

FRIENDS of the BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS



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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

Superior Releases Final Management Plan No New Wilderness

Superior National Forest unveiled its forest management plan in August, recommending no new wilderness, despite the Friends' 2003 study identifying nearly 90,000 acres in northern Minnesota suitable for wilderness designation.

The Friends and its allies are disappointed with the plan's lack of wilderness vision and failure to permanently protect Minnesota's disappearing wild places. More than 2,500 comments favoring permanent protection of these lands were submitted to the Forest Service.

Dissatisfaction is heightened by the fact that neighboring states recently received new wilderness recommendations. In May 2004, the Forest Service announced plans to recommend 15,000 acres in Wisconsin's national forests for wilderness designation, and nearly 24,000 acres in South Dakota's Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

Minnesota has not seen any new federal wilderness for some time. Minnesota's last wilderness designation occurred in 1976 when Congress created the Agassiz and Tamarac Wilderness areas, totaling 6,200 acres in the northern part of the state.

The Friends and its allies are disappointed with the plan's lack of a wilderness vision. Minnesota has not seen any new federal wilderness since 1976.

The Forest Service justified its "no wilderness" decision, in part, by claiming that Congress had considered and failed to pass wilderness designation for some of the areas in the BWCA Wilderness Act of 1978. The Friends, however, contend that the 1978 law was never intended as a comprehensive wilderness bill for Superior National Forest, and nothing in the act relieves the Forest Service from recommending lands for wilderness protection in the future.

The Forest Service also claimed that the plan provides remote recreation experiences outside of the BWCAW. Only two areas, the Big Lake and Cucumber Lake Units, however, were designated as semi-primitive non-motorized areas. The Friends appreciates the addition of two non-motorized areas, but asserts that too many roadless areas are open to logging and mining to argue that the forest's remaining wild places will be protected.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

Over the last couple of years, the Board of Directors and staff of the Friends and Foundation have worked to ensure that the governance of our two organizations reflects the "best practices" of non-profit management. To this end, the Board is recommending changes to the organizations' articles of incorporation and bylaws. For those not familiar with these documents, the articles establish the basic terms of the organization, while the bylaws are the rules by which the organization governs itself.

The most significant proposed change pertains to membership. The existing articles of incorporation state that the Friends will have members with voting rights, as specified in the Friends' bylaws. The Board now recommends that all members shall be nonvoting members, with the exception of approving any changes in the Friends' mission.

The Board makes this recommendation for one primary reason: it is critically important that those who make decisions on behalf of the organization have the opportunity to discuss the issues and sometimes share opposing points of view. But unfortunately, it has become increasingly difficult to convene our 3,000 members, let alone bring together the required number of members to take action on behalf of the organization. Under the existing bylaws, 10 percent of the members must be present to constitute a quorum. At best, over the last ten years, the average members' attendance at our annual meetings is 75 people.

In addition, while our existing bylaws state that members may vote by proxy to help reach a quorum and make decisions during their annual meeting, our Board (and many other non-profit Boards) is concerned about our members casting proxy votes because again, it eliminates the opportunity for discussion and others' input. In fact, it eliminates the very essence of careful decision making.

The Friends' Board of Directors deliberates long and hard before making many of its decisions. Prior to a vote at a Board meeting, Board members generally receive a recommendation from staff or a Board committee, followed by a discussion and often lively debate on the pros and cons on the motion. Often, our Board does not vote "yes" and "no" on an issue, but rather may add new language or new ideas to a motion.

We value the opinion of our members, and we want to ensure your continued participation in the process. That's why we hope you will continue to contact us with your feedback and suggestions so that our organizations can continually address the threats and meet the needs of the canoe country.

But it's also why we ask you to vote to approve the Board's recommendation: to ensure that we have informed dialogue on all the issues that impact our lakes and forests in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Superior National Forest.

Stapled in this newsletter is a copy of the revised Friends' articles of incorporation and a postage-paid return postcard, asking for your approval of the revised articles. You may also review a copy on our website at www.friends.bwca.org. If you have any questions, please call (612) 332-9630. Thank you.

Dig Deep: Don't Take BWCAW for Granted

Many of you likely spent time in the Boundary Waters or Superior National Forest this summer, enjoying pristine lakes, cool, dense forests, and meandering streams and waterways. But please don't take them for granted. We need your help now more than ever.

With four more years of the current Administration, the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation needs your financial support to stop the threats that can impair forever Minnesota's wild woods and lakes. In recent months, the administration has twice put the Superior National Forest, home of the BWCAW, at risk of destructive logging and road building.

In July, the Administration proposed to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects 58.5 million acres of our national forests from logging and road building, including 62,000 acres in Superior National Forest. And in August, the Superior National Forest released its new management plan which recommends increasing the allowable timber harvest from 75 million board feet annually to 102 million board feet annually. The plan did not recommend any lands for wilderness protection, leaving some of the forest's wild areas vulnerable to logging.

When you receive your year-end appeal from the Foundation, please think about those summer days paddling Bear Track Lake or camping on Jug. And then make a gift to the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation. It's your financial support that helps us continue our work to protect forever the BWCAW.

International Paddling Adventures

Piragis Northwoods Company of Ely, Minn. is leading several international trips in the coming months. For people who book one of these trips and mention that they learned of it through the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation, Piragis will make a significant contribution to the Foundation. To learn more, call Piragis Northwoods Company at (800) 223-6565 or visit www.piragis.com.

Belize: Paddling the Reefs and the Rivers

April 7-16, 2005

The Cradle of Civilization: SW Turkey by Sea Kayak

May 15-25, 2005; Oct. 1-11, 2005

Girding for Four More Years



Some conservationists may be demoralized after President Bush's re-election and the prospect of four more years fighting his anti-environmental policies, but our work cannot stop. If anything, we must energize our efforts to fend off attempts to harm our air, land, and water.

In the face of Bush's renewed calls to drill in the Arctic, weaken clean air and water laws, and log our remaining wild lands, conservationists cannot cower or walk away in exasperation. The president's plans signal the need for stronger commitment from conservationists to press on in pursuit of cleaner air, cleaner water, and greater protection of our wild places. The next four years may be grueling, but the fight for environmental stewardship was bound to continue regardless of who occupies the White House.

Those of us who want to maintain our national heritage and leave a legacy of protected lands for future generations, must summon the will to call and write our elected officials during the imminent policy battles. We are a voice of reason and compassion, one that emphasizes the need to preserve our public lands from logging, mining, road building, and drilling so that all of us may hunt, fish, canoe, camp, and hike in such areas.

Perhaps most importantly, we must talk to friends and family members about the need to protect our wild lands. As conservationists, we are motivated and concerned people who value our national parks, national forests, and wilderness areas. Now it is our responsibility to broaden that coalition to include people who are less engaged in discussions about clean air, clean water, and wild places. We need to inform our friends and family about the policy changes that harm the environment, and ask them to spread the word to their own circle of friends. Only through such networks can we fight the bad policies targeting our public lands in the next four years.

Friends Prevails in Chain of Lakes Case

The Friends celebrated a victory in its Chain of Lakes lawsuit on Aug. 26, when Judge John Tunheim overturned the U.S. Forest Service decision to increase day use motor quotas on three BWCAW lake chains.

The judge's decision requires the Forest Service to comply with the letter and spirit of the BWCA Wilderness Act of 1978, thereby ensuring that motorboat use is limited in the wilderness. The decision applies to the Farm, Moose, and Saganaga Lake chains. The Forest Service and the intervenors appealed the decision in November, forcing the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the decision. A ruling from the higher court is not expected until 2005.

In 2002, the Forest Service announced that it had recalculated the statutory cap, which was based on average actual annual motorboat use in the BWCAW during 1976-78. The agency deemed the recalculation a necessary response to a 1999 federal appeals court decision. That decision prohibited the Forest Service from defining "chains" of lakes as a single lake for the purpose of exempting homeowners, resort owners, and guests from the permit quota system that regulates motor use in the wilderness. The recalculation, however, resulted in nearly 6,000 day-use motor permits in 2004, compared to less than 2,000 permits in previous years.

The Friends, Sierra Club, Superior Wilderness Action Network, American Lands Alliance, Minnesota Canoe Association, American Canoe Association, and Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation brought suit in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, challenging the Forest Service's authority to recalculate the statutory cap, and its methodology.

Judge Tunheim agreed that the 1999 federal appeals court decision did not authorize the Forest Service to increase motorized use by 400 percent on the three lake chains. Tunheim further concluded that even if the agency possessed the authority to recalculate the statutory cap, the figure would have been invalidated because it was calculated using an unreliable methodology.

The Friends thanks the legal team of Colette Routel, Betsy Schmiesing, Rick Duncan, and Brian O'Neill of Faegre & Benson for their pro-bono representation.

Congressional Staff Visits BWCAW

Mark Matuska (pictured below) so enjoyed his first outing to the BWCAW in August that he hopes his kids accompany him on the next trip he makes.

Matuska, district director for U.S. Rep. Mark Kennedy (R-Minn.), joined three other Congressional staff members on the Aug. 13-15 wilderness trip sponsored by the Friends. The Friends' trip is part of an ongoing effort to increase understanding of the BWCAW among mem-

bers of Congress and their staff.

Other staff members included Alan Elias with U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), Chad Lord with U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), and Jill Oesterreich with U.S. Sen. Mark Dayton (D-Minn.). Of the four, only Lord had been to the Boundary Waters prior to the trip.

During the three day experience, the staff members viewed the Hegman Lake pictographs, camped on Little Bass Lake, met

with Forest Service officials and Ely business owners, and toured Ely. The group also discussed issues facing the wilderness, including wilderness regulations, the Superior National Forest management plan, roadless area protection, and motor use.

In 2003, the Friends hosted staff members from the offices of Coleman and Dayton.



Friends Recognizes Flint's Years of Conservation Work

In honor of Dick Flint's more than 30 years of work on behalf of the Boundary Waters, the Friends presented him with the 2004 Boundary Waters Conservation Award. The presentation occurred at the Friends' annual luncheon, held Oct. 7 in Minneapolis.

Flint is a founder of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and has served on the organization's board for the last 15 years. Flint actively lobbied for passage of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Act of 1978. He debated the legislation during a televised forum with a bill opponent and accompanied the state's Congressional delegation on a visit to the area in the 1970s. He later served on the legal team that defended the law against attempts to dismantle its wilderness provisions.

The Boundary Waters Conservation Award recognizes people who have made outstanding contributions to protect, preserve, and restore the wilderness character of the BWCAW and the Quetico-Superior Ecosystem.

Following the award presentation, noted author Rick Bass gave the keynote address to an estimated crowd of 210 people. Bass discussed the need for wilderness protection, particularly in areas like the Yakk Valley near his home in Montana. Bass also signed copies of his new book *Caribou Rising*, which discusses threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Caron Gibson Joins Friends' Staff

Caron Gibson is smoothly transitioning from longtime Friends' member to Friends' staff member following her September hiring as Finance and Administration Director.



Caron is an avid outdoors person and environmental advocate who has belonged to the Friends since the 1980s. Her interest in the BWCAW began in the 1970s, when she and her family began venturing to the wilderness. Both of her children started canoeing and camping from the age of two with Caron and her husband Mark.

Caron brings to the Friends 18 years of accounting experience from both the for-profit and non-profit sector. She holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Bethel College and an associate's degree in accounting from North Hennepin Community College.

Calendar of Upcoming Events and Important Dates

DECEMBER:

- Thru** Wilderness Exhibit in Minneapolis
15 The Friends co-sponsors *Forty Years and Forever*, an exhibit celebrating the Wilderness Act's 40th anniversary, through Dec. 15 at the Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave. S in Minneapolis. For more information, call (612) 624-5893.

JANUARY:

- 4** Minnesota Legislature convenes
The 2005 session will likely include debate on off-highway vehicles and other environmental issues. See related article on page 6. For more information, visit www.house.leg.state.mn.us.

FEBRUARY:

- 23** Protect Our Water Lobby Day
Support clean water in Minnesota by meeting with state legislators in St. Paul. To arrange visits with your legislators, or for more information, contact the Minnesota Environmental Partnership at (651) 290-0154.

MARCH:

- 11-13** Canoecopia
The world's largest paddlesport expo returns to Madison, Wis., and the Friends needs volunteers to assist at its information table. To volunteer, contact Sean Wherley at (612) 332-9630 or sean@friends-bwca.org.

Friends Aids Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition

One of the Friends' priorities during the upcoming session of the Minnesota legislature will be off-highway vehicles (OHV). Since June, the Friends and a coalition of seven conservation groups have worked to devise a sensible solution for the destruction caused by reckless ATV riding on state lands in Minnesota. They are expected to unveil their plan in January.

To aid in this effort, the Friends is promoting a damage restoration account created by the State of Minnesota in 2003. Under the law, government bodies and individuals can restore county, township, or private lands damaged by off-highway vehicles like ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, and 4x4 trucks.

To be eligible for such funds, OHV damage must have occurred in non-permitted areas after August 1, 2003. In addition, governments and individuals must determine "whether the damage to property was caused by the unpermitted use of off-highway vehicles" and that the governments and individuals make "reasonable efforts to identify the violator and obtain payment from the individual, and make reasonable efforts to prevent reoccurrence."

To learn more or apply for restoration funds, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at (651) 297-1151, or visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohvdamageaccount/index.html.

Take Action

If you are a responsible ATV owner who lives in Minnesota and is concerned about the damage caused by reckless and law-breaking riders, we would like to hear from you. The Friends will compile a list of such owners to better argue to state legislators the need for greater enforcement of ATVs. To sign-up or learn more, contact Sean Wherley at (612) 332-9630 or sean@friends-bwca.org.



Campaign Engages College Students

The Friends and its Protect Minnesota's Wilderness campaign recently concluded a successful effort to generate public support of roadless area protection.

The Friends and its allies collected more than 26,000 pro-roadless rule comments from Minnesotans before the Nov. 15 deadline, easily surpassing the state goal of 6,000 comments. The comments were forwarded to the U.S. Forest Service, urging the agency to leave the original Roadless Area Conservation Rule in place.

In July, the Bush Administration proposed to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, putting nearly 60 million acres of our most wild national forests at risk of road building, logging, and mining. The proposal includes 62,000 acres in Superior National Forest.

To help boost the number of pro-roadless rule comments, the Friends hired a recent college graduate to organize and engage college students at the University of St. Thomas and Macalester College in St. Paul, and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The Friends estimates that more than 1000 students signed roadless comment cards prior to the Nov. 15 deadline.

In 2005, the Protect Minnesota's Wilderness campaign plans to broaden its visibility through the launch of a new website, www.protectmnwilderness.org. The website, designed for free by Voyageur I.T. of Minneapolis, will feature information about each of the 24 roadless units profiled in the campaign, promote campaign events, and suggest ways that organizations and individuals can get involved in campaign activities. The website is expected to "go public" by the end of the year.

White House Supports Less Wilderness for Apostles

In September, the Friends faulted the Bush Administration for not supporting greater wilderness protection of Wisconsin's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Although the National Park Service has managed 97 percent of the park as defacto wilderness since 1989, the final wilderness recommendation supported by the White House urged only 80 percent. The Apostles is located off Wisconsin's northern coast in Lake Superior.

The Friends challenged the White House for not advocating that more of the park be managed as wilderness in light of the 10,000 comments submitted during three years of public meetings supporting such a policy. The Friends specifically faulted the final recommendation for failing to protect the majority of Basswood Island which had been identified as worthy of wilderness preservation.

Basswood is covered by a dense growth forest of red oak, sugar maple, quaking aspen, white and yellow birch, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, white cedar, and red and white pine. Wildlife includes whitetailed deer, beaver and otters, and a variety of the more than 100 bird species that nest in the Apostles. While there is evidence of past logging, quarrying, and farming, Basswood remains primitive and wild and deserves the highest form of protection that any land can receive in the United States.

To designate Basswood and the Apostles as wilderness takes an act of Congress. It is expected that Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) and Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.) will consider introducing legislation to designate the park as wilderness but no bill has yet to be introduced. Until such legislation is passed, the National Park Service will manage 80 percent of the park as wilderness.

Buy New Canoe to Benefit BWCAW Educational Video

The Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation is selling a new Wenonah canoe. The Champlain, Kevlar Flex Core, 18-foot green canoe includes all-wood trim, Ash yoke with sling pads, and sliding stern seat. To view a picture of the canoe, visit www.wenonah.com and click on "Canoes, Wenonah models, Expedition/Champlain."

The canoe, with all accessories, retails for \$2,294. The Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation is selling the canoe at a 10 percent discount, for \$2,065. All proceeds will benefit the production of an updated video that is shown by the Forest Service and outfitters to all people visiting the BWCAW.

To inquire about purchasing the canoe, contact Amy Bonk at (612) 332-9630 or amy@friends-bwca.org. The canoe must be picked up at the Foundation office in Minneapolis.

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

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IF YOU PREFER TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER MASTERCARD VISA

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

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OR, LOG ONTO OUR SECURE WEBSITE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE: WWW.FRIENDS-BWCA.ORG

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness • 401 N. Third Street, Suite 290 • Minneapolis, MN 55401

Phone: 612.332.9630 • Email: info@friends-bwca.org • Website: www.friends-bwca.org

Savor a Piece of the Wilderness This Holiday Season

Why settle for an ordinary box of chocolates this holiday season when you can buy a chocolate bar benefiting the wilderness?

For a limited time, the Friends is selling 3.7 ounce chocolate bars depicting the *Protect Minnesota's Wilderness* logo. The chocolate candy bar commemorates our love for the wilderness while sating our holiday yearning for sweets. The candy bars are made in Ely, Minn., and sales benefit the Friends. The bar's actual size is pictured to the left. One bar costs \$16 (which includes shipping); two for \$28; three for \$42; and four for \$53.

To savor the wilderness with friends or family, send your check or payment to the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, 401 N. Third St., Suite 290, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Allow approximately seven days for delivery. For more information, contact Amy Bonk at (612) 332-9630 or amy@friends-bwca.org.



FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

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