Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 12:09:39 PM First name: Chris Last name: Riley Organization: retired Title:

Comments: I believe the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the BWCAW, along with 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the package will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

According to studies by the local Timberjay newspaper, this proposed federal purchase would provide greater income to the state's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange would.

Local legislators declare a federal purchase is illegal. when instead it IS fully legal under the Weeks Act -Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purchases and expenditures.