



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 POLICY FACT SHEET DNR Land Bill

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to acquire certain new land and sell land it no longer needs for natural resource management purposes. Lands addressed by the bill possess characteristics that statutorily restrict their purchase or sale (riparian lands, lands located within certain management units such as state parks, or sales directed to a specific individual or governmental unit). These land transactions must first be reviewed and approved by the legislature.

In recent years similar types of requests by others (mainly counties) have been added to the DNR's bill, by the legislature, resulting in an "omnibus" land bill.

Major elements

Section 1: The DNR proposes a technical change that allows the commissioner to accept contributions to the Critical Habitat Matching Account and agree to match the contribution at a future date when an appropriation is made available.

Sections 2 and 3: The DNR proposes to allow Aquatic Management Areas to be designated as secondary management areas within other areas of the outdoor recreation system, and other areas of the outdoor recreation system to be designated within Aquatic Management Areas. This will provide additional protection to natural resources located within these areas.

Section 4: The DNR proposes to expand the boundaries of seven state parks in order to improve visitor use of facilities and better protect natural resources.

Section 5: The DNR proposes to remove inholdings that no longer meet the criteria for inclusion within a

park, and exchange or transfer custodial control of lands that are better suited for other uses. This will occur at four state parks.

Section 6: The DNR proposes to add three islands, made available from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, to Garden Island State Recreation Area for protection of natural resources.

Section 7: The DNR proposes to add lands to the Birch Lakes State Forest (Stearns County) to better manage the forest and to provide additional protection to natural resources located on the lands.

Section 8: The DNR proposes to allow the sale of Con-Con land on Aitkin Lake that is no longer needed for natural resource purposes and which has been subject to chronic trespass by neighboring land owners.

Section 9: The DNR proposes to allow the sale of Con-Con land in Aitkin County that is no longer needed for natural resource purposes and which is separated from other management units.

Section 10: The DNR proposes to sell land in Cormant Township of Beltrami County to the township for use as part of an existing cemetery. This will resolve an unintentional trespass by the cemetery.

Section 11: The DNR proposes to exchange land with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Approval of the plan is necessary because the state land was purchased by the DNR with bonding money and it is felt that legislative authorization is necessary.

Section 12: The DNR proposes to exchange state land within Lake Louise State Park that has no natural

resource value, for private land currently adjacent to the park. This will correct a trespass of a state trail onto the private land.

Section 13: The DNR proposes to conduct a private sale of land to a current leaseholder who inadvertently located a cabin, septic system, and personal property on the state land.

Section 14: The DNR proposes to sell the state's partial interest (1/12 undivided interest) in a 36 acre parcel to St. Louis County. The remainder of the parcel was tax forfeited and is currently administered by the county.

Section 15: The DNR proposes to acquire tax-forfeited land from St. Louis County located on Majestic Lake. The land is riparian therefore requiring legislative approval.

Section 16: The DNR proposes to sell riparian land located on the Leaf River in Wadena County. The land is not contiguous to other state land and is not needed for natural resource purposes.

Section 17: The effective date for sections 1 through 16 is the day following final enactment.

Priority-setting

For additions or deletions of management units, the process is initiated at the local level within DNR. The proposal is reviewed by DNR regional management teams and by the managing division. Where appropriate the proposal is shared with the public and local governmental units. Decisions to proceed with legislation are made by the commissioner of DNR with review by the Governor.

Proposals for the sale, purchase or exchange of lands can be initiated by: the DNR; another state agency; a local unit of government; or a private individual. The proposal is then reviewed by DNR regional management teams and by managing divisions. Where appropriate, the proposal is shared with the public and local governmental units. Decisions to proceed with legislation are made by the commissioner of DNR with review by the Governor.

Project locations

Clay County
Goodhue County
Swift County

Aitkin County
St. Louis County
Itasca County
Douglas County
Murray County
Carlton County
Lake of the Woods County
Stearns County
Beltrami County
Carver County
Mower County
Roseau County
Wadena County

Key measures and outcomes

Lands will be placed into an ownership status that will maximize their ability to be managed and used.

For further information contact:

Paul Pojar
Geological Engineer
Division of Lands and Minerals
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5413
paul.pojar@dnr.state.mn.us