

additional opportunities for public input, contact the Corps at the above address and ask to be put on the list to receive information regarding the "Great Lakes Navigational System Review." For more on this issue and additional impacts due to modifications of the Great Lakes Navigational System, contact Stephanie Weiss, Save The River, phone (315) 686-2010 or email: striver@gisco.net

Comments due for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness fuel treatment plans:

Comments to the U.S. Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for fuel treatment in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness are due February 20th. Excessive fuel for wildfire was created after a massive windstorm damaged over 350,000 acres of forest in July 1999 (HW#183, #191). The DEIS proposes one "no action" alternative and four action alternatives--each action alternative uses prescribed burns to lessen the threat of wildfire.

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness reports that the USFS prefers an alternative (Alternative B) that would create a patchwork of small burns throughout the wilderness located next to natural barriers--such as lakes, streams and wetlands-- to effectively reduce the potential size and spreading rate of potential wildfires in the blow down area. The Friends state that "fire is an essential ecological process in the BWCAW" and support allowing natural fire in the wilderness to the greatest extent possible and prescribed fires that mimic the ecological effects of natural fires. To this end and in response to the DEIS, the Friends support a different alternative (Alternative F), which proposes to burn contiguous units in close succession to create large openings. This action would not only reduce the threat of wildfire, but also better reflect the BWCAW's natural and historic fire patterns than the USFS's alternative choice. Additionally, in their comments to the USFS the Friends recommend adding three control burn sites to Alternative F that were originally proposed in Alternative B, to reduce the risk of wildfire escaping into Quetico Provincial Park and the Fernberg Corridor.

Comments to the Fuel Treatment DEIS are due February 20, 2001. Write to: Mr. James Sanders, Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Avenue Forest, Duluth, MN 55808. Read the Friends full comment letter submitted to the USFS at: <<http://www.friends-bwca.org/>> www.friends-bwca.org or by calling 612-332-9630.

GLU's Habitat and Biodiversity Task Force produces Great Lakes Habitat Watch with support from the George Gund Foundation and GLU coalition members. The task force is committed to protecting natural areas, wildlife, and strong conservation laws across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River ecosystem. To join the coalition, subscribe, or send

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Jennifer Nalbone
Habitat and Biodiversity Coordinator
Great Lakes United
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Cassety Hall- Buffalo State College
Buffalo, NY 14222

ph: (716) 886-0142 fax:-0303