



Why Business, Manufacturing, and Wilderness Thrive Together in Minnesota

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northern Minnesota is a hunting and fishing mecca and a world-class resource for canoers, boaters, campers, and families from across the country who love the outdoors. It's also an enormous economic driver for Minnesota - America's #1 most-popular wilderness area - and brings hundreds of thousands of visitors every year to our state, while providing a one-of-a-kind amenity that helps Minnesota businesses attract and retain talented people. Proposed sulfide-ore copper mining within the Boundary Waters watershed would severely damage Minnesota's crown-jewel Wilderness and the enormous economic benefits it supports throughout the state.

The Boundary Waters Helps Make Minnesota a Great Place to Do Business

- It is America's #1 most-visited Wilderness and a premier fishing & hunting destination. Together with Voyageurs National Park, it attracts 400,000-500,000 recreation visitors each year.ⁱ
- In Northeastern Minnesota alone, tourism supports **17,000 jobs** and **\$913 million** in economic activity.ⁱⁱ
The Superior National Forest, where mines would be sited, drives **\$500 million** in regional economic activity every year.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Across Minnesota, outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, and other wildlife recreation, generates **\$11.6 billion** in consumer spending, supports **118,000 jobs**, **\$3.4 billion** in wages/salaries and **\$815 million** in state/local tax revenue. The Boundary Waters is the biggest driver of this statewide economy, which benefits all kinds of businesses: manufacturers, restaurants, hotels, retailers and more.
- Sales at hospitality and leisure businesses in Northeastern Minnesota **grew 83%** from 1998-2014.^{iv}
- **67% of Minnesotans** oppose sulfide-ore mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters.

The Boundary Waters Supports Manufacturing Jobs in Minnesota

- Businesses like Wenonah Canoe, Northstar Canoe, Wintergreen Northern Ware, Duluth Pack, Frost River, Granite Gear, Steger Mukluks, Cooke Custom Sewing and others make and sell high-quality recreational gear and clothing, much of which is bought for and used in the Boundary Waters.

The Boundary Waters Helps Draw Top Talent to Minnesota

- The Boundary Waters plays a significant role in Minnesota's attractiveness to businesses and talent seeking to locate or remain in a state with world-class outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Studies show areas with protected public lands are more successful at sustaining property values, attracting quality employees and high-wage employers, and securing entrepreneurial investment.

The Boundary Waters Supports a Sustainable Economy for Northeastern Minnesota

- In Minnesota's Arrowhead Region, the Boundary Waters has driven steady, sustainable regional economic growth. Communities capitalizing on the Superior National Forest and Boundary Waters have drawn new investment, businesses, talent, and a diversified stable economy. Populations are steady, employment and personal income have risen, and the percent of families in poverty is low.
- A sulfide-ore copper mining district adjacent to the Boundary Waters, a water-rich ecosystem, would displace the sustainable economy that is dependent on clean water, a healthy national forest, and a world-class wilderness area – the Boundary Waters, Quetico Park, and Voyageurs National Park.

ⁱ <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2011/08/numbers-voyageurs-national-park8607>;

<http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/outdoors/3700238-boundary-waters-use-down-slightly-over-past-five-years>

ⁱⁱ Explore Minnesota 2015 Tourism and Minnesota's Economy Factsheet.

<http://www.exploreminnesota.com/industry-minnesota/research-reports/researchdetails/download.aspx?id=8025>

ⁱⁱⁱ This comes from a Star Tribune op-ed by former president of the Ely Chamber of Commerce Bill Forsberg Sr.

<http://www.startribune.com/ely-s-tourism-doing-fine-thank-you/222750371/>

^{iv} Compilation of data obtained from Explore Minnesota/Minnesota Department of Revenue. 2005-2014 from Explore Minnesota Tourism & Minnesota's Economy factsheets; 1998-2004 from MN Dept of Revenue

http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/research_stats/Pages/Sales-and-Use-Tax-Statistics-and-Annual-Reports.aspx