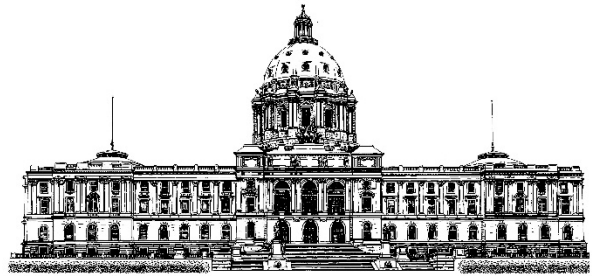




MNDNR

2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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.

Major program elements

This bill designates a state wayside, designates a new state forest, deletes a small parcel of land from the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, and adds lands to five state forests.

The bill authorizes use of an existing minimum valuation process for sale of low-valued state bond-financed property administered by the DNR.

This bill also authorizes the DNR to sell and exchange certain lands to meet its conservation mission.

Key measures and outcomes

Secs. 1 and 4. Designation of the St. Croix Boom Site Wayside, Washington County. Designates an 11-acre wayside adjacent to State Highway 95 and the St. Croix River, north of Stillwater. This site was formerly managed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and was transferred to DNR management through a transfer of custodial control.

Secs. 2 and 5. Designation of Centennial State Forest, Cass County. Designates 3,394 acres as a new state forest. Most of the lands were donated to the DNR for use for forest purposes. The name is in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Division of Forestry.

Sec. 3. Valuation of bond-financed property. Authorizes the DNR to use an abbreviated appraisal process when selling bond-financed property where the value of the property is \$50,000 or less. State law otherwise requires a full appraisal.

Secs. 6 and 12. Deletion of lands from state park. Private sale of state lands, Mille Lacs County. Sec. 6 deletes a 1.22-acre parcel from Mille Lacs Kathio State Park in Mille Lacs County. Sec. 12 authorizes DNR to sell the 1.22 acres at the appraised value plus sale costs, including all staff costs. The land will be used for expansion of an existing cemetery.

Sec. 7. Additions of lands to state forests. Adds land to the following state forests:

- Bear Island State Forest
- Cloquet Valley State Forest
- Kabetogama State Forest
- Sturgeon River State Forest
- Whiteface River State Forest.

The lands were acquired in the Sax-Zim land exchange. The addition of 17,776 acres to the state forests will reduce costs and aid in efficient natural resource management.

Sec. 8. Private sale of state land, Cass County. Authorizes the DNR to sell the Steamboat Loop of the Heartland State Trail to a local homeowner's association. The offer to sell 21.99 acres will be at the same value offered in 1988 as adjusted for inflation. The DNR is working with adjacent landowners on realignment of the trail design and this land will not be needed after the construction of the alternative Tower Hill alignment.

Sec. 9. Public or private sale of state land, Clearwater County. Authorizes the DNR to sell a 1.9 acres parcel bordering Pine Lake. The portion that contains a road right-of-way may be sold to a local unit of government for less than appraised value, but the conveyance must provide that the right-of-way is used by the public and reverts to the state if public use ceases or is abandoned.

Sec. 10. Private sale of state land, Lake of the Woods County. Authorizes the DNR to sell 80 acres of consolidated conservation land. The DNR plans to sell the land to the county for continued use as a shooting range.

Sec. 11. Private sale of state land, Lake of the Woods County. Authorizes DNR to sell 160 acres in the Northwest Angle to a local unit of government for less than appraised value, but the conveyance must provide that the land be used by the public and reverts to the state if public use ceases or is abandoned. The land borders the Northwest Angle Inlet of Lake of the Woods, and the

local unit of government is interested in establishing a public park.

Sec. 12. See description with Sec. 6.

Sec. 13. Private sale of state land, Olmsted County. Authorizes DNR to sell 1.56 acres to a local unit of government for less than appraised value, but the conveyance must provide that the land be used by the public and reverts to the state if public use ceases or is abandoned. The land borders the Root River and the Root River county park, and local government is interested in using the land for park purposes.

Sec. 14. Exchange of state land, St. Louis County. Authorizes the DNR to proceed with a land exchange notwithstanding the riparian restrictions for land exchanges. The 10 acres of school trust lands border the Whiteface River and are leased to Coe College. The lands received in the exchange will improve access to adjacent state forest lands.

Fiscal impacts

No fiscal impacts are anticipated with this initiative.

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