

2020 Policy and Technical Proposals

Fact Sheet



Why is this bill needed?

Each year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes changes a suite of policy-related and technical changes for multiple programs the DNR administers. The proposed changes help us to be adaptive in our management of the state's natural resources and responsive to public input. The language found in this bill moved through the committee process in the 2020 legislative session. It includes language that was part of the Governor's proposal. It also includes non-controversial proposals that came from stakeholders.

Major proposal elements

This bill makes technical or policy changes in law to enable the DNR to better manage its programs and Minnesota's natural resources.

- Clarify the definition of certifiable fish disease to include the presence of the pathogen known to cause the disease;
- Technical correction to replace an obsolete reference to the "official list of VHS susceptible fish species";
- Correct a typo from biannually (twice yearly) to the intended biennially (once each biennium) regarding a report to the legislature;
- Remove the sunset provision on invasive carp tagging. Analysis has verified that tagging and tracking invasive carp is an essential tool for better invasive species and natural resource management. The carp that have been tagged over this time-period have provided invaluable information on habitat use, movement patterns, and has led to the capture of additional individuals;
- Clarify several state park and outdoor recreation statutes;
- Formalize DNR's ability to hold vehicle owners or lessees responsible for permit violations regardless of the vehicle driver;
- Allow DNR to formally set standard policies for parks and trails services in the same way that we already do for campsites and lodging;

2020 Policy and Technical Proposals Fact Sheet continued from page 1

- Allow an exemption for taking, transporting, and possessing snakes, lizards, and/or salamanders as pets and will authorize the DNR to regulate pet stores and individuals who breed and/or sell snakes, lizards and salamanders activities and bring them into compliance with state law;
- Modify statute to create an equitable and uniform application of violation criteria consistent with other fish and game licenses;
- Clarify that night vision equipment can be enhanced with infrared illuminators, that night vision equipment cannot be used to take coyote/fox during the regular firearms deer season, and provide a revocation/penalty for taking protected wild animals while unlawfully using night vision equipment for specified violations including taking in closed season, closed hours, or while trespassing;
- Clarify the use of crossbows in lieu of firearms during deer, bear and wild turkey seasons;
- Give DNR the authority to make within-season regulations adjustments for Red Lake, via Commissioner's Order, similar to Mille Lacs Lake;
- Apply a technical correction to clarify our intent to limit licensees to one net for cisco and whitefish netting, not two;
- Make a technical correction to the date of the Lake Superior Management Plan;
- Amend Minn. Stat. § 116G.15 to accurately reflect current Metropolitan Council and DNR authorities and provide streamlined review of local MRCCA plans and ordinances. In addition this proposal simplifies and streamlines Minn. Stat. § 116G.07 creating a more consistent and less cumbersome review process for local MRCCA plans;

- Clarifies that wild rice lessees are responsible for costs associated with land exchanges authorized by prior statute.

Fiscal impacts

This proposal does not have a fiscal impact.

Statute Proposals

Certifiable Fish Diseases

Sec 1, 3, & 4. Amends M.S. 17.4982 to include expression or presence of pathogens as a certifiable fish disease.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

Sec 2, 5, & 6. Amends M.S. 17.4982 to define VHS susceptible species and establish a VHS list.

Sec 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 36, & 37. Amends M.S. 17.4985, 17.4986, 17.4991, 17.4992, 97C.342, and 97C.515 to correctly reference the VHS list.

School Trust Land Reporting

Sec 14. Amends M.S. 84.027 to change the reporting frequency on the management of school trust lands from biannually (twice yearly) to biennially (once each biennium).

Snowmobiles

Sec 15 & 16. Amends 84.82 to allow transportation of unregistered snowmobiles.

All-Terrain Vehicles

Sec 17. Amends 84.92 redefine the definition of ATV's by removing the low pressure requirement.

2020 Policy and Technical Proposals Fact Sheet continued from page 2

Invasive Carp Tagging

Sec 18. Amends M.S. 84D.11 to remove the sunset provision on invasive carp tagging.

State Parks System

Sec 19. Amends M.S. 85.052 to remove golf courses from list.

Sec 20 & 23. Amends M.S. 85.052 and 85.054 to update event language.

Sec 22. Amends M.S. 85.053 to establish that the owner of the vehicle entering a state park is responsible for the permit.

Sec 43. Repeals M.S. 85.0505 subd. 3, 85.0507, and 85.054 subd 19, regarding concessions at Fort Ridgely and Golf Carts at Fort Ridgely.

Sec 21. Amends M.S. 85.052 to allow the commissioner of natural resources to develop reservation policies for day use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals.

Sec 25. Amends M.S. 85.47 to allow the commissioner of natural resources to develop policies for special use permits for state parks, state recreation areas, state waysides, state trails, and state water access sites.

Cross Country Ski Account

Sec 24. Amends 85.43 to add developing and maintaining trails as an allowable use from cross country ski pass fees.

Regulating Snake, Lizard, and Salamander Trade

Sec 26 and 27. Amends M.S. 97A.401 to direct the commissioner of natural resources to prescribe conditions and issue permits to breed, propagate, and sell snakes, lizards, and salamanders.

Game and Fish Violations

Sec 28. Amends M.S. 97A.421 to redefine minnow dealer convictions to be consistent with other game and fish violations.

Night Vision Restrictions and Penalties

Sec 29. Amends M.S. 97A.421 to revoke hunting privileges for five years if night or thermal vision equipment was in possession during specific violations, including taking wild animals in closed season, closed hours, or while trespassing.

Sec 34. Amends M.S. 97B.086 to clarify infrared illuminators can be used to enhance night vision equipment, and clarify that night vision equipment cannot be used to take coyote/fox during the regular firearms deer season.

Red Lake Reservation

Sec 30. Amends 97A.505 to state that wild animals taken on Red Lake Reservation under the Band's Conservation Code do not count towards state set limits.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Sec 31. Amends 97A.505 to prohibit the import of cervidae carcasses into the state no matter the means of procurement.

Allowable Firearms

Sec 32. Amends 97B.031 to define permissible firearms and ammunition; big game and wolves.

Crossbows During Firearms Seasons

Sec 33. Amends M.S. 97B.306 to allow crossbow usage during firearms seasons except muzzleloader deer season.

2020 Policy and Technical Proposals Fact Sheet continued from page 3

Upper Red Lake Management

Sec 35. Amends M.S. 97C.005 to include Upper Red Lake as a special management water.

Lake Whitefish and Ciscoe Netting

Sec 38. Amends M.S. 97C.805 to clarify the number of allowable nets for lake whitefish and ciscoe is one.

Lake Superior Management Plan

Sec 39. Amends M.S. 97C.836 to remove the Lake Superior Management Plan specific date and indicate that the plan will be updated every 10-years.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

Sec 40. Amends M.S. 116G.07 to exempt plans and local regulations of local government units from the review and approval procedures and replaces it with language that reflects current agency authority and a more streamlined review and approval approach specifically for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA).

Sec 41. Amends M.S. 116G.15 to provide streamlined DNR and Metropolitan Council review and approval procedures of local MRCCA plans and regulations.

Wild Rice Lease Exchanges

Sec 42. Amends MN Laws 2016 ch. 154 to establish that wild rice lessees are responsible for all costs associated with the related land exchanges authorized in the 2016 law.

For more information contact:

Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155-4047
Phone: 651-259-5024
Email: bob.meier@state.mn.us



This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or calling 651-259-5016.