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Comments: Please be advised that I strongly 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 critical issue is that this is a win-win for schools and protection of the land inside the BWCAW.

A federal purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the Boundary Waters as a Wilderness and will also prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands. Again, this is a good thing.

A 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. Unlike the assertions of the local legislators, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. This is how it is supposed to work, and should work in this sale.

Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

Thank you!

Dennis Villavicencio