Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2024 7:46:36 PM

First name: Paul Last name: Roberts Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly urge and support the Federal purchase of 80,000 acres of Minnesota state school trust lands that are within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, as well as the 3200 acres of St. Louis County land that are included in the purchase. The BWCAW has been a big influence in my life and remains highly important to me; this land purchase will facilitate the administration of the BWCA and its protection from destructive exploitation by corporations and individuals acting through state and local governments. The assertion by some local legislators that such a purchase is illegal is clearly just an obstructive tactic that has no real basis in law. Such a Federal purchase is legal under the Weeks Act, and is entirely consistent with the intentions of Congress in creating the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Furthermore, purchase of the land by the Federal government will serve the original purpose of the state school trust lands, to generate income for public schools, better than a land exchange, according to the analysis by the local newspaper Timberjay and others, besides being better suited to preserve the unique character of the BWCAW.