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Title:

Comments: I strongly support and greatly appreciate the proposed federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package.

I am most concerned about the already serious and rapidly worsening climate and extinction crises. These crises overlap and constitute an existential threat to humanity. I believe that all federal planning processes should include ways to positively respond to these crises. The attached IPCC report summarizes the immense severity of the climate crisis and why bold solutions are urgently needed. I believe that this proposed purchase would positively respond to these crises. It would increase protection for pristine forests that sequester carbon and provide essential wildlife habitats. It would prevent future incompatible developments that would likely increase fossil fuel use and destroy and fragment habitats.

In addition, this purchase would increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands in an environmentally harmful manner.

The federal purchase would provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.

Unlike the false assertions of some local legislators, this federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. And Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

Please proceed to support, approve, and implement this reasonable and necessary purchase.

Thank you very much for this important work and for considering my input.