

**Superior National Forest  
Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Collaborative  
Member Selection Guidelines  
December 2023**

**Overview**

The National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center) is leading the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) Collaborative membership selection process in consultation with a steering committee from the Superior National Forest (SNF) of the U.S. Forest Service. The SNF Steering Committee is providing input on member selection criteria, the overall process, and the timeline for convening the collaborative group. The National Center is serving as an impartial party to ensure a diversity of interests are represented and that selected members best meet membership criteria and qualifications. The plan is to have initial terms staggered, with some members committing to serve 2-year terms and others volunteering to serve 3-year terms. This will ensure some continuity of membership after the initial two years of the Collaborative. Upon selection, an invitation letter will be sent to the potential members. Shortly thereafter, the National Center facilitation team will schedule an initial meeting to kick off the collaborative effort.

**Membership Criteria and General Qualifications**

The following criteria and qualifications will be used for selecting members:

- Be able to commit the time and resources necessary to participate fully in the BWCAW Collaborative.
- Commit to respectful behavior and dialogue with others, including others who may have divergent viewpoints.
- Demonstrate a curiosity for learning and commitment to sharing perspectives and ideas that address multiple interests and concerns.
- Demonstrate an established communication network with others within area of interest or is committed to communicating about the collaborative and work of the SNF to a broader audience, including seeking input from others outside of the collaborative when needed.
- Demonstrate knowledge of, experience in, or expertise within a distinct interest area related to the BWCAW (see draft membership categories).

In addition to the above criteria, a diversity of perspectives and experiences within the following membership categories will be sought. We are currently seeking two seats (members) for each larger Area of Interest, for a total of approximately 25 members. The size and representative interests of the collaborative may evolve over time with input from the initial members.

**Membership Interest Areas**

<b><u>Membership Category</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
<b>Environmental or Wilderness Conservation, Preservation, Advocacy</b>	Representatives of groups advancing environmental conservation or preservation of wilderness character, or objectives
<b>Outfitting, Guiding, or Ecotourism (Commercial)</b>	Representatives of the commercial interests of the BWCAW
<b>Academia, Research, or Historical</b>	Representatives of the academic, scientific, research, or historical aspects of the BWCAW
<b>Recreationalists</b>	Representative interests of outdoor users
<b>Native Nations Representatives</b>	Representative interest of Boise Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage Bands

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<b><u>Membership Category</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
<b>Historically Underserved and Underrepresented Populations</b>	Individual or group advancing equity for populations or communities that have been systematically denied aspects of economic, social, civic, and environmental services and benefits
<b>Education and Interpretation (Youth and Adult)</b>	Representative interests of those providing education and interpretative services to youth and/or adults
<b>County Government or County-level Interest</b>	Representative of county-level geographic coverage (with relevant interest in the BWCAW)
<b>Community level Interest (within gateway communities)</b>	Representative of gateway community-level geographic coverage (with relevant interest)
<b>State Government or State-wide Interest</b>	Representative of State of Minnesota geographic coverage (with relevant interest)
<b>Forest Service Superior National Forest</b>	Representatives of the convening agency responsible for management of the BWCAW
<b>Neighboring Federal or International Agency</b>	Representative of the neighboring or interested federal or Canadian agency or land unit