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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 944

02/17/2025 Authored by Gillman; Torkelson; Anderson, P. H.; Heintzeman and McDonald
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

A bill for an act

relating to natural resources; modifying trespass law to allow purple markings; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, subdivisions 4, 5, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1b. **Forest land definition.** For the purposes of this section, "forest land" means land:

(1) with at least ten percent cover by trees that will be at least 13 feet tall at maturity; and

(2) that shows evidence of natural tree regeneration.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Entering posted or marked land prohibited; signs.** (a) Except as provided in subdivision 6, a person may not:

(1) enter, for outdoor recreation purposes, any land that is posted or marked under this subdivision without first obtaining permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee; or

(2) knowingly enter, for outdoor recreation purposes, any land that is posted or marked under this subdivision without first obtaining permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee. A person who violates this clause is subject to the penalty provided in section 97A.315, subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

(b) The owner, occupant, or lessee of private land, or an authorized manager of public land may prohibit outdoor recreation on the land by:

(1) posting signs once each year that:

~~(1)~~ (i) state "no trespassing" or similar terms;

~~(2)~~ (ii) display letters at least two inches high;

~~(3)~~ (iii) either:

~~(i)~~ (A) are signed by the owner, occupant, lessee, or authorized manager; or

~~(ii)~~ (B) include the legible name and telephone number of the owner, occupant, lessee, or authorized manager; and

~~(4)~~ (iv) either:

~~(i)~~ (A) are at intervals of 1,000 feet or less along the boundary of the area, or in a wooded area where boundary lines are not clear, at intervals of 500 feet or less; or

~~(ii)~~ (B) mark the primary corners of each parcel of land and access roads and trails at the point of entrance to each parcel of land except that corners only accessible through agricultural land need not be posted~~.~~; or

(2) placing identifying purple paint marks on trees, posts, or other immovable, permanent objects on the property, provided that the marks are:

(i) vertical lines of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width;

(ii) placed so that the bottom of the mark is not less than three feet from the ground or more than five feet from the ground; and

(iii) placed at locations that are readily visible to any person approaching the property and no more than:

(A) 100 feet apart on forest land; or

(B) 1,000 feet apart on land other than forest land.

(c) A person may not erect a sign or place marks that ~~prohibits~~ prohibit outdoor recreation or trespassing where the person does not have a property right, title, or interest to use the land.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Retrieving wounded game.** Except as provided in subdivision 3, a person on foot may, without permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee, enter land that is not posted or marked under subdivision 4, to retrieve a wounded animal that was lawfully shot. The hunter must leave the land immediately after retrieving the wounded game.

Sec. 4. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

The revisor of statutes must renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.001, subdivision 1a, as Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.001, subdivision 1c.