

4947 Wild Canyon Drive  
Woodbury MN 55129  
December 30, 2021

F. David Radford  
Deputy State Director of Geospatial Services  
BLM Eastern States Office 5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church VA 22041

Dear Mr. Radford:

I'm writing in regard to the Superior National Forest withdrawal application. There is a movement to allow copper nickel mining near the BWCAW in northern Minnesota. I believe this should never happen!

I have first-hand experience with the BWCAW for 50 years. In 1970 I went on my first canoe trip in the Boundary Waters. Ever since, I've returned yearly or at least every other year for week long trips. I've witnessed positive changes when the federal government established the area as protected Wilderness. It is incredibly unique, where one can drink water directly from the lakes, witness truly dark night skies, and silence with regard to anything powered or motorized. It's a sensitive area, where even higher than normal canoe/portage travel in 2021 during the Covid 19 epidemic caused very visible and, in some places, permanent damage. The BWCAW is a rare gem where a natural environment should not to be impacted by the thoughtless or careless behaviors of humans.

There is no possible way that copper nickel mining can safely take place anywhere near the boundary waters or its watershed. I believe a foreign company will have even less care over the environment than a U.S. company. The concern of either will simply be the profit to be gained. And as for jobs, these will be in relatively small number over a short time span. Finally, there are numerous examples of permanent damage from oil spills, chemical spills, gold mining, and run off from factories, farm field and feed lots. These activities are supposedly regulated, and yet accidents and side effects continue to occur. It is not worth the risk to mine in our precious, clean and natural Superior National Forest and BWCAW.

I urge you and others involved in decision making to do what is right and protect this land. Once spoiled, we can never go back.

Sincerely,

  
Roxanne Willms