



QUETICO-SUPERIOR COUNTRY



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SUMMER 1971

NATIONAL PARK

A Whole New Ball Game

One of the first new laws of 1971 to be signed by Pres. Nixon (on Jan. 8) was "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota." But it was delivered with a tough string attached: the Interior Secretary could make no move to acquire property for the park until Minnesota handed over to him some 34,000 acres of state lands that lie within its boundaries. The site, as finally approved by Congress, embraces not only Kabetogama Peninsula but the 35,000-acre Crane Lake Recreation Area — a total land and water mass of 219,000 acres or 340 sq. miles.

Reason for this rather unusual provision as explained by a senate committee: in this instance the state and county holdings are substantial and are essential to a viable national park. The committee concluded that these publicly owned lands should be transferred to the secretary prior to the actual establishment of the park."

Thus Congress deftly passed the ball to the Minn. legislature. After batting it back and forth in St. Paul, house and senate finally agreed in May that Minnesota, after all, should accept the honor. On the 4th of June Gov. Wendell Anderson, with ex-governors Andersen, Rolvaag and Le Vander looking on, signed a law permitting the state to donate trust fund and tax-

forfeited lands to the U.S. (at a cost to Minnesota of nearly \$6 million in bonds). Suddenly, after 81 years, the park issue had become a whole new ball game. (For play-by-play account see inside.)

Ready to Move. It now seems certain that the country's 36th national park (its 18th largest) will one day be duly established in northern Minnesota.* Back in February Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton promised: "We will be prepared to move ahead when the State of Minnesota acts." Now that the state has indeed acted the way is clear for the National Park Service to step in and pick up the rest of the land they need. Since the federal government already owns the 26,000 ear-marked acres of Superior National Forest, this means they must buy, condemn, exchange or otherwise acquire the 79,000 acres in private hands — including the huge chunk that Boise Cascade has been fighting to keep for its timber operations. (For a breakdown of land ownership, see box.)

\$26 million has been appropriated for private land acquisition, which will probably take several years. Another \$19 million will be spent by the federal government to get the park in shape for the 1½

million yearly visitors who are expected to start pouring through the gates by 1977.

Minnesota's major expense, besides land donation, will involve improvements to access roads. Two years ago the Highway Dept. estimated that this work would

WHO OWNS THE LAND?

In round numbers the authorized area of Voyageurs National Park consists of 219,000 acres of which 139,000 are land and 80,000 water. Present land ownership is divided like this:

	Acres
Federal: Superior National Forest	26,000
State: Trust fund and acquired lands in Kabetogama State Forest	28,000
County: Tax-forfeited lands in St. Louis and Koochi-ching counties	6,000
Private: Boise Cascade* and others	79,000
TOTAL LAND	139,000

*Owns 48,000 acres — about 35 per cent of the park's entire land.

SOURCE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THE NEW VOYAGEURS: 80,000 ACRES OF WATER



amount to a hefty \$73 million, mostly for upgrading U.S. No. 53 which 93 per cent of all visitors will use to get to the park. It runs 164 miles from Duluth, via the Iron Range, to International Falls. However, the highway people insist that even without the park two-thirds of this sum would be needed anyway.

The new Voyageurs is about 40 miles long and from three to 15 miles wide. Ground rules of the park will permit fishing, boating and snowmobiling, but no hunting, mining or logging.

Park Service director George B. Hartzog, Jr. summed up the current score for WILDERNESS NEWS: "Voyageurs National Park is now well on the road to establishment. Minnesota's land transfer legislation moves much closer the day when it will become reality."

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New Q-S Directors

Wallace C. Dayton, Excelsior, and Ernest K. Lehmann, Minneapolis, have been added to the board of Quetico-Superior Foundation. Dayton (Amherst '43) is a director of the Dayton Hudson Corp. but devotes most of his time to regional and national nature organizations. Lehmann (Williams '51) is a consulting geologist whose work takes him all over the world — from Quetico-Superior country to Africa.

CUTTINGS

Q-S Institute

► In the Fall 1970 issue of WILDERNESS NEWS you misquoted or misinterpreted a statement made by me at the symposium. Although there may be some question as to the exact area I was talking about, I indicated that mining will be started sometime during this decade *outside of the BWCA*.

P. K. SIMS
Director

Minnesota Geological Survey

We are more than pleased to have this clarification of Dr. Sims' seemingly dire prediction. — Ed.

► As we have learned to expect, your coverage of a subject, in this case the Institute, was eminently fair and most interesting. You have done another fine job.

D. B. KING
Director

North Central Forest Experiment Station

Superior Supervisor

► As current president of the Society of American Foresters, I know Harold Andersen as a balanced and able man, now serving as a member of its governing body. I also know of his master's work here at Yale University, a cum-laude graduate degree with emphasis in ecology and silviculture. He is a man of experience and ability. Why not give him a chance?

KENNETH P. DAVIS
Prof. of Forest Land Use

Yale University

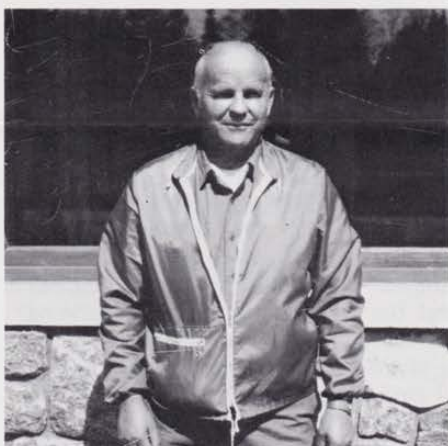
See story, next column.—Ed.

SUPERIOR FOREST

Another Chief

In the past eight years Minnesota's Superior National Forest has had four supervisors — Neff, Wernham, Rupp and now Harold E. Andersen, who took over the post June 13.

Andersen (U of Washington '41) was head man at Montana's Bitterroot National Forest from 1960 to '66. This fact caused a spate of bitter words in some circles because of his connection there with "clear-cutting" — the commercial practice of sawing down all the trees in a stand at one time. More recently he has supervised Kaniku forest in Idaho. He replaces Craig W. Rupp who is now helping the



SUPERVISOR ANDERSEN
Bitter words about Bitterroot.

deputy chief in Washington, D.C. manage the national forest system.

Supervisor Andersen has agreed to give WILDERNESS NEWS readers his views on BWCA matters (and perhaps on clear-cutting) after he has a chance "to get my feet wet."

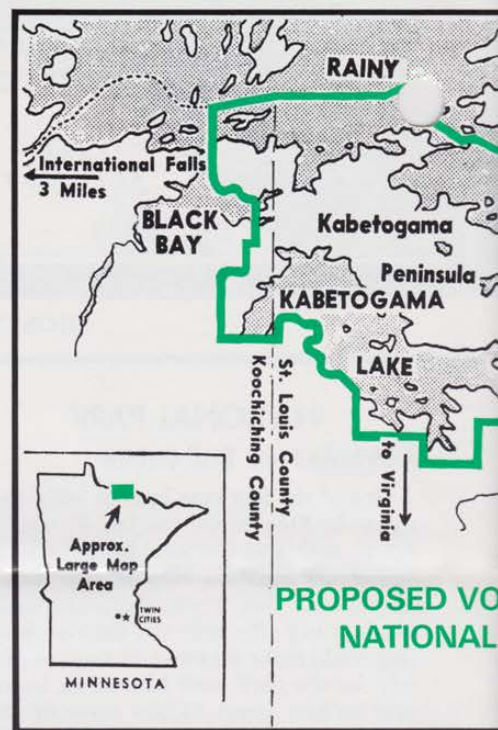
In an earlier job shift Whitney K. Lerer (U of Florida '63) was named public information officer for the Superior. He had been district ranger at Isabella.

CANADA

Log Jam in the Quetico

Logging has come to a stand-still in Canada's Quetico Provincial Park, the million-acre wilderness just over the border from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. A ban on timber cutting was ordered by the Ontario government in response to complaints of conservationists. Among the angry voices heard at a five-day hearing were those of several Minnesotans including author Sigurd Olson.

One of the big operators affected by the log jam is the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp & Paper Co., a subsidiary of Boise Cascade, which also faces the loss of sizable working space in Minnesota to make way for the new Voyageurs National Park (front page).



BOUNDARY AS SET BY CONGRESS INCLUDES

THE PARK: PL

1891 Minnesota petitions Pres. Benjamin Harrison to set apart a tract of "not less than 40,000 acres along the northern boundary of the state for a national park."

1961 Gov. Elmer L. Andersen requests the National Park Service (NPS) to consider Minnesota's Kabetogama Peninsula for a national park (Jan.).

1962 Conrad Wirth, NPS director, tours Kabetogama with Gov. Andersen (June 27).

NPS task force starts study of site.

1964 NPS recommends establishment of Voyageurs National Park to include Kabetogama (Sept.).

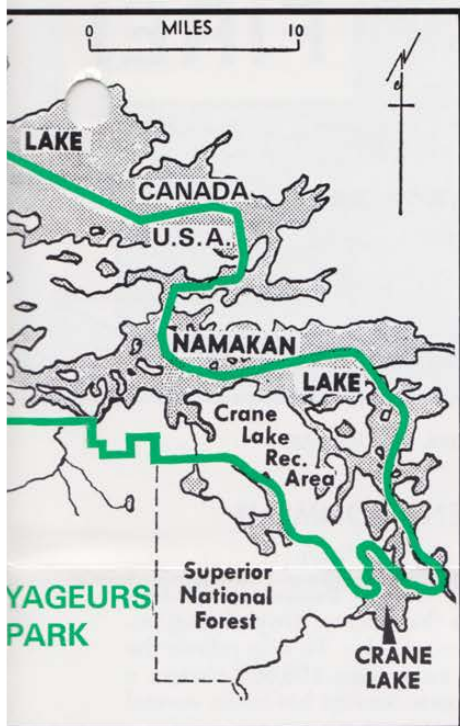
1965 Minn. Dept. of Conservation (now Natural Resources) assigns top priority to park proposal.

Minn. Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission holds hearings on park at St. Paul and Lake Kabetogama (Feb., March, June).

Voyageurs National Park Association is organized with Judge Edwin P. Chapman as president (April).

1967 Gov. Harold Le Vander supports park proposal in his inaugural address (Jan. 4).

BASED ON MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE MAP



35,000 ACRES OF CRANE LAKE AREA

DAY BY DAY

Voyageurs workshop held at Virginia (Nov. 28).

1968 Minn. Senate Committee on Public Domain holds hearings on park at St. Paul (March 27).

NPS publishes "A Master Plan for the Voyageurs National Park" (July).

Rep. John Blatnik introduces bill to authorize Voyageurs National Park at Kabetogama, adding Crane Lake Recreation Area (July 19).

Blatnik bill expires with 90th Congress.

1969 Blatnik reintroduces park bill in 91st Congress (April 23).

State legislature authorizes Minn. Resources Commission to study problems related to park (May 26).

Congressional subcommittee headed by Rep. Roy A. Taylor (N.C.) visits Kabetogama and holds hearing at International Falls (Aug. 21).

1970 Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel endorses park but suggests "recreation area" instead (May 27).

House Interior Committee headed by Rep. Wayne Aspinall (Colo.) holds hearings at Washington. Gov. Le Vander and

former Gov. Andersen testify (July 16, 17).

House committee reports favorably on park bill (Oct. 1).

House passes park bill (Oct. 5).

Senate Interior Committee holds hearings at Washington. Witnesses include Gov.-elect Wendell Anderson (represented by Sen. Walter Mondale), Rep. Blatnik, Rep. John Zwach, former Gov. Andersen, state Sen. Stanley W. Holmquist, state Rep. Thomas W. Newcome and George Amidon, Boise Cascade Corp. (Dec. 4).

Former Gov. Andersen meets in Washington with Sen. Henry Jackson, chairman of Senate Interior Committee (Dec. 14).

Senate Committee reports favorably on bill, with amendments (Dec. 21).

Senate passes bill as reported by conference committee (Dec. 22).

House accepts conference committee report (Dec. 29).

1971 Pres. Nixon signs Public Law 91-661 authorizing Voyageurs National Park, provided that Minnesota first donate state lands to U.S. \$26 million is appropriated for property acquisition and \$19 million for development (Jan. 8).

Gov. Anderson requests state bill to provide for donation of Minnesota lands for park (Jan. 9).

Bills permitting land donation are introduced in Minn. legislature by Sen. Holmquist (SF 1026) and Rep. Newcome (HF 1337). Referred to respective committees on natural resources (March 9).

Minn. Resources Commission issues fact book on park to guide legislators (March 17).



REP. BLATNIK AT GRAND PORTAGE
He launched the bill.



FORMER GOV. ANDERSEN
He went touring with Conrad Wirth.

Senate committee reports favorably on SF 1026 as amended. Re-referred to Finance Committee (April 30).

House committee reports favorably on HF 1337 as amended. Re-referred to Appropriations Committee (May 3).

House passes HF 1337 which permits donation of about 34,000 acres of state and county lands for park, and authorizes sale of \$6 million in bonds to finance transfer (May 12).

Senate passes HF 1337 but adds amendments on environmental protection and future state spending (May 15).

House and Senate both re-pass bill following conference committee report, which lowers bond limit to \$5,870,000 (May 21).

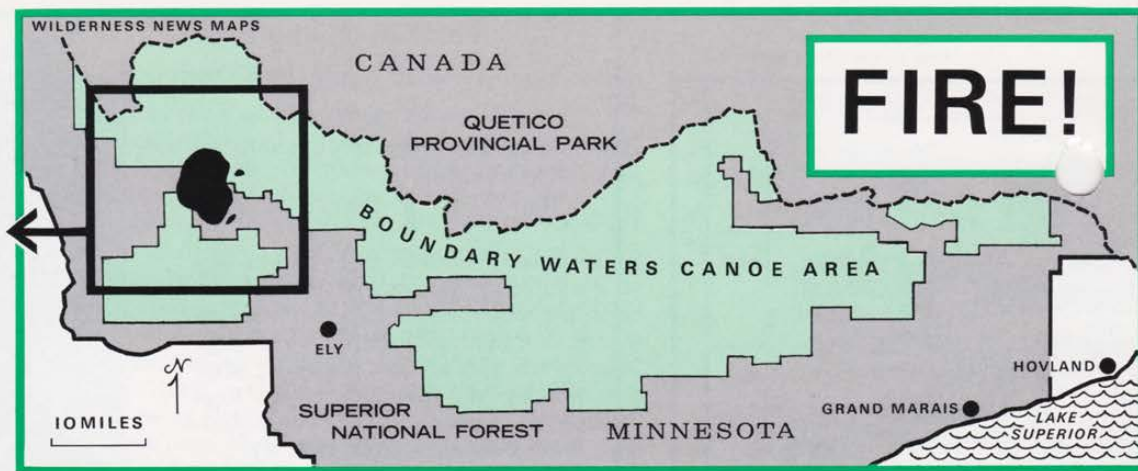
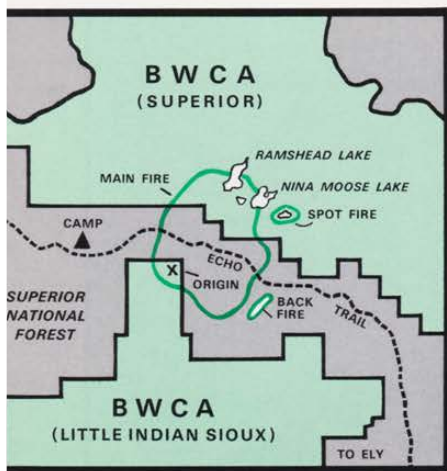
Gov. Anderson signs Voyageurs National Park bill into law (June 4).

TO BE CONTINUED

PK



NPS DIRECTOR HARTZOG
He summed up the score.



BLAZE STARTED IN BWCA'S LITTLE SIOUX, ENDED FIVE DAYS LATER AT RAMSHEAD AND NINA MOOSE LAKES

CATASTROPHE

15,600 Acres Up in Smoke

At about 3 o'clock on the pleasant afternoon of Friday, May 14, a Forest Service pilot flying over the Boundary Waters Canoe Area spotted a puff of smoke near the Little Indian Sioux River, 20 air miles NW of Ely. Twenty-four hours later one of the biggest fires ever to hit the BWCA had raced easterly six miles to the virgin-timbered shores of Lake Ramshead, consuming in its path 250 acres per hour.

An army of firefighters, mobilized from as far away as Pennsylvania, set up an emergency camp on a county road known as Echo Trail, and for five days men and machines battled the blaze around the clock. Finally on Tuesday they were able to halt the holocaust—with a heavenly assist from drenching rain. By Wednesday 15,600 blackened acres—nearly 25 sq. miles—were mercifully covered by a white sheet of snow.

Where's the Fire? Contrary to a widespread impression only 40 per cent of the scorched earth (6,240 acres) lies within the BWCA. All the rest of the damage was done in the Echo Trail corridor that runs between two separate parts of the BWCA—the 100,000-acre Little Indian Sioux section, where the fire started, and the larger Superior section several miles to the north, where the fire stopped (map). Ironically, the blaze was probably set off by undetected live coals left over from a debris-burning operation conducted in the Little Sioux by the Forest Service in April.

The Toll. It could have been worse. Casualties among humans and wildlife were almost nil. Aside from ecological loss, damage was limited to a couple of summer cabins (outside the BWCA), three logging trucks, one house trailer and 800 cords of piled pulpwood. Real victims were the trees, including a venerable stand of 200-year-old pine. Mere market value of the total timber destroyed is estimated at \$500,000. The complete tab for damages and firefighting expense is

mounting to at least a million dollars.

Only one major canoe route, the Nina Moose, was affected by the fire. In fact most BWCA canoeists will probably never see the charred scars since the more popular routes are all farther east.

Recovery. The day the fire ended a task force of 200 began mop-up operations. Then came a rehabilitation team of spe-

HOW TO PUT OUT A FOREST FIRE

Should you ever find yourself facing a fire like the one that hit the BWCA in May, here's checklist of what you'll need to get it under control:

- ✓ 550 firefighters
- ✓ 17 bulldozers
- ✓ 8 all-terrain vehicles
- ✓ 2 water-bombing airplanes
- ✓ 2 helicopters
- ✓ 30 portable pumpers
- ✓ Hundreds of axes and shovels
- ✓ \$350,000
- ✓ ½ inch of rain

cialists in landscaping, hydrology, wildlife biology, engineering, soil science and timber management—not to mention Mother Nature.

A great believer in the restorative powers of nature is Prof. H. E. Wright who heads U of M's Limnological (water study) Research Center. Writing in the Sunday Tribune of May 30 he says: "The recent fire provides us with an excellent opportunity to watch the natural elements of recovery—such as the germination of pine seeds or the flowering of herbs and spread of shrubs (blueberry, aspen) long held back by the deep shade of the forest. Only a few days after the end of the fire some of the herbs had already re-sprouted and birdsong filled the air, punctuated by the drumbeat of the ruffed grouse. In a few months the ground will be green again, and in a year or so the area will be prime habitat for deer and moose."

ENVIRONMENT

Camping Clamp-down

Campers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area this summer are paddling under a new set of rules. To help relieve the ravages of more than 100,000 visitors a year the Forest Service has taken several bold environmental steps.

For the first time in any national forest nonburnable food and beverage containers (cans and bottles) are prohibited within the BWCA. Legal details, including a few exceptions to the rule, may be obtained from district rangers, resorts and outfitters in the area. A violation could cost \$500 and six months in jail.

Two other new rules, which are being enforced only until Labor Day (Sept. 6), limit camping activities in a 25-mile stretch to the east of Ely where half of all BWCA canoe traffic is concentrated. At 24 lakes and bays between Fall Lake and Alice Lake camping and open fires are permitted only at designated sites (furnished with approved fire grates). And at ten of these lakes a visit must be curtailed to a one-night stand. Maps showing these restricted lakes are available from the Forest Service. Next year camping clamp-downs may be renewed, modified or expanded depending upon results of the present experiment.

Mining Cease-fire

Another environmental threat was averted when U.S. geologists abruptly announced that plans for intensive mineral mapping of the BWCA this summer have been postponed for at least a year. Some fear that such a survey might lead to actual mining in the beleaguered wilderness.

Meantime Judge Philip Neville is apparently still pondering the federal case of George St. Clair, the ex-Minnesotan who would like to drill for copper-nickel in the 150,000 BWCA acres where he claims to hold mineral rights. (See "The St. Clair Affair," WILDERNESS NEWS, Winter 1970.)