



BWCAW Rules and Regulations

TRAVEL PERMITS

- ▶ You must enter the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) at the entry point and on the date shown on your permit.
- ▶ You may not enter/re-enter at a different point or date using this permit.
- ▶ Permit and stubs become invalid when the trip leader exits the wilderness.

GROUP SIZE

- ▶ Nine (9) people and four (4) watercraft are the maximum amount allowed gathered together in the wilderness.
- ▶ You may not exceed this limit at any time or anywhere (on water, portages, or campsites) in the BWCAW.
- ▶ Smaller groups increase the wilderness experience of you, those traveling around you, and decrease the impacts made on nature.

TOILET FACILITIES AND WATER QUALITY

- ▶ Use latrines at designated campsites.
- ▶ Latrines are not garbage cans and should be used for the intended purpose only. Everything else you pack in should be packed out and never put down the latrines.
- ▶ If you are not near a latrine, dig a small hole 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 150 feet or more back from the water's edge. Fill the hole and cover with needles and leaves when finished.
- ▶ Bathe and wash dishes at least 150 feet away from water sources (rivers, lakes, streams, marshes).
- ▶ All soaps pollute water, including soap marked as "biodegradable".

CONTAINERS

- ▶ Cans and glass bottles are not allowed.
- ▶ Fuel, insect repellent, medicines, personal toilet articles, and items other than food and beverages may be kept in their original containers.
- ▶ Food may be packaged into plastic containers which must be packed out at the end of the trip.

FISH REMAINS AND FOOD

- ▶ Dispose of fish remains by traveling well away from shorelines, campsites, trails, and portages.
- ▶ Pack out live bait and other food leftovers at the end of the trip.

CAMPFIRES

- ▶ Fires are allowed within the steel fire grates at designated campsites unless campfire restrictions are in place.
- ▶ If there are restrictions you may be required to use a camp stove.
- ▶ Small camp stove may be a better idea as it heats food quickly, has less impact than a fire, and comes in handy during rainy weather.
- ▶ When making a fire only use dead wood found lying on the ground; collect it away from campsites, portages, and shorelines to prevent enlarging and defacing these areas.
- ▶ Don't bring wood from home or out of state.
- ▶ It is illegal to cut live vegetation for any reason.
- ▶ Drown your fire with water anytime you are going to be away from camp or at bedtime. Stir the ashes until they are cold to touch with a bare hand.
- ▶ It is also illegal to burn trash, make sure it is packed out with you.

CAMPSITES

- ▶ Camp only at Forest Service designated campsites that have steel fire grates and wilderness latrines.
- ▶ You may camp up to fourteen (14) consecutive days on a specific site.
- ▶ All members of a permit group must camp together at one site.
- ▶ After you break camp check to make sure everything is packed up and your campsite is clear of litter.

STORING WATERCRAFT

- ▶ Only watercraft and equipment used in connection with your current visit may be stored and left unattended, until you leave the BWCAW.
- ▶ All equipment and personal property must be carried out with you at the end of your trip.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- ▶ Leave archaeological, historical, and rock painting sites undisturbed.
- ▶ The use of metal detectors is prohibited in the Wilderness.

DOGS IN THE BWCAW

- ▶ Dogs impact wildlife and barking intrudes on the experience of others. So dogs must be in control at all times.
- ▶ Dispose of fecal matter 150 feet away from water sources, campsites, portages, or deposit in a latrine.

FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS

- ▶ Discharging a firearm is prohibited within 150 yards of a campsite, occupied area, and in a manner or location that places people and their property at risk or danger.
- ▶ State game laws apply in the BWCAW.
- ▶ Fireworks of any kind are illegal.

MOTOR-POWERED WATERCRAFT

- ▶ Motorized watercraft meeting specific horsepower limitations are allowed on designated routes and lakes only. **NO** other motorized or mechanical equipment (including pontoon boats, sailboats, ATV'S, sailboards, etc) is allowed.
- ▶ Motors may not be used or in possession on any paddle-only lake.
- ▶ Portage wheels or mechanical assistance are only permitted over the following areas: International Boundary, Four-Mile Portage, Fall-Newton-Pipestone and Back Bay Portages into Basswood Lake, Prairie Portage, and Vermilion-Trout Lake Portage.

-All of the above are enforceable United States Forest Service regulations.-

Remember to Leave No Trace while traveling through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in order to protect this special place for future generations.

