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First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am commenting today re: School Trust, St. Louis County, and TCF Land Purchase #66600

1. I fully support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land which is slated to be included in the land purchase.

2. A federal purchase of these lands will have many benefits:

a. It will protect the BWCAW as a Wilderness and prevent state or county governments from developing these lands in the future.

b. It will allow for more administrative efficiency.

c. According to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and other sources, it will provide substantially more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange.

3. In contrast to what has been proposed by local legislators, under the Weeks Act, a federal purchase is legal. In fact, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted for land acquisitions such as this one.