

FALL TRAIL REPORT

SAVE  *the*
BOUNDARY
WATERS



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Executive Director
Tom Landwehr



A lot has happened since our last update. Here is a breakdown of recent developments and some insight into what's coming up.

Litigation. In June 2018, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, the lead organization of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, and nine Minnesota businesses filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington, DC challenging the reinstatement of cancelled federal mineral leases of national forest lands next to the Boundary Waters (Twin Metals' leases). Twin Metals intervened in the lawsuit on the side of the Department of the Interior and four conservation groups joined on our side. All parties submitted briefs asking for summary judgement in their favor, meaning the case will be decided on the terms of the leases that were cancelled and on the records in the Bureau of Land Management. We expect the judge to hold oral arguments on the summary judgement motions later this year. Court proceedings move very slowly, but it is possible we could get a judge's ruling by end of year or early in 2020.

Congress. U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, a leader in protecting the Boundary Waters, who we work very closely with, included a provision in the U.S. House Interior Appropriations bill report (she is chair of the subcommittee) that directs the federal government to complete the federal mineral withdrawal study. This study analyzed the benefits of a ban on copper mining in the Rainy River Drainage Basin (the watershed of the Boundary Waters) and was abruptly halted for political reasons by order of the President after 20 months of a 24-month review. The provision in the Interior Appropriations report would require the Forest Service to complete the study and provide it to Congress. During the study, no mineral applications could be approved. In the U.S. Senate, a bipartisan group consisting of Senators Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, and Lamar Alexander have requested that the House provision be adopted in the final legislation.

Outreach. We continue to provide learning opportunities and disseminate information through a variety of means. We had our first Wild Waters Music Fest to Save the Boundary Waters on August 16! Over 4,600 people came to Bayfront Park in Duluth to hear 9 Minnesota artists, hear our message, and celebrate the Boundary Waters. It was a great event that generated a lot of media, captured many new names on our petitions, and helped us raise money for the cause. We worked to get exceptional stories in Outside Magazine and The New York Times in June, there was a very nice article in The New Yorker in July, and we worked with the National Audubon Society to get an article in its magazine in September. We hosted a booth at the Minnesota State Fair for the 5th year, where we provided information, sold merchandise, and secured another 10,000 signatures on our petition. We are growing our national Volunteer Ambassador program and it has received a lot of interest. And, we are working to finalize 3 videos, this fall: a documentary on the Boundary Waters and the threat of sulfide-ore mining; a 360 video experience to show people the beauty of the Boundary Waters; and an animated video to show how the Wilderness will be devastated by the construction of the mine. There have been many other meetings, articles and events in support of our efforts, as well.

As you can see, it has been a busy few months, and things will continue that way. Your support is greatly appreciated and critical to our success. Look for a lot more activity as we approach the winter, and, as always, let us know if you have any questions!

-Tom Landwehr

YOU make our work possible.

This is what we've accomplished this year.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2019:

10,000

PETITION SIGNATURES
AT THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

4,600+

ATTENDEES AT OUR
WILD WATERS MUSIC FESTIVAL

40

AMBASSADORS
IN 11 STATES

75

YOUTH ADVOCATES
AT THE KIDS FOR THE
BWCA D.C. FLY-IN

261

MEETINGS
IN D.C.

150

VOLUNTEERS AT THE
MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

80+

EVENTS

323

BUSINESSES
IN COALITION

FUNDRAISING IN 2019:

\$1.7 Million

RAISED SO FAR IN 2019

6,500+

DONORS

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS:

FACEBOOK: **93,000+**

INSTAGRAM: **21,400+**

TWITTER: **5,300+**



give TO THE MAX

NOV. 14, 2019

For Minnesota's biggest day of online charitable giving, the Campaign has a goal of raising **\$150,000** to support efforts to permanently protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining.

GIVING STARTS NOVEMBER 1, 2019!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Celebrate Give to the Max Day with the Campaign at our Twin Cities office!

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 | 5 - 8PM

Save the Boundary Waters
807 Broadway Street NE, Suite 16,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

SaveTheBoundaryWaters.org/GTMD



TWIN METALS PROJECT GOES FROM BAD TO WORSE FOR THE BWCAW

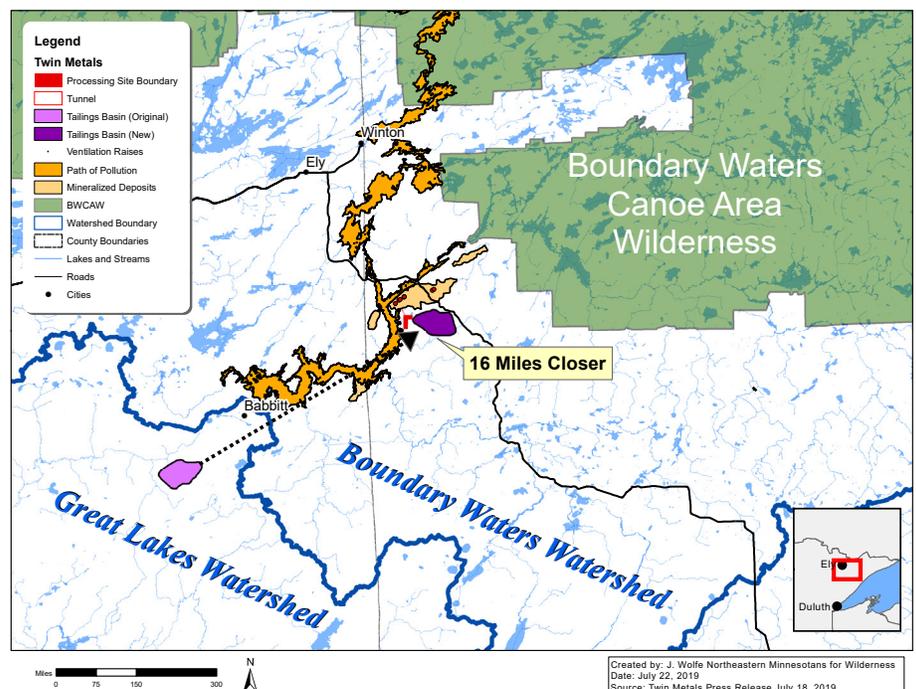
On July 18, 2019 Antofagasta's Twin Metals put out a press release announcing that they will be using dry-stacking to store **2.6 billion tons of its toxic sulfide-ore copper mine waste 16 miles closer to the Boundary Waters** — in its watershed, in a landscape of lakes and rivers that flows into the Wilderness.

Twin Metals tried everything to keep from having to move its tailings basin into the Boundary Waters watershed. Since at least 2014, Twin Metals' key messaging strategy has been its intention to keep its mining waste out of the Boundary Waters watershed and far away from Minnesota's crown jewel and America's most-visited Wilderness area.

No technology in existence now or on the horizon – including dry-stacking – can prevent a sulfide-ore copper mine in this location from polluting surrounding groundwater and surface water, including the Boundary Waters.

Twin Metals, in its announcement said that it would filter its tailings, move the mine tailings dump into the Boundary Waters watershed, and asserted that dry stacking had been used successfully in four mines in the U.S. and Canada. A review of the performance of those four mines (the Eleonore, Raglan, Greens Creek, and Pogo mines), shows that their tailings piles have in fact polluted the surrounding landscape, groundwater, and surface water.

Twin Metals has not been honest. The Boundary Waters is too important to risk.



IN THE NEWS:

The New Yorker

Finding Stillness in Minnesota's Boundary Waters in the Age of Trump

July 17, 2019

New York Times

Trump to Miners, Loggers and Drillers: This Land Is Your Land

August 31, 2019

Star Tribune

It's up to Gov. Walz to end secrecy over Twin Metals mine

August 23, 2019

Audubon Magazine

A Controversial Minnesota Mine Finds New Life Under President Trump

August 21, 2019

Star Tribune

Concerns about Twin Metals shouldn't take back seat to PolyMet

September 27, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL VISITS - ELY

We hosted three Congressional visits to the Ely area this past summer.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum toured the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park region with staff from the U.S. House Appropriations Committee.

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar's staff met with a large stakeholder group (100 local residents) and toured Birch Lake and the South Kawishiwi River, the site of the massive proposed Twin Metals mine.

U.S. Senator Tina Smith and her staff visited the Voyageur Outward Bound School - ground zero of the proposed Twin Metals mine - and toured Birch Lake and the South Kawishiwi River.



450+
GUESTS

\$250,000
RAISED

On October 9, 2019 the Campaign held the second annual Boundary Waters Gala. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Our guest speakers included Ann Bancroft, Paul Schurke, Will Steger, Becky Rom, and Tom Landwehr. Former Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton was presented the 2019 Wilderness Warrior Award!

Our guests included Governor Mark Dayton, Vice President Walter Mondale, Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak, MN Representative Jim Davnie, and MN Senators Scott Dibble and Steve Cwodzinski.

Partner organizations in attendance included The Wilderness Society, Voyageur Outward Bound School, National Wildlife Federation, Crow River Trail Guards, and Friends of the Boundary Waters.

Sponsor businesses included Northstar Canoe, Wintergreen, Women's Wilderness Discovery, Piragis Northwoods, Ely Outfitting Co., Royal Robbins, Granite Gear, and Northern Coffee Works!

RUNNING FOR THE BOUNDARY WATERS



Alex Falconer is running to protect the Boundary Waters.

Alex Falconer is running across the Boundary Waters to draw attention to the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining on the edge of the Wilderness. In addition to being the Director of Government Relations for the Campaign, Alex is an avid trail runner and has logged hundreds of miles in races across the country this year. Through this adventure advocacy project, Alex is working to mobilize the trail running community and draw attention to the threats facing the Wilderness. Alex will run across the Boundary Waters in 3 different phases, two of which he has already completed:

Phase 1: The Border Route Trail - 65 miles - COMPLETED

The Border Route Trail is about 65 miles long, runs along the US-Canadian border, up and down palisades, alongside glistening lakes, over streams, past waterfalls, through marshes and bogs, and past beaver dams. Alex saw a bear, faced heat exhaustion, and unfortunately broke his toe, but he kept going and still managed to complete 56 miles of the trail.

Phase 2: The Kekekabic Trail - 44 miles - COMPLETED

Alex successfully completed this phase in 11 hours and 53 minutes, which is the fastest known time (FKT) on this trail. The Kekekabic Trail connects to the western part of the Border Route Trail and continues west through the main unit of Boundary Waters roughly 44 miles ending at the trailhead near Snowbank Lake. It was much colder than the previous phase, with views of fall colors sprinkled with fresh snow. Alex even spotted a moose!

Phase 3: The Border Route Trail & The Kekekabic Trail - 2020

Alex plans to combine both the Border Route Trail and the Kekekabic Trail is what he's calling the Boundary Waters Traverse next spring or summer of 2020, running over 100 miles. This will undoubtedly be his main challenge and we look forward to seeing him complete the final phase of his run!



You can follow along with Alex's project at RunningfortheBWCA.com

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A Program of Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
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savetheboundarywaters.org

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Photo: Interlaken Imagery

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