

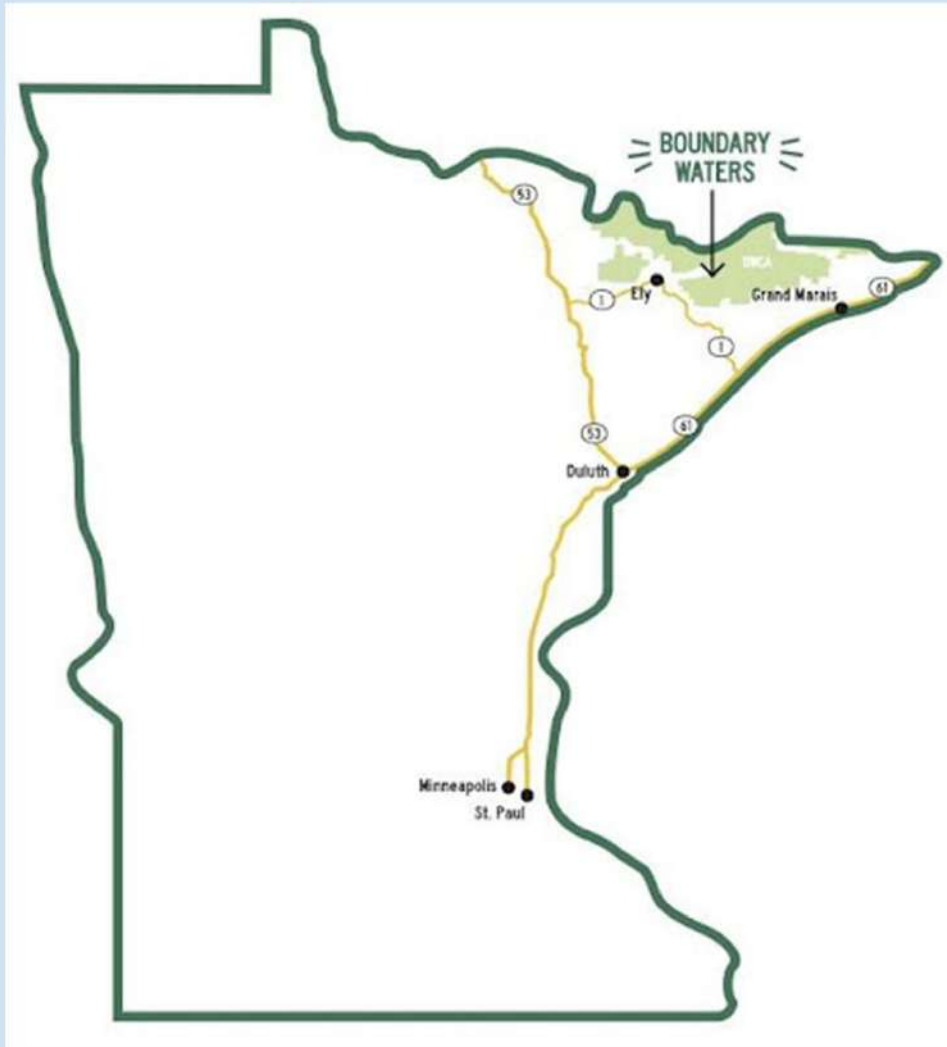
TOXIC MINING NEAR THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS



FRIENDS OF THE
BOUNDARY
WATERS

ONWARD. TOGETHER!





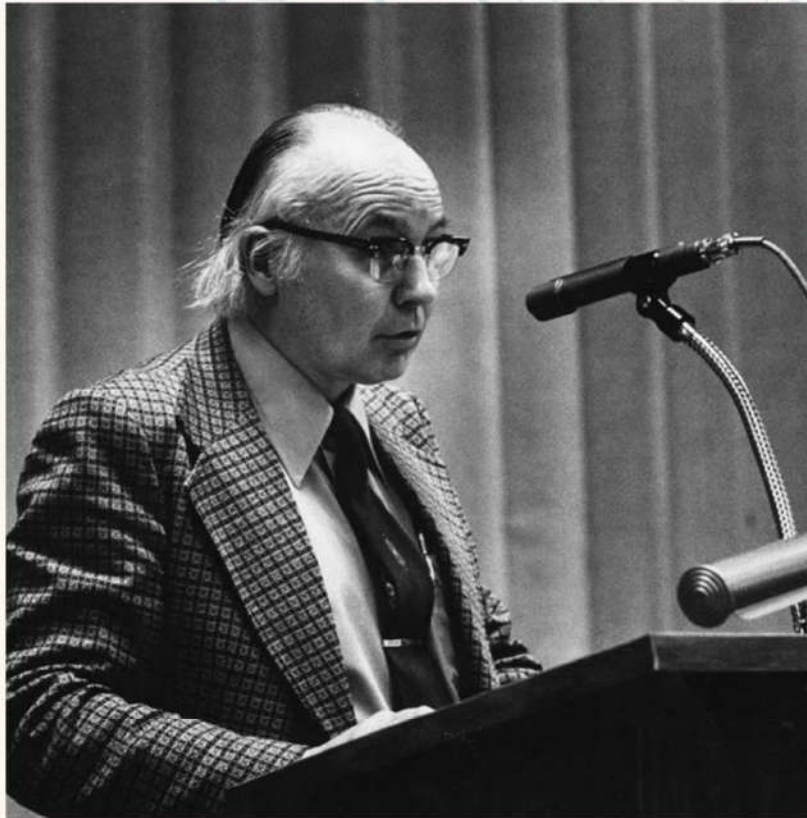
The BWCA is 1.2 million acres, and 20% of it is fresh water!

Every year 250,000 people visit the Boundary Waters.





THE HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS



imated at 1,000 packed the parking lot in
per 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 ti

THE FIGHT WAS LED BY ORDINARY CITIZENS



WILDERNESS.

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

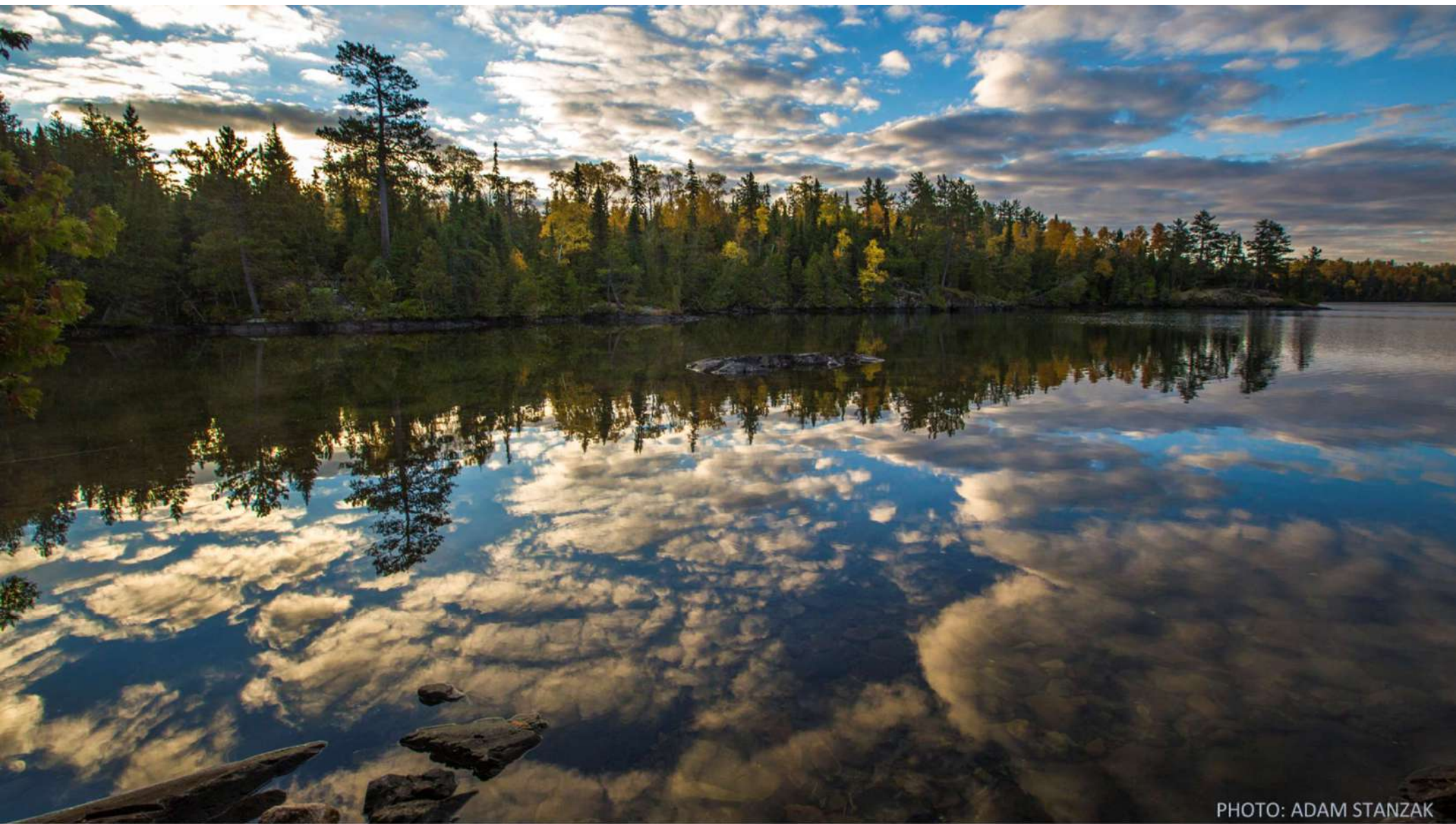


PHOTO: ADAM STANZAK



PHOTO: NO BOUNDARIES TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS



PHOTO: KATIE PECK



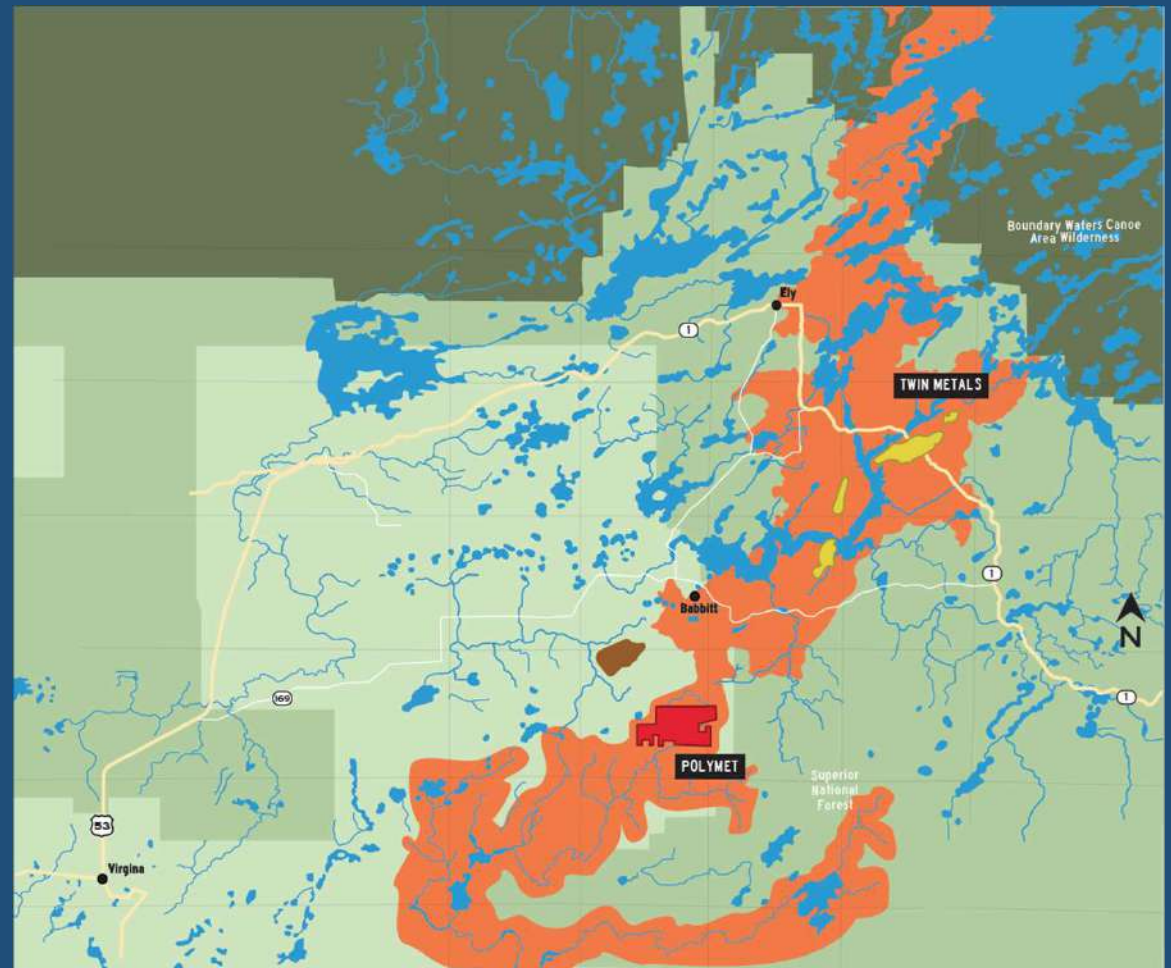
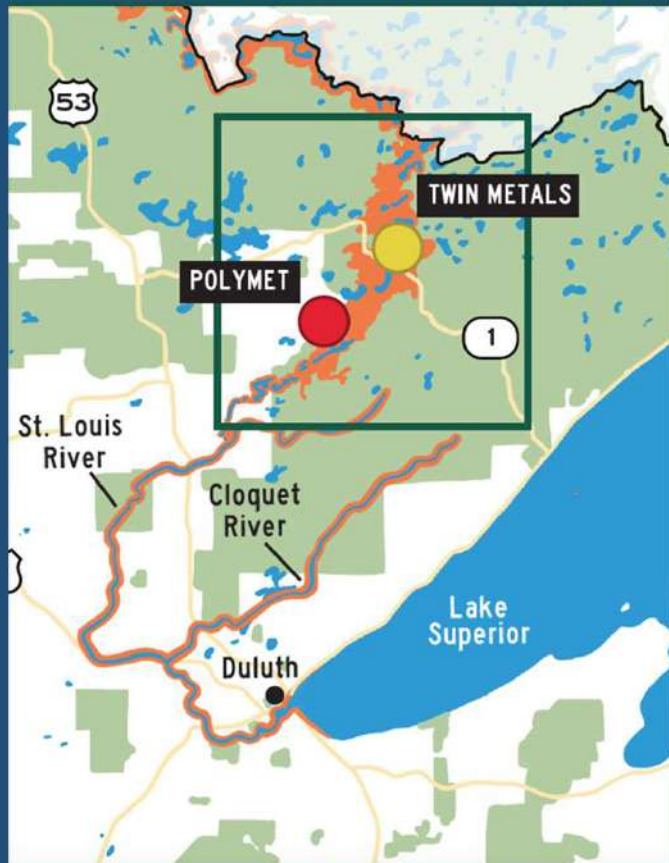
The Problem: the BWCA is Highly Sensitive to Water Pollution

BWCA Sensitivity to Pollution

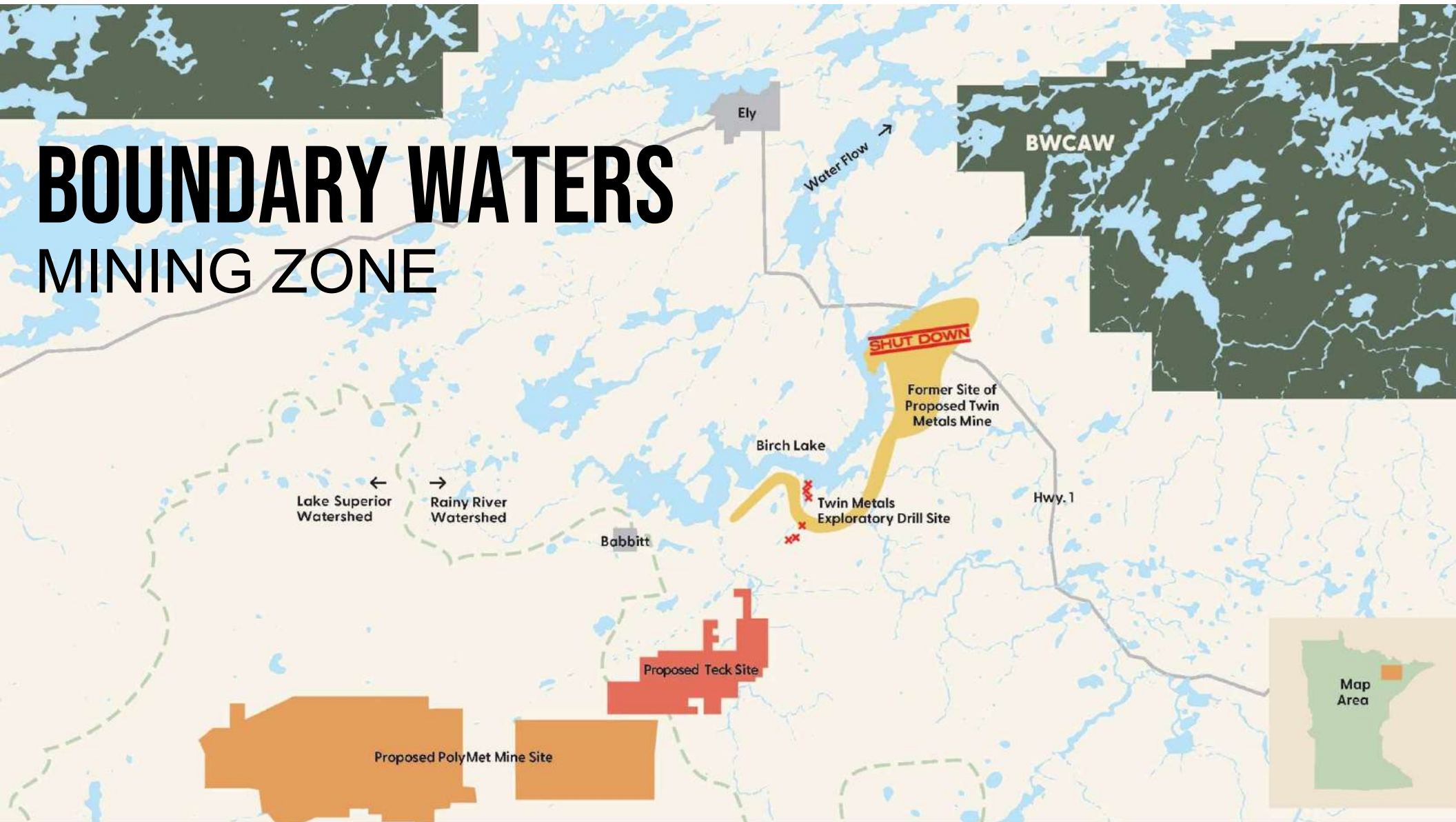
- Glaciers exposed bedrock, leaving few glacial deposits.
- Limited aquifers result in faster movement of polluted water to streams and lakes.
- Low acid buffering capacity due to lack of carbonate minerals.
- Streams and lakes are “soft water” with low alkalinity, reducing the ability to neutralize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



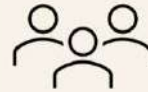
LEGISLATION

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

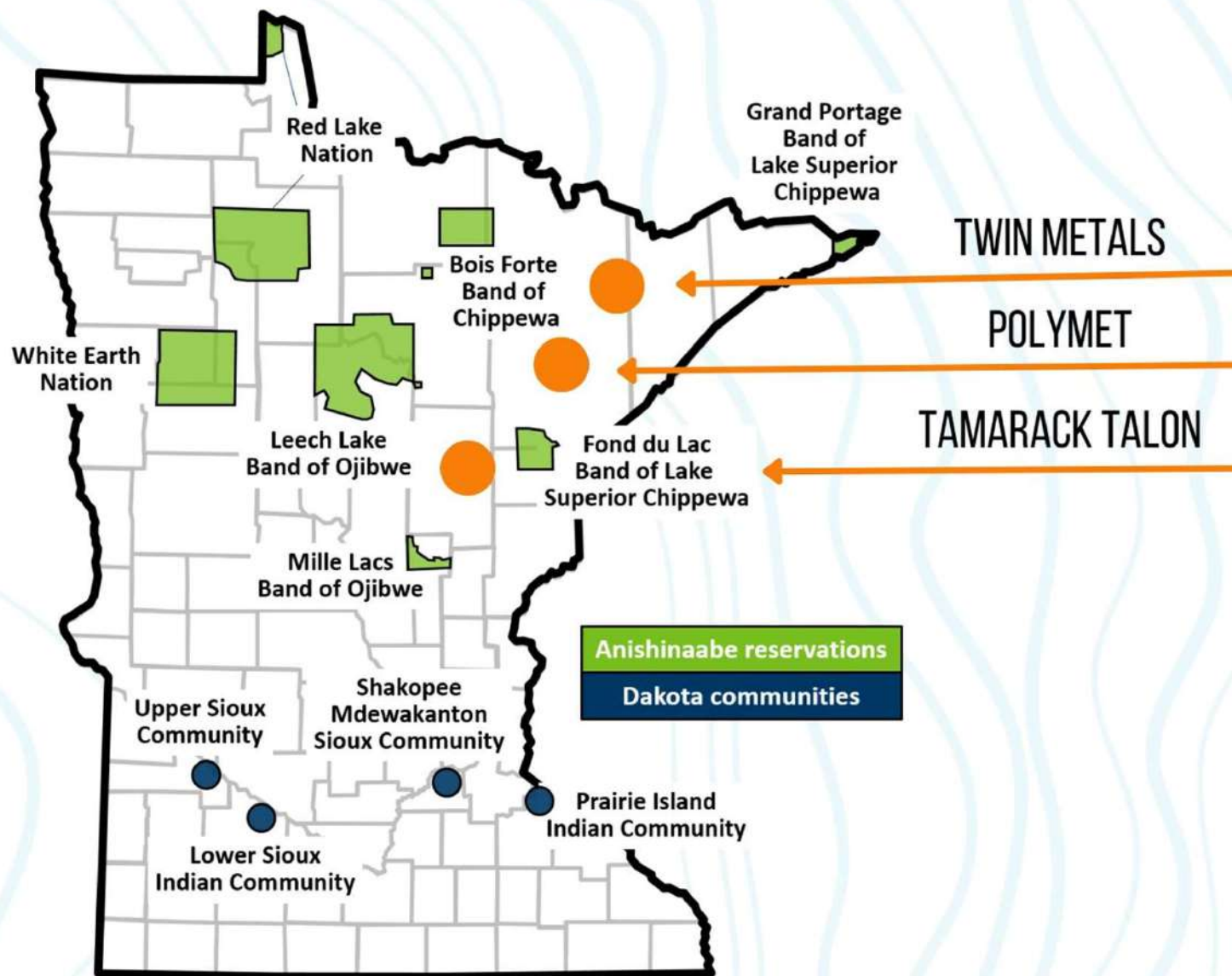
- Established the International Joint Commission, which manages transnational issues involving water along the U.S.-Canada Border
- Article IV of the Treaty provides that the “boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property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



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!**

A scenic landscape photograph showing a rocky shoreline on the left, covered with dense evergreen trees. The rocks are light-colored with some reddish-brown patches. The water is calm and reflects the sky and trees. The sky is a clear, pale blue. In the distance, more forested land is visible across the water.

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

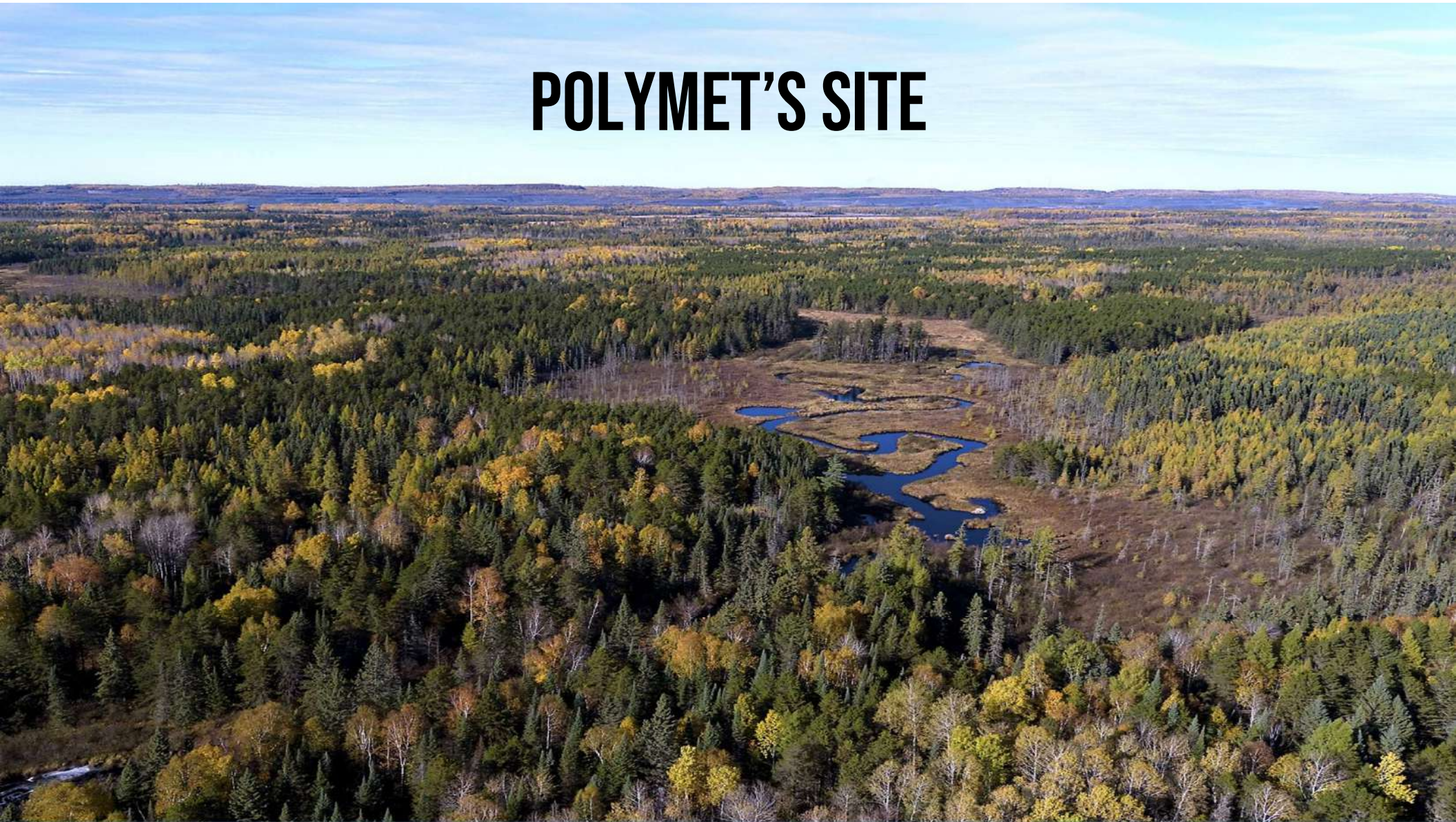


- INTRODUCED BY U.S. SEN. TINA SMITH (D-MN)
- “BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS PERMANENT PROTECTION ACT”



**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

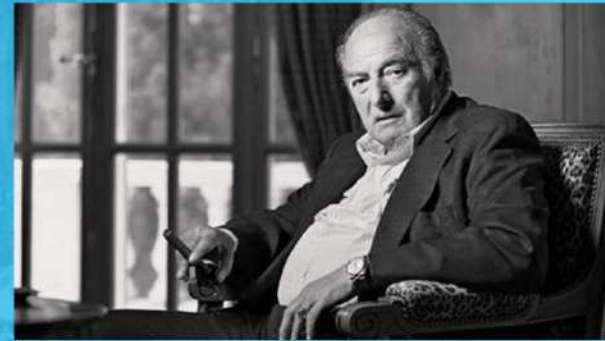
An aerial photograph of a winter forest with snow-covered ground and trees. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

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
Guade



Senator
Ann Rest



Senator
Bonnie Westlin



Senator
Melissa Wiklund



Senator
Tou Xiong

PROVE IT FIRST SUPPORTERS MINNESOTA HOUSE



Representative
Patty Acomb



Representative
Esther Agboje



Representative
Kristin Bahner



Representative
Kaela Berg



Representative
Robert Berman



Representative
Ethan Cho



Representative
Mary Frances
Clardy



Representative
Nathan Coulter



Representative
Brian Curran



Representative
Alex Falconer



Representative
Leigh Fiske



Representative
Sandra Feist



Representative
Peter Fischer



Representative
Cedrick Frazier



Representative
Mike Freiberg



Representative
Aisha Gomez



Representative
Jess Hanson



Representative
Amanda
Hemmingsen-
Joeger



Representative
Keshly Her



Representative
Kim Hicks



Representative
Huddah Hilsley



Representative
Athena Hollins



Representative
Michael Howard



Representative
Samakab
Hussein



Representative
Maria Iva Pérez-
Vega



Representative
Sydney Jordan



Representative
Heather Kaefer



Representative
Carla Kalyta-
Wituhn



Representative
Alicia Kozlowski



Representative
Fui Lee



Representative
Liz Lee



Representative
Tera Liebking



Representative
Leon Liba



Representative
Jamie Long



Representative
Anquah
Mahmoud



Representative
Kelly Muller



Representative
Muhamud Noor



Representative
Matt Norris



Representative
Krist Purcell



Representative
Lucy Rahm



Representative
Kari Rahauer



Representative
Liz Rayer



Representative
Samantha
Sencer Mura



Representative
Andy Smith



Representative
Samantha Wang



Representative
Bianca Yung



Representative
Jay Xiang

CLEAN WATER COALITION



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

