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Outlaw Cans, Bottles in Wildlife Area

By Louis Gale
Outdoor Editor

One environmental decision may start the move to reverse the national despoiling of our American parks and wilderness areas.

Craig Rupp, Superior National Forest supervisor, announced this week bottles and cans will be prohibited in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of the Superior starting May 1, 1971.

The million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northeastern Minnesota is the second largest unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is the only canoe wilderness in the system. With more than 100,000 visitors a year, it is the most heavily-used wilderness unit in the nation.

Rupp said the decision to outlaw non-burnable food and beverage containers is the first time such a rule has been made for any area in the National Wilderness System. He said the decision came after extensive study and involved the public behavior patterns.

Enforcement of the no-can, no-bottle rule is expected to reduce annual refuse by 360,000 pounds in the Canoe Area. This should save some \$90,000 a year in clean-up expenses.

Rupp said elimination of non-burnable refuse in the wilderness area may cause a quick burn among some overloaded, inattentive tourists who will try to slip past check points with their cases of canned or bottled beer, soft drinks and canned foods.

The public should become quickly substitute-trained, Rupp said. A number of firms manufacture dehydrated and freeze-dried foods which offer varied menus and are packaged in burnable containers.

He said substitutes for most canned or bottled carbonated beverages are also available in a variety of brands and flavors packed in burnable or reusable plastic-type containers.

Wilderness area visitors will be obligated to carry out any containers from other than foods and beverages along with metal foils and other refuse which is not burned.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area rule is a start in the salvage of this wilderness area. Rupp said some people will object to this ruling but "most important the life expectancy of the BWCA as we know it today will be prolonged."

In another report made this week, the National Wildlife Federation announced the new national litter ban.

"According to Keep America Beautiful," the federation report stated "Cleaning up litter left by pigs in Federal parks, forests and other public lands will cost taxpayers approximately \$22 million during fiscal 1971."

"This is a 12 percent increase over fiscal '70 and about \$4 million more than the entire budget of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife."

The National Wildlife Federation also reports two encouraging — but rare — instances of American companies taking direct action to reduce the increasing rate of environmental pollution in this country.

The Monsanto Company, only U. S. producer of a group of persistent environmental chemicals — polychlorinated biphenyls called PCB's — has announced it is restricting their production and tightening controls over their handling and disposal.

PCB's have been in use for over 40 years and have been showing up with alarming regularity in tests conducted on wildlife, the National Wildlife Federation reports. In these tests PCB's were confused for some time with DDT which they resemble in chemical structure.

Monsanto reports it has stopped all use of PCB's in what it calls "open systems." These include adhesives, sealants, chlorinated rubber, specialty paints and other similar items.

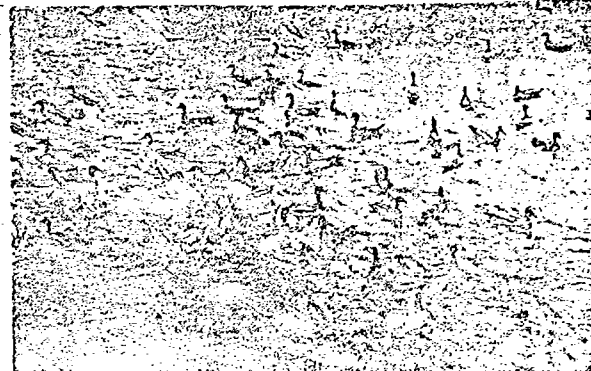
Hereafter, Monsanto reveals, it will use PCB's principally in "closed systems." These include electrical transformers and capacitors.

The company also reports it has built a high-temperature incinerator to break down old PCB materials into harmless components. Monsanto will offer its customers the use of the incinerator if they have no other means of disposing of PCB's safely.

The National Wildlife Federation also reports a new phosphate-free soap has been developed by DeSoto, Inc., of Des Plaines, Ill., and is being marketed primarily through Sears, Roebuck and Co. It will be called a non-polluting heavy duty laundry detergent.

The new soap is guaranteed not to harm the environment. It is totally biodegradable and will break down in natural environment surroundings, according to DeSoto, the Federation reports.

The soap tested more effective at soil removal than phosphate detergents in hard water and only slightly less effective in soft water. It compares with phosphates on dyed fabrics and is less corrosive than phosphate detergents on laundry equipment, according to the report.



HUNTER Who? Apparently able to distinguish between earnest waterfowl hunters armed with shotguns and unarmed photographers, these ducks at Pymatuning Lake permitted Plain Dealer outdoor editor Louis Gale to shoot them with a camera but flew off when opening day hunters approached.

HEAVY WATER industrial contamination of our national water is continuing practically undiminished, the Wildlife Federation warns. Many plants continue to dump highly toxic mercury, lead, zinc and other metal pollutants into the nation's lakes, rivers and oceans.

In a report to the Senate Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Environment recently, Dr.

Harry Schroeder, professor of physiology of Dartmouth Medical School said environmental pollution by toxic metals is a much more serious and much more insidious problem than is pollution by organic substances such as pesticides, weed killers, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and other gross contaminants of air and water.

"The importance of this

problem is illustrated fact rats and mice by their lives in an environment controlled as to lie contamination by 25 percent longer than animals in the natural environment of the animal quarter Schroeder warns.

There are two rep- sible for this continuation of our environment

1. "What else is ne
2. "Let's stop it!"

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