



MEDIA ADVISORY

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Shahla Werner, Director, (608) 332-6079**
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Lake Superior Boat Tour with Tia Nelson, Mike Wiggins Jr., Neil Howk, & Dave Blouin to Celebrate Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary, Highlight Mining Threats

Bayfield: On Saturday, September 27, 2014, National Public Lands Day, the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter will host an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and highlight threats posed by the proposed iron ore mine threatening the Bad River Watershed, the Penokee Hills, and Lake Superior. Attendees will embark on a 2 hour boat tour aboard the Island Princess to explore a portion of the 35,000 acre **Gaylord Nelson Wilderness Area**, which is managed by the National Park Service and includes 80% of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Lake Superior.

Speakers include: **Tia Nelson**, daughter of former Senator and pioneering conservationist Gaylord Nelson; **Mike Wiggins Jr.**, Chair, Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe; **Neil Howk**, Assistant Chief of Interpretation and Education, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, National Park Service; and **Dave Blouin**, Mining Committee Chair, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter.

What: **Gaylord Nelson Wilderness Act Celebration**

When: **Saturday, September 27, 2014, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM (boat boards at 1:15 PM)**

Where: **Island Princess, City Dock, 20 Rittenhouse Avenue, Bayfield, WI**

2014 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964. This landmark legislation established the National Wilderness Preservation System and initially protected 9.1 million acres of wilderness. Since then - thanks to the efforts of thousands of Sierra Club members and allies - Congress has designated an additional 100 million acres of wilderness, protecting fragile, unique areas across the nation. Today we have 757 wilderness areas nationwide.

In addition to the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness Area, Wisconsin also has six other wilderness areas, including the Blackjack Springs, Headwaters, Porcupine Lake, Rainbow Lake, and Whisker Lake Wilderness Areas, located in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest and managed by the US Forest Service; and the Wisconsin Islands Wilderness Area, managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. “Wilderness areas have the strongest, most permanent type of public land protection available. Wisconsin’s seven wilderness areas offer the chance for current and future generations to enjoy these places in their natural state for perpetuity,” said Shahla Werner, Director, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. **Due to limited boat capacity on this sold-out event, members of the media who wish to attend should RSVP by 5:00 PM September 26 at (608) 332-6079 or shahla.werner@sierraclub.org.**

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The Sierra Club is a member of Wilderness50, a coalition of more than 25 non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies that are planning and implementing local, regional, and national events and projects to celebrate this historic milestone throughout 2014. <http://www.wilderness50th.org>