



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2015 POLICY FACT SHEET DNR Policy-Technical Bill

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing a number of policy and technical changes that will improve conservation results and increase operational efficiencies by clarifying authorizing language and amending or repealing outdated language.

Major program elements

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4. ATV and Snowmobile Registration

This section clarifies that the new owner of an ATV or snowmobile is the individual responsible to transfer ownership; provides a correction to 2014 legislation that did not include direction for the Revisor's Office to change the term "designation" to "listed" in Minnesota Rules as was done with language in Minnesota Statutes.

Section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Aquatic Invasive Species

These sections replaces the word "listed" with "designated" where it refers to species identified as prohibited, regulated, unlisted, and unregulated invasive species in ten locations; authorizes watercraft inspectors and conservation officers to require decontamination when staff and equipment are available; expands the enabling language of the Invasive Species Account to include habitat and species enhancement.

Section 18.

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.

This section corrects the state park name and adds the Stuntz Bay boat house area as not needing a state park permit.

Section 19. Temporary Water Surface Use Controls

This section provides authority for the commissioner to enact timely temporary water surface use controls—including slow no-wake zones and area closures at public construction and maintenance sites crossing or

adjacent to waters of this state—for a period of time not to exceed the duration of the construction or maintenance project.

Sections 20, 21, and 22. Water Surface Use Restrictions and Personal Flotation Devices

This section defines and regulates wake surfing and fly boarding and operation of a watercraft creating a wake in the same manner as towed sports, requiring an observer or mirror and prohibiting night wake surfing; end the hours of operation for all towed sports to "one half hour past sunset"; and modifies language regarding personal floatation devices to conform with changes in federal regulations which eliminates type codes for personal floatation devices and requires compliance with any use restrictions on the United States Coast Guard approval.

Sections 23. Fire Statute Revisions.

This section revises the issuing of special permits to start a fire for the purpose of training firefighters. This revision updates to national firefighter training standards.

Sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44. Auxiliary Forest and Forest Bough Account.

This section clarifies auxiliary forest language and amends language to cover all special forest product information and education programs instead of just balsam bough education (which is no longer required) so the funds in the account can be used.

Section 45. Water Use Information.

This section allows the commissioner to issue a permit for a once-through water cooling system in existence prior to January 1, 2015, for up to 5,000,000 gallons.

Section 46. Title examination.

This section is a technical change, adding Minnesota Statute, 2014, for clarity.

Section 47. Rulemaking; Water Surface Use Restrictions

This section amends the temporary special controls in situations of local emergency from five days to 30 days.

Section 48. Rulemaking; Personal Flotation Devices

This section provides technical changes to conform to changes in federal regulations.

Section 49. Revisor's Instruction

This section provides a technical correction.

Section 50. Repealer.

This section repeals statutes that are no longer needed related to auxiliary forests.

Key measures and outcomes

- Increase transparency and clarity of department operations.
- Streamlined operations that provide for the efficient delivery of services to customers.

For further information contact:

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