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Comments: I strongly encourage the Forest Service to move ahead with the federal purchase of 80,000 acres of school trust lands inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land which is included in the land purchase package.

I feel that future state and/or county governments must be prevented from developing any of these lands; and a federal purchase keep this from happening. It would also increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness.

According to analyses by the local northern Minnesota newspaper, Timberjay, and others, a purchase by the federal government would provide for more income to Minnesota's Permanent School fund than would a land exchange.

Even though local legislators say that a federal purchase would be illegal, they are wrong. The purchase would be completely legal under the Weeks Act. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created for a purpose such as this.

I believe we must protect as much wilderness as possible through our country before it can no longer be considered wilderness.