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First name: Gloria

Last name: Shen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on this matter.

I would like to express that I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW and also the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package.

Why do I support the federal purchase of these lands?

1. 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.
2. Additionally, a federal purchase 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.
3. With all due respect to local legislators, their position on this matter is misguided. Unlike their assertions, a federal purchase is actually 100% legal under the Weeks Act. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

Given the soundness of the purchases for conservation reasons and for the support of the Permanent School Fund in the state of Minnesota, I hope that you will consider my comments to move forward with the original agreement between your agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. You have my support.

Best Regards,

Gloria Shen