

## **The Year of the Boundary Waters kicks off with a new adventure advocacy expedition from Ely to Washington D.C.**

*Minnesota explorers and authors Dave and Amy Freeman will pedal 1,750 miles across nine states to raise awareness about the Wilderness during the 40th Anniversary year of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act.*

**March 8, 2018**—Covering 1,750 miles and crossing nine states, authors and *National Geographic* Adventurers of the Year Amy and Dave Freeman will [pedal from Ely, Minnesota to Washington, D.C.](#) to raise awareness about the need to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining. The Freemans' trip will also celebrate the Year of the Boundary Waters, during the 40th Anniversary year of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978. And promote their new book, [A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters](#) (Milkweed Editions). They will tow a canoe behind their bikes as a reminder of the wilderness they have pledged to protect, and will gather signatures on the canoe as a petition in support of protecting the Boundary Waters.

The Freemans spent 366 days in the Boundary Waters (from September 2015 to 2016), traveling by canoe, foot, and dogsled to explore over 500 of the area's rivers, streams, and lakes—water so clean they could drink it right out of the lake—and sharing their experience through video, photos, and blogs with an audience of hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens. The project became *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters*, a critically-acclaimed, illustrated account of their adventure, which tells the deeper story of the value, beauty, and fragility of wild places, and now, a book tour to once again raise awareness.

The Freemans will depart by bicycle from near ground zero of the proposed Twin Metals mine near Ely, Minnesota on April 20 and will arrive in Washington D.C. on June 18 for events throughout that week.

This is the first of many events to raise support during the Year of the Boundary Waters to gain permanent protection for the most visited wilderness area in America.

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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 300 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](http://SavetheBoundaryWaters.org)*