

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 12:06:38 AM

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Comments: I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. A federal purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

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

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my views.