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Comments: It is so important to protect the BWCAW as a Wilderness area, so I fully 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.

While efforts have been made to protect this pristine watershed at a federal level, the mining industry continues to try to get its foot in the door so it can ruin the BWCAW for profits. Therefore, a federal purchase would increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

Also, a federal purchase just makes common sense as it 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.

It's frustrating that local legislators who must have skin in the game are asserting that a federal buyout isn't legal, but it is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

I really hope you will go through with this purchase to help save this beautiful area from being developed by local or foreign interests. Wilderness areas are supposed to be protected from being degraded for profits. Thank you.