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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am an avid BWCA enthusiast. I typically spend anywhere from 15-25 nights a year in the BWCA ranging from hunting in the fall, winter camping, and of course summer canoeing.

The new Forest Plan Amendment of Management Direction for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness #65777, is a major undertaking. Some of my positives, suggestions, and concerns are below:

Positives:

- I think the current reservation system is working well. When booking a trip at the end of January, I am always able to get the entry points I want.
- Most of the campsites are very nice. I would say it is near 75% nice spots.
- There is very little light pollution.
- I think the number of people allowed in per season is a near perfect amount. It allows people to experience the beauty of the BWCA without feeling crowded.

Suggestions:

- On the Appalachian Trail they have cable pulley systems to hang food bags. I don't think it would take away from the wilderness feel if the Forest service put up some type of food storage system whether bear boxes or pulleys.
- I think there are some lakes that have one or two campsites and could have a couple more. With more sites, it doesn't mean that they would be used, but that there would be more options after a long day and when you get to the site and find it taken.
- I think there should be more rangers checking for people polluting.
- I think we should have our fish waste and animal waste protocols in line with the Quetico Provincial Park.
- The training videos need to have more information about how to properly use portages with other groups there.

Concerns:

- That there are a few bad people who don't know how to camp in the wilderness and are going to ruin this amazing place for everyone else.
- IF we stop the number of shuttle boats on the motorized lakes, people wont go as far and that will lead to crowding.