



## APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

Name of Applicant		
Affiliation (school, college, university, government agency, company)		
Title of Research Project		
Address		
Telephone/Email		
Is this a long-term study and/or do you plan to revisit the sites in the future? Please check one.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>INTERNAL USE ONLY:</b> Exempt permit?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
State in detail the objectives of the project, its value, necessity, and relationship to other projects. Specifically respond to the following two questions:		
1. Is the proposed activity necessary for the management and stewardship of the BWCAW and wilderness character?		
2. Is it necessary to conduct the proposed activity specifically in the wilderness? If so, why?		
Provide a general outline of the proposed research.		
Identify the methodology, procedures, and equipment to be used and any potential impact on both social and physical wilderness resources. Please attach a map of the proposed study area and/or GPS coordinates of site locations if you know them at this time. As a separate attachment, please also send a geodatabase with this spatial information when you email your completed application. We understand your sites may not be finalized at this time and are subject to change.		

State the timeframe within which the field activities will be carried out within the BWCAW. Be specific as to type of trip (day or overnight), mode of travel (hiking, paddle or motor if allowed by law), entrance points, and dates of entry. Limit your trips to as few as possible to accomplish your goals.

State whether wilderness visitors will be involved in the project and specify how and to what extent. If so, what are the acceptance and expiration dates of your Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval? Please attach.

Give the name, date and number of licenses, permits or other authorizations held relating to the project (e.g. bird banding permit, trapping permit, etc.) and those associated contacts.

Give the names, addresses and qualifications of persons assisting in the project and describe briefly contributions expected of them.

Give the names and addresses of any contributors to your project (grants, advice, scholarships, equipment, supplies, etc.) and associated contacts.

If approved, I the applicant, agree to abide by the terms and conditions specified in the attached approval.

Signature of Applicant:

Title:

Date:

Signature of Agency/Company/Department Chair, Advisor, etc. if applicable:

Date:

Title:

Approval Section	
Approval Recommended (signature)	Date:
Natural Resources Team Leader, Superior National Forest (printed name)	
Approval Recommended (signature)	Date:
Public Services Team Leader, Superior National Forest (printed name)	
Approval Granted (signature)	Date:
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest (printed name)	

## Conditions of Approval

Researchers with approved applications should inform the Superior Headquarters at least one month prior to entering the BWCAW to conduct research.

A brief progress report is requested following the field season. A full final report including the data gathered is requested at the conclusion of this study. Please submit your end of season progress report and database information to Forest Aquatic Biologist, Jason Butcher [jason.butcher@usda.gov](mailto:jason.butcher@usda.gov), Forest Ecologist, Katie Frerker [katie.l.frerker@usda.gov](mailto:katie.l.frerker@usda.gov), or Forest Wildlife Biologist, Cheron Ferland [cheron.ferland@usda.gov](mailto:cheron.ferland@usda.gov), by November 1<sup>st</sup> following your field season.

The Superior National Forest requires a spatial database which should include an outline of the general research area, as well as a separate feature class for precise locations of any individual plots or sampling sites. The database should be an ArcGIS compatible geodatabase, complete with FGDC metadata. If access to a GIS system is lacking, an Excel spreadsheet with plot numbers and UTM coordinates (in NAD83, Zone 15) shall be an acceptable alternative. Any questions please contact the Forest's GIS Coordinator Eric Gdula at 218-626-4331 or [eric.gdula@usda.gov](mailto:eric.gdula@usda.gov).

Approval to conduct research is granted for one year from the signature date. Researchers must re-apply each year to continue studying on the SNF.

To minimize impact on natural resources and other visitors concerning campsite occupancy and crowding, researchers must plan ahead and reserve a permit through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) during the quota season of May - September. If the research will take place outside the quota season, a self-issue permit identifying the researcher is required. Self-issue permits are located at every entry point. If the researcher wishes to change the dates requested in original application, the researcher is responsible for taking care of these changes and may be not be guaranteed entry to the initial requested points.

Researchers must comply with all BWCAW rules and regulations in effect for the general public: i.e. prohibition of cans and bottles, use of motors only where allowed by law, camping on designated sites only, party size limitation of 9 people and 4 watercraft, properly store food, do not burn trash or live vegetation, etc. More rules and regulations can be found [here](https://www.recreation.gov/). (<https://www.recreation.gov/>)

Further conditions of approval may be outlined in your approval letter. All conditions of this approval must be met. If any of the conditions described above or in your approval letter are not met, the researcher and research project are subject to the denial of application.

**\*\*About proposed "exempt permits":** Researchers with land management agencies (i.e. Minnesota DNR, US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.) may be issued a wilderness permit outside the quota depending on the proposed locations. Exempt Permits are only valid for the approved entry point and entry date and researchers may not re-enter on a different date using the same permit. If you believe you qualify for an exempt permit, please work with our Wilderness and Recreation Program Manager (218.626.4325) as soon as possible to establish the terms of your work in the BWCAW. Last minute requests may not be filled if quota is no longer available. Exemption only applies to researchers that are part of this specific project in conjunction with a land management agency.