

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 2:22:21 PM

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Comments: I am strongly in favor of the Federal purchase of the school trust and the St. Louis County lands. It is time that our governments regard preservation of natural regions as the priority over development, and leave these areas untouched. I have lived here in Maine my entire 70+ year life and seen the gradual transition of Maine's woods and farmlands into urban sprawl. I have heard of the exceptional beauty of the BWCAW and wonder why there are always those who are ready to spoil such places with mining, housing developments, and strip malls.

It seems that the federal purchase of these properties also has the advantages of making the overall administration of the BWCAW more efficient and will provide money to the Permanent School Fund. Sounds like a win win, while preserving this outstanding pristine natural area.

So, please proceed with the federal land purchase and preserve this beautiful area of Minnesota. There are fewer and fewer of such places left in the world because development was allowed.