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Comments: To the Forest Service:

As a resident of Minnesota, I strongly support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package.

A federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act despite the claims of some Minnesota Republican legislators who oppose the sale. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

A federal purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing this special place.

According to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others, the federal purchase could generate more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange.

Thank you for your consideration.