

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 4:04:51 PM

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Comments: To whom this applies:

Thank you for your service to the Forest Service. I wanted to write because 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. This purchase proposal could finally resolve the lingering question of the BWCAW's school trust lands not providing any income for the Permanent School Fund.

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. Please protect the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area for future generations to enjoy.