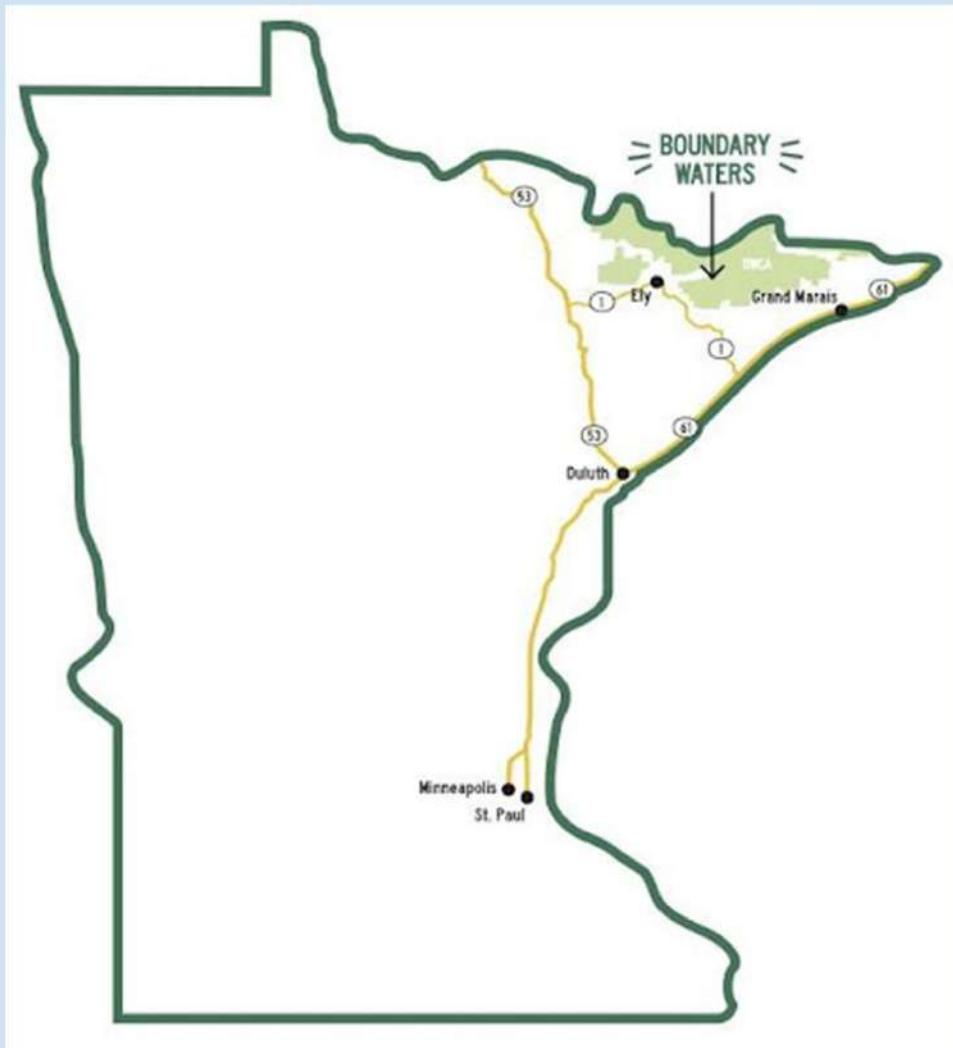


TOXIC MINING NEAR THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS



**FRIENDS OF THE
BOUNDARY
WATERS**
ONWARD. TOGETHER!





The BWCA is 1.2 million acres, and 20% of it is fresh water!

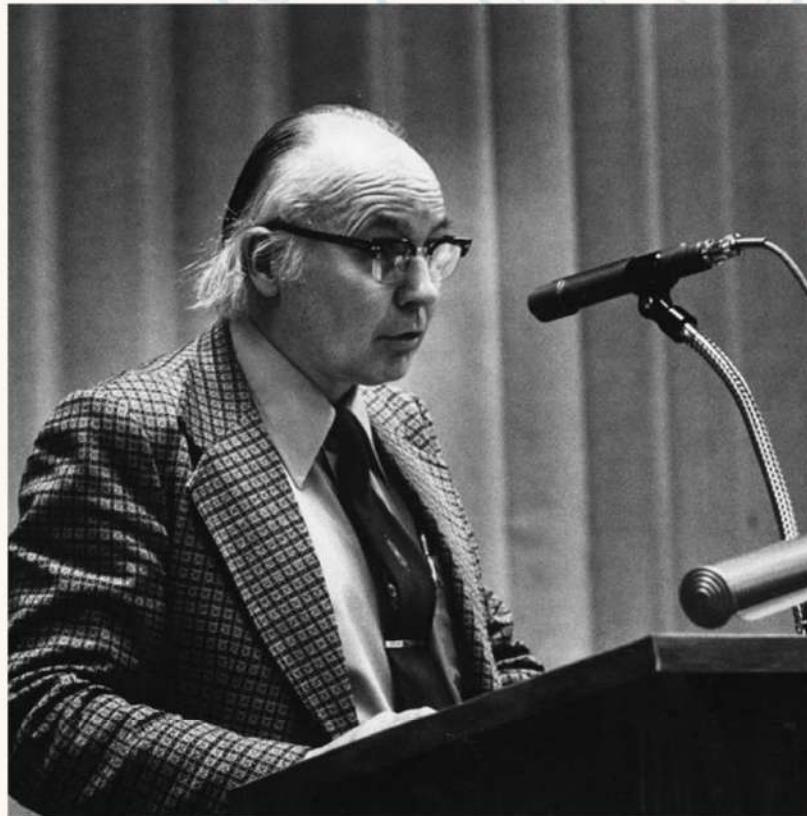
Every year 250,000 people visit the Boundary Waters.





PHOTO: JIM BRANDENBURG

THE HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS

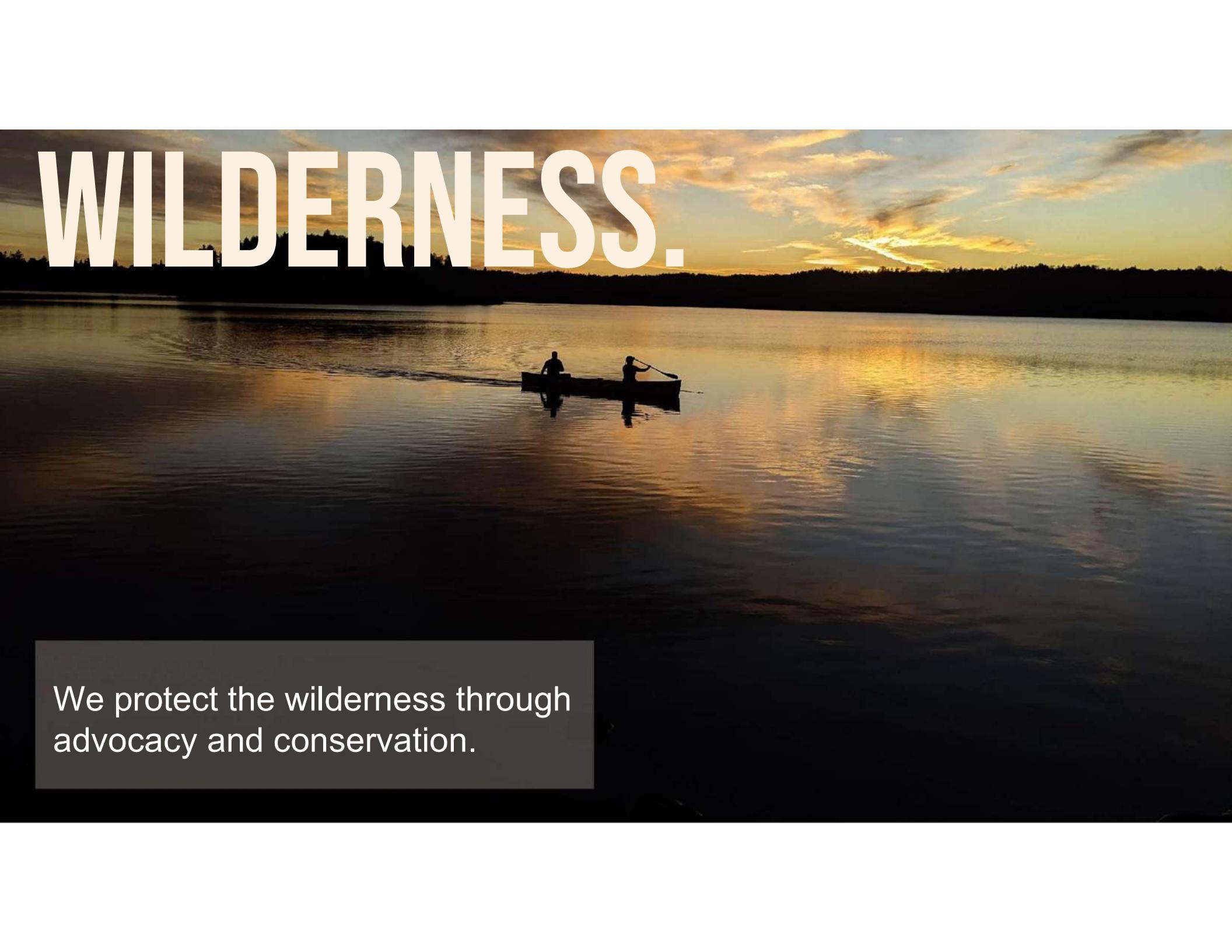


imated at 1,000 packed the parking lot in
er Station in Grand Marais noon Friday.
he protest were somewhat surprised at
the population of all of Cook County is

around 4,000. They view the turnout, in a
like Cook County, as a clear indication of
over the proposed Burton-Vento BWCA
down in history as a definite first in th

THE FIGHT WAS LED BY ORDINARY CITIZENS

WILDERNESS.

A wide-angle photograph of a calm lake at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and yellow clouds. In the center of the lake, two people are silhouetted in a small canoe, one holding a paddle. The horizon shows a dark silhouette of a forest line. The water reflects the warm colors of the sky.

We protect the wilderness through advocacy and conservation.

PEOPLE.



We connect students from all backgrounds to the wonders of the Boundary Waters.



COMMUNITY.

By being part of the communities at the gateways to the Boundary Waters, we work to ensure that these communities thrive and support the wilderness.



PHOTO: JOAN STICKELMEYER



PHOTO: BLAKE EDWARDS



PHOTO: ADAM STANZAK



PHOTO: NO BOUNDARIES TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS

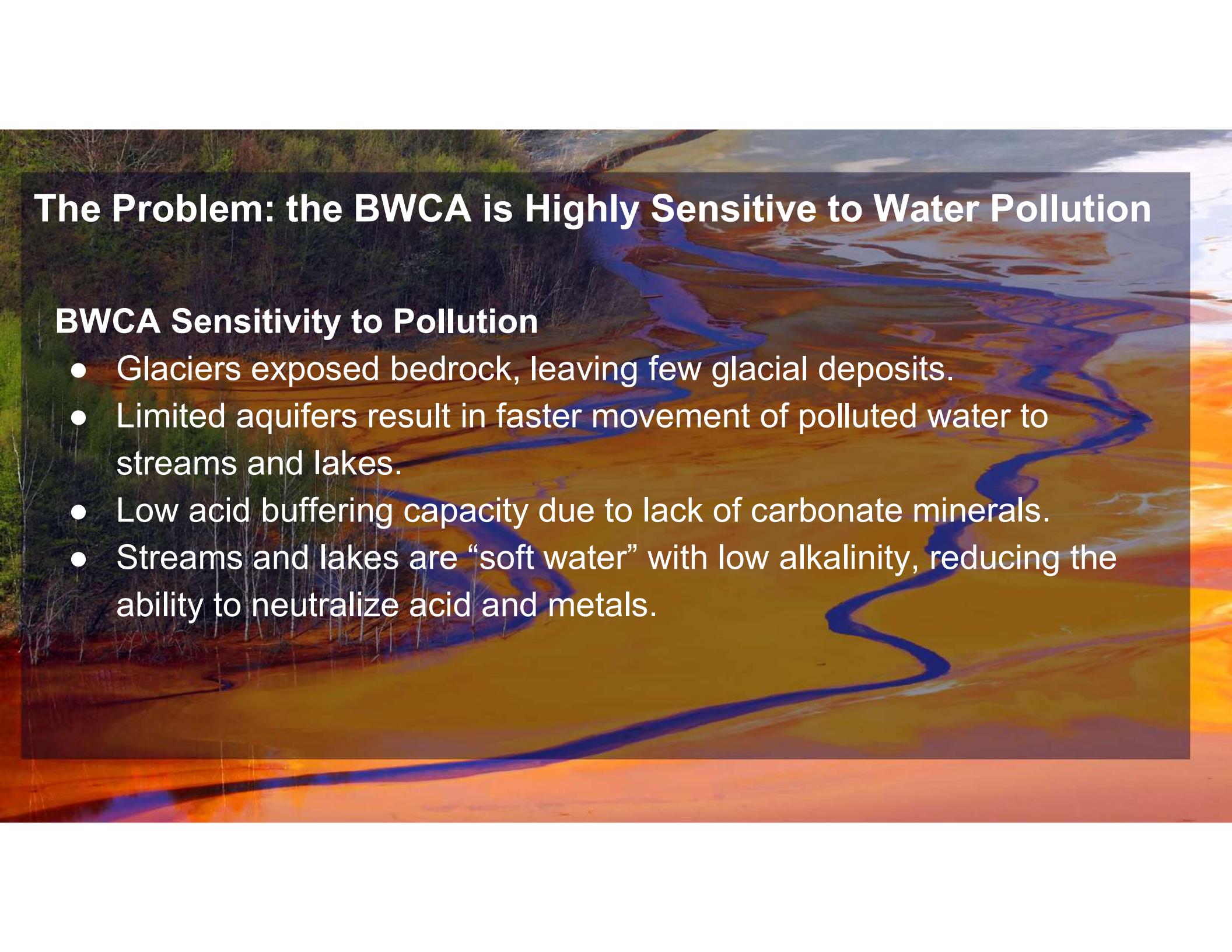


PHOTO: KATIE PECK



BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA
WILDERNESS
SUPERIOR National Forest

The Problem: the BWCA is Highly Sensitive to Water Pollution

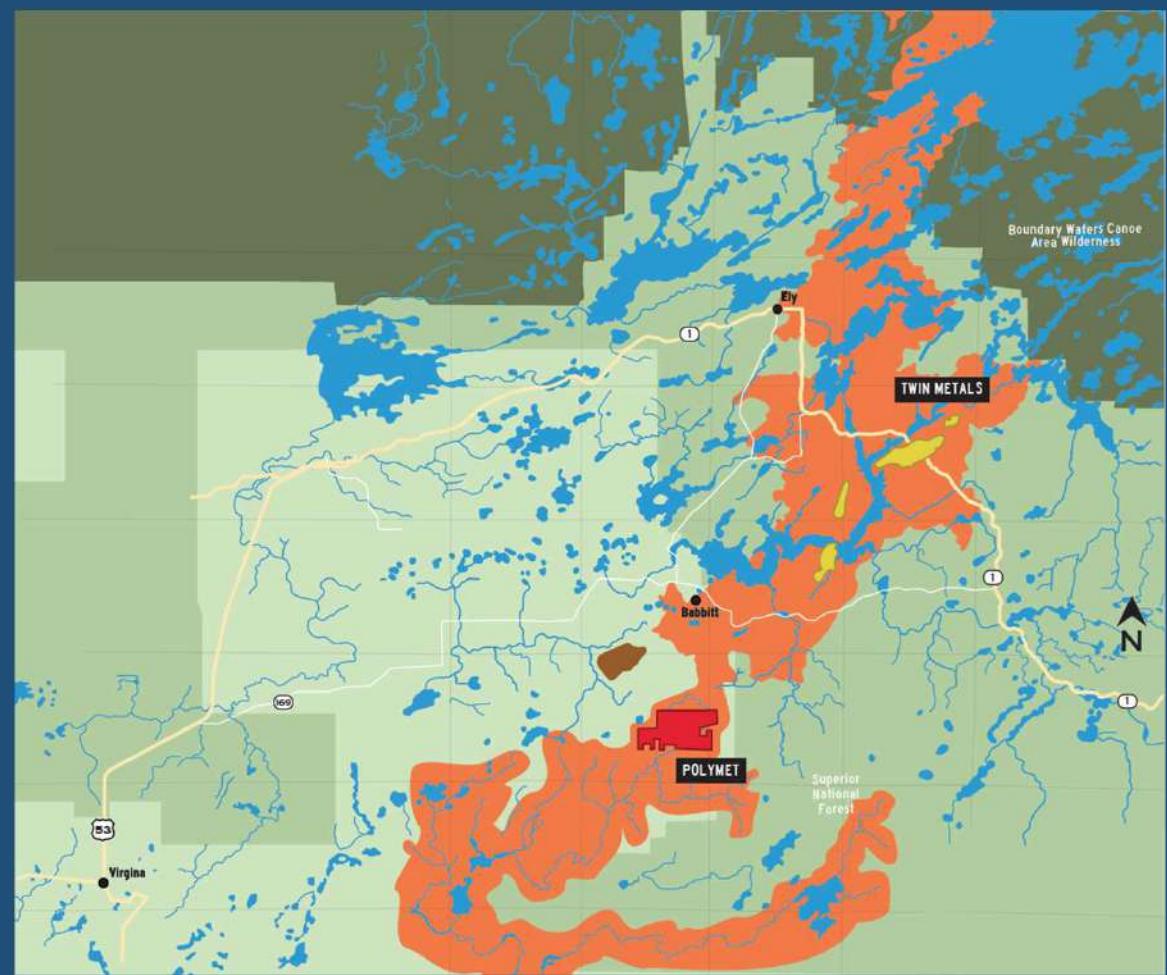


BWCA Sensitivity to Pollution

- Glaciers exposed bedrock, leaving few glacial deposits.
- Limited aquifers result in faster movement of polluted water to streams and lakes.
- Low acid buffering capacity due to lack of carbonate minerals.
- Streams and lakes are “soft water” with low alkalinity, reducing the ability to neutralize acid and metals.

SULFIDE MINING IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

TWO MINES, ONE THREAT



BOUNDARY WATERS MINING ZONE



THE RISK OF SULFIDE MINING





NATIVE COPPER ORE

DISSEMINATED COPPER ORE



TOXIC



ACID MINE DRAINAGE

SULFIDE + O₂ + H₂O → SULFURIC ACID

LITIGATION

Fighting for clean water in the courts



LEGISLATION

Enacting laws that protect Minnesotans and our clean water



CITIZEN ACTION

Engaging grassroots action to inform and pressure government leaders to protect Minnesotans and our clean water



POLITICAL ACTION

Electing Boundary Waters champions

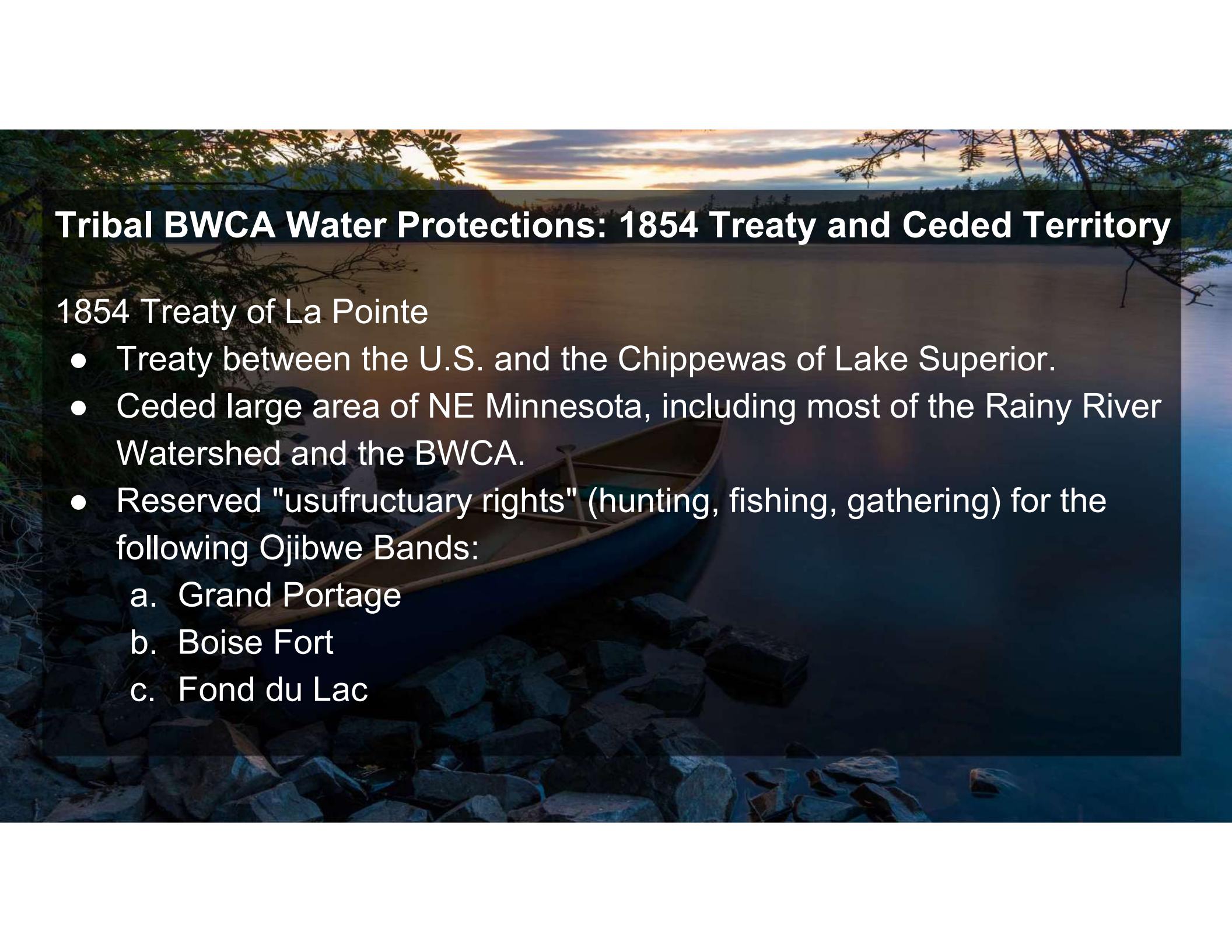


Protections Against BWCA Water Pollution

- **International:** 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and formation of the International Joint Commission
- **Tribal:** 1854 Treaty
- **Federal:** Wilderness Act of 1978, SNF Mineral Withdrawal under FLPMA, Administrative Actions regarding Twin Metals' Leases
- **State:** Delegated Authority to Administer CWA, Impaired Waters List (“303(d) list”), TMDL reports, WRAPS reports, Environmental Review, NPDES and SDS Permitting

International BWCA Water Protections: Boundary Waters Treaty and Formation of International Joint Commission

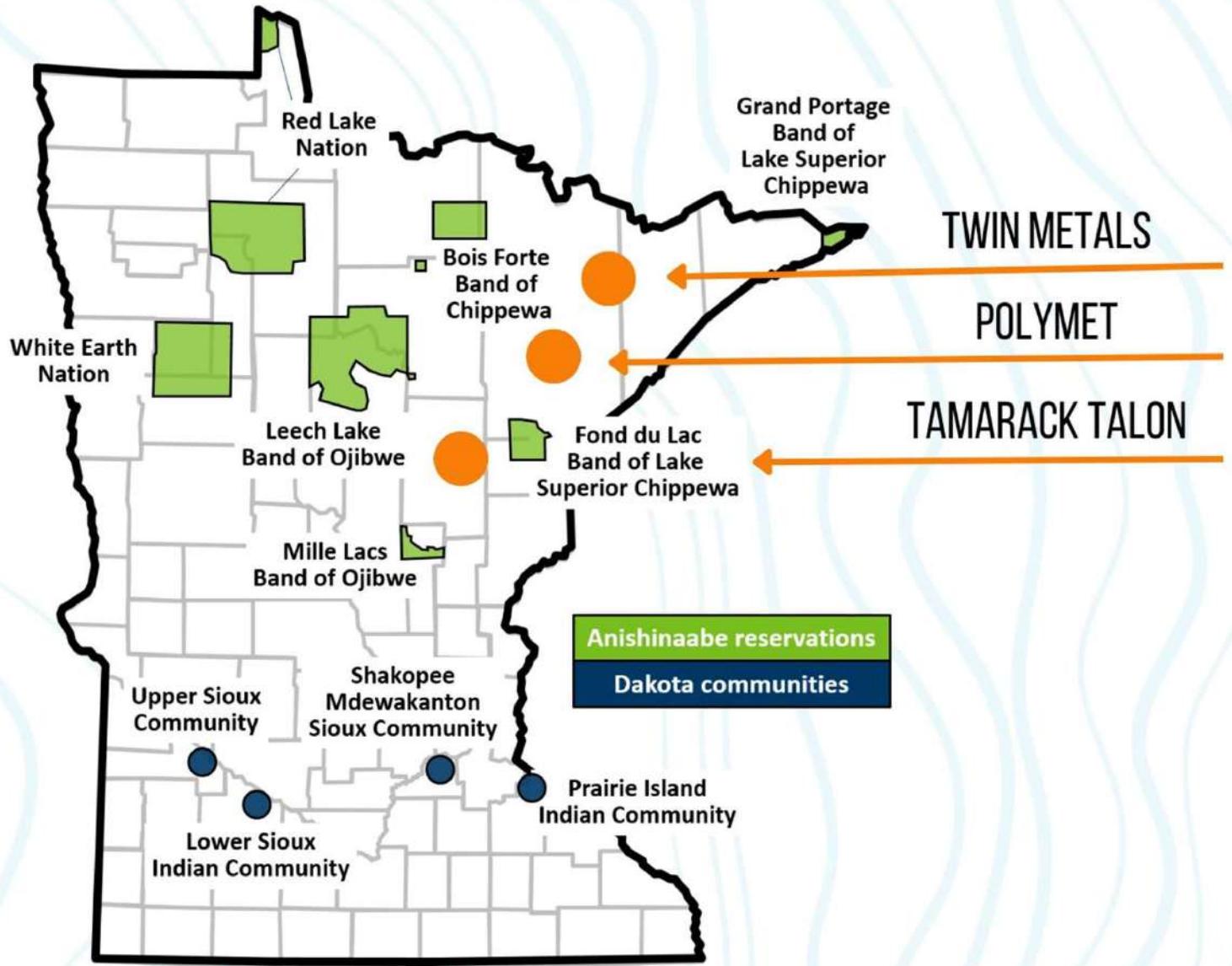
- Established the International Joint Commission, which manages transnational issues involving water along the U.S.-Canada Border
- Article IV of the Treaty provides that the “boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other.”

A photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow hues. In the foreground, a wooden canoe is beached on a rocky shore. The water of the lake reflects the colors of the sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Tribal BWCA Water Protections: 1854 Treaty and Ceded Territory

1854 Treaty of La Pointe

- Treaty between the U.S. and the Chippewas of Lake Superior.
- Ceded large area of NE Minnesota, including most of the Rainy River Watershed and the BWCA.
- Reserved "usufructuary rights" (hunting, fishing, gathering) for the following Ojibwe Bands:
 - a. Grand Portage
 - b. Boise Fort
 - c. Fond du Lac





20-YEAR MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

NO MINING ON FEDERAL LAND IN
RAINY RIVER WATERSHED!



TWIN METALS' SITE

OUR WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

OPPOSE HR 978 AND TRUMP ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS



- INTRODUCED BY U.S. REP. PETE STAUBER (R MN-8)
- HR 978 IRONICALLY TITLED: “THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST RESTORATION ACT”



WHAT IS H.R. 978?

- VICTORY: STRIPPED FROM “ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL” - BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL
- REMOVES CURRENT POLICY IN PLACE THAT PROTECT THE BWCA FROM SULFIDE MINING
- INTRODUCED BY U.S. REP. PETE STAUBER (R MN-8)

WHY WE OPPOSE H.R. 978?

- REVERSES 20 YEAR BAN ON MINING IN THE BWCA WATERSHED
- REINSTATES TWIN METALS LEASES AT 1920 LEASE RATES
- WEAKENS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AT EPA → ACTION IN THE COURTS
 - PREVENTS RIGHT TO SUE OVER REINSTATED LEASES
- 18 MONTH TIMELINE → FAR SHORTER THAN NEEDED TIME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF A PROJECT OF THIS SIZE

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO STOP H.R. 978?

- BUILDING OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS TO STOP POLICY IN BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL-SECTION 80131-WE WON!
- INSTEAD SUPPORT H.R. 588 U.S. REP BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN 4) AND U.S. SENATOR TINA SMITH S. 1366: “BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS PROTECTION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT”
 - CITIZEN CALLS, EMAILS, LETTERS
 - WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
 - MEETING WITH US REPS. & SENATORS IN CONGRESS

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO STOP H.R. 978?

- FRIENDS OF THE BWCA CONGRESSIONAL VISITS
 - JANUARY, MARCH, JUNE, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER
- OPPOSE HR 978, SUPPORT HR 588



OUR WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

OPPOSE HR 4090 CRITICAL MINERAL DOMINANCE ACT



HR 4090 : WOULD ENSHRINE
THE EXECUTIVE ORDER IN
LAW

OUR WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

OPPOSE S 2967 BORDER LANDS CONSERVATION ACT



WOULD ALLOW HOMELAND
SECURITY UNREGULATED ACCESS
TO 100 MILES OF NORTHERN AND
SOUTHERN BORDER

OUR WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

SUPPORT HR 588



- INTRODUCED BY U.S. REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN 4)
- “BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS PROTECTION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT”

OUR WORK AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

SUPPORT S 1366



- INTRODUCED BY U.S. SEN. TINA SMITH (D-MN)
- “BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS PERMANENT PROTECTION ACT”



PROTECTING CLEAN WATER AT THE CAPITOL: LAST LINE OF DEFENSE VS. TRUMP

POLYMET'S SITE



FOND DU LAC RESERVATION

Downstream from
PolyMet



POLYMET'S DISASTROUS DAM DESIGN

Brumadinho Mine Disaster – Brazil (2019)



CORRUPT

TWIN METALS - ANTOFAGASTA
POLYMET - GLENCORE
Talon - Rio Tinto



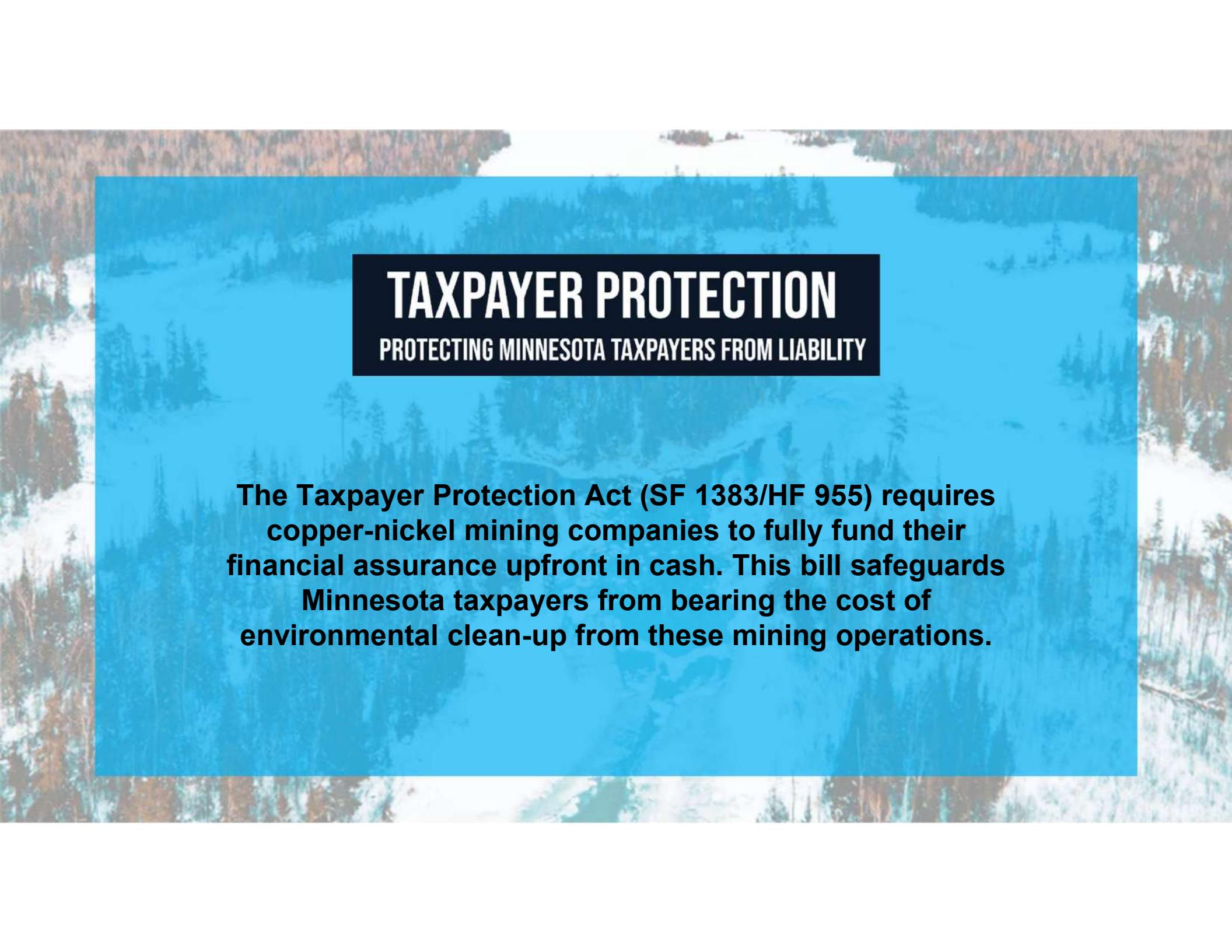
PROVE IT FIRST LAW

[SF 1382/HF 954]



- **Common-sense protection for all of Minnesota's watersheds.**
- Must prove that a similar mine has operated for at least 10 years without polluting and been closed for at least 10 years without polluting.
- **Minnesota is not a guinea pig.**

www.friends-bwca.org/prove-it-first

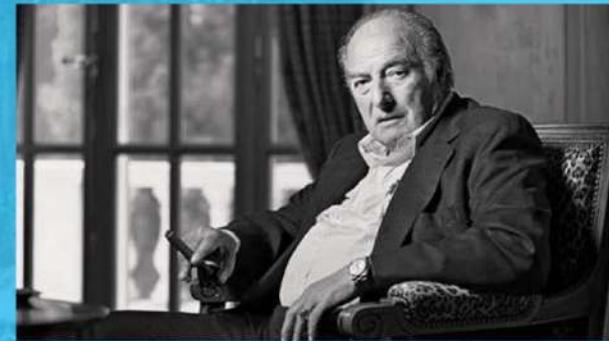


TAXPAYER PROTECTION

PROTECTING MINNESOTA TAXPAYERS FROM LIABILITY

The Taxpayer Protection Act (SF 1383/HF 955) requires copper-nickel mining companies to fully fund their financial assurance upfront in cash. This bill safeguards Minnesota taxpayers from bearing the cost of environmental clean-up from these mining operations.

BAD ACTORS



BAD ACTOR BILL

KEEP CORRUPT COMPANIES OUT OF MINNESOTA

GLENCORE

The Bad Actor Bill (SF 1744/HF 1197) would stop Minnesota from issuing copper-nickel mining permits to companies with violations of various laws.

PROVE IT FIRST SUPPORTERS

MINNESOTA SENATE



Senator
Liz Boldon

Senator
Bobby Joe
Champion

Senator
Jim Carlson

Senator
Doran Clark

Senator
Steve
Cwodzinski

Senator
Scott Dibble

Senator
Omar Fateh

Senator
Heather
Gustafson

Senator
Foung Hawj

Senator
Amanda
Hemmingsen-
Jaeger

Senator
Ann Johnson
Stewart

Senator
Mary Kunesh

Senator
Alice Mann

Senator
John Marty

Senator
Jen McEwen

Senator
Zaynab
Mohamed

Senator
Sandy Pappas

Senator
Susan Pha

Senator
Lindsey Port

Senator
Aric Putnam

Senator
Erin Maye
Quade

Senator
Ann Rest

Senator
Bonnie Westlin

Senator
Melissa Wiklund

Senator
Tou Xiong

PROVE IT FIRST SUPPORTERS MINNESOTA HOUSE



Representative
Potty Acomb



Representative
Esther Agboje



Representative
Kristin Bahner



Representative
Kaela Berg



Representative
Robert Bierman



Representative
Ethan Choi



Representative
Mary Frances
Clardy



Representative
Nathan Coulter



Representative
Brion Curran



Representative
Alex Falconer



Representative
Leigh Finke



Representative
Sandra Feist



Representative
Peter Fischer



Representative
Cedrick Frazer



Representative
Mike Freiberg



Representative
Aisha Gomez



Representative
Jess Hanson



Representative
Amanda
Hemmingsen-
Joeger



Representative
Kochly Her



Representative
Kim Hicks



Representative
Huldaq Hiltzley



Representative
Athena Hollins



Representative
Michael Howard



Representative
Samokab
Hussein



Representative
Maria Ida Pérez-
Vega



Representative
Sydney Jordan



Representative
Heather Kehler



Representative
Corie Kotyza-
Wituhn



Representative
Alicia Kozlowski



Representative
Fue Lee



Representative
Liz Lee



Representative
Tino Liebling



Representative
Leon Lille



Representative
Jamie Long



Representative
Anguam
Mahmoud



Representative
Kelly Moller



Representative
Mohamud Noor



Representative
Matt Norris



Representative
Krist Purcell



Representative
Lucy Roth



Representative
Karin Royer



Representative
Liz Royer



Representative
Samantha
Sencer-Muro



Representative
Andy Smith



Representative
Samanthia
Vang



Representative
Bawo Vang



Representative
Jay Xiong

CLEAN WATER COALITION



**FRIENDS OF THE
BOUNDARY
WATERS**



SAVE THE DATE

CITIZEN ACTION NETWORK

JANUARY 7, 2026, 6PM, HYBRID

CLEAN WATER COALITION ZOOM

JANUARY 15, 2026, 1PM ZOOM

FEBRUARY 19, 1PM ZOOM

BWCA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

CONTACT:

BETSY FOY- BETSYFOY@FRIENDS-BWCA.ORG



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THE BWCA

MAKE A DONATION!

OUR ADVOCACY WORK IS COMPLETELY SUPPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU!

JOIN THE CITIZEN ACTION NETWORK OR CLEAN WATER COALITION:

- TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER AND THE BWCA. MAKE PHONE CALLS, WRITING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! (IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

VOLUNTEER:

- SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE TO VOLUNTEER SO YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THESE ISSUES WITH THOSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- WRITE AN EMAIL/LETTER OR GIVE A PHONE CALL TO YOUR STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL TELLING THEM WHY THE BOUNDARY WATERS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU. THEY WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

FIND THEM AT: [HTTPS://WWW.GIS.LCC.MN.GOV/IMAPS/DISTRICTS/](https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/IMAPS/DISTRICTS/)



FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS

ONWARD. TOGETHER!

Steve Schultz
Government Relations Director
Steve@friends-bwca.org
www.friends-bwca.org

