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First name: Cynthia

Last name: Hagley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a frequent visitor to the BWCAW since a young teenager growing up on the Iron Range. I am an aquatic ecologist by profession and am fully aware of what a unique resource the wilderness area is. I welcome a renewed look at the management plan, but want to bring up a few concerns.

While we obviously have to control access to the "BW" to retain a wilderness experience, I think it is critical that we don't over manage to the point that the very same wilderness experience is compromised by efforts to manage movement of groups through the wilderness. An article in the Duluth News Tribune mentioned the possibility of having campsites themselves be reserved in advance. I am very opposed to this concept for many reasons, but a primary one is that part of the wilderness experience IS the freedom to explore, learn to be one with the weather, surroundings, uncertainty of traveling in wilderness. I can't imagine anything that would dull the absolute joy of exploration than having to get to one particular campsite. Outside of my own wilderness focus, there is great potential for safety risks, conflict among campers, and other unforeseen issues. Inexperienced campers could likely have no idea how far they would be able to go in a set time, for example. In my personal opinion, the pre-trip videos and enforced training combined with limiting permits are all that is needed (along with enforcement, naturally, and limiting group size) -- anything else is taking away the very experience a wilderness is supposed to engender.

A second item I want to raise is the need to be proactive in ensuring that the potential for noise pollution is of equal concern to the worries about light pollution. Especially with the potential for increased pressure to mine near the BWCAW, the more that can be done to have principles/language/guidelines in place proactively to provide ammunition to prevent noise pollution from impacting the wilderness is critical.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.