

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2024 7:06:54 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've lived in the Ely area since I was born in '75 and have witnessed many changes. These days, I spend most of my time backpacking and hiking rather than paddling.

1. Towboats. I do not have issues with the tows on motor lakes as long as they have a limitation for hours of operation, whether that be a shorter period of 6am-6pm or sunrise to sunset which aligns well with the fishing that occurs with motors use.
2. While I know policing is incredibly challenging, it would be ideal if there were consequences for those caught violating rules rather than warnings. I understand that a majority of the LNT violators probably are never caught, but I often see comments online from people who were clearly breaking rules and received only warnings. People don't learn unless there are consequences.
3. Continued outreach and high expectations for LNT education. Considering Ely is on the edge of the BW, it seems like LNT should be part of the curriculum in the heart or environmental science areas, but from what I can tell, it is not a requirement. LNT is vital and it should begin when kids are young when they live in areas like Ely (personally I think it should be everywhere, but especially in wilderness communities).
4. Please fix the reservation system. As a hiker, I don't usually have issues with it. But my dad and my uncles who are in their 70s and have spent decades in the BW now find themselves almost always skunked on motor permits. They are getting to a point in age where motor is the only option and now they find themselves in the final years of their lives unable to access the BW because of the free-for-all that occurs at permit time. Most of them actually preferred the lottery as it felt more fair and less like trying to get tickets for a Taylor Swift concert. I would also like to see fines for people who have unused permits that they don't cancel/return.
5. I'd like to see some clearer dog rules in the regulations. While the USFS page mentions it, there is a lot of confusion on what is recommended vs required. Dogs should be required to be on leashes on portages and other areas with people, for example.