

You are on your way to a world unto itself. Thousands of pristine lakes, ancient canoe routes, great fishing, clean air, abundant wildlife, absolute quiet, and peaceful solitude are yours to enjoy.

Wilderness has become an important part of our world. Even if we don't visit Wilderness, we like to know there are places where natural systems function without human influence and the complex web of life continues, uninterrupted, from ancient times to today. For those of us who do visit Wilderness, a sense of renewal, spiritual refreshment, and deep relaxation are our rewards. Solitude, peace, quiet, self reliance, and simplicity are the values we seek.

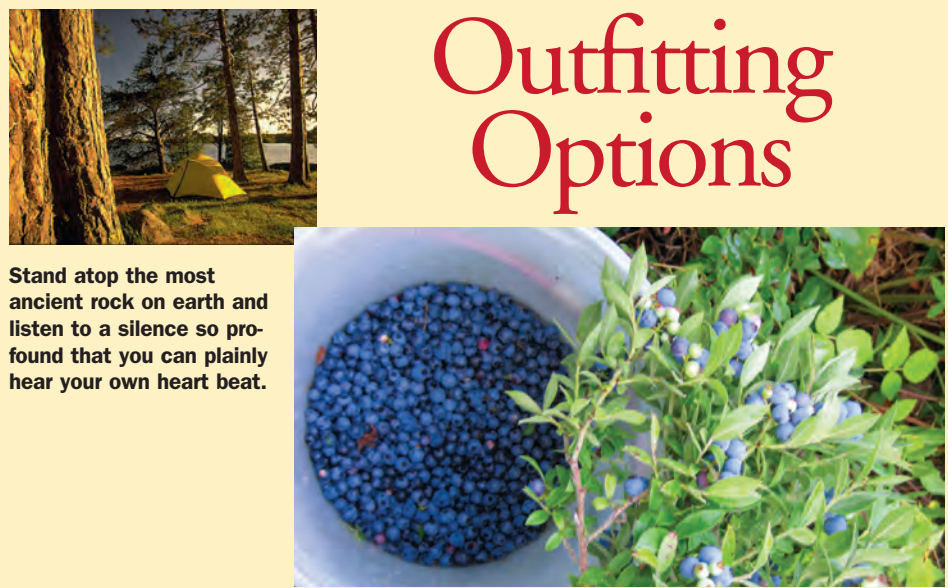
You are entering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

sixty years we have enjoyed helping people like you experience the Wilderness. Our own love of Wilderness makes it a pleasure to share our knowledge and experience with you.

We have the flexibility to provide you with whatever you need to make your canoe trip successful...



Paddle directly into the heart of the Boundary Waters Wilderness



Stand atop the most ancient rock on earth and listen to a silence so profound that you can plainly hear your own heart beat.

Our complete outfitting service provides you with everything you need for a successful and comfortable Wilderness canoe trip. It includes top of the line, ultra-light Kevlar canoes, modern, lightweight camping gear, and a wide selection of trail food.

Provides you with top of the line, ultra-light Kevlar canoes, modern, lightweight camping gear. Does not include food.

We pack all of your food according to your preferences. We pack a mixture of fresh and freeze dried foods, all ready to go in a duluth style pack. No cooking equipment included.

Have top of the line canoes and camping equipment for rent by the item. See our partial outfitting price list for details.

Can provide transportation to and from area airports and bus depots. Sawbill Outfitters is located at the Sawbill Lake entry point (38), and we provide shuttle service between other Wilderness entry points, including Kawishiwi Lake (37), Brule Lake (41), Baker Lake (39), Homer Lake (40) and Hog Creek (36).



Love of the Wilderness is the value that anchors our family to this lovely corner of the world. We enjoy nothing more than helping people learn to share in our abiding affection for the landscape.

We'll make it easy for you to travel and enjoy the B.W.C.A. Wilderness

OTHER SAWBILL SERVICES

THE SAWBILL STORE—BWCA Wilderness travelers are often surprised to find a unique general store nestled on the edge of the Wilderness at Sawbill Lake at the end of the scenic Sawbill Trail. In it, you can find everything you need for a Wilderness canoe trip and more. Camping accessories, bait, tackle, clothing, freeze dried trail food, drug store items, gifts, souvenirs, and almost anything else you can think of, are available.

SHOWERS—There's nothing quite like a hot shower at the end of a Wilderness canoe trip.

WILDERNESS PERMITS—Permits are required to travel in the BWCA Wilderness. You can contact the permit reservation office yourself, www.recreation.gov, or we can reserve a permit for you. We are an official U.S. Forest Service Cooperator, authorized to issue Wilderness permits and provide Wilderness user education.

SAWBILL LAKE NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUND—A 50 site National Forest Campground is adjacent to our facilities at Sawbill Lake. Many people utilize the campground on the night before and/or after their trip. Half of the campground is available for walk in stays on a first come first served basis while the other half may be reserved in advance at www.recreation.gov.

WE ENJOY HELPING YOU PLAN

Ask us about routing, wildlife, fishing, campsite selection, canoeing skills, Wilderness ethics, and more. We love to share our knowledge of the Wilderness with you. Let us know if you have any special needs such as physical challenges or dietary restrictions. We are happy to accommodate everyone.

The best way to choose a Wilderness canoe route is to sit down with an experienced person and discuss the options and your goals. At Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, we enjoy this process, and are more than happy to help you. Many people choose only the entry point of their trip in advance for the purpose of reserving a travel permit, and then decide on their actual route after arriving at Sawbill. Once you are in the Wilderness, you are free to modify your route at any time. Our route guide can help you with the planning process.

SUGGESTED ROUTES IN THE SAWBILL AREA

The following are some of the possible canoe trip routes that are available in the Sawbill area. They are intended to be used as a planning aid, not a detailed trail guide. Please feel free to modify, shorten, lengthen, or combine any of these routes to fulfill your own goals.

None of the maps or descriptions of the BWCA Wilderness are entirely accurate. A compass, two updated maps and a dose of common sense are needed for reliable navigation in the Wilderness. It is rare for canoeists to become seriously lost in the BWCA Wilderness, but even the most experienced travelers occasionally suffer temporary confusion.

It is your responsibility to educate yourself on Wilderness camping techniques and safety before you attempt a Wilderness canoe trip. You must rely on your own skills and common sense to have a safe and rewarding experience.

Enjoy your canoe trips—those taken with a map on the kitchen table and those taken with canoe and pack in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness!

KELSO LOOP (DAY TRIP)

The three lakes which make up the Kelso Loop—Sawbill, Alton and Kelso—are quite different from one another, and give you a good variety of terrain, flora and fauna. Starting from the Sawbill Lake landing, it takes about 45 minutes to get to the Alton Lake portage. Alton is large, deep, and entirely spring fed. No streams flow into Alton. As a result, the water is crystal clear and cold. Alton supports an amazing variety and population of fish, small mouth bass, northern pike, walleye, and rainbow trout can all be caught. Anyone can catch a smallie on Alton, so bring your beginners and no-luck fisherspersons here!

Kelso is an old lake, geologically speaking. It is shallow, with a mud bottom (get your swimming done on Alton or Sawbill). Many bays have gradually filled in with floating bog. These bogs are treasures of unusual plants, insects and animals. The insect-eating Pitcher Plant is quite rare in northern latitudes, but not on Kelso. In June, there are several patches of the rare and beautiful Moccasin Flower orchids to be found. Moose, beaver, otter, pine marten, snapping turtles, eagles, and osprey are often spotted on Kelso.

In some ways, Sawbill Lake is one of the least-used lakes in the area. Lots of people pass through, but few stop to enjoy the beauty. You could easily spend entire days just exploring the intricate bays and islands of Sawbill Lake. Sawbill Lake has one of the better walleye populations in Minnesota. Light fishing pressure keeps them ignorant and gullible. Loons are nearly always visible on Sawbill, taking advantage of the good fishing for themselves.

CHEROKEE LOOP

DAY 1 - Your paddle flashes and the canoe surges forward through the waves as you head due north up Sawbill Lake. It is exciting to know that you could keep paddling north through virtually unbroken Wilderness all the way to Hudson Bay. As you portage and paddle through Ada Creek, Ada Lake, and Scoop Lake, you can reflect on the ancient footsteps that fell on these very trails. The 180 rod (16.5 ft = 1 rod; 320 rods = 1 mile) portage into Cherokee Creek takes you over the Laurentian Divide. These hills which are causing you to grunt and sweat under your pack are also dividing the watershed between the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Cherokee Creek is narrow, but easily navigable and is a favorite feeding spot for moose.

DAY 2 - Cherokee Lake is renowned for its beauty. Dotted with islands and surrounded by steep hills, its outstanding campsites have been used and enjoyed since prehistoric times. Bill Magee, the famous surveyor, outfitter, guide, and storyteller, claimed Cherokee as his personal favorite in all of canoe country. Spend this day exploring Cherokee or take a side trip to Frost Lake for a swim on the golden sand beaches. Lake trout and northern pike are found in Cherokee, Gordon and Frost Lakes.

DAY 3 - Your first portage today is the most difficult of the trip. You are once again crossing the divide. Even though it is only 140 rods long, not one of those rods is not flat ground! The portage runs here on a relatively flat but comparatively high ridge to the north of North Temperance Lake as you pass through. You can eat lunch on South Temperance Lake and wet a line for some walleyes or small mouth bass. You now head down the Temperance River through Weird, Jack, and Kelly Lakes. There is no discernible current in these lakes and you portage streamside around the fast water. Camp for the night on Kelly. It is not unusual to hear wolves howling, especially at dusk and dawn.

DAY 4 - On to Burnt and Smoke Lakes, both fine walleye lakes. Both also have small mouth bass, some of which run to the five pound class. The portages will seem shorter by this point in the trip, thanks to lighter food packs and hardened muscles. You'll be back to Sawbill in plenty of time to make the transition back to civilized society.

TEMPERANCE RIVER LOOP

This trip is basically the same as the Cherokee Loop route, except you begin at Baker or Brule Lake. This trip is very flexible and offers many options. You can put in at one entry point and take out at another, make a circle or just go out and back. Alternate routes include the very beautiful, rugged, rock and steep route through Brule, Cam, Vesper, and Town Lakes or Brule south to Juno, Vern, and Homer Lakes. All of the lakes in this area offer dramatic scenery and good fishing.

LADY CHAIN (POINT TO POINT)

DAY 1 - Begin with the twenty-mile shuttle to Kawishiwi (Kah - wish' - ah - way) Lake. You can arrange your shuttle through us. After you launch your canoes on Kawishiwi and round the first corner, you leave civilization behind. Paddle the narrow, slow moving stream, with three short portages, until you reach Kawasachong Lake. After lunch, you can tackle the 179-rod portage into tiny Townline Lake. A shorter portage brings you to Polly for the first night's camp. Polly is an excellent walleye lake. If you have kids with you, try having them drop a small, worm-baited hook next to a tree that has fallen into the water. Perch and sunfish are small but willing, and lots of fun to catch!

DAY 2 - Up the Phoebe River toward Hazel Lake. Even though you are headed upstream, there is little or no current to impede your progress. The portages circumvent the fast water and are generally flat and dry. From Hazel you have only one portage into Knight Lake. Paddle the channel into Phoebe or take the "hide-away" campsite on the north end of Knight. Phoebe is a classic Wilderness lake with rolling hills covered with dense forest marching unbroken to the water's edge. Top-notch walleye and bass fishing is found here.

DAY 3 - Linger on Phoebe or push on to Grace Lake. On the four short portages between Phoebe and Grace, be sure to walk in and admire the babbling stream with its fresh white waterfalls. Take the longer, 274-rod portage between Grace and Beth, rather than the two shorter portages through Ella. This is the easier route. However, if you want solitude, make your camp on Ella. The rough portages, (one rocky, the other swampy) keep this lake little used. Beth Lake teems with small mouth bass. Beth was the summer home of an Ojibwe Native American family until the mid 1950s. All four campsites are good.

DAY 4 - Enjoy a long, relaxed breakfast as you soak up the sounds and sights of nature. Pack up and head for the 140-rod portage to Alton Lake. Alton is best known as a small mouth bass lake, but also contains trophy sized walleyes and northern. If the day is hot, Alton is a great place to rest before you try to Lugenka Lake, which might be a bit more challenging. Otherwise, zip over the last 30-rod portage with your empty food pack, paddle down the south end of Sawbill Lake and enjoy the traditional cold beverage and hot shower!

DENT LAKE LOOP

This trip is well suited to those who are lightly packed and don't mind working harder than most. The reward is a very lovely, little traveled, high quality Wilderness route. These small lakes have some of the highest elevations in Minnesota and harbor a wide variety of wildlife.

DAY 1 - Cross Sawbill to the easy Alton portage. In the northwest corner of Alton you will find the short Kelso portage. You will notice how wide the trail is on these two portages. These portages once had hand operated, narrow gauge railroads on them. The tracks were installed to haul loads of steel which were used to build a lookout tower on Kelo Island just west of Kelo Lake. The railway was used by canoeists for many years. They could float their loaded canoes onto the hand car, which ran on tracks extending out over the water. Canoeists would pull the whole load across and float it off on the other side. The railroad and lookout tower have been gone for many years now. Fire patrol is now accomplished by airplane. The Forest Service's antique DeHavilland Beavers are the only planes allowed to fly lower than 5000 feet over the Wilderness. After paddling up Kelso Lake, you enter the beautiful floating bog of Kelo Lake. The water is very shallow. Watch on your right for a large boulder, perched on three smaller rocks, square on top of a small, bald island. Some experts believe this is a dolmen, placed deliberately by Vikings in the fifth century as a navigational aid. These experts believe the Vikings were searching for gold and found their way all the way to Lugenka Lake. Other experts think the mysterious rock formation is just a glacial erratic that chanced to land in this unusual spot when the ice subsided about 10,000 years ago. Who knows? The 480-rod Lugenka to Zenith portage is just ahead. In the very narrow

flange between Zenith and Frederick Lakes you are likely to spot a Great Blue Heron or an American Bittern, both large, stork-like birds. Camp on Frederick or push on to Wine.

DAY 2 - If you are fishing, throw a small shiny spoon into Wine. The best spot is right out in the middle, directly in front of the portage. Large lake trout lurk near the bottom. The portages on this part of the route are rough and rocky. Mug, Poo, and Louise Lakes are surrounded by exposed swatches of the world's oldest rock. Bug Lake is only a few feet deep and shallow. Watch for kingfishers diving from overhanging trees into the water. Dent Lake is over 70 feet deep and is rumored to have been stocked with lake trout. Three more steep and rugged portages bring this tiring day to a close on Mesaba Lake. A short bushwhack into Leah Lake makes makes a good after-dinner outing.

DAY 3 - Paddle through Hug and Duck Lakes back to Zenith. This is prime moose watching country. See if you can find the wrecked airplane on the shore of Zenith Lake. A poacher crashed here just after WW II on Christmas Eve. He reportedly walked all the way to Tofté through knee deep snow wearing only street shoes. Now it's back over the long portage to your last camp on Kelo Lake. Small northern are abundant in Kelo.

DAY 4 - A short and relaxing paddle brings you back to the Sawbill entry point and the "real world!"

LADY CHAIN/LOUSE RIVER LOOP

DAY 1 - Pack up and put in at Sawbill Lake. Head west through Alton, Beth, and Grace to Phoebe Lake. After July 1, small mouth are very easy to catch on Alton and Beth. Take the longer portage between Beth and Grace rather than the two shorter ones through Ella. Grace and Phoebe are two of the finest walleye and small mouth lakes in the Boundary Waters. The little rapids between Grace and Phoebe are too small to be navigable. Be sure to hike into these streams off the portages, though, for some gorgeous scenery.

DAY 2 - Hazel and Polly complete the string of lakes named after ladies. The story is pioneer forest ranger Bill Mulligan named these lakes after his maiden aunts. Polly is a fairly busy lake, so push on to Koma for unequalled walleye fishing.

DAY 3 - A short portage around the rapids depends on you from Malberg Lake. Don't be tempted by these rapids or any of the others on this route. They are not shoot-able even in high water. Although canoes have been wrecked in these rapids, dents and holes are the almost certain outcome for the reckless. Turn now to the east and go upstream on the Louise River to Trail Lake. You should be well organized and lightly packed to attempt this segment of the route, if you are the rewards are great. Paddle through lacy tamaracks and mysterious floating bogs. Portage alongside deep, moss-covered stream-carved gorges. Surprise blue herons, snapping turtles or playful otters as you wind around the river bends. Trail Lake is small, but has two good campsites and many large walleyes and northern.

DAY 4 - Travel from Trail to Wine. The path follows much of the same pattern as the day before. Long, rugged portages, gorgeous scenery and plentiful wildlife punctuate this stretch. This can be a difficult day. All of the maps made of this portion of the Louise River are more or less inaccurate. Don't count on being able to follow each mile of progress and each portage on your map. Watch for major landmarks and enjoy the feeling of being adrift in the Wilderness! As long as you stay on an upstream course, you'll get where you are going. Try for lake trout at the bottom (60+ feet down) of the eastern half of Wine Lake.

DAY 5 - Two long portages bring you over the great continental divide known as the Laurentian. Two short portages and a couple of hours of paddling bring you back to Sawbill in time for a hot shower and some warm memories of the Lady Chain/Louse River route.

This route offers the highest quality Wilderness experience. The difficulty of terrain and its location in the heart of the Wilderness make it an ideal route for sighting wildlife. Be forewarned however, that this is a rigorous route. In times of extreme low water, this route should be avoided.

FROST RIVER LOOP

DAY 1 - The canoes are loaded and you push off from the landing on Sawbill Lake. A long pull up Sawbill and four portages bring you to Cherokee Lake. Long renowned for its beauty, Cherokee offers some of the finest campsites in the BWCA. Try for lake trout in the 130-foot depths at the north end of the lake.

DAY 2 - An easy morning paddle up Gordon Lake brings you to the long portage into a pond sometimes known as Unload Lake. This portage has some remarkable virgin white pine and cedar lining the trail. A short portage leads to Frost Lake. Frost is famous for its sand beaches. Golden sand crescents ring the north end of the lake and you can walk out 100 yards and be only waist deep. When it does drop off, it goes to about 70 feet and provides good lake trout fishing in the crystal clear depths.

DAY 3 - The portage from Frost to Octopus Lake sets the tone for the Frost River - rugged, remote, and wild. Watch for moose in Chase and Pencil Lakes. The tracks and scat of the elusive timber wolf are more often than not present on these portages. Plan to take your time as you wind your way through the switchbacks of the narrow Frost River. This will be a tiring day of beaver dams and slow paddling, but with the right attitude, it can be rewarding. A long, flat portage connects Fente and Hub Lakes. Choose any of the three fine, and little used, campsites on Hub.

DAY 4 - Have your fishing pole ready when you enter Mesaba Lake. Large northern patrol these waters. Some guides list lake trout in Mesaba, but don't waste your time looking for them. Portage and paddle through Hug, Duck, and Zenith Lakes. After lunch, drop a small, baited hook down next to a windblown tree in Zenith and have fun with the small rock bass that inhabit this lake. The Zenith to Lugenka 480-rod portage is your next challenge. Occasionally, beavers make it possible to skip two fairly large portions of this portage. See the map detail for directions. Paddle down the mysterious Kelso River and camp on Kelso if you are tired, or continue to Alton Lake if you would like some good small mouth fishing.

DAY 5 - A slow and lazy morning for enjoying your last day in the Wilderness. Try trolling a Rapala in Sawbill for some fresh walleyes to take home with you on ice. At your convenience, head to the trailhead for a hot shower and a cold beverage.

LONG ISLAND/WINCHELL LOOP

The trip described here begins and ends at Sawbill Lake, but with a little modification it can begin and/or end at Baker, Homer or Brule Lake.

DAY 1 - Your paddle flashes and the canoe surges forward through the waves as you head due north up Sawbill Lake. It is exciting to know that you could keep paddling north through virtually unbroken Wilderness all the way to Hudson Bay. As you portage and paddle through Ada Creek, Ada Lake and Scoop Lake, you can reflect on the ancient footsteps that fell on these very trails. The 180 rod (16.5 ft = 1 rod; 320 rods = 1 mile) portage into Cherokee Creek takes you over the Laurentian Divide. These hills which are causing you to grunt and sweat under your pack are also dividing the watershed between the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Cherokee Creek is narrow, but easily navigable and is a favorite feeding spot for moose.

DAY 2 - Cherokee north to Long Island Lake is an easy day with short, flat portages. Watch for beautiful white pine on the north end of Gordon Lake. Also notice the dead trees due to the spruce beetle worm. This natural phenomenon occurs every 50 years or so. Until modern times, it was a major precursor to wild fire. If the weather is warm, consider a side trip to Frost for beach bumming. Long Island has many, many good campsites.

DAY 3 - A couple of short hops to Muskeg Lake lead to the long pull up the hill to Kiskadinna (Kiss' - kah - dec' - nah) Lake. While paddling down Kiskadinna, watch for a small cave on the south shore right at the water line. The cave is used as a temporary den by wolves in the winter. Portage 35 rods into Ogema (oh - gee' - mah) Lake. On many maps, this lake is incorrectly labeled as Omega. Head south from Ogema to magnificent Winchell Lake. Pick one of the rock point campsites along the north shore of Winchell. This is a particularly good lake for watching sunsets. If the weather is calm (and it often is in the evening), it is sheer heaven to drift in your canoe and gaze down the mirror-like lake at a fiery sunset.

DAY 4 - Head south out of Winchell into Wanigan Lake, then turn sharply west and portage into Cliff Lake. From Cliff, it's 160 rods into Cone Lake, where you turn south again and proceed through Cone Lake to Brule. Use your good judgment on Brule Lake. Its size, shape, and orientation all contribute to making Brule hazardous on windy days. If in doubt, wait for the wind to abate before making your crossing. Camp on Brule or South Temperance. Admire the spectacular hills on the northwest end of Brule and watch for the soaring eagles that live here.

DAY 5 - Head down the Temperance River through Weird, Jack, and Kelly Lakes. There is no discernible current in these lakes and you portage streamside around the fast water. Camp for the night on Kelly, Burnt, or Smoke Lake. It is not unusual to hear wolves howling, especially at dusk and dawn.

DAY 6 - Burnt and Smoke are both fine walleye lakes. Both also have small mouth bass, some of which run to the five pound class. The portages will seem shorter by this point in the trip, thanks to lighter food packs and hardened muscles. You'll be back to Sawbill in plenty of time to make the transition back to civilized society.

MALBERG/ADAMS/MAKWA LOOP

DAY 1 - This trip begins at Kawishiwi Lake, after a 20 mile drive from Sawbill. After you launch your canoes on Kawishiwi and round the first corner, you leave civilization behind. Paddle the narrow, slow moving stream, with three short portages, until you reach Kawasachong Lake. After lunch, you can tackle the 179-rod portage into tiny Townline Lake. A shorter portage brings you to Polly. Head north out of Polly through three portages of increasing length to Koma Lake. Be sure to fish for walleyes on Koma. Don't expect any big ones, but they are plentiful. One more short portage leads to Malberg Lake. Don't be tempted by the rapids that run beside the portages. Each set of rapids has a fatal fall that has ruined many canoes. Malberg has many great campsites, so choose one and set up your tent.

DAY 2 - Leave your tent set up and take a day trip to the pictographs on Fishdance Lake. Throw some large red and white spoons around the Kawishiwi River as you go. Some of the biggest northern you can imagine lurk here. The pictographs on Fishdance are small and faint, but serve as a powerful reminder of people's long history in canoe country. Archeologists now have evidence that places people living in this area 10,000 years ago! The word Kawishiwi itself is said to be roughly translated as "no land between" and hold spiritual significance for the Ojibwe people. It is, of course, bad form to touch the pictographs. Return to Malberg in time for some evening walleye fishing, bird watching, or just plain relaxing.

DAY 3 - Portaging northwest out of Malberg, watch for the wolf signs often seen on this portage. As you turn north toward Trapline Lake, you enter one of the most remote and beautiful routes in the BWCA Wilderness. If you are fishing, take a short side trip off of Beaver Lake (Elbow Lake on some maps) into Fisher Lake. Fisher is one of the few lakes in the BWCAW with large mouth bass. Bass up to five pounds have been taken from this lake. The bass in this lake, as well as the walleyes on Adams, though, so catch and release is recommended. As you paddle up Beaver toward the portage into Adams Lake, you will think the map must be wrong. It looks for all the world like you will be required to portage up the face of a sheer cliff. Keep going, though, and at the last minute you will find a break in the cliff face which contains the portage landing. Camp on Adams for the night. Most people head for the island site, so try one of the back bay sites for solitude.

DAY 4 - Today will bring a number of rugged portages, so it's best to get an early start. The route from Adams to Boulder is easy to find and very scenic. The portage from Boulder to Ledge Lake is a bit confusing. Vee, Fee, and Hoe Lakes are very lightly traveled, but speaking or knocking your canoe for an hour and notice how much more wildlife you see. The last portage of the day brings you to Makwa (mah' - kwa) Lake. Makwa means "bear" in the Ojibwe language. The prettiest campsite is the one next to the large cliff face on the west end of the lake. If you look carefully, you can see a faint engraving on the sloping rock at the front of the site which says, "J. Bovard 1880." The other two campsites have better tent pads, so choose one and get set up for the night. Makwa is an excellent lake trout spot. Try fishing deep during most of the summer or even casting from shore in the spring and fall.

DAY 5 - Portage south out of Makwa through a series of ponds and small lakes to the Kawishiwi River. The Kawishiwi River side of the Malberg portage is a particularly scenic spot for lunch and a little bit of shore casting. Retrace your steps backwards from Day One until you're tired, then pick a campsite and relax.

DAY 6 - Return to the Kawishiwi Lake landing, tie your canoe on your car and return to Sawbill for a hot shower and clean clothes!

LITTLE SAGANAGA EAST LOOP

DAY 1 - Drop your canoe into the sparkling waters of Sawbill Lake and point it north over the Laurentian Divide to Cherokee Lake. In four portages and about six hours, you will cross from the Atlantic watershed into the Arctic watershed. The crystal water around your campsite on Cherokee flows north into the great Canadian rivers and Hudson Bay.

DAY 2 - Follow the water north into Gordon and Long Island Lakes. See if you can still see the after-effects of the famous 1936 Cherokee fire. Seven portages and a series of small lakes will bring you to Tuscarora Lake. Excellent lake trout fishing is available here.

DAY 3 - Proceed west into Owl and Crooked Lakes. Stop on Crooked at the portage into Gillis to see the remains of an old trapper's cabin. Go south out of Crooked through Harry and Mora Lakes and finally into Little Saganaga (Sag' - ah - ah' - ah'). This portion of the route is through the heart of a wolf pack's territory. Listen carefully in the quiet of dusk and dawn for the haunting howl of the eastern timber wolf.

DAY 4 - Leave your camp set up on Little Sag, load up your food pack, camera, and fishing gear for a trip north through Gahmichigami, Peter, French, Powell, West Fern, and Virgin Lakes. Beautiful scenery is the hallmark of this trip, but don't ignore the lake trout in Gabi and Peter.

DAY 5 - Go into Mora and turn south through Whipped, Fente, and Hub. This is a lightly traveled route where you stand a good chance of seeing wildlife. Camp for the night on Mesaba. Take a hike through the virgin forest to Leah Lake and look upon a lake that only a handful of people have seen. In late July and early August, the blueberries are thick along the east shore of Mesaba.

DAY 6 - Continue south through Hug, Duck, and Zenith Lakes. Watch for blue herons, jack snipe, western painted turtles, and carnivorous pitcher plants in the floating bog between Lugenka and Kelo Lakes. Plan an hour or two of small mouth fishing on Alton if you want to take some fish home on ice. A short paddle down Sawbill completes your trip and a memory you can keep for a lifetime.

LITTLE SAGANAGA WEST LOOP

DAY 1 - Pack up and put in at Sawbill Lake. Head west through Alton, Beth and Grace to Phoebe Lake. After July 1, small mouth are very easy to catch on Alton and Beth. Take the longer portage between Beth and Grace rather than the two shorter ones through Ella. Grace and Phoebe are two of the finest walleye and small mouth lakes in the Boundary Waters. The little rapids between Grace and Phoebe are too small to be navigable. Be sure to hike into these streams off the portages, though, for some gorgeous scenery.

DAY 2 - After the first trail breakfast, paddle north into Knight Lake and then take a series of good portages through Hazel Lake and the Phoebe River into Polly Lake. Polly is very popular for walleye fishing, so sometimes it can be tough to find a campsite. Go three more portages into Koma Lake, where the fishing is just as good, but the people are fewer.

DAY 3 - Leave camp set up and grab your food pack for a day trip down the Boundary Waters. The short stretches of whitewater have portages around them. Do not attempt to shoot these rapids! The Kawishiwi River has a long history of human visitation. It has been used by Native Americans for thousands of years. Many ancient artifacts have been discovered by archeologists here. Plan for lunch on Fishdance Lake where you can view the ancient pictographs on the cliff face on the north side of the lake.

DAY 4 - Take the east arm of Malberg to the Kawishiwi River. Throw a lure in the pool at the end of the rapids and don't be surprised if a northern or walleye strikes! Eat lunch on Makwa Lake. Some daring people jump off the cliffs on the northwest shore into the cold, clear water. A short afternoon of canoeing and portaging will bring you through Elton Lake into Little Saganaga. Every campsite is a good campsite on Little Sag!

DAY 5 - Go into Mora and turn south through Whipped, Fente, and Hub. This is a lightly traveled route where you stand a good chance of seeing wildlife. Camp for the night on Mesaba. Take a hike through the virgin forest to Leah Lake and look upon a lake that only a handful of people have seen. In late July and early August, the blueberries are thick along the east shore of Mesaba.

DAY 6 - Continue south through Hug, Duck, and Zenith Lakes. Watch for blue herons, jack snipe, western painted turtles, and carnivorous pitcher plants in the floating bog between Lugenka and Kelo Lakes. Plan an hour or two of small mouth fishing on Alton if you want to take some fish home on ice. A short paddle down Sawbill completes your trip and a memory you can keep for a lifetime.

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

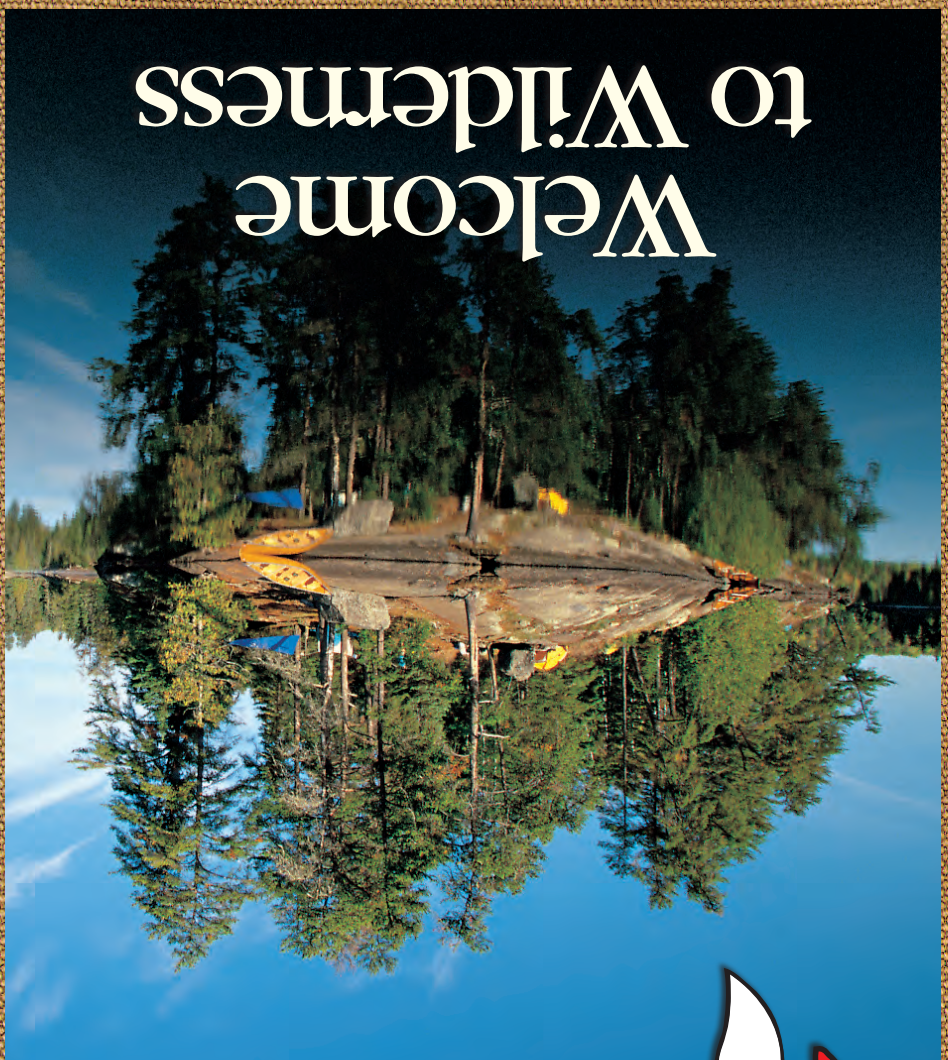
- Familiarize yourself with the unique regulations and special concerns for the BWCAW. Cans and glass bottles are not allowed, including soup cans. Package all food in plastic containers to minimize waste.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- The BWCAW limits group size to nine people and four watercraft.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Camping is allowed only on established campsites. Each campsite is equipped with a fire grate and a latrine.
- Stay on established portages.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.



Explore, fish, swim, and relax on sparkling clear waters. Sawbill Canoe Outfitters has been owned and operated by the same family since its founding in 1957. Third generation owners, Clare and Dan Shirley, now carry on the tradition of providing warm, friendly service to all who visit. The Shirleys live at Sawbill Lake year 'round so they are able to provide service from ice-out to ice-in. Contact the Shirleys for information on their services.

SAWBILL CANOE OUTFITTERS, INC.
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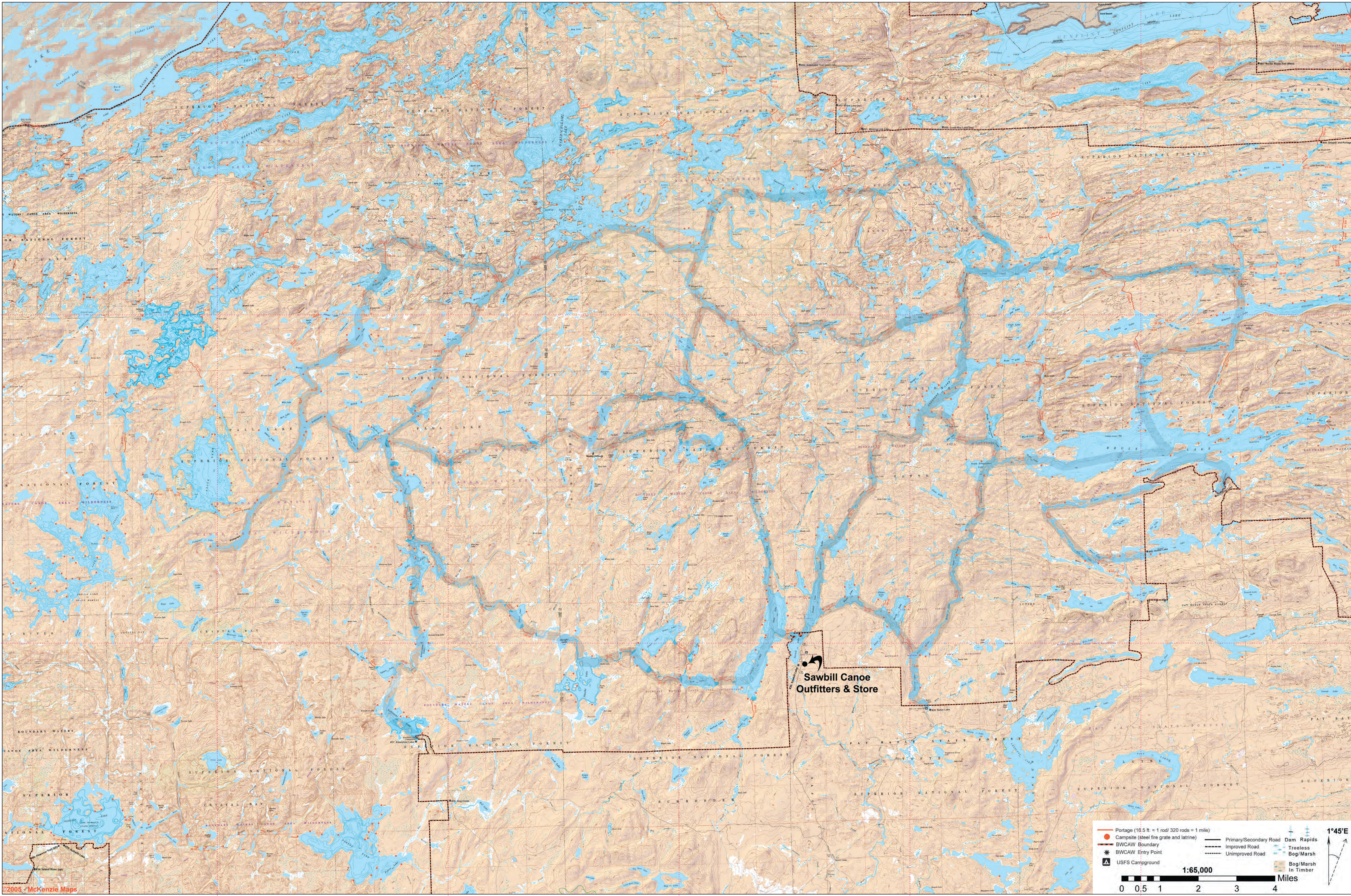
Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and is operated under special use permit with the Superior National Forest.

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES (continued)

- Latrines are for toilet use only, not for trash.
- When away from a latrine, deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.
- Dispose of fish guts 200 feet from water's edge.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches



**Sawbill Canoe
Outfitters & Store**

Portage (16.5 ft = 1 rod/ 320 rods = 1 mile)	Primary/Secondary Road	Dam Rapids
Campsite (steel fire grate and latrine)	Improved Road	Treeless
BWCAW Boundary	Unimproved Road	Bog/Marsh
BWCAW Entry Point		In Timber
USFS Campground		

1:65,000

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

1°45'E