

2022 Policy and Technical Proposals

Fact Sheet



Why is this bill needed?

Each year, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes a suite of policy-related and technical changes for multiple programs the DNR administers. The proposed changes help us to be adaptive in our management of the state's natural resources and responsive to public input.

Major proposal elements

This bill makes technical or policy changes in law to enable the DNR to better manage its programs and Minnesota's natural resources.

- Increase fishing opportunities by allowing recreational anglers to fish with two lines in the Minnesota River downstream of Granite Falls Dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of Saint Anthony falls.
- Amend the resident hunting, fishing and trapping license requirements to add an identification card application or tribal identification card as valid proof of residency.
- Make accessibility to Wildlife Management Areas more inclusive by changing the provision for use of motorized vehicles by “disabled hunters” to “people with disabilities”.
- Expand the uses of Walk-In-Access areas to include wildlife watching and photography as eligible uses.
- Allow property owners to nonlethally scare, haze, chase, or harass deer or elk causing damage to agricultural crops.
- Change the permitting efficiency report deadline from August 1st to October 1st, allowing adequate time to complete the report.
- Clarify the ability to set state park and trail reservation policies for day-use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals in the same way that the agency already does for campsites and lodging.
- Add Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area Connection to the Luce Line State Trail, extending recreational use of the trail and connecting the City of Hutchinson to the Greenleaf SRA.

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- Eliminate the deer hunting shotgun zone, allowing the same firearms to be used statewide, and update the definition of an “unloaded” muzzleloader to accommodate new firearm technology.
- Simplify and streamline the display of snowmobile registration decals, making registration verification easier.
- Modify timber permit payments to the DNR, changing requirement to “postmarked” within 30 days instead of “paid” within 30 days, to accommodate slower mail delivery times in some communities.
- Add requirement that ground blinds on public land have a blaze orange or blaze pink covering on top, making a ground blind more visible to other hunters and safer to blind users.

Fiscal impacts

This proposal does not have a fiscal impact.

Statute proposals

Two Line River Fishing

Sec 17. Amends M.S. 97C.315 to include two line fishing on Minnesota River downstream of Granite Falls Dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls.

Tribal ID License

Sec 12. Amend M.S. 97A.405 to add a valid application for an identification card or a current “tribal identification card” as acceptable proof of residency when applying for a resident hunting, fishing or trapping license.

Wildlife Management Area Accessibility

Sec 11. Amends M.S. 97A.137, changing the use of motorized vehicles by “disabled hunters” provision to motorized vehicles by “people with disabilities.”

Sec 18. Uses good cause rule exemption to change M.R. 6230.0250, changing “hunter with disability” to “person with disability.”

Expanded Uses on Walk-In-Access Areas

Sec 10, 13 and 20. Amend 97A.015, 97B.031, and repeal 97B.318 adding wildlife watching, photography, and similar compatible activity as eligible uses of Walk-In-Access areas, in addition to hunting.

Nonlethal Hazing Elk and Deer

Sec 16. Amends M.S. 97B.668, allowing property owners to nonlethally scare, haze, chase, or harass deer or elk causing damage to agricultural crops.

Permitting Efficiency Deadline

Sec 1. Amends M.S. 84.027, changing the permitting efficiency report deadline from August 1st to October 1st.

Authority to Set Business Policies

Sec 7. Amends M.S. 85.052, adding day-use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals to the list of state park activities the commissioner may set business policies via written order.

Greenleaf State Recreational Area

Sec 6. Amend M.S. 85.015, adding Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area Connection to the Luce Line State Trail.

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Deer Hunting

Sec 9 and 14. Amend 97A.015 and 97B.031, modernizing the definition of “unloaded” for muzzleloader firearms, and allowing the use of all legal firearms statewide during the regular firearm season.

Snowmobile Registration Display

Sec 2, 3, 4, 5, 18 and 19. Amend M.S. 84.82, M.S. 84.821, M.S. 84.86, and amend and repeal Rules 6100.5000 and 6100.5700, changing the display requirements for snowmobile registration decals.

Timber Permit Postmark Deadline

Sec 8. Amend M.S. 90.181, changing that timber permit invoices due to the DNR be “postmarked” within 30 days, rather than “paid” within 30 days.

Ground Blind Blaze Requirements

Sec 15. Amend M.S. 97B.071, in addition to blaze clothing requirements, adds requirement that person in a ground blind, on public land, must also have blaze orange/pink covering the top of the blind.

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