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Comments: I'm commenting to offer my understanding of the proposal and subsequent support for 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.

Despite claims by local legislators, the Weeks Act renders a federal purchase legal, and Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes. It is a legitimate resource to tap and vital that it be done.

I have read local Timberjay orgs have analyzed the details and concluded the federal purchase will both 1) prevent future state or local government development of the land and 2) provide more income to the Permanent School Fund than a land exchange.

Further, every bit of natural or wild land that is secured and protected is to the greater benefit of the local area, the state it's in, and the nation as a whole. For those species currently living there and for the health of our nation going forward.

Thank you.