

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1366

To protect, for current and future generations, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and interconnected Federal land and waters, including Voyageurs National Park, within the Rainy River Watershed in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2025

Ms. SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To protect, for current and future generations, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and interconnected Federal land and waters, including Voyageurs National Park, within the Rainy River Watershed in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Boundary Waters Wil-
5 derness Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND AND**
2 **WATERS IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map at-
5 tached to Public Land Order No. 7917 (88 Fed.
6 Reg. 6308 (January 31, 2023)).

7 (2) BOUNDARY.—The term “Boundary” means
8 the boundary labeled “Withdrawal Application
9 Boundary” in the legend of the figure entitled
10 “Withdrawal application area” and identified as fig-
11 ure 1, as included in the environmental assessment
12 prepared by the Forest Service entitled “Rainy River
13 Withdrawal Environmental Assessment” and dated
14 June 2022.

15 (b) WITHDRAWAL.—Except as provided in subsection
16 (c), subject to valid existing rights, the approximately
17 225,504 acres of Federal land and waters in the Rainy
18 River Watershed of the Superior National Forest in the
19 State of Minnesota, as depicted on the Map (including any
20 land or waters or interest in land or waters that are ac-
21 quired by the United States after the date of enactment
22 of this Act within the Boundary), are withdrawn from—

23 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-
24 posal under the public land laws;

25 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
26 laws; and

1 (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral
2 materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

3 (c) REMOVAL OF SAND, GRAVEL, GRANITE, IRON
4 ORE, AND TACONITE.—The Chief of the Forest Service
5 may permit the removal of sand, gravel, granite, iron ore,
6 and taconite from National Forest System land within the
7 area withdrawn under subsection (b) if the Chief of the
8 Forest Service determines that the removal is not detri-
9 mental to the water quality, air quality, and health of the
10 forest habitat within the Rainy River Watershed.

11 (d) AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND FIGURE.—The Map
12 and the figure depicting the Boundary shall be kept on
13 file and made available for public inspection in the appro-
14 priate offices of the Forest Service and the Bureau of
15 Land Management.

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