



# BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

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## TRIP PLANNING GUIDE



*Your BWCAW Adventure Starts Here...*

**GREAT GLACIERS** carved the physical features of what is today known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) by scraping and gouging rock. The glaciers left behind rugged cliffs and crags, canyons, gentle hills, towering rock formations, rocky shores, sandy beaches and several thousand lakes and streams, interspersed with islands and surrounded by forest.

The BWCAW is a unique area located in the northern third of the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. Over 1 million acres in size, it extends nearly 150 miles along the International Boundary adjacent to

Canada's Quetico Provincial Park and is bordered on the west by Voyageurs National Park. The BWCAW contains over 1200 miles of canoe routes, 12 hiking trails and over 2000 designated campsites. Wilderness offers freedom to those who wish to pursue an experience of expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature. Because this area was set aside in 1926 to preserve its primitive character and made a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964, it allows visitors to canoe, portage and camp in the spirit of the French Voyageurs of 200 years ago.

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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 BWCAW 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 BWCAW 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 to enter the wilderness-. 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.

## Leave a trip itinerary with someone at home including:

- ✓ Trip leader's name \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Entry point and date \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Exit point and date \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Potential route \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Number of people in the group \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Number of canoes or boats \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Nearest Forest Service Ranger Station and phone number \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 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).

## Before You Leave Home

Check current Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fishing, hunting and boating regulations for:

- Canoe and boat registrations (Minnesota requires all watercraft to be registered and honors any state watercraft registrations)
- Fishing licenses and trout stamps
- Fishing limits and possession of fish
- Hunting seasons
- Watercraft lights

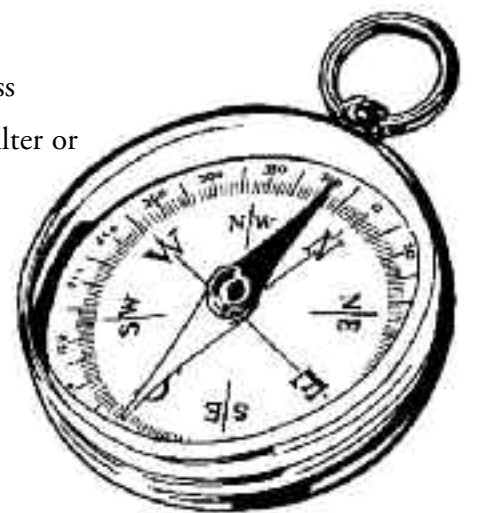
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Wilderness visitors face inherent risk of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications. Search and rescue may not be as swift as expected in an urban setting. Be prepared! Prevent the need for a search and rescue operation that may impede the integrity of the wilderness area or put others in danger. Acquire and maintain necessary skills for primitive travel by foot, canoe, or other non-mechanical means.

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

Consider specific survival gear to prevent becoming injured or lost in the wilderness such as:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Extra food               | 10. Fire starter      |
| 2. Rain gear                | 11. Water proof pouch |
| 3. Warm clothing            | 12. Nylon cord        |
| 4. Signaling mirror         | 13. Folding knife     |
| 5. Whistle                  | 14. First aid kit     |
| 6. Emergency blanket        |                       |
| 7. Map                      |                       |
| 8. Compass                  |                       |
| 9. Water filter or purifier |                       |



## 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 follow the LEAVE NO TRACE ethic. See Page 16 for contact information.

**Rustic.** There are 17 rustic campgrounds with no fees. Water and garbage are not available.

### Campgrounds

The Superior National Forest has 23 developed campgrounds. Campgrounds are generally open from mid-May to mid-September; some are open all year with no water or garbage pickup off-season though walk-in access may be required. Campground facilities vary from flush toilets and showers to rustic campgrounds with vault toilets and hand pumps. Each campsite has a picnic table, fireplace, tent pad and parking spot. For a fee, reservations may be made in advance at some of the campgrounds through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) by calling 1-877-444-6777 or at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Commercial Resorts and Campgrounds

Within the Superior National Forest are a variety of private resorts and campgrounds 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 and tourism contact information. Many of the chambers have web pages that may be accessed for more information.

Additional information on campgrounds is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior) and [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

# 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 permit. This includes reviewing the rules and regulations on the back of the permit with your entire group. Carry a copy of the permit with you at all times and place a copy in the box at the entry point.

### 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 at [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior).

## User Fees

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

### User Fees Per Person Per Trip

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

### 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 permit. For reserved permits it does not eliminate the need to pay the \$6.00 reservation fee and user fee deposit. They may also be purchased in person after May 1 from any Forest Service Permit Issuing Station.

### Seasonal Fee Card Costs Per Person

Adult	\$64.00
Youth (0-17)	\$32.00
Interagency Senior/ Access Card Holders	\$32.00
Youth Access Card Holder	\$16.00

## Permit Reservations

### First-Come, First-Served and Lottery

We will continue to make the reservation system an efficient and effective system. For most of the BWCAW entry points, our data shows there are permits available throughout the season. Therefore, it is not necessary to run a lottery for all entry points. A first-come, first-served system will be held at 9:00 am central time, the last Wednesday in January through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or the reservation center at 877-444-6777. Visitors will see available entry points and dates and make a reservation instantly for the permit that best meets their needs. This provides immediate confirmation of their reservation versus submitting multiple applications for multiple dates in hopes of securing a BWCAW permit via the lottery. A lottery may be retained for high-use entry points such as Fall and Moose Lake. Please check our website regularly for updates to the future of the lottery.

### Reservation Fee

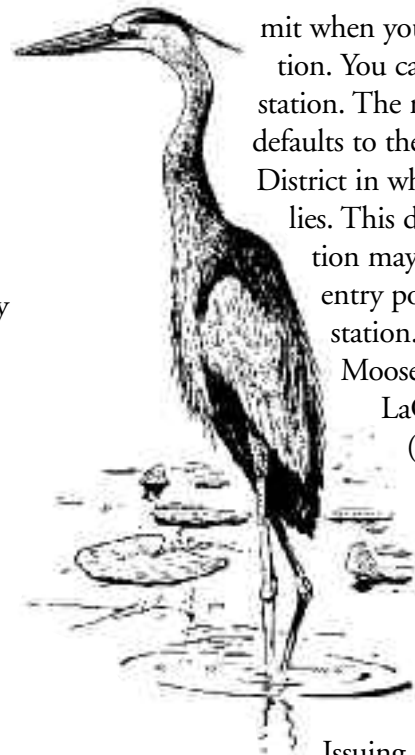
A \$6.00 non-refundable reservation fee is required for each permit reserved.

### Overnight User Fee Deposit

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

### Selecting a Permit Issuing Station

You must know where you will pick up your per-



mit when you make a reservation. You can select any issuing station. The reservation system defaults to the Forest Service District in which the entry point lies. This default issuing station may be further from the entry point than another station. For example, Moose River is within the LaCroix District (Cook) and would be the default issuing station. Moose River is closer to the Kawishiwi District (Ely). Please make sure you reach the Permit

Issuing Station chosen during their hours of operation.

If you chose a Forest Service Office and are expecting delays on arrival, please change your issuing station to one with longer hours of operation. You can change your issuing station from a Forest Service office to a cooperating business online or by phone up to the point of permit issuance.

## 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 in the reservation or at a Forest Service issuing station. Only the group leader or alternate group 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 paid prior to your trip 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 (Interagency Senior/Access, Treaty Card holders 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 an overnight permit.

## BWCAW Reservation Information

### WEBSITE

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

### TDD (TOLL-FREE)

(877) TDD-NRRS

### PHONE (TOLL-FREE)

(877) 444-6777

### MAILING ADDRESS

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

### FAX NUMBER

(518) 884-9951

### INTERNATIONAL RESERVATIONS

(518) 885-3639

# Leave No Trace Principles

“There are just two things on this material earth – people and natural resources” — Gifford Pinchot

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

The Lakes Region is legendary in its richness and complexity. It exerts an ageless draw upon people who seek adventure, refreshment and the exhilaration of outdoor recreation. But, as these wildlands host more and more visitors, our collective mark on the environment has become apparent — and more damaging. Water pollution, litter, and disturbance to vegetation and soil, wildlife and other recreating visitors are indicators of the need to

protect these wild and serene waters and forests, and their inhabitants.

There are far more of us pushing our outdoor activities to greater extremes and into the remotest parts of the natural world everyday. Our mere presence in wildlands has an influence. Destruction can be prevented if visitors are better informed, especially about low impact techniques.

Together we can act on behalf of the places and wildlife that inspire us. To insure their continued existence, we must educate ourselves and adopt the skills and ethics that enable us to *Leave No Trace*. Please see the *Lakes Region Leave No Trace Skills & Ethics Edition*. For a copy of this publication and more information on how you can become LNT savvy, visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).



## Plan Ahead and Prepare

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



## Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow
- Keep campsites small – stay in area where vegetation is absent
- Walk in single file in the middle of the trail even when the trail is muddy



## Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter
- Deposit human or dog waste in the latrines
- Wash yourself and dishes with biodegradable soap away from streams or lakes
- Burning trash in firegrates pollutes and is illegal



## Leave What You Find

- Don't take cultural or historical artifacts or structures
- Do not introduce or transport non-native plants, live bait or animals
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them



## Minimize Campfire Impacts

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

You can also do your part by viewing a 20 minute user education video as part of your trip planning process. After viewing this video, BWCAW visitors will understand how they can make a difference in the long-term health of the BWCAW by engaging in responsible recreation practices. This is an essential educational tool in protecting the fragile wilderness ecosystem and providing a quality recreation experience for current and future generations. To obtain a copy of the BWCAW Leave No Trace User Education Video, please contact any Forest Service Office found on page 16 of this publication.



## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Take breaks away from trails, portages and other visitors
- Let nature's sounds prevail — avoid loud voices and noises
- Don't take campsites for day use, as this may prevent someone from camping overnight

Photo courtesy of ETHAN KNUTI, Little Canada, MN



## Respect Wildlife

- Do not follow or approach wildlife
- Never feed animals. It can damage their health and alters natural behaviors
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations properly
- Use lead free tackle



[www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

# BWCA Wilderness Rules & Regulations

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

## 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 150-200 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 150-200 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.

## FOOD, FISH REMAINS & LIVE BAIT

- Try to plan your meals so you don't have leftovers. If you do, pack them out.
- Dispose of fish remains by traveling well away from campsites, trails, portages and shorelines.
- When preparing for your trip, reduce litter at the source by minimizing packaging.
- State law prohibits dumping unused bait into waters of the state. Dumping bait on the ground is considered littering. Therefore, unwanted live bait should be packed out with you and placed in the trash, disposal bins or compost bins.

## CAMPFIRES

- 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 small diameter dead wood found lying on the ground. Do not burn trash.
- Collect firewood away from campsites by paddling down the shore and walking into the woods where it is more abundant.
- Wood easily broken by hand or cut with a small folding saw eliminates the need for an axe.
- 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.
- Transporting wood from out of state is prohibited.

## CAMPsites

- All members of a permit group must camp together.
- During ice free season, camp only at Forest Service designated campsites that have steel fire grates and wilderness latrines.
- 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 illegal.

## PETS

- Dogs impact wildlife and barking intrudes on the experience of others. They must be under control at all times.
- Dispose of fecal matter 150 feet from water sources, campsites, and portages, or deposit it in a latrine.

## LEAVE NO TRACE OF YOUR VISIT

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

## 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 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, Newton, Moose, Newfound, Sucker, Snowbank, East Bearskin, South Farm, Trout

## 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.**

## 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.

## HIKING

- 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. 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. Signage is minimal so it is a good idea to talk to someone at the nearest Ranger District Office for current trail conditions.
- There are a few restrictions that are slightly different for those traveling by foot. Hikers should use developed campsites along the trail or lake. Campsites along the trails 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 tent 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:
  - Trail users are encouraged to minimize impact by limiting use to one night on non-developed sites.
  - You must camp more than 150-200 feet from a developed site or another group.
  - You must camp at least 150-200 feet from any trail, portage, lake or other water source.
- Most importantly, be sure to use common sense and follow the safety guidelines recommended on Page 6-7. Wilderness permits are required year round for hiking in the BWCAW. Happy Trails!

# 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.

## LIFE JACKETS

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

## MANDATORY CHILD LIFE JACKET WEAR LAW:

Minnesota law requires a life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years old when aboard any watercraft while underway.

For more on Minnesota state law, see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>

## RAPIDS

- Generally, rapids in the BWCAW are not safe to “run”, so use the provided portages.
- Powerful currents can trap swimmers under water, or sweep them towards dangerous waterfalls.
- Fast moving water can push swimmers and boats into rocks and logs.
- Even with lifejackets on, rapids are dangerous.

## WATER QUALITY

- *Giardia lamblia* is a parasite that can cause an internal illness that will need medical attention.
- All drinking water should be treated by one of the following methods: 1. Bring water to a full boil for 3 to 5 minutes — then let stand until cool enough to drink. 2. Purify with a filter specifically designed to remove *Giardia lamblia*. 3. Treat water with a chemical specifically designed to kill *Giardia lamblia*.

## FISH

- Chemicals such as mercury, PCBs, and dioxin have been found in some fish from certain waters.

- Eat more pan fish and fewer predator fish and trim the skin and fat, to reduce your risk.

- Check with the Minnesota Department of Public Health for current information on limits on fish consumption at (651) 201-4911.

## HYPOTHERMIA

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



## FIRST AID AND EMERGENCIES

- Each permitted group should carry a well stocked first aid kit and have group members that know how to provide first aid.
- Please note that the campsite number is painted on the latrine of most campsites. Also note the location of the lake, campsite, trail or portage on a map to help emergency people locate any seriously injured party.

- Document the extent of the injury and a basic physical description of the injured person.

- Send all of this information with visitors able to exit the BWCAW for help.

- Do not rely on a cell phone. Having a cell phone cannot substitute for knowing how to handle an emergency in wilderness. Many areas of the BWCAW lack cell phone coverage.

- In the event of serious injury or illness, the standard SOS call is a series of three signals of any kind, either audible or visible.

- For summoning help from an aircraft in an emergency, signal them by paddling in small circles or waving a brightly colored cloth tied to the canoe paddle.

## TRAVEL

- There are no directional signs in wilderness.

- A compass and accurate map are essential.

- Most visitors prefer using Fisher or McKenzie maps which can be purchased at some Forest Service offices, area businesses and outfitters, or directly from the map companies—see page 8 for details.

- If you get lost, don't panic. Sit down, relax, and think. Chances are that you will figure out your location in a few minutes.

- If you plan to use a Global Positioning System (GPS) for navigating, be sure you also bring a map and compass as a back up in case your GPS unit fails.

## WEATHER

- Canoe close to shore. It lessens the chance of being endangered by sudden changes of weather. If a storm threatens, get off the water.

- Dress in layers and be prepared for every kind of weather situation.

- If in a lightning storm on the water, get to shore. If on land among trees of similar height, put yourself an 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 tingles, 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.

- Drink plenty of water.

- Signs of dehydration include headache, cold and flu symptoms, and infrequent urination.

## BEAR AWARENESS

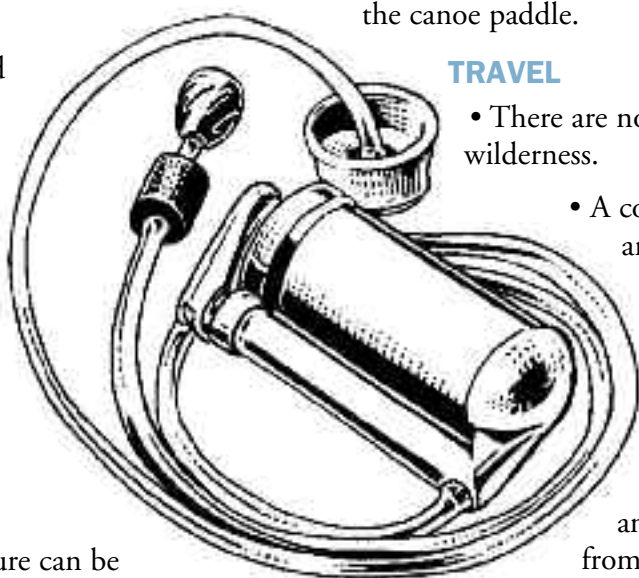
- Keep a clean campsite. Never eat or store food in your tent.

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

- Some bears overcome their fear of humans and approach campsites looking for food. This includes island sites since bears are good swimmers.

- If you do encounter a bear, most will be scared off if you make noise (shout, bang pots, or throw fist-sized rocks at the bear, etc.).

- A very persistent bear may be discouraged by spraying pepper spray into its eyes.



# 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 less likely to run into other visitors and can experience a sense of solitude and self reliance in a way that few other places allow. Winter wilderness travel requires a high degree of preparation, planning, skill, and self-reliance.

Winter temperatures in the BWCAW average 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit, with overnight lows from zero to 7 below zero. During severe cold spells, daily highs can remain below zero, with low temperatures falling into the 20 to 30 below zero range. Wind chill exacerbates the cold, and blowing snow can make travel difficult. Average snowfall is 50-60 inches, with 70-90 inches along Lake Superior. Snow depths in late February to early March may be 15-25 inches with some higher terrain receiving over three feet.

Winter conditions make self-reliance, good judgment, and knowledge of your limits critical. Whether you are dog sledding, skiing, or snowshoeing, it is important to plan well and prevent hypothermia and frostbite:

- Be prepared for extreme cold, windy or wet conditions. Dress in layers to remain comfortable by adding or removing clothing depending on conditions and your energy level. Change into dry clothing as needed.
- Drink plenty of water and eat often. Avoid alcoholic beverages. Alcohol causes the body to lose heat more rapidly, even though one may feel warmer after drinking.
- Avoid open water and thin ice. Never walk on ice less than four inches thick.
- Hypothermia is a dangerous lowering of the body temperature. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation,

slurred speech and drowsiness. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, tip of the nose and ear lobes. If symptoms of either condition are detected, get medical care immediately!

**Wilderness rules and regulations (see Page 5) apply year-round. 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-issued permit at any Superior National Forest office, or at a BWCAW entry point. Carry one copy with you during the trip and drop the other copy in the permit box at the entry point.

## Choose a Campsite

- When lakes are open, camp at designated sites using firegrates and latrines.
- When lakes are frozen, camp on ice, in a sheltered bay, or in a natural forest opening. Locate camp at least 150 feet from trails or summer campsites, and out of sight of other groups.
- Make just one trail connecting the shoreline to camp.
- Bury human waste in snow 150-200 feet from water, campsites, summer trails and portages (pack out toilet paper).

## Campfires

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

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

## Live Vegetation

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

## Reduce Dog Impacts

- Keep dogs under control at all times.
- To avoid damaging or “girdling” trees with rope when staking out dogs, use webbing straps around tree and attach dog picket line to webbing.
- Tether teams out on the ice with ice screws to avoid damaging shoreline vegetation.
- Never bring hay or straw for bedding because they introduce non-native plants.
- Scatter dog feces in the woods at least 150-200 feet from the water's edge. Keep the entry points clean for others by picking up feces before and after hitting the trail.

## TRAVEL TO AND FROM CANADA

All U.S. citizens are now required to present a passport book, passport card, or WHTI-compliant document when entering the United States.

**Please Note:** Children under age 16 will be able to continue crossing land and sea borders using only a U.S. birth certificate (or other form of U.S. citizenship such as a naturalization certificate.). The original birth certificate or a copy may be used. See the Department of Homeland Security's website listed on page 16 for more information on the changing travel requirements.

### ENTRY INTO CANADA

If your trip to the BWCAW will include entry into Canada, you should contact the Canada

Border Services Agency at least 3–4 weeks in advance of your trip to obtain a Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) permit. For information visit the Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) website at [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) or call (807) 624-2162 to get an application for the RABC permit. Permits are required for overnight and day use entry. Please check with [www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com) for your permit needs.

### FISHING IN CANADA

If you plan on fishing in Canada, including the Canadian side of the border lakes, you must have a Canadian fishing license. Non-resident fishing licences are available through the mail by calling the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources at 1-800-667-1940.

For more information visit [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing).

### REENTRY INTO THE US FROM CANADA

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

For more information visit the Customs and Border Protection website at: [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure\\_boats/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/)

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.

# BWCAW

Maps 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 provided.

## Maps & Publications

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

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

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

**Voyageur Maps**  
PO Box 2401  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-518-7580  
www.voyageurmaps.com

**Eastern National**  
Provides quality educational products and services to the Superior National Forest.  
877-628-7275  
www.easternnational.org.

## Area Guides & Outfitters

**Cook Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 296,  
Cook, MN 55723  
800-526-6562  
www.cookminnesota.com

**Crane Lake Visitor & Tourism Bureau**  
Crane Lake, MN 55725  
800-362-7405  
www.visitcranelake.com

**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

**Lake Vermillion Chamber of Commerce**  
Box 776  
Tower, MN 55790  
(218) 753-2301 • 888-869-3766  
www.lakevermillioncommerce.com

**Lutsen-Tofte Tourism Assoc.**  
Box 2248  
Tofte, MN 55615  
(218) 663-7804 • 888-616-6784  
www.americasnorthcoast.org

**MN Office of Tourism**  
Explore Minnesota Tourism  
121 7th Place E  
Metro Square, Suite 100  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
888-TOURISM 888-868-7476  
www.exploreminnesota.com

## Info for Travel to Quetico

**Quetico Provincial Park  
District Manager  
Minister of Natural Resources**  
108 Saturn Ave.  
Atikokan, Ontario POT 1C0  
807-597-2735 • 800-667-1940  
www.ontarioparks.com

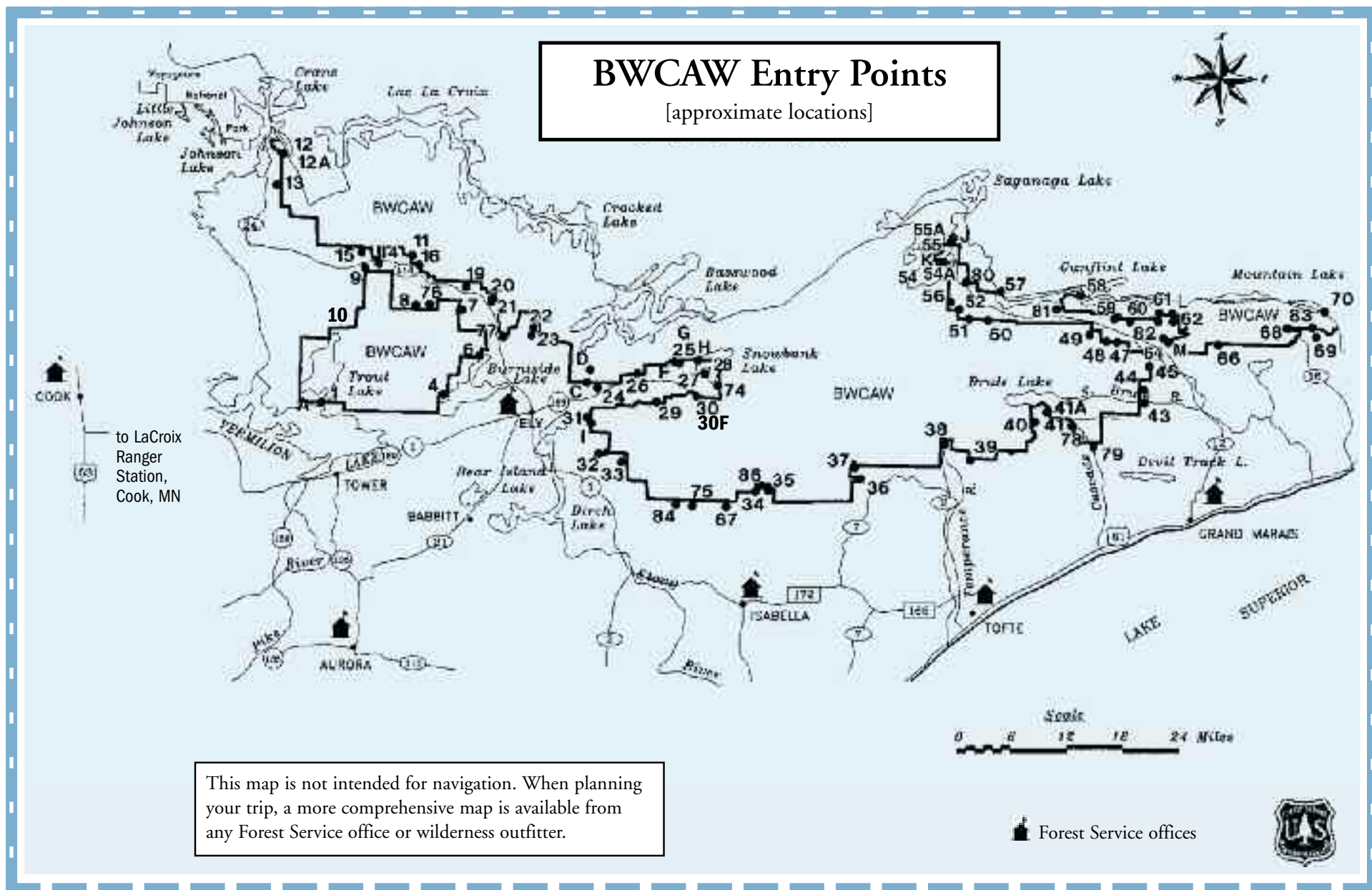
See page 7 for travel to Quetico.

\* 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 motors may be encountered along portions of the route. To check availability for the following entry points, please visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

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



# Entry Points



METHOD OF ENTRY	ENTRY POINT NUMBER	ENTRY POINT NAME	MOTOR HORSE-POWER LIMIT	RESPONSIBLE RANGER DISTRICT & TOWN	OTHER REMARKS
OVERNIGHT Paddle or Motor	1	Trout Lake	25 HP	La Croix/Cook	Access from Vermilion Lake via a 60-rod canoe portage or 180-rod portage that allows the use of portage wheels.
	12	Little Vermilion Lake	Unlimited	La Croix/Cook	Enter from Crane Lake. Note: Not the entry point to use for Trout Lake (#1). On U.S. side motors are only allowed up to edge of Snow Bay on Lac La Croix.
	12A	Lac La Croix	Unlimited (except where paddle only)	La Croix/Cook	Enter from Crane Lake. 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/Ely	Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. Several trip options to Newton, Basswood, & Mud Lakes with additional portages.
	25	Moose Lake	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Access is an boat landing or canoe launch at Moose Lake. Many trip options for paddlers with additional portages.
	27	Snowbank Lake	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Access is a boat landing or canoe launch at Snowbank Lake. Many trip options for paddlers.
	31	Farm Lake	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Access is a boat landing on Farm Lake with access to South Farm Lake. Paddlers access North Kawishiwi River from Farm Lake. Some trip options available for paddlers with additional portages.
	54	Seagull Lake	10 HP (except where paddle only)	Gunflint/Grand Marais	No motors (use or possession) west of Three Mile Island. Large lake with several campsites. Landing at Seagull Lake.
	55	Saganaga Lake	25 HP (except where paddle only)	Gunflint/Grand Marais	No motors (use or possession) west of American Point. Access to Canada (the Crown land and Quetico Park). Large lake with many campsites and easy access.
	62	Clearwater Lake	10 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only.
64	East Bearskin Lake	25 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder and Canoe.	
DAY USE Motor	A	Trout Lake	25 HP	La Croix/Cook	Access from Lake Vermilion via a 180-rod portage suitable for portage wheels. Commercial portage service available.
	C	Fall Lake Only	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Valid only on Fall Lake not Newton or Basswood. Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake.
	D	Fall Lake, Newton, Pipestone & Beyond	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Access is a boat landing at Fall Lake. Valid on Fall, Newton & Basswood.
	F	Moose Lk to Newfound & Sucker Lks	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Valid only on Moose, Newfound and Sucker Lakes. Travel not permitted beyond Sucker Lake.
	G	Moose Lk to Prairie Portage to Basswood (except paddle only areas)	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Commercial portage service available. Valid on Moose, Newfound, Sucker and Basswood Lakes.
	H	Snowbank Lake	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Motors allowed on Snowbank Lake only.
	I	South Farm Lake	25 HP	Kawishiwi/Ely	Motors allowed on South Farm Lake only.
	J	Saganaga Lake	25 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	No motors (use or possession) west of American Point. Access to Canada.
	K	Seagull Lake	10 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	No motors (use or possession) allowed west of Three Mile Island.
	L	Clearwater Lake	10 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	Motors allowed on Clearwater Lake only.
M	East Bearskin Lake	25 HP	Gunflint/Grand Marais	Motors allowed on East Bearskin Lake only. No motors on Alder or Canoe Lakes.	
OVERNIGHT Hiking	10	Norway Trail		La Croix/Cook	8 mile trail or 2 mile option. No loops.
	11	Blandin Trail		La Croix/Cook	Winter route to Lamb Lake. 2.4 miles.
	13	Herriman Lake Trail		La Croix/Cook	15 miles of trail accesses 4 lakes. Loop options.
	15	Sioux-Hustler Trail		La Croix/Cook	25 mile loop. Primitive trail not well maintained.
	21	Angleworm Trail		Kawishiwi/Ely	Trail loops around Angleworm Lake. 12 miles. If paddling, use entry point #20.
	56	Kekekabic Trail—East		Gunflint/Grand Marais	46 mile trail that continues to the west side trail head. Rolling terrain through several lakes. Minimal use.
	59	Partridge Lake/South Lake Trail		Gunflint/Grand Marais	4 miles. If paddling use Entry Point #60.
	74	Kekekabic Trail West/Snowbank		Kawishiwi/Ely	Loop option includes 27 miles of the Snowbank trail, plus the 46 mile Kekekabic Trail that continues to the east side trail head.
	76	Big Moose Lake Trail		La Croix/Cook	No loop options. 2 miles to Big Moose Lake. If paddling use Entry Point #8.
	78	Brule Lake Trail		Gunflint/Grand Marais	Trailhead is on Forest Road 326, 1/3 mile south of the Brule Lake parking lot on the east side of the road. Parking at Brule Lake lot. Total trail distance is 7 miles.
79	Eagle Mountain Trail		Gunflint/Grand Marais	The trail is 3.5 miles to the top (one way). Provides access to Brule Lake Trail.	
81	Border Route Trail—West		Gunflint/Grand Marais	53 miles. Shorter options available.	
82	Border Route Trail—Center		Gunflint/Grand Marais	53 miles. Shorter options available.	
83	Border Route Trail—East		Gunflint/Grand Marais	53 miles. Shorter options available.	
86	Pow Wow Trail		Tofte/Tofte	30 mile loop trail.	

# BWCAW Past and Present

## What is Wilderness?

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

*A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself.*

– Edward Abbey



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

## Why Wilderness?

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

There are now 680 federally-designated wilderness areas nationwide with a total of 106,619,208 acres.

These areas provide multiple benefits including:

- Protects watersheds and plays an important role in oxygen production, CO2 absorption, soil building, biomass decomposition, insect regulation, and filtering air pollution.

- Is a natural lab in which we can study natural processes. Society can benefit from this scientific research as it enlarges our understanding of the world and our roles in it.
- Holds educational and training value for schools and universities. It is an important classroom for learning primitive outdoor skills such as orienteering, survival, mountaineering and stock packing.
- Has aesthetic value appreciated through intimate contact with the environment where people can experience sights, sounds and feelings they are unable to experience in other less natural settings.
- Holds, for some, philosophical and religious value. To them wilderness is a place with natural cathedrals where people can celebrate the creative forces behind life.
- Has an intrinsic value hypothesizing that plants, animals, inanimate objects and the ecosystems that they inhabit, have rights of their own to exist.



Clear Lake, 1921. (Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection)

# The BWCAW Act

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



(Courtesy Superior National Forest Collection)

## What is the BWCAW?

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

- to establish the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Mining Protection Area,
- for the protection and management of the fish

and wildlife of the wilderness so as to enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the unique biotic resources of the region,

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

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

- Approximately 1175 lakes varying in size from 10 acres to 10,000 acres and several hundred miles of streams comprise about 190,000 acres (20%) of the BWCAW surface area.

- BWCAW is the largest and only federal wilderness of substantial size east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the Everglades at over a million acres. BWCAW contains the largest contiguous areas of uncut forest remaining in the eastern United States.
- The BWCAW contains the highest point in Minnesota: Eagle Mountain (2,301 feet).
- BWCAW is the most heavily used wilderness in the country with approximately 250,000



visitors annually. BWCAW represents less than one percent of the acreage of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), but receives 10% of the use in the entire NWPS.

- The BWCAW is a Class I air quality area as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act. It is the only wilderness in the country that has an airspace reservation that prohibits flights below 4,000 feet.

# Fire in the Wilderness



**Pagami Creek Fire Area**

**A** lightning strike approximately 13 miles east of Ely, MN started the Pagami Creek Wildfire, within the BWCAW.

The fire smoldered in a bog for several days and produced barely enough smoke to indicate its existence. In September 2011, a series of extraordinary and unusual conditions came together that caused the fire to demonstrate unprecedented behavior spreading 16 miles in one day. Although it was the largest wildfire in the Superior National Forest at approximately 93,000 acres, and the largest in Minnesota in half a century, it impacted less than 1% of the BWCAW.

Of the more than 2,100 camp sites in the BWCAW, approximately 114 campsites were affected by the fire although most received light to moderate effects. Most will be reopened spring 2012 after minor restoration is complete. Campsites, portages and trails with the most severe fire effects will need additional site work before reopening, and a limited few may need more time for regeneration.

Entry points can lead to distant travel routes, so please check with the nearest Forest Service office for condition alerts if you think your travel plans may intersect with the fire area.

US Forest Service Crews will be working to assess and rehabilitate the burned area as soon as possible. Some campsites will be reopened to visitors in 2012 with some cautions.

- Visitors will need to be aware of "snags" (charred standing trees, as well as some green trees), that look solid but the root system may have burned making them unstable.
- Bear resistant containers will be recommended in portions of the fire area since there may not be a sufficient number of trees to hang food packs.
- There will be limited firewood supplies, so bring a cook stove. Charred wood on the ground is best left to provide valuable nutrients as it decomposes and helps reduce erosion and run-off.
- Vegetation will recover more quickly by using tent pads and staying on established trails.
- Although some latrines may be exposed to view, their use is still mandatory.

Visitors will witness a changing, rejuvenating forest in the burned area over the coming years. The landscape that people were used to seeing before the Pagami Creek Fire was created primarily by similar fire events in the past.



Be aware of changes to BWCAW entry points due to impacts from the Pagami Creek Fire. Check your entry point for important information specific to the area you are planning to travel. You may find a reduction in the number of groups allowed per day, campsites posted closed due to public safety concerns and resource protection, as well as travel routes changed or closed.

The following entry points listed on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) will have important messages posted concerning changes due to the fire:

#30 Lake One, #30F Lake One (NEW restricted entry point, same physical location), #34 Island River, #35 Isabella Lake, #67 Bog Lake, #75 Little Isabella River, #84 Snake River, #86 Pow Wow Trail

**Kawishiwi Lake.** Photos Courtesy of Tom Kaffine

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

Please check our website regularly [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior) as changes will be posted as progress is made.

## To Help Reduce Fire Risk in the BWCAW

Choose a camp stove instead of a campfire. If a campfire is allowed, build it in the fire grate and keep it small. Like a candle in your home, never leave a fire unattended at any time. Keep all flammable materials away from your campfire.

Always make sure your campfire is dead out before leaving your campsite, even for a short time. Drown your fire with water, extinguishing all embers, leaving it cold to the touch. Did you know that 50% of fires in the BWCAW are caused by escaped campfires?

### Watch For Hazards

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

### Know About Campfire Restrictions

Restrictions are implemented during high fire danger to decrease the threat of destructive wildfires. Fire restrictions are put in place for your safety and the safety of firefighters. Always check for potential restrictions just prior to your trip. Camp stoves may be required if restrictions are implemented. For current fire restriction information contact any Superior National Forest District Office or headquarters, (218) 626-4300, or our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior).

### You See Or Smell Smoke, Don't Panic

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 north and east or with the prevailing wind. Make sure you have a safe route to follow if wind direction changes. Keep in mind that strong winds can carry fire embers causing spot fires ahead of the original fire.

**EVENING HUMIDITY** — Humidity increases in the early morning and late evening. Fire activity may decrease with higher humidity making travel safer at these times.

**TALL SMOKE PLUMES** — Large plumes indicate a very hot fire. If you see or experience a large smoke plume close to you, take precaution; seek a point of refuge such as a lake.

#### 2. Make A New Plan

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

#### 3. Find A Safe Place

If you feel threatened find a large lake. Keep away from the fire's path. If the fire is upon you, don't panic. Put on your life jacket and take your canoe into the water. Paddle to the middle of the lake, tip your canoe and go under it. You can breathe the cool trapped air under your canoe until the fire passes.

# Protecting Your Natural Resources

## Fisheries

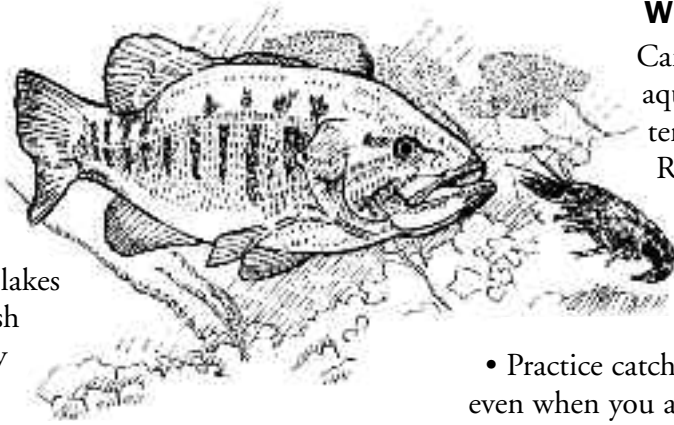
The Superior National Forest has 695 square miles of surface water and more than 2250 linear miles of streams that offer a wide range of fishing opportunities in all seasons. Coldwater game species include brook, brown, rainbow and lake trout, splake, and whitefish. Warmwater game species include walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, pike, musky, and panfish. We maintain various types of fishing access that range from barrier free fishing to backcountry fishing in the BWCAW. Some lakes and streams within the Superior National Forest have special regulations, so always

check the Minnesota DNR fishing regulations when you plan your trip.

Our fisheries program focuses on adaptive management principles. Current projects include improving spawning habitat for native fishes, improving habitat for freshwater mussels and aquatic insects of special concern, and improving our transportation system to improve and protect native aquatic species. We work in collaboration with several agencies to accomplish our management objectives. Through this effort we hope to ensure and maintain healthy aquatic resources on the Superior National Forest.

### Stocking

Some isolated BWCAW lakes are stocked primarily with brook trout; however, a few lakes 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.



### What You Can Do

Care for the fish, their aquatic habitat, and their terrestrial neighbors.

Regulations are meant to ensure sustainable fish populations and healthy lakes and rivers.

- Practice catch and release, even when you are within the allowable catch.
- Handle fish gently, quickly, and in the water.
- Keep fish horizontal for pictures.
- If you plan to keep a fish, kill it right away.
- Be prepared to keep the gutted fish on ice.

- Don't kill fish you find undesirable — what's trash to you may be treasure to somebody else, and an important part of the ecosystem.
- When ice fishing, never use anti-freeze on or near lakes or waterways.
- Choose lead-free tackle. Lead poisoning from ingesting lead sinkers and jigs is a significant cause of death among loons, and there may be other adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems.
- Leaving fish remains along shore can alter natural behaviors, expose animals to predators, cause stress, and even cause unnatural fluctuations in numbers, as with increased gulls in some areas.

## Fight the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

In 2012, the DNR will institute new invasive species check stations, hire more watercraft inspectors, deploy more decontamination units and increase its public awareness efforts – all to stop the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invaders.

### New Decal

The DNR has created a new decal explaining invasive species laws and procedures boaters should use to not spread the invaders. The decal contains an additional “Check the Drain Plug” decal that can be cut off and placed on the trailer to remind boaters to replace their plug before launching.



Top: **Zebra mussels**  
(courtesy of F. Lamiot)

Right: **Eurasian water milfoil**  
(courtesy of Kristian Peters)



Decals will be distributed through boat dealers, DNR offices and state parks and watercraft licensing outlets. Visitors to boating and sports shows can get them from DNR staff starting in mid-January.

### Q. How do people need to dispose of unused, unwanted bait?

A. State law prohibits dumping unused bait into waters of the state. Dumping bait on the ground is considered littering. Therefore, unwanted live bait should be placed in the trash, disposal bins, or compost bins.

### Q. What do people need to do with bait containers?

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

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

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

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

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

## Heritage Resources

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

site we lose much of the valuable information it can provide us about who was using the site, when, and for what. Respect cultural resources as you would natural resources. If you come across an archaeological site do not remove or disturb artifacts. Excavating, defacing, or removing an archaeological resource from federal lands without a permit is a crime, punishable by fines or imprisonment. Write down a description of what you found, including the location, and report it to Forest Service personnel. Photos, sketches, maps, or GPS information are all useful information to include when describing archaeological finds.



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

# Protecting Your Natural Resources

## Non-Native Invasive Species

Non-native invasive species (NNIS) are plants, animals, insects or other organisms whose introduction to an area causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Other names for NNIS include exotic species, noxious weeds, pests, etc. A few examples of NNIS that occur in Minnesota include purple loosestrife, gypsy moth, Eurasian water milfoil, earthworms, rusty crayfish, and common buckthorn.



**Purple Loosestrife**

### 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. Avoid transferring any NNIS into the BWCAW and between its waters.

- Inspect your boat and equipment and remove any aquatic plants or animals.
- Drain water when leaving a lake.



**Zebra Mussels**

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.

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

can spread on the air, in the water, and on articles like campers, firewood, boats, vehicles, even the mud on your boots.



**Leafy Spurge**

Because non-native invasive species do not respect property lines, we are working with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens like you to increase awareness of this resource management issue and take action to stop the spread of NNIS in our area.



**Spotted Knapweed**

- Pack out all unwanted live bait and dispose of in the trash. Never release live bait into a body of water.
- Earthworms should be carried out and disposed of in the trash.



**Orange Hawkweed**

## Large Groups

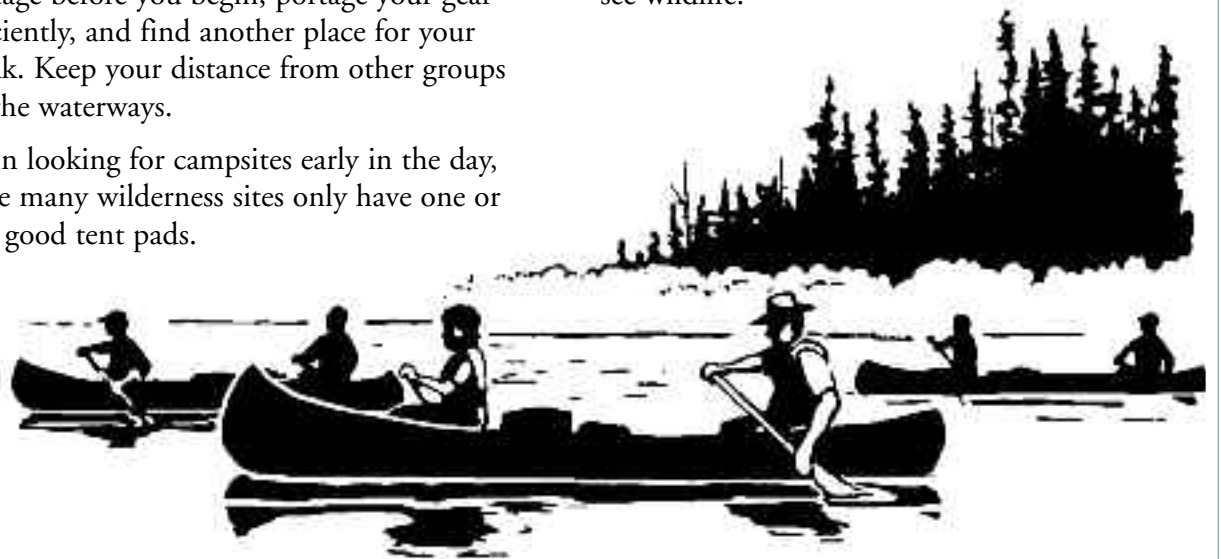
If you are planning a trip for a non-profit organization, there is a limit of no more than 3 permits in a season to be reserved using the non-profit organization name as the group leader. Please contact any Superior National Forest office for more information, or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)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

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

- If your group is more than nine people, no matter what the age, you may not enter the BWCAW. You should consider other options, such as camping at a developed campground and boating on lakes outside the wilderness.
- If your group of more than the maximum size wishes to break into smaller groups to enter the BWCAW, each smaller group must have its own permit.
- Each group should have an adult who will be responsible for the leadership and safety of the group.

- Each group must travel and camp separately. This means each should have its own food, first aid kit, and essential gear. To make it easier for the groups to travel separately, consider reserving different entry points or planning separate routes.
- Portages and waterways can become very congested. Wait for another group to cross the portage before you begin, portage your gear efficiently, and find another place for your break. Keep your distance from other groups on the waterways.
- Begin looking for campsites early in the day, since many wilderness sites only have one or two good tent pads.

- Encourage your group members to use campsite areas that have already been hardened rather than trampling vegetation and causing erosion.
- Sound carries a long distance over calm water. Keep noise down, especially after sunset; your group and others will experience a sense of solitude, as well as have better opportunities to see wildlife.



## The BWCA Wilderness Education Kit

Engage. Explore. Inspire. A learning journey through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness...



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. The BWCA Wilderness Kit was created by the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness 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](mailto:r9_superior_NF@fs.fed.us).

For more information visit [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior)

# Special Uses

## About the Program

The Forest Service manages over 192 million acres of national forests and grasslands that comprise the National Forest System (NFS). Today, our growing population and mobile society have created a demand for a variety of uses of these federal lands. Often these diverse needs require specific approval. The Forest Service provides services that support our national policy and federal land laws. The Agency's special-uses program authorizes uses on NFS land that provide a benefit to the general public and protect public and natural resources values. Currently there are over 74,000 authorizations on the NFS lands for over 180 types of uses.

Each year, the Forest Service receives thousands of individual and business applications for authorization for use of NFS land for such activities as water transmission, agriculture, outfitting and guiding, recreation, telecommunication, research, photography and video productions, and granting road and utility rights-of-ways. The Forest Service carefully reviews each application to determine how the request affects the public's use of NFS land. Normally, NFS land is not made available if the overall needs of the individual or business can be met on nonfederal lands.

## When Do I Need a Filming or Photography Permit for National Forest Land?

### Personal use

If you are shooting still photographs or 'home movies' for personal use (i.e. that does not involve advertisement of a product or service, the

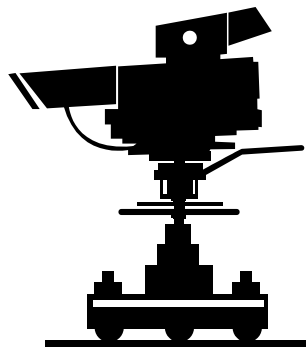
creation of a product for sale) then a special use permit is not required.

### Commercial Filming

A special use permit is required for all commercial filming activities on National Forest System lands. Commercial filming is defined as the use of motion picture, videotaping, sound recording, other moving image or audio recording equipment on National Forest System lands that involves the advertisement of a product or service, the creation of a product for sale, or the use of actors, models, sets or props, but not activities associated with broadcasts for news programs. For purposes of this definition, creation of a product for sale includes but is not limited to a film, videotape, television broadcast or documentary of historic events, wildlife, natural events, features, subjects or participants in a sporting or recreation event and so forth, when created for the purpose of generating income.

Commercial or still photography will not be permitted if the Forest Service determines that any of the following criteria apply (designated wilderness has separate criteria):

- There is a likelihood of resource damage that cannot be mitigated.
- There would be an unreasonable disruption of the public's use and enjoyment of the site (beyond short term interruption).
- The activity poses health or safety risks to the public that cannot be mitigated.



## What Are the Criteria for Commercial Filming in Designated Wilderness?

Proposed commercial activities in designated wilderness areas, such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, are reviewed for compliance with existing regulations and acts (Wilderness Act of 1964 and the BWCAW Act of 1978). Commercial filming activities may be allowed in wilderness if it is proper for realizing wilderness management goals of the area, but filming outside the designated wilderness should first be considered. In general, the Forest Service will authorize commercial filming or photography activities within designated wilderness areas only when all of the following apply, and there is still no guarantee of a permit:

- The Proponent can adequately demonstrate that a wilderness setting is required.
- No reasonable alternative exists to achieve the same effect on either NFS land or other ownership outside of wilderness.
- Expected impacts to wilderness resources will be negligible.
- The Proponent will accept the terms, conditions, restrictions or limitations the Forest Service may require for wilderness management and protection.
- Forest Service regulations require authorized aircraft flying over the BWCAW to maintain a minimum altitude of 4000 feet above ground level.

If you have further questions concerning this use, please call the Superior National Forest.

## Research and Monitoring

During the summer, you may notice people working on various lakes in the BWCAW. They may be other land management agencies, universities, or research stations. The information gathered is used to develop long term resource management strategies. Use of motorized equipment or transportation in the non-motorized areas of the BWCAW will be limited to what is necessary.

## Who Needs an Outfitter/Guide Permit?

All individuals or organizations including non-profit organizations conducting outfitting and/or guiding activities on National Forest Land or adjacent waters should make an inquiry as to whether or not such activity would be properly classified as "commercial". This includes anyone assisting others in providing outdoor recreation experiences on the Superior National Forest. Some examples are: commercial guides, church or youth groups, ski instructors, bus tours, or canoe liveries. If commercial, such activity may only be conducted after applying for and receiving an Outfitter/Guide Permit. If there is no charge, fee, donation or tuition related to the program activity and if the group leader is not paid, an Outfitter/Guide permit may not be required. A Forest Service representative will make the decision on whether a permit is needed. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/superior](http://www.fs.usda.gov/superior), "Passes and Permits" or call the Forest Service.

## Air

### Measuring Air Pollution Across the Forest

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

### Poor Visibility Or Regional Haze

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

60% of what it would be under natural conditions. We also know that, just as with acid rain, sulfates and nitrates are the main causes of poor visibility.

### Acidity Of Rain And Snow

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

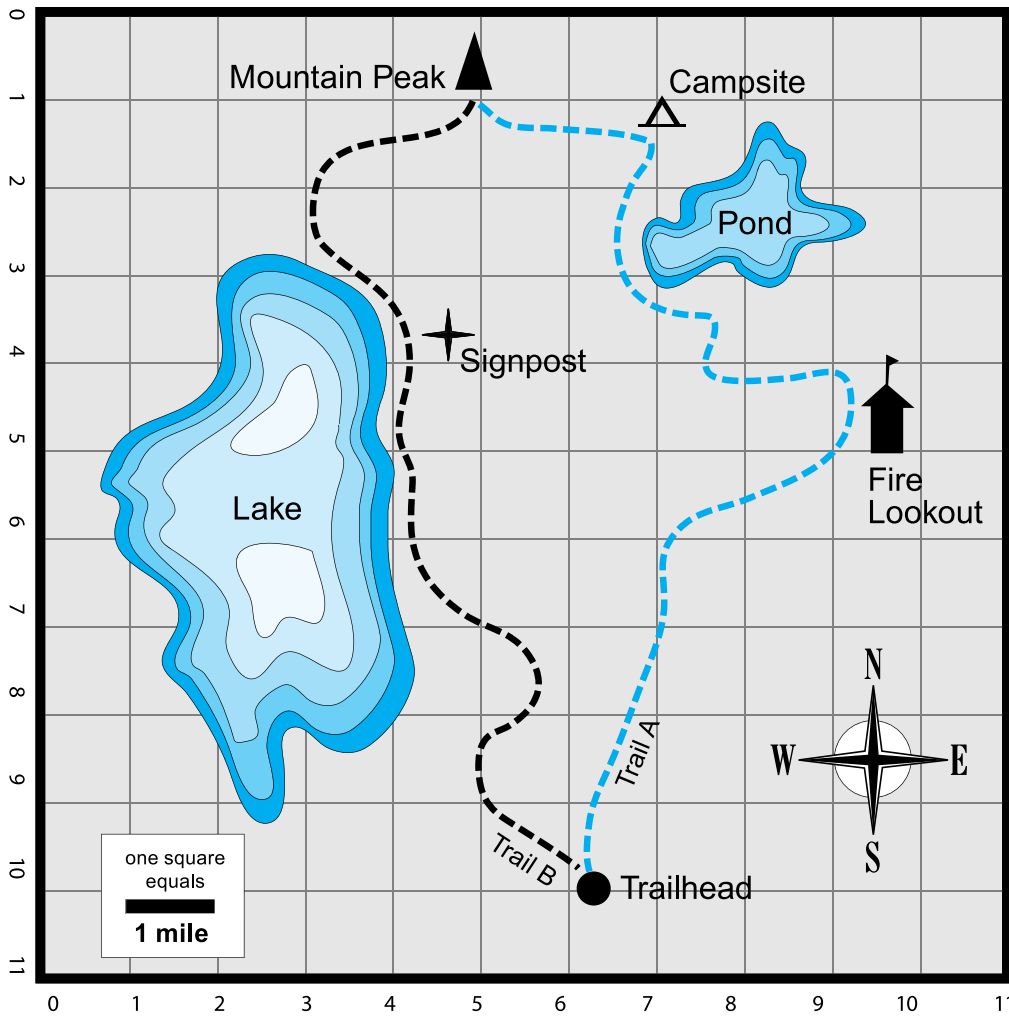
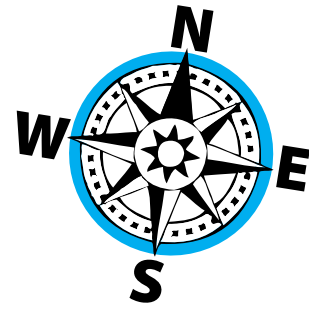
### What You Can Do

- **Conserve Electricity and Fuels**  
Most air pollutants come from transportation and the generation of electricity. People are driving more miles and using more electricity each year. If you can save gas and reduce your electrical use, our air quality will be better and your National Forest will be healthier.
- **Learn About Air Pollution**  
It is important for you to know that even if you live hundreds of miles away, your actions can affect the air quality here on the Superior National Forest. Air masses travel long distances over a number of days and along their path they pick up air pollution from industrial and populated areas and carry it to the Forest. The more you know the more you can do to reduce air pollution. See information about air quality monitoring on the Superior National Forest website.

# Activity Page

## Using a Map and Compass

Maps always have a symbol for north; compasses have a needle that points north. As you stand on a trail with your map and compass, line up north on the map with the north on the compass.



## Measuring Distances on a Map

In a national forest, a map will help you figure out distances from one place to another. Use the map at the right to figure out distances for an imaginary hike. First, locate the Ranger Station. This is where you'll start from. Then, find the Trailhead.

Use the map scale (1 square equals 1 mile) and the cardinal directions to answer the questions below:

- From the Ranger Station to the Trailhead is about:
  - 1 mile
  - 2 miles
  - 5 miles
  - 10 miles
- From the Trailhead to the Fire Lookout is about:
  - 1 mile
  - 2 miles
  - 4 miles
  - 5 miles
- What direction is the Lake from the Fire Lookout?
  - west
  - east
  - north
  - south
- From the Fire Lookout to the Campsite is about:
  - 1 mile
  - 2 miles
  - 5 miles
  - 10 miles
- To get from the Mountain Peak back to the Trailhead you would primarily travel in what direction?
  - west
  - east
  - north
  - south
- From the Mountain Peak to the Trailhead is about:
  - 1 mile
  - 2 miles
  - 5 miles
  - 10 miles

1 = b; 2 = d; 3 = d; 4 = a; 5 = c; 6 = d; 7 = d; 8 = d; 9 = c; 10 = a; 11 = b

## Word Search Puzzle

Find the hidden words and circle them. The following words can be found horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

- Flashlight
- Canoe
- Map
- West
- North
- Hiking
- Bearbag
- Permit
- Compass
- Motor
- Paddle
- Tent

G	P	E	R	I	T	T	P	F	F	R
H	C	F	A	K	G	E	G	I	L	Q
I	X	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	A	L
K	H	A	E	T	B	N	P	T	S	W
I	W	N	P	R	N	O	K	C	H	E
N	J	O	A	O	T	E	N	T	L	S
G	R	E	D	L	S	T	R	M	I	T
W	B	Y	D	Z	M	A	P	J	G	F
S	M	U	L	R	O	B	S	U	H	A
P	O	D	E	M	O	T	O	R	T	B
X	Y	M	R	N	O	R	T	H	S	E

Activity sheet provided by the National Symbols Program, [www.symbols.gov](http://www.symbols.gov).

# Your User Fees At Work!

An increasing number of people recreate on Forest Service managed lands every year, yet funding does not keep pace with the existing need. Meeting the increasing needs of these visitors; delivering quality recreation, heritage and wilderness opportunities; and protecting our natural and cultural resources has become very difficult. These fees are used, in the same places where visitors paid them, to maintain and improve natural resources, recreation facilities, and services. Many wilderness projects were completed during the season using your BWCAW Overnight User Fees!



Crews conducting rehabilitation work.

- BWCAW visitor education videos are part of a visitor's wilderness experience. A short video is shown to visitors when they pick up their wilderness permit and reviews rules and regulations. A long version is available for those in the pre-trip planning stage.

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 and fallen trees, installing water barriers to prevent erosion, repairing eroded areas, and hazard tree removal from campsites.

- Additional seasonal staff for increased field work, assistance at contact stations and law enforcement training for routine back-country patrols.
- Campsite improvements such as transplanting native vegetation to encourage campsite recovery, improving tent pads, cleaning and repairing fire grates, latrine replacement, and erosion repair and prevention.
- Winter dog sled program as a means of transporting equipment and/or supplies needed to complete



Campsites are inspected and rehabilitated for resource protection and visitor safety.

Top: Before rehabilitation

Bottom: After rehabilitation

## BWCAW Permit Issuing Stations/Cooperators\*

### Aurora Area

Forest Service Office – Aurora

### Cook/Orr Area

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

### Duluth Area

Forest Service Office – Superior National  
Forest Supervisor's Office  
The Canoeist, in Two Harbors  
Duluth Pack Store – Duluth

### Tofte/Isabella Area

Forest Service Office – Tofte  
Forest Service Work Station – Isabella  
Beaver Bay Sports Shop  
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.  
Boundary Country Trekking  
Clearwater Canoe Outfitters  
Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters  
Gunflint Pines Resort  
Hungry Jack Canoe Outfitters  
Nor'Wester Lodge  
Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters  
Seagull Canoe Outfitters  
Seagull Creek Fishing Camp  
Tuscarora Outfitters  
Voyageur Canoe Outfitters  
Way of the Wilderness  
Wilderness Canoe Base  
YMCA Camp Menogyn

### Ely Area

Forest Service – Kawishiwi  
Ranger District, Ely  
Big Lake Wilderness Lodge  
Boundary Waters Guide Service  
Camp Voyageur, Inc.  
Canadian Border Outfitters  
Canadian Waters, Inc.  
Canoe Country Outfitters  
Cliff Wold's Canoe Trip Outfitting Co.  
Custom Cabin Rental  
Duane's Outfitters  
Echo Trail Outfitters  
Ely Outdoors Co.  
Jordan's Wilderness Shop & Outfitters, Inc.  
Kawishiwi Lodge & Canoe Outfitters  
Land of Lakes - Girl Scouts  
LaTourell's Resort & Outfitters  
Lodge of Whispering Pines

Moose Track Adventures  
North Country Canoe Outfitters  
Northern Tier BSA  
Outward Bound Wilderness  
Packsack Canoe Trips & Log Cabins  
Piragis' Northwoods Co.  
River Point Resort & Outfitting Co.  
Smitty's on Snowbank  
Spirit of the Wilderness Outfitters  
Timber Trail Lodge & Outfitters  
Voyageur North Outfitters  
Wilderness Outfitters  
Wilderness Wind, Inc.  
Williams & Hall Wilderness  
Guides & Outfitters  
YMCA Camp Widjiwagan

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

## For more information

### BWCAW Reservation Center

PO Box 462  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
877-550-6777  
On the web  
www.recreation.gov

### Forest Service Offices

#### Forest Supervisor's Office

8901 Grand Avenue Place  
Duluth, MN 55808  
(218) 626-4300  
On the web  
www.fs.usda.gov/superior

#### Gunflint Ranger Station

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

#### Isabella Work Station

3989 Forest Service Dr.,  
Isabella, MN 55607  
(218) 323-7722

### Kawishiwi Ranger Station

1393 Hwy 169  
Ely, MN 55731  
(218) 365-7600  
(218) 365-7561 (5/1-9/30)

### La Croix Ranger Station

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

### Laurentian Ranger Station

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

### Tofte Ranger Station

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

### Voyageurs National Park

3131 Hwy 53  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-6600  
www.nps.gov/voya

### Travel to Quetico

#### Quetico Provincial Park

District Manager  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Atikokan, Ontario POT 1CO  
(807) 597-2735  
www.ontarioparks.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.cbp.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  
DNR General Information:  
888-646-6367  
www.dnr.state.mn.us

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THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT UPON REQUEST.

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing call 800-627-3529 or 711