

METALLIC SULFIDE-ORE MINING *in the DULUTH COMPLEX*



The Boundary Waters suffers the misfortune of existing in close proximity to the Duluth Complex, which is a geological feature that underlies the woods and waters of Northeastern Minnesota. One 35-mile-long section of the Duluth Complex consists of low-grade sulfide ore containing copper, nickel, platinum, gold, and other metals. The mining industry has long been aware of the existence of these metals in the Duluth Complex. However, because of the vast amounts of rock that must be moved and processed to extract the metals from such low-grade ore, mining the Duluth Complex was not considered economically viable until recently. Now, with the availability of sophisticated machinery that reduces the number of people that would need to be employed, and with copper in particular being in high demand in China and on the world market, multi-national mining companies have the Duluth Complex in their sights. Chile's Antofagasta, Switzerland's Glencore, and other companies are taking major steps toward opening mines at the gates of the Boundary Waters.