



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2011 POLICY FACT SHEET DNR Lands Bill

It is needed because

This bill addresses the sale of DNR administered lands that 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. The bill also addresses changes in the boundaries of state parks, state recreation areas, state forests, and state wildlife management areas. During the session, additional bills are usually incorporated into the bill to address tax forfeited land sales requiring legislative approval.

OVERVIEW

Section 1. This section modifies the method of valuing lower-valued land for DNR land acquisitions and land exchanges. Rather than an appraisal, the commissioner may determine the value based either on the assessed value of the land or on comparable DNR land sales or acquisitions located in the vicinity and sold or acquired within the past year. The landowner, who is selling or exchanging their land, has to agree to use this process and is otherwise entitled to have his or her land valued through an appraisal.

Section 2. Provides that payments made under a mineral lease on lands and minerals rights purchased for the Iron Range OHV recreation area be deposited into the dedicated fund from which the purchase of lands was made.

Section 3. Is a technical change, that will correct the spelling of Smoky Hills State Forest.

Section 4. Will expand the boundaries of 2 state parks in order to better protect natural resources.

- Scenic State Park, Itasca County, by 51.6 acres
- William O'Brien State Park, Washington County, by 13 acres.

Section 5. Will expand the boundaries of 2 state recreation areas:

- Greenleaf Lake SRA by 4.4 acres in Meeker County
- Iron Range OHV SRA by 40 acres in St. Louis County.

Section 6. Will expand the boundaries of Smoky Hills State Forest by 120 acres in Becker County in order to better protect natural resources.

Sections 7 and 8. Will delete 160 acres from the Lost River State Forest and add it to the Roseau Lake WMA, Roseau County to better manage the natural resources

Sections 9 to 15 authorize the sale of DNR administered land. Legislation is required for these sales because the parcels either border water, or a direct sale is being proposed.

Section 9. Becker County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 6.15 acres of land to a local unit of government. The land is adjacent to a dam and is being used as a picnic and playground area. The DNR will retain an easement right to access the dam. The conveyance may be for less than the value of the land and is subject to reversion if the local unit of government abandons public use.

Section 10. Cass County. Authorizes the DNR to sell by public sale 11.6 acres of land in the vicinity of Ten Mile Lake. Adjacent owners will use the land for a septic system.

Section 11. Douglas County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 1.77 acres of land. The land is not needed for natural resources purposes and the adjacent landowner will have improved access to their property.

Section 12. Douglas County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 0.4 acres of land bordering Lake Miliona. The land is not needed for natural resources purposes, and the sale of the land to the holders of the easement on the land will resolve conflicts in use of the land.

Section 13. Marshall County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 1.0 acres of land to a local unit of government. The property will be used for a township cemetery. The conveyance may be for less than the value of the land and is subject to reversion if the local unit of government abandons public use.

Section 14. Otter Tail County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 0.02 acres of land bordering Eagle Lake. The sale will resolve an inadvertent trespass by the adjacent owner.

Section 15. Watonwan County. Authorizes the DNR to sell, by private sale, 99.75 acres of land. This is a former railroad right-of-way, and will be sold to a local unit of government for trail use.

Section 16. Effective Date. The effective date of the land sales is the day following final enactment.

IT IS NEEDED BECAUSE

The DNR must receive legislative approval to conduct certain land transactions that have been restricted as a result of previous legislative actions.

PROJECT LOCATIONS

The counties impacted by each section of the bill are specifically identified in the previous sections. A list of the impacted counties follows:

Becker
Cass
Douglas
Itasca
Marshall
Meeker
Otter Tail
Roseau
St. Louis
Washington
Watonwan

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