

**COMMISSIONER'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY OF CERTAIN STATE
ISSUED TIMBER HARVESTING PERMITS
Date 5/15/2015**

I, TOM LANDWEHR, COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Minnesota Statutes, Section 90.041, Subd. 7, do hereby issue this declaration:

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2015, approximately 4,550 acres of state lands in Roseau County were affected by catastrophic fire (Palsburg Fire) that caused damage to state timber;

WHEREAS, it is the state's best interest and benefit to harvest the damaged timber in a timely manner to salvage the timber before it further deteriorates and the risk of insect, stain and decay damage increases;

WHEREAS, it is in the state's best interest to encourage the purchase and harvest of timber sale permits by state-qualified purchasers to salvage the damaged timber;

WHEREAS, purchasers of these salvage sales may be diverted from their planned harvest activities on other state timber sale permits;

NOW, THEREFORE, I declare that;

1. A one-year Natural Disaster Extension may be granted to a permit holder of an existing (purchased prior to April 15, 2015) non-salvage permit without penalty or interest under either of the following conditions:
 - a. The permit holder has purchased a state Palsburg Fire salvage permit in Roseau County, or has harvested such fire salvage permit on behalf of the purchaser.
 - b. The permit holder harvests an existing state permit that was damaged by the Palsburg Fire.

Conditions of the extension,

- a. The salvage permit holder, or the party who harvests on behalf of the permit holder, makes a written request for the extension prior to Dec 31st, 2015.
 - b. Existing non-salvage state timber sale permits will be extended on a permit-for-permit basis. One non-salvage permit extended for each salvage permit purchased, or existing permit damaged.
 - c. The existing non-salvage permit to be extended must have a permit expiration date prior to June 1, 2017.
2. A one-year, interest-free, Natural Disaster Extension may be granted to a permit holder for an existing state timber permit that was damaged by the Palsburg fire. To qualify the original expiration date of the existing permit must be prior to June 1st, 2015. Extension requests must be received prior to the expiration date.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 90.041, Subd. 7, this declaration shall be effective from May 18, 2015 and shall remain in effect until June 1, 2017 or until rescinded by proper authority, whichever is earlier. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 18th day of May 2015.



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

5/18/15