




Any gains from mining must be weighed against risks to outdoor recreation

1) The well-known travel publication Fodor's is advising readers not to travel to the Lake Superior region in 2024, specifically citing environmental issues negatively impacting Indigenous resources.

 <p>Fodor's Fodor's Editors November 7, 2023</p>	<p>"For a lot of Native nations that live either on Lake Superior or in close proximity to it, fish has been the backbone of not only tribal economies but ways of life for a long time. These continual advisories have the potential to be really devastating," says Katrina Phillips, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe and Associate Professor of History at Macalester College. "In so many instances, <u>First Nations are the people that bear the brunt of environmental degradation.</u>" The Red Cliff reservation sits on the lake's southern coastline and is a <u>fishing community at its core.</u></p>
<p>Indigenous people began inhabiting the boreal forests surrounding Lake Superior approximately 8,500 to 10,000 years ago. The Ojibwe, who call themselves Anishinaabe, came from the East Coast to the Great Lakes in the 1400s, subsisting on game, wild rice, and fish. <u>Fish remains a staple, but it is threatened by pollutants. Fish consumption advisories in the Great Lakes began in 1971, and continue to undermine Indigenous health economies, traditions, and cultures. In 2021, Wisconsin issued an advisory recommending against consuming more than one rainbow smelt during the spring. Fish around the spiritual homeland of the Ojibwe on Madeline Island in Wisconsin were found with elevated levels of PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances), human-made "forever chemicals" linked to cancer, a result of mining and manufacturing. Michigan and Minnesota followed up with similar advisories.</u></p>	<p>As the closest sulfide mine to Lake Superior in history, Copperwood would pose a tremendous new threat against Indigenous treaty resources in Wisconsin and Michigan, and it is unlikely to improve the region's travel appeal in the eyes of publications like Fodor's.</p>

2) Outdoor recreation contributes more than 10x as much to Michigan's economy as mining does.

OUTDOOR RECREATION	MINING
 <p>MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION</p> <p>Outdoor economy hits new high in Michigan; diverse industry demonstrates growth and resilience</p> <p>Kathleen Achtenberg Monday, November 27, 2023</p> <p>Michigan's outdoor recreation economy continues to soar, according to 2022 economic data just released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Overall, outdoor recreation has a powerful and positive economic impact on the U.S. economy, and the outdoor recreation economy in Michigan grew an impressive 11.8 percent from 2021 to 2022. This year's report shows that <u>outdoor recreation provided \$12.36 billion in value added for Michigan in 2022, and supported nearly 119,000 jobs</u> in a wide range of occupations and skills, including design and manufacturing, retail sales, and hospitality.</p>	 <p>March 6, 2023</p> <p>We have been a mining state for more than 125 years, with production totaling about \$50 billion since the mid-1990s. The National Mining Association reports that mining supports approximately 9,000 direct jobs in Michigan and 17,000 indirect and induced jobs. <u>Mining contributes roughly \$1 billion to the state's GDP annually.</u></p>

At the juncture of Lake Superior, Porcupine Mountains State Park, and the North Country Trail, Copperwood would introduce noise pollution, light pollution, subterranean blasting and heavy industrial traffic into the heart of one of the most beloved outdoor recreation areas in the Midwest. Additionally, the waste containment facility, measuring 244 football fields in area and 20 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty in height, would be visible from multiple scenic overlooks, including Copper Peak and Lake of the Clouds.

Why fund a short-lived boom-and-bust operation which could undermine strong-and-sustained outdoor recreation by disrupting the experience of pristine nature that is its foundation? And how exactly is this in keeping with the MEDC's "Pure Michigan" campaign?