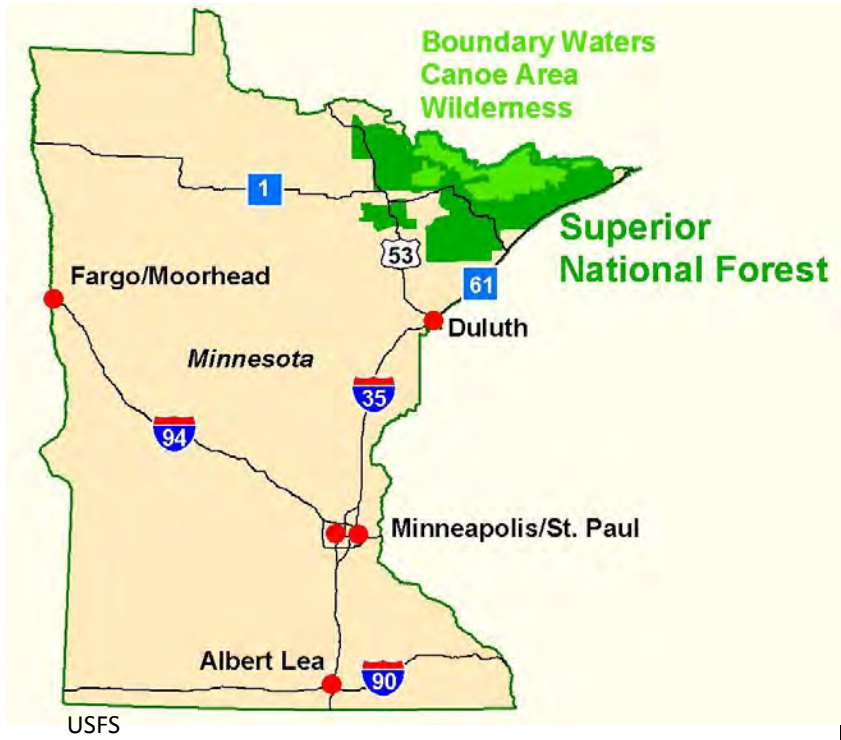


Fisheries Management in the BWCAW: An MOU Case Study

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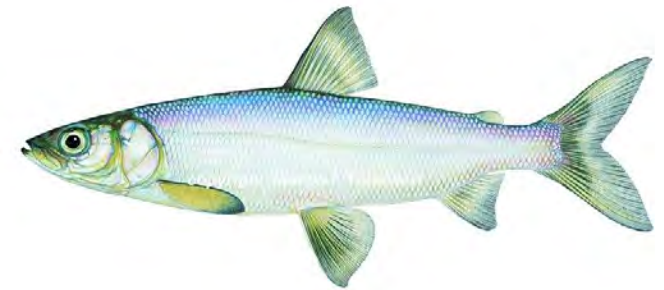
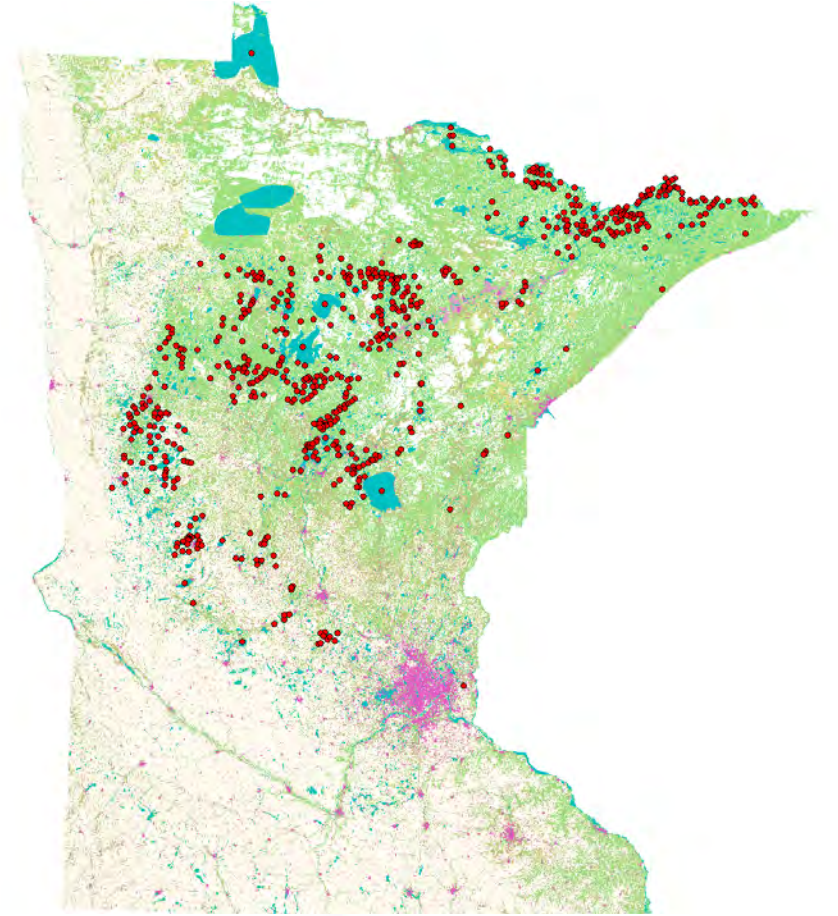
Fishing in BWCAW

- Fishing is a “major activity” in the BWCAW— “a big part of experiences there”; 77% of overnight visitors and 63% of day visitors fished (Dvorak et al. 2012).
- Trout anglers value wilderness fishing locations and fishing in a non-motorized setting (Schroeder 2014).



Coldwater Resources

- Highly sensitive coldwater fish such as lake trout, lake whitefish, and cisco are vulnerable to the effects of climate and land use change.
- Deep, clear lakes within the BWCAW will provide an important refuge from climate change for coldwater fish (Jiang et al. 2012).



Artwork courtesy of Joseph Tomelleri

Fisheries Management in BWCAW

Activities

- Assessments (1930s)
- Limited stocking (since 1908)
- Limited Spawn take



Brief History

- 1964** Congress passes the Wilderness Act; BWCA becomes part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, allows some logging and use of motors
- 1978** Congress enacts BWCA Wilderness Act, eliminating logging and snowmobiling, restricting mining, and reduced motor boats to a fourth of the water area.
- 1979-1982** Challenge to the BWCA Wilderness Act by the State of Minnesota and others upheld by 8th District Court; U.S. Supreme Court refused to review this opinion in 1982

1964 Wilderness Act

Preserve Wilderness character

- Untrammeled – free from modern human control or manipulation.
- Natural – ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization.
- Undeveloped – retaining primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.
- Solitude or Unconfined recreation – opportunities for solitude, free from signs of modern civilization.

1964 Wilderness Act

- Prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, landing of aircraft, and other forms of mechanical transport unless permitted by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

1978 BWCAW Act

- Provide for the protection and management of the fish and wildlife so as to enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the unique biotic resources.
- Protect and enhance the natural values and environmental quality of the lakes, streams, shorelines and associated forest area.



Wilderness Management and AFWA

- Fish management activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU are intended to emphasize the conservation of natural processes, to the greatest extent possible.
- Management activities will be guided by the principle of doing the minimum necessary to conserve and, if necessary, enhance fish resources in a manner consistent with the wilderness designation of the BWCAW.

MN DNR/USFS History

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1986 | AFWA agreement – fish and wildlife management in wilderness |
| 1988 | Master MOU between U.S. Forest Service and MN DNR “to work in harmony to protect and manage fish and wildlife habitat” |
| 2003 | Supplemental Agreements: protect and manage fish and wildlife populations and habitat in the BWCAW. |
| 2006 | AFWA agreement – fish and wildlife management in wilderness |
| 2008 | DNR and USFS quit talking |
| 2012 | DNR and USFS leadership direct staff to develop a new MOU |



The Path to Understanding

Facilitated Negotiation

People	Neutral MN DNR facilitator 10 staff members essential to management in the BWCAW
Process	1) Engagement of agency leadership 2) Mission and values 3) Interests-based negotiation 4) Identify broad agreement 5) Small work teams for technical, time-intensive issues 6) Department and Service review 7) Final agreement and cooperative meeting

Substance of the New MOU:

- **Preserves wilderness values**
- **Uses the MRDP**
- **Allows fisheries monitoring & mgt**
- **Considers employee safety**
- **Establishes understandable criteria**
- **Promotes understanding,
cooperation, communication**

Lessons Learned Along the Way: MN DNR

- **Need support from the top**
- **Set aside personalities**
- **Find common goals**
- **Own your mistakes**
- **Take corrective action (Carhart Wilderness Training)**
- **Own the “resource”**
- **Discover collaboration**

Lessons Learned Along the Way: USFS

- **Have upper level support**
- **Engage decision maker early and often**
- **Listen and ask questions**
- **Need to get into details**
- **Be open to different outcomes**
- **Knowledge of wilderness and AFWA**



MOU is Signed; Relationships Continue



