

11/19/2021

TO: Dave Radford

Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services

Dear Sir,

I strongly support the application by the United States Forest Service (USFS) for the 20-year withdrawal of all mineral and geothermal leases on approximately 225,378 acres of National Forest System lands in the Rainy River Watershed in the Superior National Forest.

Because the Rainy River watershed is home to America's most visited Wilderness area, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), this land deserves to be managed according to strict scientific standards and to be protected by strong environmental protections.

As the U.S. Forest Service noted, "Failure of required mitigation measures, containment facilities, or remediation efforts at mine sites and their related facilities could lead to irreversible degradation of this key water based wilderness resource."

The science shows that copper-sulfide mining is a grave threat to the water-rich environment of northeastern Minnesota. We must not risk this national treasure for the short-term financial gain of the international mining industry.

I'm a retired Horticulturalist who volunteered as a volunteer Vermillion River Watershed planning Commissioner. I've spent my life trying to protect our water resources.

Respectfully,

Jackie Dooley

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