



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10am CT

TOPIC: Defending Wild Rice and Our Collective Futures

PRESENTER: Leanna Goose, Rise & Repair Alliance Organizer

This presentation will focus on defending the sulfate standard and the reactive mine waste rule, the bedrock environmental protections for freshwater and manoomin (wild rice), within our state through positive advocacy at the Minnesota Capitol. Leanna will explain the work the Rise and Repair Alliance is advancing to keep the legislature focused on creating stronger protections rather than stripping away current protections. She will share ways that the public can get involved and stand together to protect wild rice, freshwater, and life within our state; like humans, manoomin requires clean water to thrive.

Leanna is an Anishinaabe mother, a researcher, and an organizer. Her work focuses on protecting water and wild rice for the next generations. Her work within the Rise and Repair Alliance space involves organizing with organizations and community groups to advance our state towards climate justice while protecting Indigenous rights.

Register for the meeting and receive the Zoom link

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

Action Required

SIGN TALON METALS DRILLING PETITION FOR EAW BY JAN. 26, 2026

Sign Talon Metals Drilling Petition for EAW

(secure.everyaction.com/bU0MR5a-VkS30EJJLA9LA2)

Hold Talon accountable and protect clean water. Please sign the petition referenced above to help us gather 100 signatures by Monday, Jan. 26, 2026. The rules have changed so only people who live or own property in Aitkin, Carlton or adjoining counties (Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, St. Louis) can be counted for the petition. We are depending on you to protect your neighbors and downstream communities.

Background Information - Talon Metals/Kennecott/Rio Tinto Exploratory Drilling

- Talon and Kennecott/Rio Tinto, have drilled more than 550 borings in Minnesota's Tamarack area to prospect for nickel and other sulfide ore metals.
- Some of these borings have been drilled deeper than 5,000 feet, and have encroached upon private drinking water wells, wild rice beds, Wildlife Management Areas, and MBS Sites of High Biological Diversity. Many borings have been made in open water, tamarack bogs, and wetlands.

- Despite a quarter century of drilling, destruction, and pollution, there has been no environmental review, public participation, or mitigation to protect wetlands and waters in the Mississippi River and St. Croix River watersheds from Talon/Rio Tinto sulfide mine drilling.

Other Events

RISE & REPAIR RALLY February 17, 2026 10:30-12:30 State Capitol Rotunda. RSVP [here](http://www.riseandrepair.org/rally) (www.riseandrepair.org/rally). Lobby day will be held in March, TBD. Stay in touch!

FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS DAY AT THE CAPITOL Feb. 25, 2026 9-3pm

Get Involved

- You can donate on our website anytime at 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.

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.

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.

Protecting Water and Wild Rice: What Sustains Life Here in Minnesota

by Leanna Goose, Rise & Repair Alliance Organizer



Photo credit Lynn Anderson

The Rise and Repair Alliance is committed to advancing climate justice while protecting Indigenous rights across Minnesota. Protecting Indigenous rights and bringing Indigenous wisdom into today's world is a powerful climate solution.

Indigenous peoples hold a sacred connection to the land, a relationship that helps sustain the web of life as we know it. According to the World Economic Forum, "Indigenous people make up 5% of the global population, yet they help protect 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity." Protecting Indigenous rights means protecting life on our planet.

The Rise and Repair Alliance works in partnership with organizations and community groups to drive meaningful change at the state level. Some of our Alliance priorities this year include advancing 100% electronic waste recycling; expanding climate justice education; supporting land return to Tribal Nations; advancing the Prove It First, Bad Actor Bill, and Taxpayer Protections Act; strengthening consumer demand forecasting; and

working toward strong ratepayer protections. As well as advocating for protections for pipestone, a place that is central to Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island.

We advocate for a just transition away from fossil fuels by promoting distributed solar and virtual power plants, while also calling for instant permitting of rooftop solar. At the same time, we are holding the line against false solutions to the climate crisis, including nuclear energy and large-scale hydro.

The Rise and Repair Alliance helps Minnesotans stand together to protect our waters and lifeways by pushing back against harmful large-scale data center expansion while also defending the sulfate standard and the reactive mine waste rule. Our work also includes supporting our allies through timely calls to action and sharing insider information as it happens, helping community members stay informed and engaged.

At the heart of our work is showing up together to bring forward stronger protections for water and wild rice within our state. Last year as an alliance we were able to move forward the Wild Rice Act or Ganwendan Manoomin (Anishinaabe), Psin Kin Yanka (Dakota), which would have created stronger protections for our state grain. In 2025 the wild rice protection language was stripped from the environmental omnibus along with all of the policies that came forward that year, so the good work continues this year.

Wild rice, or Manoomin, is central to Anishinaabe cultures and lifeways. It is more than a food source—it is a central part of who we are as a people. Our migration story tells of a journey to the place where "food grows on water," explaining our deep and enduring connection to the lakes and rivers of Minnesota. Guided by prophecy, our ancestors walked from the East Coast by the Atlantic Ocean to the land of 10,000 lakes, a journey made with purpose and intention. Our people are meant to be here. Our presence carries an inherent responsibility: to protect the water and to safeguard Manoomin for future generations.

At this moment, we are witnessing extractive industries pushing hard to uncover what lies beneath the surface in Northern Minnesota. We often hear people say, "We can't be like, oh, not in my backyard."

I want to remind people that this is no one's backyard. These areas in Northern Minnesota, where dangerous copper-nickel-sulfide mines are being proposed, are the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, and they cannot become sacrifice zones.

We must hold strong, hold the line, and work together to create positive change. It will take all of us working together in coordination to protect future generations and ensure that the waters we love remain clean enough to sustain life. I encourage everyone who loves our waters here in Minnesota to get involved with the Rise and Repair Alliance to push for changing our systems through Indigenous Wisdom. There are many places to get involved. You can sign up to learn more and get action alerts and the newsletters [here](https://riseandrepair-mnipl.nationbuilder.com/subscribe) (riseandrepair-mnipl.nationbuilder.com/subscribe)



BWCA, Lynn Anderson

U.S. Rep. McCollum Statement on Passage of House Republicans' Legislation to Remove Boundary Waters Protections

"... One hundred percent of copper mines have failed, leading to polluted waters..."

"Antofagasta/Twin Metals, a Chilean mining company, has been lobbying to remove the protections from this watershed and renew their mine plans to extract American minerals. They have contracts to ship the ore they extract to China to be smelted and sold on the global market. This resolution does nothing to help bolster our domestic supply of critical minerals."

"This bill now goes to the Senate. Should the Senate Republican majority take up and pass this resolution, it will overturn protections that are rooted in scientific evidence and strong public support."

"I will continue to fight to stop this resolution and to pass the Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act, my legislation to permanently protect the BWCA."

McCullom, Betty, January 21, 2025, Press Release

<https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/us-rep-mccollum-statement-passage-house-republicans-legislation-remove/>

Boundary Waters Mine Vote Highlights Ryan Zinke's Hypocrisy on Public Lands

"Montana Congressperson whipping votes in support of toxic mine that threatens nation's

most popular Wilderness"

"...That acid mine drainage will occur underground even if it's not visible from the surface, and will create a "perpetual pollution" source that will continue for centuries. When that reaches the Boundary waters, it will render the area's water unsafe to drink. Longterm exposure to water polluted with sulfuric acid is so bad it can rot the teeth right of your mouth. Sulfuric acid also lowers the pH of the water sources it enters, and that then damages the gills of fish causing respiratory failure. The toxic aluminum it will leach from soil will disrupt fish reproduction, and reduce their food sources, which will likely lead to population collapse. ..."

"A 2018 study found, "The many streams, wetlands, lakes, and aquifers downstream of the proposed mine sites are massively interconnected. Consequently, contamination would be widespread, and damage from an accident would be uncontrollable..."

"...If we lose the nation's most popular Wilderness area to sulfuric acid pollution, part of the reason for that is because two popular hunting influencers helped the most corrupt politician in Congress rehabilitate his image with both voters and within his own caucus. And by failing to call Zinke out for this, or attach blame for it to him, Callaghan and Rinella are empowering Zinke to cause even more harm in the future..."

Seiler, Wes, Jan. 21, 2026, Wes Siler's Newsletter, Substack
<https://wessiler.substack.com/p/boundary-waters-mine-vote-highlights>
<https://wessiler.substack.com/p/boundary-waters-mine-vote-highlights>

House Votes To Strip Critical Boundary Waters Protections in a Blow To Sportsmen and Public Lands

"...By voting to pave the way for the mine, Zinke is betraying sportsmen and public-land users, says Land Tawney, co-chair of American Hunters and Anglers."

"...You can't be a part-time lover of public lands and call yourself a champion," he says..."

..."He and others say the Senate could still refuse to back the measure. The Senate parliamentarian could also rule that the House resolution and related maneuvers were against Congressional rules. If it does move forward and is approved by the Senate, the mine will still require approval at the state level."

Petersen, Christine, January 21, 2026, Outdoor Life
<https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/house-resolution-stripping-boundary-waters-protections/>
<https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/house-resolution-stripping-boundary-waters-protections/>

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