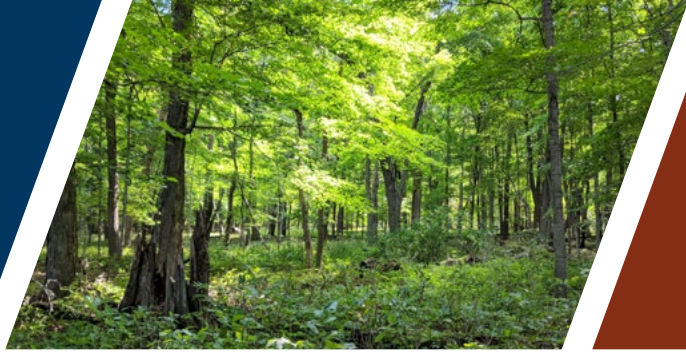


Lands Bill



Related Facts

The DNR manages 5.6 million acres of state land behalf of Minnesotans and continually strives to improve the state's land portfolio through strategic purchases, sales and exchanges.

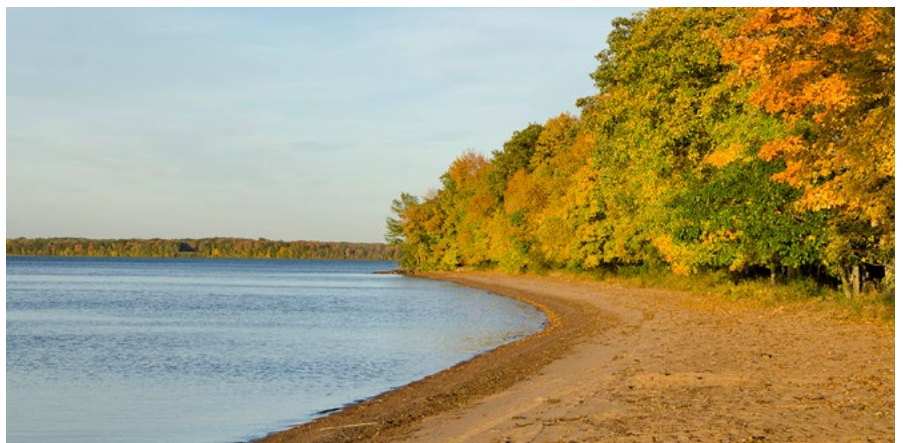
About 24 percent of Minnesota's lands are public lands—more than 12 million acres of state, federal and county lands managed on behalf of Minnesotans.



Summary

Each year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes a lands bill that includes amendments to statutes that govern DNR's land transactions, changes to statutory boundaries of state parks, state recreation areas or state forests, and legislative authorization for select land sales. State parks and forests lands are established by legislation so the legislature must authorize changes to the borders. Land sales require legislative approval in some circumstances where lands will be sold by private sale, where certain lands border public waters, or where land is to be sold for less than market value.

The 2024 Lands Bill proposes amendments to several statutes, provides for changes to certain state park boundaries and grants the DNR authority to sell certain riparian lands that require legislative approval. The bill authorizes the DNR to sell some lands by private sale and for less than market value. The DNR has determined that the lands proposed for sale either no longer meet conservation or recreation needs, or that sales are needed to resolve land management issues.



Proposal

The 2024 Lands Bill proposes an amendment to an existing statute that grants a party who has a preexisting right of access over a state trail right-of-way authority to apply for an easement over the trail. The bill will allow the commissioner of natural resources to pay the applicant's statutory application fee when the easement will benefit the state's land management interests. The bill will also amend two statutes that govern land exchanges. For land exchange transactions, the changes will allow the DNR to charge additional costs incurred by the DNR in those transactions.

The bill adds to the boundaries of Banning, Father Hennepin, and Lake Louise State Parks. The bill authorizes the DNR commissioner to sell certain state lands in Chisago, Hubbard, Redwood, and Roseau Counties. These sales require legislative authorization because either the lands will be sold by private sale rather than by auction, or they border public waters, or both. The bill authorizes the conveyance of the Redwood County parcels to a federally recognized Indian tribe for no cost for the land and one of the Hubbard County parcels to the county for no cost for the land.

This bill also achieves technical consistency with the transfer of the Upper Sioux Agency State Park by removing the park from the list of statutory state parks. In addition, the bill removes the Hill Annex Mine State Park from this list to allow for active iron ore mining at the site.



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