

Timeline

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters

- 1909** President Theodore Roosevelt establishes the **Superior National Forest**.
- 1926** Directive for **wilderness management** issued.
- 1964** President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the **Wilderness Act**, which sets aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands, including one million acres of the Boundary Waters.
- 1976** State bans mining on state lands within the Boundary Waters.
- 1978** The **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act** bans mining in the Boundary Waters and on 220,000 acres in the Boundary Waters watershed.
- 1996** Ely-area residents found wilderness advocacy group Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness to protect the Boundary Waters and other wild places.
- 2011** **Twin Metals Minnesota** begins feasibility study on mining on the wilderness edge of the Boundary Waters.
- 2013** **Sustainable Ely**, an education center in Ely's business district, opens to promote clean water, the area's sustainable economy and to educate residents about the risks facing the Boundary Waters.

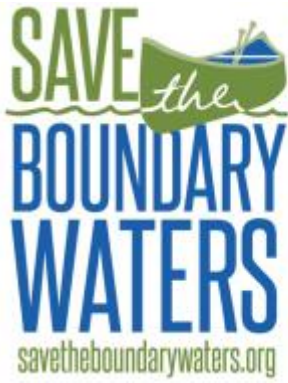
The **Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters** launches to gain permanent protection for the watershed of the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining operations.

- 2014** Approximately 10 billion liters of wastewater and 5 billion liters of solid tailings waste escapes the impoundment at Imperial Metals' [Mount Polley](#) mine in the interior of British Columbia.

Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters celebrates the **50th anniversary** of Wilderness Act.

Dave and Amy Freeman paddle and sail from Ely to Washington, D.C. on [Paddle to DC](#), an adventure advocacy canoe journey to raise awareness about the Campaign.





2015 Antofagasta, a Chilean mining conglomerate, completes purchase of Twin Metals Minnesota.

The **Bike Tour to Save the Boundary Waters**, a ride across Minnesota from Winona to Ely, runs from April 2 to May 10.

In August, 3 million gallons of mine waste water, heavy metals including lead, and toxins such as arsenic, [spilled](#) from the **Gold King Mine in Colorado**, polluting the Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

Explorers Dave and Amy Freeman embark on [A Year in the Wilderness](#), traveling 3,000 miles by canoe and dog team, in support of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

2016 Dave and Amy Freeman return from **A Year in the Wilderness**.

A comment period runs from June through July in which the Campaign and its partners collected over 74,000 signatures in support of protecting the Boundary Waters Wilderness from the dangers of sulfide-ore copper mining.

In December, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages federal minerals on the Superior National Forest, [informed Twin Metals that the company's request for renewal of the mineral leases was denied.](#)

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior (parent agencies to the Forest Service and BLM) [announced](#) they would ban any new mineral leases or mineral exploration on 234,328 acres of land around the Boundary Waters for two years, to study the Boundary Waters watershed and determine whether it is the wrong place for sulfide-ore copper mining

2017 In January, the [Forest Service announced](#) the beginning of a comment period lasting until Aug. 11, to determine the scope of the environmental review.

