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Comments: I strongly support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), along with the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the proposed acquisition package. This purchase will enhance the efficiency of managing and protecting the BWCAW as a designated Wilderness area, safeguarding these lands from potential development by future state or county governments.

Moreover, analyses by the Timberjay newspaper and other sources indicate that a federal purchase would generate significantly more income for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund compared to a land exchange. Despite claims by some local legislators, such a federal purchase is entirely legal under the Weeks Act. Additionally, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress specifically to support initiatives like this one.