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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm a retired former administrative law judge. I have hiked and backpacked for 50 years in America's wonderful outdoor spaces. While we have many federal wilderness areas and other national forest and park lands to enjoy, having more is a public good.

We need to protect and expand federal lands, where not only outdoors enthusiasts like me can roam, but also wildlife, and where our critical tree and other vegetation can grow unhindered by profit-seeking ventures.

I didn't get to accompany my brother and a friend when they backpacked and canoed in the Boundary Waters area, but they returned with glowing reports of its beauty and other natural values. Enlarging the protected area appeals to me, someone who wants still to visit the BWCAW. So, I favor purchase by the federal government of state school trust lands (some 80,000 acres) inside the BWCAW. I also support purchase of St. Louis County land (some 3,200 acres).

The latter purchase, as opposed to an exchange of lands, would likely--according to a study I've seen--yield a good deal more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund.

As far as economic efficiencies, I believe that purchase would likely multiply administrative ease and cost. Moreover, using federal funds under the congressionally adopted Land and Water Conservation Fund would serve the aims of Congress.

Finally, including the proposed lands to be purchased in the BWCAW better serves to protect those areas as federal wilderness against possible development schemes that might come along from other government entities.

Please finalize this proposed federal purchase.