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Comments: I am writing to strongly encourage the Forest Service to proceed with the proposed purchase of Minnesota State Lands located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness boundaries.

I am a frequent visitor to the BWCA, as well as a citizen of Minnesota, and I believe it is very important to remove the complication for land management of having Minnesota State School Trust lands within the long-established BWCA boundary. I believe the best way forward is to consolidate ownership by having the federal government purchase these lands from Minnesota.

I am upset to learn of a very small group of legislators trying to throw a wrench into the process by submitting their erroneous belief that a purchase is not legal. This is ridiculous, and I guarantee that they know very well that their position is false. These are simply anti-wilderness, pro-mining legislators doing anything in their power to thwart the management of this beloved wilderness area. Please ignore their comments!

I strongly support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of Minnesota state school trust lands inside the BWCA Wilderness, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the proposed land purchase package.

While being best for the management of the Wilderness going forward, it is actually best for the Minnesota State School Fund as well. Analysis has been published showing that the School Fund is most benefitted from the federal purchase of these lands, and not from the exchange of federal and state lands. Let's do what serves our students best, and move forward quickly with the purchase of these state lands within the boundaries of the BWCA Wilderness.