

Press Release

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Congressman Rick Nolan Recognizes BWCAW Volunteer

Congressman Rick Nolan recognized Lynn Schwarz as 2013 Volunteer of the Year for the Boundary Waters Advisory Committee (BWAC), at the 2014 National Park Service Volunteer Recognition and North Country Trail Association's Annual Awards presentation event on August 22, 2014 in Duluth.

While working full-time for 3M Company, Lynn contributed the countless hours needed to apply and receive an RTP grant (Recreational Trails Program) for the Gunflint Ranger District of the United States Forest Service (USFS), in 2013. The RTP grant helps the USFS maintain and preserve Minnesota's historic back packing trails in the BWCAW for our present and future generations. In this case, it was specific to the Kekekabic Trail, which is slated to be part of the North Country National Scenic Trail, to run through northeastern Minnesota, to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.



Lynn Schwarz with Congressmen Rick Nolan and Alan Lowenthal

Not only did Lynn volunteer her time but she did so with enthusiasm and perseverance, as there was 'red tape involved'. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, addressed the conference participants via video and mentioned the importance of RTP grants. Senator Klobuchar secured continuation of the Recreational Trails Program [RTP] as part of a larger Surface Transportation bill. "Minnesota snowmobilers and countless other outdoor enthusiasts benefit from the use of these trails," said Klobuchar in video cast.

Senator Klobuchar also acknowledged the legacy of Jim Oberstar and his vision and dedication to preserving Minnesota's trails. In 1998, Congressman Oberstar helped volunteer groups get the BWCAW Brule Lake Trail back into the trail inventory after it was removed in the 1993 BWCAW management plan.

The Boundary Waters Advisory Committee was established in 2002 to advocate for hiking trails and special places in the BWCA Wilderness. In 1990, BWAC president Martin Kubik, spearheaded effort to save the Kekekabic Trail with volunteers. Without volunteers, the Kekekabic Trail would not exist today and the North Country Trail link would not be possible. BWAC current advocacy focus is the Pow Wow Trail which burned in the Pagami Creek Fire in 2011, and has never been fully restored. For more information contact Martin Kubik, wtrails2@yahoo.com or by phone 651-214-5849.