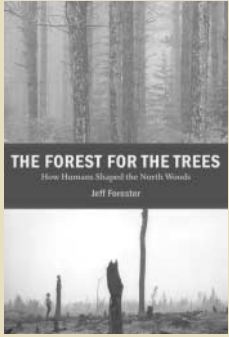


Dell Erickson, left, and Dick Brown, right, volunteer in August at Game Fair in Ramsey, Minn.



Fifty people attend July 23 Roadless Rule rally in St. Paul.

## Book Examines Minnesota's Evolving Forests



Minneapolis writer Jeff Forester is a wonderful guide to follow into the North Woods. After a decade of research, the aptly named author (who is also a composition instructor at Concordia University) knows the history of the woods and the changing attitudes of humans to them better than most people know the history of their families. If you need proof, you need only to delve into his book, *The Forest for the Trees: How Humans*

*Shaped the North Woods* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, \$32.95). It's one of the most important of several recent books with regional ties.

He explores the six models of forest management, all of which have been used in Minnesota. There was the tribal (the Ojibwe and Dakota used flame as a control for several reasons); the pioneer (small independent operators and families worked the woods); the industrial (marked by the rise of such lumber barons as Frederick Weyerhaeuser); the conservation phrase (in which men tried to manage the woods as they would a farm); the wilderness ethic (led by Ernest Oberholtzer, Sigurd Olson and Aldo Leopold, who saw greater value in recreation and spiritual renewal than in timber production), and restoration forestry (fueled by U.S. Forest Service researcher Bud Heinselman, who championed a return to a virgin landscape and advocated returning to the Indians' use of fire to keep the forest healthy).

In addition to the pioneers and timber barons we meet along the way, Forester introduces us to the lumberjack, the romantic figure of yore. Turns out the life was anything but. "Logging was nothing more than dirty, dangerous, and poorly paid work," Forester writes, "taking a man's best years and leaving him broken and poor."

Forester's history also takes us into the future -- one that has been thrust on us by the July 4 blow-down five years ago in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. That catastrophe, and the already-felt effects of global warming, demand more flexible models of management. In Forester's view, that can only be restoration forestry. If everyone who has ever taken advantage of the BWCA -- to live, camp, hike, hunt or fish -- used Forester's book as a reference, he would have a best-seller on his hands.

*This article was originally published July 11 in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Copyright 2004 Star Tribune. Republished with permission of Star Tribune, Minneapolis-St. Paul. No further republication or redistribution is permitted without the written consent of Star Tribune. Copies of the book may be purchased through the Minnesota Historical Society Press at (800) 621-2736.*

## Summer Interns Flood Friends' Office

Each summer brings a variety of young adults and students who are looking to gain experience and help the environment by working for the Friends. This past summer continued the trend as six young adults helped the Friends with a variety of projects and tasks.

Michael Barnes, a sophomore at Richfield (Minn.) High School, assisted the Friends with several projects, including mailings, newspaper clippings, and parade preparation.

Chris Huff of Minneapolis has interned with the Friends since February 2004, overseeing volunteer recruitment and data management



From left to right: Holly Lahd; Erin Roach; Annie Olson; and Michael Barnes. Not pictured, Chris Huff and Amy Lodermeier.

for roadless area inventories in Superior National Forest. He works full-time as a software programmer for CodeWeavers in St. Paul.

Holly Lahd is a junior at Osseo (Minn.) High School and a post-secondary student at the University of Minnesota. During her time with the Friends, Lahd researched school trust lands in the BWCAW, indexed Friends' newsletters, and assisted with the development of a new video for people entering the BWCAW.

Amy Lodermeier lives in Rosemount, Minn. and is a 2004 graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Lodermeier helped promote the Friends' Oct. 7 annual luncheon and compiled a comprehensive list of civic organizations to target for Friends' presentations.

Annie Olson, a native of Oakdale, Minn., graduated in 2004 from St. Olaf College with a degree in Environmental Studies. With the Friends, Olson coordinated the Protect Minnesota's Wilderness campaign, including parade organizing and volunteer recruiting. In August, she joined the Peace Corps in Nicaragua.

Erin Roach, originally from Lakeville, Minn. is a senior at the University of Chicago. Erin coordinated the Protect Minnesota's Wilderness campaign with Olson, and together they raised the visibility of the campaign and sought the endorsement of businesses and organizations.

The Friends is currently seeking interns for the fall semester. To apply, contact Melissa Lindsay at (612) 332-9630 or [melissa@friends-bwca.org](mailto:melissa@friends-bwca.org).

## Anniversary Exhibit to Highlight BWCAW

The BWCAW and some of its leading 20th Century advocates will be highlighted in an upcoming exhibit marking the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

*Forty Years and Forever*, an exhibit at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, will discuss the impetus for the Wilderness Act, profile the major players including Sigurd Olson and Ernest Oberholtzer, illustrate the areas protected under the law, examine the legislation's impact on the Boundary Waters, and probe the future of wilderness protection in Minnesota and across the country.

The exhibit will be multi-media, including audio and video components, artifacts like the pen President Johnson used to sign the act, early drafts of the legislation, correspondence between Sigurd Olson and Hubert Humphrey, maps, and enlarged photos and news articles from the period.

The exhibit opens Sept. 17 and runs through Dec. 15 at the Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave. S in Minneapolis. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The exhibit's opening begins at 5 p.m. with a reception and will be followed by a lecture by Doug Scott of the Campaign for America's Wilderness, who will speak about his new book, *The Enduring Wilderness*.

The Humphrey Forum was created to honor the legacy of former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who as a U.S. Senator introduced the Wilderness Act in 1956. To learn more, contact the Humphrey Forum at (612) 624-5893 or visit [www.hbh.umn.edu/humphrey-forum/](http://www.hbh.umn.edu/humphrey-forum/).

## Patagonia with Piragis Northwoods Co.

Piragis Northwoods Company of Ely, Minn. is leading trips to Patagonia: one for anglers, one for paddlers, and one for kayakers. For people who book one of these trips and mention that they learned of it through the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation, Piragis will make significant contributions to the Foundation.

To help the Foundation and join this once in a lifetime experience, visit [www.piragis.com](http://www.piragis.com) and click on "international trips." Or call Piragis Northwoods Company at (800) 223-6565.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### SEPTEMBER:

**11** Hike for Wilderness in Duluth  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness will co-sponsor a Sept. 11 hike, marking the Wilderness Act's 40th anniversary, on the Superior Hiking Trail in Duluth. Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the soccer field parking lot at the base of Spirit Mountain. A two- and five-mile hike will be offered. For more information, contact Kris Wegerson at [jkjl@callta.com](mailto:jkjl@callta.com).

**13** Wilderness Film Festival in Duluth  
The Science Museum of Minnesota is presenting a film festival, Sept. 11 at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, to celebrate the Wilderness Act's 40th anniversary. The festival will feature six films, all of which are free and open to the public. It will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Bohannon Hall, 1207 Ordean Ct. For more information, call (218) 626-4300 or visit [www.superiornationalforest.org](http://www.superiornationalforest.org).

**13** Utah's Redrock Wilderness Slideshow  
View Utah's redrock wilderness during a Sept. 13 slideshow in Minneapolis. The show begins at 7 p.m. and will be held at the North Mississippi Interpretive Center, 4900 Mississippi Ct. For more information, contact Bob Brister at (801) 486-3161 x12 or [bob@suwa.org](mailto:bob@suwa.org).

**17** Wilderness Exhibit Opens in Minneapolis  
The Friends and the University of Minnesota open *Forty Years and Forever*, an exhibit celebrating the Wilderness Act's 40th anniversary, which runs through Dec. 15. A lecture, award presentation, and reception highlight the opening. See related article on this page.

**25-26** Board, Staff Retreat in Ely  
The Board and staff of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation will meet for their board meeting and annual retreat. For more information, contact Melissa Lindsay at (612) 332-9630.

### OCTOBER:

**7** Friends' Annual Luncheon in Minneapolis  
The Friends' annual luncheon will be held Oct. 7 in Minneapolis. Preceding the lunch is a 9:30 a.m. presentation delivered by Friends' staff and Superior National Forest Supervisor Jim Sanders about the state of the Friends and the forest. See related article on page 8.

## Forest Service Releases National OHV Rules

Under U.S. Forest Service plans announced on July 7, off-highway vehicles like ATVs and dirt-bike motorcycles would be restricted to designated trails. The rule would apply to all 155 national forests, including Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

Currently, Superior National Forest permits cross-country travel of OHVs on two million acres, while Chippewa National Forest in north-central Minnesota does not. The vehicles are banned from riding in the BWCAW.

Superior however, changed its OHV policy, as outlined in its August 2004 revised management plan. The plan recommends that OHVs be permitted on 1,300 miles of low-standard forest roads and 40 miles of designated OHV trails; the low-standard roads are unpaved and are not used by standard automobiles.

The Friends supports efforts to restrict OHVs to designated routes but is troubled that the Forest Service's rules do not call for increased funding for enforcement nor do they provide a timeline for enacting such riding restrictions. In the absence of enforcement funds, Forest Service personnel will struggle to reign in violators, while the lack of a timeline means that existing individual forest policies - many of which allow cross-country travel - will continue to be in effect for an undetermined amount of time.

### Take Action

The Friends encourages its members and allies to submit comments to the Forest Service by Sept. 10, 2004. To view the proposed rule, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us). To see talking points, visit [www.friends-bwca.org](http://www.friends-bwca.org). Written comments may be sent to:

Proposed Rule for Designated Routes  
and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use  
c/o Content Analysis Team  
P.O. Box 221150  
Salt Lake City, UT 84122-1150  
E-mail: [trvman@fs.fed.us](mailto:trvman@fs.fed.us)  
Fax: (801) 517-1014  
Web: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

## Western BWCAW Confronts Several Issues

Erosion continues to be a major concern on the Trout Lake Portage, which runs between Lake Vermilion and Trout Lake and is one of the BWCAW's two motorized truck portages.

Since 2001, Friends' staff has visited the portage twice to meet with U.S. Forest Service officials to examine the damage and discuss the erosion control project proposed by the agency. While the Friends opposes motorboats in the wilderness, it recognizes the need to reconstruct the portage to reduce further erosion and restore natural vegetation.

In July, Friends' staff members Melissa Lindsay and Sarah Strommen visited the portage where they observed a bare, six-foot wide trail, large exposed rocks, and an eroded hillside with foot-high embankments on the Trout Lake side. The Forest Service has not committed funds to remedy the problem, but Friends' staff will continue applying pressure on the agency to restore the Trout Lake Portage.

In addition to touring Trout Lake, Friends' staff visited the Crane Lake area, where they hiked the snowmobile trail that runs between East Bay on Crane Lake and Little Vermilion Lake in Canada. The United States portion of the trail is one of only two places in the BWCAW which allows snowmobiles.

Unfortunately, the trail is being used by more than snowmobiles: the deep, muddy ruts of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) marred the trail, trampling vegetation. Signs prohibiting such use on the trail had been removed and tossed into the brush.

An additional concern for the area is reports of aircraft flying too low over the BWCAW. During the Friends' visit to the area, several planes passed over on their way into Crane Lake. In 1949, President Harry Truman signed an executive order prohibiting aircraft from flying less than 4,000 feet above sea level (or roughly 2,500 feet above the ground) in the wilderness.

### Bring the Boundary Waters to classrooms, youth groups

The Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation is offering a curriculum called the BWCA Wilderness Kit that is devoted to teaching fifth through eighth grade students about the wilderness. The need-based scholarships cover the one-week rental fee of \$55 and the \$20 shipping fee for any school, scout troop, or youth or church group in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Use of the kit varies from 50 minutes to five hours. The curriculum is filled with hands-on activities, colorful maps, exciting games, and real artifacts that will help teens explore and discover the history, science and social science of the BWCAW. To view or rent the curriculum, visit [www.friends-bwca.org](http://www.friends-bwca.org), call (612) 624-9050, or e-mail [registrations@bellmuseum.org](mailto:registrations@bellmuseum.org).

## Foundation Brings Youth to Boundary Waters

"It's a once in a lifetime trip," remarked a high school student returning from a July outing to the BWCAW.

For eight days and seven nights, four youth and two guides from Wilderness Canoe Base enjoyed the beauty of the Boundary Waters,



Participants in the July BWCAW trip.

developed a sense of community through teamwork, and witnessed their own personal growth.

The youth were selected as part of a scholarship program sponsored by the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation with funding provided by the Thomas Flint Boundary Waters Wilderness Fund and the Bob Johnson Boundary Waters Wilderness Fund. Both funds were created in memory of outdoorsmen and avid visitors to the BWCAW.

The students were nominated by teachers, social workers, and employment administrators. A second group of teenagers from Minneapolis and St. Paul took a similar trip in August.

By fishing for walleye, paddling through high waves with sunburned shoulders, and learning how to hydrate powdered foods, the group collectively solved problems while maintaining their ability to laugh with one another.

The silence and solitude found in the wilderness allowed the campers to understand a simpler life. One student described the trip as the "best time of my life."

**Yes!** I want to join the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and help protect and preserve the Boundary Waters and surrounding Quetico-Superior Ecosystem.

\$100 Patron     \$75 Contributing     \$50 Family     \$30 Individual     \$20 Student/Senior

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Richard Flint overlooking Kahshahpiwi Lake in Quetico Provincial Park.

## Friends' annual luncheon to be held Oct. 7

The Friends invites its members and allies to attend the organization's annual luncheon to be held Oct. 7 in Minneapolis.

The event will feature the presentation of the annual Boundary Waters Conservation Award to Dick Flint of Orono, Minn. Flint is a founder of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and has served on the organization's board since 1976. He will be recognized for his many contributions toward protecting the BWCAW and the Quetico-Superior Ecosystem.

A keynote speaker had not been selected as of the newsletter's printing deadline. The previously scheduled speaker, author and environmentalist Terry Tempest Williams, recently cancelled her appearance due to a family illness.

The luncheon will also include a 9:30 a.m. presentation by Friends' staff and Superior National Forest Supervisor Jim Sanders about the state of the Friends and the forest. The luncheon and award presentation will follow from noon to 1:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at the Milwaukee Depot, 425 S. Second St., in Minneapolis.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$300 for a table seating ten. Individuals or organizations sponsoring a table will receive special recognition in the event's program. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Sean Wherley at (612) 332-9630 or [sean@friends-bwca.org](mailto:sean@friends-bwca.org).

# FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

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