

QUETICO-SUPERIOR COUNTRY



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SUMMER 1985

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE VIEWS BWCA MANAGEMENT IN 1984 & 1985

1984 USE:

Overall use of the BWCA was down approximately 11% from 1983 with a substantial reduction in motor use (7,246 groups to 6,586 groups)—this is not surprising given the additional motor phase-outs on January 1, 1984. The use is estimated at 30,637 permits written for single trips and a total of just over 37,500 permits when the annual permits are included. The monthly percentages have changed somewhat, with less use in May (17% of the total) and June (23% of the total), and a greater amount of use in August (27% of the total). The July and September percentages remained the same as in past years (23% and 13% respectively). The residence of group leaders varied slightly for single trip permits (annual permits not included) with local use making up 25% of the total, Twin City use—35%, the rest of Minnesota—7%, Illinois—9%, Wisconsin—8%, and all other—16%.

- The most heavily used entrance points were Moose Lake, Saganaga, Fall Lake, Lake One, Sawbill, Seagull, and Trout Lake, as has been the case historically. They were followed by Moose River, Brule Lake, Duncan, Magnetic, Kawishiwi Lake, and East Bearskin. The busiest times of year were the opening weekend of fishing season, Memorial Day weekend, the first three weekends of August and Labor Day weekend. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday continue to be the most popular days to begin a trip, with Monday frequently being the busiest.

- There is still much room for growth if we look at the quotas versus general use—only 31% of the available quotas were used last year. The percentage of quotas used was the highest at Mudro Lake (58%), followed by Lake One, Ham, Seagull, South Hegman, Moose River, Range Lake, Moose Lake, Sawbill, and Little Indian Sioux River (43%). The quota was booked solid the greatest number of days at South Hegman Lake (93 days). It was followed by Range Lake, Bower Trout, Ham Lake, Mudro,



The BWCA—Handle with care and respect—(photograph courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.)

Daniels, Snowbank, Snake, Seagull, John, Homer, and the South Kawishiwi River (42 days).

The day use for motors was under the yearly quota for all entrance points, and well under for most; therefore we will continue with monitoring rather than tracking quotas on a weekly or daily basis. Our estimates of motor day use by entrance points shows that there has been a steady decline over the past several years into Basswood Lake and Trout Lake; use has been steady at South Farm, Brule, Clearwater, and East Bearskin; and use is up slightly at Saganaga, Seagull, Snowbank, Moose, and Fall Lakes. The use records from operators at the motorized

portages show a large decrease at the Fourmile, a smaller decrease at Trout, and little change at Prairie.

RESERVATION PROCEDURES FOR 1985:

There will be a few changes in the reservation and permit procedures for 1985. Due to our ability to continue with phone reservations with the use of Visa/Mastercard we will not have any cooperators outside the BWCA vicinity. There are no changes in the basic overnight entrance quotas, but each entrance point is over booked based on its

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BWCA MANAGEMENT *(Continued from page 1)*

individual "no show" rate from last year rather than the Forest average. The overall rate was slightly less than it was in 1983 and varies greatly by entrance point (5% and 34%). There was also no change in the basic overnight motors quotas. The overlooking for these quotas also relates directly to last year's "no show" rate for each individual entrance point, which varies from 2% to 14%. The Forest average was 7%. Looking beyond the summer of 1985, we intend to centralize the reservation process as much as possible. We feel it would cut our reservation costs down considerably and should be much less confusing for the public. There are many details to work out, such as; where will the reservation office be located, during what time period, will there be a toll free phone number, etc.? Give this proposal some thought and let us know what you think, so that we can take everything into consideration while we work out some of the alternatives.

REGULATION CHANGES:

We plan to make two changes in the Regional Forester's Order before this summer—a one night camping restriction will be put on Ogishkemuncie Lake, and the possession of metal detectors will be prohibited in the BWCA, except under a Forest Service Special Permit Use. The decision to institute a one night rule was made after trying several other alternatives to alleviate the overcrowding on Ogish. Although, there are plenty of campsites in the area of Ogishkemuncie to handle the number of groups that enter through several prime entrance points, there are not enough on that particular lake for the number of people who wish to camp there. The problems arise when too many groups decide to make base camp for several days; and others, coming in later in the day, are unable to find a site. Limiting each group's stay to one night should open up adequate number of campsites to accommodate anticipated use.

The decision to prohibit metal detectors was made with the public involvement in an effort to protect the numerous cultural resource sites within the BWCA. Nearly 40% of the BWCA campsites are located on cultural resource sites and the recreational use of the metal detectors is increasing, subjecting cultural resources to unintentional destruction. In addition, many of the logging camps and farmsteads show selective pitting. The order prohibiting the possession of metal detectors seems to be the best way to insure the protection of the greatest number of potentially significant cultural resources.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

As in past years, volunteers will continue to play an important role in BWCA Wilderness management. We will be recruiting for just over 35 individuals to work as wilderness rangers, cultural resource specialists, naturalists, on a trail crew or on campsite rehabilitation. We also have several short



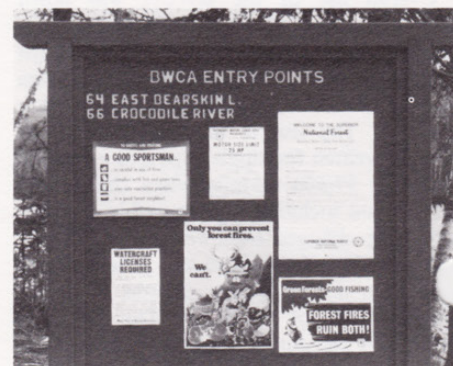
Volunteer providing user education information at BWCA entry points.

term trail and portage projects suitable for adult or youth groups. An emphasis will be given to campsite rehabilitation in an effort to improve the quality of the BWCA resource by removing or reducing impacts on the land and returning it to a more pristine condition. During the past few years, over 300 campsites were restored using groups of volunteers supervised by Forest Service employees. This summer our goal is to rehabilitate 200 to 250 campsites if our recruitment is successful, and we have the funds, equipment, and supervisors to handle the number of volunteers necessary to accomplish such an endeavor. Contact Barb Soderberg at 218-727-6692 (Ext. 447) for more information on the volunteer program—it's a great experience and an excellent opportunity to give something back to an area that has provided so much enjoyment.

GUIDE SERVICE AND PERMITS:

Quality guide service is considered to be a valuable complement to many of the recreation opportunities available in the BWCA Wilderness. More than $\frac{2}{3}$'s of the visitors come from outside the local area. Some of these people have never sat in a canoe, followed a dog team, or used a pair of cross country skis. The services of a skilled and reputable guide can add much enjoyment and assure a safe trip.

Canoe guides, leaders of ski trips, operators of dogsled tours, and similar commercial users of government land are required to obtain a Forest Service outfitter-guide permit. This year, Superior National Forest personnel will make a concerted effort to assure compliance with this requirement. The permit requirement assures that forest visitors are served by reputable guides, that natural resources are not damaged by large volume users, and that the government receives a nominal share of the income produced from the use of public land.



East Bearskin Lake entry information.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

On January 1, 1984 snowmobile use was prohibited on three previously popular routes within the BWCA and motorboats were no longer allowed on seven lakes and rivers which had previously been open to their use. This was the first of the motor use phase-outs pre-programmed in the BWCA Wilderness Act (two more are scheduled, for 1994 and 1999). Mass mailings of information materials and public meetings held throughout the local area helped pave the way for the transition. There was generally good compliance, with few problems.

In fiscal year 1984 (from Oct. 1, 1983—Sept. 30, 1984) there were 884 law enforcement violations in the BWCA. In response to these, the Forest Service issued 128 violation notices and 48 warnings; but, in the remaining 708 incidents the individuals involved were unknown. The types of violations were similar to other recent years. Beginning with the most numerous, violation notices were written for: 1.) Possession of cans and bottles, 2.) Camping on undesignated sites, 3.) Motor violations, 4.) campfire violations. Beyond that, only a few items are worth special mention: the use of three-wheeled cycles and four-wheel drive vehicles persisted in several locations. Each of the



Volunteers play a very important role in BWCA wilderness management.

eight three-wheelers who were cited, paid a \$100.00 fine. Unlawful snowmobile use, mostly at night, continues as a problem.

BWCA USER EDUCATION:

A major area of emphasis this year for the user education program is the development and initial implementation of a leader training program. The objective of the training will be to provide group leaders (particularly of youth groups) as well as other BWCA users with basic information on wilderness ethics. By educating leaders and other users in minimum-impact camping techniques, we hope to reduce resource damage and user conflict caused by knowledgeable wilderness visitors.

The initial "kick-off" session will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Canoe Association's (MCA) annual BWCA trip-planning meeting on March 9, 1985 in Brooklyn Center. Participants who complete the course and successfully complete a "wilderness skills" test will receive a certificate of completion. Hopefully, this will eventually lead to a leader certification program in the future.

In order to reach a greater number of users, we are working with volunteers to design and implement this program. These volunteers will provide training as requested and needed, with materials provided by the Forest Service and additional information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario.

Volunteers working with the Forest Service on this program represent the MCA, Wilderness Inquiry, the Sierra Club, Northwoods Audubon Center, Friends of the BWCA, YMCA, Minnesota Audubon Council, Hennepin County Park Reserves, St. Croix Camps, Dodge Nature Center, River Bend Nature Center, Carpenter Nature Center, and the Minnesota Naturalists Association.

In addition to the leader training, we have also updated a slide/tape program about minimum-impact camping in the BWCA, which is available for groups to borrow. We have designed a series of posters depicting outdoor-ethic messages for use at our permit-issuing stations, at campgrounds, boat landings, and are developing a wilderness ethics brochure. If you would like more information concerning the user education

program, contact Gini Coyle at (218) 727-6692, ask for extension 477.

RESORT PURCHASE:

Section 5 of PL 95-495 requires the Forest Service to purchase qualifying resorts on certain lakes, adjacent to the BWCA. Current status is:

Purchased	19
In Court (inverse condemnation)	1
Optioned	1
Requested Purchase	3
Approximate Number Remaining	17

Remaining qualifying resorts have until September 30, 1985 to request purchase. We expect most (14-15) of them to ask for this.

FALL LAKE DAM:

This dam is located near the outlet of Fall Lake above Newton Falls. It was originally built in 1898 by the Swallow and Hopkins Lumber Company, and repaired by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 1959. It is a long (260 feet), low (4 feet) rock crib dam and affects the water level on Fall Lake, which is approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ inside the BWCA.

The dam is failing and is badly in need of repair. Homeowners on Fall Lake have expressed concern, and the Lake County Board has asked the Forest Service to repair the dam. Minnesota DNR is the owner of the dam, but does not have the funds available for repair. We are discussing a possible cooperative agreement with the DNR for the repair of this structure, when funding becomes available.

CAMPGROUND MANAGEMENT:

• In 1985, approximately 10 of the Superior's 28 developed campgrounds will be operated by concessionaires under special use permits. The purpose of this is to reduce Federal expenditures, provide economic opportunities to the private sector, and to provide high quality facilities and services to the forest visitors. Past experience with 2 campgrounds operated by a concessionaire in 1984 have been very positive. Benefits included: cost of operations were reduced, employment was provided to local people, visitors had cleaner campgrounds, the person in charge was generally available, and various additional services were provided.

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN:

• The Superior National Forest Draft Land Management Plan is now available to the public for review. The Plan proposes some changes that will affect Recreation and Wilderness users, these are:

—Designation of primitive areas within the BWCA; certain designated areas will not have designated campsites, trails and portages, will not be maintained. Persons entering, (by special permit) must practice no trace camping skills.

—Designation of semi-primitive motorized areas outside the BWCA. These areas would be managed primarily for the dispersed recreation user and would allow motorized use.

—Developed campground capacity exceeds need and is proposed to be reduced.

QUETICO SUPERIOR 1909 - 1984

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A light northwest breeze livened the blue waters bordering Basswood Lake's Prairie Portage as a group of about seventy-five people gathered on the morning of July 28 to celebrate seventy-five years of cooperation between Quetico Provincial Park and Superior National Forest. Many in attendance were flown in by U.S. Forest Service and Canadian Park planes. The visitors gathered

below the Canadian ranger cabin on the bay. On hand were a number of Canadian and U.S. dignitaries including George Elliott, Regional Director, Ministry of Natural Resources in Canada, Mr. George Housley, Deputy Chief, United States Forest Service, Washington, D.C., The Honorable Phillip Andrewes, Minister of Energy in Canada,

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Jack Banks, Chairman of Quetico Foundation, addresses visitors assembled for the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

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1984 voyageurs arrive at Prairie Portage.

and Mr. George McCormack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada. Press and television coverage from Duluth and the Range Cities was extensive.

The glorious morning alone was enough to celebrate the successful protection of Quetico Superior over the past 75 years. Mr. George McCormack emphasized an essential value of wilderness, the ability to step away from the distractions of everyday life and to gain a better perspective on our comprehensive "civilized life." Alan Pope, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources noted that the occasion was unique in that everyone had gathered to celebrate that very little has happened to The Quetico country in 75 years. Because Quetico Superior has been protected in its natural state, time can stand still in Quetico Superior.

Mr. Jack Bankes, Chairman of Quetico Foundation, Toronto, Ontario talked of the history of Quetico Foundation and the interests and publications of Quetico Foundation today. He spoke of the spirit of cooperation between the two nations which has characterized this area and has been so important in the successful preservation of Quetico Superior's wilderness.

Newell Searle, representing the Quetico Superior Foundation, described the effort over several generations to protect the wilderness character of the Boundary Waters

Canoe Area. He said that Quetico Superior is not only a place but it is also a state of mind. He spoke of the growing consensus nationwide of the need to protect wilderness and quoted from Sigurd Olson's book "Reflections From the Past" in describing the peace of mind which wilderness can inspire.

The speakers were followed by Voyageur pageantry, a mixing of the waters ceremony and a song written and sung by Connie Hix of Fifield, Wisconsin to commemorate Quetico Superior's 75th Anniversary. A feature



Fred Winston, Bill Hubachek, Newell Searle and Bob Matteson (left to right).



Bob Matteson and Owen Donnelley. They arrived by canoe from Nym Lake.

of the festivities was the unveiling of a plaque (see photograph) which celebrates Minnesota and Ontario cooperation in the protection of the Quetico Superior wilderness. Also featured was the new hydro power generator to produce electric power for Prairie Portage. Its quiet music replaces the old gasoline powered generator whose unmuffled growl has announced its presence in the wilderness quiet at Prairie Portage for so many years. Singing of the United States' and Canada's national anthems concluded the formal event. All guests adjourned for a marvelous shore lunch prepared by the Region II Conservation Officers of the State of Minnesota.

It should be noted that not everyone arrived at Prairie Portage in single and twin engine seaplanes. Mr. Robert Matteson of Lake Namekagon, Wisconsin and his grandson Owen Donnelley from California arrived at Prairie Portage after a one week canoeing through the Quetico. They had started at Nym Lake and had enjoyed a superb trip. This was the 50th anniversary of Bob Matteson's trip over the similar route from Camp Owakonzé on Baril Lake north of Nym Lake.

Wilderness News

Published by Quetico-Superior Foundation
2200 First Bank Place East
Minneapolis, Minn. 55402

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