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## **Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10am CT**

**TOPIC: Protecting Minnesota's Water and the BWCA from Sulfide Mining**

**PRESENTER: Steve Schultz, Government Relations Director, Friends of the Boundary Waters**

This presentation will be an overview of Friends of the Boundary Waters work in Minnesota, the threat of copper nickel sulfide mining to clean water in Minnesota, how we are addressing those threats at the State and U.S. Capitols, and how people can get involved with our work.

As Government Relations Director, Steve brings more than 25 years of experience working in politics including lobbying at the capitol, volunteering for campaigns, and organizing people and communities to protect our water. When not at the capitol, or plotting with coworkers on how to win on our campaigns, he is probably in his garden or at the lake enjoying the outdoors on his kayak or sitting on the beach. He also enjoys camping, hiking, running, biking, disc golfing and Minnesota Twins baseball and Green Bay Packers football.

**Register for the meeting and receive the Zoom link [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16).**

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16>).

### **SUPPORT FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS - Save the dates**

- **Duluth Legislative Kickoff - Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, 4-6pm** -Dovetail Market & Cafe, 917 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN. Join Friends of the BWCA to write letters to elected legislators especially if you are unable to attend the Boundary Waters Day at the Capitol. Craft, mingle, listen to speakers.
- **Boundary Waters Day at the Capitol- Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9-3pm**

### **TWO WAYS TO DONATE TO TAMARACK WATER ALLIANCE**

- **You can donate on our website anytime at [tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html).**
- **OR make tax deductible contributions by donating through our 501c3 Fiscal Sponsor at the [Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation](#).** For Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from an IRA, the EIN for the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation is 41-1761590, Tamarack Water Alliance Fund.

We invite your donations now and throughout the year. Tamarack Water Alliance is all volunteer Minnesota non-profit with no paid staff. Every penny you donate goes to support our hard work educating the public about the risks of sulfide mining to our water, environment, fish, wild rice, and ecosystems.

Your donation goes to support our community educational activities which include tabling at community festivals and parades, participation in other community events, targeted speaking engagements with interested local organizations, monthly informational public zoom calls and an associated email newsletter, website and social media, letter writing campaigns and articles in local news outlets, interviews with media, and other community outreach and canvassing.

Our current focus is on providing education about the risks of sulfide mining, narratives to counter the greenwashing and divisiveness that some mining companies promote, as well as forging connections to other communities concerned about sulfide mines in Minnesota, across the Midwest, and around the world. Thank you for your contributions to our work.

**REQUEST Presentation On Risks of Sulfide Mining** for your group, Rotary Club, church or community club. Send us an email at [waters@tamarackwateralliance.org](mailto:waters@tamarackwateralliance.org).

**DOWNLOAD Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers** [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers) (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers>).

**Sign-Up To Receive Updates from the DNR** on Talon Metals Environmental Impact Statement [here](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html) [here](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html) (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html>).

**Volunteer** with the Tamarack Water Alliance. Send us an email at [waters@tamarackwateralliance.org](mailto:waters@tamarackwateralliance.org).

**Sign Up For This Newsletter:** Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to sign up for the monthly Tamarack Water Alliance email newsletter at [tamarackwateralliance.org/php/articlereg.php](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/articlereg.php).

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## Friends of the Boundary Waters: Protecting Clean Water and the Boundary Waters



Photo credit Lynn Anderson

*Minnesota is the land of 10,000 Lakes; water is part of being a Minnesotan.* However, there is a huge threat to clean water: copper-nickel sulfide mining. The Trump administration is moving quickly to clear the path for toxic copper-nickel sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters, Lake Superior, and the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. In the past year, a slew of executive orders, administrative attacks, and dangerous legislation threatened some of the cleanest water on the planet. But across the country millions of people stood up to these attacks. Our work in 2025 - lobbying legislators, educating the public, organizing supporters, and building a movement - stopped these attacks. But the fight is not over!

Friends of the Boundary Waters is working in our communities to educate and activate people who care about clean water and the BWCA. With you, we'll continue the fight for strong policies at the state and federal level.

**Friends of the Boundary Waters' Clean Water Coalition and Citizen Action Network**  
**The Clean Water Coalition** ([www.friends-bwca.org/cleanwater/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/cleanwater/)) is a network of local businesses, indigenous-led organizations, faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations, and individuals, committed to strengthening legal protections for our waters and defending the safeguards already in place to stop threats to our clean water. This group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1pm on Zoom.

**Our Citizen Action Network (CAN)** ([www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved/prove-it-first/citizen-action-network/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved/prove-it-first/citizen-action-network/)) is a group of dedicated supporters who meet twice a month on Wednesday evening, taking action to protect clean water and the Boundary Waters from toxic copper-nickel sulfide mining. From writing letters to the editor, calling electeds,

attending meetings, sharing on social media, there are so many ways to be involved. The CAN allows our supporters to put their love for clean water into action!

### **New Legislative Sessions, New Attacks**

Preparation has begun for a new session of Congress and the state legislative session beginning on February 17, 2026. Our legislative agenda at the state level includes advocating for **Prove It First, the Bad Actor Bill, Taxpayer Protection Act**, and a **bill to permanently protect the BWCA watershed from toxic sulfide mining**. Read more about these bills here: [www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved/take-legislative-action/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved/take-legislative-action/)

In anticipation of many attacks on clean water and wilderness this session in St. Paul and Washington D.C., we will ensure their protection by meeting with legislative leaders and activating our supporters.

### **Here's how we are putting our movement into action with your support!**

- **Legislative Session Kickoff Events** in the Twin Cities and Duluth  
As legislative session nears we will bring our supporters and legislators together to discuss our priorities for this legislative session to protect clean water and the BWCA:
  - Twin Cities: January 14, 2026, 6-8pm
  - Duluth: January 24, 2026, 4-6pm
- **Precinct Caucuses** ([www.friends-bwca.org/blog/clean-water-delegate-2026/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/blog/clean-water-delegate-2026/)) on **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**. The caucuses are the official beginning of the 2026 elections. We will organize Democrats and Republicans to bring ideas to protect clean water to their Precinct Caucuses. Our team will provide language for resolutions and train people on what to expect at their precinct caucuses:
  - January 15, 2026 - Friends' "How to Caucus Training and Discussion Session"
  - January 28, 2026 - Friends' "Clean Water Delegate & Message Advocate Training"
- **Boundary Waters Day at the Capitol** ([www.friends-bwca.org/event/boundary-waters-day-at-the-capitol-2026/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/event/boundary-waters-day-at-the-capitol-2026/)) on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026** from 9-3pm. Legislative leaders need to take a stand against foreign owned sulfide mining companies and protect clean water in Minnesota. We provide training and all the logistical support for our supporters so they can spend a day at the State Capitol learning about our policy priorities and how to lobby their elected officials. Supporters will meet with their legislators and rally for clean water in the Capitol Rotunda.
- **Sulfide Mining Hearing** ([www.friends-bwca.org/event/a-hearing-on-the-boundary-waters/](http://www.friends-bwca.org/event/a-hearing-on-the-boundary-waters/)) There has not been a legislative hearing on copper-nickel sulfide mining in over a decade. Last year we held our own public hearing. A complete recording of these powerful testimonies is available to watch ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-tENfG6VGE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-tENfG6VGE)). If we do not secure an official committee hearing this legislative session we will hold another like the one above to keep this issue in front of our elected officials, even if they don't want to talk about it! March date TBD.
- **Earth Day Rally at the State Capitol** - We'll bring together environmental organizations and concerned people working on many different issues to make sure we have clean air and water, and healthy communities.

*Minnesota is the land of sky-blue waters, the land of 10,000 lakes.* It's a place that is famous throughout the country for its lakes and rivers. But the water that makes the state so famous is under threat. Proposed copper-nickel sulfide mines, from the edge of the Boundary Waters to the headwaters of the Mississippi, put our water in danger. Friends will continue to fight to protect all our water in Minnesota from copper-nickel sulfide mining.

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Photo credit Bob Karls, Historic Gould Mine, AR, nothing grows in the orange mountain side located in the Saguaro National Park with the acid mine drainage still present after 100 years.

## **Columbia Declares Itself the First Nation in the Amazon with its Entire Forest Free of Oil and Mining Activities**

### ***A call for an 'Amazon alliance for life.'***

"...In a historic gesture announced at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), Colombia became the first Amazonian nation to make its entire Amazon biome off-limits to oil and large-scale mining.."

"...The decision creates an unprecedented barrier to new mineral and oil extraction fronts, covering more than 48 million hectares—representing approximately 42% of Colombia's continental territory and 7% of the South American Amazon..."

"...During the session, Vélez Torres invited ACTO ministers to build an Amazon alliance for life, proposing coordinated efforts in biodiversity, climate, water, and strategies to fight environmental crime..."

"... protecting the Amazon does not hinder development: "The forest is one. The rivers have no borders, and neither does life. Caring for the Amazon is not an economic sacrifice—it's an ethical and scientific choice, a wager on the future of the region and of humanity..."

Bispo, Fabio, November 13, 2025, InfoAmazonia

<https://infoamazonia.org/en/2025/11/13/colombia-declares-itself-the-first-nation-in-the-amazon-with-its-entire-forest-free-from-oil-and-mining-activities/>

### **Pilot study: Minnesota's E-waste is Worth \$2.8 billion Each Year, but Most Isn't Captured**

"..There's metals in our electronics. Really, really valuable, high-demand metals that are in our electronics that can be recycled and reused," said Jensen, an environmental health and safety coordinato at Repowered..."

"...The study used peer-reviewed research, reports and local data on e-waste to look at 62 different elements. ...The study found that the projected job creation — if 100% of e-waste in Minnesota were to be captured — is 1,738 direct jobs and a total of 3,345 new jobs..."

"These are jobs that they won't go away once the mine closes because the mine isn't going to close. Our electronics waste stream is growing every year," Jensen said.

Wigdahl, Heidi, May 2, 2023, KARE 11 Extra

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/kare11-extras/pilot-study-minnesotas-e-waste-worth-28-billion-each-year-but-most-isnt-captured/89-10c9cf1e-610f-4773-9009-d73eed2e5a48>

### **TEDx Silver Falls YouTube Video "Taking the Lead in E-Mining"**

Jensen, Maria, and Riffel, Marlise, Jan. 2025, TEDx Silver Falls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4V5ZIAHEwQ>

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## **Who We Are**

Tamarack Water Alliance is a group of local residents and landowners working together with others from across Minnesota to protect water and community health from the dangers of sulfide mining near our beloved lakes and wild rice beds, at the headwaters of the Kettle River and in the Mississippi River watershed. Visit our website [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html) (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html>).

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company, Talon Metals/Rio Tinto to mine nickel and other metals near Tamarack in Aitkin County threatens the health of our communities. This kind of sulfide mining, especially in water-rich environments, has never been done without severe impacts to water and the health of those downstream. Mining here is also a threat to environmental justice and the long-term economic security of nearby native and rural communities.

Review our [community slide presentation](#)

([tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf)) and download [informative flyers](#) ([tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html)):

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,
- Talon Dumping Toxic Drilling Waste,
- Minnesota Declares Round Lake Impaired
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,
- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,

- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Difference Between High Sulfide Mining and Taconite Mining,
- Minnesota Regulators Poor Record In Protecting The Environment,
- Eagle Mine Environmental Report & Saving Our Meager Nickel Reserves
- Is There Really A Talon Tesla Supply Agreement? (no)
- Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption
- Green Bridge Metals -Canadian proposed sulfide mine near Duluth seeks to acquire battery rich mineral assets
- Copper and The Green Economy
- Prove It First!

We will send this monthly newsletter to keep you informed about this project, to share information and opportunities to act to protect clean water and community health.

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