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Organization:

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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 will enhance the efficiency of managing and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness area, and will prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

Additionally, a federal purchase will generate significantly more income for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund compared to a land exchange, as demonstrated by analyses from the local Timberjay newspaper and other sources.

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