

January 9, 2022

Dear Mr. Radford,

This letter regards the Superior National Forest withdrawal application.

My name is Michael Meirick, a retired teacher and counselor. I took my first canoe trip in the BWCA in early June, 1953. It was my high school graduation gift (Hermantown, MN) from my mother. I took my last canoe trip in October, 2020, at age 85, out of Grand Marais, MN, a three day stay at Moss Lake. My round trip mileage from Waite Park, MN to Moss Lake and back is about 600 miles.

Inordinate, I agree, but canoe camping is my passion, and at 86, I couldn't afford to pass on the opportunity.

To me the BWCA is a beautiful and mystical place. So to read about the possibility of opening a new copper-nickel mine within the watershed of the BWCA is chilling; it would be a sacrilege! To date, no copper-nickel mine has escaped the poisoning and despoilation. So, this is no place for experimentation.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Meirick