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First name: David

Last name: Ashton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly urge you to move forward with the federal purchase of 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.

In order to prevent future governments from developing the land, a federal purchase is necessary. Plus, it will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a wilderness area.

Much more income will be generated for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others. Another good reason to support the purchase.

Contrary to what local legislators are saying, a federal purchase is perfectly under the Weeks Act.

Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for exactly these kinds of purchases. This purchase should not be delayed.