

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 12:26:51 AM

First name: Melissa

Last name: Heston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I very strongly 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 seems like an obvious win-win for wilderness area and for the Minnesota Permanent School Fund.

At this point, we need to be doing everything possible to protect our natural resources, and prevent all non-essential development of such lands. Any kind of land "exchange" would do little or nothing to help the Minnesota public schools in any way. Sadly, Republican legislators have become all too willing to let our public schools fail, while working to help private schools thrive at taxpayer expense.

While I leave the legality of the sale to actual layers, it is my understanding that Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes. Thus, I don't see how there could actually be any reason the proposed agreement would be illegal.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Heston