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Title:

Comments: I have been coming to Saganaga Lake for more than 64 years. My family has had a cabin on the Canadian side of the lake since the 1960's. We have a small community on Saganaga Lake of people who care deeply about the lake and the ecosystem of the lake. Those people are from all over the United States - from California to Florida to New Jersey. The majority of them have deep ties to the lake and have been coming back year after year. We love the land, the water and the sky here, and are committed to ensuring that it is taken care of responsibly.

We are dependent upon motorboat access to get to our home - we being, my 89 year old mother, my 3 sisters all in their 60's and our families. It's about 7 miles from the landing to our cabin, and there's absolutely no way for us to manage that without motors. We are also frequent users of tow services, particularly when my mother is coming in or out. A month of supplies and personal items is too much to bring in a single boat, and quite frankly having a 20-something driver to then help us get her and supplies from the water to the cabin is wonderful.

We are strong supporters of the outfitters on the lake. Their presence provides us with a critical backup in emergencies. They have come to help us fight fires so our neighbors cabins don't burn to the ground. They come when people are hurt and need to be transported back to the US for medical attention (we don't have 911 service until we get to the landing on the US side). Anecdotally, I would also say that the number of swamped canoeists that wash up at our place has been reduced significantly since most people going into the Quetico get a tow to the edge of the no-motor zone (which eliminates travel across "Big Sag" and the wind and waves that can arise from such a large body of open water). The tow boats also relieve overuse pressure on the camp sites and lake that is less than one day's paddle from an entry point. It provides for more evenly distributed use of the million acres and reduces the impact on the edge areas.

The balance of boats in Saganaga hasn't changed (as far as I can see) in decades (excluding the covid years, where the border was closed). I would encourage the panel to look at the Boundary Waters as a variety of different sections and consider the needs of each section. With a million+ acres, there is plenty of space for paddle-only adventure for people with skills and youth and strength to go out into the wilderness. We need to reserve some of the space for the older, less agile, less powerful people. We need to reserve some of the space for those new to wilderness (but make sure they're trained on the basics of food management, water safety and fire safety!!!).