Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 5:53:16 AM First name: Sandra Last name: Clark Organization: Title:

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.

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. Developing these lands would mean destruction of wilderness areas in order to even reach the areas in question, which goes against the entire policy and purpose. It also would destroy the land, ecosystem, water and air as well as the peace and serenity of what a wilderness area should be. No legislator should ever be allowed to make this decision.

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.