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First name: Ellen

Last name: Hawkins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the purchase of school trust lands within the BWCAW by the federal government. I thank the Forest Service for finally come up with a proposal that would settle this issue that has taken up far too much time, trouble and expense over several decades.

This purchase would allow for consistent wilderness stewardship within the BWCAW by the Forest Service. It would eliminate a source of turmoil, often tied to land exchange proposals, that has enabled anti-wilderness factions to stir up controversy involving within-the-wilderness development attempts and underhanded pro-mining strategies.

Unlike earlier proposals, this solution would not shrink current Forest acreage. It would provide an immediate bonanza for the School Trust Fund that would be invested for permanent ongoing returns, in place of speculative future returns that would certainly be worth far less.

While I believed a full EIS should have been required for past land trade proposals, a CE may be adequate for this land purchase proposal. It supports wilderness and public lands values and should satisfy all but a few local politicians who won't accept its clear economic benefits and who choose to misinterpret federal legislation that authorize and enable the proposed transactions.