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Comments: I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. Such a purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness. It will also prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

According to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others, a federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange.

Some local legislators have asserted that such a purchase is illegal. This is untrue. A federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.