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

Moreover, local analysis have shown that federal purchase will provide more income than a land exchange to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange.

Contrary to assertions of local legislators, a federal purchase is legal under the Weeks Act. In fact, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.