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Comments: Regarding School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters, I oppose the Forest Service and DNR's purchase plan.

The 1964 Wilderness Act states:

STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

SECTION 5. (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owners shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Wilderness Act is specifically about designated wilderness, and how to address private and state lands surrounded by the designated wilderness. There has not been no assured access to state-owned or private lands within the wilderness. The lands must be exchanged for equal value outside of the wilderness.

It is not legal for states to disregard federal laws they disagree with. A state cannot "nullify" a federal law unless and until the federal statute has been found by a federal court as being unconstitutional. Even then, it is not nullification, and the state is bound by the federal law.

What the state and the Forest Service should be looking to do is to reimburse the School Trust Fund for lost revenue for all Minnesota schools for the past 60 years.