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Comments: In our country, wilderness areas are a much-loved and vital part of our American heritage. As more developments, corporate businesses, and projects take away land through construction, these wooded areas are disappearing. It is for this reason that I strongly support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BCAW and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County included in the land purchase package in Minnesota.

Though there are local legislators who believe this land purchase package is illegal, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for plans to make things like this happen.

Protecting this area as a wilderness is greatly needed for future generations to prohibit future development. I strongly support the U.S. Forest Service move ahead with the federal purchase of these school trust lands within the BWCAW.