

For More Information

Your comments and any information that you think will assist this process are welcome at any time. Project staff welcome and will give serious consideration to all constructive advice and sound information received from interested parties.

Please contact the project coordinator and he will forward the information to the appropriate staff or help you get in contact with staff directly; he can also add your name to the project mailing list for future updates and notices.

Project Coordinator

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DNR Web Site

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Future Use of "Con-Con" Lands Subject To the 1991 Executive Order

in
Beltrami County
Marshall County
Roseau County

Process & Participation Blueprint

June 2000



Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop recommendations on the management designations for approximately 100,000 acres of state-owned lands in Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau Counties known as Consolidated Conservation ("Con-Con" lands) subject to the 1991 Commissioner's Order classifying the lands as suitable for wildlife management, research and habitat programs, public hunting, and other recreational purposes.

The DNR believes those lands have been appropriately managed as wildlife lands since 1991. In this review, the DNR will give serious consideration to all constructive advice and sound information received from interested parties about maintaining or changing the management designation.

Management Alternatives To Consider

These lands have been managed by the DNR as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) during the 9+ years since the Order. If a review of the management designation is requested by a county board resolution by the June 30, 2000, deadline specified in Chapter 485 (2000 Legislative Session), Section 25(b), the DNR will review the benefits and consequences of maintaining the WMA designation or changing to an alternative designation.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA): Managed primarily for wildlife production, perpetuation of natural plant communities, watershed protection, public hunting and trapping, fishing, bird-watching, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses.

State Forest: Managed primarily to produce timber, provide outdoor recreation, protect watersheds, and perpetuate rare and distinctive species of native plants and animals.

NOTE: Either of the above management approaches can be modified for motorized and non-motorized trail management and for other recreational or conservation management, including joint management between the department's divisions that would allow for multiple recreational uses.

Sale or Exchange Alternative: Isolated parcels of Con-Con land of 40 acres or less that are not contiguous with other public land may be made available for sale or exchange if they are not appropriate for conservation or recreation purposes.

Project Steps and Participation

STEPS

PARTICIPATION

June $\frac{3}{4}$ Issue review and data collection.

- Examine information and options for the lands and consider management alternatives.

- * Primarily involves regional DNR staff from Wildlife, Forestry, Land Management, and other specialists from the area, regional, or St. Paul offices as needed.

July-August $\frac{3}{4}$ Public review and input.

- **Communicate with counties.** DNR staff to visit with county board members and staff in the requesting counties to discuss options.
- **Public meeting in each requesting county.** Set up informational displays and provide opportunities for oral comments and one-on-one conversations with DNR staff. Hold meetings in county seats.
- **Review all comments.** Compile and distribute the draft proposals for review and comment.

- * County board members, other local officials, and staff, at each county's discretion.
- * DNR staff will collect and review input from local and statewide stakeholders.
- * Interested persons are encouraged to contact the project coordinator. Comments may be delivered by mail or the Internet using a prepared questionnaire and/or comment letters.

September $\frac{3}{4}$ Prepare recommendations. Review all available information and prepare recommendations for the DNR Commissioner's approval.

- * DNR staff, using public input from all sources.

By October 1, 2000 $\frac{3}{4}$ Report recommendations to requesting county boards.

By January 15, 2001 $\frac{3}{4}$ Report recommendations to Legislature.

- * DNR Commissioner.