

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis)

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**Unprecedented “Year in the Wilderness” to be related
in upcoming book project after lakeside negotiations**

Dave and Amy Freeman spent entire year in the Boundary Waters to protect the Wilderness from the proposed Twin Metals Minnesota sulfide-ore copper mining operation, they'll work with Milkweed Editions over the coming year to turn their story into a book

Last Friday, Dave and Amy Freeman, wilderness guides and 2014 *National Geographic* Adventurers of the Year, returned from 366 days spent in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The Freemans departed last year on September 23, 2015, for their journey of adventure advocacy called [A Year in the Wilderness](#). Since then, Dave and Amy have camped at approximately 120 different sites, explored 500 lakes, rivers and streams, and traveled more than 2,000 miles by canoe, foot, ski, snowshoe and dog team. They were able to watch the changing seasons from within its borders, a unique experience designed to bear witness to this unique place and raise awareness about the risks it faces.

Their goal was to ensure the permanent protection for the Boundary Waters Wilderness, America's most visited Wilderness, from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining just outside its borders. The U.S. EPA has identified sulfide-ore copper mining as the most toxic industry in America, but since 2008 several multinational mining companies have applied for more than 100 permits to conduct drilling on state and federal lands near the Boundary Waters.

"Our exit from the Wilderness today is bittersweet," said Amy Freeman. "We love this place and honestly wouldn't mind staying a bit longer, but we are eager to catch up with family and friends, share the experience with others, and find new ways to contribute to the effort to protect this very special place."

To that end, the Freemans have worked with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters to raise awareness about the issue. Among countless other efforts, they have shared their journey through social media, [National Geographic Adventure](#), [Canoe & Kayak](#) magazine, were featured on the [TODAY Show](#), and a documentary film about their year, *Bear Witness*, will premiere at the Fresh Coast Film Festival in Marquette, MI, on October 15 ([trailer](#)).

In addition, Dave and Amy are developing a narrative nonfiction book that captures their experience. The book will be published by Minneapolis' Milkweed Editions in Fall 2017.

In mid-August, Daniel Slager, Publisher & CEO of Milkweed Editions, paddled into the wilderness to meet with the Freemans and discuss the project, marking the first time in the press's history that contract negotiations were initiated on the side of a lake in the Wilderness.

When asked about why he felt this was the right project for Milkweed Editions, Slager commented that "Milkweed Editions has published numerous books that intersect with the conservation movement, and I am delighted to be working with Dave and Amy Freeman on a book reflecting on their Year in the Wilderness. I've followed their blogging closely, and admired their photographs. They have had an extraordinary experience in the service of an important cause, and I look forward to working with them to develop a book based on it."

MEDIA AVAILIBILITY

Dave and Amy Freeman will be in the Twin Cities and available for interviews or TV segments in person or over the phone from September 30 to October 7. Please contact Ellie Siler at ellie@savetheboundarywaters.org, [612-616-2149](tel:612-616-2149) to set up interviews.

MULTIMEDIA

For information on the Campaign to Save the Boundary, including maps, infographics and scientific reports, please visit our online [Media Kit](#).

For high res images or video of the Year in the Wilderness Exit Party, please contact Ellie Siler at ellie@savetheboundarywaters.org, [612-616-2149](tel:612-616-2149). Broll of the Freemans from their upcoming documentary *Bear Witness* is available courtesy of Duct Tape Then Beer at <https://vimeo.com/179526240> (password: dtbstbw). Photos from the past year are available [here](#).