

State of Minnesota
Department of Natural Resources
In the Matter of the Public
Hearing on Prairie Smoke Dunes
Scientific and Natural Areas

Findings of Fact
Conclusions and
Order

Public Hearing
Prairie Smoke Dunes
Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)

In the matter of the public hearing conducted on July 11, 1995 regarding opening Prairie Smoke Dunes SNA to the public for deer hunting, the testimony and written documents entered in to the record support the staff recommendation to permit deer hunting.

Specifically, the proposal to open Prairie Smoke Dunes for deer hunting during the deer gun season;

1. Was not contested by any testimony at the public hearing or in any written correspondence received; and
2. Was supported by four letters; and
3. Was supported by the Commissioners Advisory Committee on Scientific and Natural Area as a management action; and
4. Was supported by the Scientific and Natural Areas Program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR in that high deer numbers in the vicinity of the SNA periodically cause damage to crops on private lands and to the resources of the SNA; and
5. The regulated hunt as proposed provides sufficient precautions to ensure that the resources of the SNA will not be negatively impacted.

Based on the evidence submitted, and the testimony presented, I order the opening of the Prairie Smoke Dunes SNA to deer hunting for limited numbers of antlerless deer permits in those years when high deer populations warrant it based on the advise of the Department of Natural Resources Area Wildlife Manager.



Rodney W. Sando
Commissioner

NO SIGNOFF DATE = USE 08AUG95 = PUBLIC HEARING SIGNOFF DATE + 5