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First name: B

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: comment from Barb Thoman about withdrawal of mining leases

August 9, 2017

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

I support the U.S. Forest Service proposal to withdraw approximately 235,000 acres of National Forest Service land located within the Vermillion and Rainy Headwaters sub-watersheds of the Rainy River watershed from mineral and geothermal leasing for 20 years.

Mining sulfide bearing rock within this water shed poses too great a risk to water, air, and land. This type of mining has NOT proven to be safe and pollution free. Water from proposed mining activities would flow downstream into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

The BWCAW is unique and beautiful wild place dependent on clean water. People travel from all over the country to vacation in the BWCAW - one of the nation's most visited Wilderness Areas. If the water is polluted by this proposed mine or mining activities, lakes, rivers, plants and animals will be harmed. So will the tourist economy and the businesses and communities that benefit from tourism.

Many closed mine sites around the United States are Superfund sites and when the responsible parties can no longer afford to pay for clean-up, the huge costs are borne by the U.S. taxpayers.

I am not opposed to mining. I am opposed to sulfide-ore mining in this area of our state. The risk of proposed mining in this area is too great.

Sincerely,

Barb Thoman

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