

## 2020 DNR Policy Proposals Fact Sheet



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### It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing changes technical in nature for multiple programs the DNR administers.

### Major program elements

This bill makes technical or policy changes in law to enable the DNR to better manage its programs.

- Clarify the definition of certifiable fish disease to include the presence of the pathogen known to cause the disease;
- Technical correction to replace a reference to the “official list of VHS susceptible fish species”;
- Correct a typo from biannually (twice yearly) to the intended biennially (once each biennium);
- Remove the sunset provision on invasive carp tagging. Tagging invasive carp has allowed the DNR to learn more about these species and discover other invasive carp. It is important for biologist to continue to use this tool in the DNR’s long term prevention and management of invasive carp;
- Clarify several state park and outdoor recreation statutes;
- Formalize DNR’s ability to hold vehicle owners or lessees responsible for permit violations regardless of the vehicle driver;
- Allow DNR to formally set standard policies for parks and trails services in the same way that we already do for campsites and lodging;
- Authorize the DNR to issue permits for the breeding and sale of snakes, salamanders and lizards. This language will allow for permits to bring pet stores and individuals who breed and/or sell snakes, lizards and salamanders in into compliance with the current law;

- Modify statute to create an equitable and uniform application of violation criteria consistent with other fish and game licenses;
- Clarify that night vision equipment can be enhanced with infrared illuminators, that night vision equipment cannot be used to take coyote/fox during the regular firearms deer season, and provide a revocation/penalty for taking protected wild animals while unlawfully using night vision equipment for specified violations including taking in closed season, closed hours, or while trespassing;
- Clarify the use of crossbows in lieu of firearms during deer, bear and wild turkey seasons;
- Give DNR the authority to make within-season regulations adjustments for Red Lake, via Commissioner's Order, similar to Mille Lacs Lake;
- Technical correction to clarify our intent to limit licensees to one net for cisco and whitefish netting, not two;
- Technical correction to the date of the Lake Superior Management Plan;
- Amend Minn. Stat. § 116G.15 to accurately reflect current Metropolitan Council and DNR authorities and provide streamlined review of local MRCCA plans and ordinances: 1) reduce review time from 90 to 60 days, 2) remove the Metropolitan Council from review responsibility for local MRCCA regulations consistent with the Metropolitan Council's authority, and 3) Improve state government response to local plan and regulation submittals, thus reducing time, complexity, and expense for local governments;
- Clarifies that wild rice lessees are responsible for costs associated with land exchanges authorized by prior statute.

### Fiscal impacts

This proposal does not have a fiscal impact.

## Statute Proposals

### Certifiable Fish Diseases

**Sec 1-4.** Amends M.S. 17.4982 to include expression or presence of pathogens as a certifiable fish disease.

### Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

**Sec 5-6.** Amends M.S. 17.4982 to define VHS susceptible species and establish a VHS list.

**Sec 7-13 and 30-31.** Amends M.S. 17.4985, 17.4986, 17.4991, 17.4992, 97C.342, and 97C.515 to correctly reference the VHS list.

### School Trust Land Reporting

**Sec 14.** Amends M.S. 84.027 to change the reporting frequency on the management of school trust lands from biannually (twice yearly) to biennially (once each biennium).

### Invasive Carp Tagging

**Sec 15.** Amends M.S. 84D.11 to remove the sunset provision on invasive carp tagging.

### State Parks System

**Sec 16.** Amends M.S. 85.052 to remove golf courses from list.

**Sec 17 and 21.** Amends M.S. 85.052 and 85.054 to update event language.

**Sec 20.** Amends M.S. 85.083 to establish that the owner of the vehicle entering a state park is responsible for the permit.

**Sec 37.** Repeals M.S. 85.0505 subd. 3, 85.0507, and 85.054 subd 19.

**Sec 18.** Amends M.S. 85.052 to allow the commissioner of natural resources to develop reservation policies for day use facilities, tours,

educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals.

**Sec 19 and 22.** Amends M.S. 85.052 and 85.47 to allow the commissioner of natural resources to develop policies for special use permits for state parks, state recreation areas, state waysides, state trails, and state water access sites.

### Regulating Snake, Lizard, and Salamander Trade

**Sec 23-24.** Amends M.S. 97A.401 to direct the commissioner of natural resources to prescribe conditions and issue permits to breed, propagate, and sell snakes, lizards, and salamanders.

### Game and Fish Violations

**Sec 25.** Amends M.S. 97A.421 to redefine minnow dealer convictions to be consistent with other game and fish violations.

### Night Vision restrictions and penalties

**Sec 26.** Amends M.S. 97A.421 to revoke hunting privileges for five years if night or thermal vision equipment was in possession during specific violations, including taking wild animals in closed season, closed hours, or while trespassing.

**Sec 28.** Amends M.S. 97B.086 to clarify infrared illuminators can be used to enhance night vision equipment, and clarify that night vision equipment cannot be used to take coyote/fox during the regular firearms deer season.

### Crossbows During Firearms Seasons

**Sec 27.** Amends M.S. 97B.306 to allow crossbow usage during firearms seasons except muzzleloader deer season.

## Upper Red Lake Management

**Sec 29.** Amends M.S. 97C.005 to include Upper Red Lake as a special management water.

## Lake Whitefish and Ciscoe Netting.

**Sec 32.** Amends M.S. 97C.805 to clarify the number of allowable nets for lake whitefish and ciscoe is one.

## Lake Superior Management Plan

**Sec 33.** Amends M.S. 97C.836 to remove the Lake Superior Management Plan specific date and indicate that the plan will be updated every 10-years.

## Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

**Sec 34.** Amends M.S. 116G.07 to exempt plans and local regulations of local government units from the review and approval procedures and replaces it with language that reflects current agency authority and a more streamlined review and approval approach specifically for the MRCCA as proposed in Section 35.

**Sec 35.** Amends M.S. 116G.15 to provide streamlined DNR and Metropolitan Council review and approval procedures of local MRCCA plans and regulations.

## Wild Rice Lease Exchanges

**Sec 36.** Amends MN Laws 2016 ch. 154 to establish that wild rice lessees are responsible for all costs associated with the related land exchanges authorized in the 2016 law.