



FROM THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR FOUNDATION • SPECIAL BWCA ISSUE • WINTER 1965

Minneapolis Star



SECRETARY FREEMAN AND CHAIRMAN SELKE IN MINNEAPOLIS
They were obviously pleased with revised "no-cut" map of BWCA

THE NEW BWCA

"Dear Mr. Secretary"

From Hotel Duluth's Room 500 overlooking Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Review Committee recently sent off a ten-page letter to Washington.

It was addressed to the Honorable Orville L. Freeman, and dated December 15, 1964—almost seven months to the day since the Secretary of Agriculture had asked the six-man group, headed by former Minnesota conservation commissioner George A. Selke, to recommend changes in the management of that unique (and turbulent) waterway running 200 miles along the Canadian border.

Action. After pondering nearly a month, Freeman flew to Minneapolis where on January 12 he announced his decisions at a press conference in the Sheraton-Ritz. He accepted most of his committee's 25 recommendations, and has already put some into effect through USDA's Forest Service.

By now it is generally known that his order includes further restrictions on logging and on mechanized travel within BWCA.

Reaction. The new plan triggered predictable pronouncements on all sides. Local communities and the timber industry say it goes too far. Some conservationists say it doesn't go far enough.

A sampling of these views and a quick survey of the new BWCA trail appear elsewhere in this special issue of WN.

THE COMMITTEE

The "distinguished citizens" who served on Dr. Selke's Review Committee represented many Minnesota interests. They came from the Izaak Walton League (Raymond Haik), the state's Conservation Department (Wayne Olson), St. Louis County (John Vukelich), the lumber industry (David Winton) and the field of communications (Rollie Johnson).

Wilderness News

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Mixed Emotions

Minneapolis Tribune: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is one of Minnesota's finest assets. Thus there should be general approval of Agricultural Secretary Freeman's order to enlarge the area slightly and to forbid logging on additional acreage . . . Happily, Minnesota has millions of others acres which are in forests, or should be forested, and which are available for multiple use — recreational and commercial.

Duluth News-Tribune: Many families and some communities of this region have suffered a blow at their source of livelihood . . . From this part of Minnesota it looks as though Secretary Freeman had been talked into sacrificing the reasonable interests of the immediate area's citizens for the sake of doctrinaire recreationist argument . . . It is an ironic possibility that the appearance and appeal of the area might deteriorate under the plan . . . If this happens, as it well can, there will probably be a return to multiple use. But the intervening years will be needlessly lean for quite a few people in this part of the United States.

Minneapolis Star: The new plan does not seem to impose undue hardship upon the industries, communities and individuals concerned. For Minnesota, like the nation as a whole, is growing more timber than is being harvested. And northeastern Minnesota seems likely in the long run to gain as much economically — maybe more — from canoe use as from the logging that is being displaced.

St. Paul Dispatch: Unfortunately there is a deeply emotional, deeply romantic view taken of all of this that obscures the fact that a lot of people are going to be hurt by this edict of the Secretary of Agriculture. We think it is fine to preserve our Minnesota wilderness for the canoeist, the wolf, the bear, the caribou and the marten, and we stand second to no group in our admiration for the beaver. But this edict, affecting so many thousands of lives and industries in a deeply depressed area of our state, strikes us as a hasty, dictatorial decision. We think it should be reconsidered and modified.

Hibbing Tribune: The Secretary's order is not as drastic as it seems at first sight . . . The wilderness and conservation goals of the area have had the support of every president since Calvin Coolidge, in the face of considerable local resistance to some of the orders from chambers of commerce and lumber companies.

Swift County Monitor: Those who seek to preserve the bits of our wilderness remaining owe Secretary Freeman, the Selke committee and all those who have worked long and hard for our wilderness area, deep gratitude . . . You can't have wilderness and logging, you can't have wilderness under the "harvest" principle of timber cutting, you can't have wilderness until all the flora and fauna — including man — are in as near natural a state as possible.

FOREST SERVICE

Rewriting the Book

Already the U.S. Forest Service has plunged into the task of rewriting the present 17-year old BWCA management plan in line with the new policy direction laid down by Secretary Freeman. According to Supervisor Lawrence P. Neff, of Superior National Forest, "those measures legally possible now will be started immediately."

As another step, veteran forester J. Wesley White has been switched to a new staff position where he will devote full time to BWCA matters.

Neff also promised stepped-up management for the rest of the national forest "to assure maximum production of timber and other resources." He added: "I am sure we can do this."

In comparing the Review Committee's 25 recommendations with the provisions of the 1948 management plan, Neff pointed out that seven are brand new, 15 spell out more specifically, expand upon or simply continue present policies, and three are not directly concerned with Forest Service activities.

CUTTINGS

The New Plan: Yes and No

I think it's a good compromise. But one of the problems is getting back Norway and white pine and white spruce. How can you get that back without logging or burning? And logging is the lesser of two evils.

FRANK H. KAUFERT

University of Minnesota

A milestone in the long effort to preserve the wilderness character of this beautiful region.

SIGURD F. OLSON

Ely

I didn't expect anything quite that drastic. The withdrawal of lumbering is extremely disappointing to me.

MRS. JEAN B. RAIKEN

Cook County

A reasonable compromise between those who enjoy isolated wilderness and those whose livelihood depends upon forestry and timber industries.

REP. JOHN BLATNIK

Washington

Only a temporary stopgap. The order is stepping into touchy matters when it attempts to impose new controls.

WILLIAM TRYGG

Ely

Freeman's announcement is a progressive statement. More supervision is needed.

WILLIAM H. MAGIE

Duluth

Subverts professional forestry opinion to the amateur and wilderness zealots.

WILLIAM M. MACCONNACHIE, JR.

Cloquet

The committee had an exceedingly difficult choice to reconcile the competing interests.

SEN. WALTER MONDALE

Washington

It will be detrimental to the economy of the area, and is a discouraging blow to the forestry industry.

M. RUSS ALLEN

Duluth

I am glad that so many diverse interests were able to agree on the report.

SEN. EUGENE MCCARTHY

Washington

It's probably a good compromise, but I'm basically in opposition to the whole thing.

ED J. CHILGREN

Littlefork

Conservationists can hold their heads high in the knowledge that they have not broken faith with their predecessors.

DR. CLAYTON G. RUDD

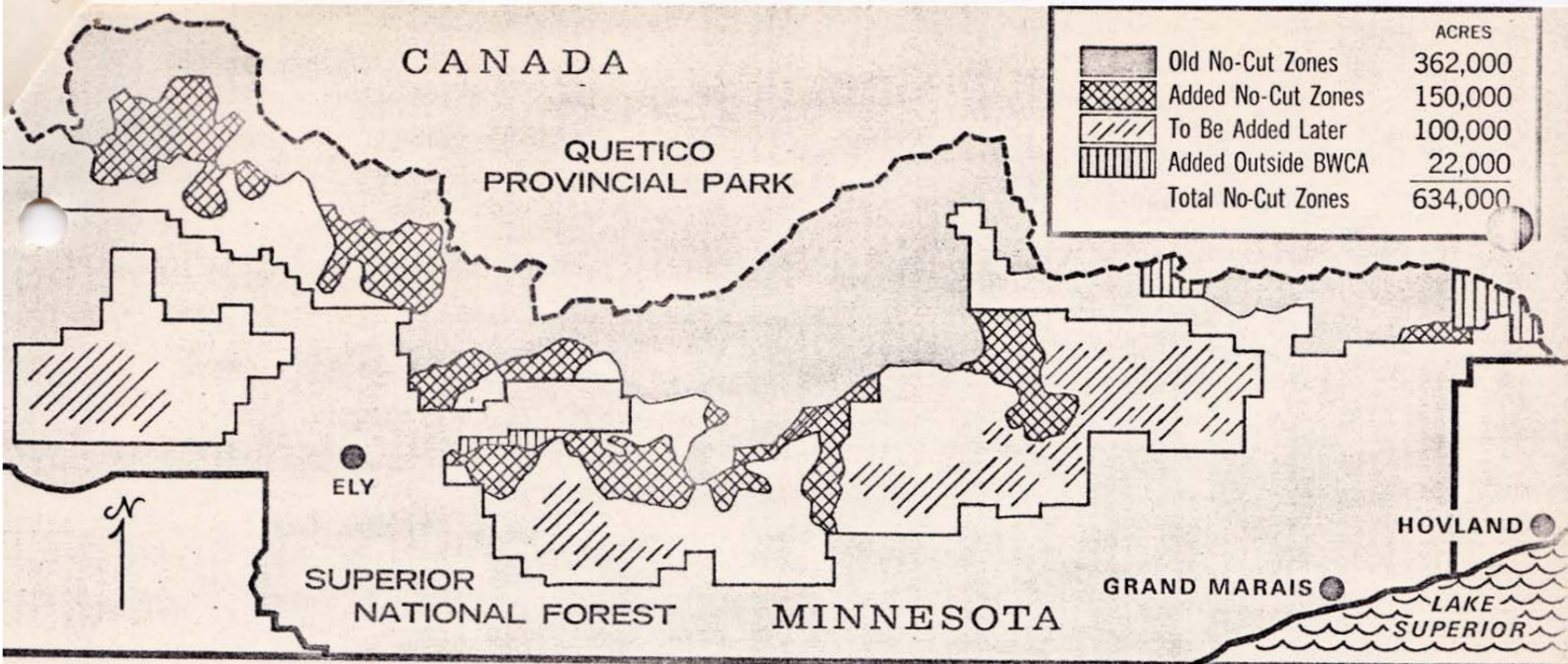
Minneapolis

"The Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) should be managed as a primitive-type recreation area . . . The objective should be, in the main, to obtain a forest of the long-lived species, such as the red pine, white pine and white spruce."

► Here, in the main, is how the Secretary of Agriculture hopes to achieve this objective.



LESS LOGGING	<p>No-cut zone to be nearly doubled to a total of over 600,000 acres by addition of 272,000 acres, as follows:</p> <p>150,000 acres to be added "immediately."</p> <p>100,000 acres to be added "within next few years."</p> <p>22,000 acres adjacent to BWCA to be managed as no-cut zone.</p>	MORE WILDLIFE	<p>Fishing, hunting. USDA will cooperate with state agencies in "an active and effective program to maintain and improve" wildlife conditions.</p>
LESS MOTORING	<p>By land. Mechanized travel, summer and winter, to be banned on public lands in BWCA, except on three portages.</p> <p>By lake. Motors on boats and canoes to be governed by three new zones: 1) no motors; 2) motors under 4 HP; 3) larger motors. Houseboats or other watercraft with overnight accommodations not to be permitted in BWCA.</p> <p>By air. "Continuation of the airspace reservation is vital."</p>	MORE INFORMATION	<p>Educational programs for BWCA users to be accompanied by in-service training for employees of Forest Service.</p>
LESS MINING	<p>Mineral development inside BWCA to be discontinued "except in cases of national emergency."</p> <p>Prospecting permits previously given to be withdrawn "where we can."</p>	MORE RESEARCH	<p>Forest to be improved through reforestation, better fire, insect and disease controls. Research should have high priority.</p>
LESS LITTERING	<p>Campsites to be better managed, with special attention to control of litter, sanitation, air and water pollution.</p> <p>Visitors to be registered, outfitters licensed.</p>	MORE LANDS	<p>Acquisition. "The Federal Government should acquire the remaining private, state and county lands" within BWCA.</p>
		MORE COMMITTEES	<p>Ad hoc committees of advisors should be established before adopting extensive changes in BWCA.</p> <p>Review committee to study BWCA management policies should be appointed "at least every ten years."</p> <p>President's Quetico-Superior Committee, which has made "an outstanding contribution," should be continued.</p>
		MORE MONEY	<p>Funds. "The Department is willing to work to accomplish special financing for this program."</p>



BWCA NO-CUT ZONES: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

TIMBER

Body Blow?

Caught in the crossfire of claims detonated by Secretary Freeman's no-cut order for BWCA, the ordinary man in the woods is somewhat confused if not completely lost.

The basic facts are clear enough (see map). Since 1948 about a third of the million-acre BWCA has been out of bounds for commercial timber operations. This is the so-called no-cut zone. The new order will eventually withdraw from the ax and the chainsaw another 272,000 acres. This doubled no-cut zone of around 600,000 acres will then cover two-thirds of BWCA, including 90 per cent of its lakes and canoe routes.

Schedule. 150,000 of these new no-cut acres are being added now, with 100,000 more gradually to follow as timber contracts expire within the next 20 years. An additional 22,000 acres just outside BWCA will also be managed as no-cut

land. All boundaries involved are to be pin-pointed by the Forest Service by February 1966.

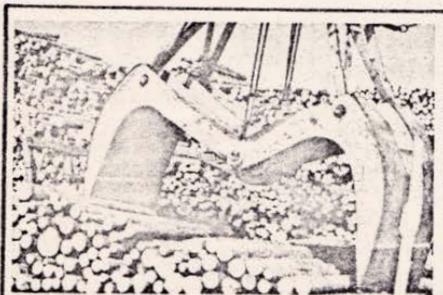
In the meantime timber men complain that the reduction of allowable cut will deliver a body blow to their industry. Said one: "It can't help but hurt."

On the other hand, Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff (who reports to Freeman) insists that the new no-cut zone will have little effect on the economy because "there has been virtually no cutting in that area anyway." Further-

more, the Government has "never been able to sell the full allowable cut from Superior National Forest."

Cliff also points out that northern Minnesota has "a great deal of land which could be harvested under good forest practices that is not being used." Example: "The desirable cut of pulpwood exceeds the current cut by over a million cords."

In any case, the Secretary seems to have heeded the cry: "Freeman, spare that tree!"



LOGGING LOG

Average annual sales
Superior National Forest

FOR SALE	640,000 cords
SOLD	—160,000 cords
SURPLUS	480,000 cords



"FREEMAN, SPARE THAT TREE!"