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Comments: America's open space is disappearing at an alarming rate of 6,000 acres a day. We need more land protected from development, and that is why I strongly 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.

This purchase is a win-win. 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. Analyses by various sources show that federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange.

And 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.