

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2024 1:58:08 PM

First name: Deanna

Last name: Siliciano

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family has owned cabins on the Canadian side of Saganaga Lake for four generations. We treasure the wilderness, and the time we spend there is precious to us. Our family includes my mother, who at age 88 has been going to Saganaga for more than 70 years. Her parents first came to the area when the Gunflint Trail was just a dirt track. Family members have traveled to our cabin for rejuvenation while undergoing chemotherapy. We have brought our babies there to begin another generations love of wilderness. Motorized travel in the Saganaga corridor allows our family to continue to come to this area that means so much to us. Without the motorized corridor that was created with the BWCAW, we would not be able to continue as a family. My 88 year old mother could not make the trip, nor could other family members with disabilities. We would be cut off from the Saganaga Lake community, as would many who could not make the 7 mile paddle, or the more dangerous route through Northern Light Lake.

Tow boats have also been an important safety lifeline at the edge of the BWCAW. We depend on them as an ambulance service of sorts. On a windy day, when travel is treacherous, they can bring us or canoeists out safely if medical care is needed. If we are bringing up the whole family to be together, one towboat ride can replace 3-4 trips in a small boat ferrying us up to the cabin.

Please do not make changes that will disenfranchise a long term community on Saganaga Lake, a group that is older and not as able to canoe or camp, but whose love of the wilderness is strong and enduring. Our voices are not as many as those who would erase our history in the BWCAW, but our history here is long and we are devoted to the water and land and sky of Saganaga Lake.