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Comments: I write in support of 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, as the federal purchase would increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and would help to prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands. Additionally, a purchase would provide more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others. Contrary to claims by local legislators, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act, and in fact, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

For all of these reasons, the federal purchase is the best possible option.