

May 17, 2024

Mr. Tom Hall
Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55805

RE: Forest Plan Amendment of management direction for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Supervisor Hall –

The comments in this letter are submitted on behalf of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) in the interest of providing input on the upcoming amendment to Chapter 3 of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) forest management plan.

NMW supports the topics and positions included in the letter dated May 14, 2024, sent by the W.J. McCabe Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) and the Minnesota Division of the IWLA to the U.S. Forest Service in reference to the upcoming forest management plan amendment (Addendum A).

In addition to the letter referenced above, NMW would like to provide specific recommendations on two management topics:

1) Bear-Human Interactions and Food Storage

We feel the Superior National Forest rule is reasonable, as well as the \$50 penalty. Thank you for providing the link to International Grizzly Bear Committee-approved products on your website.

2) Wilderness Expansion

A Boundary Waters experience is one-of-a-kind, making this Wilderness popular and increasingly overused. In addition to traffic and access management practices, we urge the U.S. Forest Service to consider expanding the BWCAW boundaries to provide additional Wilderness opportunities for the area's many visitors and thus reduce congestion in peripheral and popular lakes, routes, and campsites.

Thank you for your consideration – we appreciate the hard work of the U.S. Forest Service in managing and stewarding the BWCAW, and we look forward to further engagement on this forest management plan amendment.

Ingrid Lyons
Executive Director
NMW

Matt Norton
Director of Science and Policy
NMW