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First name: Kerry

Last name: Krebill

Organization: Musikanten Montana

Title:

Comments:

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. There are several benefits to be gained in this preferable action.

It will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands, and the 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.

As for the assertions in the August 15 letter of the local legislators, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes. A land exchange is a much less profitable choice.