



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SPRING 1990

BWCA PERMIT SYSTEM CHANGED

In December, 1989 the U.S. Forest Service announced that for the 1990 season there would be changes in the way permits are issued for overnight visitors and for day-use motor permit quotas.

The change was significant because both activities will no longer be distributed through the mail. Instead, after calling the Forest Service, trip leaders will receive a letter confirming that a reservation has been made for them. The letter will instruct them to pick up their permits in person within 24 hours of their trip at a Ranger District Office or an outfitter or business that is an official issuing station.

The change will allow Forest Service and issuing stations to make face-to-face contact with BWCA visitors and provide the opportunity

to inform them about wilderness ethics and minimum-impact camping procedures.

Single-day-use motorboat permits will be reserved on the basis of a given week. The party may use the reservation on any one day during the week. The plan offers flexibility in trip planning.

Visitors who wish to obtain their overnight or motor permit on a walk-in basis will be able to do so within 24 hours of the time they wish to enter the BWCA, providing quotas have not been filled. Walk-in permits will be available at all Ranger District Offices and at official issuing stations.

The reservation fee is \$5.00. Visitors can elect to donate the \$5.00 to the Superior National Forest to offset the costs of operating

the reservation system and to improve BWCA management.

Reservations may be obtained by calling 218-720-5440, or by writing to the following address: BWCA Reservations, Superior National Forest, P.O. Box 338, Duluth, MN 55801. Written requests must include the name of the party leader, desired entry point, desired entry date, mode of travel, estimated exit point, estimated exit date, estimated party size and a \$5.00 non-refundable payment. Payment may be made by check, money order or VISA/MasterCard. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Forest Supervisor's Office in Duluth, 218-720-5324.

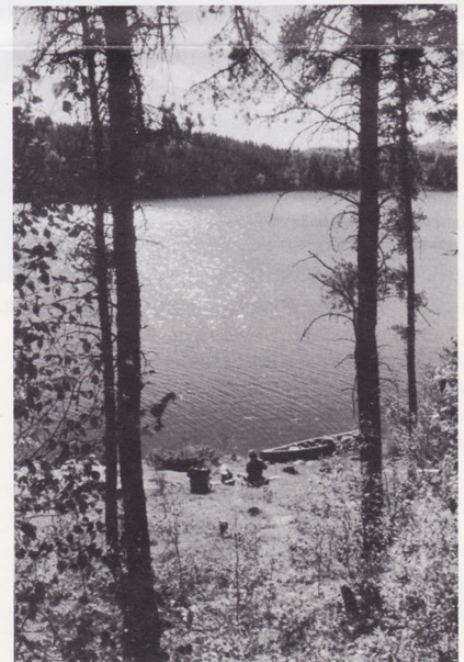
WILDERNESS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS PAST, CHALLENGES FUTURE

A national conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act drew overflow crowds in Minneapolis, September 11-14, 1989. "Managing America's Enduring Wilderness Resource," held the attention of more than 700 participants from across the country and around the world. The audience included wilderness managers from federal and state agencies in addition to representatives of conservation and resource organizations, educators, and researchers.

The conference presented a forum for discussion of wilderness management strategies of the past 25 years and in the future. Many of the speakers presented their view of how the 150,000 square miles of U.S. wilderness should be managed for future generations. University of Minnesota researcher David Lime, conference co-chair, said in summary, "The event focused on three themes: management within wilderness areas; managing adjacent lands; and linking tourism and wilderness. It was also a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, passed September 3, 1964."

Minnesota Congressman Bruce Vento, in his keynote address, called for a revolution in wilderness management, so managers can keep pace with the needs of wilderness. Vento is chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. He based his call to action on oversight hearings and a GAO study that cite degradation of wilderness areas. He called for support from agency heads, the public, and Congress for additional staff and resources to stop further damage to the wilderness system.

The conference opened with a challenge from Floyd Marita, Forest Service Regional Forester, who stated that participants should gain understanding to help them manage wilderness areas. In closing remarks, he expressed what he observed of most in attendance, that the 25th anniversary really deserved celebrating. Richard Skok, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, welcomed participants to the conference with a historical summary and



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VOYAGEURS PARK FEUD NEARS AN END

The Vic Davis fight with the U.S. Park Service which began in the mid-1970's appeared to be reaching a conclusion in early 1990. The Park Service offered to pay Davis \$1.2 million for 122 acres of land just across a small body of water from the Park Visitor Center. Davis had threatened to build a condominium and recreational complex on the land.

As an important condition of the sale, Davis agreed to provisions denying him the ability to buy any of the 2,000 acres of private land that remain within Voyageurs

Park's boundaries. Davis reportedly bought the 122 acres in question in 1981 for \$154,000.

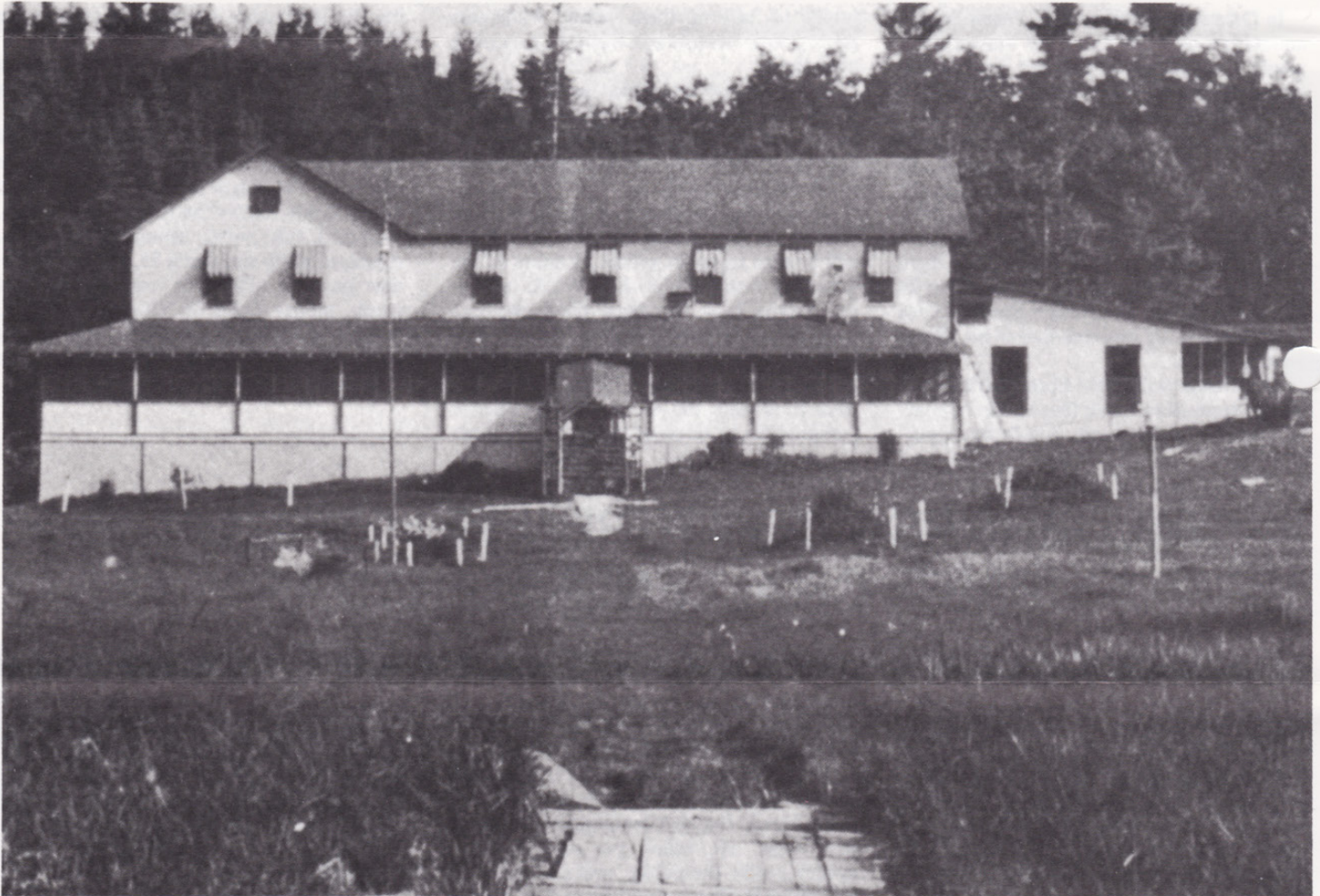
In 1987 a federal jury had awarded Davis \$1.37 million for his land. The Park Service had refused the award, claiming that the price was excessive. The Park Service had offered \$800,000 for the land.

Davis had protested the development of Voyageurs Park by erecting a 25-foot fiber glass statue of a gun-toting Voyageur on his land. He also put up a billboard criticizing the Park Service. When the Park Service

dedicated its Visitor Center in 1987, Davis and friends protested by chopping down trees on the land and painting boulders.

The Park Service will restore Davis' property to its natural condition and will offer to sell three cabins that Davis has built there. The Park Service has been convinced that if an extensive development had taken place on the Davis property, the result would have been damaging to Voyageurs Park and to the Visitor Center.

\$2.5 MILLION RENOVATION AND REVIVAL



Historic Kettle Falls Hotel. Picture from 1942. Restored hotel reflects the 1942 model.

The remote Kettle Falls Hotel at the tip of Kabetogama Peninsula is back in service. The hotel was noted for its floors which rolled like hills and valleys. Now the old floors have been flattened with the exception of the barroom. The whole place was disassembled, reassembled, rewired and replumbed. The hotel bar still has its trademark rolling floor and a platform to level the pool table.

The restoration effort attempted to match the decor of the original building as closely

as possible. The 75-year-old relic of northern Minnesota was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The hotel is located along the Kettle Falls Portage which once served as the route for voyageurs, traders, trappers, loggers, miners, Indians, fishermen and merchants.

According to a 1920 U.S. census the community of Kettle Falls had 145 people living in the Kettle Falls area. At one time there were 16 buildings standing on the site. Included in the population were about 50

commercial fishermen who operated near Kettle Falls, selling their catches at the hotel dock to bidders from major U.S. cities. As many as 5,000 boxes (approximately 70 pounds each) of fish passed over the portage each fishing season. Today the hotel occupies an isolated spot. The building is accessible only by boat or plane, or during the winter by snowmobile. Voyageurs Park officials consider the building one of the park's primary assets.

BLUE GOLD

It is early July, prospecting time. You slowly drive the forest roads, scanning the hillsides for that telltale break in the forest canopy that might indicate a rocky opening. There! Up ahead on the left! Could it be? You park your car, take a compass bearing and head into the woods.

As you walk, you feel a sense of anticipation. This could be the mother lode. It is a good sign when the hardwood trees thin and the evergreen trees increase, as is the thinning of the soil and the appearance of rock outcrops. Then a broad smile spreads across

your face. This is it, what you've been searching for! The blue gold; blueberries!

For the novice blueberry prospector, finding that first berry hot spot can be frustrating. Here are some tips to improve your odds.

1. Blueberry season varies from year to year, but it starts in July and ends during the first week of August.
2. The Forest Service District Offices can provide information about when the berries should be ripe, relative abundance

and maps of blueberry areas. Contact any District Office.

3. Develop an eye for spotting potential blueberry areas. They have a characteristic look. When you find one good spot, take note of the surroundings. Look for similar areas when prospecting.

From "The Superior Experience," an information booklet published by the U.S. Forest Service.

JOHN B. RIDLEY RESEARCH LIBRARY

John B. Ridley Research Library was established by the Quetico Foundation as a memorial to its former Chairman, John B. Ridley. Mr. Ridley of Toronto was Chairman of the Quetico Foundation for 21 years. The library is located at the Quetico Park Information Pavilion at the French Lake Ranger Station, 30 miles east of Atikokan on Highway #11.

The library is open to all visitors. It exists to serve anyone with an interest in Quetico Park, its history, resources and management.

The library is open throughout the year. The library supports the objectives of Quetico Park and provides resources for the study of biology, geology, history, archaeology, and wilderness management.

The collection in the library includes articles, pamphlets, maps, slides, photographs and oral history audio tapes. Within the library there are a number of index card files detailing history, lake names and birds.

The Quetico Foundation maintains a considerable involvement in the library. A Library Committee oversees and guides the general direction of the library.

For more information contact Andrea Allison, Librarian, John B. Ridley Research Library, Quetico Park Information Pavilion, Atikokan, Ontario, POT 1C0, telephone 807-929-2571.



Information Pavilion, French Lake, Quetico Provincial Park

CONFERENCE, *continued*

on the final day provided an overview of the challenges raised.

Gaylord Nelson, representing The Wilderness Society, challenged federal agencies to respond more aggressively to wilderness needs. Nelson, a longtime advocate of wilderness preservation and former U.S. Senator, Wisconsin, was one of the original supporters of the wilderness legislation.

Michael McCloskey, director of the Sierra Club, urged participants to manage the limited wilderness resource wisely. He reinforced the call for additional resources and energy to support the wilderness system. Michael Frome, author and advocate of preservation, criticized federal agency management of the wilderness system.

The conference included 40 technical sessions with over 100 presenters of practical information on the three conference themes: managing wilderness resources; managing lands adjacent to wilderness; and linking tourism and wilderness. In addition, 40 poster presentations were displayed during the conference. Conference organizer Lime said, in conclusion, "The event provided everyone a chance to learn: about past accomplishments; about managing lands near wilderness; and about new techniques for taking care of these special lands."

Following the conference, almost 200 participants headed north to field workshops in or near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Minnesota's BWCAW is the

largest designated Wilderness Area in the eastern U.S. The field sessions studied tourism and recreation marketing, resource and people management, effects of fire, wildlife management, and other wilderness issues.

Proceedings have been prepared. They include papers from general and technical sessions as well as the poster presentations. For more information about the proceedings, contact:

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FOREST SERVICE ENDS HERBICIDE USE

In April, 1990, the U.S. Forest Service said that it would end the use of chemical herbicides in seven National Forests in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Herbicides have been used by the Forest Service to control underbrush which competes with young trees such as pine and spruce.

The Forest Service said that their spraying had not been harmful but that the decision resulted from the high cost of preparing environmental-impact studies on herbicide to comply with law.

The supervisors of the seven forests said

that they believed that they could manage the forest without the use of herbicides at the present time. In Superior National Forest alternative vegetation management methods include hand tool and mechanical treatment as well as fire. The Forest Service said that the use of herbicides in the Superior and Chippewa Forests has declined in recent years.

In the last fifteen years the Forest Service has used herbicides annually on a total of 5,000 to 10,000 acres in Superior and Chippewa Forests. Herbicides have been used for

more than 30 years to retard the growth of willow, alder, hazel and other underbrush. The herbicides have been sprayed from helicopters and by crews using hand equipment. Herbicides have not been used in the million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which is part of Superior National Forest.

As part of a 1987 agreement between Minnesota officials and the forest-products industry, arial spraying in State forest is being cut back by 50%. Within three years the spraying in State forests is to be reduced to less than 4,000 acres.

MPCA WARNS OF TOXIC METALS POLLUTION

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said that metals, including cobalt and nickel, are seeping from a mining company's waste rock stock piles near Babbitt, Minnesota. The seepage is polluting waters which drain into the BWCA. The toxic metals are seeping into a creek which flows into 7,600 acre Birch Lake. Birch drains into the BWCA.

The stock piles are at the Dunka open-pit mine of LTV Steel Mining Company. The Dunka Pit supplies taconite for the processing plant at Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota. The

plant was formerly owned by Erie Mining Company. The stock piles contain rock which is left after taconite ore has been extracted from the Dunka mine. The MPCA has urged the company to take steps to alter the stock piles or somehow take measures which will reduce the seepage of metals into the waterways.

LTV Steel has said that it is complying with State water quality standards and will take additional measures to eliminate potential environmental harm.

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