FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Dear Friends,

Over this past year, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness has grown, won important victories, and become an even more effective organization, thanks to the passion and commitment of our supporters.

In the fight to protect the Boundary Waters from the threat posed by Twin Metals and PolyMet, we now have the wind at our backs. Only a year ago, it seemed as if PolyMet had a clear path to becoming operational. But through the tireless work of our legal team, partners and supporters, we have stopped PolyMet in its tracks. Four of their permits have been overturned and they cannot put a shovel in the ground. In our battle to stop Twin Metals, we will leave no stone unturned, from suing in federal court to championing state and federal legislation to stop this toxic project.

Our public outreach efforts have galvanized our supporters and made them into an effective force that can influence elected officials and opinion leaders. Thousands of our supporters have written public officials and shown up at court hearings to ensure that their voices are heard. This past year, we hired a policy director to harness the energy of our supporters so that we can change the rigged legislative and regulatory system that has been pushing PolyMet and Twin Metals forward.

We recognize that the Boundary Waters is part of the great “American Commons” of public land that belongs to each and every one of us. We also recognize that there are barriers that prevent the Boundary Waters from achieving its promise and believe that there should be “no boundaries to the Boundary Waters.” At our Annual Gathering, we raised funds to send 100 kids on BWCA trips, supporting the Thomas Flint Canoe Program, which provides scholarships to young people from diverse and low-income communities to experience wilderness canoe trips into the Boundary Waters. We have also laid the foundation for reaching thousands of students each year through a Boundary Waters educational program.

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness has never been stronger. We are ready to meet the challenges of today and take advantage of the opportunities that will enable us to create a better future for the Boundary Waters.

You are the foundation of our strength and our successes. This Annual Report is a salute to your generosity and the faith that you have placed in Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

In gratitude,

Chris Knopf
Executive Director
AUDITED STATEMENT 2019
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

FISCAL YEAR 2019  October 1, 2018–September 30, 2019

Support and revenue
Contributions and grants $ 871,752
Contributions and grants (temporarily restricted) 168,277
In-Kind Contributions (includes pro-bono legal work) 663,517
Investments and other income (loss) 74,285
Total support and revenue $ 1,777,831

Expenses
Program services: 68% $ 1,022,714
Management and general: 13% 201,357
Fundraising: 18% 275,406
Total expenses $ 1,499,477

Program services
Advocacy: 79% $ 806,145
Education: 18% 182,144
Science and conservation: 3% 34,426
Total program services $ 1,022,714

Total assets — September 30, 2019 $ 1,693,567
Total liabilities — September 30, 2019 $ 42,156

An audited statement is available upon request.

NO BOUNDARIES TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS

After months of staying at home, kids need the outdoors more than ever. Our educational program, *No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters*, helps kids of all backgrounds experience the wilderness magic of northern Minnesota.

Through classroom programming and wilderness canoe trips, students are introduced to the wonder of the Boundary Waters. In the classroom, students work together to identify animal skulls, they use their senses to discover what makes a birch tree unique, and consider ways they can connect to nature in their own communities.

On a wilderness trip, kids support each other as they step outside their comfort zone. They take in the stars, the sounds, and the sights of the BWCA as they experience nature in a new way.

These experiences inspire them to become future stewards of the wilderness. Through new partnerships with Project Success and CLUES, our impact can be even greater as underserved students receive increased opportunities to explore the outdoors.
LEAVE A LEGACY

Include the Friends in your estate plans.

If you or your advisor would like information on how to name Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness as a beneficiary of your estate or about the benefits of a planned gift to continue the legacy of protecting the wilderness, contact us at 612.332.9630 or info@friends-bwca.org.