

1 **4.3.12 Wilderness and Other Special Designation Areas**

2 **4.3.12.1 Federal Lands**

3 **4.3.12.1.1 Land Exchange Proposed Action**

4 The federal lands of the Land Exchange Proposed Action are similar to the Mine Site previously
5 discussed, but exclude the privately owned land bordering Dunka Road to the south of the Mine
6 Site. Section 4.2.12.1 provides a discussion of the existing conditions on the federal lands.

7 **4.3.12.1.2 Land Exchange Alternative B**

8 The federal lands included in the Land Exchange Alternative B are similar to the federal lands in
9 the Land Exchange Proposed Action. Section 4.2.12.1 discusses the existing conditions on the
10 federal lands.

11 **4.3.12.2 Non-federal Lands**

12 The non-federal lands comprise five tracts (groups of parcels) assembled by PolyMet for the
13 purpose of the Land Exchange Proposed Action.

14 **4.3.12.2.1 Tract 1 – Hay Lake Lands**

15 Adjacent cRNAs include the Pike Mountain and Loka Lake cRNAs (southwest corner and
16 northeast corner of the tract, respectively). Pike Mountain is a 709-acre research area located on
17 top of the Mesabi Range, characterized by old growth northern hardwood communities (sugar
18 maple and red oak), paper birch forest, and rock/talus communities. The Loka Lake cRNA is part
19 of an extensive peatland dominated by stunted black spruce and tamarack with interspersed
20 upland islands (USFS 2011h).

21 **4.3.12.2.2 Tract 2 – Lake County Lands**

22 There are no wilderness or other special designation areas in or adjacent to Tract 2.

23 **4.3.12.2.3 Tract 3 – Wolf Lands**

24 There are no wilderness or other special designation areas in or adjacent to Tract 3.

25 **4.3.12.2.4 Tract 4 – Hunting Club Lands**

26 There are no wilderness or other special designation areas in or adjacent to Tract 4.

27 **4.3.12.2.5 Tract 5 – McFarland Lake Lands**

28 This tract includes lakefront property on McFarland Lake, an entry point to BWCAW. Access to
29 the property is available by water from a landing off County Road 16 (Arrowhead Trail)
30 approximately 10 miles north of Hovland, Minnesota. While near the BWCAW, this tract is
31 located outside the BWCAW boundary. There are no other wilderness or other special-
32 designation areas in or adjacent to Tract 5.

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