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Comments: I as a resident of Minnesota and a supporter of the protection of the BWCA have become very concerned at the strategy of DNR and some other environmental and tribal land interest support of the proposed sale of 80,000 acres of Minnesota School Trust Lands to the USFS using it as a solution to a DNR fiduciary responsibility to the public school trust. Here are my arguments against this sale taking these acres within the BWCA out of Minnesota control.

1. The MN School Trust Lands peppered with the BWCA were designated land grant to create income in perpetuity to MN Public Schools. Any financial returns from logging and mining these areas are to go to the public school trust. The land is not ever designated for sale, it is for leasing only.

2. These school trust land are in the control of the people of the state of Minnesota and can be used as investment so long as they STAY under the management of the state of Minnesota.

3. The only reason the BWCA is under protection from leasing to mining and logging interests is the 1964 WILDERNESS ACT and 1978 BWCAW and even though it takes an act of Congress to repeal the Supreme Court's could potentially influence the Wilderness Act:

1. **Legal Challenges**: If a case regarding the Wilderness Act is brought before the Supreme Court, the Court can rule on specific aspects of the law, such as its interpretation or compatibility with the Constitution. This could lead to changes in how the law is applied but would not repeal it outright

2. **Judicial Precedent**: Decisions made by the Supreme Court can set legal precedents that affect future interpretations of the Wilderness Act or similar legislation. This could indirectly influence how wilderness areas are managed.

3. **Congressional Action**: If a ruling by the Supreme Court significantly alters the legal landscape concerning the Wilderness Act, Congress could respond by amending or repealing the law.

At this point Minnesota's Schools get no income if these protects are eroded by national interests over states interests.

4. The USFS is not a protection oriented governmental agency, it is a lease management agency under the USDA. It would be safer to transfer the BWCA to the National Parks for Protective Management.

5. Other fiduciary resolutions for the DNR could be the transfer of a % of BWCA Permits for Park uses to be transferred to the public school fund. And for those that argue that it would be small in comparison to a possible one only windfall at \$64,000,000 with this sale, I would argue that if those land are ever logged by the USFS for fire management outlined in project 2025, Minnesota would be out the windfall for the School Trust from the renewable lumber sales of a lease* conducted by accessing the those acres if protections are repealed federally.

6. We need as a state to continue to have a say in the protection, management

* Based on an appraisal of \$800 per acre conducted by the the Forest Service in 2018
Pine Timber Values/Acre

* Pine harvest market rates per acre.

Year

Plantation*. Natural

2017

\$1,542. \$1,618

2018

\$1,694. \$1,738

2019

\$1,566. \$2,055

In Summary

Let me express the urgent need for action! For decades, from 1978 to 2012, the integrity of the School Trust Lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) was safeguarded, free from the clutches of financial turmoil. Yet, the moment land swaps were proposed, the specter of short-term profit loomed large, threatening to undermine the intrinsic value of our precious state-owned lands!

Imagine a future where the BWCA continues to thrive under the vigilant watch of the National Forest Service, protected by the timeless principles of the 1978 Wilderness Act. This is not just an ideal; it is a necessity! But we stand at a precipice. The worst-case scenario is horrifying: the potential repeal of the Wilderness Act, driven by a misguided emergency Project 2025 like response to climate fires, could lead to the exploitation of the BWCA for mere financial gain.

Can we allow the beauty and sanctity of our wilderness to be traded away for a fleeting sum of \$64 million-money that vanishes in the blink of an eye within our \$23.2 billion state budget? We must rally together to protect the BWCA, ensuring that its value is preserved not just for today, but for generations to come! The time to act is now! Say No to School Trust Land Sale!