

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 9:52:43 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. I have canoed in the Boundary Waters and I support public education. A federal purchase benefits both, by:

1. Increasing the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.
2. Providing far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.

Despite the assertions of a mere handful of 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.

So please, permit the federal purchase of these valuable lands for the American public and do not permit their sale at discount prices to for-profit, private companies.

Thank you.