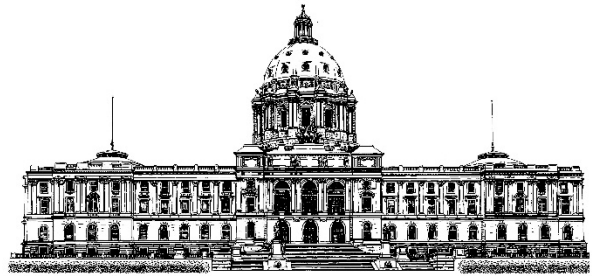




MNDNR

2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Roadside Mowing Bill

It is needed because

Roadsides represent hundreds of thousands of acres of permanent grassland in Minnesota. Grasslands are important habitat yet have become increasingly scarce. Road or highway rights-of-way (ROW) can serve as highly productive nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. Native flowers in roadsides also provide pollen and nectar for pollinators. Roadsides with undisturbed native vegetation provide improved wildlife habitat, reduce long-term weed and erosion control costs, and improve water filtration into the soil. By delaying roadside disturbance until after August 1, nests for most species can hatch successfully. This language is being brought forward to better clarify existing statute.

Major program elements

Sec. 1. Limits. This provision would prevent persons from mowing, haying, burning, or tilling road ROW except as allowed in 160.232 or 160.23; requires a permit from the commissioner of transportation to mow, hay, burn or till trunk highway ROW; clarifies provisions where ROW may be

mowed, hayed, burned or tilled for safety, construction, maintenance, survey or driveway access; clarifies a violation of this section is a petty misdemeanor and peace officers may enforce this provision.

Key measures and outcomes

This proposal would:

- Increase the amount of undisturbed nesting cover, and
- Increase pollinator pollen, nectar and habitat availability.

Fiscal impacts

No fiscal impacts are anticipated with this initiative.

For further information contact

*Patrick Rivers, Acting Deputy Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Minnesota Department of Natural
Resources
500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5224
pat.rivers@state.mn.us*

This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us calling 651-259-5016.