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First name: Kim

Last name: Porter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for accepting my comments on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

The USFS should move ahead with the federal purchase of these school trust lands within the BWCAW, and to ignore the plea from the state legislators for a land exchange. I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. This will improve administration and protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as a true Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from encroaching on or developing these lands.

Contrary to false assertions otherwise, it is clearly documented that a federal purchase will provide additional funds to the Minnesota School Fund than a land exchange would, and a federal purchase is legal. The Land and Water Conservation Fund exists for this reason.

Thank you for accepting my comments.