

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 3:39:26 PM

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Comments: I 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 will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

A federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.

Unlike the assertions of the local legislators, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act.

Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

I plan on visiting the Boundary Waters in the future because of its Wilderness designation and its wild, natural beauty. Development of such lands and waters discourages visitation and therefore tourist dollars coming to local businesses. If the goal is to obtain school funding and protect wilderness, then this federal purchase makes the most sense.