
File Code: 2760
Date:

Ms. Nada Culver
Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
760 Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Ms. Culver:

Enclosed is an application for a withdrawal of National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Superior National Forest in the State of Minnesota. This application proposes a 20-year withdrawal of approximately 225,378 acres of federal lands from disposition under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, subject to valid existing rights. These laws include the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq. as amended), the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq. as amended), Section 402 of the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946, 16 U.S.C. 520, and 16 U.S.C. 508b. The federal lands would remain subject to laws authorizing the disposal of mineral materials, as defined by 36 C.F.R. Part 228, Subpart C.

The purpose of this proposed withdrawal is the protection of NFS lands within and adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Mining Protection Area (MPA) from adverse environmental impacts arising from exploration and development of federally owned minerals conducted pursuant to the mineral leasing laws. This withdrawal application will allow for a comprehensive approach to analysis and protection of the social and natural resources, ecological integrity, and wilderness values that could be threatened by potential future mining in this area.

The Forest Service requests that the subject NFS lands be segregated from the operation of the mineral leasing laws for the maximum period of two years, as authorized by 43 U.S.C. § 1714(b)(1), subject to valid existing rights. The acreage estimate for the withdrawal proposal was obtained from GLO survey information and Forest Service Land Status records.

If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Shawn Olson at shawn.olson@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

GINA OWENS
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: Gordon Blum, Connie Cummins, Shawn Olson, Nick Pardi, Natalie Landreth

