

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 2:47:25 PM

First name: Marina

Last name: Lee

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support the federal purchase of 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the BWCAW, along with the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the deal. This acquisition would streamline the management and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness, while preventing any future state or county development that could threaten the area.

Additionally, a federal purchase would generate more revenue for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange would, as highlighted by analyses from the Timberjay newspaper and others. Despite what some local legislators claim, a federal purchase is entirely legal under the Weeks Act. This is exactly the kind of project that the Land and Water Conservation Fund was designed to support.