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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is a national treasure and on my list of places to visit now that I am retired. Preservation of its wilderness values needs to be protected. The simplest and most secure way to secure its integrity is a clean purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands and 3200 acres of St. Lewis County lands at issue.

In my region, federal funding of the Montana Legacy Project facilitated purchase of many thousands of acres of railroad land in an unwieldy checkerboard pattern then in ownership of timber companies. While these lands had already largely been logged, this consolidation was done primarily to increase efficiency of administration of these lands under forest service management.

I understand an economic analysis has been done in the case of the BWCAW and that federal purchase will provide more income and thus greater direct benefit to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund. A politically motivated land exchange would be far more cumbersome and less beneficial to the school fund.

A federal purchase is legal under the Weeks Act and funding available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes. Federal purchase seems like a straightforward solution and meet the purpose and need. To paraphrase, "keep it simple stupid".