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Comments: The federal purchase of 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW and the 3,200 acres of tax-forfeited St. Louis County lands of would provide advantages including:

- 1) prohibiting future development and mining by designation of these lands as federally protected Wilderness
- 2) allocating responsibility to the Forest Service, which will provide comprehensive and effective management and protection of these lands within the BWCAW.

For these reasons, I strongly support the proposed federal purchase.

Furthermore, this federal purchase will make administration of the BWCAW more efficient and provide far more money to the Permanent School Fund. It is known that the Land and Water Conservation Fund can provide the monies for the Permanent School Fund and that such a purchase is legal under the Weeks Act.

Thank you for taking time to consider my comments.