

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 11:13:03 PM

First name: Brett

Last name: Little

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please move ahead with the federal purchase of school trust lands within the BWCAW, and ignore the plea from the state legislators for a land exchange.

A federal purchase will make administration of the BWCAW more efficient and provide far more money to the Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to various analyses, including one by the local Timberjay newspaper. And this purchase proposal could finally resolve the lingering question of the BWCAW's school trust lands not providing any income for the Permanent School Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation fund is there for these sorts of purchases, and under the Weeks Act, a federal purchase is legal.

Additionally, Minnesota's Permanent School Fund would get more funding under a federal purchase than a land exchange deal.

Finally, a federal purchase would prevent development of BWCAW in the future by the state or county.

In summary, I support the federal purchase of the state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package.

Please do the right thing and move ahead with the purchase, and do not let local state legislators torpedo such a wonderful proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.