



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2014 LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET DNR Lands Bill

### **It is needed because**

Legislative approval is needed for certain land management transactions that aid the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in meeting its conservation agenda and goals. Also, elimination of DNR's review of tax forfeited land sales will create greater efficiencies in the land sales process.

### **Major program elements**

This bill authorizes the DNR to sell and exchange certain lands to meet its conservation mission. The bill addresses changes in management unit boundaries and other technical changes to create efficiencies in land management. Elimination of DNR's review of certain county-board approved tax forfeited land sales will create greater efficiencies in government by removing an additional review step in the tax forfeited land sales process.

### **Key measures and outcomes**

**Sec. 1. Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.** Clarifies a name change to the merged state parks.

**Sec. 2. RJ Dorer Memorial State Forest.** Modifies exemption from the requirement to sell tillable land acquired in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. The county board would be authorized to approve the exemption when demonstrated that the parcel was acquired for natural resource and public access purposes. Revenue from the sales would be deposited into the Natural Resources Fund. These changes would reduce land acquisition and forest management costs and increase local control over DNR transactions in the Memorial Forest.

**Secs. 3 to 8. Sale of tax forfeited lands.** Removes DNR approval of the sale of certain tax forfeited lands and classification of tax forfeited lands.

Approval would still be needed from county boards in order for sales to occur. These changes eliminate an additional layer of governmental review.

- **Sec. 3. Timber value; state forest.** Removes requirement that DNR approve the value of timber on tax forfeited land that may be offered for sale by the county. Also removes requirement that DNR approve sale of tax forfeited land in a county in which a state forest is located.
- **Sec. 4. Classification of tax forfeited lands.** Removes requirement that DNR approve or disapprove the county's designation of conservation tax forfeited lands as suitable for specific conservation or auxiliary forest purposes.
- **Sec. 5. Sale of tax forfeited land adjacent to public waters.** Removes DNR approval of a county decision to sell a tract of tax forfeited land that has 150 feet or less of waterfront. Removes requirement for DNR to evaluate the proposed sale of tax forfeited land adjacent to public waters and providing recommendations of disposition to legislative committees.
- **Sec. 6. Sale of tax forfeited lands.** Technical change in the tax forfeited land sale process due to changes in Sec. 2 of this bill.
- **Secs. 7. and 8. Municipal and memorial forests.** Removes DNR from approval of local unit of government's selection of land, plan of management and withdrawal for sale for municipal memorial forests.

**Sec. 9. Lake Vermilion State Park and Soudan Underground Mine State Park; PILT payment.**

Technical changes due to changes in Secs. 14 and 16 of this bill. Incorporates 2013 legislative change for adjustment in appraised value to be determined at same time as other state lands.

**Sec. 10. Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area; Meeker County.** Removes private land from boundary of Greenleaf Lake SRA. Landowner has requested removal to aid in addressing trespass by SRA users.

**Sec. 11. Snake River State Forest, Kanabec County.** Expands state forest boundary to protect over one mile of critical river habitat. Recently acquired land will be managed as part of a state forest. This change increases efficiencies in forest management.

**Sec. 12. Private sale of state land; Becker County.** Authorizes DNR to sell by private sale 0.5 acres of land bordering the Straight River that is currently used as the Osage Wayside Rest Area. The conveyance is to a local unit of government for public use and conveyance may be for less than the value of the land, subject to reversion if the local unit of government abandons public use.

**Sec. 13. Exchange of state land; Kanabec County.** Allows exchange of DNR parcels for tax forfeited parcels in Kanabec County notwithstanding general restrictions on exchanging riparian land. The parcels are riparian, but land to be acquired by DNR does not provide equal opportunity for water access by the public although it does improve forest access.

**Sec. 14. Public sale of state land; Kittson County.** Authorizes sale of small platted parcels located within Lake Bronson State Park. Parcels are not needed for park purposes.

**Secs. 15, 16(a) and 17. Lake Vermilion State Park and Soudan Underground Mine State Park; St. Louis County.** Merges two parks into one park with merged park known as Lake Vermilion-Soudan

Underground Mine State Park. This change increases efficiencies in parks management.

**Sec. 16(b).** Housekeeping change to move exception to land exchange parameters for certain management units from chapter 84 to chapter 94 in which remainder of land exchange provisions are located.

**For further information contact:**

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