

The Izaak Walton League: Born in the Midwest in 1922



Don Arnosti
Conservation Program Director

Izaak Walton League Mission:

To conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, water and wildlife.



The “Ikes” were early BWCA defenders



Is Sulfide Mining Right for Minnesota Lake Country?



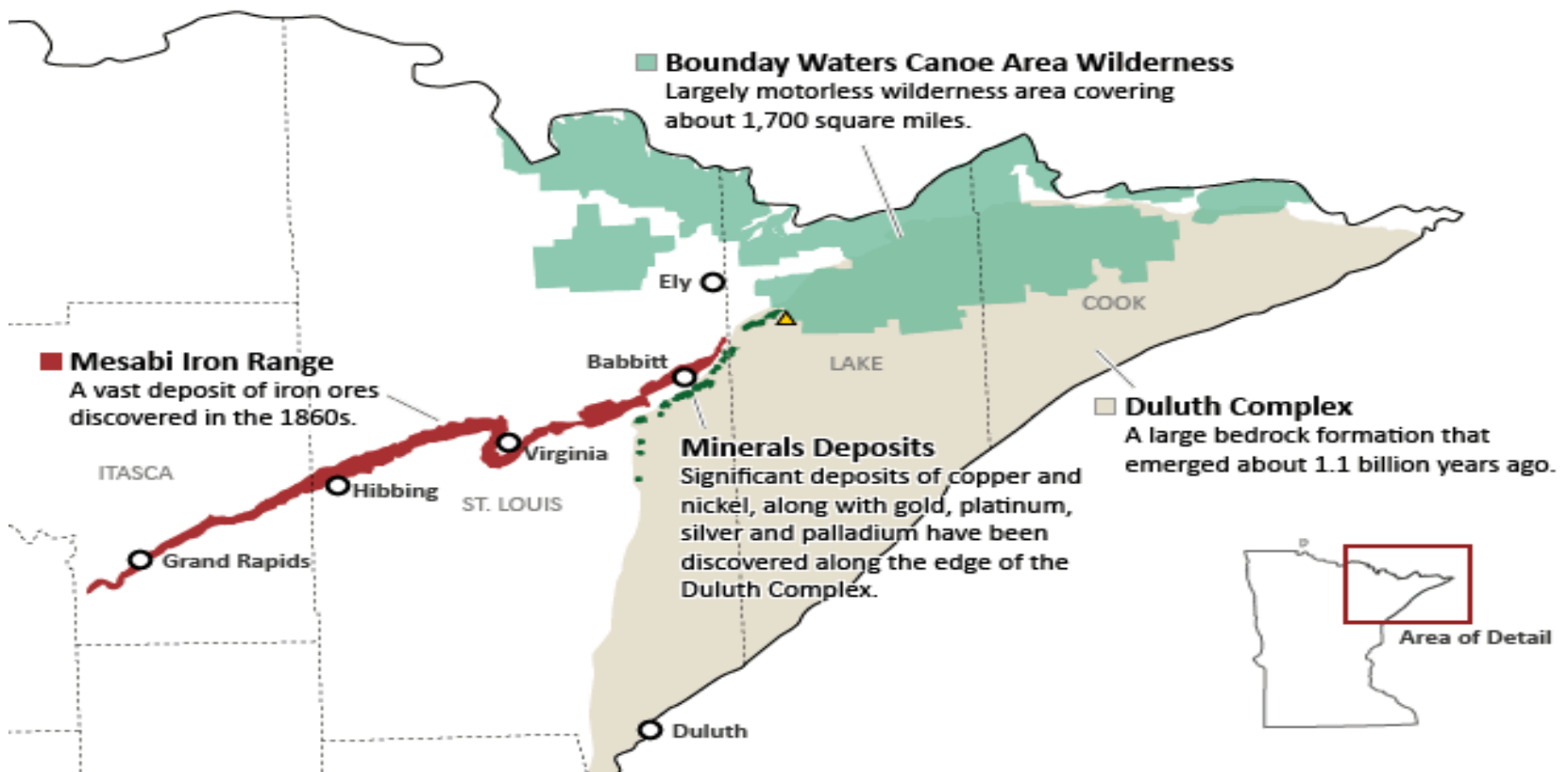
Sulfide Ore Mining = Copper, Nickel, Gold, Platinum, Palladium mining of sulfur bearing ore

- ALL sulfide ore mines in water-rich environments create acid mine drainage and toxic metal pollution harmful to people and aquatic life
- Largest source of Superfund liability – estimated \$54 billion to date.

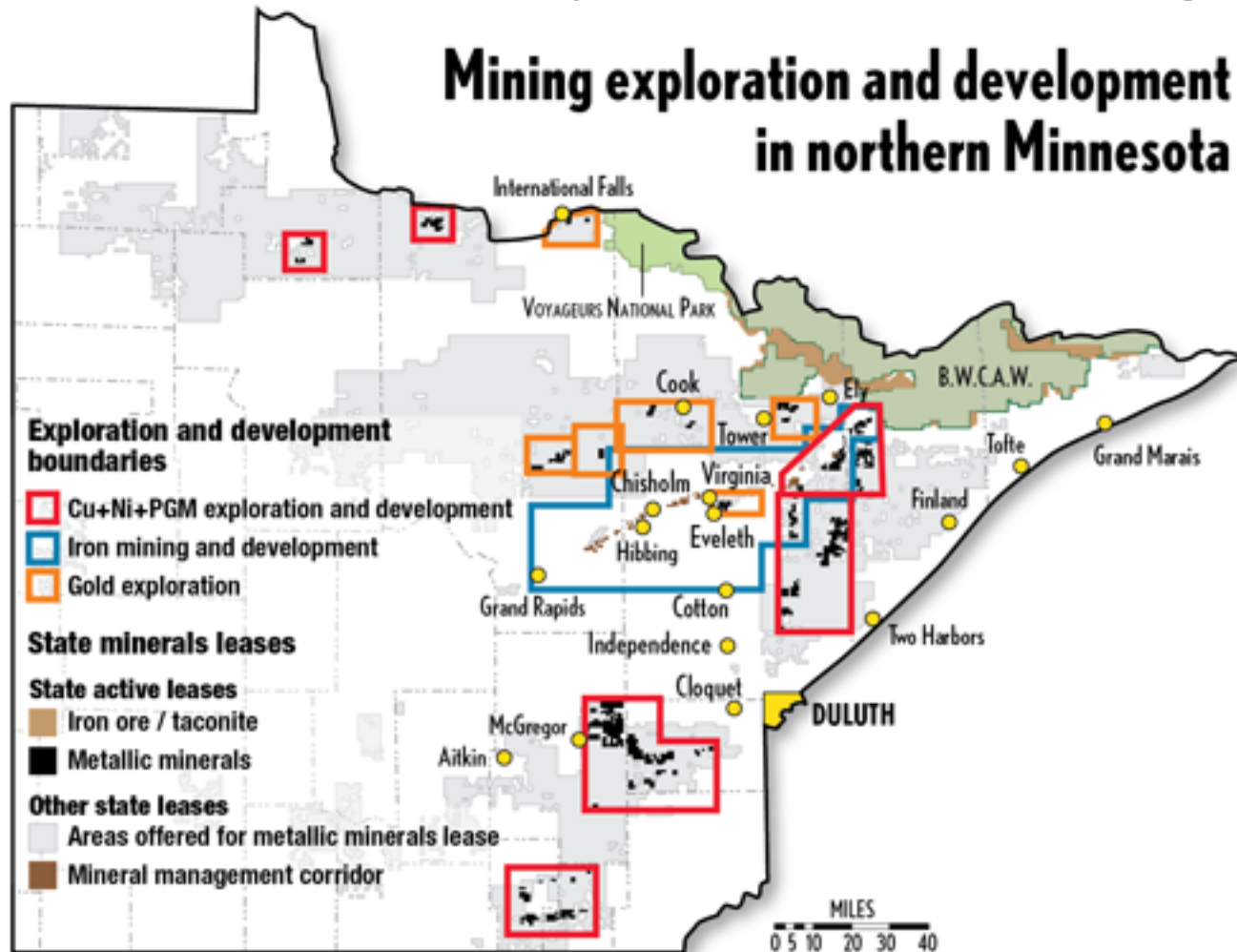


We Know Where The Mines Are Today...

Minerals deposits in Northern Minnesota



But Non-Ferrous Mineral Exploration Extends Far Beyond “The Range”



SOURCE: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

NEWS TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

Minnesota DNR Promotes Mining Above All Other Resources

SL-10-054-13: "Special features or uses: natural heritage features, Minnesota Biological Survey site of outstanding biodiversity, native plant communities, historic/archaeologic sites, Cloquet River water trail. "



A Few Mining Myths – Set Straight

- Myth: “We need the good-paying jobs”
- Fact: PolyMet’s mine will provide up to 360 jobs for 20 years, most likely non-union, undercutting wages for 4000 taconite miners. The Steelworkers Union *opposes* PolyMet!
- Fact: Tourism within 7 northeastern MN counties generates 18,000 jobs, \$785 million in revenue and \$50 million in sales taxes.

(Source: Minnesota Department of Revenue and Employment and Economic Development, 2009 statistics.)

A Few Mining Myths – Set Straight

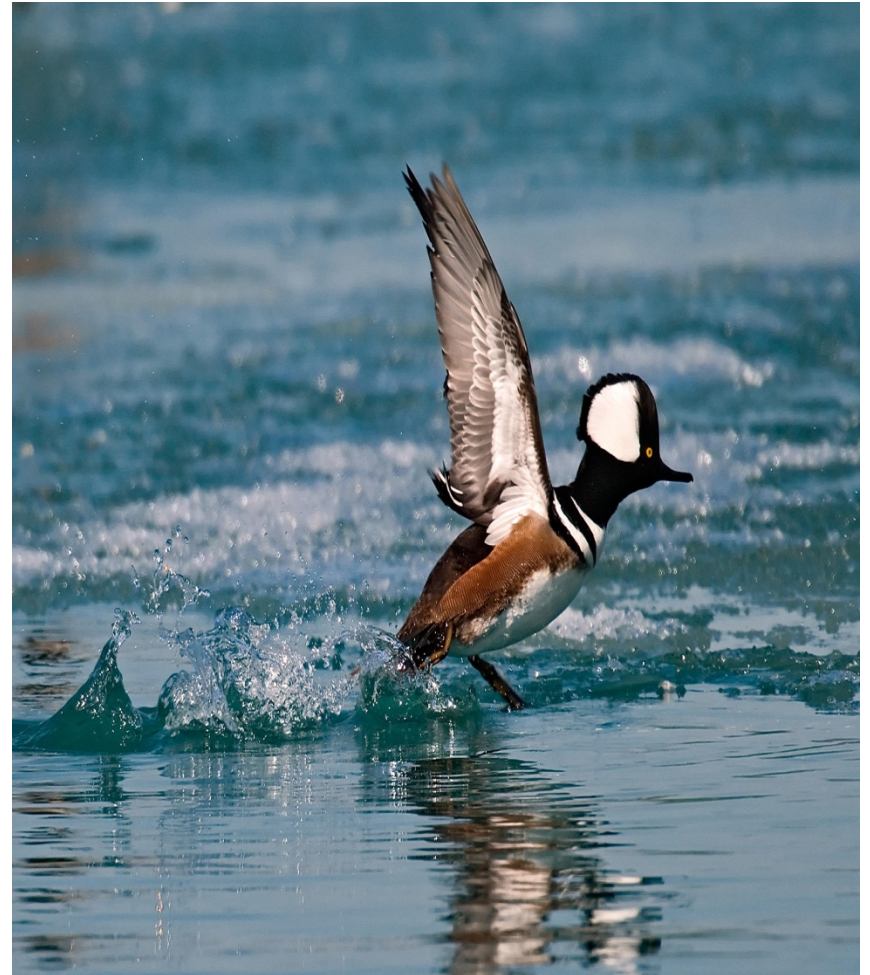
- Myth: “We need mining royalties to pay for the education of our children”
- Fact: After a century of iron and taconite mining royalty payments, the School Trust Fund pays for .3% of education costs. Taxpayers pay 99.7%

Hmmmm.
Clean water or \$28?



Why is PolyMet Important?

- First sulfide ore mine
- Toxic drainage to Lake Superior (or BWCA) essentially *forever*
- Irreplaceable headwaters wetlands
- Environmental Justice
- PolyMet mill and tailings basin will serve other mines



Why is PolyMet Terrible?

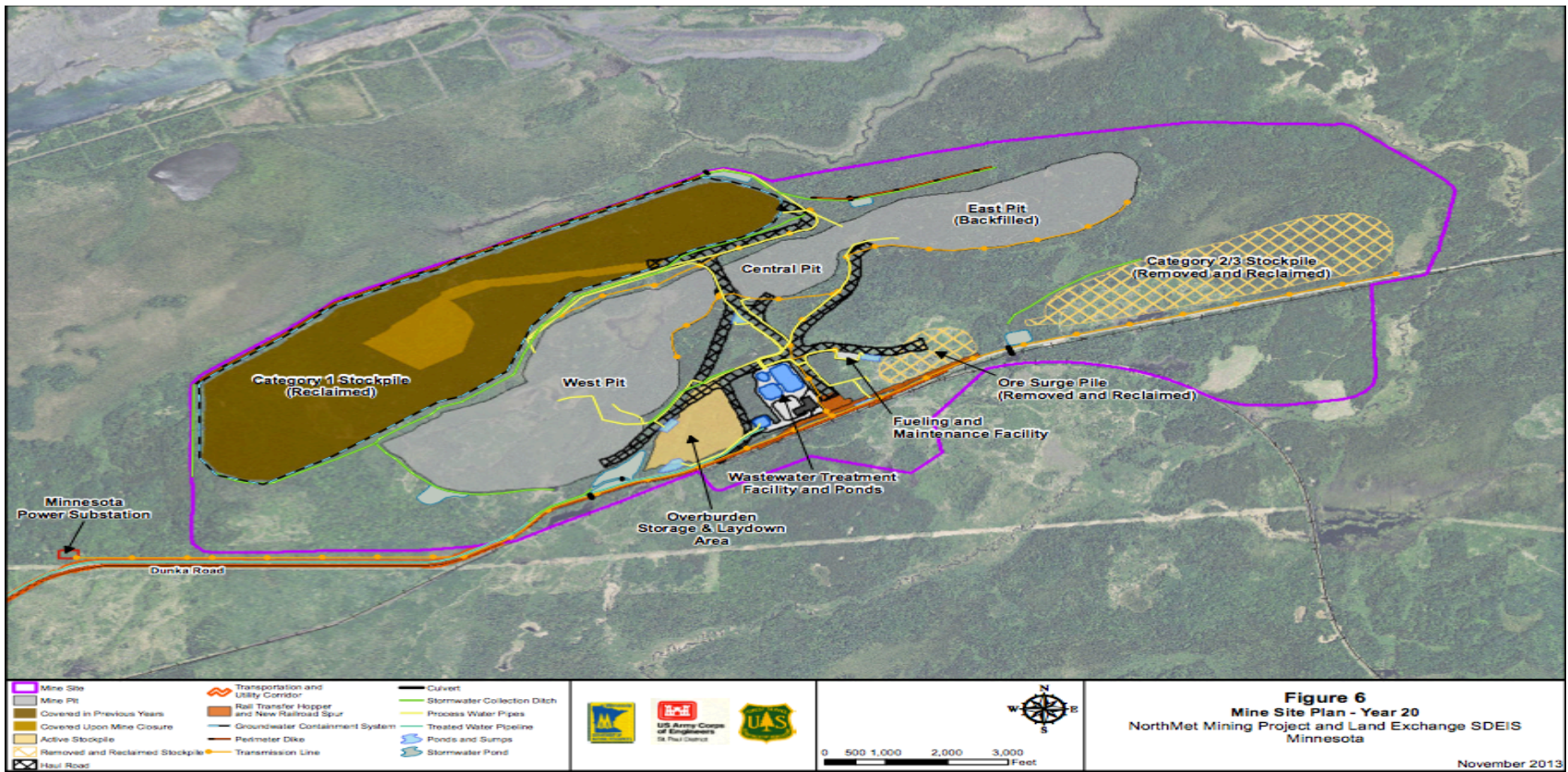
- * Perpetual water pollution damaging fish, wild rice, Lake Superior (BWCA?)
- * Over *12 square miles* of wetlands filled or drained.
- * EIS is full of errors omissions and lies.



“Errors, Omissions and Lies”

Pretty Strong Language...

- Water model manipulated and misleading – water pollution flows south or north?



“Errors, Omissions and Lies”

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- Unrealistic assumptions about unproven technologies: seepage capture, R/O water treatment system, tailings dam safety, more.



...When You Wish upon a Star...
★

“Errors, Omissions and Lies”

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- Unrealistic assumptions about unproven technologies: seepage capture, R/O water treatment system, tailings dam safety, more.
- No alternatives (dry storage of tailings, underground mining.)

“Errors, Omissions and Lies”

- Water model manipulated and misleading – water pollution flows south or north?
- Unrealistic assumptions about unproven technologies: seepage capture, R/O water treatment system, tailings dam safety, more.
- No alternatives (dry storage of tailings, underground mining.)
- Minnesota regulators are inept, unwilling and politically manipulated. “Adaptive Management”

DNR Can't or Won't Control Legacy Pollution on the Spruce Road



2015 Minnesota Legislature:

- Repealed requirement for solid waste permit for non-ferrous mines
- Blocked sulfide water quality standard implementation designed to protect Wild Rice
- Eliminated PCA Citizen's Board



*NOT Right
for
Minnesota*



The Decision is Nigh

- PolyMet Proposed Final EIS to be released first week of November for comment.
- US Forest Service will propose to approve the land exchange the next week...greased wheels?
- The Governor needs to hear from YOU!



Possible Messages for Governor Dayton...

- The EIS is incomplete and inaccurate: it does not accurately forecast which watershed the pollution will affect! Send it back.
- Ask the US Geological Survey to conduct an independent run of the water model.
- PolyMet is a Bad Deal for Minnesota!
- Sulfide Ore mining is too risky in our environment: Acid drainage and toxic mercury and other metals will poison our waters.
- “Adaptive Management” is NOT an answer: it is passing the buck(s) to our children.
- Perpetual pollution is too long: reject PolyMet’s risky plan!