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First name: Peter

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good afternoon,

Water so pure you can drink straight from the lake! Endless stars overhead! Abundant lakes and forest!

My first encounter with the BWCA occurred 1975 when a father and son religious group trip included my father and brother venturing from the Sawbill Trail. Once grown, I took my family to the same place. Nowadays, male friends and I paddle each September as we have for 14 years. We have built traditions always respecting the sacred ground and waters over which we hike, camp, and paddle.

I write today urging you to preserve and protect the Forest and BWCAW during this period of warming climate and encroaching industrial interests.

As a public health practitioner, I urge you to use scientific evidence as the basis to enact and sustain durable watershed and forest protections. Responsible industrial and recreative use respects a dynamic homeostatic ecology, a living wilderness that can recharge future human generations as it has ours.

Finally, I want to thank you for your public service and thank you for taking public comments.