



# *Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet*



## **2008 Policy Fact Sheet Lake Vermilion State Park**

### **It is needed because**

The importance of increasing the capacity of public recreation facilities to meet the expected future demand for current and new visitors on one of the largest and most scenic lakes in Minnesota is significant. The state has until July 2008 to reach an agreement with U.S. Steel to purchase the property. If not, this opportunity will be lost for current and future generations.

### **Major elements**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing the acquisition of approximately 3,034 acres of undeveloped land, including 5 miles of undeveloped shoreline that is owned by U.S. Steel. The proposal includes acquiring land for purposes of a flagship state park that would showcase northern Minnesota's classic lake country, provide a wide range of year-round public activities, and expand the experiences and knowledge of area visitors to the natural and cultural resources of the Lake Vermilion area. The park would provide a gateway to the world renowned Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest.

Under Minnesota's Outdoor Recreation Act, state parks are "established to protect and perpetuate extensive areas of the state possessing those resources which illustrate and exemplify Minnesota's natural phenomena and to provide for the use, enjoyment, and understanding of such resources without impairment for the enjoyment and recreation of future generations." (M.S. 86.A.05)

The opportunity to purchase a large tract of undeveloped land that consists of natural and scenic resources to qualify as a state park from a single landowner is very rare. Seldom at this point in the state's history will there be the opportunity to deal with one landowner regarding property with these natural features.

### **Project location**

Adjacent to Soudan Underground Mine State Park along the shore of Lake Vermilion, St. Louis County.

### **Impact on operating budget**

Annual operating expenses are projected to be in the range of \$550,000 to \$650,000 at build-out. Annual direct income is estimated to be \$500,000.

### **For further information contact:**

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