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Comments: I am writing to express my full support for a 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 improve the management and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands. This will also provide more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange would, based on an analysis by the Timberjay newspaper and others.

Local legislators have tried to obstruct this process and claim it is illegal. It is not. A federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for exactly this kind of reason.