



Contact: Jordan Lubetkin, National Wildlife Federation, lubetkin@nwf.org, 734-904-1589

Agencies Reject Risky Mine near Iconic Canoe Area Wilderness

ROCHESTER, MINN. (December 16, 2016) – Federal agencies today rejected permits for a risky mine that would operate adjacent to Minnesota’s Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness—a 1 million acre forest that is a wildlife haven frequented by paddlers, bird-watchers, anglers, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts. The action by the U.S. Forest Service and Interior Department comes on the heels of an intense public outcry over the mine and the potential environmental impacts—reasons the agencies cited in making the decision. The Interior Department also began a multi-year process to protect this watershed from pollution from future mines.

The National Wildlife Federation has strongly opposed the proposed mine and submitting comments along with 24,000 of its members to the Obama Administration to reject the mine. Commenting on the decision, **Jason Dinsmore, regional representative for the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes office**, said:

“This is a tremendous victory for people, communities, and wildlife. We applaud Interior Secretary Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack for standing up for Minnesota’s fish and wildlife, jobs, and outdoor way of life and rejecting this risky mine. Some places are just too special to risk—and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of those places.

“The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the premier fishing destinations in the world. It offers over 1 million acres of wilderness, well over 1,000 lakes for fishing, canoeing, camping, hunting, and other activities, and northern pike, walleye, and possibly the best natural small mouth bass fishery in the country. The communities of northeastern Minnesota are dependent on clean water and the fishing and recreation that depend on it.

“Putting a stop to this risky mine will help ensure that this incredible wildlife haven can be enjoyed by people now and for generations to come.”

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the great, intact freshwater wetland complexes on the planet, encompassing over 1 million acres and providing a home to more than 230 animal species such as black bears, wolves, moose, bald eagles and loons—as well as endangered, threatened or protected species.

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's largest conservation organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

###