



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2013 POLICY FACT SHEET Omnibus Policy and Technical Bill

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing a number of policy and technical changes that will improve government operations by increasing operational efficiencies, clarifying authorizing language, and reauthorizing shoreland rulemaking authority for the department.

Overview

Section 1. Federal law compliance. This change would exempt DNR from M.S. 14 and authorize the commissioner to promulgate policy through a Commissioner's Order for the purpose of implementing federal requirements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This change would allow for future flexibility to adapt department policy in a timely manner to provide ADA access to DNR facilities.

Sec. 2. Off-Highway Vehicle Criminal Penalties. A technical change provides clarification that violations of the apprentice rider requirements are subject to the OHV criminal penalty.

Secs. 3-5. Nontrail use registration; Fees for registration; Sticker required. This change allows snowmobiles to be registered for nontrail use for a reduced fee of \$45 for three years. Snowmobiles registered under this provision may not be operated on state or grant-in-aid snowmobile trails.

Sec. 6. Arrowhead Region Trails. This change amends the authorization for the Matthew Lourey State Trail to extend the southern trail terminus approximately 20 miles to the Chengwatana State Forest, near the Pine County border.

Sec. 7. La Salle Lake State Recreation Area. This change allows an individual to enter La Salle Lake State Recreation Area without a state park permit, if campgrounds or day use areas will not be used. In particular, individuals who want to use the area for hunting or fishing will not need a park permit.

Sec. 8. Fees. The 2012 Minnesota Legislature authorized disability park permits for federal access pass holders, but did not include an amendment necessary to discount the fee to \$12 from \$25. This technical change allows for the discounted fee to be provided.

Sec. 9. User fee; Validity. This change authorizes a \$2 fee for issuing a duplicate ski pass when the original pass is lost or destroyed. The fee is in rule; the amendment would provide statutory authority.

Secs. 10, 12. Taking, possessing, and transporting wild animals for certain purposes; Rulemaking Authority. This change authorizes the commissioner to use the good cause exemption to adopt rules allowing nonresident wildlife rehabilitators to possess and transport wildlife affected by oil spills. Nonresident wildlife rehabilitation professionals will be needed if there is a major oil spill in Minnesota that affects wildlife. M.R. 6244.0400 only allow the issuance of rehabilitation permits to nonresidents if the commissioner determines special circumstances exist. A major oil spill could be considered a special circumstance, but compliance with Minnesota's permit application and testing requirement would delay response times for nonresidents. To respond quickly to an oil spill that is affecting wildlife this initiative would exempt nonresident professional wildlife rehabilitators from Minnesota permit requirements if they have a federal rehabilitation permit.

Sec. 11. Management plan. This clarifies that hunting is allowed in Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area.

Sec. 13. Rulemaking; Display of Paddle Board License Numbers. This change exempts paddleboards from the requirement to display license certificates and license numbers and allows for the use of the good cause exemption rule process.

For further information contact:

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