



BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS TRIP PLANNING GUIDE



A paddle dipping into the water ...

The splash of a beaver tail ...

The echoing call of a loon ...

A northern sun setting on a glassy lake ...

Tall pines whispering in the wind ...

Photo courtesy of JIM BRANDENBURG

Ah, Wilderness. We often think of wilderness as a place for people, as areas to renew and refresh the soul. However, wilderness also protects watersheds, serves as critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife, improves air quality, and maintains biological diversity. The United States Congress established the Wilderness Act in 1964 to “secure for the American People of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of Wilderness.” While we may each have our own definition, Congress defines Wilderness as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by people; where people visit, but do not remain.

Over one million acres in size, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) contains hundreds of lakes and rivers, has 1200 miles of canoe routes and is home to abundant plants and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. With over 200,000 people visiting per year, it is one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in the country.

There is a delicate balance here. As you plan your trip to the BWCAW, remember that the steps you take today to preserve this area will benefit not only you, but also future generations. Please enjoy and take good care of this precious resource.

“For me and for thousands with similar inclinations, the most important passion of life is the overpowering desire to escape periodically from the clutches of a mechanistic civilization. To us, the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas is absolutely essential to happiness.”

—Bob Marshall



USDA — Forest Service
Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808

Plan Your BWCAW Trip and Accept the Wilderness Challenge.



Remember, 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 that can be found in bookstores, local libraries, and outdoor equipment stores. The expertise of outfitters and guides can also be used when planning a BWCAW trip.

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 BWCA Wilderness portion of the Superior National Forest, or would camping in areas of the Forest adjacent to the

BWCAW better suit the type of trip you want?

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is only one of many recreation alternatives on the Superior National Forest. This area allows a visitor to enjoy the wilderness and all that it has to offer. **Wilderness recreation requires careful planning and preparation and involves some risk. Wilderness travel offers great personal freedom, but also requires self-reliance and good judgement.** Permits are required. The visitor must have knowledge of the entry points and routes; some research may be needed to gather this information. These steps are necessary in order to protect the BWCAW and to provide a quality wilderness experience.

How To Use This Guide

If you decide that the BWCA Wilderness experience is for you, prepare to accept the wilderness challenge and use this guide to get started.

On *Page 3* you will find **THE BASICS** on how to obtain wilderness permits, reserve permits, and pick up permits. Here you will also find information about use and reservation fees. Additional information for **WINTER WILDERNESS TRAVEL** and **TRIP PLANNING FOR LARGE GROUPS** can be found on *Pages 13 and 14*.

You determine the quality of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and on *Page 4 and Page 5* you can learn more about why it is important to use **LEAVE NO TRACE** practices, obey **RULES AND REGULATIONS**, and bring a strong **WILDLAND ETHIC** with you on your trip. If you plan to use a motor boat, be sure to read the information about Motor-Powered Watercraft Restrictions in the BWCAW.

Risk is inherent in wilderness travel. On *Page 6 and Page 7* learn more about **SAFETY** and things you can do to prepare ahead of time and actions you can take during your trip to protect yourself and others. Also learn about **BEARS AND FOOD STORAGE** requirements. Information on **HIKING IN THE BWCAW** can also be found here.

A **MAP OF BWCAW ENTRY POINTS** and a **TABLE OF BWCAW ENTRY POINTS** can be found on *Page 8 and Page 9*. The information presented here will help you to narrow down the entry points you are interested in using for your trip based on your mode of travel (canoe, hike, motor boat) as well as other attributes/limitations that may impact where you ultimately decide to go.

MAPS, GUIDEBOOKS, OUTFITTERS and **GUIDES** can all be used to assist you in planning your wilderness trip. On *Page 8 and Page 15* you can find contact information for these resources.

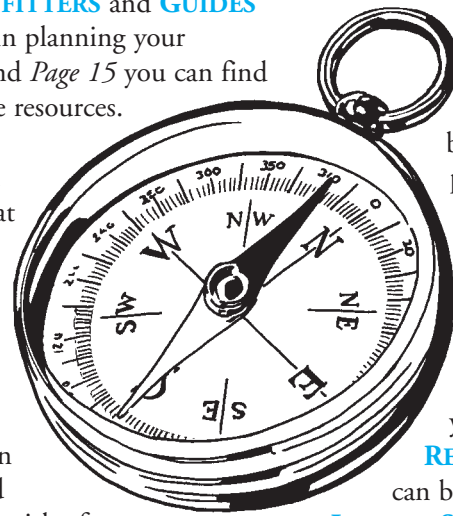
On *Page 10 and Page 11* you can find out more about what to expect on the BWCAW landscape, including **CHANGING FOREST CONDITIONS** resulting, in part, from the July 4, 1999 windstorm that blew down thousands of acres of forest in the BWCAW. These changed conditions have increased the risk of

wildfires in the BWCAW—this risk will be mitigated by the use of Prescribed Burns that will occur over the next several years.

The **MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)** is a partner with Superior National Forest in the management of fish and wildlife resources. On *Pages 12–13* you can find information about **BWCAW FISHERIES, AND FISHING, HUNTING AND WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS**.

The National Fee Demo Program has been very successful in funding BWCAW projects that improve the quality of your visit. To learn more specifically about **YOUR USER FEES AT WORK** turn to *Page 16*.

This BWCAW planning guide is only intended to get you started on planning your trip. **ADDITIONAL PLANNING RESOURCES & CONTACT INFORMATION** can be found on *Page 16*. A list of **PERMIT ISSUING STATIONS** can also be found here.



Superior National Forest Recreation Alternatives

If something other than a wilderness trip is more your style, consider one of the following recreation alternatives in other beautiful areas of Superior National Forest. There are many ways to experience the great outdoors; explore what is best for you.

Backcountry

There are a variety of options outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness that can offer the same peace and tranquility. In the Superior National Forest, there are over 200 sites outside the Wilderness called “backcountry”. These areas offer remote paddling, camping, and fishing. Here you can experience solitude without fees or permits, and still have a fire grate and latrine. These areas also have fewer regulations. Visitors to backcountry areas should still follow the LEAVE NO TRACE ethic. District offices have flyers available that will help you plan a backcountry trip that meets your needs. See *Page 16* for contact information.

Campgrounds

The Superior National Forest has over 26 campgrounds available to meet the varied needs of our visitors. Almost all of the campsites provide drinking water; some have electrical hookups. Most of the campsites are accessible to people with disabilities, and pets are welcomed on leashes. When picking a campground, you may want to stop in and get some information from one of our district offices in the Forest. Each district office will have flyers available for specific campgrounds. Reservations for some campgrounds can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service either on the web at www.reserveusa.com or by calling a toll free number 1-877-444-6777.

Commercial Resorts and Campgrounds

Near the Superior National Forest are a variety of resorts, campgrounds, and RV parks that may suit the needs of a visitor looking for a trip near the wilderness rather than in it. Some of these accommodations are set up with showers, electrical hookups, and numerous other amenities. If this describes your needs, you can get more information at the chamber of commerce located nearest to the area you would be visiting. See *Page 8* for chamber of commerce contact information. Many of the chambers have web pages that may be accessed for more information.

Enjoy all that the Superior National Forest has to offer!

The Basics

WILDERNESS PERMITS

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

Quota Permits

Any group taking an overnight paddle, motor, or hiking trip, or a motorized day-use trip into the BWCAW from May 1 through September 30 is required to obtain a quota permit. The quota system regulates how many groups can begin a trip at each entry point each day. In addition to the daily quotas, motorized boats are also 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 the day of, entry. Permits are not transferable. Reservations are recommended since there are a limited number of quota permits available for each entry point. Quota permits can only be issued by Forest Service issuing stations or by designated Cooperator issuing stations.

Non-Quota Self-issuing 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-issuing permit forms are available by mail, at any Superior National Forest office, and at the main BWCAW entry points. No reservation is required, but you will need to carefully follow the self-issuing instructions to fill out the entire permit and carry one copy with you during your trip.

Special Use Permits

Outfitters and guides leading groups into the BWCAW are required to obtain a special use permit. A listing of BWCAW Outfitters and Guides can be found on page 15.

USER FEES

User fees are required for all overnight visitors to the BWCAW between May 1 and September 30. Fees are as follows:

User Fees Per Person Per Trip

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Adult | \$10.00 |
| Youth 0–17 | \$5.00 |
| Golden Age/Access Card Holders | \$5.00 |

BWCAW Seasonal Fee Card

The purchase of a BWCAW Seasonal Fee Card fulfills the user fee requirements for the season, but does not eliminate the need for obtaining a BWCAW wilderness permit. For reserved permits it does not eliminate the need to pay the \$12.00 reservation fee and \$20.00 refundable deposit. Seasonal Fee Cards may be purchased by mail after November 15 or by phone after February 1 from the BWCAW Reservation Center at Reserve America. They may also be purchased in person after May 1 from any Forest Service Permit Issuing Station. Seasonal Fee Card applications can be obtained at Superior National Forest Offices or from the BWCAW Reservation Center.

Seasonal Fee Card Costs Per Person

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Adult | \$40.00 |
| Youth 0–17 | \$20.00 |
| Golden Age/Access Card Holders | \$20.00 |

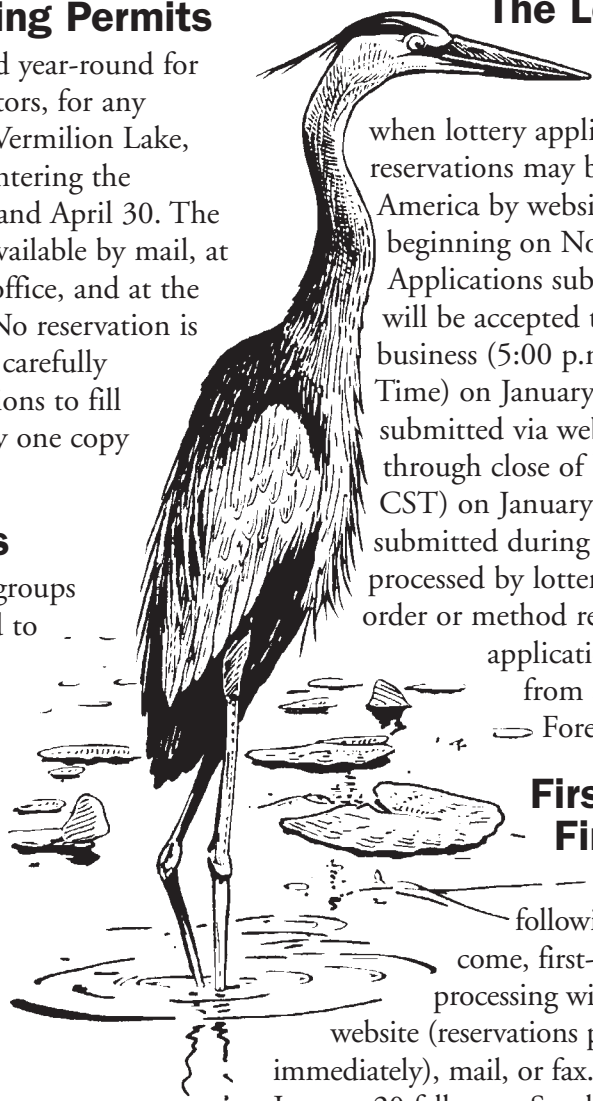
PERMIT RESERVATIONS

The Lottery

The permit reservation process starts each year when lottery applications for permit reservations may be submitted to Reserve America by website, mail, or fax beginning on November 1 each year. Applications submitted by mail or fax will be accepted through the close of business (5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time) on January 10. Applications submitted via website will be accepted through close of business (5:00 p.m. CST) on January 15. All applications submitted during this period will be processed by lottery (regardless of the order or method received). Please use the application insert or request one from any Superior National Forest office.

First-Come, First-Served

On January 20, following the lottery, first-come, first-served reservation processing will begin via interactive website (reservations processed and confirmed immediately), mail, or fax. Please note that if January 20 falls on a Sunday or holiday, mailed or faxed reservation applications will be processed the next business day. Phone reservations will be accepted beginning February 1, Mon.–Fri. until April 30; then daily through September 30.



Reservation Fee

A \$12.00 non-refundable reservation fee is required for each permit reserved.

Overnight User Fee Deposit

If reserving an overnight permit, a \$20.00 deposit will be collected regardless of group size. The deposit may be refunded if a reservation is cancelled two or more days prior to the entry date. If the reservation is not cancelled in time, or the permit is not used, the \$20.00 deposit is not refunded.

Nonprofit Organizations

Instead of specific names in the trip leader and alternate leader fields, organizations with legal non-profit status may list the organization name as the trip leader up to three (3) times per season. Please include the location, troop number, etc in the name (i.e. “Boy Scout Troop 45 – Duluth”). Organizations utilizing this option must be prepared to show evidence of legal nonprofit status when picking up the permit.

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

All reserved permits must be picked up at the location specified when the reservation was made or at a Forest Service issuing station. Only the trip leader or alternate trip leaders specified when the reservation was made can pick up the permit. It is recommended that you list three alternates when you make your reservation — these cannot be added at a later date. The person that picks up the permit must be with the group for the duration of the trip. Any remaining overnight user fees (not covered by the \$20 deposit), will be calculated when the permit is issued based on the group size upon arrival.

Non-Reserved Permits

Non-reserved quota permits can be picked up at any issuing station if the quota has not yet been met for the entry point you have selected.

Payment

Only Forest Service offices can accept cash and checks, in addition to credit card payments. All discount cards (Golden Age, Golden Access, and BWCAW Seasonal Fee cards) must be presented at the time of permit pickup to receive a discount, otherwise a full user fee will be charged. Non-Forest Service permit pick-up locations may charge up to a \$2.00 fee to issue a permit.

Reservation Information

WEBSITE

www.bwcaw.org

TDD (TOLL-FREE)

(877) TDD-NRRS

PHONE (TOLL-FREE)

(877) 550-6777

MAILING ADDRESS

BWCAW Reservation Center
PO Box 462 • Ballston Spa, NY 12020

FAX NUMBER

(518) 884-9951

INTERNATIONAL RESERVATIONS

(518) 885-9964

You Determine the Quality of the Wilderness

...as we visit wild places, we leave signs of our passing—signs that speak to the need for taking better care of these lands, of recognizing the impacts that we create as we travel and camp, and the need to develop a collective commitment to practices that aim to minimize the signs of our presence. We must personally develop, and foster among others, a wildland ethic that gives purpose to these practices.

—Sigurd F. Olson



We visit wild places to discover ourselves, to let our spirits run with the grace of a canoe and journey through the beckoning forests. It is the nature of wild places that gives us the space to slow the pace of our lives, to becalm the storms of everyday life, to gain perspective on the things we truly value.

Sigurd Olson needed wild places ... they gave much to him. Our favorite places — those whose forests have welcomed us, whose lakes have refreshed us, whose sunsets have inspired awe—are not ours alone. They are a treasured resource, there for the good of all who seek their own true spirit through solitude and adventure. You can help determine the quality of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for generations to come by practicing Leave No Trace, following rules and regulations, and developing your own personal wildland ethic.

Leave No Trace Principles

Plan Your Trip Ahead & Prepare

Be informed, accept responsibility for your actions, and plan your logistics well.

- Know your skills & abilities
- Select and use proper gear
- Plan your meals
- Check at ranger station for current conditions

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Concentrate use in popular areas. Avoid places where impact is just beginning.

- Travel on trails
- Recognize and camp on durable surfaces

Pack It In, Pack It Out—Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

Dispose of waste properly and reduce litter at the source.

- Properly dispose of human waste, wastewater, and fish remains
- Trash and leftover food should be packed out. Food should never be thrown into latrines, water, or woods. All these situations could produce wildlife problems and leave the campsite degraded.

- Fishing is one of the many reasons that people come to the BWCAW, but fish remains must be taken care of properly to keep the wilderness beautiful. Dispose of fish remains well away from campsites, trails, and portages. No one wants to see or smell fish remains lying in the water right at the edge of the campsite.

Minimize Use & Impact of Fires

Consider alternatives to campfires, such as using a camp stove. If a fire is desired, build a low impact fire.

- Use established fire grates
- Use dead and downed wood
- Keep fires small
- Check for any fire restrictions before entering the Wilderness

Respect Wildlife

Enjoy wildlife at a distance. Minimize noise so everyone has an opportunity to see wildlife.

- Be aware of the wildlife species around you
- Be aware of seasonal stresses on wildlife
- Store food securely against hungry bears
- Keep a clean camp
- Keep cooking areas separate from sleeping areas

- Do not put food in the tent
- Hang food packs so they are unavailable and uninviting

Leave What You Find

Leave areas as you found them to preserve natural features, and help preserve the past.

- Don't damage trees and plants
- Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Understand the uniqueness of this wilderness area and respect the goals of other visitors.

- Avoid conflicts
- Minimize overcrowding
- Let nature's sounds prevail
- Manage your pet



Burning Trash is Hazardous to Your Health and to the Wilderness

Burning trash, even paper, releases chemicals that can turn into acidic gases, heavy metals, and dioxins. These poisons contaminate the soil, water and air around us. This can result in severe health problems, including everything from skin irritations to cancer. Most campers prepare meals on and around the fire grates so it is important to keep these areas free of the dangerous pollutants caused by burning

garbage. **It is illegal to burn any trash in the State of Minnesota.**

We must all must act responsibly and do our part to help control the trash produced in the wilderness. Trash left behind by visitors degrades the wilderness experience with its visual impact. Come prepared by minimizing packaging

materials and be prepared to pack out everything you bring with you. Burning trash is not an alternative to packing waste out. Most things that people try to burn in fire grates never fully burn and leave materials behind which fill up the fire grates. This makes them hard to use because they are so full. The only thing that should be burned in fire grates is dead and downed wood.

BWCA Wilderness Rules & Regulations

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 trip leader exits the wilderness.

GROUP SIZE

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



TOILET FACILITIES & WATER QUALITY

- Use latrines at designated campsites.
- Latrines are not garbage cans and should be used for the intended purpose only. Personal waste items such as cigarettes, cotton swabs, or plastic feminine products should always be packed out and should never go into the latrines.
- If you're not near a latrine, dig a small hole 6 to 8 inches deep at least 150 feet or more back from the water's edge. When finished, fill hole and cover with needles and leaves.
- Bathe and wash dishes at least 150 feet from lakes and streams.
- All soaps pollute water including soaps labeled "biodegradable."

CONTAINERS

- Cans and glass bottles are not allowed.
- Containers of fuel, insect repellent, medicines, personal toilet articles, and other items that are not foods or beverages are the only cans and bottles you may keep in their original containers.
- Food may be packaged in plastic containers that must be packed out with you.

FISH REMAINS

- To dispose of fish remains, travel far from any shoreline, campsite, trail, or portage.

CAMPFIRES

- Fires are allowed within the steel fire grates at designated campsites or as specifically approved on your visitor's permit.
- Bringing a small camp stove may be a better idea because it heats food more quickly, has less impact than a fire, and comes in handy during rainy weather.
- Due to the 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.
- If you build a fire, burn only 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.
- 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 with a bare hand.



CAMPSITES

- Camp only at Forest Service designated campsites that have steel fire grates and wilderness latrines.
- 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.

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.
- State game laws apply in the BWCAW
- Fireworks of any kind are strictly illegal

PETS

- Dogs impact wildlife and barking intrudes on the experience of others. They must be under control at all times.
- Bury fecal matter 150 feet from water sources.

“Our ideals, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation, in turn, becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future.”

—Charles A. Lindbergh

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, sailboats, sailboards) is allowed.

LAKES WITH 10 HORSEPOWER LIMIT

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

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

LAKES WITH 25 HORSEPOWER LIMIT

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

- Basswood (except that portion north of Jackfish Bay and Washington Island)
- Saganaga (except that portion west of American Point).
- Fall
- Moose
- Sucker
- East Bearskin
- Trout
- Newton
- Newfound
- Snowbank
- South Farm

LAKES WITH NO HORSEPOWER LIMITS

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

PORTAGE WHEELS

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

Smart & Safe Wilderness Travel

Wilderness travel offers great personal freedom, but also requires self-reliance and good judgment. By using common sense and following these important safety tips, you can have a safe BWCAW experience.

PFDS/LIFE JACKETS

Always wear your life jacket — it won't work unless you wear it. 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. Additionally, watercraft 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, need one U.S. Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable device, such as a seat cushion, in the boat. If you capsize, stay with your canoe — it won't sink!

RAPIDS

Portages are there for a reason—use them! Generally, rapids in the BWCAW are not safe to “run.” Running water has a great deal of power and can be very deceptive. Areas above and below waterfalls may look safer than they actually are. Powerful currents can pull swimmers under the water and trap them there, or sweep them close to or over dangerous waterfalls. Fast moving water can also push swimmers and boats into obstacles that can cause harm such as rocks and logs. Even with lifejackets on, rapids are dangerous. Please swim only in calm water far from rapids and falls. **Although some risk is inherent in wilderness travel, risky behaviors can, and have, cost lives in the BWCAW.**

WATER QUALITY

Although BWCAW lake water may look clear and pure, drinking it without filtering, boiling, or treating it may cause illness. One parasite in particular — *Giardia lamblia* — can cause an internal illness that will need medical attention. All drinking water should be treated by one of the following methods:

- Bring water to a full boil for 3 to 5 minutes — then let stand until cool enough to drink.
- Purify with a filter specifically designed to remove *Giardia lamblia*.
- Treat water with a chemical specifically designed to kill *Giardia lamblia*.

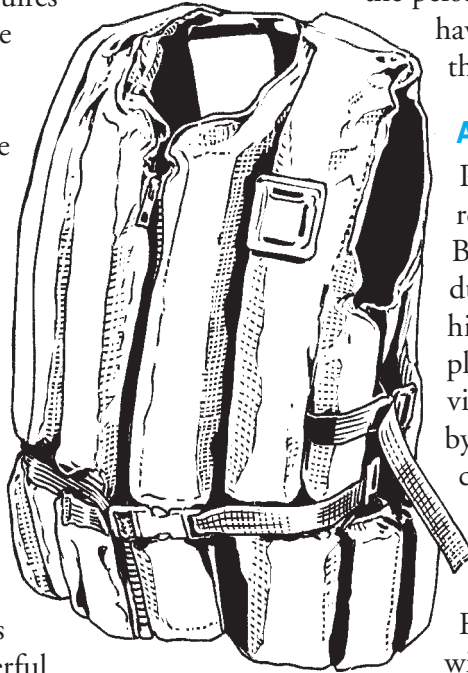
FISH

Chemicals such as mercury, PCBs, and dioxin have been found in some fish from certain waters. The best way to reduce your risk is to eat smaller fish, eat more pan fish and fewer predator fish, and to trim off skin and fat. Check with the Minnesota Department of Public Health for current information on limits on fish consumption at (651) 215-0950.

HYPOTHERMIA

The lowering of the 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. Prevention is the best medicine; layer clothing and get adequate food and water. To warm a hypothermic person, 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.

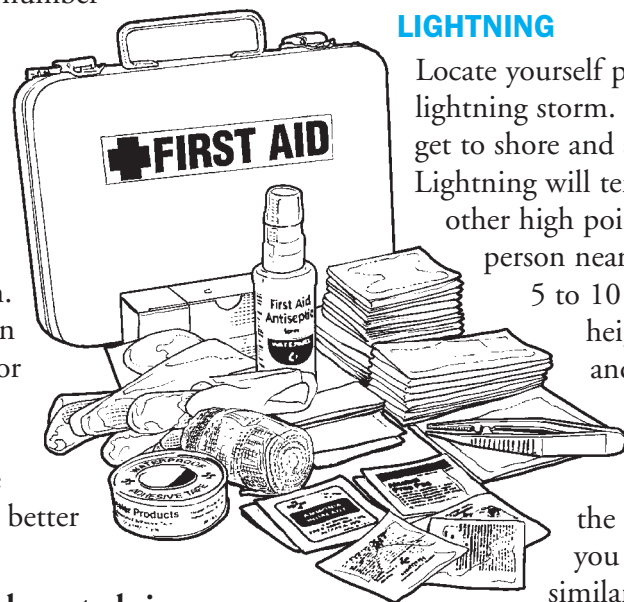


AIRCRAFT

Planes do not routinely patrol the BWCAW except during periods of high fire danger. If a plane comes into view, signal for help by paddling in small circles or waving a brightly colored cloth tied to the canoe paddle. Flashing the plane with a mirror three times can also be effective for summoning help in an emergency.

FIRST AID/EMERGENCIES

Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. Each permitted group should carry a well-stocked first aid kit and have group members that know how to provide first aid. In the case of a serious emergency, please note that the campsite number is painted on the latrine of most campsites. Please note this number and the location of the lake, campsite, trail or portage on a map to help emergency people locate any seriously injured party. It is also a good idea to write down the extent of the injury and a basic physical description of the injured person. Send the location and description with someone from your group or another group to take out of the BWCAW and find help. Better yet, if possible, send the message out with two different groups to better assure the message is delivered.



Do not rely on a cell phone to bring help to you in an emergency.

Having a cell phone cannot substitute for knowing how to handle an emergency in a wilderness setting. Additionally, many areas of the BWCAW lack cell phone coverage and you may not be able to place a call at all.

TRAVEL

Remember that in the wilderness you are on your own without written signs to guide you. A compass and accurate, updated maps are essential. Most visitors prefer using Fisher or McKenzie maps which can be purchased at some Forest Service offices, area outfitters, or directly from the map companies—see page 8 for details. Keep your map in front of you and refer to it often. If you get lost, don't panic. Sit down, relax, and think. Chances are that you will figure out where you went wrong and how to get back on course in a few minutes. If you

plan to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) for navigating while in the BWCAW, be sure you also bring a map and compass. GPS can be an excellent navigation tool if you are experienced with using it. However, it is essential that you also carry a map and compass as back up in the event that something happens to the GPS unit (i.e. moisture damage or loss of battery power).

SERIOUS INJURY

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. Cell phone and radio coverage is limited in the Wilderness. If there are more than two of you in the party or other groups in the area, send someone for help. All messages should be written with the name of the injured person and location pinpointed exactly and well described. Explain precisely what is wrong and what type of assistance is needed. It is a good idea to send the message with two different groups to ensure that it's delivered.

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 sunny, cold and wet weather.

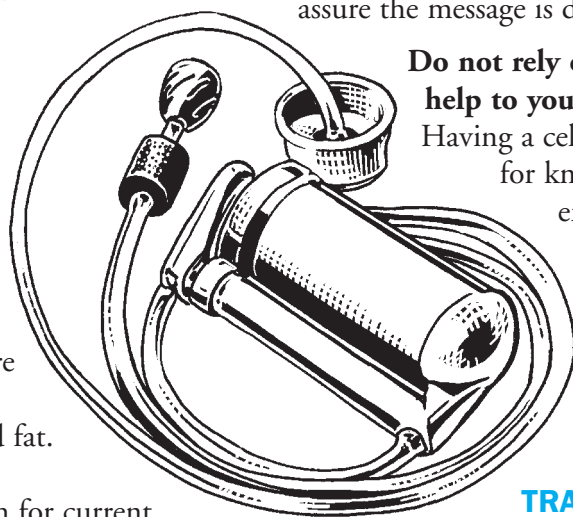
LIGHTNING

Locate yourself properly in a lightning storm. If on the water, get to shore and away from water. Lightning will tend to hit a tree or other high point, rather than the person near it, if the object is 5 to 10 times or more the height of the person, and the horizontal distance from the person to the object is half the object's height. If you are among trees of similar height, put

yourself an equivalent 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 begins to tingle, or your hair stands on end, stand on a lifejacket 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.

DEHYDRATION

The body becomes dehydrated when more fluids are lost than replaced. It is important to drink plenty of water. Bring flavored drink mixes if you are not accustomed to the taste of lake water. Signs of dehydration include headache, cold and flu symptoms, and infrequent urination.



Camping with Bears

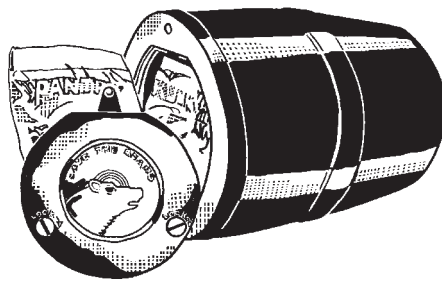
Kee a clean campsite. Never eat or store food in your tent. Take all precautions to discourage bears from visiting your site, including hanging your food pack, as well as garbage and anything that has a strong or sweet odor (soap, toothpaste, etc.). Some bears overcome their fear of humans and approach campsites looking for food. This includes islands 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 Capsaicin (pepper spray) into its eyes. In the rare instance that a bear refuses to leave or becomes aggressive, you may want to move to another site.



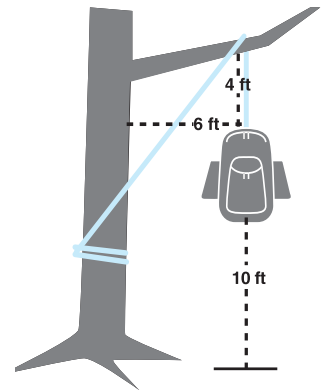
Method C (bear-resistant food storage containers).

There are areas in the BWCAW where it is impossible to hang your food pack due to the lack of standing trees. It is strongly recommended that you pack food items in specially designed bear-resistant food storage containers.

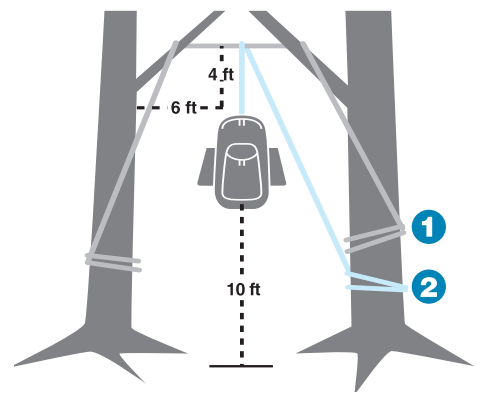


Use one of these methods to keep your food bear-safe:

Method A (uses one 50-foot length of rope).



Method B (uses two 50-foot lengths of rope).



Hiking in the BWCAW

While canoeing is the travel option for most visitors, the BWCAW is also host to several hiking trails with opportunities ranging from short day hikes to multiple-day backpacking trips (See Overnight Hiking section on Page 9 for trail options). No matter what length of hike you plan to take, hiking in the wilderness is not something you should attempt without proper preparation, skills and equipment. Wilderness trails vary in their level of use and maintenance and it is a good idea to talk to someone at the nearest Ranger District Office for current trail conditions.

Keep in mind that wilderness is much less developed than other types of recreation resources on the forest. Signage is minimal. Before beginning a BWCAW hiking trip be sure you have an accurate topographical map, a compass and the ability to navigate using these tools.

Generally, hikers must follow the same rules and regulations, and are encouraged to practice the same Leave No Trace ethic, as other types of users in the BWCAW. However, there are a few restrictions that are slightly different for those traveling by foot. Whenever possible hikers

should use developed campsites along the trail or lake. To enhance solitude most of the developed campsites along the trails, where they exist, are located on short spur trails off the main trail and contain a fire grate and wilderness latrine. Most campsites are signed from the main trail with a teepee symbol.

If for some reason, (i.e. an approaching storm, full campsites, emergency, no developed campsite nearby) you must camp at a site other than a developed site, hikers may do so with the following restrictions:

- You must use a gas or similar type stove. This reduces fire hazard and eliminates blackened fire rings. Always carry a gas or similar type stove in case you find yourself in a situation where it is required. No wood burning fires are allowed except within the fire grates provided at developed campsites.
- You may only camp in a non-developed site for one night.
- You must camp more than 150 feet from a developed site or another group.
- You must camp at least 150 feet from any trail,

portage, lake or other water source.

Hikers are encouraged to use the wilderness latrines whenever possible. However, if one is not available while on the trail you should be sure to carry a small trowel or digging tool, and be prepared to bury human waste.

- Select a suitable spot at least 150 feet from any water source or trail.
- Dig a hole approximately 10 inches in diameter and 6–8 inches deep.
- After use, fill the hole with loose soil and then tamp in the sod. Naturalize by covering with leaves and duff.

Keep in mind that trail surfaces are not always smooth, and may even be slippery at times. There may also be wet or boggy areas to pass through. Make sure you wear proper footwear with good tread.

Most importantly, be sure to use common sense and follow the safety guidelines recommended on Page 10. Wilderness permits are required year-round for hiking in the BWCAW. Please see Page 3 for more information on obtaining BWCAW permits and reservations. Happy Trails!

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Leave a trip itinerary with someone at home including:

- ✓ Trip leader's name
- ✓ Entry point and date
- ✓ Exit point and date
- ✓ Number of people in the party
- ✓ Number of canoes or boats
- ✓ Name of outfitter (if applicable)
- ✓ Make of car(s) driven & license number(s)

The Forest Service does not automatically initiate searches if a group doesn't exit as planned. If someone is concerned because you are late returning from your trip, they should contact the County Sheriff's office (See Page 16 for emergency contact info).

The map and chart on this page 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 supplement this information with maps, guidebooks, and the advice of your outfitter and/or guide, if you decide to use one.

Map and guidebooks are available from the following list of sources. A list of organizations that will assist you in locating guides and outfitters in the area you plan to visit is also provided. You can also find a detailed list of outfitters and guides on page 15.

Maps & Publications

Detailed canoe route maps are available from outfitters in communities near the BWCAW or directly from these sources.

Lake States Interpretive Association
3131 Highway 53
International Falls, MN 56649
(218) 283-2103

- Will provide a free publications catalog listing Superior National Forest and BWCA Wilderness related materials and maps.

W.A. Fisher Co.
123 Chestnut, PO Box 1107
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 741-9544
www.wafisherminn.com

McKenzie Maps
8479 Frye Road
Minong, WI 54859
(800) 749-2113
www.mckenziemaps.com

Superior National Forest
1/2" = mile maps are available at Superior National Forest offices.

Area Guides & Outfitters

Cook Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 296,
Cook, MN 55723
(800) 648-5897
www.cookminnesota.com

Crane Lake Visitor & Tourism Bureau
Crane Lake, MN 55725
(800) 362-7405

Ely Chamber of Commerce
1600 E. Sheridan Street
Ely, MN 55731
(218) 365-6123 • (800) 777-7281
www.ely.org

Grand Marais Visitor Information Center
PO Box 1048
Grand Marais, MN 55604
(888) 922-5000
www.grandmarais.com

Gunflint Trail Association
PO Box 205
Grand Marais, MN 55604
(800) 338-6932
www.gunflint-trail.com

Lutsen-Tofte Tourism Assoc.
Box 2248
Tofte, MN 55615
(218) 663-7804 • (888) 616-6784
www.61north.com

MN Office of Tourism
8525 W. Skyline Parkway
Duluth, MN 55810
(218) 723-4938 • 888-TOURISM
www.exploreminnesota.com

Tower-Soudan Chamber of Commerce
Box 776
Tower, MN 55790
(218) 753-2301 • (800) 648-5897

Info for Travel to Quetico

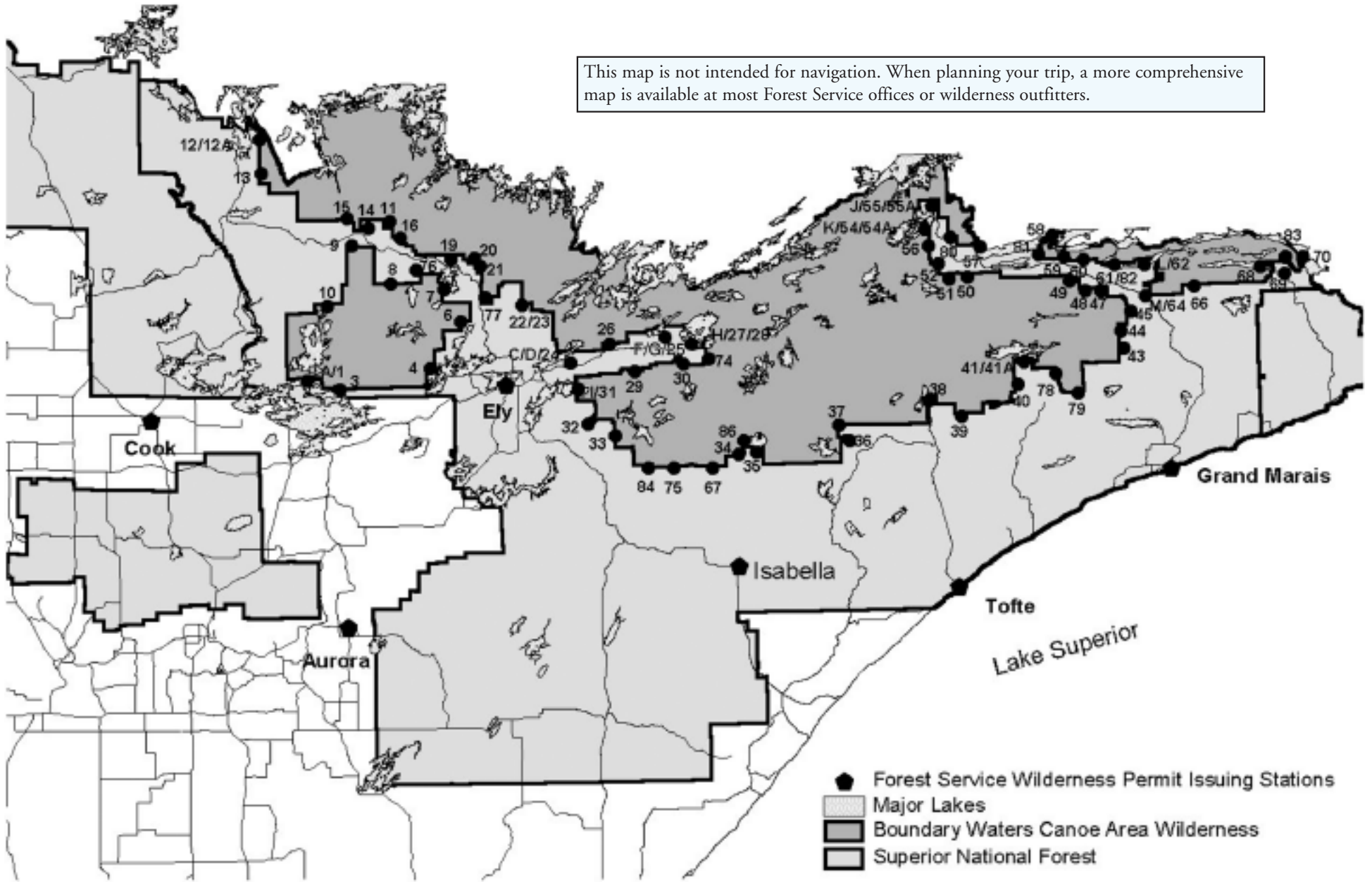
Quetico Provincial Park
District Manager
Minister of Natural Resources
Atikokan, Ontario POT 1C0
(807) 597-2735
www.queticopark.com

* These entry points and associated quota are for paddle only permits. However, motor boat quotas are also available for these areas, (see Overnight Paddle or Motor section on Page 9) and may be encountered along portions of the route.

| METHOD OF ENTRY | ENTRY POINT NUMBER | ENTRY POINT NAME | BLOWDOWN AFFECTED AREA | RESPONSIBLE RANGER DISTRICT | OTHER REMARKS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| OVERNIGHT Paddle only | 4 | Crab Lake & Cummings Lake | ✓ | Kawishiwi | Access from Burntside Lake with a 360-rod portage to Crab Lake. |
| | 6 | Slim Lake | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 90-rod portage to Slim Lake Portages to three additional lakes. |
| | 7 | From Big Lake | ✓ | Kawishiwi | Access La Pond Lake with a 160-rod portage from outside the BWCAW on Big Lake. |
| | 8 | Moose River South | ✓ | La Croix | 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 | Heading South from the Echo Trail. Difficult route. Four portages to Bootleg Lake. |
| | 14 | Little Indian Sioux River North | | La Croix | Access is a 40-rod portage heading North from the Echo Trail. |
| | 16 | Moose/Portage River North of Echo Trail | | La Croix | Access is a 160-rod portage heading North from the Echo Trail. |
| | 19 | Stuart River | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 480-rod portage to the Stuart River. |
| | 20 | Angleworm Lake | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 640-rod portage to Angleworm Lake. |
| | 22 | Mudro Lake—Restricted | | Kawishiwi | Three accesses into Mudro Lake involve portages ranging from 20–185 rods. Easiest access is from private land with parking fee. Restriction is no camping on Horse Lake. |
| | 23 | Mudro Lake | | Kawishiwi | Three accesses into Mudro Lake involve portages ranging from 20–185 rods. Easiest access is from private land with parking fee. |
| | 26 | Wood Lake | ✓ | Kawishiwi | Access to Wood Lake is a 180-rod portage. |
| | 28 | Snowbank Lake Only * | ✓ | Kawishiwi | Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Snowbank Lake. Must camp all nights on Snowbank Lake. Paddle day trips to other lakes are permitted. |
| | 29 | North Kawishiwi River | | Kawishiwi | Access the North Kawishiwi River through Ojibway Lake and Triangle Lake using two portages. |
| | 30 | Lake One | | Kawishiwi | Access is a canoe landing at Lake One. |
| | 32 | South Kawishiwi River | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 140-rod portage to the river. |
| | 33 | Little Gabbro Lake | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 200-rod portage from the parking lot to Little Gabbro Lake. |
| | 34 | Island River | | Tofte | Two small portages leading to Isabella River. No portages on Island River. |
| | 35 | Isabella Lake | | Tofte | Access is a 35-rod portage to Isabella Lake. |
| | 36 | Hog Creek | | Tofte | Access is a 15-rod portage to Hog Creek leading into Perent Lake. |
| | 37 | Kawishiwi Lake | | Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Kawishiwi Lake. |
| | 38 | Sawbill Lake | ✓ | Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Sawbill Lake. |
| | 39 | Baker Lake | ✓ | 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 | Access is a boat landing at Homer Lake. |
| | 41 | Brule Lake | ✓ | Tofte | Access is a boat landing at Brule Lake. Large lake with several campsites. |
| | 41A | Brule Lake Only | ✓ | 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 | Access is a 72-rod portage from small parking area into Bower Trout. |
| | 44 | Ram Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is a 90-rod portage from the parking area. |
| | 45 | Morgan Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | 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 | Access from Poplar Lake by 51-rod portage to Lizz Lake and 100-rod portage into Swamp Lake. |
| | 48 | Meeds Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access from Poplar Lake into Meeds Lake with a 320-rod portage. |
| | 49 | Skipper & Portage Lakes | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is a 320-rod portage from Poplar Lake or a 230-rod portage from Iron Lake. |
| | 50 | Cross Bay Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | 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 | Access is a canoe landing at Round Lake with a 142-rod portage to Missing Link Lake. |
| 52 | Brant Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is a canoe landing at Round Lake with an 85- and a 35-rod portage to Brant Lake. | |
| 54A | Seagull Lake Only * | ✓ | Gunflint | 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 | 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 | Access Magnetic Lake and Granite River from Gunflint Lake. | |
| 58 | South Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is from Gunflint Lake with a 10-mile paddle and two short portages to South Lake. | |
| 60 | Duncan Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is from W. Bearskin Lake with a 75-rod portage to Duncan Lake and Stairway Portage. | |
| 61 | Daniels Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access is from W. Bearskin Lake with a 60-rod portage to Daniels Lake and 460-rod portage to Rose Lake. | |
| 66 | Crocodile River | ✓ | Gunflint | No trip option. Must spend all nights on Crocodile Lake. | |
| 67 | Bog Lake | | Tofte | Access is a 232-rod portage into Bog Lake. Four campsites. Dead end lake with no trip options. | |
| 68 | Pine Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access through McFarland Lake. | |
| 69 | John Lake | ✓ | Gunflint | Access from Little John Lake. | |
| 70 | North Fowl Lake * | ✓ | Gunflint | Access from Little John Lake with a 78- and a 160-rod portage to get to North Fowl Lake. Border lake between U.S. & Canada. | |
| 71 | From Canada | | La Croix Kawishiwi Gunflint | Use only when trip originates in Canada, then passes into the BWCAW. | |
| 75 | Little Isabella River | | Tofte | Access is a 20-rod portage to the Little Isabella River. Several short portages before you reach the Isabella River. | |
| 77 | South Hegman Lake | | Kawishiwi | Access is a 80-rod portage to South Hegman Lake. | |
| 80 | Larch Creek | ✓ | Gunflint | Access from the canoe landing at Larch Creek. | |
| 84 | Snake River | | Tofte | Access is a 160-rod portage to Snake River & several short portages before reaching Bald Eagle Lake. | |

Entry Points

This map is not intended for navigation. When planning your trip, a more comprehensive map is available at most Forest Service offices or wilderness outfitters.



| METHOD OF ENTRY | ENTRY POINT NUMBER | ENTRY POINT NAME | BLOWDOWN AFFECTED AREA | MOTOR HORSE-POWER LIMIT | RESPONSIBLE RANGER DISTRICT | OTHER REMARKS |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| OVERNIGHT Paddle or Motor | 1 | Trout Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | La Croix | Access from Lake Vermilion via 60-rod canoe portage or 180-rod portage that allows the use of portage wheels. |
| | 12 | Little Vermilion Lake | | Unlimited | La Croix | Enter from Crane Lake. Note: Not the entry point to use for Trout Lake (#1). On U.S. side motors are only allowed up to edge of Snow Bay on Lac La Croix. |
| | 12A | Lac La Croix | | Unlimited (except where paddle only) | La Croix | Enter from Crane Lake. Must camp all nights on Lac La Croix. Day trips to other lakes permitted. Use only after Entry Point 12 is full. Very difficult to reach Lac La Croix by paddle in one day. Commercial shuttle service available. |
| | 24 | Fall Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | 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 | Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Moose Lake. Many trip options for paddlers with additional portages. |
| | 27 | Snowbank Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Snowbank Lake. Many trip options for paddlers. |
| | 31 | Farm Lake | | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | 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 | 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 | 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 | Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only. |
| 64 | East Bearskin Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Gunflint | Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder and Canoe. | |
| DAY USE Motor | A | Trout Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | La Croix | Access from Lake Vermilion via a 180-rod portage suitable for portage wheels. Commercial portage service available. |
| | C | Fall Lake Only | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | 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 | Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. Valid on Fall, Newton & Basswood. |
| | F | Moose Lk to Newfound & Sucker Lks | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | Valid only on Moose, Newfound and Sucker Lakes. Travel not permitted beyond Sucker Lake. |
| | G | Moose Lk to Prairie Portage to Basswood | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | Commercial portage service available. Valid on Moose, Newfound, Sucker and Basswood Lakes (except paddle only areas). |
| | H | Snowbank Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | Motors allowed on Snowbank Lake only. |
| | I | South Farm Lake | | 25 HP | Kawishiwi | Motors allowed on South Farm Lake only. |
| | J | Saganaga Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Gunflint | No motors (use or possession) west of American Point. Access to Canada. |
| | K | Seagull Lake | ✓ | 10 HP | Gunflint | No motors (use or possession) allowed west of Three Mile Island. |
| | L | Clearwater Lake | ✓ | 10 HP | Gunflint | Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only. |
| M | East Bearskin Lake | ✓ | 25 HP | Gunflint | Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder or Canoe Lakes. | |
| OVERNIGHT Hiking | 3 | Pine Lake Trail | ✓ | | La Croix | Four miles to Pine Lake. Rough trail not maintained. If paddling use Entry Point #1. |
| | 10 | Norway Trail | ✓ | | La Croix | Eight-mile hiking trail or two-mile option. No loop options. |
| | 11 | Blandin Trail | | | La Croix | Winter route Four miles to Lamb Lake. |
| | 13 | Herriman Lake Trail | | | La Croix | Thirteen miles of trail accesses 4 lakes. Loop options. |
| | 15 | Sioux-Hustler Trail | | | La Croix | Thirty-two mile loop. Primitive trail not well maintained. |
| | 21 | Angleworm Trail | | | Kawishiwi | Trail loops around Angleworm Lake. 13.5 miles. If paddling, use entry point #20. |
| | 56 | Kekekabic Trail—East | ✓ | | Gunflint | Thirty-six mile trail. Very remote with difficult terrain. |
| | 59 | Partridge Lake/South Lake Trail | ✓ | | Gunflint | Two to three miles. If paddling use Entry Point #60. |
| | 74 | Snowbank/Kekekabic Trail—West | ✓ | | Kawishiwi | Loop options include 26–40 miles of trail plus the Kekekabic Trail. |
| | 76 | Big Moose Lake Trail | ✓ | | La Croix | No loop options. 2.5 miles to Big Moose Lake If paddling use Entry Point #8. |
| | 78 | Brule Lake Trail | ✓ | | Gunflint | 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. Six miles to Eagle Mountain. Total trail distance is 9 miles. |
| | 79 | Eagle Mountain Trail | ✓ | | Gunflint | The trail is 3.5 miles to the top (one way). |
| | 81 | Border Route Trail—West | ✓ | | Gunflint | Thirty-eight miles. Shorter options available. |
| | 82 | Border Route Trail—Center | ✓ | | Gunflint | Thirty-eight miles. Shorter options available. |
| 83 | Border Route Trail—East | ✓ | | Gunflint | Thirty-eight miles. Shorter options available. | |
| 86 | Pow Wow Trail | ✓ | | Tofte | Twenty-five mile loop trail. | |

Changed Conditions

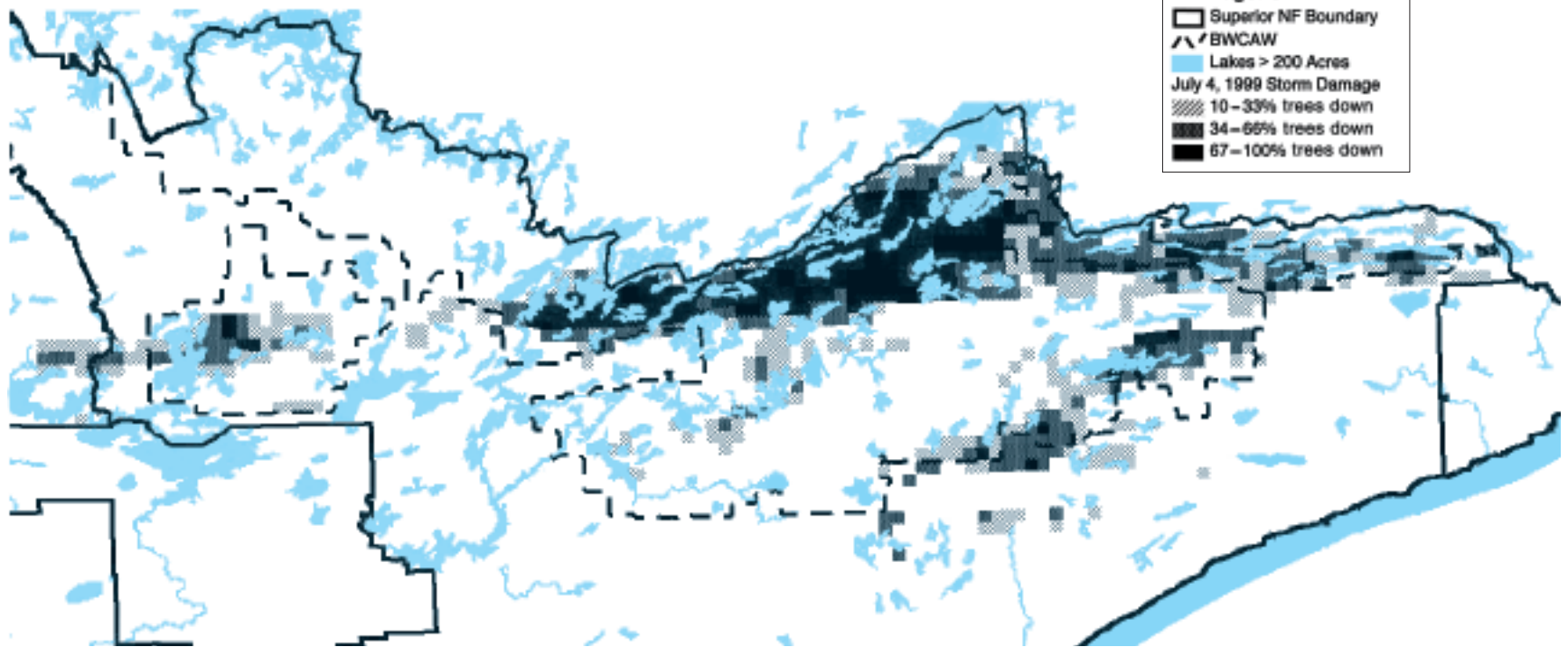
A windstorm swept through the BWCAW on July 4, 1999 causing trees to blow down in over 350,000 acres of the one million acre wilderness. In total, approximately 477,000 acres on the Superior National Forest were impacted by straight-line winds in excess of 90 miles per hour during the extreme storm event.

On the Forest, the majority of the uprooted and broken-off trees are in a 4- to 12-mile wide and 30-mile long swath within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The amount of fuel in blowdown areas increased from 5 to 10 times pre-storm amounts. As a result, wildfires in blowdown areas have the potential to start more easily, grow more quickly

under a wider range of weather conditions and become difficult to control more quickly than wildfire outside of the blowdown. The probability has been greatly increased for a wildfire to exit the BWCAW, threatening public safety, and damaging structures.

The storm changed the wilderness for years to come and has created the opportunity for new experiences as well as new risks for visitors. Due to the potential fire danger associated with the

blowdown, fire restrictions may be in effect. Check on current fire restrictions just prior to your trip, as you may be required to use a camp stove. In addition, there are areas in the BWCAW where it is impossible to hang your food pack due to the lack of standing trees. It is strongly recommended that you pack food items in specially designed bear-resistant food storage containers.



What You Can Do To Help

HELP TO REDUCE RISKS OF FIRE IN THE BWCAW

Choose a camp stove instead of a campfire. If a campfire is allowed and there is little or no wind, build it in the fire grate and keep it small. Keep flammable materials and firewood far away. Drown the fire with water until all embers, rocks and sticks are wet. Stir the remains and add more water until the fire is extinguished and cool to the touch. Do not bury coals as they can smolder and break into flames much later. Be sure the campfire is completely extinguished before you leave, even if for a short time!

WATCH FOR HAZARDS

There may be hazards due to downed and

weakened trees, and trees may continue to fall. Stay alert and heads up, fallen or leaning trees may snap back unexpectedly when cut. Avoid camping and walking under damaged and leaning trees. Root wads above the ground may also be unstable and dangerous.

KNOW ABOUT FIRE RESTRICTIONS

There may be fire restrictions in all or part of the BWCAW. These are for your safety and to reduce the threat of large, dangerous wildfires. Before entering the wilderness, please check on fire restrictions. Contact any Superior National Forest District Office or forest headquarters, (218) 626-4300, or check the website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior. Protect and

enjoy your National Forest.

STAY ALERT FOR FIRES

There is a significant increase in the likelihood of fires in the blowdown area as a result of the storm. Wilderness visitors can expect:

Wildfires that start and spread, even in wet conditions

Wildfires that burn more intensely and may spread rapidly

Wildfires that easily jump barriers such as small lakes and streams

Increased risk of being trapped by a wildfire with difficult escape routes

IF YOU SEE OR SMELL SMOKE, DON'T PANIC

There is potential for wildfires to start and spread even in wet conditions, burn more intensely and spread rapidly, or easily jump barriers such as lakes and streams. These factors may increase the risk of being trapped in a burning area. The fire may be miles from you and pose no threat to your safety.

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

1. WATCH THE WEATHER

Wind Most fires travel east and north. Make sure you have a safe route to follow in case wind direction changes. Embers can blow more than a mile, possibly starting new fires.

Evening humidity As humidity increases in the early morning and late evening, fire activity may decrease. Travel may be safer at these times.

Tall smoke plumes indicate a very hot fire. If you see a tall smoke plume upwind of you, seek a point of refuge, such as a lake.

2. MAKE A NEW PLAN

Look at maps, alternative routes and your proximity to a large body of water.

Stay close to water. If there is a safe way around the fire, with broad expanses of water, consider traveling from the area.

If you must travel through burned areas, watch for burning stump holes and hot embers. Burned trees can fall easily.

3. FIND A SAFE PLACE

If you feel threatened, get on a large lake.

Stay upwind, but be aware that large fires can burn unpredictably in any direction.

If the fire is upon you, take your canoe into the water. Put on your life jacket, paddle to the middle of a lake, tip over your canoe and go under it. You can breathe the cool, trapped air under the canoe until the fire passes.

Prescribed Burning: Fuel Reduction in the BWCAW

To respond to the increased fire danger in blowdown areas of the wilderness, the Forest Service is conducting a fuels reduction program of prescribed burning. Prescribed burning of 75,000 acres in blowdown within the BWCAW began in fall of 2001 and will continue for 5 to 7 years at a rate of 5,000 to 20,000 acres per year. The primary goal of the project is to reduce the risk of wildland fire exiting the BWCAW and harming life and

property. Our objective is to accomplish this goal while being sensitive to ecological and wilderness values.

Prescribed burning will continue to be a valuable tool to meet other management objectives on the Superior National Forest even after we address the fire risk created by the July 4th, 1999 storm. Fire is a key part of the ecology of the region. As we complete fuel treatment in the blowdown we will be able to

use managed wildfire in the BWCAW without risk to people outside of the Wilderness.

There are a limited number of days each year with the right conditions for prescribed burning. By taking advantage of these opportunities to use prescribed burning to reduce fuel loads in the blowdown, we can reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires and possible property loss in the future.

What is prescribed burning?

- Fires lit by qualified personnel under specific conditions to achieve specific management objectives.
- Used to achieve a number of objectives, such as reducing the risk of wildfires by reducing fuel concentrations and improving wildlife habitat.
- Site-specific burn plans are developed for each prescribed burn, including measures to protect sensitive resources as well as a step-by-step plan to light the fire, hold the control line, conduct mop-up, and evaluate the results.
- Planning begins months in advance with multiple reviews and input from several types of resource specialists.

Why prescribe burn in blowdown?

- The blowdown created an extreme risk for people who live, work, and recreate on the Forest. After a thorough analysis of options, prescribed burning has been selected as the best method to use in the BWCAW to reduce the risk for a catastrophic wildfire and protect wilderness values.
- The purpose of fuel treatment in the blowdown is to reduce the continuity of fuel that allows a wildfire to spread rapidly.

- Prescribed burn units will be strategically located in the BWCAW blowdown area in order to slow the rate of spread of potential wildfires and to reduce the risk of a wildfire exiting the Wilderness.

What happens during pre-prescribed burns?

- Preparation for a prescribed burn always includes public notification and coordination with other agencies. Additionally, it may include clearing control lines, establishing helispots (temporary landing places for helicopters) if required, and scheduling back-up crews and equipment. Water and foam may be sprayed along control lines to “pre-treat” these areas so they do not burn as easily. In the BWCAW, most of this work will be conducted through non-mechanized means.
- Prescribed burns are usually ignited either by hand crews on the ground with drip torches or explosives, or by air with a helicopter or

airplane, or a by a combination of these methods.

Following ignition, fire crews monitor the progress of the burn, patrol to observe



behavior of the fire and take actions, when needed, to make sure that the fire stays within the predetermined unit boundaries.

- After the unit has burned, fire crews will mop-up (put out hot spots) and patrol the area to make sure the fire is out.

How could prescribed burning affect my BWCAW experience?

Prescribed burns are being scheduled to avoid higher use areas during peak usage in order to minimize the impact the prescribed burns may have on visitors to the BWCAW. However, if you are in the BWCAW during a prescribed burn you may be affected in the following ways...

- Some areas will be closed during prescribed burns. Closures will generally last only five to six days. Some may be shorter or longer depending on weather conditions. The areas will remain closed until the fire staff indicates that hazards have been reduced to acceptable levels
- If a BWCAW entry point is closed and an alternative entry point is not available, reservation and use fees will be refunded.
- You may notice sights that you are not used to, such as vegetation that has been cleared from



control lines, heavy aircraft traffic, and smoke. In the BWCAW, some use of motorized and mechanized tools will be used to ignite the fire, secure control lines, and to mop up. An evaluation of the minimum tool needed to

meet fuel reduction objectives is part of planning for every prescribed burn in the BWCAW.

- The prescribed burns will impact some campsites, portages, and trails. These will be rehabilitated after prescribed burns.
- Wherever possible, natural fuel breaks will be used, but you may see some constructed control lines.
- You might hear sounds that you are not expecting, especially in the Wilderness, such as aircraft overhead and motorized water pumps.
- There may also be more Forest Service personnel in the Wilderness than you are used to encountering.
- Travel routes could be changed during prescribed burns. National Forest personnel may escort you through an adjacent area while burning is in progress.

BWCAW's Fragile Fisheries

With an expanse of more than one million acres of protected lands and waters, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) has been recognized as a crown jewel of wilderness areas. People travel from all over the world to fish and experience the breathtaking beauty of this place, carved out thousands of years ago by glaciers advancing across the area. Fish habitat in the wilderness is largely intact. The primary impact that people have on fish in the BWCAW is from angling pressure.

INFERTILE LAKES

The same geological events that created such spectacular vistas left northern Minnesota bare. Lake basins were formed in granite and insoluble bedrock creating a substrate with little or no nutrients.

Furthermore, naturally occurring compounds found in Minnesota's southern lakes and streams are not found in the northern BWCAW lakes. The cool climate and short growing season of the north limits the amount of plant growth and aquatic life important for the survival and growth of larger fish species.

This combination of characteristics means that lakes in the BWCAW cannot support nearly the harvest of fish as waters in other parts of Minnesota.

SUSTAINABLE HARVESTS

Sustainable harvests of species like pike, smallmouth bass and walleye in BWCAW lakes are much lower than in more fertile waters. Because BWCAW lakes are not productive, and growth rates in the lakes are slow, it can take a long time to replace quality size fish that have been harvested.

For example, it may take five years for a walleye to reach a weight of one pound in some BWCAW lakes. Northern pike 24 inches long are probably at least five years old. A lake trout 20-inches long may be eight years old, or even older. To preserve the excellent fishing found in many BWCAW lakes, it is very important to limit the number of larger fish that are harvested.

The following charts provide approximate ages for fish found in BWCAW lakes.

Cook County Length/Age Ratio:

| | Age | | | | | | | Length |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Lake Trout | 5.1 | 7.8 | 10.0 | 12.4 | 15.0 | 16.6 | 18.6 | |
| Walleye | 4.8 | 8.5 | 11.3 | 13.9 | 15.8 | 17.7 | 18.8 | |
| Smallmouth Bass | 2.9 | 5.2 | 7.6 | 9.6 | 11.5 | 13.1 | 13.3 | |
| Northern Pike | 9.0 | 13.2 | 17.4 | 20.7 | 22.5 | 25.2 | 29.4 | |

These numbers are mean lengths for Cook County and may vary from lake to lake.

St. Louis and Lake County Length/Age Ratios:

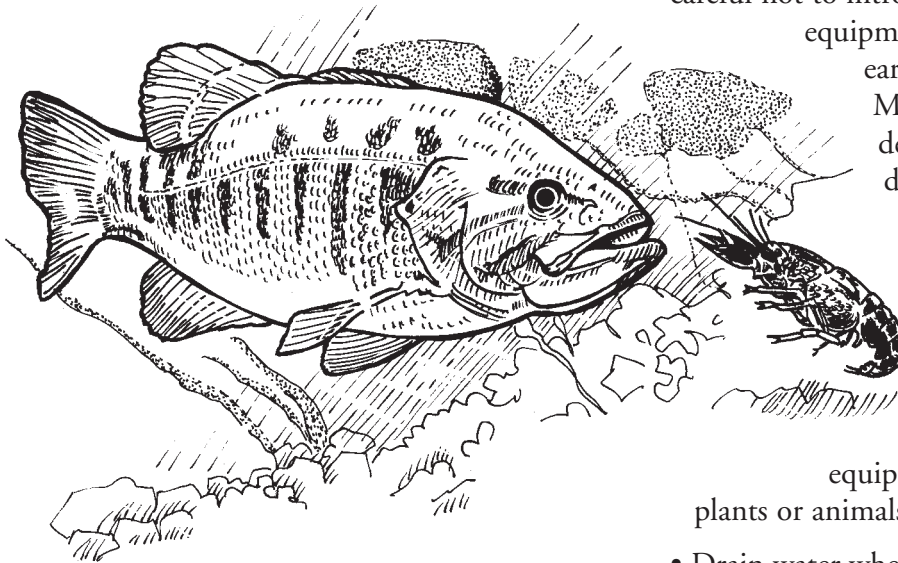
| | Age | | | | | | | Length |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Lake Trout | 8.0 | 8.8 | 10.6 | 12.7 | 14.4 | 17.3 | 18.8 | |
| Walleye | 5.5 | 9.2 | 11.8 | 14.3 | 16.4 | 18.0 | 19.3 | |
| Smallmouth Bass | 3.4 | 5.5 | 7.3 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 11.6 | 13.4 | |
| Northern Pike | 9.8 | 15.1 | 18.7 | 21.8 | 23.8 | 26.6 | 27.7 | |

These numbers are mean lengths for St. Louis and Lake counties and may vary from lake to lake.

SENSITIVE TO PRESSURE

Infertile waters are also typically more sensitive to pressures of any kind. Lake trout, whitefish and cisco are among the native species in the BWCAW that are very dependent on cold, well-oxygenated deep water for survival.

Nutrients from decomposing human waste or phosphorous from detergents and soaps can cause lakes to eventually lose oxygen from the deep waters, directly threatening the existence of lake trout and possibly lake whitefish and cisco.



Packing fish out is difficult since the filets should be kept on ice. Many fish may be wasted in the attempt to pack them out. Please consider only keeping what you can use for shore lunch and release all other fish.

Human activities are well regulated in the wilderness and that has the effect of minimizing impacts on aquatic resources. However, making an effort to keep nutrients out of the water by following BWCAW visitor guidelines can go a long ways toward maintaining the essentially pure water conditions of the lakes and streams found here.

STOCKING

Stocking of stream trout into isolated BWCAW lakes is primarily for brook trout, however, a few lakes that are managed for rainbow trout fishing receive rainbow trout. These programs are limited to lakes that contain no other fish species or may have only minnow species. They require regular stocking to maintain a fishable population. Stream trout populations can be very susceptible to overfishing; for example, some brook trout lakes may not support more than 100 to 150 catchable-sized fish at any one time.

CATCH AND RELEASE

When summer surface waters are warm enough for a cool brisk swim, lake trout should no longer be caught and released. Lake trout caught from deep water in mid-summer are stressed by being pulled through warm surface water. Catch one or two for the party shore lunch and fish for something else for the fun of catching fish.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

The introduction of harmful exotic/invasive species to these waters, such as smelt and rusty crayfish, has had negative impacts on native organisms in some lakes. Visitors should be careful not to introduce new species from their equipment and live bait. Also, earthworms are not native to Minnesota and are known to devastate the forest floor by devouring the foliage litter.

Every precaution should be taken to avoid transferring any species to the BWCAW and between its waters in the future.

- Inspect your boat and equipment and remove any aquatic plants or animals.
- Drain water when leaving a lake.
- Unwanted live bait should be disposed of on land, with the exception of earthworms (night crawlers and angle worms).
- Earthworms should be carried out and disposed of in the trash.

The following are unlawful/illegal:

- 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.

Visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/exotics/index.html> to learn to recognize harmful exotic/invasive species and how to prevent their spread.

Tips for successful catch and release of lake trout in cold to cool surface water conditions:

- Use single hooks instead of treble hooks.
- Avoid using a landing net—larger fish tend to twist and tangle in the net.
- Unhook and release the fish in less than a minute.

DNR RESEARCH

During the summer, you may notice people working on various lakes in the BWCAW. Most likely, they are DNR fisheries staff conducting fish surveys and population assessments. Monitoring activities are used to collect information on individual lakes and the fish populations in them. The information is used to develop long-term resource management strategies. In order to safely transport the equipment necessary to perform this research in some of the remote areas of the BWCAW, staff may use motorized equipment such as airplanes and boats. Use of such motorized transportation in the non-motorized areas of the BWCAW will be limited to only that which is necessary for the safe transport and use of equipment.

Minnesota DNR Fishing, Hunting and Watercraft Regulations

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources welcomes you to the BWCA Wilderness. As a partner with the USDA Forest Service, the State of Minnesota is actively involved in the management of the BWCAW. Minnesota Conservation Officers enforce the regulations concerning boating, water, hunting, fishing, and provides the following regulations to assist you in planning your trip.

CANOE AND BOAT REGISTRATIONS

Minnesota requires all watercraft to be registered and honors all state watercraft registrations. If your state does not require a canoe to be registered, you must either register your canoe in your state as a motorized craft or license the canoe in Minnesota. Canoes can be registered at the DNR License Center, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 26, St. Paul, MN 55155-4026. Phone 651-296-2316. (Minnesota toll-free) 800-285-2000. Plan ahead; local license bureaus may not be open on weekends.

FISHING

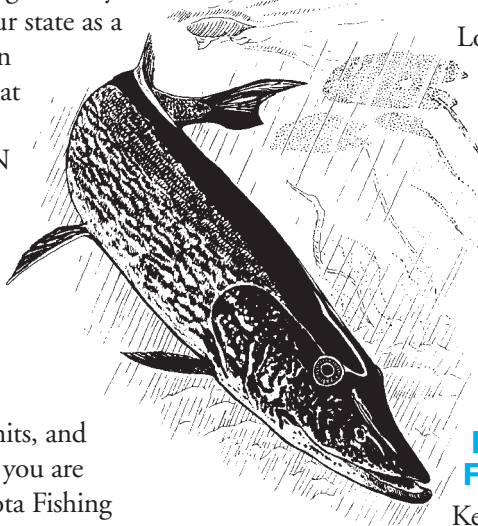
There are several different seasons, limits, and regulations depending upon the lakes you are fishing in the BWCAW. The Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet, available from the Minnesota DNR and license agents throughout the state, detail the differences.

FISHING LICENSES AND TROUT STAMPS

Fishing licenses are required to fish the BWCA Wilderness. Trout stamps are required, in addition to your fishing license, when fishing in any trout lake or stream. Your License must be in your possession when fishing.

EQUIPMENT

Only one line is allowed (in open water) per licensed angler and only a single lure may be attached. Unattended or set lines are not allowed.



Loons can die from lead poisoning after swallowing lead fishing sinkers and jigs lost by anglers.

In response to growing awareness and concerns, the tackle industry has begun to create non-toxic alternatives. You can help by switching to non-toxic sinkers and jigs that are made from steel, tin, bismuth, or plastic.

DON'T TAKE OR KEEP FISH THAT MAY SPOIL

Keeping fish in warm conditions is difficult. Wanton waste is a serious violation. Returning some of your catch to the water unharmed assures tomorrow's trophy fishing.

LIMITS AND POSSESSION OF FISH

Daily and possession limits are the same in Minnesota, except for yellow perch which has a daily limit of 20 and a possession limit of 40. Take note that fish eaten for a shore lunch count toward your daily limit.

TRANSPORTATION OF FISH

Conservation Officers must be able to count and identify your catch. Fish must be transported in different ways depending on the species. Please refer to the Minnesota Fishing Regulations for more information.

HUNTING

Hunting is allowed in the BWCAW under Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Hunting Regulations.

WATERCRAFT LIGHTS

Motorized watercraft must have the standard combination of red and green bow lights and a 32 pt. white stern light. Non-motorized watercraft must have a lantern or flashlight that shall be exhibited. Lights must be displayed from sunset to sunrise.

ALCOHOL OR NARCOTICS

Operation of a motorized watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-6157 (metro area) or 1-888-646-6367 (MN toll free), 8 am–4:30 pm on weekdays. www.dnr.state.mn.us

Winter Wilderness Travel

"I love the deep silence of the winter woods. It is a stillness you can rest your whole weight against... so profound you are sure it will hold and last." —Florence Page Jaques

The BWCAW in the winter is a truly unique experience, whether traveling by dogsled, skijoring, skiing, or snowshoeing. Visitors who come to the wilderness during this time of the year have a very different kind of experience than those that visit during the summer season. You are much less likely to run into other visitors during this time of year 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 self-reliance.

Plan Ahead

Wilderness travel in the winter requires self-reliance, good judgment and knowledge of your limits. At the minimum make sure you have:

- Map and compass—and you know how to use them!
- Adequate clothing for a possible change in the weather and to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.
- First aid kit
- Enough food and water for unexpected delays
- Trip itinerary left with someone at home

Prevent Hypothermia and Frostbite

Be prepared for extreme cold, windy or wet conditions. Your safety is your responsibility.

- Stay dry. Dress in layers so you don't overheat, and change into dry clothing as needed.
- Drink plenty of water and eat often.
- Avoid open water and thin ice.
- Monitor exposed skin.

Water Quality

Although BWCAW lake water may look clean and pure, drinking it without treating it may cause illness. Use one of the following methods to treat your drinking water:

- Bring water to a full boil for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Purify with a filter specifically designed to remove *Giardia lamblia*.
- Treat water with a chemical designed to kill *Giardia lamblia*.

Protect water quality and be sure to bury human waste in snow at least 150 feet from any lake, river or other water source.

All wilderness rules and regulations (see Page 5) apply year-round So, even though the BWCAW has a beautiful white protective coat on in the winter we still need to take care to leave no trace.

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-issuing permit, available by mail, at any Superior National Forest office, and at the main BWCAW entry points. Carry one copy with you during your trip, and drop the other copy in the permit box at the entry point or a U. S. Postal Service mailbox.

Choose a Campsite

- On the ice, in a protected bay, or in a natural forest opening such as a swamp.
- At least 150 feet from trails, summer campsites or other groups.
- Make just one trail connecting the shoreline to camp.

Campfires

It is preferable to make a campfire on the ice to minimize fire scars. Use base logs or portable fire pans if your campfire is on the ice. Use a camp stove or fire pan if your campfire is on land.

- 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 in control at all times.
- 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 feces in the woods at least 150 feet from the water's edge. Keep the entry points clean for others by picking up feces before and after hitting the trail.

Trip Planning for Large Groups

Whether you are bringing your family, youth, or church group to the BWCAW, planning for any large group trip requires a little extra effort.

Please remember, groups of more than nine people and four watercraft are not permitted anywhere or anytime in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). This is one of the most common violations that our crews encounter, and can easily be avoided if groups keep the following tips in mind. Large groups face special challenges when trying to minimize their impact on the wilderness and on other wilderness visitors. Please be mindful of such impacts and encourage group members to consider them as well.

Trip Planning

- Nine people is the limit—no matter what age. If you have more than nine people you will need to break the larger group into groups of nine or less and obtain a permit for each group. Each permitted group will need to travel and camp separately. Do not plan to have the smaller groups travel together, meet for meals, or camp together if, when the groups combine, the total number of people exceeds nine.
- If you have more than one permitted group, be sure that you have at least one responsible adult for each group. This adult should be prepared for leading the group and have knowledge of safe wilderness travel and camping. Because groups must travel and camp separately, one adult will not be able to manage or be with more than one group.
- Make it easier for groups to stay apart. Consider reserving a different entry point for each permit. Some organizations plan it so that one group travels clockwise and another travels counterclockwise, but be wary of the overlapping areas. Remind members that they should stay with their assigned group.
- Pack food and gear separately for each permitted group, to ensure that groups remain apart.

Before You Leave Home

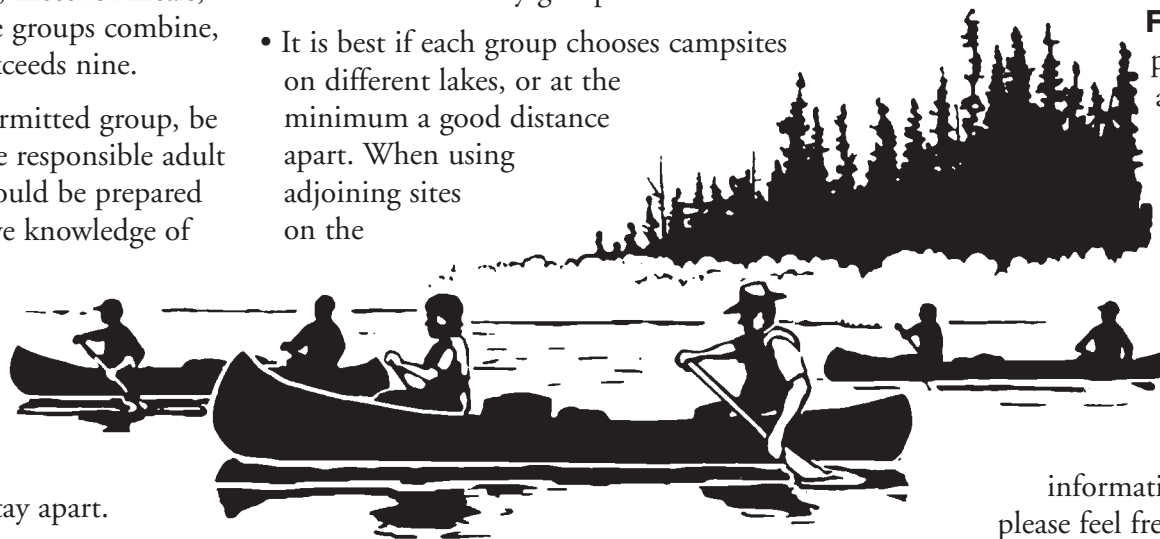
- Be sure someone at home who is associated with your group knows which members are traveling with which trip leader and the itineraries for each permitted group, including the start and end dates and entry points.

While Traveling in the BWCAW

- Your groups need to travel separately. If you will be taking the same route, space each group's departure so that each one will be out of sight and sound of any other at all times.
- Portages become very congested in certain portions of the wilderness. This is largely due to groups bunching up while traveling and taking breaks on portages. Make your portaging as efficient as possible. If you need a lunch break or to repack gear, please find an area that is well away from portages—do not make portages a break destination.
- Campsites, islands, even the middle of large lakes cannot become meeting grounds. Any get-together must not exceed nine people.

At the Campsite

- It is a good idea to start looking for campsites early in the day. Please note that if you are planning to camp on the same lake there may not be enough campsites on the lake to accommodate every group.
- It is best if each group chooses campsites on different lakes, or at the minimum a good distance apart. When using adjoining sites on the



same lake there is more temptation to gather together, to start yelling back and forth, and in the case of adjoining sites, it leads to traffic between the sites which tramples vegetation and creates trails.

- More people on a campsite mean more feet trampling vegetation and encouraging erosion. More tents enlarge the campsite area. Encourage your group members to use areas that have already been impacted and hardened, rather than setting up in an area where the ground vegetation is still intact.
- Larger groups tend to be noisier. Your group's laughter and song may be part of the music of

wilderness, but a group yelling from site to site or between canoes is not. Be aware and respectful of the solitude others in the areas may be seeking. The greater disturbance caused by large groups may increase stress for wildlife, especially during nesting seasons.

Safety

PFD/LIFE JACKET—Be sure everyone in your group has their own Personal Flotation Device (PFD)/Life Jacket. Require group members to always wear a life jacket—PFDs won't work unless they are worn. 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.

RAPIDS—Running water has a great deal of power and can be very deceptive. Portages are there for a reason. Please use them. Even with lifejackets on, rapids are dangerous. Please swim only in calm water far from rapids and falls.

FIRST AID KIT—Each permitted group should carry a well-stocked first aid kit and have group members that know how to provide first aid.

We hope that this information will help your organization successfully complete your next BWCAW trip. If you would like more

information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Superior National Forest offices.

Note: If these suggestions seem unrealistic, then maybe wilderness travel is not appropriate for your group on this trip. If you have more than nine people in your group and want to stay together, please consider a route in the Superior National Forest, but outside the BWCAW. We call this "backcountry." No permits are required and no user fees are charged. These areas are often less traveled than many parts of the BWCAW and offer just as much beauty, solitude and wildlife. There are even campsites with latrines, fire grates and tent pads. Interested? Call one of our Forest Service Offices for more information.

Bring the Magic of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to Your Group or Classroom with the BWCA Wilderness Kit



The BWCA Wilderness Kit is a curriculum of hands-on activities, colorful maps, exciting games, and real artifacts that will engage middle school aged youth. Use

of this Kit varies from 50 minutes to 5 hours or more. Through interactive and small group activities, this curriculum will help kids explore and discover the history, science, and social science of Minnesota's only wilderness—the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Learn about wilderness, the history of the Ojibwe and Voyageurs, plants and animals unique to the region, and the benefits of low impact recreation.

The Kit includes instructor background materials and reference sheets to make it an easy teaching tool. Activities correlate to Minnesota graduation standards. The BWCAW Wilderness Kit was developed with educator involvement and teacher and student review, so we know it works and we know students like it. The Kit is a great tool for those who take youth

groups into the BWCAW.

The BWCA Wilderness Kit was created by the Boundary Waters Wilderness Foundation and Superior National Forest. Please contact the Forest Service to find out more about this unique education tool and how to schedule it to use with your class or youth group.

To reserve call (218) 626-4300 or email r9_superior_NF@fs.fed.us.

For more information visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior.

Outfitter Guide Directory

The businesses, institutions and individuals listed in this directory have been issued a Special Use Permit for commercial outfitting and guiding by the Forest Service, USDA. Those with the notation "GUIDING" are authorized by Special Use Permit to accompany clients and provide guiding services on national forest land in the Superior National Forest. Those with the notation "LIVERY" are outfitters who are authorized to drop off clients at national forest landings. Those with the notation "TOWBOAT" are under permit to operate towboats to and from national forest landings.

NOTE: Inclusion in this brochure only indicates the operator is authorized by Special Use Permit to operate on national forest land and should not be interpreted as an endorsement for their services.

| OUTFITTER/GUIDE | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL OR WEBSITE | GUIDING | TOWBOAT | LIVERY | HUNTING GUIDE | WINTER GUIDING | DOGSLEDDING |
|--|--|---|---------|---------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Adventures In Good Company | 717-246-6225 | goodadventure.com | X | | | | | |
| Back Country Bear Hunts | 218-827-3762 | | | | | X | | |
| Basswood Trail Guide Service | 218-365-2239 | basswoodtrailguide service.com | X | | | X | | |
| Bear Track Outfitting Company* | 218-387-1162 | outfitters@bear-track.com | X | X | | | | |
| Big Lake Wilderness Lodge* | 800-446-9080 | biglakelodge.com | X | | X | | | |
| Boundary Country Trekking | 800-322-8327 | boreal.org.adventures/ | | | | | X | |
| Boundary Waters Canoe Outfitters* | 218-365-3201 | boundary-waters.com | | | X | | | |
| Camp Mishawaka | 800-308-5011 | campmishawaka.com | X | | | | | |
| Canadian Border Outfitters* | 800-247-7530 | canoetrip.com | | X | X | | | |
| Canadian Waters, Inc.* | 800-255-2922 | canadianwaters.com | X | | X | | | |
| Canoe Country Outfitters, Inc.* | 218-365-4046 | canoebwca.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Caribou Trail Guide Service | 218-663-0195 | cariboutrailguideservice.com | X | | | X | | |
| Joe Carlson | Box 1334, Grand Marais, MN 55604 | | X | | | | | |
| Clearwater Canoe Outfitters & Lodge* | 218-388-2254 | clearwater@canoebwca.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Cliff Wold's Canoe Trip Outfitting Company* | 218-365-3267 | | | | X | | | |
| Custom Cabin Rentals* | 218-365-6947 | info@customcabins.com | X | X | | | | |
| Deer Ridge Outfitting Company | 800-382-2041 | deeridge@northernnet.com | | | X | | | |
| Jeff Drew | 4347 H Ave., Cleghorn, IA 51014 | | | X | | | | |
| Duane's Canoe Outfitters* | 800-729-2710 | duanesoutfitters@yahoo.com | | | X | | | |
| Echo Trail Outposts* | 888-811-3156 | echotrailoutfitters.com | X | | X | | | |
| Glacier Valley Wilderness Adventures | 608-493-2075 | glaciervalley.com | X | | | | | |
| Greenwood Guiding Service, James Postudensek | 132 E. Niagra Street, Duluth, Mn 55811 218-728-2181 | | X | | | | | |
| Leif Gunderson | 254-381-7080 | Fishingresorts.com | | | | X | | |
| Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters* | 888-canoeing | gunflintoutfitters.com | X | | X | | | |
| Robert J. Haack | 218-365-2823 | | | | | X | | |
| Hungry Jack Outfitters* | 800-648-2922 | hjo.com | X | | X | | | |
| Jasper Creek Guide Service, Inc. | 218-365-3239 | jcguide@2z.net | X | X | | | | |
| Jordan's Wilderness Shop & Outfitters, Inc. * | 800-644-9955 | info@jordansoutfitters.com | | | X | | | |
| Kelly's Guide Service | 877-753-5144 | | X | | | | | |
| LaCroix Outfitters* | 218-993-2642 | lacroix@yahoo.com | | | X | | | |
| Lady Bug Lodge & Canoe Expeditions* | 218-365-8400 | ladybuglodge@frontiernet.net | X | | | | | |
| Lake Vermilion Canoe Outfitters | 507-732-7378 | lvco@smithcanoes.com | | | X | | | |
| LaTourell's Resort & Outfitters* | 800-365-4531 | latourells.com | X | | X | | | |
| Little Vince's Guide Service | 218-387-2168 | | X | | | | | |
| Lodge of Whispering Pines* | 218-365-2129 | | X | | X | | X | |
| Lutsen Mtns—Homestead Stables | 218-663-7281 | lutsen.com | X | | | | | |
| MJ Sled & Dogs, Ltd. | 715-425-1157 | | | | | | X | X |
| Stuart McEntyre | 218-365-6815 | whitewolfdogtrips.com | | | | | | X |
| The Moose Bay Co.* | 218-365-6285 | moosebaycompany.com | X | X | | | | |
| Moose Track Adventures* | 218-365-4106 | moosetrackadventures.com | X | | X | | X | |
| Murphy's Border Country Adventures | 218-365-4986 | | | | | | X | X |
| Rob Nelson | 218-349-9916 | | X | | | | | |
| Nor'Wester Lodge | 218-388-2252 | | | | X | | | |
| Northwoods Guiding Service | 218-365-2650 | | X | | | | | X |
| North Country Canoe Outfitters* | 800-552-5581 | boundarywaters.com | | X | X | | | |
| North Country Lodge, Inc. | 218-365-4976 | borderlakes.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Robert Oliva | 218-365-5638 | | X | | | | | |
| Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins* | 218-365-3788 | packsackcanoetrips.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Tom Pearson | 218-323-7650 | | | | | X | | |
| Pack, Paddle, Ski – Rick French | 585-346-5597 | PackPaddleSki.com | X | | | | | |
| Piragis Northwoods Company* | 800-223-6565 | piragis.com | X | | X | | | |
| Portage North | 218-718-9190 | | X | | | | | |
| Red Rock Outfitting | 800-280-1078 | redrock@redrockstore.com | | | X | | | |
| Paul Riegert | 218-365-4161 | | X | | | | X | |
| River Point Outfitting Company & Resort* | 800-280-5580 | info@elyoutfitters.com | X | | X | | | |
| Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters* | 218-388-2242 | info@rockwoodbwca.com | | | X | | | |
| Mary Sue Rosenwinkel | 218-365-7869 | suerosenwinkel@hotmail.com | X | | | | | |
| Roulo Guide Service | 218-728-9660 | magicalmaps.com/ roulo_guide_service.htm | X | | | X | X | |
| Run Silent Dogsled Trips | 218-365-4288 | runsilent.com | | | | | X | X |
| Larry Runningen | 218-387-9184 | | | | X | | | |

| OUTFITTER/GUIDE | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL OR WEBSITE | GUIDING | TOWBOAT | LIVERY | HUNTING GUIDE | WINTER GUIDING | DOGSLEDDING |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, Inc.* | 218-663-7150 | info@sawbill.com | | | | X | | |
| Sawtooth Outfitters | 218-663-7643 | | | | | X | | |
| Seagull Canoe Outfitters* | 218-388-2216 | gorp.com/seagull | | X | X | | | |
| Sled Dog Adventures | 800-884-5463 | | | | | | X | X |
| Soltreks | 218-525-5803 | soltreks.com | X | | | | | |
| Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters* | 800-950-2709 | info@elycanoetrips.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Superior Shuttle | 218-834-5511 | | | | X | | | |
| Timber Trail Lodge* | 218-365-4879 | timbertrail.com | X | | X | | | |
| Sarah Tufte, Camp 40 Outfitters | 218-993-2226 | camp40.com | | | X | | | |
| Tuscarora Canoe Outfitters* | 218-388-2221 | tuscarora@boreal.com | | | X | | | |
| Up North Adventures | 218-356-8590 | | X | | | | | |
| Voyageur Canoe Outfitters* | 888-canoeit | canoeit.com | | | X | | | |
| Voyageur North Outfitters* | 800-848-5530 | vno@VNorth.com | X | | X | | | |
| Way of the Wilderness* | 218-388-2212 | canoe@boreal.org | | | X | | | |
| White Iron Beach Resort* | 218-365-4885 | whiteironbeach.com | X | | X | | | |
| White Wilderness | 800-701-6238 | whitewilderness.com | | | X | | X | X |
| Wilderness Outfitters* | 218-365-3211 | wildernessoutfitters.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Wilderness Outreach | 218-387-1484 | | X | | | | | |
| Wilderness Walleye/ Smallmouth Hunts | 218-365-3368 | elyfishing.com | X | X | | | | |
| Williams & Hall Wilderness Guides & Outfitters* | 800-322-5837 | williamsandhall.com | X | X | X | | | |
| Wintergreen Treks | 800-584-9425 | dogsledging.com | | | | | | X |

NOT FOR PROFIT OPERATORS

The following are not-for-profit permitted operations.

| OUTFITTER/GUIDE | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL OR WEBSITE | GUIDING | TOWBOAT | LIVERY | HUNTING GUIDE | WINTER GUIDING | DOGSLEDDING |
|---|--------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Adventurous Christians Covenant* | 218-388-2286 | ac@adventurouschristians.org | X | X | | | | |
| Audubon Center of the North Woods | | Audubon-center.com | X | | | | | |
| Boundary Waters Experience | 952-922-8464 | BWExperience.com | X | | | | | |
| Camp Nebagamon | | cnebagamon@aol.com | X | | X | | | |
| Camp Northwoods— GS Council St. Croix Valley | 612-227-8835 | | X | | | | | |
| Camp Voyageur* | 218-365-6042 | campvoyageur.com | X | | X | | X | X |
| Girl Scouts Land of Lakes Council, Chisholm, MN* | 218-254-5696 | | X | | X | | | |
| Gunflint Wilderness Camp | | cbgwc@uslink.net | X | | X | | | |
| International Wolf Center | | wolf.org | X | | | | X | X |
| Kekekabic Trail Club | 612-252-9297 | | X | | | | | |
| Lake Lundgren Bible Camp | 715-324-5457 | | X | | | | | |
| Long Lake Conservation Center | 218-768-4653 | llcc@mlec.mn.net | X | | | | | |
| Minot Family YMCA— Triangle Y Camp | 701-852-0141 | | X | | | | | |
| North Star Christian Adventures | 612-870-0058 | | X | | | | | |
| Northern Tier High Adventure Base BSA* | 218-365-4811 | ntier.org | X | X | X | | | |
| Phantom Ranch Bible Camp | 262-363-6940 | phantomranch.org | X | | | | | |
| Sierra Club | 712-325-1664 | | X | | | | | |
| Vermilion Community College | 218-365-7200 | p.hansen@mail.vcc.mnscu.edu | X | | | | | |
| Voyageur Lutheran Ministry* | 218-666-5465 | vlm@vermillionnet.com | X | | | | | |
| Voyageur Outward Bound School* | 218-365-5761 | vobs.com | X | | X | | | |
| Wilderness Canoe Base* | 218-388-2241 | | X | | X | | | |
| Wilderness Inquiry | 612-676-9400 | wildernessinquiry.org | X | | | | | |
| Wilderness Outreach | 218-387-1620 | | X | | | | | |
| Wilderness Winds Camp | 218-365-5873 | wildernesswind@juno.com | X | | | | | |
| Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center | | wrelc@mr.net | X | | | | | |
| Women's Time Out | 708-256-0937 | | X | | | | | |
| YMCA Camp Manito-Wish | 715-385-2312 | | X | | | | | |
| YMCA Camp Menogyn* | 218-388-4497 | campmenogyn@aol.com | X | | | | | |
| YMCA—St. Paul Camps | 218-365-2117 | info@widji.net | X | | X | | X | |
| Youth Opportunities United (YOU Camp) | 218-757-3211 | | X | | | | | |

*Note: Also have a cooperative agreement with the Forest Service to issue BWCAW Wilderness Permits.

Your User Fees At Work!

BWCAW Overnight User Fees are put to good use! Many projects were completed during the 2004 season as a direct result of your user fees.

- User fees helped to fund, in part, a project to produce new BWCAW visitor education videos. A new short video will be shown to visitors when they pick up their wilderness permit and a new longer version will be made available to groups prior to their trip. Filming was completed in 2004.



Filming was completed for a new BWCAW Video that will be viewed by groups when they pick up their wilderness permit. In this scene a trip leader is reviewing Leave No Trace principles with his group.

- Additional seasonal staff for increased routine field work and to assist at contact stations.
- Campsite improvements such as replanting and/or reseeding native vegetation,

improving tent pads, cleaning and repairing fire grates, and erosion repair and prevention.

- Winter dog sled program as 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.

- Portage and hiking trail improvements such as clearing brush, installing water barriers to prevent erosion, repairing eroded areas, and installing sections of boardwalk to prevent degradation of sensitive areas.

- Increased education and interpretation including distribution of free litter bags with minimum impact messages, wilderness interpretive programs and Leave No Trace educational workshops.



Before and after photos of a boardwalk installed in 2004 to prevent resource damage from occurring on the Trident Lake to Frog Lake portage. A year of vegetation growth and weathering will naturalize this feature.



BWCA Wilderness permit issuing hours were extended in the mornings and evenings.

BWCAW Permit Issuing Stations

Aurora Area

Forest Service Office—Aurora

Cook/Orr Area

Forest Service Office—Cook
Anderson's Canoe Outfitters
Borderland Lodge & Outfitters
Forest Lane Resort
Fortune Bay Resort Casino
LaCroix Outfitters
Voyagers Lutheran Ministry
Zup's Fishing Resort & Canoe Outfitters

Duluth Area

Thompson Hill Travel Information Center

Tofte/Isabella Area

Forest Service Office—Tofte
Forest Service Work Station—Isabella
Al's Bait & Tackle—Two Harbors
Beaver Bay Sports Shop
Finland Bait & Tackle
Knotted Pine Inn
Maple Grove Motel & Bait Shop
Sawbill Canoe Outfitters
Sawtooth Outfitters

Grand Marais/ Gunflint Area

Forest Service Office—Grand Marais
Adventurous Christians
Bearskin Lodge
Bear Track Outfitting Co.
Countryside Trekking Ltd.
Clearwater Canoe Outfitters
Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters
Gunflint Pines Resort
Hungry Jack Canoe Outfitters
Nor'Wester Lodge
Old Northwoods Lodge
Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters
Seagull Canoe Outfitters
Seagull Creek Fishing Camp
Superior North Canoe Outfitters
Tuscarora Outfitters
Voyageur Canoe Outfitters
Way of the Wilderness
Wilderness Canoe Base
Windigo Lodge
YMCA Camp Menogyn
Wilderness Waters Outfitters

Ely Area

Forest Service
Kawishiwi Wilderness Station—Ely
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge
Border Lakes Wilderness Canoe Trips
Boundary Waters Canoe Outfitters
Camp Voyageur, Inc.
Canadian Border Outfitters
Canadian Waters, Inc.
Canoe Country Outfitters
Cliff Wold's Canoe Trip Outfitting Co.
Custom Cabin Rental
Deer Ridge Resort
Duane's Outfitters
Echo Trail Outfitters
Farm Lake Outpost
Gateway North Outfitters
Jackpine Lodge
Jordan's Wilderness Shop & Outfitters, Inc.
Kawishiwi Lodge & Canoe Outfitters
Land of Lakes - Girl Scouts
LaTourell's Resort & Outfitters
Lodge of Whispering Pines
Moose Bay Company
Moose Country Adventures

Moose Track Adventures
North Country Canoe Outfitters
Northern Tier BSA
Northwind Lodge/Redrock Outfitters
Osprey Adventures Guides & Trips
Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins
Piragis' Northwoods Co.
River Point Resort & Outfitting Co.
Skube's Bait & Tackle
Smitty's on Snowbank
Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters
Timber Trail Lodge & Outfitters
Tofte Lake Cabins
Veterans on the Lake
Voyageur North Outfitters
Voyageur Outward Bound School
White Iron Beach Resort
Wilderness Bay Lodge
Wilderness Outfitters
Wilderness Wind, Inc.
Williams & Hall Wilderness Guides & Outfitters
YMCA Camp Widjwagan

For more information

Forest Service Offices

Forest Supervisor's Office

8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808
(218) 626-4300
TTY: (218) 626-4399
On the web
www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior

Gunflint Ranger Station

2020 W. Highway 61
Grand Marais, MN 55604
(218) 387-1750
TTY: (218) 387-1750

Isabella Work Station

2759 Highway 1
Isabella, MN 55607
(218) 323-7722

Kawishiwi Ranger Station

118 S. 4th Ave E.
Ely, MN 55731
(218) 365-7600
TTY: (218) 365-7602
(218) 365-7561 (5/1-9/30)
TTY: (218) 365-7602

La Croix Ranger Station

320 N. Hwy 53
Cook, MN 55723
(218) 666-0020
TTY: (218) 666-0020

Laurentian Ranger Station

318 Forestry Road
Aurora, MN 55705
(218) 229-8800
TTY: (218) 229-8800

Tofte Ranger Station

Box 2159
Tofte, MN 55615
(218) 663-8060
TTY: (218) 663-8060

Travel to Quetico

Quetico Provincial Park

District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
Atikokan, Ontario POT 1CO
(807) 597-2735
www.queticopark.com

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.

Cook County Sheriff

Grand Marais/Tofte area (218) 387-3030

Lake County Sheriff

(800) 450-8832—In Minnesota

St. Louis County Sheriff

Ely/Cook area
(218) 749-6010

Customs and Immigration

Canadian Immigration

(807) 274-3815
www.cic.gc.ca

Canadian Customs

(807) 274-3655

U.S. Immigration

(218) 720-5207
www.dhs.gov

U.S. Customs

(218) 720-5201
www.customs.ustreas.gov

MN Department of Natural Resources

License Bureau

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4026
(651) 296-2316—Metro area
(800) 285-2000—In Minnesota
www.dnr.state.mn.us

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT UPON REQUEST.