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Comments: United States Forest Service:

I write to support the Forest Service purchasing the designated 80,000 acres near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for two main reasons.

First, as an ardent advocate for wilderness protection throughout the United States I support any endeavor that will add protection to any designated federal wilderness. There can never be too much wilderness, and there can never be enough protection for the wilderness we already have. These 80,000 acres will provide an ecologically important addition to the BWCA and prevent any development, whether mining or clear-cutting, that would damage the fragile wilderness of the entire BWCA.

Second, funds from the federal purchase of this land can be devoted to the important state goal of supporting public education, and will provide far more revenue than mining or tree harvest can.

This proposal is thus a win-win for the BWCA and for the state of Minnesota, and so I encourage the Forest Service to work with the Minnesota DNR to complete this proposed purchase.