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First name: Lawrence Last name: Thompson Organization: retired

Title:

Comments: Despite some counter indications, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act, and Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for such purposes. A federal purchase will provide more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to several analyses. Such a 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. For these reasons, I support 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.