

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions related to forestry, including a number of provisions proposed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Section

- 1** **Permission required.** Amends § 88.17, subd. 1. Permits a general burning permit to be adopted by a county board in counties determined by the commissioner of natural resources to either not be wildfire areas (wildfire areas are defined as those having areas of 1,000, or more, contiguous acres of trees, brush, grasslands, or other vegetative material where the potential for wildfire exists) or that otherwise have low potential for damage to life and property from wildfires. The general permit allows any county resident to openly burn (provided the burning conforms with existing laws) without the need for an individual permit. Requires a county adopting a general permit to adopt an ordinance that specifies, at a minimum, the time when fires may be started and burned and prohibits the ordinance from being less restrictive than state law. Permits the general permit to be cancelled by mutual agreement of the commissioner and county board.
- 2** **Special permits.** Amends § 88.17, subd. 3. Requires applications for permits to operate permanent open burning sites to include the dimensions of the site and burn pile areas, hours and dates of operations, and provisions for smoke management. Requires the commissioner to revoke permits or order actions to mitigate threats to public health, safety, and the environment when permit conditions are violated.
- 3** **Charge for service; receipts to special revenue fund.** Amends § 88.79, subd. 2. Requires fees established by the commissioner of natural resources for forest management services provided to private landowners owning 1000 acres or less of forest land be established by written order published in the State Register.
- 4** **Forest management lease pilot project.** Amends § 88.795. Removes a 20,000 acre cap that was in place that limited the DNR in how much total land it could lease under a forest management lease pilot project established last session and increased the individual acreage amount from 3,000 to

20,000 for leases under the project.

- 5 Reoffering unsold timber.** Amends § 90.041 subd. 2. Permits the commissioner of natural resources to reoffer timber that did not sell at public auction at another public auction below appraised value provided another 30-day notice is made.
- 6 Intermediate auction sales; maximum lots of 3,000 cords.** Amends § 90.121. Limits bidders participating in intermediate timber auctions to those who employ 30 or fewer loggers (currently the limit is 20 employees). Establishes a procedure for other bidders and the commissioner of natural resources to resolve disputes over whether a bidder meets this employee threshold requirement by requiring workers' compensation insurance payment history from the Department of Labor and Industry to be used in making final determinations.
- 7 Auction sale procedure.** Amends § 90.14. Modifies the amount of time a timber bidder awarded a bid through a sealed bid process has to submit a down payment by requiring that the payment be received or postmarked within 14 days of the sealed bid being opened (currently the payment is required within ten business days of receiving a written award). Modifies a requirement for a bid guarantee payment (which is equal to 15 percent of the total purchase price minus the down payment) to apply only when there is a bid increase in excess of \$5,000 of the appraised value.
- 8 Repealer.** Repeals § 90.172 (annual timber reporting requirements).