



United States Department of Agriculture



Photo courtesy of Ann Schwallier

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS TRIP PLANNING GUIDE

Your BWCAW Adventure Starts Here...

Great glaciers carved the physical features of what is today known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) by scraping and gouging rock. The glaciers left behind rugged cliffs and crags, rocky shores, sandy beaches and thousands of lakes and streams, interspersed with islands and surrounded by forest.

The BWCAW is a unique area located in the northern third of

the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. Over 1,098,000 acres in size, it extends nearly 150 miles along the International Boundary adjacent to Voyageurs National Park and Canada's Quetico and La Verendrye Provincial Parks. The BWCAW contains over 1,200 miles of canoe routes, 12 hiking trails and over 2,000 designated campsites. This area was set aside in 1926 to preserve

its primitive character and made a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964 with subsequent legislation in 1978.

Designated wilderness offers solitude, freedom, primitive recreation, challenge, risk, and personal connection with nature. The BWCAW allows visitors to canoe, portage and camp in the spirit of those travelers that came before them centuries ago.



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Plan Your BWCAW Trip

Successful wilderness trips don't just happen. They are the result of careful planning. Please use this trip planning guide to get started.

However, we suggest that you also use guidebooks and maps found in bookstores, local libraries, online and at outdoor equipment stores. The expertise of outfitters and guides can also be used when planning a BWCAW trip (see page 24).

As you begin to plan your trip, ask yourself about the type of experience you seek. Would your needs for solitude or your quest for the elusive lake trout best be met inside the BWCAW, or would camping in areas of the Forest adjacent to the BWCAW better suit the needs of your group? The BWCAW is only one of many recreation alternatives on the Superior National Forest.

Recreation Alternatives in the Superior National Forest

Backcountry Campsites

There are 254 backcountry campsites outside the wilderness that offer remote paddling, camping and fishing. Here you can experience solitude without reservations, fees or permits and still have a fire grate and latrine. Visitors must follow the same Leave No Trace principles listed on page 5. For a list of canoe routes with backcountry campsites go to: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5302434.pdf

Forest Campgrounds

The Forest has 23 developed campgrounds open from mid-May to mid-September. Campground facilities vary from flush toilets and showers at fee campgrounds, to "rustic" campgrounds with vault toilets

and water pumps with no fees. Rustic campgrounds are available first come, first served year-round. Each campsite has a picnic table, fireplace, tent pad and parking. Reservations may be made for some fee campgrounds by calling (877) 444-6777 or at: www.recreation.gov

Resorts & Private Campgrounds

Near the Forest are a variety of private resorts and campgrounds that suit the needs of visitors looking for a trip near the wilderness rather than in it. See tourism information on page 24.

Day Trips into the BWCAW

Non-motorized day trips by canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard or hiking require a Self Issued permit available at entry point kiosks. No reservations or fees are required for non-motorized day trips. See page 3 for details.

Accept the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge

Accepting the wilderness challenge comes with great responsibility. Wilderness recreation inside the BWCAW requires careful planning, preparation and involves some risk. Wilderness travel offers great personal freedom, but also requires self-reliance and good judgement. The visitor must have knowledge of the entry points and routes; and some research may be needed to gather this information. Each step in the planning

process is necessary in order to protect the BWCAW and to provide a quality wilderness experience. Permits are always required to enter the BWCAW (see page 3).

Wilderness visitors face inherent risk of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards and lack of rapid communications. Search and rescue takes longer in the wilderness than in an urban setting. Be prepared! Prevent the need for a search and rescue operation

that may impact the integrity of the wilderness area or put lives in danger. It is your responsibility to acquire and maintain necessary skills for primitive travel by foot, canoe or other non-mechanical means.

If you lack the appropriate skills for remote backcountry travel, consider using a professional guide (see page 24).

You are responsible for your own safety and that of your group.

Before You Leave Home

Check current Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fishing, hunting and watercraft regulations before your trip including:

- Canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard and watercraft registrations
- Fishing licenses and trout stamps
- Fishing limits and possession of fish
- Hunting seasons
- Watercraft lights

For more information, contact the MN Department of Natural Resources: 888-646-6367

www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations

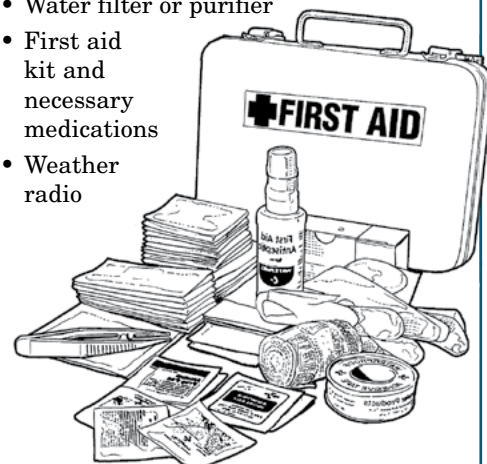
Trip Itinerary

Always leave a trip itinerary with someone before leaving home! See sample trip itinerary on page 23.

Bring survival gear to prevent becoming injured or lost:

- Map
- Compass
- Rain gear
- Signaling mirror
- Fire starter
- Water proof pouch
- Extra food
- Warm clothing
- Whistle
- Nylon cord
- Folding knife
- Emergency blanket

- Sleeping bag and tent
- Water filter or purifier
- First aid kit and necessary medications
- Weather radio



Wilderness Permits: the Basics

Permits are required year-round for all visitors to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Please use the following information to help you determine which type of permit is appropriate for your group.

Quota Permits

Quota permits are required for any group entering the BWCAW between May 1 and September 30 if they are camping overnight (whether the group is paddling, motoring or hiking) or if they are visiting during the day using a motorized boat. The quota system regulates how many groups may enter an entry point each day.*

In addition to daily quotas, motorized use is limited by a weekly motor quota. Groups may only enter the BWCAW on the entry date and through the entry point specified on the permit. Permits may only be picked up the day before or on the date specified on the permit. Permits may not be transferred to someone not listed on the permit. Reservations are recommended since there is a limited number of quota permits available for each entry point.

Quota permits are issued only at Forest Service permit issuing stations and cooperating businesses under a Cooperator Agreement.

First Come, First Served

All permits for all entry points will be released on a first come, first served basis beginning at 9:00 a.m. Central Time on the last Wednesday in January through www.recreation.gov or through the reservation center at: 877-444-6777.

Visitors will see available entry points and dates, and make a reservation instantly for the permit that best meets their needs. A \$6.00 non-refundable reservation fee is charged for each permit reserved. The entry point, entry date, group leader and alternates cannot be changed after the reservation is complete. The exit date, issuing station and group size may be changed.

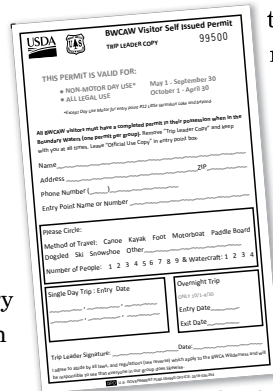
*Some exclusions apply



Photo courtesy of Robert McAdams

Non-Quota Self Issued Permits

Self Issued permits are required year-round for all non-motorized day use visitors, for any motorized day use into Little Vermilion Lake, and for all overnight visitors entering the BWCAW between October 1 and April 30. The Self Issued forms are available at any Superior National Forest Office and at entry point kiosks. No quota is applied



to this use, so no reservations are needed. Please fill out the form carefully and review the rules on the back of the permit with your entire group. Carry the top copy of the permit with you at all times and place the duplicate copy in the box

at the entry point or drop it off at the nearest Forest Service office when you return.

"It is in the wild places, where the edge of the earth meets the corners of the sky, the human spirit is fed."

— Art Wolfe

Special Use Permits

Outfitters and guides leading groups into the BWCAW must obtain a special use permit and must follow all the same rules and regulations (see page 21).

User Fees

User fees are charged for all overnight visitors to the BWCAW between May 1 and September 30. There are no user fees for day use visitors. Fees are as follows:

User Fees Per Person Per Trip

| | |
|--|---------|
| Adult | \$16.00 |
| Youth (0-17) | \$8.00 |
| Interagency Senior/ Access Card Holders | \$8.00 |
| Youth Access Card Holders | \$4.00 |

"Wilderness itself is the basis of all our civilization. I wonder if we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness the right to live on?"

— Margaret (Mardy) Murie

Overnight User Fee Deposit

When making advanced reservations, you will be charged a minimum of 2 adult overnight user fees. You will also have the option to pay for the entire group as well as changing the group size within a one day window prior to your entry date. If cancelled outside the 2-day window, the card holder will be fully refunded. If cancelled within the 2-day window, \$32.00 for 2 adults is retained and additional payments will be refunded. The Forest Service will retain the entire payment if the group is a no show. A new confirmation will be emailed each time a change is made. Adjustments to group sizes will be made at the permit issuing station as needed.

Permit Issuing Station

When reserving a permit, the default issuing station will be the Forest Service (FS) Office responsible for that entry point. You may choose a cooperating business as a permit issuing station. Businesses are often open earlier and later than FS stations. See the list of permit issuing stations on page 24 of this brochure. Hours and contact information of the



Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection

issuing station will be listed on your confirmation email. You may want to confirm dates, hours and location ahead of time. You may change your issuing station through your recreation.gov account.

Picking Up A Permit

Permits can only be picked up the day before or the day of entry. Please check with your desired permit pick-up location to confirm their office hours. Remember to bring a photo ID when you pick up your permit.

Reserved Permits

Permits may only be picked up the day before or on the date of entry from a permit issuing station by a group leader or alternate listed on the permit. Alternates cannot be added after a permit is reserved. Listing alternates

gives your group options if the group leader must miss the trip. Remember to bring a photo ID with you. The person signing the permit must be with the group the entire trip. If your group size changes, additional user

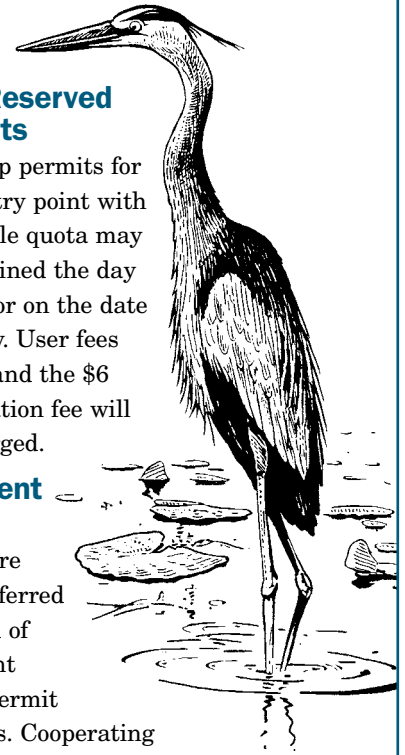
fees will be collected or a refund will be credited to the credit card used to pay for the reservation.

Non-Reserved Permits

Walk-up permits for any entry point with available quota may be obtained the day before or on the date of entry. User fees apply, and the \$6 reservation fee will be charged.

Payment

Credit cards are the preferred method of payment at all permit stations. Cooperating businesses cannot accept cash or checks for user fees. All Interagency Senior and Access Passes must be presented for validation when picking up permit or discount will not be honored. Cooperating businesses may charge up to \$2.00 to issue an overnight permit.



“To be whole. To be complete. Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.”

– Terry Tempest Williams

Permit Reservations

Contact Recreation.gov to make your BWCAW permit reservation. Permits may be reserved online or by phone.

RESERVATION LINE
877-444-6777 Toll-Free
877-833-6777 TTY Relay Service
606-515-6777 International

WEBSITE RESERVATIONS
www.recreation.gov

RECREATION.gov
BRING HOME A STORY

Leave No Trace Principles

The Leave No Trace Principles of outdoor ethics form the framework of the BWCAW Rules and Regulations:



The BWCAW is legendary in its richness and complexity. It exerts an ageless draw upon people who seek adventure, refreshment and the exhilaration of outdoor recreation. But, as these wildlands host more and more visitors, our collective mark on the environment has become apparent — and more damaging. Water pollution,

litter and disturbance to vegetation and soil, wildlife and other recreating visitors are indicators of the need to protect these wild and serene waters and forests, and their inhabitants.

There are far more of us pushing our outdoor activities to greater extremes and into the remotest parts of the natural world everyday. Our mere presence in

wildlands has an influence. Destruction can be prevented if visitors are better informed about low impact techniques. To insure the continued existence of the places and wildlife that inspire us, we must educate ourselves and adopt the skills and ethics that enable us to Leave No Trace. For more information on becoming LNT savvy, visit: www.lnt.org

Plan Ahead & Prepare

- Know area rules and regulations.
- Prepare for extreme weather.
- Use a map and compass.
- Reduce litter from the source — repackage food into reusable plastic bags or containers and remove excess packaging. Unwrap snack foods at home and bag them in bulk.



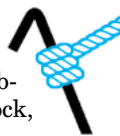
Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking.
- When fires are permitted, use an established fire grate and keep fires small.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, and make sure the fire is completely out.
- Even after forest fires, you may see an ample supply of burned wood near your site. Collect firewood away from campsites to prevent enlarging and defacing the area and depriving the soil of nutrients. Take only what you need.

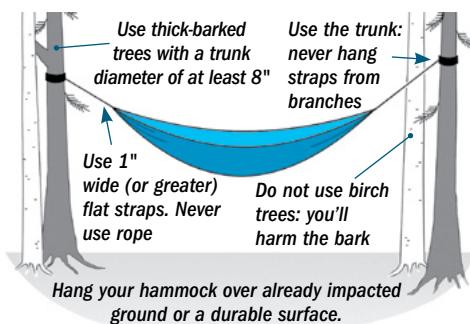


Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Keep campsites small — stay in area where vegetation is absent and don't enlarge the campsites.
- Walk in single file in the middle of the trail even when the trail is muddy.



Using a Hammock?



- Select thick-barked trees that have a trunk diameter of at least 8 inches.
- Do not use birch trees for hammocks. It harms the bark.
- Hang from flat straps which are 1" or greater in width or manufactured for hammock use. Never use rope even if it came with the hammock.
- Only use the trunk of the tree, do not hang straps from branches. Never remove branches from a live or dead standing tree!
- Protect vegetation by hanging your hammock in a place that has already been impacted or has a durable surface such as bedrock below.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit human or dog waste in the latrines.
- Wash yourself and dishes with biodegradable soap at least 200 feet from streams or lakes.
- Burning trash in firegrates pollutes and is illegal.
- Personal waste items such as cigarettes, cotton swabs, grease, wipes, paper towels, bandages, diapers, condoms, plastic baggies and female

products (tampons and pads), should always be packed out.

Leave What You Find

- Do not take cultural or historical artifacts or structures.
- Do not introduce or transport non-native plants, live bait or animals.
- Do not take rocks, plants and other natural objects such as antlers.

Disposing of Propane Cylinders

- Contact your local liquid propane (LP) supplier for information on refilling and recycling empty LP cylinders.
- To prevent waste, consider a stove that uses refillable liquid fuel canisters.



Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Take breaks away from trails, portages and other visitors.
- Do not take campsites for day use.
- Let nature's sounds prevail — avoid loud voices and noises.

Preserve the Night Sky

- The BWCAW has an exceptional quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment worth protecting for visitors and wildlife.
- Help protect the outstanding night sky by only using the light you need while camping.
- Learn more about the International Dark Sky Association and how you can protect the night sky at home: www.darksky.org

Respect Wildlife

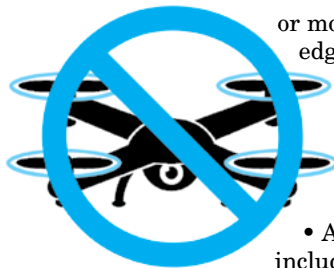
- Do not follow or approach wildlife.
- Never feed animals. It can damage their health and alters wild behaviors.
- Protect wildlife. Store rations properly.
- Use lead-free tackle.

BWCA Wilderness Rules & Regulations

The following are enforceable Forest Service regulations (maximum penalty of \$5,000 and/or 6 months in jail).

Drone Free Zone

- Drone operation is prohibited in the BWCA Wilderness.
- Violations punishable under federal law Executive Order 10092 and 36 CFR 261.18(a).



or more back from the water's edge. When finished, fill hole and cover with needles and leaves.

- Bathe and wash dishes at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

- All soaps pollute water including soaps labeled "biodegradable." Always remember the visitors that come after you and the water they will drink.

Travel Permits

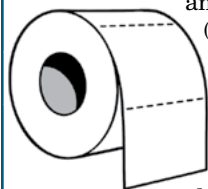
- You must enter the BWCAW at the entry point and on the entry date shown on your permit.
- You may not re-enter on a different date using the same permit.
- Permit stubs become invalid when the group leader exits the wilderness.
- The person signing for and picking up the permit can only be responsible for one group during the specified time on the permit.

Group Size

- Nine (9) people and four (4) watercraft are the maximum allowed together in the wilderness.
- You may not exceed the limit as a group at any time or anywhere (on water, portages, campsites) in the BWCAW.
- Smaller groups enhance your wilderness experience and chances of seeing wildlife, and decrease resource impacts.

Toilet Facilities & Water Quality

- Use wilderness latrines at designated campsites.
- Wilderness latrines are not garbage cans and should be used for the intended purpose only. Personal waste items such as cigarettes, cotton swabs, grease, wipes, paper towels, bandages, diapers, condoms, plastic baggies and female products (tampons, pads and applicators), should always be packed out and never go into the latrines. Personal waste in latrines prevents decomposition of bodily waste making latrines ineffective and can contaminate surrounding water. Remember all trash must be packed out.
- If you're not near a latrine, dig a small hole 6–8 inches deep at least 200 feet*



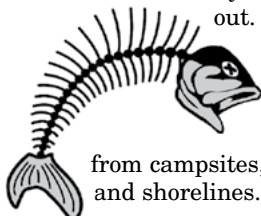
Containers

- Possessing any cans or glass bottles is illegal, except containers of fuel, insect repellent, or medicines.
- Carry food and drinks in plastic containers designed and intended for repeat use.



Food, Fish Remains & Live Bait

- Try to plan your meals so you don't have leftovers. If you do, pack them out.
- Dispose of fish remains by traveling at least 200 feet* away from campsites, trails, portages and shorelines.
- When preparing for your trip, reduce litter at the source by minimizing packaging.

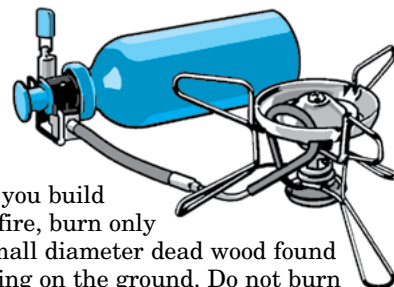


- State law prohibits dumping unused bait into the waters. Dumping bait on the ground is considered littering. Therefore, unwanted live bait should be packed out with you and placed in the trash, disposal bins or compost bins.

Campfires

- Due to potential fire danger, fire restrictions may be put into effect. Check on current conditions just prior to your trip. You may be required to use a camp stove if there is a campfire restriction.
- Bringing a small camp stove is a good idea because it heats food more quickly, has less impact than a fire, and comes in handy during rainy weather.

- Fires are allowed within the steel fire grates at designated campsites or as specifically approved on your visitor's permit.



- If you build a fire, burn only small diameter dead wood found lying on the ground. Do not burn trash.
- Collect firewood away from campsites by paddling down the shore and walking into the woods where it is more abundant.
- Wood easily broken by hand or cut with a small folding saw eliminates the need for an axe.
- Transporting wood from out of state is prohibited due to the spread of tree diseases and pests.
- Drown your fire with water any time you are going to be away from your camp or at bedtime. Stir the ashes until they are cold to the touch.



Drown!

Stir!

Feel!

Campsites

- All members of a permit group must camp together.
- During ice free season, camp only at Forest Service designated campsites that have steel fire grates and wilderness latrines. For winter camping, see page 10.
- Make camp early in the day to ensure finding an available campsite.
- It is illegal to cut live vegetation for any reason.
- You may camp up to fourteen (14) consecutive days on a specific site.

**200 feet is approximately 70 big steps for adults and 120 for kids!*

“In my opinion, camping can be the greatest expression of free will, personal independence, innate ability, and resourcefulness possible today in our industrialized, urbanized existence.”

— Anne LaBastille

Storing Watercraft

- Only watercraft and equipment used in connection with your current visit may be stored and left unattended.
- All equipment and personal property must be carried out with you at the end of each trip.



Cultural Heritage

- Leave archaeological, historical and rock painting sites undisturbed.
- The use of metal detectors is prohibited.

Firearms & Fireworks

- Discharging a firearm is prohibited within 150-yards of a campsite or occupied area, or in any manner or location that places people or property at risk of injury.
- Firearm and game laws apply in the BWCAW.
- Fireworks of any kind are illegal.

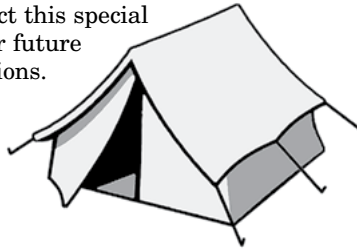


Pets

- Dogs impact wildlife and barking intrudes on the experience of others. Dogs must be under human control at all times.
- Dispose of dog waste 200 feet* from water sources, campsites and portages, or deposit it in a latrine.

Leave No Trace of your Visit

- After you break camp and load your watercraft, do a final inspection of your camp. Pick up any remaining litter.
- Your fire must be cold to the touch.
- Please treat the BWCAW with care. Leave no trace of your visit to protect this special place for future generations.



Hiking

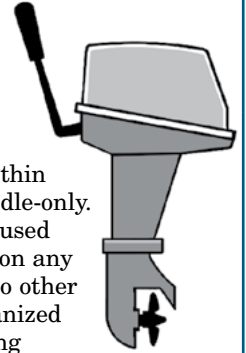
- Trail users are encouraged to minimize impact by limiting use to one night on non-developed sites.
- You must camp more than 200 feet from a developed site or another group.
- You must camp at least 200 feet from any trail, portage, lake or other water source.
- Most importantly, be sure to use common sense and follow the safety guidelines recommended on page 8. Wilderness permits are required year round for hiking in the BWCAW.



**200 feet is approximately 70 big steps for adults and 120 for kids!*

Motor-powered Watercraft Regulations

- Motor-powered watercraft are permitted only on the following designated lakes. All other lakes or portions of lakes within the BWCAW are paddle-only. Motors may not be used or be in possession on any paddle-only lake. No other motorized or mechanized equipment (including pontoon boats, paddle boats, sailboats and sailboards) is allowed.



Portage Wheels

Mechanical assistance is only permitted over the following: Four-Mile Portage, Fall-Newton-Pipestone and Back Bay Portages into Basswood Lake, Prairie Portage and Vermilion-Trout Lake Portage.

Lakes with 10 Horsepower (HP) Limit

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

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

Lakes with 25 HP Limit

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

- 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 HP Limits

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



**Leave
No
Trace™**

Leave No Trace Video

Watch and share the BWCAW Leave No Trace User Education Video series with your group before you depart! Parts 1 & 2 include important trip planning information and should be viewed ahead of time. Part 3 will be shown when you pick up your permit. After viewing the videos, you will understand how to make a difference in the long-term health of the BWCAW by engaging in responsible recreation practices. This is an essential education tool in protecting the fragile wilderness ecosystem and providing a quality recreation experience for current and future generations. The BWCAW Leave No Trace User Education Video series may be accessed online at: youtube.com/watch?v=nen7IRqEjm8

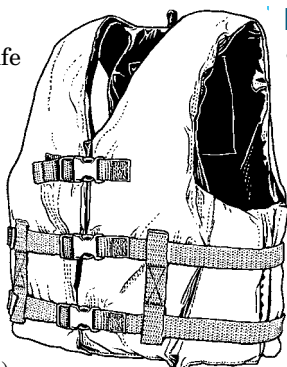
For information about reserving The BWCA Wilderness Education Kit, contact any Forest Service Office found on page 24 of this publication.

Smart & Safe Wilderness Travel

Wilderness travel offers great personal freedom, but requires self-reliance and good judgment. Use common sense and follow these safety tips for a safe BWCAW experience.

Life Jackets

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Minnesota state law requires all watercraft, including canoes, to have one wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) on board and readily accessible for each person in the watercraft.



Mandatory Child Life Jacket Law

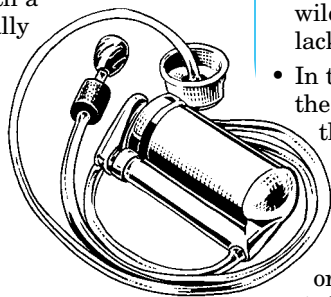
- Minnesota law requires a life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years old when aboard any watercraft while underway. For more on Minnesota state law, see: www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html

Rapids

- Running rapids in the BWCAW is not safe! *Always* use provided portages.
- Powerful currents can trap swimmers under water or sweep them towards dangerous waterfalls.
- Fast moving water can push swimmers and boats into rocks and logs.
- Even with life jackets on, rapids are dangerous.

Water Quality

- *Giardia lamblia* is a parasite that can cause an internal illness that will need medical attention.
- All drinking water should be treated by one of the following methods:
 1. Bring water to a full boil for 1 minute — then let stand until cool enough to drink.
 2. Purify with a filter specifically designed to remove *Giardia lamblia*.
 3. Treat water with a chemical specifically designed to kill *Giardia lamblia*.



Fish

- Chemicals such as mercury, PCBs and dioxin have been found in some fish from certain waters.
- Eat more pan fish and fewer predator fish, and trim the skin and fat to reduce your risk.
- Check with the Minnesota Department of Public Health for current information on limits of fish consumption at 651-201-4911.

Hypothermia

- A low body temperature can be serious, even fatal.
- Early warning signs are uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, bluish tinge to lips, lack of coordination and poor concentration.
- To prevent hypothermia, layer clothing and get adequate food and water.
- To treat hypothermia, seek shelter from the wind, replace any wet clothing and share body heat if necessary.
- Give warm fluids if the person is conscious and have them rest until thoroughly warmed.

First Aid & Emergencies

- Each permitted group should carry a well stocked first aid kit and have group members that know how to provide first aid.
- Note the location of the lake, campsite, trail or portage on a map to help emergency people locate any seriously injured group members.
- Document the extent of the injury and a basic physical description of the injured person.
- Send all of this information with visitors able to exit the BWCAW for help.
- Do not rely on a cell phone. Having a cell phone cannot substitute for knowing how to handle an emergency in wilderness. Many areas of the BWCAW lack cell phone coverage.
- In the event of serious injury or illness, the standard SOS call is a series of three signals of any kind, either audible or visible.
 - For summoning help from an aircraft in an emergency, signal them by paddling in small circles or waving a brightly colored cloth tied to the canoe paddle.

Travel

- There are no directional signs in wilderness.
- A compass and accurate map are essential.
- Bring reliable maps. Maps can be purchased at some Forest Service offices, area businesses and outfitters, or directly from the map companies — see page 13 for details.
- If you get lost, don't panic. Sit down, relax and think. Chances are that you will figure out your location in a few minutes.
- If you plan to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) for navigating, be sure you also bring a map and compass as a back up in case your GPS unit fails.



Weather

- Canoe close to shore. It lessens the chance of being endangered by sudden changes of weather. If a storm threatens, get off the water.
- Dress in layers and be prepared for every kind of weather situation.
- If in a lightning storm on the water, get to shore. If on land among trees of similar height, put yourself an equal distance between two trees. Avoid the tallest trees.
- Avoid being a bridge between an object and the ground. For example, do not lean against tent poles or trees.
- Avoid potential paths of conduction such as wet, lichen-covered rocks, cracks and crevices (wet or dry) and areas subject to the “spark gap” such as overhangs, wet ropes and tree roots.
- If your skin tingles, or your hair stands on end, stand on a life jacket or sleeping bag, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet.
- Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.
- When camping, hiking or paddling in high winds, be mindful of safety concerns including worsening weather, high waves, possible blowdown, etc.

Dehydration

- The body becomes dehydrated when more fluids are lost than replaced.
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Signs of dehydration include headache, cold and flu symptoms, and infrequent urination.

Bear Awareness

- Keep a clean campsite. Never eat or store food in your tent.
- Take all precautions to



discourage bears from visiting your site, including hanging your food pack or using a bear-resistant container, as well as garbage and anything that has a strong or sweet odor (soap, toothpaste, etc.).

- Some bears overcome their fear of humans and approach campsites looking for food. This includes island sites since bears are good swimmers.
- If you do encounter a bear, most will be scared off if you make noise (shout, bang pots or throw fist-sized rocks at the bear, etc.).
- A very persistent bear may be discouraged by spraying pepper spray into its eyes.

Ticks Can Spread Disease, Including Lyme Disease.

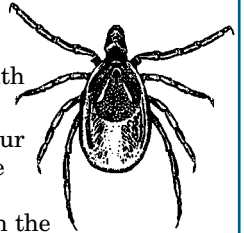
Most tick bites do not result in disease, but it is a good idea to recognize and watch for the early symptoms of some of the more commonly encountered tick-transmitted diseases.

Where can I be infected?

Ticks are found in wooded or brushy areas, on the edge of hiking or animal trails, or on the edge of a field where it meets a wooded or brushy area. They are in the BWCAW.

Protect yourself:

- Use insect repellent that contains 20 - 30% DEET. Natural oils such as geranium, lavender, lemongrass, citronella, eucalyptus and cedar wood can repel ticks as well.
- Wear clothing that has been treated with permethrin.
- Look for ticks on your body. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair and in the groin.
- See a doctor if you develop a fever, rash, severe fatigue, facial paralysis or joint pain. For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/Lyme or: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/ticks.html



"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars."

— Walt Whitman

Travel to Quetico Provincial Park

Entry Into Canada

If your trip to the BWCAW will include entry into Canada, you should contact the Canada Border Services Agency at least 6-8 weeks in advance of your trip to obtain a Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) permit. For information visit the Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) website: www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca or call: 613-944-4000.

Permits are required for overnight and day use entry. Please check with: www.ontarioparks.com for a permit.

Fishing In Canada

If you plan on fishing in Canada, including the Canadian side of the border lakes, you must have a Canadian fishing license. Non-resident fishing licenses are



available through the mail by calling the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-800-667-1940. For more information visit: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing

Entry Into The U.S. From Canada

All U.S. citizens are required to present a passport book, passport card or WHTI-compliant document when entering the United States. See CPV.gov for identification document examples.

Children under age 16 will be able to continue crossing land and sea borders using only a U.S. birth certificate (or other form of U.S. citizenship such as a naturalization certificate). The original birth certificate or a copy may be used. For more information, visit: www.dhs.gov/crossing-us-borders

If you enter the United States from Canada on your BWCAW trip, you must report to a Customs Border Protection (CBP) officer for inspection at the Grand Portage port of entry or designated inspection locations in Grand Marais, Crane Lake and Ely every time you enter the U.S. from Canada by boat. For more information call 218-283-2541.

Quetico Provincial Park:

807-597-2735 Park Headquarters • 888-668-7275 Reservation Line • www.quetico100.com • www.ontarioparks.com

Camping and Fire

Did you know that 50% of wildfires in the BWCAW are caused by escaped campfires? To help reduce wildfire risk in the BWCAW, choose a camp stove instead of a campfire. If a campfire is allowed, build it in the fire grate and keep it small. Like a candle in your home, never leave a fire unattended at any time. Keep all flammable materials away from your campfire.

Always make sure your campfire is dead out before leaving your campsite, even for a short time. Drown your fire with water, extinguishing all embers, leaving it cold to the touch.

Watch For Hazards

Keep a heads up! Weakened trees (even when green) can still pose a hazard during high winds. Avoid camping around or under damaged or leaning trees. Root wads above ground may also be unstable and dangerous.

Know About Campfire Restrictions

Restrictions are implemented during high fire danger to decrease the threat of unwanted wildfires. Fire restrictions are put in place for your safety and the safety of firefighters. Always check for potential restrictions just prior to your trip. Camp stoves may be required if restrictions are implemented. For current fire restriction information contact any Superior National Forest Office (see page 24), or check our website for Fire Alerts: www.fs.usda.gov/superior

Your Permit Reservation

If an entry point is closed and alternates are not available, reservation and user fees will be refunded. If the entry point is not closed and you choose not to use your reservation because there is a fire, you will not be refunded the reservation fee and user fees may be retained if inside the cancellation window.

If You See Or Smell Smoke, Don't Panic

Do pay attention! Steps may be taken to reduce your risk.



Courtesy of Tom Kaffine

If you encounter a wildfire as you travel in the BWCAW, follow these steps:

1. Watch The Weather

Wind — Most fires travel with the prevailing wind in our area. Have a safe route to follow if wind direction changes. Keep in mind that strong winds can carry fire embers causing spot fires ahead of the original fire.

Evening Humidity — Consider that humidity typically increases in the early morning and late evening. Fire activity may decrease with higher humidity.

Tall Smoke Plumes — If you see or experience a large smoke plume close to you, take precaution; seek a point of refuge such as a lake, and be prepared for resulting high wind and waves.

2. Make A New Plan

Look at alternate travel routes staying close to larger bodies of water. If it is safe, consider traveling out of the fire area. If you must travel through burned areas, watch for burned snags and hot stump holes which could be hazardous.

3. Find A Safe Place

If you feel threatened find a large lake. Keep away from the fire's path. If the fire is upon you, don't panic. Put on your life jacket and take your canoe into the water. Paddle to the middle of the lake,

tip your canoe and go under it. You can breathe the cool trapped air under your canoe until the fire passes.

Fire Management

A guiding management objective for the wilderness is to allow natural processes, including wildfire, to play their ecological role to the greatest extent possible while minimizing potential risks to human life and private property. Historically, big forest fires used to be commonplace in this area. In fact, they're part of a natural process that revitalizes the ecosystem in this fire-dependent landscape.

Please check our website at: www.fs.usda.gov/superior for Fire Alerts.



Winter Wilderness Travel

The BWCAW in the winter is a truly unique experience, whether traveling by dogsled, skijoring, skiing or snowshoeing. During this time of year, visitors have a very different kind of experience than those that visit during the summer season. You are less likely to run into other visitors and can experience a sense of solitude and self-reliance in a way that few other places allow. Winter wilderness travel requires a high degree of preparation, planning, skill and wisdom.

Winter temperatures in the BWCAW average 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit, with overnight lows from zero to 7 below zero. During severe cold spells, daily highs can remain below zero, with low temperatures falling into the 20 to 30 below zero range. Wind chill exacerbates the cold and blowing snow can make travel difficult. Average snowfall is 50-65 inches, with 70-90 inches along Lake Superior. Snow depths in late February to early March may be 15-25 inches with some higher terrain receiving over three feet. Winter conditions make self-reliance, good judgment and knowledge of your limits critical. Whether you are dog sledding, skiing or snowshoeing, it is important to plan well and prevent hypothermia and frostbite:

- Be prepared for extreme cold, windy or wet conditions. Dress in layers to remain comfortable by adding or removing clothing depending on conditions and your energy level. Change into dry clothing as needed.
- Drink plenty of water and eat often. Avoid alcoholic beverages. Alcohol causes the body to lose heat more rapidly, even though one may feel warmer after drinking.
- Avoid open water and thin ice. Never walk on ice less than four inches thick.
- Hypothermia is a dangerous lowering of the body temperature. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech and drowsiness. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, tip of the nose and ear lobes. If symptoms of either condition are detected, get medical care immediately!

Travel Permits

Permits are required year-round for all visitors to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For day or overnight travel from October 1–April 30, it's easy! Fill out a Self Issued permit at any Superior National Forest office or at any entry point kiosk. Carry one copy with you during the trip and drop the other copy in the permit box at the entry point.

Wilderness rules and regulations (see pages 6-7) apply year-round. Even though the BWCAW wears a beautiful white protective coat in the winter we still need to take care to Leave No Trace.



Courtesy of Steve Cochran

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

— Rachel Carson

Choose a Campsite

- Bury human waste in snow 200 feet from water, campsite, summer trails and portages (pack out toilet paper and all personal waste items).
- When lakes are open, camp at designated sites using firegrates and latrines.
- When lakes are frozen, camp on ice, in a sheltered bay or in a natural forest opening. Locate camp at least 200 feet from trails or summer campsites and out of sight of other groups.
- Make just one trail connecting the shoreline to camp.
- Bury human waste in snow 200 feet from water, campsites, summer trails and portages (pack out toilet paper and all personal waste items).

Campfires

It is preferable to make a campfire on the ice to minimize fire scars on rocks and shorelines. Use base logs or a portable fire pan for your campfire on the ice. Use a campstove or fire pan for a campfire on land to avoid leaving fire scars on vegetation or rocks.

- Collect only dead and down wood far from shorelines, trails or campsites.
- Make sure your fire is out cold to the touch when you leave.
- Scatter ashes in the woods away from the shoreline and cover the campfire scar with snow.

Live Vegetation

Do not cut green vegetation for tent poles, bedding for humans or dogs, or to create new dogsled trails.

Reduce Dog Impacts

- Keep dogs under control at all times.
- To avoid damaging or “girdling” trees with rope when staking out dogs, use webbing straps around trees and attach dog picket line to webbing.
- Tether teams out on the ice with ice screws to avoid damaging shoreline vegetation.
- Never bring hay or straw for bedding because they introduce non-native plants.
- Scatter dog waste in the woods at least 200 feet from the water's edge. Keep the entry points clean for others by picking up dog waste before and after hitting the trail.

Entry Points



The map and charts on these pages are intended to provide a general idea of where Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness entry points and Forest Service permit issuing stations are located on the Superior National Forest, as well as some basic information about each entry point. When planning your trip we highly recommend that you replace



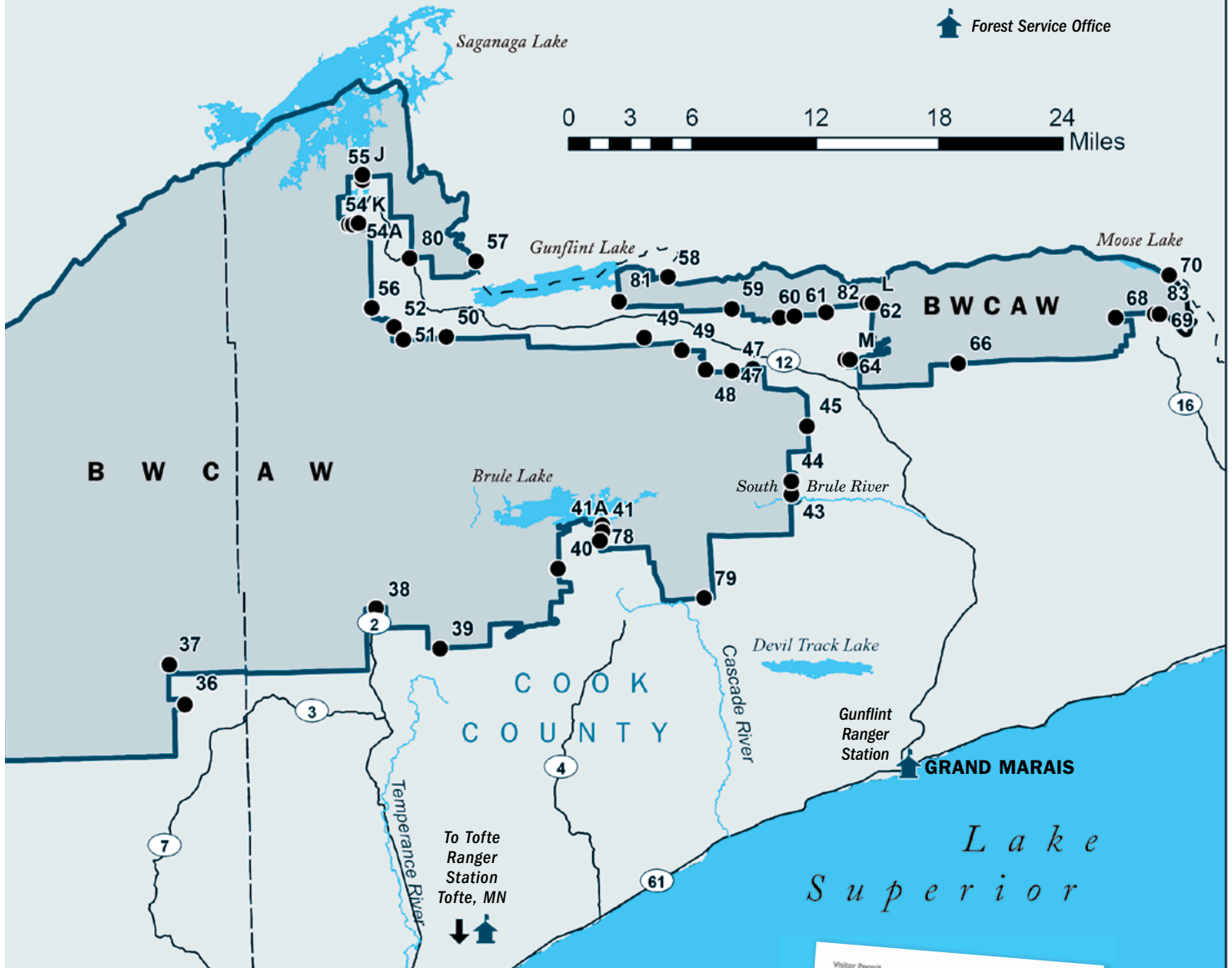
this information with maps, guidebooks and the advice of your outfitter and/or guide, if you decide to use one.

Maps and guidebooks are available from BWCAW permit issuing stations and cooperators (a *cooperator* is a business that has an agreement with the Forest Service to issue BWCAW permits at their location). A list of these permit issuing stations

and cooperators is provided on page 24. These businesses may also assist you in locating guides and outfitters in the area you plan to visit.

A compass and accurate map are essential for backcountry travel. BWCAW maps show the location of designated campsites and portage trails, and are available from the map companies listed on the following page:

This map not for navigation.



McKenzie Maps, Inc.
800-749-2113
www.bwcamaps.com

W.A. Fisher Maps
218-741-9544
www.fishermaps.com

Voyageur Maps, Inc.
www.voyageurmaps.com

Trails Illustrated Maps
800-962-1643
www.trailsillustrated.com

Travel Permits

- All group members must enter the BWCAW at the entry point and on the entry date shown on the permit.
- Permit becomes invalid when the group leader exits the wilderness.
- The person signing for and picking up the permit can only be responsible for one group.



Entry Point information continued on pages 14-15

| ENTRY POINT NUMBER | ENTRY POINT NAME | RESPONSIBLE RANGER DISTRICT & TOWN | OTHER REMARKS |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 4 | Crab Lake & Cummings Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access from Burntside Lake with a 360-rod portage to Crab Lake. |
| 6 | Slim Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 90-rod portage to Slim Lake Portages to three additional lakes. |
| 7 | From Big Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access La Pond Lake with a 160-rod portage from outside the BWCAW on Big Lake. |
| 8 | Moose River South | La Croix/Cook | Access is a canoe landing heading South from the Echo Trail. Three portages to enter Big Moose Lake. |
| 9 | Little Indian Sioux River South | La Croix/Cook | Heading South from the Echo Trail. Difficult route. Four portages to Bootleg Lake. |
| 14 | Little Indian Sioux River North | La Croix/Cook | Access is a 40-rod portage heading North from the Echo Trail. |
| 16 | Moose/Portage River | La Croix/Cook | (North of Echo Trail) Access is a 160-rod portage heading North from the Echo Trail. |
| 19 | Stuart River | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 480-rod portage to the Stuart River. |
| 20 | Anglem Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 640-rod portage to Anglem Lake. |
| 22 | Mudro Lake—Restricted | Kawishiwi/Ely | Three accesses into Mudro Lake involve portages ranging from 20–185 rods. Restriction is no camping on Horse Lake. |
| 23 | Mudro Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access into Mudro Lake involves portages ranging from 20–185 rods. |
| 26 | Wood Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access to Wood Lake is a 180-rod portage. |
| 28 | Snowbank Lake Only * | Kawishiwi/Ely | Must camp all nights on Snowbank Lake. Paddle day trips to other lakes are permitted. Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Snowbank Lake. |
| 29 | North Kawishiwi River | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access the North Kawishiwi River through Ojibway Lake and Triangle Lake using two portages. |
| 30 | Lake One | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a canoe landing at Lake One. |
| 30F | Lake One - Restricted | Kawishiwi/Ely | Entry point shares the same physical location but no camping on the Kawishiwi River |
| 32 | South Kawishiwi River | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 140-rod portage to the river. |
| 33 | Little Gabbro Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 200-rod portage from the parking lot to Little Gabbro Lake. |
| 34 | Island River | Tofte/Tofte | Two small portages leading to Isabella River. |
| 35 | Isabella Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a 70-rod portage to Isabella Lake. |
| 36 | Hog Creek | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a 15-rod portage to Hog Creek leading into Perent Lake. |
| 37 | Kawishiwi Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Kawishiwi Lake. |
| 38 | Sawbill Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Sawbill Lake. |
| 39 | Baker Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Baker Lake with a 10-rod portage into Peterson Lake to reach first campsite. |
| 40 | Homer Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Homer Lake. Part of Homer Lake is outside of the BWCAW (motors allowed) |
| 41 | Brule Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Brule Lake. Large lake with several campsites. |
| 41A | Brule Lake Only | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Brule Lake. Large lake with several campsites. Must camp all nights on Brule Lake. Use only after Entry Point 41 is full. Day trips to other lakes permitted. |
| 43 | Bower Trout lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a 72-rod portage from small parking area into Bower Trout. |
| 44 | Ram Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a 97-rod portage from the parking area. |
| 45 | Morgan Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a 320-rod portage to Morgan Lake. No campsites on Morgan Lake—short portages to further lakes for campsites. |
| 47 | Lizz & Swamp Lakes | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access from Poplar Lake by 51-rod portage to Lizz Lake and 100-rod portage into Swamp Lake. |
| 48 | Meeds Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access from Poplar Lake into Meeds Lake with a 220-rod portage. |
| 49 | Skipper & Portage Lakes | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a 320-rod portage from Poplar Lake or a 230-rod portage from Iron Lake. |
| 50 | Cross Bay Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is thru the Cross River with two portages to Ham Lake and a 24-rod portage to Cross Bay Lake. |
| 51 | Missing Link Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a canoe landing at Round Lake with a 142-rod portage to Missing Link Lake. |
| 52 | Brant Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a canoe landing at Round Lake with two 85-rod portages to Brant Lake. |
| 54A | Seagull Lake Only * | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is a boat landing at Seagull Lake. Large lake with several campsites. Must camp all nights on Seagull Lake. Use only after Entry Point 54 is full. Day trips to other lakes permitted. |
| 55A | Saganaga Lake Only * | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Must camp all nights on Saganaga Lake. Use only after Entry Point 55 is full. Day trips to other lakes permitted. Large lake with many campsites and easy access. |
| 57 | Magnetic Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access Magnetic Lake and Granite River from Gunflint Lake. |
| 58 | South Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is from Gunflint Lake with a 10-mile paddle and two short portages to South Lake. |
| 60 | Duncan Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is from W. Bearskin Lake with a 70-rod portage to Duncan Lake and an 80-rod portage to Rose Lake. |
| 61 | Daniels Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access is from W. Bearskin Lake with a 60-rod portage to Daniels Lake and 665-rod portage to Rose Lake. |
| 66 | Crocodile River | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Can access Crocodile Lake from Crocodile River or East Bearskin. Must spend all nights on Crocodile Lake. |
| 67 | Bog Lake | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a 232-rod portage into Bog Lake. Four campsites. Bog Lake does not provide access to other lakes. |
| 68 | Pine Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access through McFarland Lake by a 2-rod portage. |
| 69 | John Lake | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access from Little John Lake with a 10-rod portage to John Lake. |
| 70 | North Fowl Lake * | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access from Little John Lake with an 88-rod and a 160-rod portage to get to North Fowl Lake. Border lake between U.S. & Canada. |
| 71 | From Canada | Kawishiwi/Ely/ La Croix/Cook Gunflint/Grand Marais | Use only when trip originates in Canada, then passes into the BWCAW. |
| 75 | Little Isabella River | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a 20-rod portage to Little Isabella River. Several short portages lead to the Isabella River. |
| 77 | South Hegman Lake | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a 80-rod portage to South Hegman Lake. |
| 80 | Larch Creek | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Access from the canoe landing at Larch Creek. |
| 84 | Snake River | Tofte/Tofte | Access is a 198-rod portage to Snake River & several short portages before reaching Bald Eagle Lake. |

To check availability for entry points, please visit www.recreation.gov

METHOD OF ENTRY

OVERNIGHT PADDLE or MOTOR

| ENTRY POINT NUMBER | ENTRY POINT NAME | MOTOR HORSEPOWER LIMIT | RESPONSIBLE RANGER DISTRICT & TOWN | OTHER REMARKS |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Trout Lake | 25 HP | La Croix/Cook | Access from Vermilion Lake via a 60-rod canoe portage or 180-rod portage that allows the use of portage wheels. |
| 12 | Little Vermilion Lake | Unlimited | La Croix/Cook | Enter from Crane Lake. Note: not the entry point to use for Trout Lake (#1). On U.S. side motors allowed only up to edge of Snow Bay on Lac La Croix. |
| 12A | Lac La Croix | Unlimited (except where paddle only) | La Croix/Cook | Enter from Crane Lake. You must camp all nights on Lac La Croix. Day trips to other lakes permitted. Use this entry point only after Entry Point 12 Little Vermilion Lake is full. Very difficult to reach Lac La Croix by paddle in one day. |
| 24 | Fall Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. Several trip options to Newton, Basswood, & Mud Lakes with additional portages. |
| 25 | Moose Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is an boat landing or canoe launch at Moose Lake. Many trip options for paddlers with additional portages. |
| 27 | Snowbank Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Snowbank Lake. Many trip options for paddlers. |
| 31 | Farm Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a boat landing on Farm Lake with access to South Farm Lake. Paddlers access North Kawishiwi River from Farm Lake. Some trip options available for paddlers with additional portages. |
| 54 | Seagull Lake | 10 HP (except where paddle only) | Gunflint/Grand Marais | No motors (use or possession) west of Three Mile Island. Large lake with several campsites. Landing at Seagull Lake. |
| 55 | Saganaga Lake | 25 HP (except where paddle only) | Gunflint/Grand Marais | No motors (use or possession) west of American Point. Access to Canada (the Crown land and Quetico Park). Large lake with many campsites and easy access. |
| 62 | Clearwater Lake | 10 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only. |
| 64 | East Bearskin Lake | 25 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder & Canoe. |

Overnight Paddle and Overnight Motor permits share the preceding entry points, so motors may be encountered along portions of the route.

DAY USE MOTOR

| | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| A | Trout Lake | 25 HP | La Croix/Cook | Access from Lake Vermilion via a 180-rod portage suitable for portage wheels. Commercial portage service available. |
| C | Fall Lake Only | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Valid only on Fall Lake not Newton or Basswood. Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. |
| D | Fall Lake, Newton, Pipestone & Beyond | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. Valid on Fall, Newton & Basswood. |
| F | Moose Lake to Newfound & Sucker Lakes | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Valid only on Moose, Newfound and Sucker Lakes. Travel not permitted beyond Sucker Lake |
| G | Moose Lake to Prairie Portage to Basswood | 25 HP (except paddle only areas) | Kawishiwi/Ely | Commercial portage service available. Valid on Moose, Newfound, Sucker and Basswood Lakes. |
| H | Snowbank Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Motors allowed on Snowbank Lake only. |
| I | South Farm Lake | 25 HP | Kawishiwi/Ely | Motors allowed on South Farm Lake only. |
| J | Saganaga Lake | 25 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | No motors (use or possession) west of American Point. Access to Canada. |
| K | Seagull Lake | 10 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | No motors (use or possession) allowed west of Three Mile Island. |
| L | Clearwater Lake | 10 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only. |
| M | East Bearskin Lake | 25 HP | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder or Canoe Lakes. |

Overnight Paddle and Overnight Motor permits share the preceding entry points, so motors may be encountered along portions of the route.

OVERNIGHT HIKING

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 10 | Norway Trail | | La Croix/Cook | 8 mile trail or 2 mile option. No loops. |
| 11 | Blandin Trail | | La Croix/Cook | Winter route to Lamb Lake. 2.4 miles. |
| 13 | Herriman Lake Trail | | La Croix/Cook | 15 miles of trail accesses 4 lakes. Loop options. |
| 15 | Sioux-Huster Trail | | La Croix/Cook | 30 mile round trip with loop. Primitive trail not well maintained. |
| 21 | Anglemorm Trail | | Kawishiwi/Ely | Trail loops around Anglemorm Lake. 12 miles. If paddling, use entry point #20. |
| 56 | Kekekabic Trail—East | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | 46 mile trail that continues to the west side trail head. Rolling terrain through several lakes. Minimal use. |
| 59 | Partridge Lake/S. Lake Trail | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | 4 miles. If paddling use Entry Point #60. |
| 74 | Kekekabic Trail W./Snowbank | | Kawishiwi/Ely | Loop option includes 27 miles of the Snowbank trail, plus the 46 mile Kekekabic Trail that continues to the east side trail head. |
| 76 | Big Moose Lake Trail | | La Croix/Cook | No loop options. 2 miles to Big Moose Lake. If paddling use Entry Point #8. |
| 78 | Brule Lake Trail | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | Trailhead is on Forest Road 326, 1/3 mile south of the Brule Lake parking lot on the east side of the road. Parking at Brule Lake lot. Total trail distance is 7 miles. |
| 79 | Eagle Mountain Trail | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | The trail is 3.5 miles to the top (one way). Provides access to Brule Lake Trail. |
| 81 | Border Route Trail—West | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | 53 miles. Shorter options available. |
| 82 | Border Route Trail—Center | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | 53 miles. Shorter options available. |
| 83 | Border Route Trail—East | | Gunflint/Grand Marais | 53 miles. Shorter options available. |
| 86 | Pow Wow Trail | | Tofte/Tofte | 30 mile loop trail. |

BWCAW Past and Present

What is Wilderness?

On September 3, 1964 The Wilderness Act was signed into law. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was also designated with the passing of this Act. The Wilderness Act provided a legal definition of wilderness, created the National Wilderness Preservation System, established a process to be used for designating wilderness areas, and set provisions for the use of wilderness areas. The intent of the Wilderness Act was to establish wilderness areas “for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.” Legal wilderness, “in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape,” is “recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Four federal agencies manage designated Wilderness in the United States: National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection



Photo taken by Arthur Carhart, 1921. Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection

Why Wilderness?

When we talk about wilderness it is important to differentiate when we are talking about wilderness based on our personal definition, wilderness as defined by non-federal land managers, and federally designated wilderness. There are

now 765 federally designated wilderness areas nationwide with a total of 109,129,657 acres.

These areas provide multiple benefits including:

- Protects watersheds and plays an important role in oxygen production, CO₂ absorption, soil building, biomass decomposition, insect regulation, and filtering air pollution.
- Is a natural lab in which we can study natural processes. Society can benefit from this scientific research as it enlarges our understanding of the world and our roles in it.
- Holds educational and training value for schools and universities. It is an important classroom for learning primitive outdoor skills such as orienteering, survival, mountaineering, stock packing and paddling.
- Has aesthetic value appreciated through intimate contact with the environment where people can experience sights, sounds and feelings they are unable to experience in developed and less natural settings.
- Holds, for some, philosophical and religious value. To them wilderness is a place with

natural cathedrals where people can celebrate the creative forces behind life.

- Has an intrinsic value hypothesizing that plants, animals, inanimate objects and the ecosystems that they inhabit, have rights of their own to exist.
- Provides a window into the past to study, understand and learn from historic and prehistoric uses and cultures of the area.



Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection



Courtesy Tammy Cefalu

The BWCAW Act

There has always been, and there will likely always be, controversy over the management of the BWCAW. Everyone agrees that the BWCAW is a unique natural resource and they love it. The controversy arises because they love it for different reasons.

What is the BWCAW?

The Boundary Waters was recognized for recreational opportunities in 1926, named the Superior Roadless Area in 1938, the BWCA in 1958, and federally designated under The Wilderness Act in 1964. It wasn't until October 21, 1978, The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act was established to provide specific guidance for managing the million plus acres of the Superior National Forest. The BWCAW Act was signed into law by former President Jimmy Carter with the purpose:

- to establish the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Mining Protection Area,
- for the protection and management of the fish and wildlife of the wilderness so as to enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the unique biotic resources of the region,

- protect and enhance the natural values and environmental quality of the lakes, streams, shorelines and associated forest areas of the wilderness,
- maintain high water quality in such areas,
- minimize to the maximum extent possible, the environmental impacts associated with mineral development affecting such areas,
- prevent further road and commercial development and restore natural conditions to existing temporary roads in the wilderness, and
- provide for the orderly and equitable transition from motorized recreational uses to nonmotorized recreational use on those lakes, streams and portages in the wilderness where such mechanized uses are to be phased out under the provisions of this Act.

The bwcaw is and has been popular throughout time because of its unique characteristics:

- Approximately 1,175 lakes varying in size from 10 acres to 10,000 acres and several hundred miles of streams comprise about 190,000 acres (20%) of the bwcaw surface area.
- The bwcaw is the largest and only federal wilderness of substantial size



The BWCAW Act was signed October 21, 1978 by President Jimmy Carter.

east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the Everglades at over a million acres. The bwcaw contains the largest contiguous area of forest in the eastern United States

- The international boundary between the bwcaw and Quetico Provincial Park is a beautiful historical travel and trade route retraced by visitors every year.
- The bwcaw is one of the most heavily used wilderness in the country with more than 150,000 visitors annually.
- The BWCAW is a Class I air quality area as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act. It is the only wilderness in the country that has an airspace reservation that prohibits flights below 4,000 feet.



Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection

“There is magic in the feel of a paddle and the movement of a canoe, a magic compounded of distance, adventure, solitude, and peace. The way of a canoe is the way of the wilderness and of a freedom almost forgotten.”

– Sigurd Olson

Protecting Your Natural Resources

Fisheries

The Superior National Forest has 695 square miles of surface water and more than 2,250 linear miles of streams that offer a wide range of fishing opportunities in all seasons.

Coldwater game species include lake trout, walleye, brook trout, pike and smallmouth bass. Some lakes and streams within the Superior National Forest have special regulations, so always check the Minnesota DNR fishing regulations when you plan your trip.

The Forest works in collaboration with several agencies to accomplish management objectives and discusses employing the minimum tool necessary to administer the area as wilderness. This effort maintains healthy aquatic resources on the Superior National Forest.

Stocking

Limited stocking occurs in BWCAW lakes and they are stocked primarily with brook trout, lake trout and walleye. Lake trout and brook trout populations can be very susceptible to overfishing. They may require regular stocking to maintain a fishable population.

What You Can Do

Care for the fish, their aquatic habitat and their terrestrial neighbors. Regulations are meant to ensure sustainable fish populations and healthy lakes and rivers.

- Practice catch and release, even when you are within the allowable catch.
- Handle fish gently, quickly and in the water.
- To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, obey AIS laws (see page 20) and use artificial bait.
- Keep fish horizontal for pictures.
- If you plan to keep a fish, kill it right away and be prepared to keep the



gutted fish on ice.

- Choose lead-free tackle to prevent adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems and ultimately humans.
- Leaving fish remains along shore can alter natural behaviors, expose animals to predators, cause

stress, and even cause unnatural fluctuations in numbers, as with increased gulls in some areas. Scatter remains back in the woods at least 200 feet away from the shore or camping areas.

Large Groups

If you are planning a trip for a non-profit organization, there is a limit of no more than 3 permits in a season to be reserved using the non-profit organization name as the group leader. Please contact any Superior National Forest office for more information, or visit www.recreation.gov under general rules for the BWCAW.

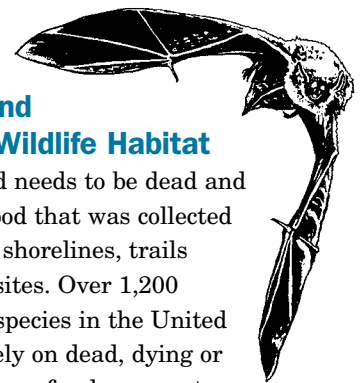
Keep these tips in mind when planning for large groups to reduce environmental and social impacts:

- If your group is more than nine people, regardless of the age, you may not enter the BWCAW. Consider other options, such as camping at a primitive or developed campground and boating on lakes outside the designated wilderness area (see page 2).
- If your group of more than the maximum size wishes to break into smaller groups to enter the BWCAW, each smaller group must have its own permit.
- Each group must travel and camp separately. This means each should have its own food, first aid kit and essential gear. To make it easier for the groups to travel separately, reserve different entry points and plan separate routes.
- Each group should have an adult who will be responsible for the leadership and safety of the group.
- And if you do know other visitors in the area, don't purposely congregate in a group larger than 9 while traveling, visiting a destination area or camping.

- Portages and waterways can become very congested. Wait for another group to cross the portage before you begin, portage your gear efficiently and find another place for your break. Keep your distance from other groups on the waterways.
- Begin looking for campsites early in the day and share tents since many wilderness sites only have one or two good tent pads.
- Encourage your group members to use campsite areas that have already been hardened rather than trampling vegetation and causing erosion.

Noise

Being considerate of other wilderness visitors is one of the 7 Leave No Trace Principles. A courteous group can do wonders to minimize the impact of noise. Sound carries a long distance over water, mostly in the evening when people are listening more than moving. Try to avoid banging pots and pans, dragging canoes over rocks, shooting guns, singing loudly and screaming, especially in the morning and evening. If your group is rambunctious, consider staying in a more isolated area such as a lake with only one campsite. When you keep noise down, your group and others will have a better chance of experiencing wildlife and a sense of solitude.

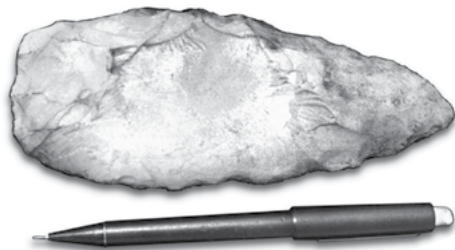


Bats and Other Wildlife Habitat

Firewood needs to be dead and down wood that was collected far from shorelines, trails or campsites. Over 1,200 wildlife species in the United States rely on dead, dying or hollow trees for dens, roosts and feeding sites. Even fish benefit from trees that have fallen into streams and lakes. Trees that demonstrate disease or have defects or other features are most often those that provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

One species of high importance is the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). This bat species was recently listed as Federally Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This designation is a result of the devastation that this bat has experienced from a fungal disease called White nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS affects hibernating bats by causing them to wake up more frequently. This increase in activity depletes the bats' energy stores needed to survive winter, causing them to eventually die from starvation, dehydration and exposure. Researchers estimate that over 5.5 million bats have died as a result of being infected with wns. To find out more about WNS, please visit www.whitenosesyndrome.org

Heritage Resources



View of a prehistoric siltstone biface identified within the BWCAW. Bifaces are considered 'preforms' that have been flint knapped on both sides, are easily transported, and can be eventually worked down into spear points

Leave No Trace wilderness principles apply not only to the natural environment but also to archaeological resources. Over 1,200 archaeological sites have been identified within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. These sites include Native American rock art, stone tools and pottery sherds, glass beads and fur-trade artifacts, and mining and logging camps. These sites provide us with a fascinating window into the history of human use of the Boundary Waters over the past 10,000 years. However archaeological materials are a non-renewable resource and must be protected. Once an artifact is removed from its context within a site we lose much of the valuable information it can provide us about who was using the site, when, and for what.

Respect cultural resources as you would natural resources. If you come

across an archaeological site do not remove or disturb artifacts. Excavating, defacing or removing an archaeological resource from federal lands without a permit is a crime punishable by fines or imprisonment. Write down a description of what you found, including the location, and report it to Forest Service personnel. Photos, sketches, maps or GPS information are all useful information to include when describing archaeological finds.

Non-Native & Invasive Species

Non-native invasive species (NNIS) are plants, animals, insects or other organisms whose introduction to an area cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Other names for NNIS include exotic species, noxious weeds, pests, etc. Invasive species can occur on land or in the water. Some examples in Minnesota include purple loosestrife, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, Eurasian water milfoil, earthworms, spiny water flea, rusty crayfish and orange hawkweed. If you see these species on the Forest report their known locations if possible.

Because invasive species do not respect property lines, we are working with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens like you to increase awareness of this resource management issue and take action to stop the spread of NNIS in our area. For more information about invasive species in Minnesota, go to the MN Department of Natural Resources website at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html

Prevention:

- Clean your gear/boat before entering and leaving the wilderness or recreation site.
- Remove mud and seeds from clothes, pets, boots, gear and vehicles.
- Burn only local or certified firewood.
- Do not pick wildflowers and transport them from one location to another.

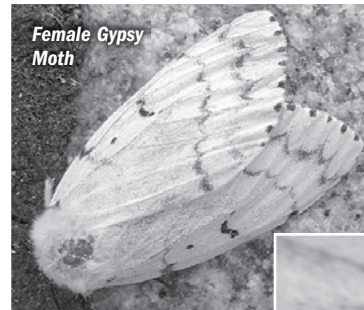
The Gypsy Moth Threat

The non-native gypsy moth is a threat to the forests of the BWCAW and the rest of northeast Minnesota. Gypsy moth caterpillars consume the foliage of several types of trees and can destroy millions of acres of forest each year.

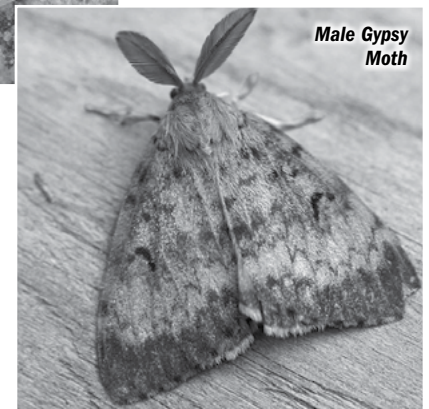
During late summer, the female moth lays fuzzy, tan-colored egg masses about the size of a quarter. Each mass contains

500-1,000 eggs which hatch the following the spring when the weather is right.

Egg masses can be found on living and inanimate objects,



Female Gypsy Moth




Male Gypsy Moth

including trees, logs, firewood, campers, canoes, vehicles and lawn chairs. People may unintentionally help spread the gypsy moth by moving these objects with egg masses attached. This is how the moth got its name.

The Superior National Forest has worked with other agencies for several years to slow the spread of the gypsy moth in our area through various treatments. Quarantines are currently in effect in Cook and Lake counties.

What you can do:

- Carefully inspect your vehicles, equipment, firewood, etc. for egg masses.
- Do not transport egg masses. Remove and destroy them.
- Follow any restrictions, including quarantines and inspections.
- Visit the Superior National Forest and MN Department of Agriculture web sites at: www.fs.usda.gov/superior or www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth

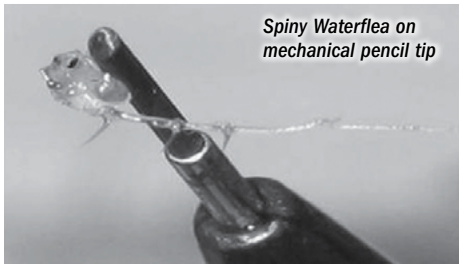
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Stop Aquatic Invaders



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

The introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), such as spiny water flea and rusty crayfish, to new water bodies negatively impact native organisms in some lakes and rivers. To prevent the spread of AIS, visitors should inspect their equipment, remove mud and aquatic vegetation, and lay their equipment out to dry when possible. In accordance with Minnesota law, bait containers and other water containing devices must be drained before leaving a water body (this excludes devices such as water bottles).



Spiny Waterflea on mechanical pencil tip

Contact the DNR if you find spiny waterflea in a BWCAW lake

Q. How do I prepare my boat or canoe for the water?

A. Inspect your watercraft, motor and trailer for aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited species from your boat or canoe and remove any that you find. State law prohibits placing your watercraft, trailer or equipment with aquatic plants, zebra mussels or invasive species into the water. For a list of prohibited invasive species and invasive species laws, visit: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html

Q. What should I do when leaving a lake or river?

A. Inspect your watercraft and

equipment and remove any aquatic plants or animals. Remove drain plugs, open water draining valves, and drain portable bait containers before leaving the water access.

Q. How long do I leave the drain plug open?

A. Keep the drain plug out and water draining devices open the entire time that a boat is being transported.

Q. How do I dispose of unwanted bait?

A. State law prohibits dumping unused bait into waters of the state. Dumping bait on the ground is considered littering. Therefore, unwanted live bait should always be packed out with your trash.

Q. What do I do with bait containers?

A. The law requires all water to be drained from portable bait containers before leaving the water access, including from bait containers that have not been placed in lake or river water.

Q. How can I comply with draining portable bait containers when portaging from one lake to another?

A. If you are portaging a canoe or other watercraft, you will need to drain the water from the bait container on land where it won't drain into any water body



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and refill the bait container with water from the new water body.

Q. After draining water from bait containers can I keep unused bait?

A. Anglers can keep unused bait after draining their bait containers. You can replace the water in portable bait containers with bottled water before transporting the bait home. Some angling related businesses have developed products to help transfer bait from a bait container in the boat to a container in a motor vehicle without the water.

Q. How do I find out about invasive species laws?

A. Contact the Minnesota DNR (888-646-6367) for updates on AIS regulations.

The following are Prohibited:

- Moving fish from lake to lake by releasing fish off of stringers (Many common species, such as walleye and smallmouth bass are themselves not native to large areas of the BWCAW)
- Using live minnows on designated stream trout lakes, including those in the BWCAW
- Disposing of earthworms in the Forest. A person must not dispose of bait in waters

of the state. (84 D.10, subd. 4.). Pack out all unused bait.

Unlike much of the U.S., the Arrowhead Region and the Superior National Forest are fortunate because many of the species that are a problem in the upper Midwest are not well established here yet. However, terrestrial and aquatic NNIS can

quickly spread once introduced into the environment. NNIS can spread via air, water and on watercraft, equipment, firewood and even the mud on your boots. Some NNIS seem harmless, like earthworms, but can alter an entire forest floor changing the vegetation.

Special Uses

Filming & Photography Permits

A special use permit is required for all commercial filming activities and commercial activities which capture still images on film or in a digital format on National Forest Lands. Commercial filming is defined as the use of motion picture, videotaping, sound recording, other moving image or audio recording equipment (including cell phones) that involves the advertisement of a product or service, the creation of a product for sale or the use of actors, models, sets or props.

Commercial Filming in Designated Wilderness

Proposed commercial activities in designated wilderness areas, such as the BWCAW, are reviewed for compliance



No commercial filming with your cellphone!

with existing regulations and Acts (Wilderness Act of 1964 and The BWCAW Act of 1978). Filming outside designated wilderness must always be considered first. The Forest Service will authorize commercial filming or photography activities within designated wilderness areas only when certain conditions are met, and there is still no guarantee of a permit.

Personal Use

If you are shooting still photographs or 'home movies' for personal use that do not involve advertisement of a product or service, or the creation of a product for sale, then a special use permit is not required.

Outfitter/Guide Permits

All individuals, organizations and non-profits conducting outfitting or guiding activities on National Forest Lands or adjacent waters must inquire if such activity is classified as "commercial." Commercial guides, church or youth groups, ski instructors, bus tours and canoe groups are all examples of commercial activities that require an Outfitter/Guide Permit.

Information?

For more information on special use permits and application forms, please visit: www.fs.usda.gov/main/superior/passes-permits/event-commercial

Research and Monitoring

During the summer, you may notice people working on various lakes in the BWCAW. They may be other land management agencies, universities

or research stations. The information gathered is used to develop long term resource management strategies. Use of motorized equipment or transportation

in the non-motorized areas of the BWCAW will be limited to what is absolutely necessary to manage the area as wilderness.

Air Quality

Measuring Air Pollution

Monitoring air and precipitation helps us measure air pollution. Along with monitoring the health of the Forest, we can determine when air quality is a problem and identify actions to reduce its harmful effects.

Poor Visibility Or Regional Haze

Unfortunately, the beauty of our wilderness can be diminished by haze. Haze can reduce the distance you see and even change the apparent colors and textures of the landscape. Recognizing the importance of visual air quality, Congress passed legislation to fix this problem through research and emission reductions from pollution sources. Natural haze caused by fog can decrease visibility, but the addition of air pollution makes visibility worse. Our air monitoring shows that air emissions from

human activities reduce visibility on an average day to about 60%.

Acidity Of Rain And Snow

The Superior National Forest is home to one of over 200 sites spanning the continental U.S., Alaska, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands sampling rain and snow weekly to check its chemistry. Precipitation that falls here has higher than natural levels of acidity, but is not thought to be dangerous to the Forest at this time. In addition to being the main cause of poor visibility, sulfates and nitrates are also the two main sources of acid rain. Sulfate pollution is primarily due to coal combustion while nitrate pollution is from all fuel burning activities, especially automobiles. Sulfate pollution is decreasing due to state and federal air pollution control regulations while nitrate pollution is increasing.

What You Can Do

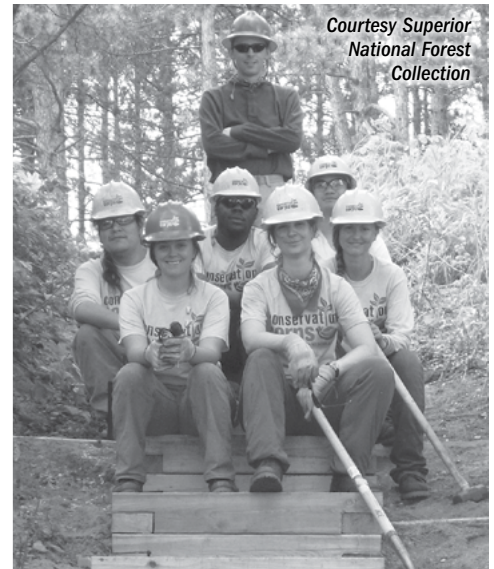
- **Pack Out Your Trash:** State law does not permit open burning of oils, rubber, papers/package, plastics, chemically treated materials or other materials that produce noxious smoke. Burning waste — in a campsite or in your back yard — can cause severe health problems and pollute air, soils and water due to carcinogens like dioxin.
- **Conserve Electricity and Fuels:** Most air pollutants come from transportation and the generation of electricity. Saving gas and reducing electrical use, will improve air quality and the health of your National Forest.
- **Learn About Air Pollution:** Even if you live hundreds of miles away, your actions can affect the air quality here on the Superior National Forest. Air masses travel long distances over a number of days, picking up air pollution from industrial and populated areas, and carrying it to the Forest. Learn more at www.fs.fed.us/air/wilderness_monitoring.htm

Volunteering

We Need You to Help Carry the Load

An increasing number of people recreate on Forest Service managed lands every year, yet congressionally appropriated funding does not keep pace with resource management needs. To retain the enduring value and ‘wilderness character’ of the BWCAW, we need volunteers to help carry the load. The Forest Service partners with several organizations to address the backlog of deferred maintenance work and underfunded projects within or near the Superior National Forest in NE Minnesota. These organizations

offer a variety of volunteer opportunities including single day trail stewardship events, multi-day wilderness projects, visitor use monitoring in the BWCAW and service projects tailored to fit the needs of your organization or group. By getting involved with stewardship activities, either through participating in a volunteer project or making a donation, you can help ensure that public lands are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. For more information, please contact: (218) 626-4314.



Your User Fees at Work

Meeting the increasing needs of visitors; delivering quality recreation, heritage and wilderness opportunities; and protecting our natural and cultural resources can be challenging. Your overnight permit fees go directly back to the BWCAW to maintain and improve natural resources, recreation facilities and services including:

- When visitors pick up their wilderness permits, a short video is shown to review BWCAW rules and regulations. The BWCAW visitor education videos are part of the wilderness experience.
- Visitor contact by Wilderness Rangers in the BWCAW is also an important part of wilderness education and law enforcement.
- Campsite improvements such as transplanting native vegetation



to encourage campsite recovery, improving tent pads, naturalizing illegal sites, cleaning and repairing fire grates, latrine replacement, hazard tree removal, non-native species removal and erosion repair and prevention.

- Winter dog sled program as a means of transporting equipment and/or supplies needed to complete maintenance work on campsites, portages and trails as well as for public user education and law enforcement contacts. This helps prevent the need for using motorized transport.
- Portage and hiking trail improvements such as clearing brush and fallen trees, installing water barriers to prevent erosion, and repairing trail tread and structures.



Spanning the international border between northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario lies an international treasure: the largest expanse of public green space in the heart of North

America. This 5.5 million acre landscape comprises working forest, rugged scenery, clean watersheds, abundant wildlife and outstanding biodiversity. Encompassed by this ecosystem at the “heart of the continent,” are several separately managed natural areas including Quetico Provincial Park, Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, La Verendrye Provincial Park, additional Ontario provincial parks as well as

Minnesota state forest lands and parks.

The Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP) is the Canadian/American coalition working together on cross-border projects that promote the economic, cultural and natural health of the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border. To learn more about the partnership’s conservation goals, please visit www.heartofthecontinent.org/



Sample Trip Itinerary

Always leave a Trip Itinerary with someone before departing.

Remember, wilderness travel requires self-reliance and good judgement.
Never take unnecessary risks that jeopardize the safety of your group!

Permit # _____

Trip Leader's Name _____

Entry Point _____ Exit Point _____

Entry Date _____ Exit Date _____

Number of People _____ Number of Watercraft _____

Name of Outfitter _____ (if applicable)

Vehicle(s) Driven (Color, Make, Model) _____

License Number(s) _____

Potential Route (lakes/rivers you plan to travel) _____

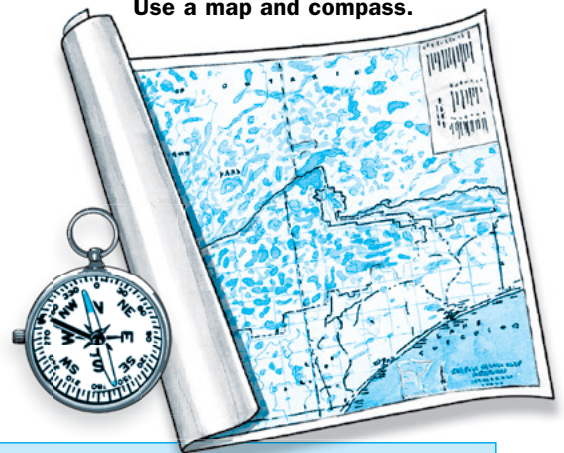
Select nearest Forest Service Ranger Station:

- Kawishiwi Ranger Station, Ely (218) 365-7600
- Gunflint Ranger Station, Grand Marais (218) 387-1750
- Tofte Ranger Station, Tofte (218) 663-8060
- LaCroix Ranger Station, Cook (218) 666-0020
- Laurentian Ranger Station, Aurora (218) 229-8800

Select the county where you will enter/exit the BWCAW: (see entry point map on pages 12 and 13)

- St Louis County Cook County Lake County

Use a map and compass.



In Case of Emergency

In case of emergency or if search and rescue assistance is needed, call 9-1-1 or the nearest county sheriff's office.

St. Louis County Sheriff
Ely/Cook Area
(218) 726-2340

Cook County Sheriff
Grand Marais/Tofte Area
(218) 387-3030

Lake County Sheriff
Isabella Area
(218) 834-8385

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCURATELY ESTIMATING YOUR RETURN TIME AND DATE.

The Forest Service does not automatically initiate searches if a group doesn't exit as planned. Be sure to factor in variables that can delay your return such as wind, waves, fatigue, inclement weather, etc. to prevent unnecessary search and rescues. Remember to check in with family or friends as soon as you exit the wilderness.

BWCAW Permit Issuing Stations/Cooperators*

Aurora Area

Forest Service Office – Aurora

Cook/Orr Area

Forest Service Office – Cook
Anderson Canoe Outfitters
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry
Zup's Fishing Resort & Canoe Outfitters

Duluth Area

Forest Supervisor's Office – Duluth
Frost River
Duluth Pack Store

Ely Area

Forest Service Office – Ely
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge
Boundary Waters Guide Service
Camp Voyageur, Inc.
Canadian Border Outfitters
Canadian Waters, Inc.
Canoe Country Outfitters
Cliff Wold's Outfitting Co.
Custom Cabin Rental
Duane's Outfitters
Echo Trail Outfitters

Ely Outdoors Co.
Girl Scouts of MN & WI - Lakes & Pines
Jordan's Canoe Outfitters
Kawishiwi Lodge & Outfitters
LaTourell's Resort & Outfitters
Moose Track Adventures
North Country Canoe Outfitters
Northern Tier High Adventure B.S.A.
Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins
Piragis Northwoods Company
River Point Resort and Outfitting Co.
Snowbank Lodge and Outfitters
Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters
Timber Trail Lodge & Outfitters
Voyageur North Outfitters
Voyageur Outward Bound School
Williams and Hall Wilderness Guides & Outfitters
YMCA Camp Widjiwagan

Grand Marais/Gunflint Area

Forest Service Office – Grand Marais
Adventurous Christians
Bearskin Lodge
Bear Track Outfitting Co.

Boundary Country Trekking
Clearwater Canoe Outfitters
Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters
Gunflint Pines Resort
Hungry Jack Outfitters
Nor'Wester Lodge & Canoe Outfitters
Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters
Seagull Canoe Outfitters
Seagull Creek Fishing Camp
Stone Harbor Wilderness Supply
Tuscarora Lodge & Canoe Outfitters
Voyageur Canoe Outfitters
Way of the Wilderness
Wilderness Canoe Base
YMCA Camp Menogyn

Tofte/Isabella Area

Forest Service Office – Tofte
Maple Grove Bait Shop & Motel
Sawbill Canoe Outfitters
Sawtooth Outfitters

*A cooperator is a business that has an agreement with the Forest Service to issue BWCAW permits at their location.

For More Information

Forest Service Offices

Forest Supervisors Office, Duluth
(218) 626-4300
www.fs.usda.gov/superior

Kawishiwi Ranger Station, Ely
(218) 365-7600
(218) 365-7561 (5/1–9/30)

Gunflint Ranger Station, Grand Marais
(218) 387-1750

Tofte Ranger Station, Tofte
(218) 663-8060

LaCroix Ranger Station, Cook
(218) 666-0020

Laurentian Ranger Station, Aurora
(218) 229-8800

Tourism Information

Crane Lake Tourism Bureau
(800) 362-7405
www.visitcranelake.com

Ely Chamber of Commerce
(800) 777-7281
www.ely.org

Explore Minnesota
(888) 847-4866
www.exploreminnesota.com

Iron Range Tourism Bureau
(800) 777-8497
www.ironrange.org

Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Association
(800) 648-5897
www.lakevermillionresorts.com

Visit Cook County
(888) 922-5000
www.visitcookcounty.com

BWCAW Reservation Center

(877) 444-6777
www.recreation.gov

National Park Service

Grand Portage National Monument
(218) 475-0123
www.nps.gov/grpo/index.htm

Voyageurs National Park
(218) 283-6600
www.nps.gov/voya/index.htm

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

License Bureau
(800) 285-2000

General Information
(888) 646-6367
www.dnr.state.mn.us

TTY Relay Service

(800) 627-3529



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