

NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTANS FOR WILDERNESS

leading “The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters”

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW; website: www.savetheboundarywaters.org) seeks to hire a Tribal Liaison to work with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. The Campaign is a local, state, and national initiative of NMW to prevent sulfide-ore copper mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The immediate focus of the Campaign is to prevent the approval and development of the Twin Metals sulfide ore mine in the watershed of the BWCAW southeast of Ely, MN.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Tribal Liaison will report directly to the State Director and will manage tribal coordination with Minnesota Chippewa Tribes (MCT) and the Lac la Croix Band in Canada with an emphasis on organizing in the Bois Forte community.
- In these priority communities, a principal responsibility will be tribal citizen outreach, education, coordination and organization in opposition to the proposed Twin Metals sulfide-ore mine southeast of Ely and adjacent to Birch Lake and the South Kawishiwi River.
- Educate tribal citizens of the history and project plans of the proposed mine and how the mine and the permitting process relate to tribal sovereignty, how the the mine would impact 1854 Treaty rights and ways of life, and how the project would negatively impact the health of wild rice and the health of citizens dependent on wild rice and fish and game.
- Identify and coordinate roles for tribal citizen participation with an “Indigenous People Opposed to Twin Metals” campaign; identify leaders in each community to organize activist groups locally, educate local leaders and provide outreach toolkits (social media, presentation materials, petition/letter-writing templates, etc.) to educate and activate tribal groups.
- Coordinate with Tribal Councils and Tribal natural resource departments and officers in reviewing project environmental documents, assist in developing Tribal responses, and assist in developing and submitting public comments.
- Provide information and education to Tribal government officials on conservation and activism related to protecting the Boundary Waters region and the negative consequences of the proposed Twin Metals sulfide-ore mine.
- Assist in the development of interpretive displays at the Campaign headquarters, in public presentations, and in printed and online communications materials, to appropriately reflect Native American history and culture in the story of northeast Minnesota and the Boundary Waters area.
- Organize the logistics for and represent the Campaign at events and presentations across the region.
- Identify and develop other organizational relationships to help expand the reach of influence for the Campaign.

- Participate in educational and professional development opportunities to refine skills for organizing and outreach.
- Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Affiliation with or networks within the Bois Forte (preferred), Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, or other Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Nations.
- Highly organized and detail-oriented.
- Willingness and ability to travel – this position requires travel across NE Minnesota and adjacent Ontario, Canada (travel expenses paid by NMW).
- Access to a functional and safe automobile (mileage reimbursement paid by NMW).
- Passion for Native Treaty Rights, wilderness and public lands.
- The ability to represent NMW and the Campaign in a professional and positive manner.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Enrolled member of 1854 or other MN Chippewa Tribe. Experience with tribal outreach, knowledge of tribal government, some “standing” in one or more tribal communities.
- Willingness to learn about wilderness policy and law, economics, environmental science, and environmental conservation.
- Extroverted personality; position requires a lot of time talking to and interacting with the public.
- Previous organizing experience.
- Knowledge of Ojibwe language, culture, history, current issues and key leaders.
- Basic computer skills (email, word processing, videoconferencing).
- High school degree or equivalent; some college is desirable, but not required if appropriate life experience is demonstrated.

COMPENSATION AND WORK CONDITIONS

- The Tribal Liaison position is an up to full-time, salaried position with Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, an IRS recognized 501c3 organization. Starting salary is a floor of \$34,000 per year for a full-time position.
- Compensation includes a competitive wage and benefits package with coverage or a stipend for health, dental, and vision insurance; a 403b retirement plan; 8 designated paid holidays; travel and expense reimbursement; training opportunities; and 18 “Personal Time Off” (PTO) paid days per year.
- It is expected that the position will involve considerable travel, not necessarily “overnight” travel. The staff person will need to have access to a dependable vehicle, must be able and willing to drive several hours in a day, and will be reimbursed for mileage and related expenses.
- No previous organizing experience is required - we will provide training and professional development for an ideal candidate.
- The staff person will work primarily from a home office, with some availability for time in the Ely office. A computer and necessary office supplies will be provided, and a stipend for use of a personal cell phone is also provided.

- All employees of NMW are “at will” employees, meaning continued employment is contingent on satisfactory work performance. The candidate will have a performance evaluation after 6 months, then once annually thereafter.

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Quetico-Superior ecosystem. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness is committed to equal opportunity in employment. **All qualified persons are invited to apply and enrolled members of 1854 treaty signatory bands are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Please send a resume with a cover letter and with 3 professional references to sydney@savetheboundarywaters.org with “Tribal Liaison Application” in the subject line. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.