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Comments: I support the agreement between USFS and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land in Minnesota's Superior National Forest. This purchase includes the following land that is inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW:

- 80,000 acres of state-owned school trust land
- 3,200 acres of county tax-forfeited land in St. Louis County

Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes. Under the Weeks Act, this purchase would be legal and the land preserved and maintained as national forest territory. This purchase would increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

A federal purchase would provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.