



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2009 NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY BILL FACT SHEET

CONTENTS

This fact sheet relates to natural resources; modifying state park permit requirements; modifying authority to operate state monuments and establish secondary units; eliminating liquor service at John A. Latsch State Park; providing for establishment of boater waysides; modifying watercraft operation requirements; providing for appeals and enforcement of certain civil penalties; providing for public waters inventory; modifying critical habitat plate eligibility; amending Minnesota Statutes; repealing Minnesota Statutes.

OVERVIEW

Section 1

Multiple-Vehicle Permits

This language allows a person who owns more than one car to purchase additional park permits for a reduced rate.

Section 2

John A. Latsch State Park (Permit Exemption)

A state park permit is not required and a fee may not be charged for motor vehicle entry or parking at the parking lot located adjacent to John Latsch Road and Trunk Highway 61 at John A. Latsch State Park.

Section 3

Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area (Permit Exemption)

A state park permit is not required and a fee may not be charged for motor vehicle entry or parking at Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.

Section 4

School-Sanctioned Activities (Entrance Fee Waiver)

A state park permit is not required and a fee may not be charged for vehicles transporting K-12 students engaged in school district sanctioned activities at state parks.

Section 5

Technical Change to Park Entrance Requirements

Technical correction to M.S. 2008, section 85.21. Strike the word “monument” in the title and in the section to make the language consistent.

Section 6

State Boater Wayside

Boater waysides may be established to provide for public use. No unit shall be authorized as a state boater wayside unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) contains resources that are desirable for use by boaters; (2) is accessible by persons traveling by boat, canoe, or kayak; and (3) may be near, associated with, or located within a unit of the outdoor recreation system under this section. State boater waysides shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this subdivision. Facilities for sanitation, picnicking, overnight mooring, camping, fishing, and swimming may be provided when the commissioner determines that these activities are justifiable and compatible with the resources and the natural environment.

Section 7

Secondary Units

A unit of the outdoor recreation system may be authorized wholly or partially within the boundaries of another unit *only* when the authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the respective units.

Section 8

Master Plan Exemption for Boater Waysides

Exempts boater waysides from the master planning process.

Section 9

Move Over for Law Enforcement Watercraft Displaying Emergency Lights

Amends M.S. 2008, section 86B.311. A subdivision is added pertaining to a “move over” provision for law enforcement craft on the water. This provision is similar to the street/highway provision. The “move over” provision is also an officer safety issue. The language required that operators of watercraft be required to move their craft away from law enforcement craft and maintain a slow-no wake speed while they are within 150 feet of the law enforcement craft. The 150 foot slow-no wake speed limit is consistent with other provisions in boating laws.

Section 10

Penalty Appeals Process for Dogs Pursuing or Killing Big Game

This language establishes a formal appeal process for dog/deer civil penalties. Currently, there is no formal appeal process associated with the newer stand alone civil penalty amounts that a dog owner is subject to if their dog kills or pursues a big game animal. This language will provide an appeal process for those individuals through the Office of Administrative Hearings in the same manner as trespass, OHV, and invasive species civil citations.

Section 11

Taking Wild Animals to Protect Public Safety

Clarifies that a licensed peace officer can take a protected wild animal that is posing an immediate threat to public safety.

Section 12

Public Waters Inventory

M.S. 103G.201 requires that the DNR file a copy of the public waters inventory map for the county with the county auditor. *In the past this meant printing a copy of the map and sending it to the county auditor.* This language proposes that the requirement be changed to allow the DNR to send an electronic notification to the county auditor that a new public waters inventory map is available on the DNR web site and that the county can look up water bodies or stream courses on the web site or print a copy of the map or area of interest as needed for their purposes. A copy of the notification would also be sent to soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, water management organizations and cities at the same time. This will also allow the DNR to send out

changes in a timely manner rather than waiting for enough changes to justify reprinting a county map.

Section 13

Critical Habitat Plates

Language modification to M.S. 2008, section 168.1296, subdivision 1 regarding critical habitat plates that allows one plate for pickups to be eligible for critical habitat plates and extends the eligibility date from 2006 to 2012 to allow for the Department of Public Safety hardware updates.

Section 14

Repealer

- ♦ John A. Latsch State Park, M.S. 2008, sections 85.0505, subdivision 2

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