

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2024 2:38:01 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the federal government's proposed purchase of 80,000 acres of School Trust Land within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). This plan presents an elegant solution to a long-standing conflict that balances both environmental preservation and the need to honor the original purpose of School Trust Lands-providing funding for public education.

The BWCAW is a national treasure, and protecting this wilderness from logging, mining, and other forms of development is essential for future generations. Preserving the integrity of these lands also supports the broader mission of maintaining public lands for recreation, wildlife habitat, and environmental stewardship.

By purchasing these 80,000 acres, the federal government is not only safeguarding the Boundary Waters, but also addressing the economic concerns associated with School Trust Lands. The one-time payment to the School Trust ensures that Minnesota's public schools continue to benefit from these lands without compromising the wilderness.

Furthermore, the addition of 17,000 acres outside the Boundary Waters, held by The Conservation Fund, to the Superior National Forest expands public access and creates more opportunities for outdoor recreation. This aspect of the proposal is a meaningful step toward increasing the public's ability to enjoy Minnesota's natural beauty.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support this purchase and urge the Superior National Forest to move forward with this plan. It is a rare opportunity to resolve historical conflicts, protect one of our most cherished natural landscapes, and continue to provide for public education in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.