Forest and are adjacent to the BWCAW and MPA. There is known interest in the development of hardrock minerals that have been found—and others that are thought to exist—in sulfide-bearing rock within this portion of the Rainy River Watershed. Any development of these mineral resources could ultimately result in the creation of permanently stored waste materials and other conditions upstream of the BWCAW and the MPA with the potential to generate and release water with elevated levels of acidity, metals, and other potential contaminants. Additionally, any failure of mitigation measures, containment facilities or remediation efforts at mine sites and their related facilities located upstream of the BWCAW and the MPA could lead to irreversible impacts upon natural resources and the inability to meet the purposes for the designation of the BWCAW and the MPA specified by Sec. 2 of Public Law 95–495, 92 Stat. 1649 (1978) and the inability to comply with section 4(b) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. These concerns are exacerbated by the likelihood that perpetual maintenance of waste storage facilities along with the perpetual treatment of water discharge emanating from the waste storage facilities and the mines themselves would likely be required to ameliorate these adverse effects. Yet, it is not at all certain that such maintenance and treatment can be assured over many decades.

Proposed Action

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has submitted an application to the Secretary of Interior proposing a withdrawal, for a 20-year term, of approximately 234.328 acres of NFS lands within the Rainy River Watershed on the Superior National Forest from disposition under United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. This proposal will also include an amendment to the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to reflect this withdrawal.

Possible Alternatives

In addition to the USFS proposal, a "no action" alternative will be analyzed, and no additional alternatives have been identified at this time. No alternative sites are feasible because the lands subject to the withdrawal application are the lands for which protection is sought from the impacts of exploration and development under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The USFS will be the lead agency. The USFS will designate the BLM as a cooperating agency. The BLM shall independently evaluate and review the draft and final environmental impact statements and any other documents needed for the Secretary of Interior to make a decision on the proposed withdrawal.

Responsible Official

Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will complete an environmental impact statement, documenting the information and analysis necessary to support a decision on withdrawal, and to support an amendment to the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Secretary of Interior is the authorized official to approve a proposal for withdrawal. The Responsible Official is the authorized official to approve an amendment to the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to reflect the proposed withdrawal.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent revises the scoping period in preparing this environmental impact statement. The USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held a public meeting within the initial 90-day comment period to gather public input on the proposed request for withdrawal. This meeting was held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center on March 16, 2017 in Duluth, MN. The scoping period will be extended an additional 120 days to accommodate the immense public interest and complexity of the proposal. Within the first 30 days, more than 30,000 written comments were received on the withdrawal proposal. The scoping period extension will also allow more time for additional public meetings. At least one additional public meeting will be scheduled on the Iron Range before the close of the scoping period. Further opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the Draft EIS, including a minimum 45-day public comment period. A plan amendment is subject to pre-decisional objection procedures at 36 CFR 219, subpart B.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency in preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer’s concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however.


Robert M. Harper,
Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.
SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL VISITOR USE MONITORING PROGRAM

The data from this collection provides vital information for strategic planning efforts, decisions regarding allocation of resources, and revisions of land and resource management plans for national forests. It provides managers with reliable estimates of the number of recreational visitors to a national forest, activities of those visitors (including outdoor physical activities), customer satisfaction, and visitor values. The knowledge gained from this effort helps identify recreational markets as well as the economic contributions visitors’ spending has on economic areas around forest lands. For the Forest Service, the collection is designed for a five-year cycle of coverage across all national forests. Conducting the collection less frequently puts information updates out of cycle with forest planning and other data preparation and reporting activities.

At recreation sites or access points, agency personnel or contractors will conduct onsite interviews of visitors as they complete their visit. Interviewers will ask about the purpose and length of the visit, the trip origin, activities, annual visitation rates, trip-related spending patterns, use of recreation facilities, satisfaction with agency services and facilities, and the composition of the visiting party. Primary analysis of the information for the Forest Service and partnering agencies will be performed by Forest Service staff in the Washington Office and by scientists in one or more of the agency’s research stations.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 9 minutes (average).
Type of Respondents: Visitors to lands and waters managed by the U.S. Forest Service.
Estimated Annual Number of Respondents: 45,000.
Estimated Annual Number of Responses per Respondent: One.
Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 6,400 hours.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 2032]

Approval of Subzone Status; Wacker Polysilicon North America LLC, Charleston, Tennessee

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones Act provides for ‘‘. . . the establishment . . . of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes,’’ and authorizes the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection ports of entry;

Whereas, the Board’s regulations (15 CFR part 400) provide for the establishment of subzones for specific uses;

Whereas, the Chattanooga Chamber Foundation, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 134, has made application to the Board for the establishment of a subzone at the facility of Wacker Polysilicon North America LLC, located in Charleston, Tennessee (FTZ Docket B–71–2016, docketed October 28, 2016);

Whereas, notice inviting public comment has been given in the Federal Register (81 FR 76331, November 2, 2016) and the application has been processed pursuant to the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations; and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner’s memorandum, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations are satisfied;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby approves subzone status at the facility of Wacker Polysilicon North America LLC, located in Charleston, Tennessee.