

# PEDAL TO D.C.

## Book Tour to Save the Boundary Waters

media release



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editions



With our public lands under renewed threat, activists Amy and Dave Freeman embark on a 1,750-mile bike tour to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining

Covering 1,750 miles and crossing nine states, authors and **National Geographic Adventurers of the Year** Amy and Dave Freeman will pedal from Ely, Minnesota to Washington, D.C. to promote their new book, *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters* (Milkweed Editions), and to continue their efforts to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). Thanks to a critical decision made by the Trump administration on December 22, 2017, the region is again in danger from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining, which the EPA considers our nation's most polluting industry.

In response to the beginnings of these threats years ago, the Freemans spent 366 days outdoors in the BWCAW (from September 2015 to 2016), traveling by canoe, foot, dogsled to explore over 500 of the area's rivers, streams, and lakes—water so clean they could drink it right out of the lake—and sharing their experience through video, photos, and blogs with an audience of hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens. The project became *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters*, a critically-acclaimed, illustrated account of their adventure, which tells the deeper story of the value, beauty, and fragility of wild places.

To bring renewed awareness of the issue to citizens across the country and legislators in D.C., the Freemans will depart from ground zero of the proposed Twin Metals mine near Ely, Minnesota in April and will arrive in Washington, D.C. in June, undertaken with collaborative support from **Milkweed Editions**, the **Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters**, and other sponsors. They will tow a canoe behind their bikes as a reminder of the wilderness they have pledged to protect, and will gather signatures on the canoe as a petition in support of protecting the BWCAW from proposed mines. They will stop at bookstores, libraries, outdoor stores, colleges, breweries, community centers, and other venues along the way. They will use images, video, and *A Year in the Wilderness* to discuss adventure advocacy and what we stand to lose if sulfide-ore copper mining occurs upstream from the BWCAW.



**64 days, over 30 events in small towns and Minneapolis, Madison, Chicago, Columbus, Pittsburgh, and D.C.**

**AMY AND DAVE FREEMAN's** expeditions have taken them over thirty thousand miles by canoe, kayak, and dogsled through some of the world's wildest places, from the Amazon to the Arctic. National Geographic named them Adventurers of the Year in 2014 and their images, videos, and articles been published by a wide range of media sources from the CBC, NBC, and FOX to the *Chicago Tribune*, *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Backpacker*, *Canoe and Kayak*, and Minnesota Public Radio. They have delivered over 700 educational presentations at conferences, outdoor expos, libraries, bookstores, museums, colleges, and K-12 schools. They also run the Wilderness Classroom, an educational nonprofit organization that introduces children to wild places around the world.

### EVENT INQUIRIES & BOOK SALES

JOANNA R. DEMKIEWICZ, PUBLICIST  
[joanna\\_demkiewicz@milkweed.org](mailto:joanna_demkiewicz@milkweed.org)

JORDAN BASCOM, MARKETING ASSISTANT  
[jordan\\_bascom@milkweed.org](mailto:jordan_bascom@milkweed.org)

### MEDIA BOOKINGS & INTERVIEWS WITH THE AUTHORS

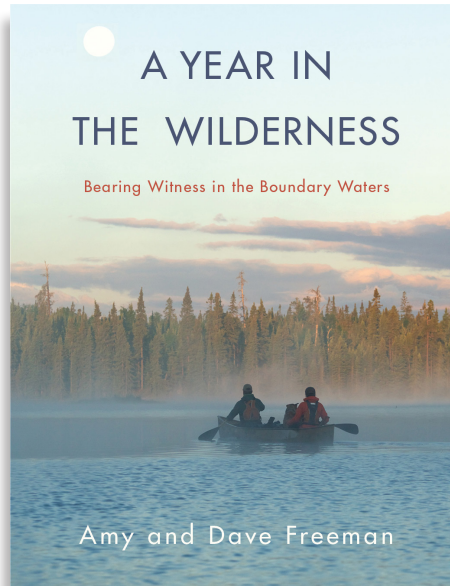
ELENA MEREDITH  
SENIOR PUBLICIST  
[elena@prbythebook.com](mailto:elena@prbythebook.com)

### SPONSORSHIP & INFO ABOUT SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS

SAM CHADWICK  
DEPUTY CAMPAIGN MANAGER  
[sam@savetheboundarywaters.org](mailto:sam@savetheboundarywaters.org)



## ABOUT A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS



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FEATURED IN THE **WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
NAMED A "BIG INDIE BOOK OF FALL 2017"  
BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"At this moment in history, when calls are growing to privatize public lands and weaken national parks, Amy and Dave Freeman . . . have done us an invaluable service, offering a **wonderfully compelling testimony for the value of wild places and the creatures who inhabit them. I urge you to read it.**"

—VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE

"With this book the Freemans **prove themselves natural successors of Sigurd Olson's** legacy of carefully crafted activist writing."

—LOS ANGELES REVIEW

"Here's the story of a great adventure in one of the planet's most gorgeous wildernesses—and with high stakes at risk in a fight to stave off a truly gross assault on its integrity. **So many reasons to read this book!**"

—BILL MCKIBBEN

"**The depth of their insights in this remarkable book** reflects the intensity of their extraordinary experience and their love for this amazing national treasure."

—ANN BANCROFT, ADVENTURER & POLAR EXPLORER

**THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS** is a federally protected area that comprises 1.1 million acres of roadless land and water spanning northern Minnesota. America's most visited wilderness area, the BWCAW is beloved by many as an annual canoe pilgrimage and is a critical habitat for several endangered and threatened species.

**ON DECEMBER 22, 2017,** a critical decision was made by the Trump administration that puts the BWCAW region and watershed under an urgent threat. The U.S. Department of the Interior is reinstating two expired mineral leases first issued in 1966 that could allow Chilean mining company Antofagasta (and subsidiary, Twin Metals) to build a copper-nickel mine adjacent to the Boundary Waters and upstream from Voyageurs National Park. Sulfide-ore copper mines require a toxic mining practice that has never before been allowed in Minnesota. Supporters of the mine say it will create 650 jobs; however, it will also endanger 4,490 jobs in local tourism that depend on a clean Boundary Waters, including the Freeman's work as dogsled and canoe guides. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness plans to sue to challenge the decision. **TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [SAVETHEBOUNDARYWATERS.ORG](http://SAVETHEBOUNDARYWATERS.ORG)**

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[joanna\\_demkiewicz@milkweed.org](mailto:joanna_demkiewicz@milkweed.org)

JORDAN BASCOM, MARKETING ASSISTANT  
[jordan\\_bascom@milkweed.org](mailto:jordan_bascom@milkweed.org)

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ELENA MEREDITH  
SENIOR PUBLICIST  
[elena@prbythebook.com](mailto:elena@prbythebook.com)

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SAM CHADWICK  
DEPUTY CAMPAIGN MANAGER  
[sam@savetheboundarywaters.org](mailto:sam@savetheboundarywaters.org)