



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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sued in federal court to stop exploration, drilling, or mining. The court decided that the BWCA was effectively *zoned* against mining, but the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the ruling on *procedural* grounds. Although the zoning argument remains available, mining still threatens.

### Proposed legislation

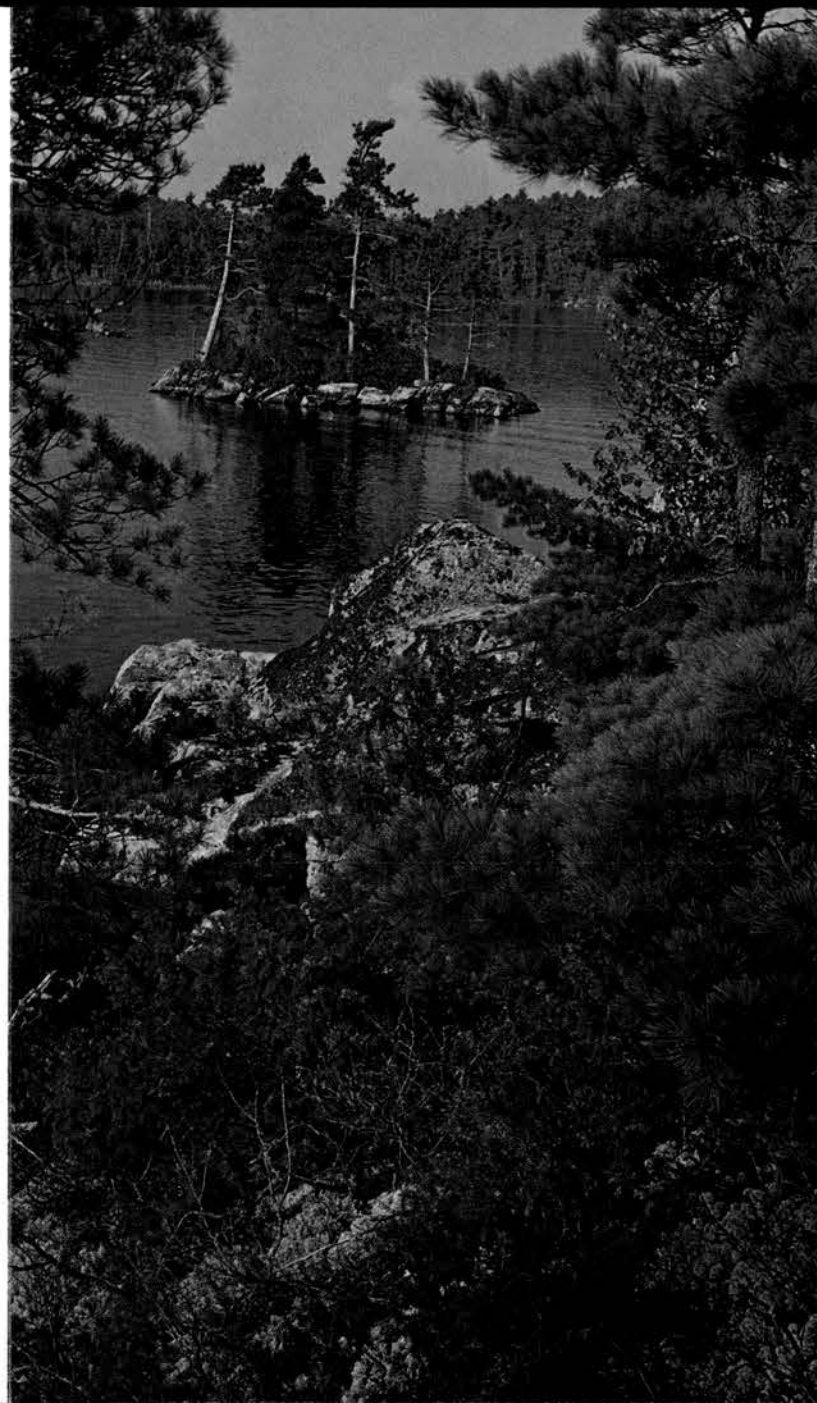
New legislation is essential to define clearly the appropriate uses of the BWCA. Bills already introduced in Congress in 1977 suggest the direction legislation may take. Rep. Oberstar's bill would transfer 400,000 acres from the Wilderness Preservation System to a National Recreation Area, permitting a variety of recreational experiences from primitive to highly intensive, with several large areas available for commercial logging and motorized recreation. Large and beautiful lakes, such as Lac La Croix, Saganaga, Sea Gull, and Basswood would be removed from the BWCA Wilderness to accommodate motors and snowmobiles. Controversy would continue because the Forest Service could administratively change NRA management. The remaining 600,000 acres of the BWCA would be administered as wilderness. Mineral rights would be scrutinized and recommendations submitted to Congress concerning acquisition.

Congressman Fraser's 1977 bill (H.R.2820) would preserve as a wilderness all of the present BWCA. Logging would end immediately. Motorboat and snowmobile use would stop at once (except for a few hardship cases). Mining would be banned except in a national emergency. His bill also would add to the BWCA several small adjoining areas of critically needed wilderness lands, most of which are already publicly-owned.

### What will our decisions mean?

Two important principles are at stake: wilderness areas should not be manipulated, and they should not be reduced to accommodate non-wilderness uses. Allowing the Forest Service to log the BWCA under the guise of manipulating forest vegetation sets an ominous precedent for all other wilderness areas and national parks. Since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, no significant subtractions from the wilderness system have ever been made. If we allow the advocates of logging, motorboats, snowmobiles, and mining to remove some of the BWCA from the wilderness system, we will have set a precedent for dismantling the entire system.

Wilderness preservation is uniquely an American concept now growing throughout the world. Our nation's moral fiber was forged in the wilderness and we owe future generations an opportunity to share and enjoy a few remnants of primeval America. The Wilderness System comprises a mere ½ of one percent of our nation's land, and the BWCA is the only significant lakeland wilderness left. Our planet, without this unique wilderness, would be a world impoverished in natural diversity — forever!



The following organizations support the concept of **full wilderness status** for the BWCA:

The National Audubon Society	The Izaak Walton League of America
Defenders of Wildlife	The National Parks and Conservation Association
Friends of the Earth	The National Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	The Sierra Club
The International Backpackers Association	The U.S. Ski Association
	The Wilderness Society

**For further information write to:**

**Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**

1783 Lindig Street, St. Paul, MN 55113

(an informal coalition of national and local environmental organizations)

**Contributions are badly needed.** Send them to your own member organizations, earmarked for the Boundary Waters issue, or to:

Dr. Darby Nelson, Treasurer,

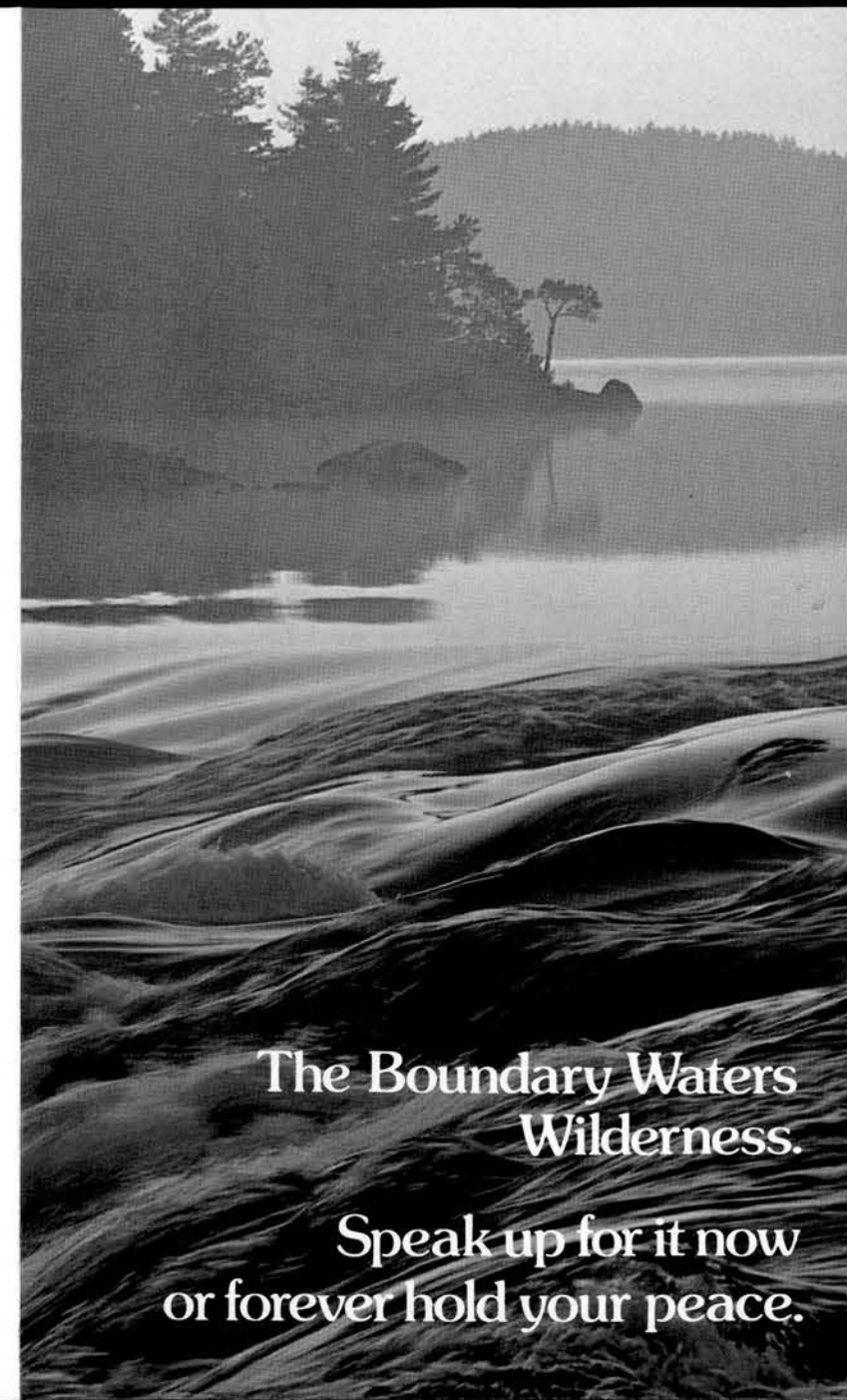
**Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness,**

1013 Vera Street, Champlin, MN 55316

**Write** your Representatives and Senators in Congress. Tell them you care about our only lakeland Wilderness and that you support full wilderness status for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Their addresses are: Representative (Name), House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 — Senator (Name), Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

**Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**

1783 Lindig Street, St. Paul, MN 55113



The Boundary Waters  
Wilderness.

Speak up for it now  
or forever hold your peace.





### 1977: A year of decision. Full wilderness status for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area? A National issue.

For 75 years the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota's Superior National Forest — our only lakeland wilderness — has been plagued by conflicts over logging, motorboats, snowmobiles, roads, fly-in resorts, and proposed dams and mines. At 1,000,000 acres, the BWCA is the second largest unit of our National Wilderness Preservation System: it is larger than all other Wilderness Areas in the eastern United States combined, it contains the largest virgin forests remaining in the east, and it sustains more wilderness recreation and serves more scientific and educational purposes than any other wilderness. But it still lacks full legal protection. The 1964 Wilderness Act should have ended the debates over BWCA uses, but a single paragraph, 4(d)(5), left the door open to logging and motorboats in the BWCA, making it an orphan in the Wilderness System. Now, after years of lawsuits, logging and road-building will soon resume in 10,000 acres of virgin forests, future federal timber sales threaten vast additional areas, and snowmobile and motorboat interests aim to permanently dismember this unique wilderness.

Two bills dealing with BWCA conflicts were introduced in the 94th Congress, but neither was acted upon. A proposal sponsored by Rep. Donald Fraser (Minneapolis) would protect the entire BWCA from logging, mining, snowmobiles, and motorboats. Another measure, introduced by Rep. James Oberstar (Duluth), would protect only 60% of the area, removing 40% from the wilderness system, converting it to a National Recreation Area open to logging, motorboats, and snowmobiles. Similar bills have been introduced in the 95th Congress.

Will the BWCA become a permanent gem in our wilderness system? Or will it be reduced in size, torn up by logging, and over-run by motorboats and snowmobiles? 1977 is the year of decision!

### Wilderness values at stake

The Canoe Area is a big country. Stretching for 110 miles along the Minnesota-Ontario border, it encompasses a thousand pristine, island-studded lakes, interconnected by hundreds of miles of streams, portages, and foot trails, where the canoeist, hiker, snowshoer, and skier can experience nature on her own terms. There, dark forests of jack pine and black spruce march out to the edges of plunging glacially-carved cliffs, 300-year-old pines keep a lonely vigil over the ancient canoe routes of the Sioux, the Chippewa, and the French voyageurs, and the eerie howl of the timber wolf and the haunting laughter of the loon awaken memories of primeval America.

The BWCA holds the last extensive and complete northern conifer forest ecosystem in the eastern U.S. Wolf and moose, lynx and hare, marten and squirrel, osprey and fish, predator and prey, complete the ecosystem's food chains. Only in this region does the eastern timber wolf hold fast to its range in the lower 48 states. There, free of man's influence, the BWCA is a living laboratory where scientists are studying the relationship between these animals and their environment. The BWCA offers priceless opportunities for research and education in forest and wildlife ecology, animal behavior, vegetation history, nutrient cycling, and aquatic ecosystems.

### Should the virgin forests be logged?

White pine logging in the BWCA began about 1895 and had cut over a quarter of the area by 1930. Pulpwood logging, based on jack pine and black spruce, began about 1948. Since then clear-cutting, bulldozing, and spraying with herbicides have leveled vast blocks of virgin forest, leaving a second growth of pine plantations, aspen, birch, and brush. Gravel roads, built to accommodate large trucks, snake through the very areas that Secretary of Agriculture William Jardine promised, in 1926, to keep "free of roads of any character." In 1972 lawsuits were filed to test the legality of 13 existing

federal timber sales under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Wilderness Act (MPIRG and Sierra Club vs. Butz). Injunctions prevented further logging in the virgin forests from 1973 to 1976, but cutting again became imminent when the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the injunctions in November, 1976. Since then, Boise-Cascade, Potlatch, Abitibi, and Kainz Lumber Company, the firms holding cutting rights, have agreed to suspend logging until the fall of 1977, but it will resume then unless Congress acts.

The Forest Service has divided the BWCA into an Interior Zone of 600,000 acres where logging is now prohibited, and a Portal Zone of 400,000 acres where logging is allowed. In spite of past logging, some 540,000 acres of virgin landscape remain. Some of the Interior Zone was logged earlier, and nearly 160,000 acres of virgin forest remain in the Portal Zone. Ontario recognized the value of virgin forests in the adjacent Quetico Provincial Park, and stopped all logging in 1972. Thus, more than a million acres of contiguous primeval country still exist as a Quetico-Superior international wilderness.

Outside the BWCA the timber industry already uses nearly 2 million acres of public forests within the Superior National Forest for sustained yield and multiple-use forestry. In fact, 16 million acres of Minnesota's commercial forest lands lie outside the BWCA. With good forest practices, the present timber cut could be sustained on half that area. But the forest products industry apparently wants to cut the last virgin stands of pine and spruce before making necessary investments in forestry or changing wood pulping processes. Forest Service studies show that the BWCA's lands are the least productive and most sensitive to disturbance of any in the Superior National Forest.

Because of an oversupply of pulpwood in Minnesota, recent timber prices have been so low for cutting rights in the BWCA that revenues have often been insufficient to cover the costs of administration and reforestation. Before the injunction of 1973, the BWCA produced only 3% of Minnesota's pulpwood and 8% of its softwood. During the logging ban, mill production and employment were not affected by wood shortages. The economic health of northeastern Minnesota does not depend on logging, but on iron mining. Outside the BWCA there is an abundant supply of timber, while the wilderness provides many jobs in outfitting. Therefore, giving the Portal Zone complete wilderness protection will have no adverse effect on the region's economy.

### Must we log the virgin forests to "save" them?

The wood fiber industry claims that logging of the virgin forests



is necessary to maintain a healthy vegetation and food for wildlife. But logging disturbs the ecosystem unnaturally for generations. The goal of wilderness preservation is not to save individual trees, but to maintain the dynamic mosaic of plant communities, wildlife habitats, and animal populations of a natural region. Fire, wind, and native insects naturally disturbed the primeval forest, maintaining the diverse vegetation and animal populations, regenerating old forests, recycling nutrients, and accounting for the long-term stability of the ecosystem. The same is also true of our best known western wilderness areas and national parks where fire is being carefully restored to its natural role. The ecological principles for the BWCA are the same as those in Yellowstone National Park or the Bob Marshall and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas. If we can justify logging the BWCA to save it, then we can also justify logging many other wilderness areas and national parks! The virgin forests and wildlife of the BWCA, present since the last Ice Age, needed no logging, and will last indefinitely if fully protected.

### The motorboat-snowmobile controversy

Motorboats are allowed in the BWCA by the Wilderness Act to the extent such use was established in 1964. The Forest Service said snowmobiles were winterized motorboats and allowed them in the same areas. 21 designated motorized routes now monopolize 60% of the water area in the Interior and Portal zones. Across the border, in contiguous Quetico Park, most motor use and all snowmobiles are banned. More than 70% of the visitors to the BWCA paddle canoes, and that percentage is increasing. Studies show that nearly all paddlers (93%) are irritated by motorboats. Motor use makes the wilderness seem smaller by accentuating the sense of crowding. A visitor-distribution program is now necessary to limit entry at popular access points.

In 1974 the Forest Service, recognizing its earlier mistake, ruled that snowmobiles were incompatible, and ordered their end by 1980. This was appealed, and in September, 1976, the Secretary of Agriculture banned snowmobiles but retained discretionary authority. A recent court decision upheld the Secretary's authority. Eliminating motorized uses will enhance the sense of solitude, and vast alternative areas for motorboats and snowmobiles exist throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

### Copper-nickel mining

Test drilling for copper-nickel ores just outside the BWCA began in the mid 1950's and was resumed recently. A prospecting crew established a camp on Howard Lake, deep in the Interior Zone in 1969, intent on using heavy drilling rigs. The Izaak Walton League





## SUMMARIES OF BILLS:

### The Fraser Bill,

- 1) Stops logging in the entire BWCA;
- 2) Stops motorboat and snowmobile use except for 5 year phase out in hardship cases in the present BWCA;
- 3) Prohibits in the BWCA mining of federal minerals or the use of federal lands in relation thereto except in the case of a national emergency;
- 4) Increases payments to counties in lieu of taxes;
- 5) Continues all previous protections such as the air space reservation; and
- 6) Renames the BWCA the BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS AREA

### The Oberstar Bill,

- 1) Removes approximately 400,000 acres from the present BWCA (and therefore from the National Wilderness System) and converts them into a multiple use National Recreation Area. This removal includes all the present BWCA east of the Gunflint Trail, a large chunk completely through the Basswood Lake area, and all of Lac La Croix and the Saganaga region;
- 2) Creates three separated areas of full wilderness totalling 625,000 acres. This protects some virgin forest areas now open to logging and eliminates motors from several present motor routes;

- 3) Creates a 527,000 acre National Recreation Area (400,000 acres from present BWCA) where motorboats, snowmobiles, logging and road building are permitted; and
- 4) Does not explicitly continue the air space reservation nor the potential legal restraints now applying to BWCA land which will be converted to NRA.

## What do conservationists support?

Minnesota Congressman Donald M. Fraser (Dem.-5th Dist.) introduced the following bill HR2820 in the U.S. House of Representatives in Jan. 1977. This bill would end the abuses of the BWCA and close-off the interminable debates over present policies by preserving the entire area as a Wilderness. Logging would terminate immediately, and motorboat and snowmobile use would cease at once except for a discretionary 5 year phase-out period in hardship cases. Mining of federal minerals in the BWCA, or the use of federal lands in relation to any mining or mineral exploration on other ownerships in the BWCA, would be prohibited except in a National emergency. "Administrative cutting" (non-commercial logging) to manipulate the vegetation would also be banned. Payments to counties in lieu of taxes, as already provided by the Thye-Blatnik Act of 1948, would be increased. Quick passage of the bill is urged by FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS because it serves the long-term national interest far better than any other proposal yet advanced.

## How can you help, now?

1. **Write your U.S. Representative in Congress today.** Tell him or her: to support full wilderness status for the BWCA; to support the Fraser Bill HR2820 which would give full wilderness status to the BWCA; to oppose the Oberstar Bill which would remove lands from the National Wilderness System.
2. **Write your Senators** and urge them to support the introduction of a Senate bill identical to the Fraser Bill.
3. **Circulate this pamphlet** among your friends and become a strong voice for the Boundary Waters Wilderness.
4. **Become an active supporter** in your local community or organization. A slide-tape program and other resources are available for your use. Please contact the FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS chairperson for details and assistance: Telephone 612-332-4800, Minneapolis MN
5. **SEND A CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS;** Funds are essential for organizing this lobbying effort. Please help us with your dollars.



Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness  
1783 Lindy Street  
Saint Paul MN 55113

## TIME FOR DECISION

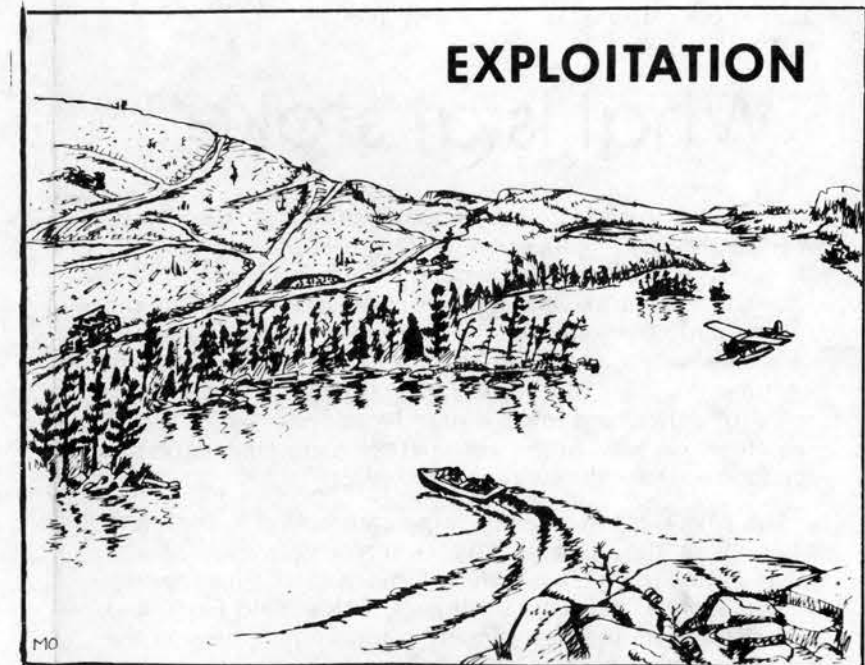
### CAN WE SAVE canoe country?

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OR

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

☐ Please check here if an acknowledgement of your contribution is necessary.

Make your check payable to: **Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness**, Mail to: Dr. Darby Nelson, Treasurer, 513 Elm Creek Road, Champlin, Minnesota 55316.

Put me on the Action List to be kept informed and notified when letterwriting or other help is needed.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

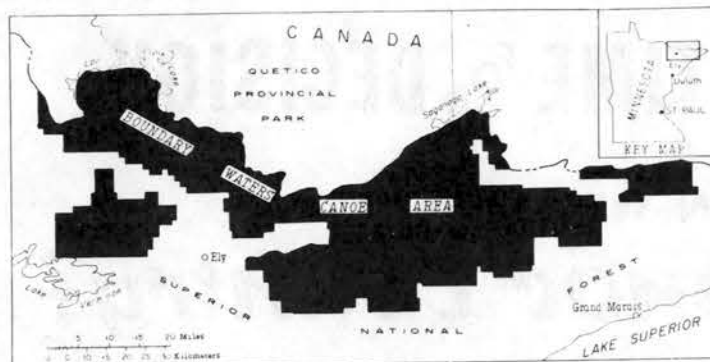
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## What is the Boundary Waters Canoe Area?

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area, located in northeastern Minnesota, is the largest National Wilderness Area east of the Rocky Mountains — slightly over 1 million acres in size. As a vast area of inter-connecting waterways, amidst virgin conifer forests, it is our only lakeland wilderness and unique in the National Wilderness System. Containing 1076 lakes and 1200 miles of canoe routes, it stretches for more than 100 miles along the Minnesota-Ontario border, and supports unique northern fish and wildlife populations. It is one-third larger than all 42 of the other National Wilderness Areas in the eastern United States combined. Together with its sister area, the million acre Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, where all logging and most motorized recreational uses are already prohibited, these two areas comprise one of the finest wilderness regions on the continent. And not surprising because of all these attractions, the BWCA sustains more recreational use than any other unit of our National Wilderness System.

## What is at stake?

The BWCA offers unique opportunities for recreation, wildlife, research, education, and inspiration. It is our only lakeland wilderness — a land where canoeist, hiker, snowshoer, and skier can leave the cares of urban life behind and experience nature on her own terms. It is a land of immense natural beauty — a land of rugged three-century-old pines and jutting glacially-formed cliffs, dotted with a thousand pristine island-studded lakes — where the mournful howl of the wolf and the haunting laughter of the loon enchant the senses of the visitor.

The BWCA is also the last large and relatively complete example of the northern conifer forest ecosystem in the United States. It is a land where Canada Lynx, Pine Marten, Fisher, Moose, Black Bear, Beaver, Otter, Bald Eagle and other forest animals are present in full complement to the native vegetation. The eastern Timber Wolf has its last foothold in the lower 48 states in this part of Minnesota, and several other species present are either rare or endangered elsewhere. Here, in a living biological laboratory, the relationship of these animals to their environment can be studied relatively free of man's influence.

## Why the present controversy?

In 1964 Congress passed the Wilderness Act. This legislation established a National Wilderness Preservation System and set guidelines for its management. The Boundary Waters was made a unit of this system. The U.S. Forest Service continued to manage the National Forest units of that system.

In the language of the Wilderness Act, the System was to provide areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain . . . retaining its primeval character . . . managed to preserve its natural conditions . . . where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable."

Beneath this fine language, however, is Section 4(d)(5), a qualifier tacked on to apply only to the BWCA to satisfy local timber and motorboat interests. Section 4(d)(5) requires that the BWCA be managed to retain its primitive character but "without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber." It also allowed "any already established use of motorboats."

Thus, the Forest Service was asked to manage the area as wilderness while at the same time accommodating logging and motorized users. These contradictory purposes have been at the heart of many law suits, administrative appeals, public hearings, and mass-meetings since 1964. This dilemma has become a nightmare to the Forest Service and conservationists alike. Commercial logging is not permitted in any other unit of the National Wilderness System. But in the BWCA logging and road-building are destroying the last large virgin wilderness in the eastern United States, and motorboat and snowmobile use are destroying the sense of peace and solitude in large portions of the area. Mining remains an ever-present threat.

## What is Congress doing about these problems?

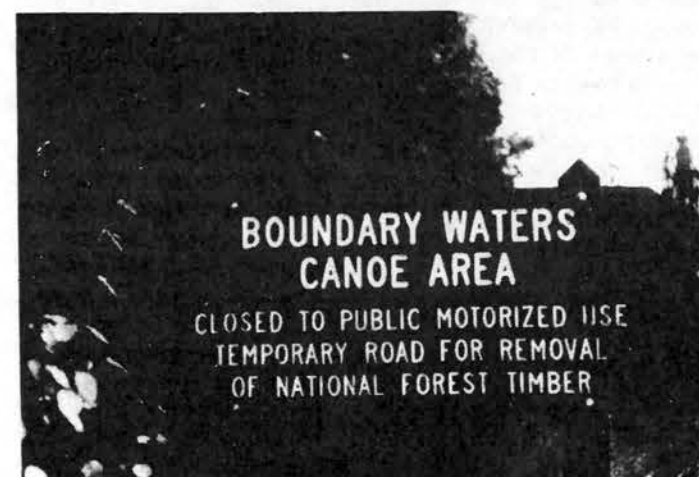
Representative James Oberstar's (Dem-Mn., 8th Dist.) bill would change the classification of approximately 400,000 acres from "Wilderness" to "National Recreation Area," thus removing it from the National Wilderness Preservation System. A National Recreation Area, as defined by the Forest Service, would allow a gradient of recreational experience levels from primitive to highly developed. Under this proposal large sections of the area might be given over to paved roads and resort development. Commercial logging, road-building and motorized recreation would be allowed in the NRA. Current prohibitions on mining and the use of airplanes — both hard won victories — would be uncertain and perhaps lifted. Such beautiful lakes as Lac La Croix, Saganaga, Basswood, Big Trout, Gabbro, Bald Eagle, Brule, Duncan, Rose, Mountain, Pine and Alder would be removed from the wilderness system and transferred to the NRA. The proposed removal of these areas from wilderness status seems to be aimed mainly at accommodating existing motor use.

### DON'T WE HAVE ENOUGH WILDERNESS?

Hardly! All 2.31 billion acres of the continental U.S. were once wilderness. Now only about 1/2% has wilderness status. This is much less than the amount of U.S. earth now covered with asphalt and concrete. The area of the BWCA to be chopped out by the Oberstar proposal represents 1/5 of all the wilderness in the eastern United States.

### WHY IS LOGGING BAD IN THE BWCA?

Logging requires roads for access and thereby opens the BWCA to heavy equipment and noise. A view from the air quickly shows that many areas of the BWCA are already laced with logging roads. If the last remnants of virgin forest are cut we lose forever the only remaining samples of primeval forest and all the scientific and educational values they represent.



Logging roads destroy Wilderness! Many cross canoe portages. The Forest Service is fond of calling such roads "temporary," but some have been in use since 1948!

### MUST WE LOG TO HAVE WILDLIFE?

Both natural and man-made disturbance of mature forests generally benefits some wildlife including moose and deer. Logging is an unnatural disturbance with many undesirable side effects. In the natural wilderness wind, insect and fire have always maintained continuing forest succession which insures the variety of habitat required for all species. The proof that virgin forest and wildlife can co-exist without logging is that they have done so for 10,000 years.

### WHAT ABOUT LOCAL EMPLOYMENT?

Of the three t's of employment in northern Minnesota — taconite, tourism and timber — BWCA timber is by far the smallest. At its peak prior to 1973 logging in the BWCA produced only about 40 seasonal jobs. There is much more timber available outside the BWCA than is being cut.

### WHAT IS THE OBJECTION TO MOTORS?

Seventypercent of BWCA use is by paddle canoe and this percentage is increasing. The paddlers are almost unanimously (93%) opposed to motors. Because motors produce noise which carries far over water, because they greatly increase the speed of travel and access to remote lakes, and because motors pollute, they shrink the wilderness and destroy the very values most canoe country visitors come to seek.

### WHAT ABOUT SNOWMOBILES?

There is no provision in the wilderness act for snowmobiles. Permitting them in the BWCA appears contrary to law. Like motorboats, snowmobiles are incompatible with slow, self-propelled travel and they shrink the wilderness. Also the time of greatest hardship for wildlife is in the late winter and early spring when additional stress caused by snowmobile contacts can make the difference between survival and death. On some lakes snowmobile fishing pressure is tremendous and appears to have seriously reduced lake trout populations.

### IS MINING A THREAT?

There is no immediate threat of mining inside the BWCA but the legality of mining here has not been decided by the courts. The Wilderness Act does not forbid mining. With its roads, heavy equipment, noise, buildings, tailings piles, settling basins, and water and air pollution, mining is indisputably incompatible with the preservation of any natural area, particularly a wilderness. The threat of mining just outside the BWCA is immediate and real but is not a subject of the BWCA bills.



1969	Congress	Passes National Environmental Policy Act to encourage productive harmony between man and his environment.
1971	State	Passes Act establishing right of State to regulate use of watercraft on State controlled waters.
1972	Executive	Nixon issues Executive Order prohibiting use of snowmobiles and recreational vehicles in wilderness areas.
1972	Forest Service	Forest Supervisor Anderson publishes informational document in advance of official management plan of 1974.
1973	Outfitters	Suggest "can ban" to Forest Service to help keep wilderness clean--reduce burden on Forest Service.
1973	Courts	Federal District Court (Judge Neville) prohibits mining in BWCA.
1973	Conservationists	MPIRG brings suit to halt cutting of virgin forest in BWCA. Conservationists press to stop logging.
1974	Courts	8th District Court of Appeals reverses Neville Decision. Mining again permissible.
1974	Forest Service	Regional Supervisor, Cravens, issues new Management Plan continuing logging, motors, etc. in BWCA.
1975	Courts	Federal District Court (Judge Lord) bans logging of virgin timber.
1975	Forest Service	Advises Congressman Oberstar on BWCA Bill.
1975	Congress	Oberstar introduces new BWCA bill including extensive NRA concept which excludes 400,000 acres from wilderness.
1975	Conservationists	Agitate against Oberstar Bill. Plead for bill to protect wilderness.
1975	Forest Service	Extends snowmobile usage in BWCA through 1975-1976 season.
	Conservationists	Appeal snowmobile usage.
1976	Conservationists	"Minntour" files suit to ban snowmobiles in BWCA.
1976	State	Legislature bans mining on waters of BWCA and state lands. Fails to ban logging.
1976	Conservationists	Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness formed as coalition of conservation groups. M. L. Heinselman chosen as Chairman.
1976	Courts	8th District Court of Appeals reverses Lord decision, thus permitting virgin timber logging.
1976	Congress	Fraser introduces bill in U.S. House of Representatives to give BWCA full wilderness status.
1976	Sec. of Ag.	Butz bans snowmobiling and sets some size restrictions on motor boat horsepower.
1976	Congress	Oberstar-Humphrey sponsor amendment to Thye Blatnik Act of \$9,000,000.
1976	Conservationists	Appeal court logging reversal to Supreme Court and plead that logging be banned until decision is rendered. (Supreme Court refuses to hold logging.)
1976	Forest Service	Prepares to permit logging on the six remaining "sales" reactivated by the court reversal.
1976	Conservationists	Appeal to logging companies to voluntarily delay cutting until Congress acts. (Appeal "scorned") Appeal to Congress to request Forest Service delay of sales.
1976	Congress	Rep. Fraser initiates letter requesting delay. Rep. Oberstar meets with Loggers and obtains voluntary six month delay if sale period is extended six months.

Published by Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

## OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE BWCA

by M. L. Heinselman  
H. C. Johnson

December, 1976

DATE	PARTY	ACT
1857	Congress	Grants State control of "public" lakes and streams.
1895	Loggers	Logging of big pines in future BWCA begins.
1897	Congress	Passes "Organic Act" giving President power to modify executive orders regarding national forests. Regulates cutting practices.
1902	Comm. of U.S. Gen. Land Off.	Withdraws 500,000 acres in future BWCA from availability for settlement.
1905-8	"	Withdraws 659,700 more acres.
1908	Congress	Passes Act authorizing Forest Service to manage National Forests.
1909	Minn. Game & Fish Comm.	Establishes 1,200,000 acre "Superior Refuge" in same area.
1909	Sec. of Ag.	Petitions Roosevelt to have withdrawn area designated Superior National Forest (SNF).
1909	Executive	Roosevelt designates withdrawn area the Superior National Forest. (It does not include all the current BWCA.)
1909	State	Declares all minerals under lakes and streams State property.
1911	Congress	Passes "Weeks" Act making possible land acquisition within designated areas.
1915	Congress	Passes Act authorizing Forest Service to grant temporary occupancy in National Forests of parcels less than 80 acres in size for a maximum of 30 years.
1919	Public	Influx of recreationists into SNF begins to be significant.
1919	Forest Service	Employs Carhart to prepare first plan for SNF usage.
1922	Congress	Passes Act authorizing Secretary of Interior to trade lands for consolidation purposes.
1922	Land Dev.	Press for roads into future BWCA.
1922-26	Forest Serv.	Builds Echo Trail, Fernberg Road and upper end of Gunflint Trail into previous roadless areas of SNF.
1922-26	Conservationists	Riis and others protest to Forest Service about road building with no relief so bring complaints to Agriculture Secretary Jardine.

1926	Dept. of Ag.	Sec. Jardine issues proclamation establishing 640,000 acres wilderness area. He promises: no roads, no recreational development, preservation of scenic tree "screens", but allows logging. "The Forest Service will leave not less than 1000 square miles of the best canoe country in the Superior without roads of any character."
1925	Industrialist	Bacus proposes series of dams in the heart of future BWCA for power generation which would have almost obliterated area as a wilderness. Proposes to pay for construction by extensive logging.
1925	Conservationists	Riis and then Oberholtzer of the IWLA protest strongly. He managed campaign for five years against heavy odds and at great personal sacrifice. (Note: It appears that the entire Northern "establishment" supported Bacus, a millionaire, who fought a vicious battle with every resource at his disposal)
1930	Congress	Passed Shipstead-Nolan Bill which prohibited logging within 400 feet of recreational waterways, forbid alteration of water levels and withdrew all public lands in the SNF from homesteading. (This was a landmark bill.)
1930	Congress	Passed Knutson-Vandenberg Act allowing Forest Service to levy charges on timber sales to cover part or all costs of reforestation.
1930-41	Forest Service	Acquires tax delinquent land in wilderness. Builds portages, foot trails in SNF. (Much of this work was done by CCC labor under Roosevelt program to recover from depression.)
1932-34	Industrialist	Bacus tries to have S-N Bill repealed and to get approval for his big dam program.
	Conservationists	Fight back, with IWLA leading battle.
1934	Executive	Int'l Joint Commission denies Bacus petition.
1934	Executive	Roosevelt creates Quetico-Superior Committee to advise President of SNF affairs.
1934	State	Passes state bill equivalent to the S-N Bill.
1937-40	Industrialist	Bacus applies for permission to build power plant near Grand Portage.
	Conservationists	IWLA conducts campaign to block Bacus.
1938	Forest Service	Establishes Superior Roadless Primitive Area (SRPA) with boundaries similar to present BWCA.
1940	Executive	Int'l Joint Commission denies Bacus petition. (This ended the battle, finally)
1941	Forest Service	Establishes no cut zone of 362,000 acres near border to preserve stands of large pines.
1941-48	Loggers, Resorters	Pulpwood logging begins along southern perimeter of SRPA. "Fly-ins" start to be established in SRPA. Private land holdings established.
	Conservationists	Agitate against logging, motor use, fly-ins.
1943	Conservationists	IWLA establishes fund to purchase land in wilderness, buys number of resorts and turns them over to the Federal Government. Petitions Congress to pass bill to acquire land in wilderness.
1946-8	Loggers	Begin logging in SRPA. Build roads and even a railroad to Forest Center. (A town within southern edge of SRPA.)
1947	Forest Service	Regional Forester. Price supports efforts of conservationists.
1948	Congress	Passes Thye-Blatnik Act. This act directed Sec. of Ag. to acquire resorts, cabins and private lands within 2/3 of future BWCA. Another key bill.
1948	Conservationists	IWLA Fund had grown under Paul Clement, Administrator. Eleven tracts and six resorts had been purchased and resold to the Forest Service at a loss as of this time.

1948	Forest Service	Changes name of region to "Superior Roadless Area" and revises management plan.
1949	Conservationists	"Friends of the Wilderness" formed by Bill Magie et al to oppose fly-ins.
1949	State	Passes bill making fly-ins illegal on state controlled waters.
1949	Executive	Truman issues executive order forbidding flights below 4000 ft. over SRA.
1949-53	Resorters	Continue fly-ins while protesting unconstitutionality of executive order. File suit.
	Conservationists	Continue to agitate against fly-ins.
1953	Courts	Eighth District Court upholds order. Flights finally stop when offenders were arrested and fined.
1953-64	Loggers	Press for and receive contracts from Forest Service to log virgin timber in SRA. Build roads, etc. to remove logs.
	Citizens	Snowmobile intrusions of SRA increase. More people enter area for recreation. Use of large motor boats increases.
	Conservationists	"Friends" and IWLA call attention to misuses. In 1957 "Wilderness Committee headed by Adolph Anderson formed. Had many confrontation meetings with Forest Supervisor, Neff. Sought support of other conservation groups. By 1963, many other conservation and benevolent groups were speaking out against abuses and calling for protective legislation.
1956	Congress	Extends Thy-Blatnik Act to cover almost all of present BWCA and increased land acquisition appropriation to \$2,500,000.
1958	Forest Service	Changes name of Superior Roadless Area to BWCA.
1958	Conservationists	Protest name change for fear that roads would become permanent.
1960	Timber Interests	Press for more timber availability in National Forests.
1960	Congress	Passes Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act which established multiple use concept in National Forests and directed Ag. Sec. to promote logging up to the level of sustained yield.
1961	Congress	Authorizes an additional \$2,000,000 for land acquisition (Extension of Thye-Blatnik Act).
1964	Congress	Passes Wilderness Act. (Humphry inserts Paragraph 4(d)(5) "multiple use language from 1948 F.S. plan into Act. Forest Service testifies in favor of this insertion. Conservationists oppose. Act passes with language in.) Another landmark Bill.
1964	Dept. of Ag.	Freeman appoints Selke Committee to study and recommend changes in BWCA management.
1965	Dept. of Ag.	Freeman issues 13 Directives on BWCA use derived from Selke Committee recommendations generally increasing no-cut areas, providing motorboat zoning, limiting snowmobiling and setting up visitor registration.
1965	Citizens	Demonstrate against Directives in Ely with a parade of logging trucks.
1964	Forest Service	Supervisor Neff decrees that snowmobiles are winter motor boats and thus may use same routes as motor boats.
1966-7	Industrialists	Copper-Nickle prospecting increases outside BWCA.
1968	Industrialists	INCO develops exploratory mine near Birch Lake, south of Ely. St. Clair starts prospecting in BWCA.
1969	Conservationists	IWLA brings suit against Sec. of Ag., State and St. Clair to halt prospecting.

\* Izaak Walton League of America

League of Women Voters of the United States



1730 M St., NW, Washington, D. C. 20036 (202) 296-1770

January 12, 1977

Jerry Jenkins, President  
 League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
 555 Wabash  
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Jerry:

I received your letter during the holidays and wanted to reply to your question on a possible LWVUS letter concerning the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area.

First, I am glad that the Minnesota League decided to act on a nearby public land issue. We have been encouraging state and local Leagues to act on public lands, because they are most familiar with the local/regional characteristics of their public lands and few other "public interest" groups are doing so. For the same reason, I think that the letter from your League on logging in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area is actually more influential and meaningful than a letter from the LWVUS. Your League represents the adjacent, most directly affected citizens, familiar with the specific geographic conditions. On the other hand, we are in frequent touch with the U.S. Forest Service and would be glad to reiterate your concerns personally to Chief McGuire and his staff.

I look forward to your state convention in June.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth C. Clusen, President

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H.B.



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

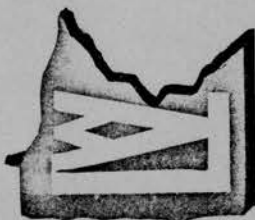
## MEMO

TO: Betty MacDonald  
FROM: Harriett Herb, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Fraser's Bill - BWCA  
DATE: June 10, 1977

Lloyd Leonard called from National with information that BWCA testimony will be heard in St. Paul on July 7 and Ely on July 8. Mary Poppleton of LWVMN will testify in St. Paul, and as you will note from the enclosed memo, we are encouraging local Leagues closest to that area to testify as well.

If you would like to join us to testify, please let us know. We would like to have you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
555 Wabasha Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102 - 612/224-5445



June 10, 1977

The Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman  
National Parks and Insular Affairs Committee  
1522 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Burton:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota requests time at the July 7 hearing which your subcommittee will hold in St. Paul to testify on behalf of the Fraser Bill regarding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Sincerely,

Mary Poppleton, Chairperson  
Natural Resources



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: (612) 224-5445

# MEMO

TO: LWVs of Duluth, Grand Rapids,  
Hibbing and Mid-Mesabi  
FROM: Harriett Herb, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Fraser's Bill re BWCA  
DATE: June 10, 1977

LWVUS has informed us that the House Committee on National Parks and Insular Affairs will be hearing testimony in Ely on July 8 on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The LWVMN is testifying on behalf of the Fraser Bill at the hearing to be held in St. Paul on July 7.

If any of you would like to testify at the Ely hearing, please contact Representative Phillip Burton, Chairman, National Parks and Insular Affairs Committee, 1522 Longworth Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and ask to be put on the agenda. If you need help in preparing testimony or want any other advice, PLEASE call Mary Poppleton or the office. We would be most happy to help you.



JUN 20 1977

League of Women Voters of the United States



1730 M St., NW, Washington, D. C. 20036 (202) 296-1770

June 15, 1977

Harriett Herb  
Executive Director  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
555 Wabasha  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Herb:

I'm sorry about the delay in responding to your request for National League Action on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). Staff has been heavily involved in working to protect the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Both the Fraser and Oberstar bills on the BWCA have now been examined. As you suggested in your letter, the Fraser bill is more in keeping with the land use position of the League of Women Voters of the United States which calls for regulation of fragile or historic areas of critical concern. Further, the controversy over the BWCA is of national concern because adoption of the Oberstar bill might well set a precedent for excessive and incompatible uses of wilderness areas generally. And finally, the Fraser bill would bring the BWCA into conformity with the contiguous Canadian wilderness area. The LWVUS will therefore support the Fraser bill.

The Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, chaired by Representative Phillip Burton, has just scheduled public hearings on the BWCA for St. Paul on July 7 and for Ely on July 8. You may request to testify by contacting the Subcommittee at 1522 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Betty MacDonald, LWVUS Natural Resources Chairman, is interested in supporting your testimony at the Ely hearing on behalf of the LWVUS. If you wish her to do so, please contact Lloyd Leonard at LWVUS at your earliest convenience.

**PRESIDENT**  
RUTH C. CLUSEN

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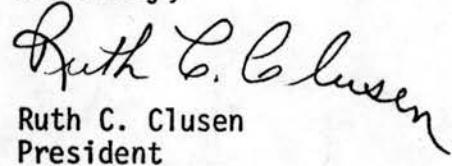
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Peggy Lampi

June 15, 1977  
Harriet Herb  
Page Two

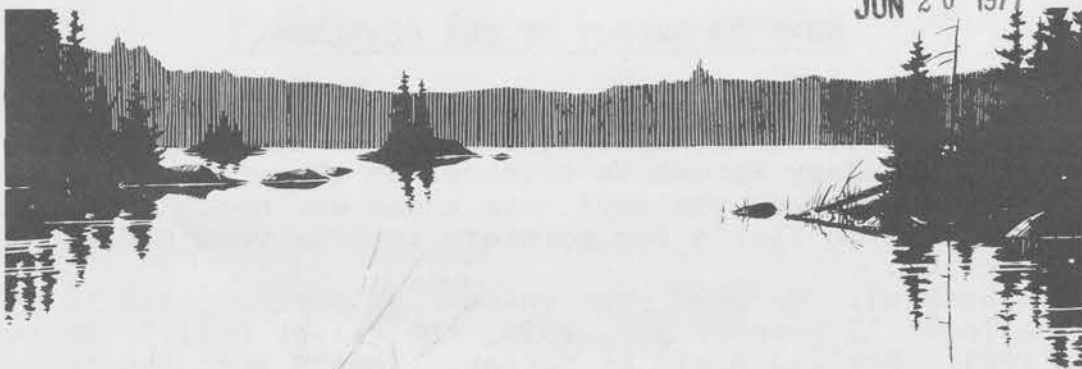
We will submit a letter for the record in support of the Fraser bill at the time of hearings in Washington and will communicate our support to the Congress when it is appropriate to do so.

I trust that we will be successful in protecting the BWCA and thank you for bringing this important matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth C. Clusen  
President





Les C. Kouba Illustration

## FIELD HEARINGS FOR THE BOUNDARY WATERS

9:30 to 4:30 on

July 7 - St. Paul, MN - State Office Building Auditorium\*

\* (Site is subject to change. Watch media.)

July 8 - Ely, MN - Ely High School Auditorium  
600 East Harvey Street

RALLY FOR THE BOUNDARY WATERS - July 7 - 8:30 a.m.

Vocational-Technical Institute Parking Area

To have attained the Congressional recognition needed for such action is a solid indication of the hard, devoted work you have performed. But it is not over yet, we have just begun! The Congressional field hearings mark the beginning of a vigorous march toward full, lasting protection for the BWCA. Nothing is more important than to have your voice heard at the upcoming hearings.

This will be your only opportunity to speak to the members of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs. Representative Bruce Vento (D-Minn) will be chairing the critical hearings, with Representatives Fraser and Oberstar participating actively. To attain our goal of complete wilderness status for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, we must set the record straight NOW as to what the majority of citizens want for this nation's only canoe country wilderness. Your attendance is imperative, for you will be representing like-minded citizens across the country who cannot attend the field hearings.

Plan to attend the hearing nearest you, and urge your friends and relatives to come along whether they wish to testify or not. As a wilderness supporter who cares about this magnificent wilderness, we encourage you to take the time and responsibility to be an integral part of the political process, the means by which the future of the Boundary Waters will be determined. Yes, every individual has something valuable to offer, whether it is highly technical and specific, or very general, personal feelings. The purpose of the field hearings is to permit the Congress to hear your input regardless of expertise, age, or whether or not you have ever visited the BWCA. . . your concern is all that matters.

If you're unable to attend, send a copy of your statement to the FRIENDS, or entrust it to someone who plans to attend the hearings so that your views will be hand-carried and placed in the hearing record. However, it is most effective for you to personally testify.

Place  
\$.13  
Here

TO: SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
HON. PHILLIP BURTON, CHAIRMAN  
1522 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FIRST CLASS MAIL



# WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE HEARINGS

You are receiving this packet because you're needed at the scheduled field hearings. Your concern, knowledge, and awareness of the future protection of the Boundary Waters is critical at these important sessions. How do you testify? What do you say? For those who haven't testified before, we would like to list a few pointers to make your presentation easier and effective.

Do not be bashful. We need your voice. Do not hesitate to merely state your feelings: "I support H.F. 2820, the Fraser bill." Be yourself. Tell how you feel. Nothing could be better. That's what the hearing is all about.

Be brief. The chairman listening to testimony will have the option to limit the amount of time spent per presentation - usually, two to five minutes depending on the size of the witness list.

No more than a one page written statement is needed, but it can certainly be longer if desired. This written statement is automatically put into the hearing record intact. Therefore, try to avoid reading your statement directly; paraphrase, if possible, hitting key points you wish to emphasize. If you get nervous, feel free to read your statement. The Chair will greatly appreciate short, concise statements.

If you have already submitted written statements or letters to the subcommittee, you may adapt these for the field hearings. Only one copy is needed for the hearing record. Keep additional copies for yourself and to send to your Congressional Representative and Senators.

You will be addressing the Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs. Proper etiquette dictates referring to the Chair as Mr. Chairman. Congressional decorum will not permit posters, clapping, cheering, or hazing within the witness room.

Suit and tie is not necessary at field hearings, though often worn. Neat, casual attire is appropriate.

Anticipate questioning, but do not waver from your position. The subcommittee is there to learn your thoughts. Do not be afraid to express them. Occasionally, some members of the subcommittee may ask leading questions in an attempt to trap you. Be wary. For example: "Well, don't you agree with me, Mr. L, that Mr. Fraser's bill is being a little unrealistic? After all, snowmobiles have been using the Boundary Waters for a number of years. Wouldn't you agree with me, Mr. L, that no harm will be done to the ecology of this wilderness if we permit a few snowmobile trails?" Do not be swayed by this tactic. First of all, do not answer questions for which you are not qualified. You may either request permission to submit an answer in writing later, or, another approach if no counter-argument can be thought of, is to simply reiterate your position: "I have come to testify in full and complete support for H.F. 2820. I believe Mr. Fraser's approach for hardship cases is the best solution." Or, categorically state: "Without deviation, I support H.R. 2820."

DON'T FORGET! Make sure that you state in your statement, either in the beginning or the end, or both, that you support H.R. 2820. We want that in the record more than anything else.

Scheduling. You should anticipate setting aside the full day. The subcommittee staff cannot tell you exactly when you will testify. Those who have travelled a substantial distance are often given priority. If you are under a time constraint, you may request the staff secretary on the day of the hearing to permit you to testify early.

Last of all, be courteous, but firm. Direct your criticism toward the legislation which you oppose. Avoid degrading or belittling any member of Congress.

## Fraser Bill (H.R. 2820)

Recognizes need for more wilderness land allocations east of Rockies by protecting the entire present BWCA and improving the integrity of its boundaries;

Treats the BWCA as a unique component of the regional and national systems of public and private waters and wildlands;

Recognizes the historical thrust to protect the BWCA as a unique canoeing wilderness and would end 75-year controversy over its protection;

Protects most of the remaining canoe country wilderness and would help meet the growing demand for wilderness canoeing;

Is technically simple and straightforward;

Provides maximum wilderness recreational opportunities for the handicapped, senior citizens and less physically able;

Recognizes the changes in outdoor recreation life styles now occurring in our urban society by providing increased area for vigorous recreational activities and the appreciation of nature;

Does not eliminate timber supplies that are essential to the timber industry in the short term;

Leaves adequate long term timber supply alternatives for the industry;

Would not have a significant job impact on the timber economy;

Would create uniform management policies on both sides of the international boundary with Quetico;

Strong anti-mining provision.

## Oberstar Bill (H.F. 5968)

Deletes 400,000 acres from wilderness status -- reducing designated wilderness in eastern U.S. by 20%;

Treats the BWCA as a local resource in isolation from other resources - does not recognize vast alternative areas for motorized recreation and timber production outside of BWCA;

Would deviate from historical thrust of previous management decision, and would perpetuate controversy;

Does not allocate enough land to wilderness to meet even current needs;

Is conceptually complex and contains several important technical problems that would make it difficult for the Forest Service to administer;

Provides for easier access for all users, but actually reduces the opportunities for handicapped and senior citizens to experience real wilderness;

Does not recognize these changes and dedicates 40% of the BWCA to uses that are actually declining;

Has a similar effect on short term timber supplies, yet the industry supports the Oberstar bill;

The additional alternatives left open by the Oberstar bill are inconsequential and not logical areas for public investments in sustained-yield forestry: there are more promising alternatives to pursue;

Would have same impact as Fraser bill;

Would dedicate a large section of U.S. border to purposes incompatible with Quetico wilderness policies;

Strong anti-mining provision.

Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman, House Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs:

Because I feel strongly about the fate of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness, I would appreciate it if my name could be added to the list of witnesses testifying before your Subcommittee at the hearings in

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(location) (date)

signed \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
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TO: FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY  
WATERS WILDERNESS  
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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

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F. L. Jaques Illustration

GROUPS SUPPORTING FULL WILDERNESS  
STATUS FOR THE BOUNDARY WATERS

The National Audubon Society  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Boundary Waters  
Wilderness  
The International Backpackers  
Association  
The Izaak Walton League of America  
The National Parks and  
Conservation Association  
The National Wildlife Federation  
The Sierra Club  
The U.S. Ski Association  
The Wilderness Society

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Harriett Herb, Ex. Dir.  
League of Women Voters of MN  
555 Wabasha  
St. Paul, MN 55102

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Mail the completed registration postcard to Chairman Phillip Burton, requesting permission to testify. You must request to testify at least one week before the date of the hearings.
2. Fill out the questionnaire postcard and return it to the FRIENDS. Out of town people: will you need housing (bring a sleeping bag) or transportation (car pool)? If so, please indicate this on the questionnaire and we will be happy to assist in making arrangements.
3. For assistance on your statements, or other questions, please call: Twin Cities (612) 332-4800 or Duluth (218) 525-5018 or 723-1965. You may also write the FRIENDS.

\*\*\*SHOW your full-fledged support by attending the BWCA RALLY TO be held before the St. Paul hearings at 8:30 a.m. at the Vocational-Technical Institute Parking Area. Bring a placard or poster showing your support.

Dear Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness,

I strongly support full wilderness protection for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and intend to testify at the BWCA field hearings in

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(location) (date)

I will need: Housing for \_\_\_\_\_; Transportation for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(how many) (how many)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

Testimony before the Subcommittee on  
National Parks and Insular Affairs

by Mary Poppleton, Director of Natural Resources  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

September 13, 1977

Mr. Chairman:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota wishes to thank the committee for allowing us to present testimony today.

The League of Women Voters, after study and consensus, reached a position on land use which recognizes that land is a finite resource and ownership implies stewardship. Our members feel that fragile or historic land, renewable resource lands and natural hazard lands be recognized as critical areas and subjected to at least minimal control.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been following both state and federal legislation regarding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for several years. We have carefully studied both Representative Obserstar's and Representative Fraser's bills, realizing that passage of either proposal will decide the fate of the BWCA. Keeping in mind the goals of our land use position, we are supporting H.R. 2820.

Our support is based on four main points:

1. There is no other area like it in the contiguous 48 states. It is the only lakeland canoe area in the United States. It has the largest area of virgin forest in the eastern United States. It supports a large and unique ecosystem.
2. It is the only wilderness area not given full protection by the 1964 Wilderness Act. Logging practices were not so disruptive then; but today, to allow logging in an area where by definition "the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable" is clearly a contradiction. We also feel the authors of the exempting language could not have



Testimony before the Subcommittee on National Parks and  
Insular Affairs

Mary Poppleton, Director of Natural Resources, League  
of Women Voters of Minnesota

September 13, 1977

Page 2

foreseen the enormous increase in outdoor recreation  
which places a severe burden on an already fragile area.

3. Research shows that sufficient timber exists outside the  
BWCA to supply wood and jobs for northeastern Minnesota  
with adequate opportunities for expansion as demand warrants  
it. Logging is already taking place on 16 million Minnesota  
acres, 2 million of which are in the Superior National  
Forest. Furthermore, a Forest Service study has stated  
that the BWCA's lands are the least productive and most  
sensitive to disturbance of any in the Superior National  
Forest.
4. The Fraser bill would bring the United States' portion of  
the BWCA into conformity with the Canadian portion. Ontario  
banned logging in the adjacent Quetico Provincial Park in  
1972.

The Boundary Waters Wilderness is indeed a national issue. Recognizing  
this, the League of Women Voters of the United States studied both bills and  
joins the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in its support of H.R. 2820.

Thank you.

JAN 13 1978

BILL FRENZEL  
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1026 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
202-225-2871

STAFF DIRECTOR  
RICHARD D. WILLOW

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
MAYBETH CHRISTENSEN  
180 FEDERAL BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 55401  
612-725-2173

IRIS SAUNDERSON  
3601 PARK CENTER BOULEVARD  
ST. LOUIS PARK 55416  
612-925-4540

TO: All correspondents on various BWCA proposals

FROM: Congressman Bill Frenzel

SUBJECT: Update

Both the Fraser and Oberstar bills are still in the National Parks and Insular Affairs Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee. There have been several hearings, including two in Minnesota, and much discussion within the Subcommittee. The Committee Chairman has indicated his intention to bring out a bill as soon as possible after the Congress reconvenes in January. Practically speaking, however, it will still be a difficult task to bring a bill to the President's desk in 1978.

The question of mining seems to be settled. Almost everyone agrees that mining should not be permitted. Logging is a little more difficult, but if compensatory acreage elsewhere is made available to those who have signed good faith agreements with government, I believe it will be reasonable and appropriate to phase out logging operations shortly. Neither mining nor logging should be a major stumbling block.

Snowmobiling is a more difficult problem. Most people agree that a snowmobile exception for vital services and necessary transportation is essential. The Governor and local interests are anxious to preserve a few trails for general recreation. Because of the availability of hundreds of existing trails nearby, I don't think this is absolutely necessary, but the Subcommittee may want to make some accommodations here.

Motorboating is an even stickier problem. A vital services exemption is probably needed to the general rule limiting size and usage. There is also a problem concerning extension of the no-usage zones to areas formerly used by resort patrons. If patrons are not allowed to motor into previously accessible fishing areas, the resorts may be unnecessarily harmed. The no-motor area can be extended somewhat, but, obviously, there has to be some compromise in this difficult area.

There is also a problem with accessibility to other privately owned properties, lodges, cabins, homes, or camping-oriented facilities. I believe we can extend and enhance the area without unnecessarily removing valuations from local tax rolls, or eliminating some of the already scarce jobs in the area. If condemnations, or restrictions on usage, are finally necessary, there must be full compensation. I believe there is adequate land and water for both a healthy resort industry and extended wilderness acreage.

I remain optimistic, despite the difficulties, that a bill can be passed this Congress. I am even optimistic that the final version, although it may not be the first choice of either the Fraser or Oberstar forces, will be satisfactory to both groups in many respects.

*Bill Frenzel*



Mpls. Star April 20, 1978

# Jim Klobuchar



A letter-writer asks what right do people in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar or Northfield have dictating to the hardy, tax-paying residents of northeastern Minnesota how they should use their lakes and woods.

This was the actual language of the letter.

It does not threaten 1,500 jobs in the timber industry, one of the most outlandish claims nurtured by the Oberstar supporters in northeastern Minnesota.

There has been no logging in the Boundary Waters for five years, and there has been no resulting economic dislocation in northeastern Minnesota.

Despite the hysteria of flyers distributed throughout Minnesota, no resorts, no vacationland on Lake Vermilion will be threatened. The waters of Lake Vermilion are out-



## **Partially Scanned Material**

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

July 18, 1978

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
137 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jackson:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is sending you a copy of the Minnesota Poll regarding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. As you can see, most Minnesotans favor full wilderness status for this unique area.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota studied all BWCA Bills using our National Land Use position as a base. We strongly supported H.R. 12250 (the Burton-Vento-Fraser Bill) at both state and federal hearings. A copy of that testimony is included with this letter.

We do not see S. 3242 (Anderson-Humphrey) as an acceptable companion bill. We ask that you support modifications in the bill which would make it compatible with H.R. 12250. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helene Borg, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota \*

Same letter sent to Senators Church, Johnston, Abourezk, Haskell, Bumpers, Ford, Durkin, Metzenbaum, Matsunaga, Anderson, Melcher, Hansen, Hatfield, McClure, Bartlett, Weicker, Domenici, Laxalt

B:M  
Enclosures 2





## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

July 18, 1978

To: Presidents of the Leagues of Women Voters of Washington, Idaho, Louisiana, South Dakota, Colorado, Arkansas, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Ohio, Hawaii, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Oklahoma, Connecticut, New Mexico, Nevada

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is asking for your help.

The National LWV Convention meeting in Cincinnati passed a resolution supporting the Minnesota League's position regarding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We think this expression of support helped in the passage of H.R. 12250 (the Burton-Vento-Fraser bill). It is a compromise bill but a good one, and we support it.

We do not see the Senate bill (S.3242, Anderson-Humphrey) as an acceptable companion. This bill will be heard in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. One of your Senators sits on that committee. Please write your Senator and ask that he support modifications in the bill which would make it compatible with H.R. 12250.

We are enclosing a brochure on the BWCA and a copy of our testimony on the House Bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Helene Borg, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

B:M  
Enclosures 2

## Minnesota Poll

# Minnesotans solidly favor motor limits in the BWCA

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6A.

Minneapolis Tribune  
Sun., July 16, 1978

## Boundary

Continued from page 1A

San Francisco and Bruce Vento of  
St. Paul.

Another BWCA measure considered in House deliberations was the Oberstar bill, written by Rep. James Oberstar of Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District.

The replies:

BWCA: How Restrictive?

	More	Less	Not sure
All adults .....	58%	38%	4%
Men .....	52	46	2
Women .....	64	31	5
18-24 years .....	68	32	-
65 & over .....	53	43	4
College-trained adults .....	63	36	1
Liberals .....	70	28	2
Moderates .....	56	42	2
Conservatives .....	53	42	5

Region:



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# FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS



April 3, 1979

*LWW is one of the organizations  
signing this letter.*

The Honorable Sidney R. Yates  
Chairman, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Re: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act, PL 95-495  
Appropriations for Acquisitions, Forestry, Recreation,  
Business & Community Assistance, Management Study

Dear Congressman Yates:

We, as members of the coalition supporting protective legislation for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the 95th Congress, now urge that the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee appropriate the monies authorized under the provisions of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of October 21, 1978, PL 95-495.

Although the new law is not everything we had hoped for, the compromises made were made in good faith to help mitigate any possible adverse impacts of this legislation, and we strongly believe the Congress should keep faith with the people of Minnesota by fully funding all authorizations.

Of particular concern to us are the following items (References are to Sections of PL 95-495):

## I Acquisitions

Section 7(d) extends the Thyne-Blatnik Act of 1948 to all areas of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). This provides for the orderly acquisition of private inholdings within the additions to wilderness made under PL 95-495. It is of extreme importance that the acquisition of these inholdings be given highest priority in any management plan and that all necessary funds be made available for this purpose.

Section 5 provides that funds be authorized for the acquisition of any resort which the owner requires the Secretary to purchase, under subsections (a) and (b), or for any other property which the Secretary elects to purchase, under subsection (c). It is important that funds be available so that all parties can be dealt with fairly and so that the transactions can be handled as expeditiously as possible.

## II Forestry

Section 6 provides for a program of reforestation and intensified forestry in northern Minnesota outside BWCAW to

Jan Watson, chairman  
Arvin Borell, treasurer

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provide substitute timber for the virgin forests of the wilderness that can no longer be cut under the new law. The Act calls for \$8,000,000 annually for intensified forestry on National Forest lands and \$3,000,000 annually for similar programs on State, county and private lands (through fiscal year 1990). Because of the critical need for reforestation, we believe that not more than 20% of these funds should be spent on roads.

### III Recreation

Section 18 provides for an expansion of recreation programs on the Superior National Forest. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to expedite and intensify the program of dispersed outdoor recreation development outside the BWCAW including additional snowmobile trails, remote campsites on lightly developed lakes, and lake access sites and parking facilities to provide motorized recreation experiences. This system of alternative recreation opportunities outside the wilderness is the best long-term permanent means of relieving the pressure of incompatible use within the wilderness. The development of these recreation opportunities should receive the highest priority for funding. Subsection (b) provides for a new system of hiking, backpacking and cross-country ski trails within the BWCAW and on appropriate adjacent Federal lands outside the wilderness. Consideration should be given to locating portions of the system near existing resorts on the perimeter of the wilderness to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities for resort guests. This program will help to ensure maximum recreational diversity without putting additional strain on the canoe routes.

Subsection (c) provides for an education program for wilderness users which will assist them to understand the purpose, value and appropriate use of wilderness lands. The correct type of educational program can go a long way towards lessening the impact of the visitor upon the resource. Subsection (d) provides for development of a program for disabled users consistent with the purposes of this Act. It has been demonstrated by private groups working with the disabled in the BWCAW that there is much room for creativity in this area.

### IV Business and community assistance

Section 19 provides for technical and financial assistance to area resorts and outfitters, developed and implemented in cooperation with other agencies, in order to improve economic opportunities for tourism and recreation-related businesses in a manner which is complementary to the management of the wilderness. Such a program should help these businesses realize and maximize the benefits of their unique position of proximity to a national wilderness coupled with the availability of a broad range of other recreational activities outside the wilderness. Assisting businesses to adapt their operation to wilderness minimizes the pressures to adapt wilderness management to conform

to economic purposes; funding to bring this about is of highest priority.

V Management Study

Section 20 instructs the Secretary to develop a comprehensive management plan by October 1, 1981. An interim report is due by October, 1979, setting forth among other things procedures for public involvement in development of the final plan. After such a long divisive struggle as was necessary to achieve passage of PL 95-495, it is crucial that there be provided a responsible vehicle for public input and dialogue. Necessary funding should be made available for this purpose.

In summary, we strongly encourage and support the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for the full and fair implementation of PL 95-495.



Testimony  
by Mary Poppleton, Director of Natural Resources  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
on H.F. 55  
for  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
April 26, 1979

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Mary Poppleton speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. For the past two years, as members of the Friends of the Boundary Waters, we worked very hard for passage of the federal Boundary Waters legislation.

Citizen participation is very important to the League of Women Voters. Therefore, we made sure that citizen input and public hearings were built into the federal bill. And we are satisfied that this has been accomplished.

While we applaud Representative Battaglia's concern for citizen participation, we believe that H.F. 55 is an unnecessary and wasteful use of state monies. To authorize a state-funded citizens committee would merely duplicate provisions in the federal law.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota opposes H.F. 55.

Thank you.