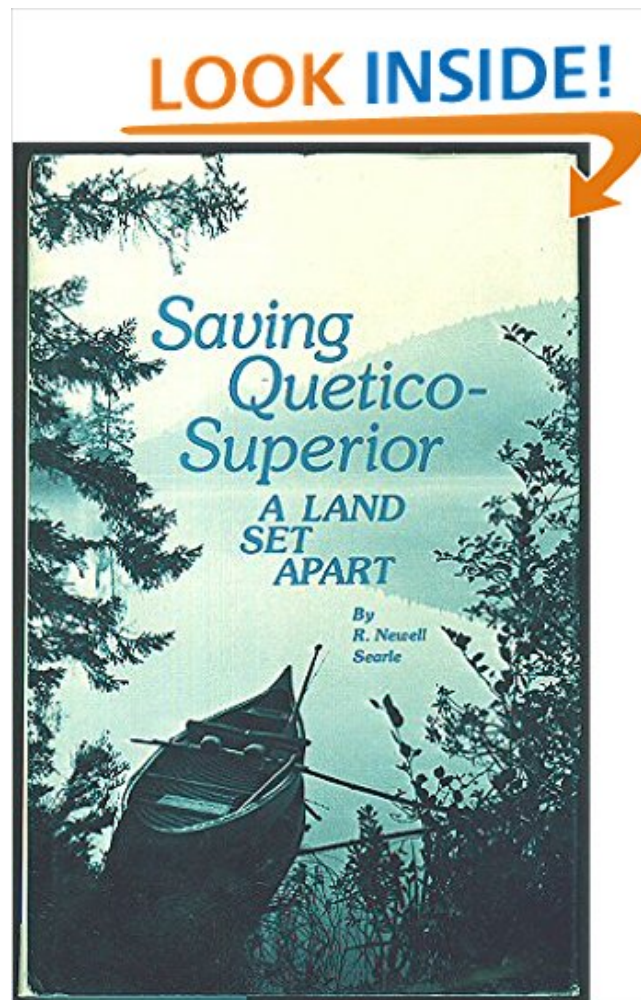




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Saving Quetico-Superior: A Land Set Apart (Publications Of The Minnesota Historical Society)



Synopsis

Encompassing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota, and Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, the Quetico-Superior is the only region of its kind in the U.S. and Canada. This book tells the story of the long campaign to secure and preserve it for posterity and also illustrates the development of an American idea of wilderness preservation. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is really great. Wow! I'm so glad someone had the foresight to preserve the Boundary Waters Canoe Area!

First thing to consider is that this is not a nature but a history book. Although there is "Quetico-Superior" in the title, the book mainly discusses the U.S. portion of the wilderness, the information about Quetico Provincial Park being rather scarce. The book tells the story of the long process of protecting the wilderness. The text is very detailed, giving opinions and writings of numerous persons and organizations, episodes which describe given persons, board feet of lumber, how much was asked for lands acquired for the park, details in the court etc. 10 pages of historical photos are included. The high point is the story of E.W. Backus and his dam plan. Excellent writing! After finishing it, I admit I felt respect and even pity for this man who wanted to destroy the

wilderness. Another excellent part is the end where Searle expresses final thoughts about the protagonists, the great conservationists Oberholtzer, Hubachek, Olson, Kelly and Winston. Some other parts are not equally well written being rather catalog-like. The author says he has tried to be neutral but does not succeed always. Anyway, the story brilliantly shows how in the eternal fight between the conservationists and the exploiters, the latter are always the party that is ready to lie in the court and to explode bombs at the homes of their opponents.

This history book chronicles conservationists' epic struggle to create and preserve the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). The author's meticulous research and names will make one feel like you're in a time machine, witnessing a decades-long political battle between commerce and conservation. The book also discusses the evolving thinking regarding wilderness management, and how public access has arguably become crucial to ensuring public support for wilderness areas. Readers who love history and the BWCA will surely enjoy this book.

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