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Boundary Waters makes list of 15 wild areas at high risk of development for oil, gas and other resources

New report shines spotlight on important wild lands that must be protected

Ely, MN—A [new report](#) released today by The Wilderness Society raises the alarm about the Boundary Waters Wilderness and other wild lands across the U.S. threatened by extractive industries eager to exploit the resources on or underneath them, including oil, gas and copper.

‘[Too Wild To Drill](#)’ identifies 15 unique places found on public lands that are at high risk of drilling, mining and other development—and the damage and destruction that inevitably follow. These lands provide Americans with important benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, sacred sites, jobs and other socioeconomic benefits.

“This report is another reminder of the serious threat sulfide-ore copper mining poses to the Boundary Waters,” said Doug Niemela, national campaign manager for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. “Sulfide-ore copper mining could cause irreparable harm to the Wilderness, taking away the Boundary Water’s significant benefits to the Arrowhead region’s ecology, economy, human health and access to world-class hunting and fishing opportunities. It must be protected.”

Mineral development can damage landscapes, often permanently. Impacts resulting from infrastructure like well pads, industrial mine pits, roads, fences and pipelines include air and water pollution from haze, spills, acid mine drainage, as well as phenomena like industrial traffic, gas flares and other light pollution, and loud noise that can disrupt communities and wildlife.

“Some places are simply too wild to drill or mine,” said Drew McConville of The Wilderness Society. “Instead of caving to pressure from mining companies and other special interests, our government should listen to the public and preserve our last remaining wild places.”

According to the report, the Boundary Waters is facing a range of development threats, including proposed sulfide-ore copper mines on the edge of the Wilderness. This type of mining has never been done without polluting and science shows that if allowed it could cause irreparable harm to the Boundary Waters.

The Wilderness Society issues a new version of 'Too Wild To Drill' every few years to call attention to vulnerable places on public lands. In this edition, places highlighted include the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most remote and wild places left in the world.

“Once these special places are gone, we can never get them back,” Drew McConville said. “People need to speak up now to protect our most special lands and waters for future generations before it’s too late.”

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The Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters is a broad coalition of more than 35 partner organizations, including conservation, sportsmen and veteran’s groups. The Campaign is also supported by more than 250 local and national businesses. The Campaign is led by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, which is based in Ely, Minnesota. For more information, visit: SavetheBoundaryWaters.org.