



Media Contact
Ellie M. Bayrd
Communications Director
ellie@savetheboundarywaters.org
612-616-2149

Visit the Boundary Waters at the Minnesota State Fair

Visitors can pledge to help save this national treasure at the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters' first booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

Ely, Minnesota (August 3, 2015) – Fairgoers are encouraged to come to the **Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters'** booth and visit the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness at the Minnesota State Fair for the first time. The booth will feature various activities such as a photo booth that places fairgoers into a Boundary Waters campsite, a map where visitors can mark their favorite Boundary Waters spots and a prize wheel to spin for giveaways like buttons, bags and pens.

Visitors will be able to learn about the sulfide-ore copper mining threat to the Boundary Waters through various infographics, literature and a new animation video. There will be opportunities to take action by signing the pledge to preserve the Boundary Waters and protect this Wilderness and its wildlife.

"The Boundary Waters is an important Minnesota icon—just like the State Fair. Our booth will explain why proposed sulfide-ore copper mining along nearby lakes and rivers will risk permanent damage to our beloved Wilderness and share what Minnesotans can do to protect the Boundary Waters forever," says Becky Rom, National Campaign Chair.

Boundary Waters experts, explorers and high-profile supporters will make appearances during the fair. On September 4 and 5, adventurers Dave and Amy Freeman will be discussing their next adventure advocacy effort, **A Year in the Wilderness**. This new expedition in the Boundary Waters will continue efforts to raise awareness of the threat from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters. Congresswoman Betty McCollum, who authored HR 2072 The National Park and Wilderness Waters Protection Forever Act, will also stop by the booth on September 1. The Campaign's booth will be located in the Dairy Building. The schedule of other special guest appearances will be finalized in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota is a beloved 1.1 million-acre canoe country featuring 237.5 miles of overnight hiking trails, 1,200 miles of canoe and kayak routes and 2,000 designated campsites. Outdoors lovers of all ages and experiences enjoy remote experiences within its borders.

International companies propose to put sulfide-ore copper mines on the edge of the wilderness, along waters that drain into the Boundary Waters. The Campaign is devoted to gaining permanent protection for the watershed surrounding the Boundary Waters. Sulfide-ore copper mining has a disastrous record of pollution and spills, and has been called the most toxic industry in America (EPA Toxic Release Inventory, 2013).

###

The Campaign to 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. SavetheBoundaryWaters.org