

Drawing Boundaries

The Fight Over the Boundary Waters

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I have been to the Boundary Waters a couple times once on a week long canoeing and camping trip. While I was there I wondered how and why the area became a protected wilderness. So when it came time to pick a topic this year, I chose to research the controversy surrounding the Boundary Waters. I was curious about it and liked the fact that it had something to do with my home state of Minnesota.

I started by doing some simple research first on my topic to find out the timeline and what happened. I wanted to do an interview with someone who knew the topic well. I emailed the Sierra Club, an organization that had involvement the legislation in the 1970s. It also happened that their office is in my neighborhood. They put me in contact with Kevin Proescholdt who is the Co-Author of a book about the creation of the Boundary Waters: *Troubled Waters* and had involvement with passing the BWCA legislation in the 1970s. I just so happened that he lives less than a mile a way from where I live so we set up a time to do a video interview. In the meantime before I interviewed him I read *Troubled Waters* to get a better understanding of the topic and how Kevin fit into that. The interview went great. I then I was able to start doing more deep research based on things he had talked about.

I have been making videos since I was two! It was a natural choice for me to make a documentary. I knew there were a lot of beautiful pictures of the Boundary Waters that had been taken over the years that I could use. There was enough media available that I could use it, and I was passionate about it, so it was just a matter of creating a script and putting it together. Also I already made an NHD documentary in middle school so I knew the process.

The controversy over the BWCA legislation relates to this year's theme of Conflict and Compromise very well. The conflict of the environmentalists who wanted the area preserved as wilderness vs. the some of the local people who wanted multiple use of the area was very bitter and divided. But in the end there was a compromise that was made in the legislation. Some of the local people are still upset with what that compromise was and they feel it was shoved down their throats but it was a compromise, motor boats are still allowed in some areas of the wilderness but with limited wake. It was a very contentious debate that was resolved with the passing of the BWCA act but the tension and balance that comes with most conflicts is still alive today.

It's been a great honor to have the opportunity to go to National History Day. I worked hard to make my project the best it can be, which included doing more research and interviews.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Bischoff, Isaiah, and Chuck Novak. "Interview with Chuck Novak." 24 April 2018.

I did a phone interview with Chuck Novak, the mayor of Ely MN. From this interview I gained some good info about how people who lived in the surrounding area of the Boundary Waters felt about the legislation introduced concerning the area and the great sentiment of outsiders. I used several clips of this interview in the documentary.

Bischoff, Isaiah, and Lawrence Thomforde. "Interview with Lawrence Thomforde." 2 June 2018.

I did a phone interview with Lawrence Tomforde, who has lived in the area for many years. He had some good insight about what the Boundary Waters was like before it was called the Boundary Waters in the 40s and 50s. I used several clips of this interview in my documentary.

Bischoff, Isaiah, and Kevin Proescholdt. "Video Interview." 16 Dec. 2017.

I did a video interview with Kevin Proescholdt who helped pass the 1978 bill and knows a lot about the history of the time. His interview helped me alot to understand the context of the time period and the specific pieces of legislation that were introduced. I used portions of his interview in my documentary.

"BWCA MOTOR CONTROVERSY Eyewitness News" Codus Archives , 1978,
www.footage.net/.

This source is a 1978 channel five eyewitness news story from 1978 in the conus archives. This broadcast shed light on the perspective of the Ely people on the motor boat controversy. I used a sound bite from this broadcast in my documentary.

"BWCA ISSUES / CONTROVERSY Eyewitness News" (1978)" Codus Archives , 1978,
www.footage.net/.

This is a TV news story from 1978 from eyewitness news channel five. I found it on the Conus archives. I used a sound bite from this story in my documentary near the beginning to set the stage for the controversy.

“BWCA RESOURCE BILL CONTROVERSY Eyewitness News” Codus Archives, 1978
www.footage.net/

This source is a 1978 channel five eyewitness news story from 1978 in the conus archives. The reporter in this clip talked about the legislation side of the issue. I used a sound bite from this broadcast in my documentary to solidify that the bill passed the house.

Kevin Proescholdt, and Bud Heinselman. 1978 Pictures from Bud Heinselman.

Kevin Proescholdt gave me access to his photo collection to use in my documentary. The collection included more than 20 photos some were in his book *Troubled Waters* and some were not. They are pictures of figures of people involved with the controversy and the boundary waters itself. The pictures in his collection were mainly taken by Bud Heinselman. I selected some and used them in my documentary.

Minnesota Reflections,
reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/facet/physical_format_ssi?_=1499530158057.

This source is a website that has thousands of minnesota related images and sources. I found several photos from this website that I used in documentary.

“Old Images of the Boundary Waters.” MNopedia,
www.mnopedia.org/place/boundary-waters-canoe-area-wilderness-bwcaw.

MNopedia is a website with Minnesota related images and articles. I found several photos on their website that I used in my documentary.

“Royalty Free Public Domain Stock Videos.” Pond5,
www.pond5.com/stock-video-footage/1/.html#1/18447.

This a stock video and photos website. They have an extensive amount of free to use public domain videos from the 40s. I used many videos from Pond5 collection to illustrate my points in the documentary.

Secondary Sources

“Boundary Waters Canoe Area Controversy: Secondary Sources: Books & Articles.” LibGuides, libguides.mnhs.org/bwca/secondary.

This source is a culmination of secondary sources that I used as a starting point for my research. I found various books and articles that I read to get the basic information for my project.

“The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.” Special Places, www.fs.usda.gov/detail/superior/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5202169.

This a Department of Agriculture website that has some great description of the Boundary Waters. I used some of the facts from this page in the introduction portion of my documentary.

“Historical Timeline of the BWCA.” Historical Timeline of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, bwca.cc/historical/history.htm.

This source is a Boundary Waters website that put together a extensive timeline of the history of the Boundary Waters. It was helpful to refer back to and to get background information and to get the big picture.

Lavanger, Julia. “Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).” MNopedia, www.mnopedia.org/place/boundary-waters-canoe-area-wilderness-bwcaw.

This source is a statistic based website that had lots of good information. I used it in the introduction part to set the context for what the boundary waters is and to set the scale.

Proescholdt, Kevin, et al. *Troubled Waters: the Fight for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness*. North Star Press of St. Cloud, 1995.

This is the book that Kevin Proescholdt the historian and contervationaist that I interviewed wrote. I read the book before I interviewed him to get the context of who he is and to get the big picture of the controversy. This book was very helpful to because it has good fact based information.

Radio, Minnesota Public. “MPR: Boundary Waters Canoe Area: A Contentious History.” News & Features, 17 July 1998,

news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/199807/17_engerl_bwca-m/.

This is a radio broadcast from 1998 that gave a good overview of the controversy and went in depth on how the local residence of Ely felt and the impact of the legislation. I a couple sound bites in my documentary.

Radio, Minnesota Public. "MPR: The Boundary Waters: 25 Years Later." News & Features, 21 Oct. 2003,
news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/2003/10/21_kelleherb_bwca/.

This source is a MPR story that did a good job at highlighting what happened after the act passed. This article helped me to understand the long term impact. Kevin Proescholdt was included in this article so I read it before interviewed him.