



Last week during a hike to Eagle Mountain, my young children asked, "What is the BWCA?" I responded that the BWCA (and Eagle Mountain) looked just as they had in 1974 when I visited as a recent college graduate. As we worked our way along the trail to Minnesota's highest peak, I explained how the fur trappers, miners and lumber companies had dramatically changed northern Minnesota, but that many people had worked to protect this place from further development so that they and the generations to come would have at least a small part of Minnesota as "it used to be."

I can't carry my canoe and a full Duluth pack anymore, and I don't know how many more trips I will make to the BWCA or Voyageurs Park. But I know that development and motors in these pristine areas is selfish, with no concern for the generations that will follow us. There are many thousands of lakes in Minnesota and elsewhere with motors, cabins and condos, but only a small area without them. Let's tread lightly on our environmental treasure and leave this area "as it was."

JOHN F. LEEPER

SHOREVIEW