

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 3:53:09 PM

First name: Cathy

Last name: Simmons

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to voice my support for 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. This federal purchase should ensure efficient administration and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

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

Contrary to the assertions from some 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.

Please have the courage, strength, and intelligence to do the right thing.

Thank you!