

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 5:05:42 PM

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Comments: I would like to comment on the DNR and Forest Service's proposal of a federal purchase of these school trust lands within the BWCAW, using monies from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. A federal purchase will make administration of the BWCAW more efficient and provide far more money to the Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to various analyses, including one by the local Timberjay newspaper. And 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.

After I read about this, I learned that 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 help protect the Boundary Waters and Wilderness around the country.