

January 10, 2022

Deb Haaland, Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 c Street N.W.
Washington, D C 20240

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BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
EASTERN STATES OFFICE
2022 JAN 19 P 2:25

F. David Radford, Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services
BLM Eastern States Office
RE: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

RE: Superior National Forest Withdrawal Application

Dear Secretary Haaland & Mr. Radford:

It's wrong that political persuasion takes precedent over the established regulatory process. Comments are an indicator of sentiment and should not carry more weight than scientific scrutiny.

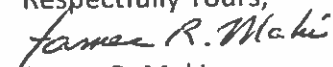
The following is a segment from the book *"Lob Trees in the Wilderness"*:

For wilderness purists, as the most dedicated of these crusaders are now known, the preservation of land in the undisturbed state goes beyond the good earth management that, as conservationists, they also endorse. They see wilderness as a hierophany, a sacred manifestation of the absolute: "He can immerse himself in its perfection and emerge purified." This is strong medicine. When the wilderness ethic is seen in its religious or spiritual contest, it is easier to understand the emotional heat generated in purist political struggles. The purists have become the most ardent wilderness crusader.

They share a sense of the tyranny of civilization, even though they are inheritors of a long tradition of exerting that tyranny over wilderness. Collectively, they are highly urbanized, well above the national average in education and income, highly sensitive, and capable of exerting influence wholly disproportionate to their numbers.

These preservationist and purists, together with an ardent and growing army of campers and canoeists, became an invincible power in shaping wilderness policy and future human influences in the BWCAW. Boundary Waters and like-minded groups, choose ideology every time. They believe their views are superior to everyone else and that they must therefore dictate the conditions of everyone else's lives.

Respectfully Yours,


James R. Maki

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