

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 7:51:11 PM

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Comments: Hello and thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this proposed land purchase.

In sum, 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. I believe that 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. In these times of increased impacts from our warming climate, we need to preserve as much wilderness as possible. These wild lands provide invaluable carbon sequestration and pollution prevention services along with providing critical habitat to so many imperiled species.

Along with these important ecological and public health benefits, federal purchase will 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. A win-win!

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and for your time and attention.