

Please provide any comments about Leave No Trace issues you ran into.
2 sites had lots of firewood stacked up from previous campers.
A campsite on Snowbank there were beer cans and tinfoil left in the firepit. On another campsite on Disappointment Lake someone buried fish guts 10 feet from the firepit.
A fair amount I of trash in the fire pits
A few beverage cans in latrine on Basswood Lake in the motor zone.
A few sawed saplings.
past trips.
A full size table constructed out of small trees was made at our sight and left there by someone.
A group camped on an island that was not a designated camp site
A little traveler trash here and there
A lot of small garbage left behind, burned garbage in fire grate. Fishing line found at 2 campsites. I ended my trip with a baseball sized wad of fishing line I collected.
A number of trash items left on portages
All campsites were in general good shape, and we encountered the usual scraps or lost gear.
always seem it be some trash around pack it up haul it out no big deal
An old latrine was disposed of back about 50 yards from the current one
At least half of the campsites will have noticeable garbage around or in the fire pit
Axe marks on trees, fishing line and weights left behind, bag left up in tree, garbage in fire pit
bait containers floating in the lake
Beer can put in tree on Fall Lk/ Basswood portage. Fallen tree removed though.
Burned live tree, rocks moved, some litter
campers food.
campers failing to police their campsite before leaving
camps were clean...improved from the previous year...

Campsite on Saganaga was pretty trashy with foil, plastic bottles and cigars
Campsite overused . Needs to regenerate.
Campsite was a mess, with some garbage around, but mostly hatchet damage to trees, downed trees and brush pile left in campsite.
campsites all had garbage in firepit, some toilets also. Never see enforcement, not even at the entry points. You can see many violations at the beginning..
Campsites and portages were acceptable
Campsites had a little garbage
Campsites were fairly clean - mostly normal trace. Found items at portage entry/exits.
Campsites were surprisingly clean, although there is nearly always a little debris in the fireplaces.
Cans, glass, groups exceeding 9 people and or 4 canoes
Cigarette butts at one campsite
Cigarette butts in the fire box, Twix wrappers all over the campsite, orange peels in one of the fire boxes. Small live trees cut down
Cigarette butts left around campsite
City idiots not caring for the the wilderness tranquility.
Cleaner than normal years.
Crowding on portages, noise from other sites on the lake, tree damage, garbage left on campsites and portages.
Cut green wood
Cut live trees
Cut trees and a bunch of trash that we picked up even clothing
cut trees, cleaned fish carcassas on shore, hooks and fishing line on shore, trash in fire grate.
Damage to campsite trees, garbage
Dead trees cut down
Debris left in fire rings and a couple thunder boxes with garbage in them

Debris, tin foil left in fire pit
Destruction of live trees on the island campsite on Burnt Lake
Dirty Campsite, some litter
Discarded food, equipment, and trash. Trees and limbs cut. Animal skeletons collected and displayed at campsite.
Effing idiots everywhere
Entered on a busy lake with motor boat access and they seem to have less respect for the leave no trace sentiment.
Entry points were congested. Many live trees were cut down and trash left at several sites along the border routes both in the west and east BWCA areas.
EP 38/Sawbill. We camped on the south end of Alton for 4 nights. Our kids pulled lots of fishing related garbage out of the water, including fishing lures, hooks, line, etc. Also some foil wrappers.
Equipment left at campsite.
Every campsite had garbage left behind. One had toilet paper in the trees. Another the fire pit was packed with garbage and there was garbage partially buried under a rock. We ended up packing a a ton of garbage out was we cleaned up for others. That was the only major disappointment.
Every campsite needed cleaning of micro-litter
Few small trash items and hidden fishing lure on a rock.
Fire grate was full of garbage
fire residue from trash in fire grates that were not supposed to be used
bears.
Fish remains buried too close to campsite. Glass containers. Chopped trees. Similar to 2020 season
Fishing line and wrappers in the fire areas
fishing line left allover site
Fishing line left at site. It was packed out by myself.
Fishing line, small pieces of trash.

Food in fire pits
Food thrown into woods, cigarette butts.
Food waste left behind. General litter around the campsite.
of rocks away from designated fire grate at campsite. Micro litter around sites. We packed out all and disassembled rock fire ring.
Found a few personal items left in campsites , but no trash or other damage.
Found a few small-diameter trees had been cut off at ground level. A little trash on portages. Generally not bad but not to normal BWCAW standards--I've been paddling there since 1993.
Found a shoe, cans and bottles at the portage from Moose Lake to Wind lake
Found many birch trees with stripped bark.
Found many items left behind on both portage trails and at campsites. Collected all of them and carried out. Including fishing nets and stringers, trash, tree climbing spikes, rope.
Found some trash at 2 different campsites on little gabbro Lake
Found some trash, tent stakes & rope
Found some wrappers on the portages.
fresh cut trees and trash at campsites
Fresh cut trees, trash, dirty site
Freshly cut trees in camp area. Adams lake.
Garbage and damaged live trees at campsites. People have been hacking live trees with hatchets.
Garbage and fish guts.....lots of TP left around sites....
Garbage at camp
Garbage at portages and some in campsite.
Garbage in fire pit, lots of hacked trees

Garbage in firepit (brought home with me). Over 50 fir branches cut and scattered around a tent pad site :(Live tree with diameter of 4-5 inches sawed down (why???)
garbage in latrines, green trees cut, food dumped in lake, fishing pole partially burnt
garbage in the fire pit. Still smoldering embers though somewhat wetted.
Garbage in the fire pits we packed out
garbage left behind, peeling bark off birch trees, fish remains in camp
Garbage scraps, a little less than last year.
Garbage, forgotten containers on portages
Garbage, human feces not in latrine
General wear and tear but that was likely exacerbated by the drought conditions
Glass, Cans, Tinfoil in firepits & hacked and chopped down live trees
Green wood cut in one campsite. Some trash in grate, but not terrible.
Group over limit at non-designated campsite, left trash, cut live trees
Groups one portage east of Newfound with large coolers & groups >9.
Hacked up live vegetation at every campsite.
had a site on Ensign where we found a folding chair and a coffee percolator thrown back in the woods on Ensign along with miscellaneous trash.
Had to bushwhack one night--personally left no trace, but did pick up some glass--would have been underwater except for low water level in lake--took glass with me and disposed of it at the outfitters.
had to pack out a few items and there was a plastic bottle in the toilet
Heart breaking to see the damage done at multiple campsites and to observe other travelers not following guidelines and rules, ie noise and portage congestion.
Human feces and TP on ground near campsite. Trash in the latrine.
I always take out more trash than I bring in

I couldn't get a permit due to fires
I felt that it was why better than is 2020. I thought it was back to the average.
I find it very frustrating when I see traces of other campers, etc. I always pick it up.
I found more stuff accidentally left behind on portages. Campsites were clean.
I have picked up other people's garbage on every trip I have been on
I noticed a lot of campsites had shredded newspapers that people brought for firestarters left all over the ground. And people are cutting more live trees down for firewood.
I passed on two sites. This first had a pair of underwear hanging near the firepit, and the second had many (like 20) areas of TP from someone who dropped TP on top of the ground each time.
I saw an unacceptable amount of litter.
I saw multiple campsites with food dumped into the latrine.
I take a leave no Trace photo every trip where I collect things left behind by others. There are always 5 or more things ranging from wrappers to socks etc.
I was able to fill a kitchen size bag and haul it out (on a 3 night trip)
I was no difference than the previous year still not very good, but we didn't go to as many different camps sites as previous years.
I was surprised how clean campsites were. We were probably following a route newbies wouldn't travel however. I've never been to BWCA but most LNT issues were minor and accidental, like string left behind. we did see a lot of folks not hanging their food (and being told by their outfitters that they didn't need to and bears were not a problem), and while our ranger station did tell us to hang food they also said bears were not a problem (in spite of seeing reports otherwise). This was just before the mandate on hanging food or using canisters went official across all BWCA. We were obsessive about using our canisters and hanging whatever was food-related that didn't fit in those and saw no bears.
I've been going to the bwca for 45 years. Last year was the worst as far as garbage on portages and sights not being taken care of.

Illegal campsites, trash
Improper disposal of fish remains
Improved over last year
it was pretty good, only recall small bits of trash, the odd tent stake or piece of string
It was the sanitary toilet. We didn't understand why it was so full. We were early in the year. Not so much leave no trace but maintenance of the latrine was down from previous trips.
It wasn't that bad this season, it was worse in 2020 from what I can tell
Items left at portages
Junk left in camps
Just found some garbage in the burn pits at two of the campsites we visited.
Just semi normal camp trash bits
Just the normal bits of garbage sometimes found around campsites, bits of paper, cig butts, etc. We simply toss everything we find in to our camp trash bag.
Large industrial size oven grates (2) left at site. Carried out
Large pieces of bark peeled off trees, trees used for axe throwing practice.
Latrines not being used, toilet paper and poop near camp
Leave no trace is an excellent concept
Leftover meal in ziplock very shallowly buried and dug up by animals
Litter
Litter everywhere. Human feces around campsite, absolutely disgusting.
the lake.
Live cut trees, nails in trees, garbage left
Live standing trees cut down for firewood
live trees cut
Live trees cut down & trash left behind

Live trees cut or scarred. Small pieces of trash left around campsite.
Live trees cut, a lot of micro litter in camp,
Live trees were cut, cigar butts everywhere... etc...campsite 6 clearwater lake. Was early in the year. I sent pictures to you guys.
Lots of broken glass
Lots of cut green trees. Toilet paper/feces not in the latrine near camp. Trash left in fire grates.
Lots of hacked trees at a couple sites. Some small live trees cut
Lots of microtrash (bar wrapper pieces, mini fish line) food in fire grates, trash in buggy, etc. Lots of hap hazard camp bench construction(wood chips from crappy bench making all over camp) lots of new axe marks in trees. Felled small trees. TP and human feces in camp.
Lots of nails in trees near the campsites
lots of trash in the firepit
Lots of trash near fire pits
Lots of wood and branches strewn around, burned food enmeshed in the grill grate, upturned stones
Low water exposed a lot of trash. Also, people are bad leaving trash in the woods. We brought out an entire pack of other people's trash. It is sad.
firewood.
Many campsites were left in poor condition. Trash trees cut latrine issues
Maybe slightly above normal trash at campsites
messy camp site
Messy fire pit
Micro litter.
Micro litter. Hatchet marks on trees.
Micro trash around the campsite

Micro trash everywhere.
Microplastics, used fishing gear
Minor - small pieces of trash, a fishing lure, bag of wipes left by latrine, etc. Not perfect but no biggie
Minor garbage in fire ring, fishing line, etc,Ä¶
Minor issues such as a couple pieces of clear plastic which we were easily able to take with us.
minor issues. just a few things left behind by others. nothing significant.
Minor. Trash in some fire pits.
More ,Äúwoodcraft,Äù damage. Limbed trees, hatchet slashes, cut green wood. Less/same outright litter.
More garbage than usual
More than the usual amount of trash was found, especially in the firepits. Lots of fish remains dumped in the water near the campsites too.
More trash at campsites than I have seen in the last two decades.
More trash on portages
More trash than normal
more trash was noticed, and definitely more cutting of live trees was noticed
mostly garbage left at campsites.
Mostly just cut green trees.
mostly more trash left behind. Some trees unnecessarily taken down
Mostly trash in fire pits which is nothing new
Much better in 2021 than 2020
Much more stuff to clean up nowadays...
My group wound up on Trout Lake. For the first time in 16 years of BWCA trips, we found our campsite littered with dozens of cigarette butts. Also, somebody nailed large nails into multiple trees to hang things.
My last campsite had broken glass (beer bottle) and a ton of cigarette butts.
N/A

nail in tree
Nails in trees, fish remains in camp several locations, garbage in camp, live trees cut
Newbies need to understand the importance of NOT chopping trees and putting nails in. They need to learn the importance of knots and rope.
none
Normal campsite trash plus a canoe paddle
normal small bits of garbage around campsites
Normal small bits of trash that are missed when packing up, but the real issues were with people gathering firewood from live trees or trees that were not down. There was much more damage to trees around campsites.
Not as bad as last year by any means, but garbage under the fire grates even at sites a good way from an entry point, which wasn't a problem I noticed before last year.
Not far from the tent area on the middle campsite on Canoe Lake, someone had tried to chop down a birch with a 18" or so diameter. It looked like the axe made it part-way through, and it was finished off by a saw...perhaps by the Forest Service...??? Anyway, it looked like it was a healthy tree otherwise, and did not need to come down.
Not using the pit toilet and crapping in the woods at one camp. TP was also in the area
Nothing extraordinary...some litter.
Nothing more than normal, trash overlooked in campsite, one fireplace had paper in it due to fire ban.
Nothing non-typical was observed
Nothing super horrible. General scraps left at campsites, fish remains disposed of incorrectly (left on campsite beach or in water near shore), ax marks in some live trees. It was worse on motor boat lakes.
old tree damage but nothing new. much neater campsites than expected after posts on BWCA forum
On Knife for opener. Site had downed green trees, cut boughs, glass bottles & cans, other trash, trees in site hacked up, and a few other things. I photographed and reported, and cleaned up everything and packed it out. All other sites on both trips were very good.

On my second trip of 2021. We found a campsite with sunflower seeds everywhere, the benches hacked up from an Axe, several dead fish, and trees that had been hit with sticks and hatchets.

One camp site was full of pistachio shells. Everywhere. Also, we saw trash and cigarette butts more than usual while crossing postages.

One campsite on Lake Isabella had lots of green trees cut down. 14 trees all over the campsite. Trees were just left there. Reported to forestry service

One of the campsites had toilet paper and human feces around the area. The previous users did not seem to use the provided latrine.

One site has a lot of live trees with ax damage.

One site on Agnes a roll of TP, coffee pot and bug spray were left by previous campers... Although it may have been intended as good will, it should not have been left.... Ended up with bear in that site.

Only saw one campsite with some LNT issues and that was mostly some trash and hacking of branches.

Only small things left behind accidentally. Last year there was a lot more destruction at sites and things left behind.

Our base camp for a week was on Alton. We found noodles dumped in the woods and literally two feet from the tent pad. Kids toys left behind including a plastic snake, hidden by the fire grate not surprised since we were on Alton. We cleaned it up & Loved the site so much that instead of making it our first stop on a multiple lake trip, we based and daytripped from there.

Partially burned trash in fire pit (despite fire ban) and green trees cut

People carving their name in tree bark was the worst example I saw. Others include cutting live vegetation and copious amounts of litter.

People damaging trees at sites.

People don't seem to be aware that they cannot clean themselves or their dishes with soap in the lakes.

People dumped food in the lake, detritus at camp sites, the usual stuff.

cover), birch trees stripped of bark. War parties of Scouts (loud, clogging up portages, having fun but not exactly leave no trace)

Portages seemed to be worse this year with litter

Portages: littering and etiquette, especially gathering/eating lunch at landings

Random garbage at campsites.

Rex and Bobby chopping and removing bark from live trees.

Rope left tied in trees, piece of plywood over the fire grate, green balsam branches cut to use as a tent pad.

Rope stuck in a tree, misc wrappers or twist ties, some fishing line but nothing out of the ordinary.

Sad to see trees cut down

Sadly, I,Âve come to expect to see and collect some small pieces of garbage around campfire grates and campsites in general. My trips in 2021 were unremarkable in regards to excessive LNT violations.

Same as always - nobody ever picks up all their trash.

Saplings and green trees chopped

Saw the usual amount of issues.

Seems every campsite has a couple things left by previous occupants

Seems like more live trees have been cut down in vicinity camp sites in last few years.

several Birch trees, near camp were stripped of bark. trees also cut with an axe, in the cooking area.

Several campsites had litter in the fringes of the camps, much more than previous trips

Shockingly found less then I normally do. I only found a few left behinds garbage

Since covid the bwca has been flooded with people that have no right in the wilderness. Garbage around camp sites is more prevalent this past 2 years than in the past 10 years combined

Sites were cleaner than expected, possibly because we had a May trip.

Small amount of trash
Small amount of trash at campsite
Small amounts of trash around campsites
Small bits of trash at campsites
small easily over looked items
Small scraps in the fire pit or small pieces on the ground.
small signs of human prescence. Tiny scraps, shoelace, etc. All picked up while there. Overall neat and tidy.
Small things at camp sites and portages, i.e. twist ties, paper, etc.
Small trees cut down and trash by the latrine. Lots of rope left behind in trees.
Some cutting of live trees/branches in campsite areas, some trash left behind
some fishing line at the campsite, not unusual.
Some garbage wrappers on the ground.
Some items of clothing & garbage left behind.
Some line from a prior camper's bear bag was irretrievably caught in a tree.
Some live tree cutting
Some live tree cutting.
Some micro-litter, an old water bottle left near a portage, rope left in campsite
Some overuse areas
Some small pieces of garbage left around the campsite.
Some trash at the portage landings
Some trash blowing. Most LNT issues dealt with fire pits.
Some trash left at campsites by prior users

Stayed on Knife Lake for a week. First campsite was no issues but we moved to another site halfway through the week. Found a fresh pile of green pine tree limbs lying next to the fire grate. We didn't really have an issue with finding downed wood there so i didn't understand the need for someone to cut the green stuff. Someone left a 44 long Colt round on the fire grate. Not cool.

Still burning fires in campsites after party left and during peak of fire season!

The campsites we stayed at that were closer to an entrance point had considerable trash. Further in, not so much.

The goddamn noise

the past two years look like BLM was out in the woods and leaving a trail so they could find their way back out.

Two years ago found 2 campsites on Lynx - trees cut down - campsites a complete mess and they build a house out of about 200 trees that were cut down, lashed together and left a tarp for the roof.

There are too many camping Pigs lately who I believe have never camped and don't understand Leave no trace. I've had to go and clean up their messes and it ticks me off so much. Don't know how to fix this kind of stupid...

there is a tiny, terrible camp site on pine lake. we only stopped to look because we feared we were out of other options. the fire grate area was trashed- full rolls of toilet paper, silverware, and garbage.

There is never a time or reason that makes leaving human excrement okay.

There seemed to be some issues with micro plastics and small trash. I will admit to being more sensitive or aware of this after hearing and reading this was an issue in broadcast and online.

There was fireworks in the fire grate, etc. And trash around camp.

There was more toilet paper than I normally would have seen but less other junk and mistreatment of trees and campsites than was seen in 2020. On par with 2019 (other than toilet paper).

There was trash around on several portages, VERY uncommon in the BWCA, in my experience.

though.

This year seemed significantly better than 2020

This year was much better than 2020 in regards to garbage and damage at campsites.

This year wasn't as bad as last year
Toilet paper and unburied crap by parking lots, entry points and portages
Toilet paper at portages, EP's. Fish guts at base of campsite. Large groups making a lot of noise - much more the norm now - these maxed-out groups 9 in 4 boats, everyone loving the place to death. Really makes me sad.
Toilet paper off the trails surrounding campsite
Tp everywhere and very full latrines
Transporting canoes in by motor boat in my opinion violates leave no trace.
Trash
Trash
Trash peeled birch trees green wood cut
Trash (candy wrapper) is latrine was the only issue
Trash and destruction
Trash and food waste left in camp sites
Trash at camp
trash at campsites and on portages. abuse of young trees
Trash human waste and tree cutting
Trash in and around fire grate
Trash in camp site, green trees and branches cut down.
trash in camp, cut trees, peeled bark from live birch
Trash in campsites and latrines
Trash in campsites.

Trash in campsites. Live trees, branches, other foliage cut down or trampled.
Trash in campsites. Wipes in the latrine.
Trash in fire pit
Trash in fire pit
Trash in fire pit, trash in latrine, items left behind at campsite, egg shells in brush
Trash in fire pits and axe damage to campsite trees
Trash in the fire pit. Axe marks on trees.
Trash in the latrine.
Trash left at campsites
Trash left at campsites
Modified fire pits: some expanded up to 5 times larger than the fire grate, huge rock piles surrounding them which prevents air from getting to the fire, and some made into ovens. Rock cairns everywhere. People playing loud music at night.
Trash left at portage point
Trash left by previous campers, but we were able to pack it out with us
Trash left in camps
Trash left in fire pits
Trash on our day trips
Trash was left by people on portages.
Trash was left in the fire grates and I was there during the fire ban.
Trash, fishing line and damage to trees
Trash, green tree cutting, camp debris in latrine
fire pit.
Trees being cut or damaged right in campsite. I,Ã always amazed at how precious campers dismantle all the rocks surrounding the fire grate area.

Trees chopped on. Trees cut down.
Trees cut down, moss cut to make tent site more comfortable, ceneral sloppy camping
Trees cut in and around camp sites
Trees cut. Garbage left in camp. Stacked rocks.
Trees damaged, cut , bark removed
Trees taken down
turtles left in trap, dishwashing on shore
Unkempt campsites (pieces of wrappers, fishing gear, etc.)
due to the closure....saw one person on our way in and 2 on our way out. That was nice. Went in at Kawishiwi and went up to Boulder. They lifted the fire ban 2 days after we were in so we now know how much fuel we need for 10 days.
Various sites had small pieces of trash
Waste on campsite
We always find evidence of materials being burned in fire pits. I don't think we ever have found a fire pit that doesn't have at least some amount of trash in it.
We found trash at a couple of campsites. We clear it and packed it out with our trash.
We found trash in many campsites that we visited during our stay. Found bags of trash and glass containers in several latrines.
probably left unintentionally. No tree cutting that we,Äöve seen. Biggest nuisance is people cleaning their fish too close to fire grate.
We had numerous garbage issues and an unattended fire in 2020. Trees cutdown in the middle of the campsite
We have been going for 34 years and the last 2 years have seen a dramatic increase in garbage, cut live trees, and dead animals in campsite.
We have for years used no can or bottles and packed out out trash

We ran into at least one group that was not permitted for overnight, and suspect there were others

We saw two groups camping in spots that are very clearly not campsites, it bothers me that people do this because it shows that they have no respect for the rules. Both were right by Johnson Falls on Pine Lake floor.

When touring around lakes, we found several sites that had minimal trash. A larger problem was an excess of people and canoes on portages, we,Äôll above 4 watercraft and 9 people.

With the influx of people "discovering camping" the past two years, I've noticed more trash (i.e. gas cans, garbage, etc.) at campsites. It's disheartening; we do our best to pick up after them but we can't always take everything.

Worst I've seen in 25 years of use. Lots of live vegetation was cut and lots of trash left on camp sites and portages.

You can tell when someone inexperienced has tried poorly to hang a bag