

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

Paul Christmann
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RE: Superior National Forest withdrawal application

January 6, 2022

Dear Mr. Radford,

I read an article in the Minnesota Star Tribune in December 2021 about future of the BWCA Wilderness area with the proposal of Twin Metals Copper/Nickel Mine wanting to be so close to the BWCA Wilderness. There is a reason that they call it a Wilderness area, it's because the area has been untouched by humans since it was first found. I have read many articles about the BWCA in the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer and local news papers along with beautiful pictures of the area. I know that I do not live here, but I just had to write and let my feelings be known.

I can't believe that the State and Government officials would even think of considering allowing such an operation to exist so close to an **irreplaceable treasure** as the BWCA. Is the State of Minnesota so desperate for money that it would put the BWCA at risk of permanent loss due to pollution from the tailings and runoff from the mine? Twin Metals says that they are using dry tailing storage, but what happens when (due to climate change) there is a sudden deluge of rain and it washes the runoff from the tailings into a nearby stream and that stream goes into the BWCA ? Does Twin Metals just say OOPS OUR BAD and keep doing what they do? Once the water and the BWCA is polluted will it ever be the same?

If you honestly look back at all the past industrial accidents and environmental disasters, how many times did the company say the accident was "unexpected" or "not planned for" ? How many times after the accident has the environment never fully recovered?

Is Minnesota prepared to spend billions of dollars to clean up any toxic spills from the mine to protect the BWCA, when a resounding NO could of prevented it ? The sad truth is, once the fragile area of the BWCA is environmentally damaged, it may be unrecoverable and the natural treasure will be gone forever, and the politicians that approved it will either be dead or out of office and can't be held accountable for what happens. What kind of legacy should be left for future generations, a beautiful natural treasure or a toxic wasteland ? The last question I have is how much money is Minnesota willing to loose in terms of tourist dollars once the BWCA is polluted beyond any hope ?

In closing I want to leave you with this Native American Proverb:

ONLY WHEN THE WATER IS SO POLLUTED THAT FISH CANNOT SWIM AND WE CANNOT DRINK,
ONLY WHEN THE EARTH IS SO POLLUTED THAT THE TREES OR OUR CROPS CANNOT GROW AND
THE ANIMALS CANNOT LIVE,

ONLY WHEN THE AIR IS SO POLLUTED THAT NOTHING CAN BREATHE,
ONLY THEN WILL THE WHITE MAN UNDERSTAND THAT HE CANNOT EAT OR DRINK HIS MONEY....

Sincerely,



Paul Christmann

CC: Minnesota DNR

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer

Minnesota Star Tribune