

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 **Special Features or Uses**. The criteria were approved by Jess Richards, Director of the Lands and Minerals Division, on January 6, 2014.

Special features or uses

When preparing a mining unit book for a public non-ferrous metallic minerals lease sale and when negotiating a non-ferrous metallic minerals lease, a land use screening is conducted to identify features or uses that merit additional consideration and review at the time an exploration plan is submitted. When reviewing a proposed exploration plan submitted under the state mineral lease, the commissioner may require the lessee to adjust its exploration plans or plans for construction of roads or trails within the leased premises. The existence of a special feature or use will often involve another resource manager in the review of the exploration plan and may more frequently require adjustment in exploration plans.

The following types of features or uses will be currently identified in the public metallic mineral lease sale offerings and negotiated leases:

- 1) Old growth candidate stands
- 2) Designated trout streams
- 3) State trails

State trails designated in Minn. Stat., sec. 85.015 are identified as a special feature. In past sales, the following trails have been listed as a special feature: Taconite Trail, Arrowhead Trail (formerly the Tower to International Falls Trail), North Shore Trail, Willard Munger Trail, and Heartland Trail.

- 4) Wildlife management areas
- 5) Aquatic management areas
- 6) Rare natural heritage features

The database contains specific locations of state-listed species that are endangered or threatened, aggregation sites (e.g., colonial nesting sites), and species that are on a proposed list to be added to the state's endangered and threatened species list. (Specific location data is nonpublic data.)

- 7) Historic and archaeology sites

8) Peatland watershed areas

Lands that are within the boundaries of the watersheds of the designated peatland SNAs are identified as a special feature.

9) 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 identified as a special feature. (Some lands in the Black Bay Management area are excluded from lease sales.)

10) Water Trails

Water trails designated under Minn. Stat., sec. 85.32, on rivers contained within the section of a mining unit are identified as a special feature.

11) Recreation sites

The following types of sites included in this category are: public water access; state and federal campground/campsite; state highway rest area; and county, city or township park or picnic area.

12) USFS Research natural areas and State proposed research natural areas

Any access to federal land must adhere to federal policies. Any access to state proposed research natural areas will be reviewed and analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

13) Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) sites of biodiversity significance that are ranked as outstanding or high.

14) National wildlife refuges and national waterfowl production areas.

15) Wellhead protection areas as defined in Minnesota Statutes, sec. 103I.005, subd. 24 and identified by the Department of Health, and municipal water intakes.

16) Wild rice waters as identified by the DNR.

17) Native plant communities that are identified as “state critically imperiled” or “imperiled” (S1 and S2).