Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 7:05:21 PM First name: Carol Last name: Fletcher Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a person who has had the privilege of canoeing in the Boundary Waters, I 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.

The prevention of future state or county governments from developing these lands is hugely important to me. Logical reasons to support the purchase include the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness.

Furthermore, contrary to 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. Additionally, a federal purchase will meet the stated goal of providing far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.