

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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1 **No net loss of hunting lands.** Adds § 97A.132.

Subd. 1. Lands open for hunting. Requires lands administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be open to access and use for hunting, unless limited by the commissioner for demonstrable public safety reasons, fish or wildlife management, or as otherwise limited by law.

Subd. 2. Hunting land inventory. Requires the commissioner to inventory all lands administered by the DNR and determine the total number of acres available for hunting by October 1, 2011. States that lands in the state park system are not considered hunting lands under this section.

Subd. 3. No net loss of hunting lands. Prohibits land management decisions and actions of the commissioner from resulting in a net loss in state lands available for hunting. Requires the commissioner to find replacement lands to compensate for any sales or closures of existing hunting land. Requires replacement lands to be in the same region, to the extent possible, and be consistent with the opportunities that were lost. Requires other state agencies to assist the commissioner in allowing hunting on other state lands if suitable.

Subd. 4. Reports. Requires the commissioner to submit an annual report (by October 1 each year) to the legislature describing the total number of acres sold or closed to hunting, the reasons for the sales or closures, and the acreage that was opened to compensate for the lost acres. Requires other state agencies opening lands to hunting to submit a similar annual report.