



Governor Dayton issues proclamation celebrating 40th anniversary of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act

Proclamation to be included in event celebrating leaders who championed protection for this iconic Minnesota Wilderness

ELY, MN—Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton issued [a proclamation](#) in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act (BWCAW Act). The BWCAW Act was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 21st, 1978. It expanded the Wilderness Area and added important protective measures for Minnesota’s Boundary Waters.

The Boundary Waters is the most popular, accessible, and family-friendly Wilderness Area in the United States. Every year, more people visit the Boundary Waters than any other Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

“We thank Governor Mark Dayton for this proclamation celebrating the Boundary Waters and also for his tremendous leadership in protecting Minnesota’s crown jewel,” said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “This kind of leadership is needed now more than ever as new threats to this priceless Wilderness arise.”

The Boundary Waters—1.1 million acres of glorious lakes, streams, forests, and wetlands—is the largest Wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the Everglades, and is the premier Wilderness for people living in the heart of America.

It is also part of the three million acre Superior National Forest, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909. The Superior National Forest contains twenty percent of all the freshwater in the 193-million acre U.S. National Forest System.

The Boundary Waters is a reliable attraction and source of favorable publicity for Minnesota. A key component of Northeastern Minnesota’s economy, it attracts new residents and visitors, and helps the regional economy generate more than 17,000 jobs and gross annual sales of more than \$900 million.

The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters will be [celebrating](#) the fortieth anniversary of the BWCAW Act on Monday, October 22 at an event honoring the great leaders who championed protection of this Minnesota icon, including Vice President Walter Mondale, Governor Mark Dayton, Congressmen Bruce Vento, and Don Fraser. The event will be keynoted by former Iowa Governor and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, and former Chair of the President’s Council on Environmental

Quality, Christy Goldfuss. Vilsack and Goldfuss were instrumental in actions to protect the Boundary Waters during the previous administration.

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