

FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SPRING 1988

WE NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN

In the struggles of the 1960's and the 1970's for protection of the BWCA (which culminated in the BWCA Wilderness Act of 1978) conservationists felt that at least on the Canadian side of Quetico Park there was a steady hand at the tiller of conservation and protection. The Canadians have been better guardians of wilderness over many decades. Quetico's Master Plan which was drafted in 1977 classified Quetico as a Wilderness Park where logging, motorboats, airplanes, mining, hunting and trapping could not be permitted.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Provincial Parks Council conducted the first review of Quetico's Master Plan in 1982. Currently a second review of the Master Plan is being held. The Ministry of Natural Resources has published a booklet titled "Quetico Provincial Park Management Plan Information Package, 1988 Policy Review." To guide the review, the Provincial Parks Council has held public meetings on the policy review in Fort Frances, Atikokan, Thunder Bay and Toronto. Environmentalists both from the U.S. and Canada have expressed concern over efforts to allow more commercial activity in Quetico Park.

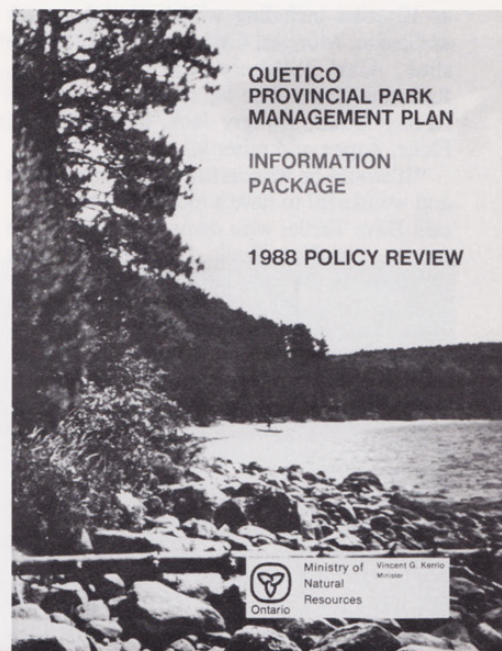
The Ministry of Natural Resources is interested in preserving Quetico's wilderness character but it is also concerned about the need to encourage tourism in the Atikokan area. Atikokan reportedly has an unemployment rate of over 20 percent. The city lost over 50 percent of its economic base in 1980 when two iron mines closed. Tourism has become the dominant industry in the Atikokan.

Issues which particularly concern environmentalists are proposals to relax airplane and motorboat restrictions and proposals to remove certain areas from the park. Also involved is the issue of reducing restrictions on trapping.

Particularly alarming for environmentalists have been proposals from Atikokan outfitters to fly planes south to the International Border at Basswood Lake where they would drop off canoeists. Canadian outfitters have stated they want to have the same access to Quetico from the U.S. which American outfitters out of Ely and the Gunflint Trail enjoy.

Another issue is the reintroduction of motorboats on French, Pickerel and Batchewaung Lakes on the northern edge of the Quetico and Iron and Crooked Lakes on the south edge of the Quetico. An ongoing issue of concern has been the desire of the Lac La Croix Indian band to guide fishing parties in the wilderness area of Quetico and the BWCA. A specific recommendation proposes that Bell Island in Lac La Croix be deleted from Quetico Park to provide access to Twin Falls for members of the Lac La Croix band. Rather than delete more area from Quetico, environmentalists recommend that the band be allowed motorboat access around Bell Island to Twin Falls. Conservationists would like to see the eastern portion of the Lac La Croix eventually returned to Quetico Park to eliminate recurring enforcement problems in the BWCA. Such a change would bring back the wilderness character for both Quetico and the BWCA on Lac La Croix.

On the issue of buffer zones, it is likely that Quetico Park like the BWCA will encounter growing pressure for development of roads and commerce on the edge of the wilderness preserve. In order that the true character of the wilderness be protected, adequate buffer zones are needed both today and in the future. In the BWCA more than 80 entry points now exist and some access formerly remote canoe routes thereby diminishing the remoteness and wilderness experience of these routes. In Quetico an effort to



build a Batchewaung Lake road and the possibility of an eastern entry are examples of proposals which will diminish the integrity of the protective areas surrounding Quetico and guarding the interior wilderness.

Interested parties were urged to write Mr. Lloyd Burrige, Chairman of the Ontario Provincial Parks Council in Windsor, Ontario prior to May 1 to express their views on proposed changes to the Quetico Master Plan. The new plan is likely to be implemented in the fall of 1988.

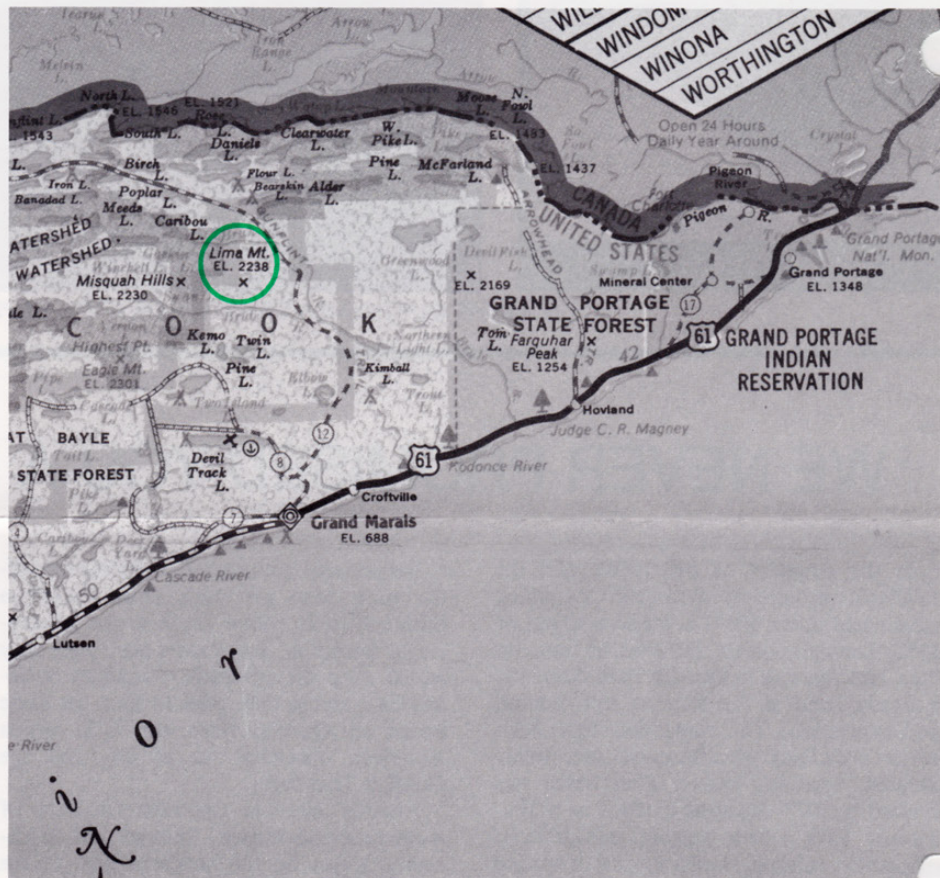
LIMA MOUNTAIN TOWER

Four Seasons Communications, Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut has proposed the construction of a 624 foot FM tower along the Gunflint Trail. The tower would be one mile from the edge of the BWCA. The tower would be part of a new 100,000 watt FM radio station with studios to be located in Grand Marais. Lima Mountain is said to be the second tallest peak in Minnesota with an elevation of 2,238 feet. The top of the proposed tower would have elevation higher than 2,800 feet. The tower will include a 3 foot aviation safety light housed at the very top with additional lights on lower sections on the tower.

The tower and its lights would be visible well into the BWCA both day and night and would be visible as well along the central corridor of the Gunflint Trail. Visitors in the BWCA will see the tower from as far away as 12 miles including wilderness lakes such as Gaskin, Morgan, Carl, Lux, Vista, Horse-shoe, Alan, Pillsbury, Caribou, Swamp, Ram and more. The lights will be apparent from Popular, Hungry Jack, East Bearskin, Flour, Aspen and other lakes.

"It would be wonderful to have more jobs and wonderful to have a local radio station," said Dave Turtle, who owns Bearskin Lodge on the Gunflint Trail. "But people who vacation on the trail come here because of its wilderness assets. Just the idea of sitting on our docks or outside our cabins at night and looking up at a flashing red light, well, that wouldn't be good for my business. And I'm not against the tower," Tuttle said. "I'm against where they plan to build the tower."

Kevin Proescholdt, Executive Director of Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, in a letter to the Department of Natural Resources in St. Paul stated: "The 1964 Wilderness Act included the BWCA as an original unit of National Wilderness Preservation System. This Act defines a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Though the proposed project would be located one mile outside the borders of the BWCA Wilderness, its impact will be felt within the wilderness as an example of a man-made object dominating the landscape."



Young campers — getting to know the BWCA at an early age.

ENTRY PERMITS

Mr. Jack Blackwell, Recreation and Wilderness Staff Officer for the Superior National Forest, advised that permits to enter the BWCA have been available since February 1. Blackwell said that there are few days during the summer when quotas for all entry points are filled. He said that several points began to be filled by mid-March last year. They included South Hegman, Lizz, Mudro/Range, Homer, Ham, Daniels, Bower Trout and Seagull Lakes and the Snake River. The days that were reserved most often included the opening weekend of fishing season, Memorial Day weekend and the first three weekends in August. Blackwell said that overnight motor quotas are the first to be reserved.

Reservation applications must include the name and address of the party leader and alternate (if applicable), entrance and exit points, entrance and exit dates, mode of travel, estimated party size and a five dollar nonrefundable service fee. The fee may be paid by check, money order or with a VISA/Mastercard. For reservations write:

BWCA Reservations
Superior National Forest
P.O. Box 338
Duluth, MN 55801
Telephone: (212) 720-5440

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS NOMINATED

Submitted by: The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Chapter

Six unique Research Natural Areas have been nominated for designation in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests thanks to a grant from the Quetico Superior Foundation. The nominations were a result of the survey of the two national forests by the Department of Natural Resources' Minnesota Natural Heritage Program to find natural areas that harbored rare species and plant communities. Six sites were determined to be in need of special protection. The Nature Conservancy brought these sites to the attention of Chippewa and Superior National Forest personnel, who were pleased to know about the rare species and communities in their forests, but were frustrated at the prospect of the paperwork needed to nominate them for Research Natural Area status. "Research Natural Area" is a special federal designation to protect endangered species and habitats on public lands.

The Minnesota Chapter of the Nature

Conservancy offered to raise \$6,000 to complete the establishment reports, and the U.S. Forest Service agreed to match the \$6,000. Of the Nature Conservancy's \$6,000, Quetico Superior Foundation contributed \$2,500. The Minnesota Natural Heritage Program was contracted to complete the six reports, drawing on their ten year-old database inventory of the state. For the Chippewa National Forest reports were

completed for Battle Point, Bena Bog, Story Point and Clustered Bur Reed Bog. In the Superior National Forest Marble Lake Lookout and Lake Agnes were nominated for designation. The accompanying table describes each of these areas and why they are important. These nominations are now being reviewed by the regional and national offices of the U.S. Forest Service.

Site	Unique Feature	Acres	County
Marble Lake Lookout	Northern Hardwood Forest	160	Lake
Lake Agnes	Northern Hardwood Forest	360	Cook
Battle Point	Northern Hardwood Forest	460	Itasca
Bena Bog	Boreal Bog	380	Cass
Strong Point	Bald Eagle	405	Itasca
	Old-growth black ash/elm/red maple forest		
Clustered Bur Reed Bog	Clustered bur reed (MN endangered plant)	40	Itasca
	Boreal Bog		

Battle Point, Chippewa National Forest, Itasca County.



PRESERVE THE BURNTSIDE SPIRIT

A citizens group formed several years ago filed suit in U.S. District Court to block the Forest Service from allowing a \$4.5 million condominium and recreational complex from being built on the North Arm of Burntside Lake, a quarter mile from the BWCA. The citizens group, called Preserve the Burntside Spirit, has more than 150 members including landowners on Burntside Lake and people who use the YMCA Camps on Burntside Lake. They have challenged the Forest Service because it approved the project of Illinois business man Albert Berglund, Jr. which will include up to 45 year around condominium units and recreational facilities including a marina and tennis courts. Berglund argued that the project will produce about 40 jobs and will provide a much needed economic boost for the Ely area.

The development project involved an exchange of property. Berglund in April exchanged a 160-acre tract of land on the Echo Trail northwest of Burntside Lake for

a 58-acre parcel of Federal land next to Berglund's development site on Burntside Lake. Federal laws require that such exchanges involve property of equal value. The U.S. Forest Service stated that they believe the land exchange was proper and in the public interest. Both parcels of land are outside the BWCA but in Superior National Forest.

The citizens group contends that the land exchange gives up 50 acres of valuable public land to a private individual for his economic gain. The group believes that the exchange is a give-away for private development interests. The group said that they offered to buy the land in 1986 on the Echo Trail (the land which Berglund is exchanging with the Forest Service) and to donate this land U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest Service completed the land exchange in early April. Berglund said he hopes to begin construction of his condominium project this spring.

LEGAL CHALLENGE

The owner of a pontoon service out of Ely intentionally operated his pontoon boat in the BWCA in early May to challenge the restrictions on motorized use.

Dave Krommer, the owner of Dawn to Dusk Pontoon Services, was charged by the U.S. Forest Service with violating regulations limiting motorized use in the BWCA.

Krommer had given notification to the U.S. Forest Service that he would challenge their ruling which prevented him from taking his pontoon boat on Fall and Basswood Lakes.

The citation issued by the Forest Service required that Krommer pay a \$100 fine or go to court. Krommer has said that he will go to court.

Krommer will use the issue of disabled and elderly people who desire to enter the BWCA as the basis of his argument for relief from the non-motor restrictions. The Forest Service has informed Krommer that use of his 18 foot pontoon boat in the BWCA is not compatible with the environment in a Federal wilderness area.

TINDER DRY

For the second consecutive year, the danger of spring fires in Superior National Forest Superior and all of the northern Minnesota has been a cause for much concern.

The fire season progresses northward from southern Minnesota as the snow cover disappears. In the spring of 1988 as the snow disappeared the woods were tinder dry. Officials of Superior National Forest expressed the hope that the people will recognize the danger and exercise necessary caution until green-up occurs. Fire crews and equipment from other areas of the country have been moved to Minnesota because of the dangerous conditions. Some crews from as far away as California provided assistance in northern Minnesota.

Wilderness News

Published by Quetico-Superior Foundation
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Minneapolis, Minn. 55402

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