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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My comments about the direction of BWCAW management come from my perspective as a member of a family that has owned an island property on the Canadian side of Saganaga Lake, Ontario for more than 75 years.

With no direct access to our property, we rely on access to from the end of the Gunflint Trail. I feel the current horsepower limits on the lake are necessary and sufficient to 1) limit unnecessarily large and loud recreational/sporting boats from disturbing the area, and 2) to allow property owners on the Canadian side of the lake reasonable means for hauling food, materials and people to their property.

Large motors are noisy, and produce large wakes that disturb shorelines and wildlife living on or near the shorelines. Towboats, I believe, can be useful for getting paddlers into the wilder areas quicker thereby manage demand for BWCA campsites and permits for the lake, and can function within the current horsepower limit.

The current process of BWCA exemption permits allowing Canadian property owners to take otherwise prohibited item through the BWCA to their property has worked OK and should be continued.

Finally, one of my biggest concerns is the increasing frequency of forest fires in the area. Many of these are caused by humans. The Forest Service should increase efforts on education and prevention.

I am 77 years old and have been visiting our island for 65+ years. I grew up learning to love and respect the unique character of the area that has since become the BWCA. I want my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be able to enjoy and appreciate the BWCA, too.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.