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Boundary Waters Advocates Submit over 125,000 comments in support of protecting the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Duluth, MN - Today, the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters officially submitted over 125,000 comments to the U.S Forest Service in support of protecting the Boundary Waters Wilderness from sulfide-ore copper mining. According to the State of Minnesota, with over 125,000 comments submitted, this is the most participation generated by an Environmental Impact Statement in state history. Comments were gathered by the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters along with a broad coalition of supporting organizations including environmental, sportsmen and citizen groups.

“The Boundary Waters is a unique and special place,” said National Campaign Manager Doug Niemela, “and support for its protection is broad and deep. The number of comments submitted by those looking to defend it for future generations is a clear indication of how Minnesotans and people across the country feel about this priceless wilderness.”

Comments came from people across Minnesota and the United States as part of an ongoing environmental review study by the U.S. Forest Service to determine whether or not sulfide-ore copper mining should be allowed near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. This study was initiated after the U.S. Forest Service [denied](#) two mining leases to Twin Metals Minnesota, citing the high [risk of pollution](#) to the Boundary Waters. The ongoing environmental review will be used to gather the best available science and public input to determine if sulfide-ore copper mining should be banned in the Boundary Waters watershed for up to 20 years.

As part of this environmental review process, the Forest Service held three public listening sessions that were attended by more than 3,000 people from across Minnesota. At these listening sessions, support for protecting the Wilderness was almost double the support for sulfide-ore copper mining.

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The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters is a broad coalition of more than 35 partner organizations, including conservation, sportsmen and veteran's groups. The Campaign is also supported by more than 250 local and national businesses. The Campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, which is based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information, visit: SaveTheBoundaryWaters.org.