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Riding to Raise Awareness

The Bike Tour to Save the Boundary Waters will raise awareness about the threat to the Boundary Waters from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining

Minneapolis, MN (March 19, 2015) –Starting April 2, **Erin McCleary, Lisa Pugh and Iggy Perillo**, three instructors from **Voyageur Outward Bound School**, will ride their bicycles from Winona, Minnesota, to Ely, Minnesota, on the **Bike Tour to Save the Boundary Waters**. These three young women decided to take on this cycling adventure in order to support the **Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters**.

The Campaign is dedicated to creating a national movement to protect the clean water, clean air and forest landscape of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The Boundary Waters, which draws in 250,000 visitors annually, is threatened by proposed sulfide-ore copper mining operations, such as **Twin Metals**, that would drain pollution into the Wilderness. The Boundary Waters helps sustain the tourism and hospitality industry in Northeastern Minnesota, which supports 18,000 jobs and generates \$850 million in revenue annually.

The riders will stop in **communities and campuses** along the way from Winona to Ely. At each stop, the riders will invite supporters to sign their Wenonah canoe, which they will trail behind their bicycles on the route. They will engage the community by sharing their connection to the Boundary Waters and why it needs to be protected, as well as what people can do to support the campaign. Communities along the ride include Winona, Rochester, Mankato, St. Peter, Northfield, Red Wing, St. Paul, Collegeville, Minneapolis, Stillwater, Duluth, Two Harbors and Ely.

McCleary, Pugh and Perillo have a deep connection with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and have long ventured into its wilderness, challenging students and young adults to learn something while in the wild. **“I live and work just on the edge of the wilderness**, right near one of the proposed mine sites,” says Pugh. “I worry about pollution to our clean water. The water is everything up here. Any amount of pollution would compromise our ability to take students into the wilderness. But it’s not just about students and my job. This affects the integrity of the wildlife and our community in Ely.”

The 39-day, 725-mile ride begins April 2 and will conclude on May 10 in Ely, Minnesota, with a celebration. See below for a schedule of events.



SCHEDULE

Confirmed events and anticipated arrival dates and locations listed below. Subject to change. Details and updates online: www.savetheboundarywaters.org/biketour, [@BikeTourBWCA](https://twitter.com/BikeTourBWCA).

April 2: Winona

- Winona State University
- Kickoff party at The Boat House

April 7: Mankato

- Blue Earth County Library

April 8: St. Peter

- Gustavus Adolphus College

April 9, 18: Northfield

- St. Olaf College (April 9)
- Earth Day Celebration (April 18)

April 16, 22, May 4: St. Paul

- Macalester College (April 16)
- Patagonia (April 16)
- St. Catherine University (April 22)
- Hamline University (May 4)

April 21: St. Cloud

- College of St. Benedict
/St. John's University

April 19, 23-26, May 3-4: Minneapolis

- Surly Brewery (April 19)
- Fulton Brewery (April 22)
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (April 22 & 23)
- Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo (April 24-26)
- MayDay Parade and Festival (May 3)

April 26: Stillwater

- Ironman Bicycle Ride booth (April 26)

May 5-7: Duluth

- Bent Paddle Brewing
- University of Minnesota-Duluth (April 5-7)
- Hartley Nature Center (May 6)

May 8: Two Harbors

- Granite Gear (May 8)

May 10: Ely

- Sustainable Ely Celebration (May 10)

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Save the Boundary Waters is a broad-based campaign led by **Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness**, which is based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information, contact Communications Director **Ellie M. Bayrd** at ellie@savetheboundarywaters.org and (612) 616-2149.