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Title:

Comments: I oppose the sale of the school trust fund lands in the BWCAW. The intent of Congress was clear in the 1978 Act- only exchange is allowed. I was intimately involved with the hearings and in creation of the law back then and this issue was extensively discussed. It was determined then that an exchange, and not a buying, would best serve the both the state and the federal government. Congressman Oberstar agreed to that notion and I believe that is still the case. Just because a new law makes it possible to for the Forest Service to buy the land, that law was not written with the background and compromises of the 1978 Act in mind, including that ALL non-federal government lands inside the BWCAW could only be acquired by exchange. This was an important part of getting the law passed. It is unethical that now the Forest Service wants to undo that portion of the agreement and law. While an exchange can be difficult both for agreeing on the lands to be exchanged for outside the BWCAW and in following the environmental laws and regulations associated with an exchange, neither is impossible. Again, I oppose the sale, but would support an exchange.