

Policy-Related and Technical Changes



Summary

Each year, the DNR proposes policy-related and technical changes to Minnesota statutes that deal with programs the DNR administers. This year's proposed changes will help the department manage the state's natural resources adaptively and respond to public input.

The 2025 policy and technical bill focuses on changes related to ecosystem management and technical corrections to existing statutes.

Proposal

Ecosystem Management

This portion of the proposal would make changes that improve the agency's ability to proactively manage the state's plants and animals.

Lake Superior Burbot Commercial Harvest

This proposed change would allow burbot caught as bycatch in Lake Superior commercial fisheries to be kept, consistent with what is currently allowed for lake trout. Burbot caught in the commercial fishery often die while in the net or are in very poor condition when the nets are checked and therefore, releasing the fish typically means that fish are wasted.

Exempting Dead, Eviscerated Carp from Prohibited Invasive Species Regulations

This proposed change would allow anglers and agency staff to transport and dispose of eviscerated invasive carp. This will provide agency efficiencies and provide businesses and individuals with greater opportunity to make productive use of the remaining carcass, while continuing to ensure the state is minimizing threats of introduction in Minnesota waters. Currently, because invasive carp are prohibited invasive species, businesses and individuals wishing to use processed (dead) carp in Minnesota must obtain permits to do so.



Improve DNR Business and Policy Practices

This portion of the proposal makes technical changes to existing statute that improve the agency's business and policy practices.

Off-road Vehicle State Trail Pass Clarification

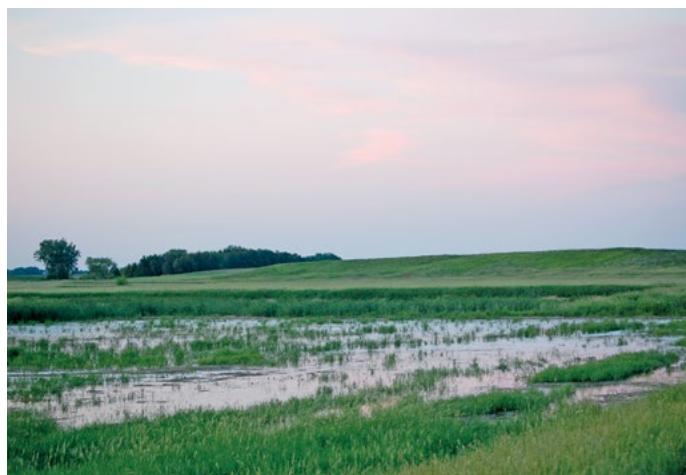
This change would remove the requirement that the state trail pass be viewable on off-road vehicles to conform to similar language relating to snowmobiles. Currently, one statute indicates the pass must be viewable, while another indicates it only needs to be available for officer inspection. This will provide consistency in how state trail passes are displayed to provide clarity to users and enforcement staff.



Public Waters Inventory Update Correction

This change would make a technical correction to language from the 2024 legislative session regarding where updates to the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) are required. This change would require (rather than allow) the commissioner's authority to revise the PWI map. As currently written, the DNR is required to reclassify all public waters wetlands as either "public waters" (regulated under the DNR's Public Waters program) or as "wetlands" as regulated under Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) (primarily by local

governments with oversight by the Board of Water and Soil Resources). The language as currently written is not consistent with the funding provided and may have tax implications for some property owners. Public water wetlands reclassified as WCA wetland may no longer qualify for the wetland tax exemption.



Repeal of Land Acquisition Report

This change would repeal the requirement to provide a biannual report to the legislature regarding the state's acquisitions and improvements in many of the DNR's recreational land types. The report has not been submitted from the agency in many years and it has been the opinion of the agency since 2000 that this report requirement should be repealed. This report requirement is antiquated and is no longer feasible given the breadth of the DNR's current land portfolio and the specific land types, such as wildlife lands, are reported in distinct reports.

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