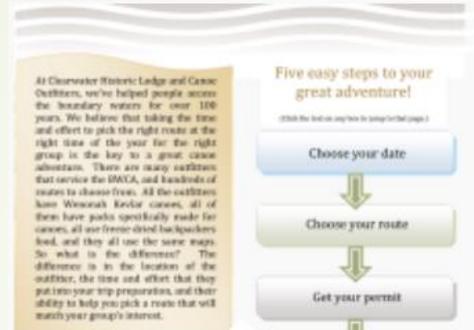


Canoeing the Boundary Waters

So many options – can be hard to start

...but here we go



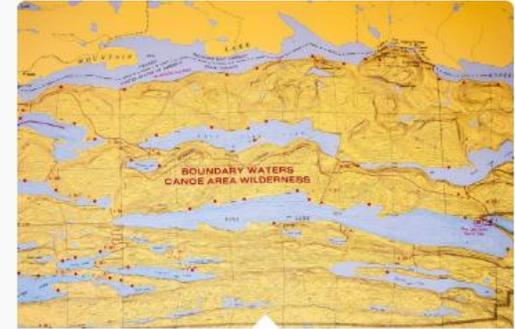
Planning Guide

Start Planning!



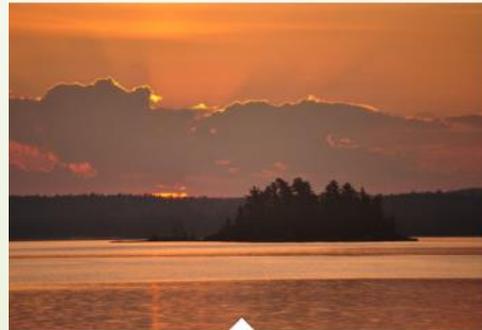
Choose a Month

Explore Options!



Choose a Route

Routes Galore!



Get a Permit

You Need One!



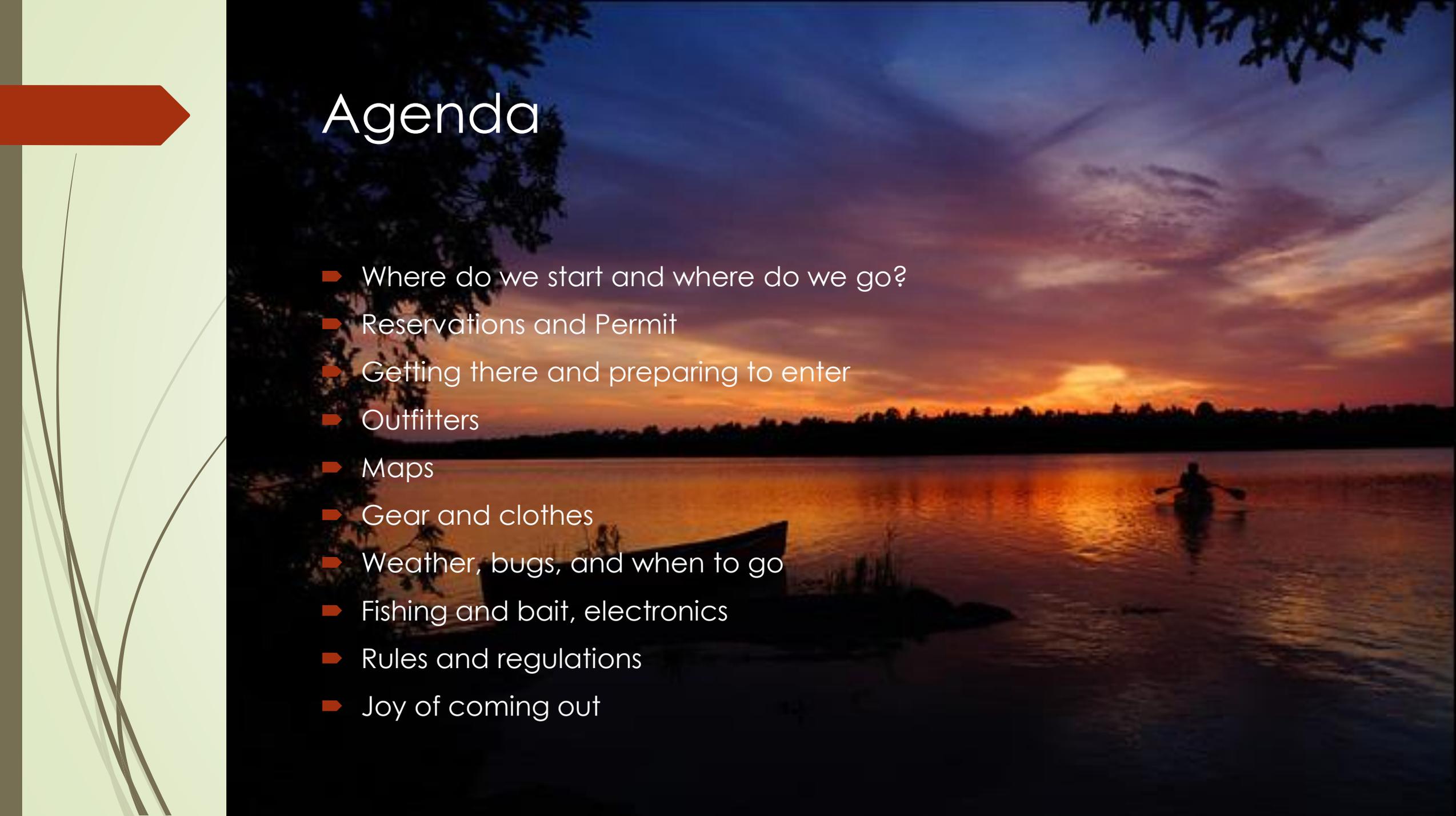
Gear Needs/Packing List

Be Prepared!



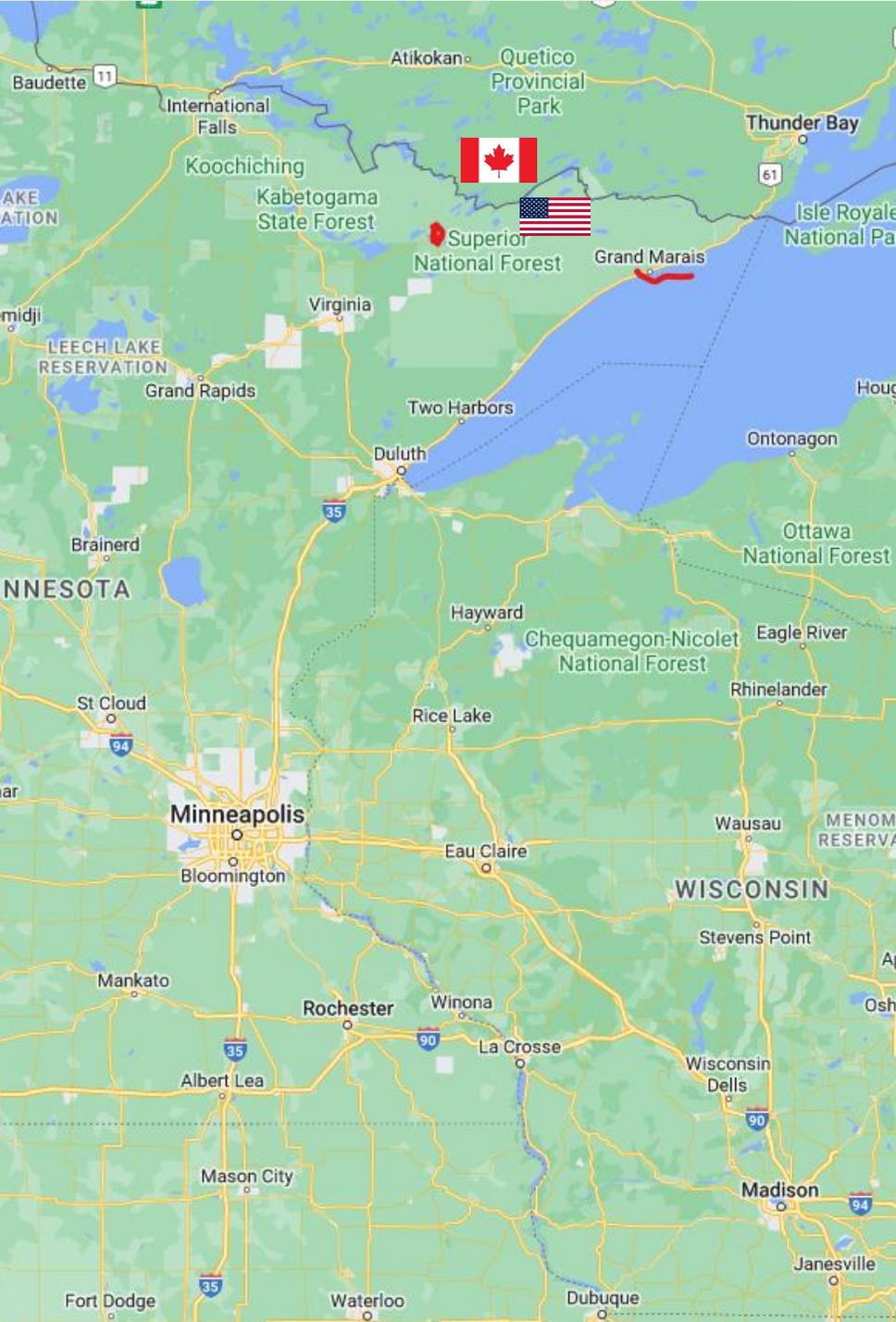
Reservations

Reserve Today!

A scenic sunset over a lake. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and purple clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the water. In the foreground, a person is seen in a small boat, possibly a canoe, on the right side of the lake. On the left side, the dark silhouette of a boat is visible near the shore. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Agenda

- ▶ Where do we start and where do we go?
- ▶ Reservations and Permit
- ▶ Getting there and preparing to enter
- ▶ Outfitters
- ▶ Maps
- ▶ Gear and clothes
- ▶ Weather, bugs, and when to go
- ▶ Fishing and bait, electronics
- ▶ Rules and regulations
- ▶ Joy of coming out

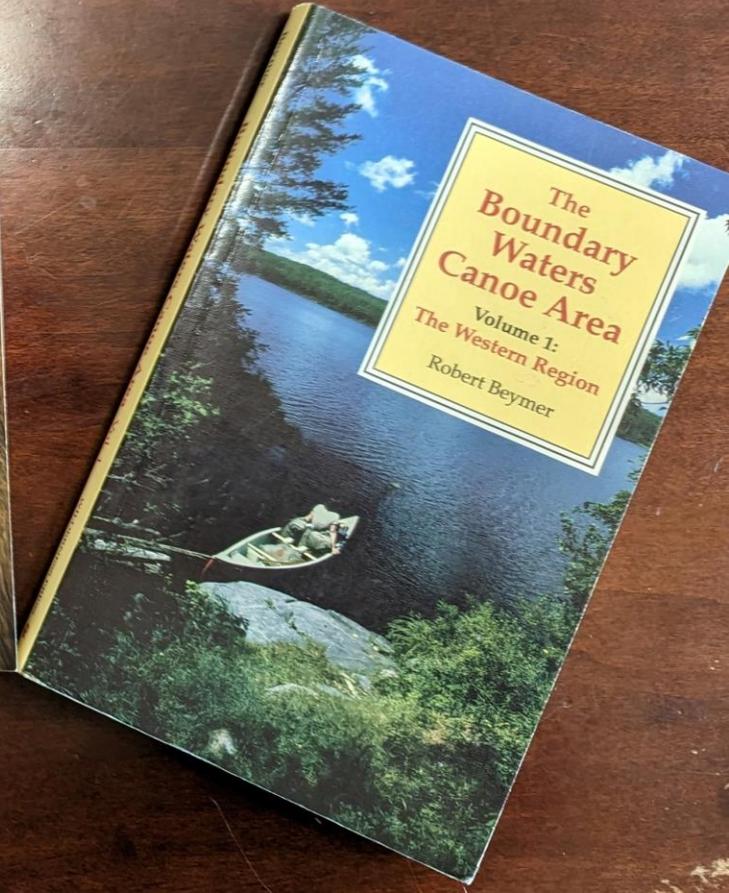
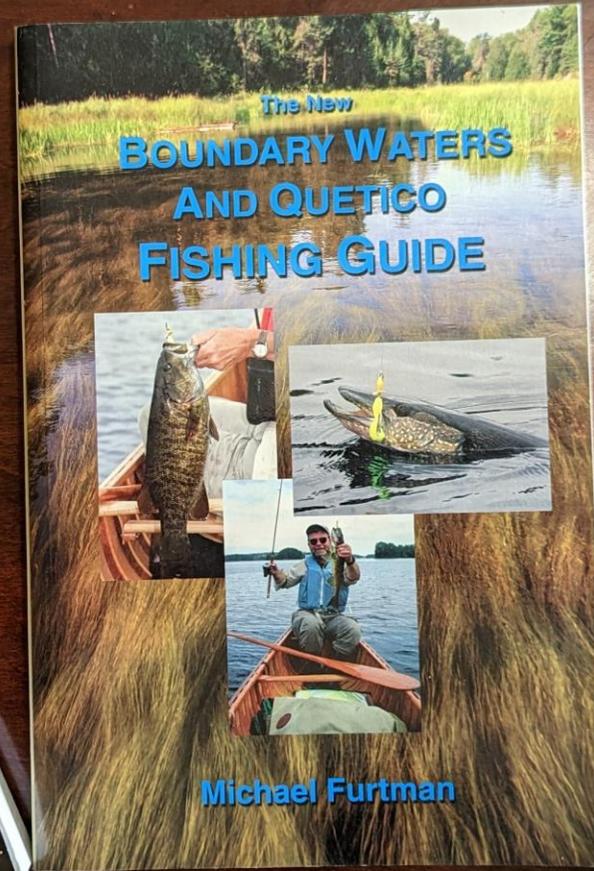
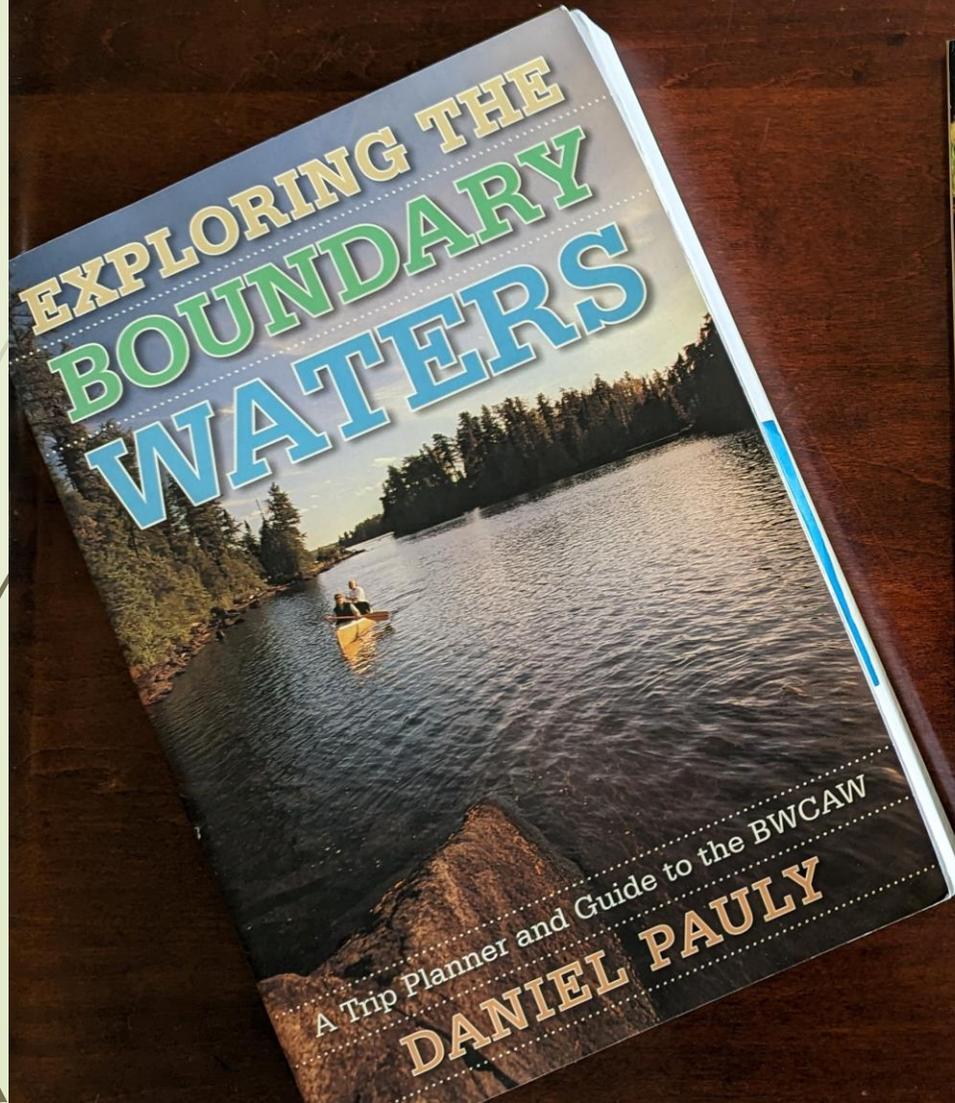


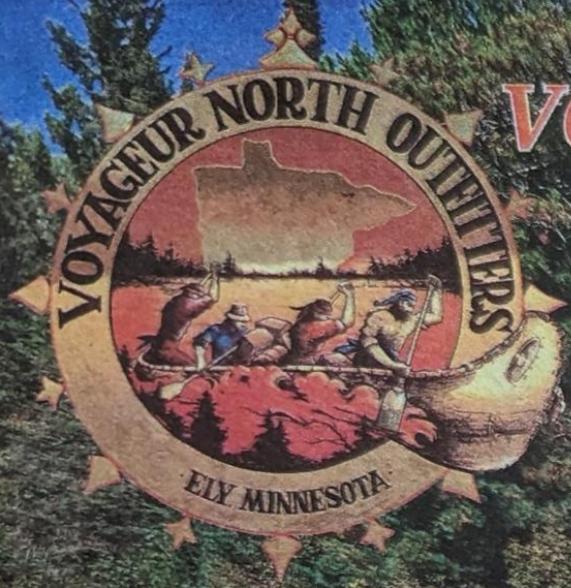
Where do we start and where to go?



- **ELY:** Many options, kind of touristy, more to do
 - Rustic, Rocky Mountain feeling
- **Grand Marais:** Lake Superior, artsy, less crowds
 - Small New England town feeling

Get a book – start your research





VOYAGEUR NORTH CANOE OUTFITTERS 2023 VOYAGEUR GAZETTE

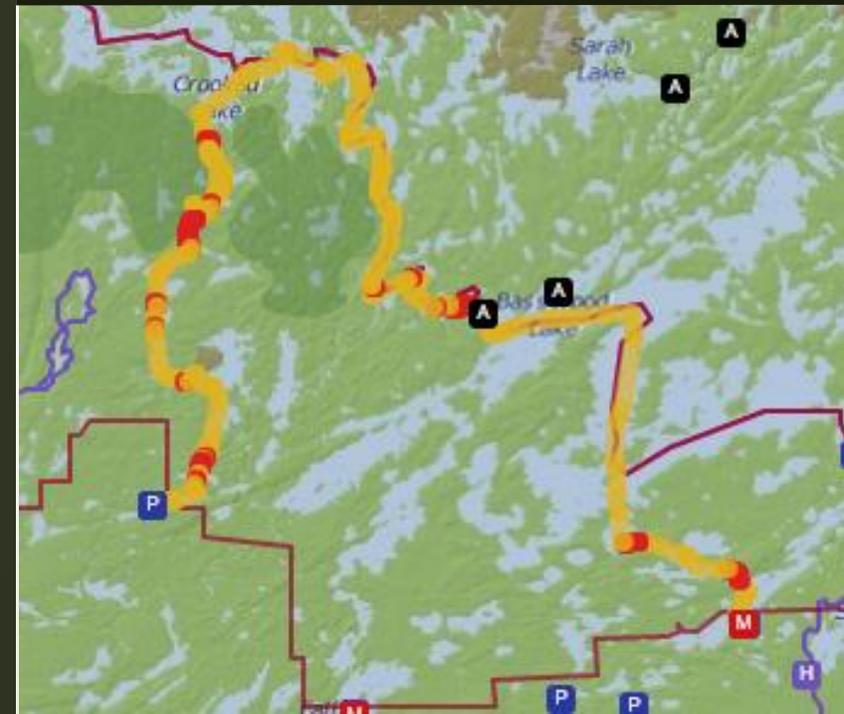
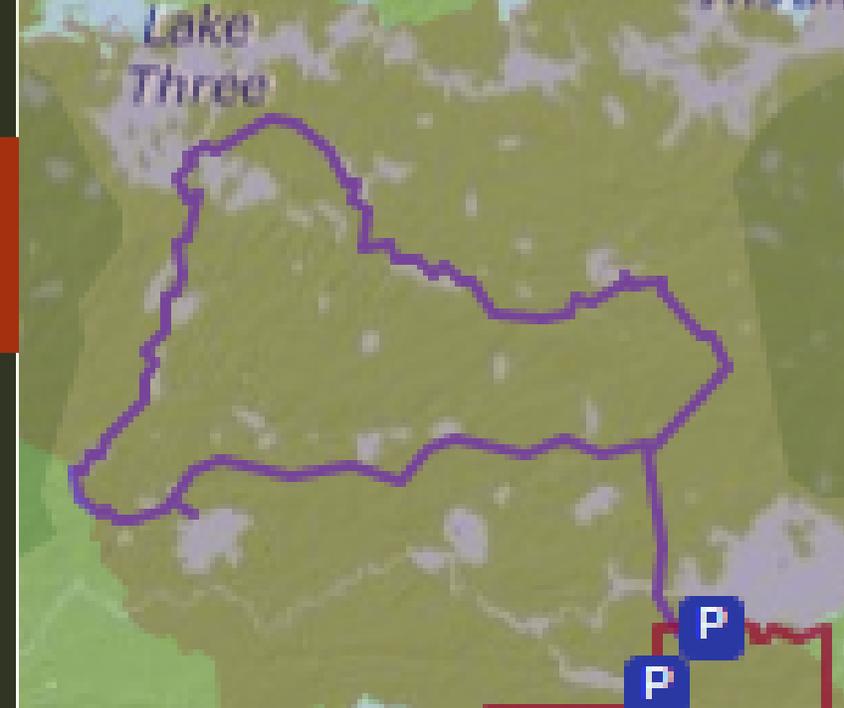
Also utilize outfitter websites
and publications, sports shows

<https://bwca.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=maps.entrypoints>



Path of travel

- ▶ In and out
 - ▶ Journey in, find a camp and call it home, journey out
 - ▶ Relaxing, but limited in variety. Options for day trips from camp
- ▶ Loop
 - ▶ Enter and exit in same location
 - ▶ Pack every day and move to another camp
 - ▶ Lot of work, good variety
- ▶ Linear
 - ▶ Cover a lot of ground
 - ▶ Need a tow, or staggered vehicles



How to go? recreation.gov, or outfitter

- ▶ A permit is always required to enter the BWCA Wilderness
- ▶ A BWCAW permit allows a group of up to 9 people and 4 watercraft to enter the wilderness. One permit per group per trip. Need a leader
- ▶ <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/233396>

RECREATION.gov

⚠ Alert: There is 1 notification for this area



[Home](#) / [Superior National Forest](#) / [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilde...](#)

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Part of [Superior National Forest](#) | ★★★★★ 1762 Reviews | [Major Mobile Issues](#) | [Favorite](#)



Boating



Paddling



Hiking

Important Dates

DATES	INFORMATION
May 1 - September 30	Quota Season
October 1 - April 30	Non-Quota Season
Last Wednesday of January at 9:00am CT	Permits for all entry points are available on the last Wednesday of January at 9:00 a.m. CT

VOYAGEUR NORTH 2023 RESERVATION SHEET

fo
 Leader's Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email address _____ @ _____
 Phone (____) _____ Fax or Cell (____) _____
 Alternate Leader _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email for Alternate leader _____
 Referred from _____

ervations
 mail, fax,
 ne of our
 it include
 the party
 starting
 ate entry
 plication
 r you. A
 company

Type of group? (please circle) **Non-profit** **Family** **Friends**
 Preferred entry/starting point _____ Alternate entry _____
 Shall we secure your travel permits? Yes _____ No _____ BWCAW Quetico
 Trip Dates: Start _____ End _____ Total Days _____
 Adult Males _____ # Adult Females _____ # Youth (list ages) _____ Total _____

Type Outfitting Package Required? Check package type.
 _____ Voyageur Ultralight Gold Pkg
 _____ Voyageur Ultimate Platinum Pkg
 _____ Deluxe Fishing Pkg
 _____ Canoe & Food Pkg
 _____ Canoe & Gear Pkg

Date & Time of arrival in Ely _____
 VNO Bunkhouse accommodations? Yes _____ No _____ Dates: _____
 Transportation to Entry point & from Exit point needed? _____ Towboat service? _____
 Credit Card # _____ Expires: _____
 Card ID # _____ Cardholder's Signature _____

PARTIAL OUTFITTING PRICE LIST - DAILY RATE

UL Lt Alumacraft 15-17' (54-56#)	\$29.00	Packs; #3.5, #4, Guide & Trail (no foam)	\$6.00
18.5' Lt Wt Alumacraft (69#)	\$32.00	Deluxe Packs	\$7.00
15-17' Old Town Penobscot (49/58-62#)	\$31.00	Bear-Resistant Food Barrel	\$8.00
17.9' Northwinds Northstar Bell (41#)	\$48.00	Sleeping Bag - freshly laundered	\$5.50
18.9' Northwoods Northstar Bell (44#)	\$51.00	Thermarest Sleeping Pad	\$5.50
Wenonah Boundary Waters 17' (42-47#)	\$48.00	Ax or Saw	\$2.50
Wenonah Kevlar 17, 18, 18.5' (39-42#)	\$48.00	Cook Kit (per person)	\$3.50
Wenonah Kevlar MN3 20' (50#)	\$51.00	Water Filter or SteriPEN	\$7.00
Kevlar Seneca 19' or Northstar B19 (48-49#)	\$51.00	Fire Grate/Griddle	\$2.00
Kevlar MN4 23' (62#) or Northstar 20' (48#)	\$54.00	Coleman Stove/Lantern	\$4.00
Souris River Kevlar 16-17 (40-42#)	\$48.00	Poncho or Rod Holder	\$1.00
Souris River Kevlar 18.5' (44#)	\$51.00	Food w/cook kit (per person) *	\$50.00
Solo Kevlar 14-17' (28-39#)	\$38.00	Portage Wheels	\$10.00
Touring Kayak, no rudder 14.6-17' (57-62#)	\$36.00	Depth Finder	\$4.00
Canak 16' - Kevlar Kayak (42#)	\$43.00	2-6 person Alps tent	\$12-\$18
Paddle	\$3.00	Hammock or Cot	\$10.00
Bent Shaft/Kayak paddle	\$4.50	Tarp (standard)	\$3.00
Portage Yoke	\$4.50	Rod and Reel	\$5.00
Life Jacket (Sterns Style)	\$3.50	Camp Chair	\$4.00
Car top carrier (foam)	\$1.50	Shower (free w/canoe rental)	\$7.00
Satellite Phone (discounts for 5, 7, & 14 day rental) *	\$20.00	Bunkhouse only (per person - min 2 person rate)	\$30.00
Satellite SPOT (1-3 days, \$5.00 per add'l day) *	\$25.00	(\$28.00 lodging rate with partial rental or \$22.50 with complete pkg)	

Canoe rental includes: paddles, portage yoke, life jackets, car top carrier, routing service, showers & free parking.
 Discounts on partial rentals (equipment only + tax): 5% Military & First Responders, 15% 7-13 days, 20% 14+ days.
 *Not available for discounts.

Please provide and return the above information plus a \$60.00 deposit per person acceptable as check, money order, Vs/Mc/Disc. Full refund of deposit less \$45.00 service fee upon 45 days advance notice of trip cancellation. Please include a \$10.00 non-refundable application fee for each BWCAW or Quetico Park permit reservation we make for your group plus each BWCAW permit needs minimum \$32 for 2 adult camping fees. A credit card is required to make any Quetico permits. A deposit of one day's rental (minimum \$20.00) is required on all partial outfitting.

- WHAT TO BRING LIST - Each person in your party should bring;**
- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jacket | Compass | Toilet Kit (include towel) | Optional: |
| 1 Sweatshirt | Sunglasses | First aid kit | Cotton or wool gloves |
| 1 Wool shirt | 1 pair sturdy shoes (or hiking boots) | Insect repellent | Long underwear |
| 1 Cotton shirt | 1 pair tennis shoes | Sunburn preventative | Fishing rod |
| 1 Trousers | Pocket/sheath knife | Sewing kit | 8-12 lb. test line |
| 2 Sets underwear | Sharpening stone | Flashlight | Small tackle box |
| 3 pairs wool socks | Duct tape for repairs | Match case | Variety of lures & tackle |
| 1 set rain gear | Water Filter | 50-100' rope (per party) | Rubber boots |
| Travel Mug | | Water Bottle | Camera • Radio/Cell Phone |

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- ...\$90.00
- ...\$65.00
- ...\$50.00
- ...\$60.00
- ...\$180.00
- ...\$121.00
- ...\$28.00
- ...\$30.00
- ...\$85.00
- ...\$40.00

Getting there and preparing to enter

- ▶ It's a long drive, even if you live in MN or WI. Plan accordingly
- ▶ Night before entry: Local campgrounds available, as well as resorts, lodges, and rooms. Plan in advance
- ▶ You **MUST** enter on the day of your permit, and you will need to find a campground to spend the night. Allow time to travel, paddle, setup in daylight
 - ▶ Consider weather. It may not cooperate with your schedule. Wind is evil. So is fire.
 - ▶ Consider navigation. It is possible to get lost. You're in the wilderness
- ▶ Secure your vehicles and/or have transportation planned. Vehicles will be sitting in a remote, unsecured location for several days
- ▶ Some entries you can drive to, others, well, are a bit of a hike. Plan accordingly



Common Question:

How do you pick routes that are less crowded?

➤ Answer:

- Portage, long ones. ½ mile+ (160 rods) portages tend to weed out the weak. Then add a few more. Also - fair portages to the put in will limit the 'cooler and stereo' crowd
- Look for entries with very limited numbers and are more remote

➤ <https://bwca.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=maps.entrypoints>



Outfitters

- ▶ Just show up and paddle – they can definitely lighten the burden

Here is a sample

- ▶ Ely
 - ▶ <https://www.vnorth.com/>
 - ▶ <https://clearwateroutfitters.com/>
 - ▶ <https://elyoutfittingcompany.com/>
 - ▶ <https://www.piragis.com/>
- ▶ Grand Marais
 - ▶ <https://sawbill.com/>
 - ▶ <https://hjo.com/>
- ▶ At a minimum, typically pick up your permit, bait, fishing license, last minute maps or equipment, likely a canoe
 - ▶ Many will also have rooms you can rent for the night before entry and a shower when you come out

Deluxe Canoe Fishing Trip Package

This has everything the Ultralight Gold complete package has plus some fishing extras.

Package Includes:

1. Your choice of Northstar (Bell) or Wenonah Kevlar canoe
2. Vexilar Depth Finder
3. Alps MX sleeping bag (Micro X insulation) wide w / compression sack
4. Thermarest style self-inflating sleeping pads, full length, 2" thick
5. Dining Tarp
6. Kondos Deluxe Cordura canoe packs
7. Camp stove (fuel is included)
8. Rod holders
9. Bait bucket & leech locker
10. Fishing net
11. Anchor bag
12. Canoe & camp chairs
13. One set of maps – Fisher / McKenzie
14. Routing service
15. Alps dome tent & ground cloth
16. Water filter & Steri-Pen
17. Rain poncho (packed upon request only)
18. Camp & Trail Menu – upgraded with Fishing Menu
19. Bunkhouse – one night included with Fishing package
20. 2 dozen Night Crawlers
21. ½ pound of Leeches
22. Mike Furtman's "BWCA Fishing Guide" book
23. Free parking & showers

Your trip will be five days on the water and the party size minimum is two people. Cost is \$504.00 per person.

Extra days will be charged according to the Gold package rate. Licenses, permit and camping fees (if applicable) are not included. (No discounts apply to this package.)

	5 days	6 days	7 days	8 days	Ea. Addl Day
2-4 people	\$504.00	\$599.00	\$694.00	\$765.00	\$87.00
5-7 people	\$504.00	\$599.00	\$694.00	\$765.00	\$87.00

Maps. Absolutely essential

- Fisher or Mackenzie maps. www.bwcamaps.com. May need more than 1
- Canoe map holder
 - <https://kondosoutdoors.com/products/map-case/>
- Portages and campsites are clearly labeled. Finding them in the wild adds a bit of adventure to the trip. Compass required. GPS nice to have.





What's a rod? How are the portages?

- ▶ Rods are used to measure distance in the BWCA. 1 rod \approx 16.5 feet, 320 rods = 1 mile
- ▶ Portages vary in difficulty and dryness, and the mosquitos and black flies may carry you away
- ▶ Rough time estimate: paddling 3 mph, portages 2 mph (usually have to double portage), plus loading, unloading at portages and time for snacks and drinks



Gear and clothes, safety, bears

- ▶ You can find lists all over the internet
- ▶ Yes, bears exist, and they can visit your camp. Though we never had a visitor
 - ▶ Keep food elevated. Squirrels and other varmints can steal it as well
 - ▶ Your line/pulley system can also hold your bush shower
- ▶ Plan for a variety of weather. Bring tarps, and lots of line (rope) and pulleys
- ▶ Fire making supplies. Gas stove (MSR lite kind) also essential.
- ▶ Everything you bring you will carry on your back. This isn't backpacking, but you still consider weight and bulk.
- ▶ Hammocks are never out of favor. Bring some. Frisbees can provide entertainment and fan the fire
- ▶ They're on the list below, but need to reiterate: First aid kit, water filter. You will drink the lake water

WHAT TO BRING LIST - Each person in your party should bring;

1 Jacket
1 Sweatshirt
1 Wool shirt
1 Cotton shirt
1 Trousers
2 Sets underwear
3 pairs wool socks
1 set rain gear
Travel Mug

Compass
Sunglasses
1 pair sturdy shoes
(or hiking boots)
1 pair tennis shoes
Pocket/sheath knife
Sharpening stone
Duct tape for repairs
Water Filter

Toilet Kit (include towel)
First aid kit
Insect repellent
Sunburn preventative
Sewing kit
Flashlight
Match case
50-100' rope (per party)
Water Bottle

Optional:
Cotton or wool gloves
Long underwear
Fishing rod
8-12 lb. test line
Small tackle box
Variety of lures & tackle
Rubber boots
Camera • Radio/Cell Phone

- Head netting, long sleeve shirts and thin gloves provide good bug protection. And insect repellent
- Hammocks are always popular
- Line and pulleys between tree branches work to elevate food bags – and lift bush shower
- Check these sites for awesome gear you won't find many other places

- <https://www.duluthpack.com/> packs of course. Granite gear is also good. Various sizes. Food bag, water sealing, etc
- <https://kondosoutdoors.com/> Buy their tarp. It's amazing. Lots of gadgets for your canoe voyage: anchor bag, map case, etc. They also make great packs – Voyageur series



Food

- ▶ Cans are not allowed, but a cold beer sure hits the spot after a long trek in.
 - ▶ Frozen steaks keep the beers cold. Pack the cans out. Makes a great first meal.
- ▶ Dehydrate fruits, veges, eggs, meat
- ▶ A backpack water bag filled with red wine is glorious

BWCA CAMPING LIST

PACKED

Sleeping Bags -
Inflatable Pads
Plates, cups
Pots and Pans
Camp Chairs
Collapsible Water Jug
Pillows
MSR stove
Dish soap
Water pail, kitchen sink
tackle box
Hammocks
Tarps
Water filter

Water bottles

STORAGE

2 Tents, lightweight stakes
Titanium Utensils, pot holder
Saw/Ax
White gas tanks
strainer, dish towel
Clothes Line, rope
pulleys
Little bungees
Duluth packs
Shower
Fish/flat cooking tray
Anchor/Map holder

PURCHASE

Batteries
Firestarter, Lighter
Tea, Hot Chocolate
Mosquito repellent
Aluminum foil
Plastic bags
Toilet paper
Sun screen

FIRST AID STUFF

Calamine lotion
Gauze, tape
Antibiotic ointment

Krzysztof food

Pearled barley, Dried mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes, Knorr's Parma Rosa Sauce.

Trader Joes Ravioli cheese filling (dry mini size), Knorr's Alfredo sauce (use dried milk to reconstitute).

Bear's Creek Bean soup.

Trader Joes salami - all varieties.

Morning Oatmeal with Trader Joes freeze dried strawberries and /or blueberries.

Eggs with prosciutto.

Pearled barley with pure maple syrup.

Your favorite noodles with Knorr's creamy alfredo sauce and mushrooms or sundried tomatoes, hard cheese on top (Asiago or Parmesan).

Lots of beef jerky (my own favorite).

Naan bread (TJ's) with Nutella, or PB&J.
Palm oil

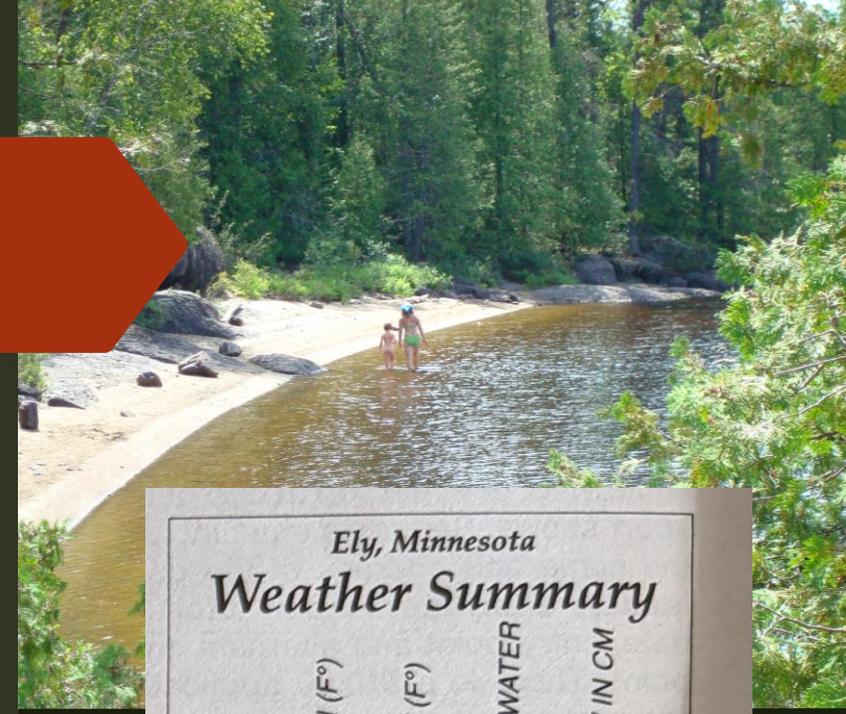
Flavored drinks

BORROW

Towels
Fishing poles
Fish net

Weather and bugs, and when to go

- ▶ Fishing season opens first Saturday in May. It may snow on you, and the ice may have just come off the lakes. Or it could be 70 degrees. Or both.
- ▶ I've never gone in October, but I have always wanted to
- ▶ Hard to predict the weather, bugs, and fishing quality, so just find a time that works for you and then find an entry permit.



Ely, Minnesota
Weather Summary

	AVERAGE HIGH (F°)	AVERAGE LOW (F°)	PRECIP./IN. OF WATER	ACCUM. SNOW IN CM
JAN.	5.1	1.5	1.53	19.00
FEB.	20.4	-9.6	.58	6.50
MAR.	32.7	8.5	.85	7.25
APR.	53.9	25.9	1.03	9.50
MAY	69.6	39.6	2.42	1.25
JUNE	71.7	46.6	5.60	0.00
JULY	79.2	56.0	.47	0.00
AUG.	72.0	51.9	5.32	0.00
SEP.	63.2	41.8	3.70	0.00
OCT.	53.1	40.0	1.93	1.50
NOV.	38.3	13.5	1.12	14.75
DEC.	12.6	-11.3	.55	11.50



Fishing and bait, electronics

- The books will highlight which fish are found where. Pan fish, northern pike, walleye, bass and lake trout mostly
 - Fishing can be excellent or sketchy, but make for a fine meal when you hit them.
- A 40 inch northern may just decide to hit your walleye jig
- A good fillet knife and knowledge of how to fillet a walleye and northern pike will be rewarded with a great meal <https://www.reedssports.com/fishing/leech-lake-knives-7-5-fillet-knife-frosty-95397-frosty-400000953977>
- Leeches are robust and are easy to haul and maintain in the lake water
- Minnow and nightcrawlers, artificial lures, pretty much anything can be used
- A small, battery operated fish finder can do wonders for your production

Coming out

- ▶ You can exit any time, but once you come out it will require another permit to go back in
- ▶ A shower and hot restaurant meal, ice cream and beer, are all savored
- ▶ You may want to plan time around entry and exit to enjoy the area

