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Comments: I support the federal acquisition of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the BWCAW, as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the purchase package.

A federal acquisition would streamline the management and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness area and safeguard these lands from potential development by future state or county governments.

A federal purchase would generate significantly more revenue for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange.

Contrary to the claims of local legislators, a federal purchase is entirely legal under the Weeks Act. Moreover, Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund precisely for such initiatives.