

LAND USE SCREENING CRITERIA FOR  
PUBLIC NON-FERROUS METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALES POST 2013

This list identifies the land use screening criteria that will be used for the next public non-ferrous metallic minerals lease sale related to **Exclusion of Lands from Public Lease Sales**. The criteria were approved by Jess Richards, Director of the Lands and Minerals Division, on January 6, 2014.

**Exclusion of lands from public lease sales**

When preparing lands for a public non-ferrous metallic minerals lease sale, certain lands or features are excluded from leasing by law or by established procedures. Some of these exclusion lands are also excluded from negotiated leases, but some of the exclusion features (e.g., beds of public waters) may be included in a negotiated lease.

The following types of lands and features will be excluded from non-ferrous metallic mineral leases:

1) BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park

No lands or water areas within the BWCAW or Voyageurs National Park are offered for leasing.

2) State parks and state recreation areas

All lands within the statutory boundaries of state parks and state recreation areas are excluded from leasing, provided that exceptions may be made as to the Hill Annex State Park, Iron Range Off Highway Vehicle State Recreation Area, and the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, where the establishment of these two management units specifically recognized that mining may occur in the park/SRA.

3) Scientific and natural areas

All lands within the boundaries of Scientific and Natural Areas are excluded from leasing.

The following types of lands and features will be excluded from a public non-ferrous metallic mineral lease sale:

4) State BWCAW minerals management corridor.

All lands within the boundaries of the State BWCAW Minerals Management Corridor are excluded from public lease sales.

5) Black Bay management area – Rainy Lake

Some lands in the Management Plan for the Black Bay Area of Rainy Lake in Koochiching County near the Voyageurs National Park are excluded from public lease sales. (Some lands in the Black Bay Management area are offered with a special feature designation.)

6) Lakes listed in the Public Waters Inventory and major rivers

The beds of lakes listed in the Department of Natural Resources' Inventory of Public Waters, and the beds of major or significant rivers, are excluded from public lease sale, with the exception that mine pit lakes as identified in the Public Waters Inventory will not be excluded from public lease sales. Some lakes and rivers are not meandered, so the bed of the water body is included in the land descriptions; there is text added to the mining unit description to exclude the bed of such nonmeandered lake or river.

7) Islands

Islands are usually excluded from public lease sales, provided that management may decide to make an exception for large islands.

8) Mississippi River headwaters corridor

All lands identified in the Management Plan for the Upper Mississippi River (January 1981) in the counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison are excluded from public lease sales.

9) North Shore Lake Superior Orientation Zone

All lands within the North Shore Lake Superior Orientation Zone as defined in the North Shore Management Plan (1988) are excluded from public lease sales.

10) Fish hatcheries, spawning areas, and rearing ponds

Lands containing fish hatcheries, spawning areas, and rearing ponds managed by the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife are excluded from public lease sales unless the FAW Division provides approval to include specific lands.

11) Small isolated parcels

Small isolated parcels of land of less than 5 acres are usually excluded from public lease sales.

12) High density residential/commercial development; platted lakeshore lots with cabins

High density residential and commercial development areas are excluded from public lease sales. Platted lakeshore lots with cabins are excluded from public lease sales.

13) Calcareous fen

Calcareous fens are excluded from public lease sales. Calcareous fens are identified by written order of the commissioner of natural resources pursuant to Minn. Stat., sec.

103G.223. The current list is available at:

[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/wetlands/calcareous\\_fen\\_list.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/wetlands/calcareous_fen_list.pdf)

14) Old growth stands

Designated old growth stands and designated future old growth stands, as defined and identified through DNR old growth policy and procedures, are excluded from public lease sales, but the underlying minerals are offered. (The exception language is “excepting designated old growth in [forty/government lot]”.) Any activities within these areas must adhere to the DNR old growth policy.