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First name: Andrew

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Andrew Braun. I have traveled through the Lake Saganaga corridor to my family's island on the Canadian side of the Lake since I was a small child. Each year, my family and I plan our summers around the weeks we spend at that special place, "God's Little Acre." We are respectful stewards of this Lake and Land, and understand the delicate balance between the wilderness nature of the BWCAW and its recreational use by private parties and resort owners.

I submit comments today regarding the proposed Forest Plan Amendments about the future direction of the BWACW, specifically the Lake Saganaga Corridor. My chief concern relates to the limited use of motorized boats in the Corridor. The current Forest Plan rules classify Lake Saganaga as "Semi-Primitive Motorized" Management area. Under the Plan,

On lakes listed in 4(c)(l) and (4) of the 1978 BWCAW Act, a trolling motor of up to 10 horsepower is permitted in addition to the 25 horsepower limit cited in the Act, provided that the total horsepower being used at any one time does not exceed 25 horsepower. No other motors are to be in possession in the areas designated under the 25 horsepower. EXCEPTION: Motors of any size may be in possession in the Saganaga Corridor along the east shore of Saganaga Lake, provided that not more than 25 horsepower are in use.

I understand the use of motorized boats within the Lake Saganaga Corridor has been subject to dispute. My family, along with many other families and the handful of recreational resorts on the Lake, depend on the limited use of small, quiet, 4-stroke 25-horsepower motors. I ask that the Superior National Forest give meaningful and serious consideration to allowing the continued use of 25-horsepower motors on the Lake Saganaga Corridor. The Corridor should continue to be managed as a Semi-Primitive Motorized area that permits the limited use of 25-horsepower or less motors. That motorized traffic is allowed in this specific area contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local economy along the Gunflint Trail, ensuring the resorts and places that make the Gunflint Trail special stay operating.

The Superior National Forest has ample opportunities to enhance the wilderness qualities of the BWACW in its upcoming Plan Amendments. The limited motor exception on the Big Sag Corridor allows access for so many people to enjoy those other truly Primitive wildness areas, and to visit and enjoy all that Lake Saganaga has to offer. Please ensure that the Superior National Forest continue to allow the limited use of 25-horsepower motors on the Saganaga Lake Corridor.