

1 **Department of Natural Resources**

2 **Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Public Use of Recreational Areas**

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ADMINISTRATIVE  
HEARINGS

3 **6100.0100 STATUTORY AUTHORITY.**

4 Parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 are authorized by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.1285,  
5 84.03, 85.052, 85.053, 85.20, 86A.05, 86A.06, 89.031, 89.19, 89.20, 89.21, and 89.71,  
6 subdivision 4.

7 **6100.0200 PURPOSE.**

8 The purpose of parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 is to regulate public use and promote  
9 public enjoyment of state parks and forest lands in ways that will leave them  
10 unimpaired and minimize conflicts among users.

11 **6100.0300 SCOPE.**

12 Unless stated otherwise, parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 apply to all state parks and  
13 forest lands under the control of or operated by the commissioner of natural resources.

14 **6100.0500 DEFINITIONS.**

15 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

16 Subp. 1a. **All-terrain vehicle or ATV.** "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" has the meaning  
17 given in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.92, subdivision 8.

18 [For text of subps 2 and 3, see M.R.]

19 Subp. 3a. [See repealer.]

20 Subp. 3b. **Dispersed camping.** "Dispersed camping" means camping overnight  
21 outside of established campgrounds or designated campsites.

22 Subp. 3c. **Firearm.** "Firearm" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section  
23 97A.015, subdivision 19.

24 Subp. 4. **Forest campground.** "Forest campground" means those areas developed and

1 maintained by the commissioner on forest lands for camping and related recreational  
2 activities.

3 Subp. 5. **Forest day use area.** "Forest day use area" means a designated area on forest  
4 lands to be used for daytime activities, such as picnic areas, swimming beaches, and  
5 boat accesses.

6 Subp. 5a. **Forest lands.** "Forest lands" has the same meaning as the term "forest lands  
7 under the authority of the commissioner" as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section  
8 89.001, subdivision 13, and includes forest campgrounds, forest day use areas, and  
9 forest recreation areas.

10 Subp. 5b. **Forest officer.** "Forest officer" means a Department of Natural Resources  
11 employee authorized by Minnesota Statutes and designated by the commissioner as a  
12 forest officer to enforce laws and rules and also includes Minnesota conservation  
13 officers.

14 Subp. 5c. [See repealer.]

15 Subp. 5d. [See repealer.]

16 Subp. 5e. **Forest recreation area.** "Forest recreation area" means an area on forest  
17 lands that is posted as a recreation site including campgrounds, campsites, picnic areas,  
18 day use areas, beaches, parking lots, interpretive sites, and trailheads.

19 Subp. 5f. **Forest road.** "Forest road" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes,  
20 section 89.001, subdivision 14, inventoried pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 89.71,  
21 subdivision 1.

22 Subp. 5g. **Forest trail.** "Forest trail" means a trail that is either constructed,  
23 maintained, or located on forest lands administered by the commissioner for  
24 recreational activities on forest lands. Forest trail does not include state recreational  
25 trails as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.015.

1 Subp. 5h. **Horse.** "Horse" includes a horse, mule, donkey, llama, alpaca, or other  
2 ungulate or ruminant that is used to transport people, equipment, or materials.

3 Subp. 6. **Intoxicating liquor.** "Intoxicating liquor" has the meaning given in  
4 Minnesota Statutes, section 340A.101, subdivision 14.

5 [For text of subps 7 and 7a, see M.R.]

6 Subp. 7b. **Park officer.** "Park officer" means a Department of Natural Resources  
7 employee authorized by Minnesota Statutes and designated by the commissioner as a  
8 state park officer to enforce laws and rules and also includes Minnesota conservation  
9 officers.

10 Subp. 7c. [See repealer.]

11 [For text of subp 8, see M.R.]

12 Subp. 8a. **Restricted area.** "Restricted area" means an area posted to prohibit entrance  
13 or posted to allow specific activities that may require a special use permit or payment of  
14 a fee.

15 Subp. 8b. **Road or highway.** "Road" or "highway" has the meaning given in  
16 Minnesota Statutes, section 160.02, subdivision 7. Road or highway does not include  
17 forest roads.

18 Subp. 8c. **Rock climbing.** "Rock climbing" means activities associated with a person  
19 moving upon, along, or across a nonhorizontal rock surface, including but not limited to  
20 scrambling, bouldering, free climbing, assisted climbing, and technical climbing.

21 Subp. 8d. **Scramble area.** "Scramble area" means an area that is posted and  
22 designated to permit motor vehicles to operate unrestricted by the limitations imposed  
23 in part 6100.1950.

24 Subp. 8e. **Service animal.** "Service animal" means an animal that performs tasks or  
25 assists in performing tasks for a person that are associated with major life activities and  
26 includes a seeing eye or hearing ear dog.

1 [For text of subp 9, see M.R.]

2 Subp. 10. **Snowmobile.** "Snowmobile" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes,  
3 section 84.81, subdivision 3.

4 Subp. 10a. **Special event.** "Special event" means an event held in a state park or on  
5 forest lands that is not normally allowed, that is ~~unusually destructive to the~~  
6 ~~environment~~ causes significant environmental effects, or that is likely to attract large  
7 numbers of people that could disrupt normal use of the state park or forest lands.  
8 Special events include, but are not limited to, motorcycle, snowmobile, and sports car  
9 rallies ~~and~~, races, or enduros; orienteering trials; group campouts that do not occur at  
10 designated group camps; dog sled races; dog trials; and commercial uses.

11 Subp. 11. **State park.** "State park" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes,  
12 section 85.012, and includes state monuments, state recreation areas, and state waysides  
13 as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.013, and state historic sites under the  
14 authority of the commissioner.

15 Subp. 12. **Watercraft.** "Watercraft" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes,  
16 section 86B.005, subdivision 18.

17 Subp. 13. **Off-highway motorcycle or OHM.** "Off-highway motorcycle" or "OHM"  
18 has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.787, subdivision 7.

19 Subp. 14. **Off-road vehicle or ORV.** "Off-road vehicle" or "ORV" has the meaning  
20 given in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.797, subdivision 7.

21 **6100.0525 PENALTY.**

22 A person who violates any of parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 is guilty of a misdemeanor  
23 and subject to immediate removal from the state park or forest lands and to other  
24 appropriate legal action, including revocation of any permits issued.

25 **6100.0550 SPECIAL EVENTS.**

1 Subpart 1. **Permit required.** Special events and commercial uses or operations may  
2 not be conducted in state parks or on forest lands except with a written permit from the  
3 commissioner obtained prior to the event, or under contract, lease, or other written  
4 agreement from the commissioner.

5 Subp. 2. **Fees and insurance.**

6 A. The commissioner shall establish and charge fees for special events and  
7 commercial uses of state parks and forest lands. Fees shall be set to recoup the costs of  
8 developing, operating, and maintaining facilities necessary for the specified uses, or to  
9 prevent or mitigate resource impacts of those uses.

10 B. The commissioner may require sponsors or permittees of special events or  
11 commercial uses to furnish a certificate of liability insurance valid for the effective dates  
12 of the permit, listing the state of Minnesota as a named insured. The amount of coverage  
13 shall be at least as much as the state's limits of liability under the Minnesota Tort Claims  
14 Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 3.736.

15 C. The commissioner may require sponsors or permittees of special events or  
16 commercial uses to provide security such as a bond or cashier's check to ensure that  
17 appropriate cleanup measures, removal of signs, repair of damage, and other required  
18 actions are completed.

19 Subp. 3. **Protection from peddling and soliciting.** It is unlawful for a person to  
20 engage in or solicit business of any nature whatsoever from visitors, or to post signs,  
21 handbills, or advertisements, except for authorized concessions, without the prior  
22 written consent of the park manager or forest officer.

23 **6100.0600 HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION.**

24 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

25 Subp. 2. **Forest lands.** Forest lands are open at all times unless otherwise posted,  
26 except as provided in this subpart. After 10:00 p.m. and until 8:00 a.m. the next day, no

1 person shall enter or remain in a forest campground unless as a member of a registered  
2 camping party. Forest day use areas are open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

3 **6100.0650 RESTRICTED AREAS.**

4 It is unlawful to enter by any means a restricted area that has been posted to prohibit  
5 entrance.

6 It is unlawful for a person to use a state park or forest lands facility that requires a  
7 special use permit or a fee, without first obtaining a permit or paying the fee.

8 **6100.0700 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND PROHIBITIONS.**

9 Subpart 1. **Disorderly conduct.** It is unlawful for a person to engage in disorderly  
10 conduct, as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.72.

11 Subp. 2. **Noise.** Without prior permission from the park manager or forest officer, no  
12 person shall make noise reasonably tending to arouse alarm or resentment of others by  
13 means of a public address system, radio, stereo, amplifier, or power equipment, or by  
14 any other means.

15 Subp. 3. **Liquor.** It is unlawful for a person in a state park, forest campground, or  
16 forest day use area to consume intoxicating liquors, or to display in public intoxicating  
17 liquor containers. Possession of 3.2 beer in a keg is unlawful without written permission  
18 of the park manager or forest officer.

19 Subp. 4. **Disturbance.** No person shall engage in brawling or fighting, or use  
20 offensive, obscene, or abusive language, or engage in boisterous, noisy, or threatening  
21 conduct reasonably tending to arouse alarm, anger, or resentment in others.

22 Subp. 5. **Drugs.** A person's possession and use of drugs shall be in accordance with  
23 state laws.

24 **6100.0800 PUBLIC SAFETY; HUNTING; FIREARMS; WEAPONS.**

25 Subpart 1. **Restrictions.**

1           A. While in a state park, or while in or within 200 feet of a forest recreation area,  
2 except as provided in subpart 2 or by special permit from the commissioner, it is  
3 unlawful for a person to:

4           (1) possess explosives or fireworks of any kind;

5           (2) possess a firearm, unless the firearm is unloaded and completely contained  
6 in a gun case expressly made for that purpose, which is fully enclosed by being zipped,  
7 snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, or unless unloaded and contained in the  
8 trunk of a car with the trunk door closed;

9           (3) possess a bow and arrows, unless either unstrung or completely contained in  
10 a case or contained in the trunk of a car with the trunk door closed;

11           (4) use or display any other type of weapon including slingshots, switchblade  
12 knives, traps, and spears; and

13           (5) hunt, trap, or take wild animals in any manner except as authorized by the  
14 commissioner.

15           B. It is unlawful while hunting to pursue wildlife into a state park or to chase  
16 wildlife out of a state park without permission of a park officer.

17           Subp. 2. **Exceptions.**

18           A. When hunting, trapping, or taking wild animals is authorized in a state park,  
19 the restrictions in subpart 1 on firearms, bows and arrows, and traps are waived to the  
20 extent necessary to allow the authorized activity.

21           B. During the open seasons for hunting, a person may carry an unloaded, uncased  
22 firearm or bow and arrows from a forest recreation area to engage in hunting outside of  
23 the forest recreation area.

24           Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

25           Subp. 4. [See repealer.]

1 Subp. 5. **Hunting and shooting; forest lands.** Forest lands are open to hunting and to  
2 target, trap, and recreational shooting except where prohibited by law, posted or  
3 designated closed for management or public safety purposes, or otherwise restricted by  
4 this part.

5 Subp. 6. **Shooting ranges; forest lands.** Items A to G govern the use of designated  
6 shooting ranges on forest lands.

7 A. Shooting range hours are from sunrise to sunset, except that no shooting is  
8 allowed before 8:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m.

9 B. Shooting ranges are closed during the firearms deer season.

10 C. Alcoholic beverages and glass containers are prohibited on a shooting range.

11 D. Firearms must be unloaded and cased unless on the firing line.

12 E. Use of a firing point is limited to one hour when others are waiting.

13 F. Shooting is permitted only from the designated firing points on ranges where  
14 they are provided.

15 G. Targets permitted are:

16 (1) rifle or pistol - paper targets or steel silhouettes only. Paper targets must be  
17 attached to target holders where provided; and

18 (2) shotgun - clay targets only.

19 **6100.0900 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

20 Subpart 1. **Generally.** Unless otherwise provided by law, no person in a state park or  
21 forest recreation area shall disturb, destroy, injure, damage, deface, molest, or remove  
22 any state property, including, but not limited to, wildflowers or vegetation of any kind  
23 dead or alive, ruins, wild animals; geological formations, historical or archaeological  
24 artifacts or sites; historic structures; signs, or facilities, except edible fruit, mushrooms,  
25 legally taken wild animals, and vegetation unavoidably damaged or destroyed by the



1 ordinary recreational uses of these areas as specifically permitted by parts 6100.0100 to  
2 6100.2400. Collections for scientific and educational purposes may be made only with  
3 the written permission of the commissioner. It is unlawful to damage vegetation or  
4 damage and deface rock formations with rock-climbing equipment.

5 **Subp. 2. State parks.**

6 A. Within a state park, collecting, harvesting, or taking a tangible object for resale  
7 or commercial use is prohibited, except by written permission of the commissioner. The  
8 commissioner may further restrict collecting, harvesting, or taking a plant, animal, or  
9 other tangible object for scientific, educational, commercial, or any other purpose if the  
10 commissioner finds it necessary for the protection of the park's resources.

11 B. Collection of firewood in state parks, except where expressly permitted, is  
12 prohibited.

13 C. Subject to posted restrictions, rock specimens and fossils may be collected at Hill  
14 Annex Mine State Park for noncommercial use.

15 D. Harvesting wild rice on bodies of water totally enclosed within a state park  
16 boundary is prohibited except by written permission of the commissioner.

17 E. Collecting or possessing naturally occurring plants in a fresh state in state parks  
18 is prohibited, except that edible fruit and mushrooms may be harvested for personal,  
19 noncommercial use.

20 F. Except for scientific research conducted under special permit from the  
21 commissioner and with a field archaeology license issued by the state archaeologist, the  
22 use of metal detectors in state parks is permitted only for locating specifically identified  
23 items of lost personal property. Metal detectors may be used only with prior written  
24 permission from the park manager and under the supervision of the park manager.

25 G. It is unlawful at any time to construct, occupy, or use an elevated scaffold or  
26 other elevated device in a state park, except that a portable tree stand may be used for

1 hunting or watching wild animals if the stand is removed each day and does no  
2 permanent damage to the tree in which it is placed.

3 H. A person may not release, place, or transplant plant or animal life in a state  
4 park unless approved by the commissioner. This item does not apply to a person  
5 operating under a contract, lease, license, or permit from the commissioner that allows  
6 releasing, placing, or transplanting plant or animal life in a state park.

7 Subp. 3. **Forest lands.**

8 A. Wood that is dead and lying on the ground on forest lands may be used to build  
9 fires, as long as it is used on forest lands and not removed, except under permit issued  
10 by the commissioner.

11 B. No person may cut live merchantable trees on forest lands for constructing an  
12 elevated scaffold, except that shrubs ~~and~~ the lateral branches of trees, and saplings  
13 measuring smaller than four inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet off the ground may be  
14 removed.

15 C. A person may not release, place, or transplant plant or animal life on forest  
16 lands unless approved by the commissioner. This item does not apply to a person  
17 operating under a contract, lease, license, or permit from the commissioner that allows  
18 releasing, placing, or transplanting plant or animal life on forest lands.

19 **6100.1000 FIRES AND REFUSE.**

20 Subpart 1. **Prohibition and permitted uses.** It is unlawful to build or maintain a fire  
21 in a state park, forest campground, or forest day use area except in a fireplace or a fire  
22 ring provided for that purpose. However, portable gas- or liquid-fueled camp stoves or  
23 charcoal burners may be used within a camping or day use area if the use does not  
24 create a hazard or danger to the area or to others. It is unlawful to disobey a park officer  
25 or forest officer when ordered to extinguish a fire in any location at any time.

26 Subp. 2. **Fire bans.** In times of fire emergency, as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes,

1 sections 88.02 to 88.22, the commissioner may limit or ban the building of fires. The  
2 notice shall be posted conspicuously at the entrance of the area affected.

3 Subp. 3. **Firewood.** If firewood is provided at no charge, the removal of the firewood  
4 from the state park, forest campground, or forest day use area is prohibited.

5 [For text of subp 4, see M.R.]

6 Subp. 5. **Littering.** Minnesota Statutes, sections 85.20, subdivision 6, 115A.99, and  
7 609.68, forbidding littering, are incorporated in this part by reference.

8 [For text of subp 6, see M.R.]

9 **6100.1100 PETS.**

10 In a state park, forest campground, or forest day use area:

11 A. No person shall allow a dog, cat, or other pet animal, except a service animal, to  
12 enter a building or beach or permit a dog, cat, or other pet animal to be unrestrained.  
13 Pet animals shall be personally attended at all times and shall be effectively restrained  
14 by a portable enclosure or by a leash not exceeding six feet in length, and the animals  
15 shall not disrupt other persons or deprive them from using an area.

16 B. Pet waste deposited in mowed or maintained areas must be immediately  
17 cleaned up by the pet owner or caretaker and deposited in an appropriate waste  
18 container. Horse waste must be removed, by the owner or custodian, from all areas  
19 except designated horse trails.

20 C. Pets and horses are prohibited on ski trails during the winter skiing season.

21 **6100.1200 PICNICKING.**

22 No person or group of persons shall unreasonably exclude others from a picnic area  
23 or shelter, except when the shelter has been reserved with consent of the park manager  
24 or forest officer.

25 **6100.1250 CAMPING.**

1 Subpart 1. **Camping in state parks.** The camping restrictions in items A to J apply in  
2 state parks.

3 A. A campsite's occupancy is limited to one camping group of six people or less,  
4 one camping shelter, and one vehicle. Additional persons, shelters, or vehicles are  
5 permitted only with prior approval of the park manager. These limits do not apply in  
6 designated group camping areas.

7 B. Camping is permitted only at assigned sites in designated camping areas or in  
8 watercraft subject to the restrictions described in item A.

9 C. A person, other than a campground host, may not camp in the same state park  
10 for more than 14 days in succession, provided, however, that the park manager may  
11 allow camping for additional days when use conditions warrant.

12 D. Each camping party must register. Registration must be in person. A  
13 responsible person of a camping party shall register for the group, giving the number in  
14 the party. The names of all persons in the party must be provided when requested by  
15 the park manager.

16 E. The rental period begins with the day of registration and all fees must be paid in  
17 full at the time of registration. The campsite must be occupied by a member of the party  
18 on the first night of the rental period ~~and on any night when camping equipment or~~  
19 ~~vehicles are left on the site. The registration shall be canceled if the site is not personally~~  
20 ~~occupied on the first night.~~ Camping equipment placed on a campsite by an  
21 unregistered party ~~or,~~ any equipment on a site that is not occupied on the first night of  
22 the rental period ~~shall be deemed abandoned and shall be transferred to the custody of~~  
23 ~~the commissioner of administration for disposal in accordance with state law, or any~~  
24 equipment left on a site after the end of the rental period may be removed by the park  
25 manager to allow registered campers to occupy the site.

26 F. Camping permits expire at 4:00 p.m. and the campsite shall be vacated by 4:00  
27 p.m. On departure, the campsite shall be left in a neat and clean condition.

1 G. Campers occupying a campsite must reregister by 11:00 a.m. to hold the  
2 campsite for that night.

3 H. Power units used to generate electricity shall not be operated between the hours  
4 of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., nor at other hours of the day if the operation causes a  
5 disturbance for other visitors.

6 I. In a designated horse camping area, portable corrals may be set up if they do not  
7 unreasonably exclude others from using the area and they comply with conditions  
8 posted at that site.

9 J. Camping in designated group camps is limited to registered groups or  
10 individual campers assigned to the area by the park manager.

11 Subp. 2. **Camping in forest campgrounds and use of forest day use areas.** The  
12 restrictions in items A to J apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas.

13 A. A campsite's occupancy is limited to one camping group of eight people or less,  
14 two camping shelters, and two vehicles, except that not more than one camping trailer  
15 or motorized camper may occupy the site. Additional persons, shelters, or vehicles are  
16 permitted only with the prior approval of the forest officer. These limits do not apply in  
17 designated group camping areas.

18 B. Camping is permitted only at designated sites.

19 C. Camping shall be limited to a total period of 14 days in any one forest  
20 campground during the period from the first Saturday in May through the second  
21 Sunday in September, or 21 days the rest of the year, provided, however, that camping  
22 for longer periods may be allowed at the discretion of the forest officer in a forest  
23 campground when use conditions warrant.

24 D. A camping fee per campsite per night shall be charged in certain forest  
25 campgrounds. Camping fees shall be set to recoup the costs of developing, operating,  
26 and maintaining facilities or to prevent or mitigate resource impacts. Campers must pay

1 the camping fee immediately upon occupying a campsite. If a party occupies a campsite  
2 and fails to pay the camping fee immediately, an additional charge equivalent to one  
3 night's camping fee shall be assessed if department personnel must visit the campsite to  
4 collect the camping fee.

5 E. In fee camping areas, each camping party must register. A responsible person in  
6 the camping party shall register for the group, giving the number in the party. The  
7 rental period begins with the day of registration. The campsite must be occupied by a  
8 member of the party on the first night of the rental period ~~and on any night when~~  
9 ~~camping equipment or vehicles are left on the site. Failure to occupy a site in person~~  
10 ~~shall result in forfeiture of the site and the fee.~~ Camping equipment placed on a  
11 campsite by an unregistered party ~~or,~~ any equipment on a site that is not occupied on  
12 the first night of the rental period ~~shall be deemed abandoned and shall be transferred~~  
13 ~~to the custody of the commissioner of administration for disposal in accordance with~~  
14 state law, or any equipment left on a site after the end of the rental period may be  
15 removed by a forest officer to allow registered campers to occupy the site.

16 F. Camping permits in fee campgrounds expire at 4:00 p.m. The site shall be  
17 vacated upon expiration of the camping permit. On departure, the campsite shall be left  
18 in a neat and clean condition.

19 G. Setting up camp between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. is prohibited.

20 H. Any group desiring to occupy more than six campsites must obtain prior  
21 approval from the forest officer.

22 I. Disposal of sewage waste from a camping trailer or motorized camper must be  
23 in accordance with chapter 4630. Liquid wastes from cooking and washing shall be  
24 disposed of in the sump provided for that purpose. If a sump is not provided, the  
25 wastes may be disposed of on the surface of the ground at least 150 feet from a water  
26 body in a manner that does not endanger a water supply, pollute a surface water, create  
27 a nuisance, or otherwise constitute a hazard to the public health or safety.

1 J. In a designated horse camping area, portable corrals may be set up if they do not  
2 unreasonably exclude others from using the area and they comply with conditions  
3 posted at that site.

4 Subp. 3. **Other prohibitions.** In a state park, forest campground, or forest day use  
5 area, a person may not:

6 A. install or affix in a permanent manner a camping facility, equipment, or a  
7 structure;

8 B. move or remove picnic tables, fire rings, or other facilities from a campsite, day  
9 use area, or campground;

10 C. dig or excavate; or

11 D. make a noise at a level above that of a quiet conversation in camping areas  
12 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., which are designated quiet hours.

13 Subp. 4. **Watercraft.** A watercraft used for shelter or sleeping that is tied to, beached  
14 on, or docked on water frontage of a state park, state forest campground, or forest day  
15 use area, or anchored in waters that are completely within the boundary of a state park,  
16 constitutes camping and is subject to parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400.

17 **6100.1350 DISPERSED CAMPING.**

18 Subpart 1. **Dispersed camping.** Dispersed camping is permitted on forest lands. A  
19 person who dispersed camps may not:

20 A. dig or trench around tents or other camping shelters;

21 B. camp on forest lands that are posted or designated to prohibit camping;

22 C. collect firewood, unless it is dead and laying on the ground. Wood collected and  
23 used for campfires may not be removed from state land;

24 D. camp on forest lands within one mile of a fee campground without paying a fee,  
25 unless in a designated remote campsite;

1 E. construct permanent camping structures; or

2 F. place wood, nails, screws, or other fasteners in a living tree at a campsite.

3 **Subp. 2. Waste disposal.**

4 A. Areas used for dispersed camping must be kept in a neat, clean, sanitary  
5 condition. All litter must be removed from the site and disposed of according to state  
6 law.

7 B. Disposal of human wastes in areas used for dispersed camping where no latrine  
8 or holding tank is available shall be accomplished by burying wastes in the immediate  
9 vicinity, at least 150 feet from a water body, in a manner that does not endanger a water  
10 supply, pollute a surface water, create a nuisance, or otherwise constitute a hazard to  
11 the public health and safety.

12 C. No person shall discharge sewage on the ground from a camping vehicle or  
13 trailer in areas used for dispersed camping. Holding tanks or other containers must be  
14 used and properly emptied at a trailer sanitation station or other suitable facility, except  
15 that liquid wastes from cooking and washing may be disposed of on the surface of the  
16 ground in a manner that does not endanger a water supply, pollute a surface water,  
17 create a nuisance, or otherwise constitute a hazard to the public health and safety.

18 **Subp. 3. Occupancy limited.** Dispersed camping on forest lands shall be limited to a  
19 total period of 14 days in any one section, township, and range from the first Saturday  
20 in May to the second Sunday in September, or 21 days the rest of the year. If a camp  
21 location is changed during a calendar year, the new camp shall be established at least 15  
22 miles from the previous camp.

23 **Subp. 4. Occupation; abandonment.** Dispersed camps set up on forest lands must be  
24 occupied by a responsible person of the camping party during the time the equipment is  
25 left on state land. A tent or other camping structure unoccupied for more than 14 days  
26 shall be removed by a forest officer, stored for 30 days to allow the owner time to claim



1 it, and then deemed abandoned and transferred to the custody of the commissioner of  
2 administration for disposal in accordance with state law.

3 **6100.1355 NONMOTORIZED USE.**

4 Subpart 1. **On foot, ski, or snowshoe.** People on foot, ski, or snowshoe may go  
5 anywhere in state parks or forest lands that is not posted to prohibit foot, ski, or  
6 snowshoe use or is not further limited by subparts 2 to 8.

7 Subp. 2. **Horses.** Within a state park and in the Richard J. Dorer memorial hardwood  
8 forest, no person shall ride, lead, or have a horse except on trails and areas designated  
9 for use by horses. Horses are prohibited from using forest campgrounds unless the area  
10 has been specifically designated for use by horses or a special use permit from a forest  
11 officer has been obtained. Horses are permitted on all other forest lands except where it  
12 is posted to prohibit the use of horses.

13 Subp. 3. **Bicycles.** Within a state park and in the Richard J. Dorer memorial  
14 hardwood forest, people riding bicycles may travel only on designated bike trails or  
15 where motor vehicles are allowed, except in areas posted to prohibit bicycle use.  
16 Bicycles are permitted on all other forest lands except where it is posted to prohibit  
17 bicycle use.

18 Subp. 4. **Restricted sensitive areas.** Hikers, skiers, and snowshoers shall not  
19 knowingly enter deer yards or other sensitive restricted areas.

20 Subp. 5. **Ski trails.** On groomed and tracked ski trails, activities which tend to  
21 damage the track or interfere with and disrupt use by skiers are prohibited.

22 Subp. 6. **Dogsledding.** In state parks, dogsledding is permitted only on trails  
23 designated for dogsled use, or as approved by the park manager. Any other  
24 dogsledding use in state parks is prohibited. Dogsledding is permitted on all other  
25 forest lands except where it is posted to prohibit dogsledding.

26 Subp. 7. **Speed.** No person in a state park, forest campground, or forest day use area

1 shall bicycle, ski, or ride a horse in a reckless or careless manner, at an unreasonable or  
2 out of control speed, or in any way that unnecessarily endangers the person or other  
3 users.

4 Subp. 8. **Rock climbing.** In state parks, rock climbing is allowed only in designated  
5 areas and only by permit. Rock climbing is permitted on all other forest lands except  
6 where it is posted to prohibit rock climbing.

7 **6100.1400 BOATING.**

8 Boating conforming to Minnesota laws, rules, and local ordinances is permitted on  
9 waters within or adjacent to state parks, forest campgrounds, and forest day use areas  
10 except that:

11 A. no person shall operate a watercraft or motor on a body of water or portion of a  
12 body of water specifically posted prohibiting that use;

13 B. no person shall moor a watercraft on a beach or area specifically posted  
14 prohibiting that use;

15 C. on a lake entirely within a state park, no person shall water-ski or operate a  
16 motorized watercraft in excess of ten miles per hour, unless the lake is otherwise  
17 designated and posted; and

18 D. no person shall tie, anchor, or fasten a watercraft to a dock or pier in a manner  
19 that prevents free access to the dock or pier, except for short periods of time not to  
20 exceed 30 minutes to allow launching or loading of a watercraft or where signs are  
21 posted to permit tie ups for longer periods of time.

22 **6100.1500 FISHING.**

23 Subpart 1. **Fish only.** In waters entirely within state parks, fishing for fish only is  
24 permitted when conforming to Minnesota laws and rules. Taking of minnows, turtles,  
25 frogs, mussels, and other aquatic life other than fish is prohibited. When spear fishing or  
26 bow and arrow fishing is permitted, the restriction on spears or bows and arrows is  
27 waived to the extent necessary to allow the activity.

1 Subp. 2. **Fish cleaning.** In a state park, forest campground, or forest day use area, if a  
2 fish-cleaning facility is provided, no person shall clean fish and dispose of the remains  
3 except at that facility. In state parks, if a fish cleaning facility is not provided, fish  
4 cleaning shall take place only in areas or sites approved by the park manager.

5 **6100.1600 SWIMMING.**

6 Swimming is permitted in state parks, forest campgrounds, and forest day use areas  
7 according to items A to H.

8 A. Activities in and upon the beaches and swimming areas shall be under the  
9 direction of the lifeguard, if one is present.

10 B. No person shall swim in or enter a body of water or area posted closed to  
11 swimming.

12 C. No person shall allow a dog or other pet to enter the water with swimmers.

13 D. No person shall enter the water before sunrise or after sunset.

14 E. No person shall possess glass containers; enter a swimming area with a boat,  
15 canoe, or raft; fish; or engage in an activity that is hazardous and could cause injury to  
16 others.

17 F. No person shall use soap, detergent, or shampoo.

18 G. When a facility for changing clothes is provided, it is unlawful to change clothes  
19 in any other building or facility.

20 H. In a state park, while in the water, no person shall use an air mattress, inner  
21 tube, or other flotation device that is not approved by the Coast Guard, except when an  
22 area is specifically designated for that use.

23 **6100.1650 STORAGE AND ABANDONMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

24 Subpart 1. **Obstruction of passage.** No person shall leave standing, whether attended  
25 or unattended, a motor vehicle, trailer, boat, fish house, or other equipment or personal

1 property so as to block, obstruct, or limit the use of a road, trail, waterway, water access,  
2 parking area, or winter sport facility.

3 Subp. 2. **Abandonment.** No vehicle, trailer, boat, fish house, or other equipment or  
4 personal property may be stored or abandoned in a state park or on forest lands. In state  
5 parks, overnight parking and storage of equipment is permitted only in connection with  
6 the use of campsites or fish houses, except by prior approval of the park manager. The  
7 temporary storage of personal property by a person who remains in the immediate  
8 vicinity is permitted. In state forest campgrounds and forest day use areas, overnight  
9 parking is permitted in designated parking areas.

10 Subp. 3. **Disposal.** A vehicle, trailer, boat, or other equipment or personal property  
11 left for a period longer than 14 days, except fish houses located on the ice surface of a  
12 body of water, shall be deemed abandoned and shall be transferred to the custody of the  
13 commissioner of administration for disposal in accordance with state law.

#### 14 **6100.1700 STATE PARK MOTOR VEHICLE PERMITS.**

15 Motor vehicles entering state parks shall comply with the motor vehicle permit  
16 requirements stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.053.

17 Permits may not be transferred to another vehicle.

#### 18 **6100.1710 STATE PARK GROUP DAILY VEHICLE PERMITS.**

19 State park managers may issue special group daily vehicle permits to groups  
20 consisting of ten vehicles or more. The permit shall be issued for one day of use between  
21 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The group daily vehicle permit shall be sold only for days when  
22 the park manager determines that use in the particular park is normally minimal, such  
23 as weekdays, weekends in some parks, or off-season weekends.

#### 24 **6100.1900 MOTOR VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES IN STATE PARKS, FOREST 25 CAMPGROUNDS, AND DAY USE AREAS.**

26 Subpart 1. **Motor vehicle use.** Only motor vehicles licensed for use on Minnesota

1 highways may be operated within state parks, forest campgrounds, and forest day use  
2 areas. The operator must have a valid driver's license. Snowmobiles or other motor  
3 vehicles may operate in a forest campground or forest day use area on a trail or road  
4 that is posted and designated for that use. Operation must comply with all applicable  
5 laws and rules.

6 Subp. 2. **Designated roads.** Licensed motor vehicles may be operated only on  
7 designated roads and parking areas and may be parked only in designated parking  
8 areas or parking spurs. Motor vehicles may not be driven on roads that are posted,  
9 chained, or gated. Parking in an area not designated as a parking area is prohibited and  
10 subjects the vehicle to being towed at the owner's expense.

11 Subp. 3. **Speed limit.** A motor vehicle shall not be operated in excess of posted  
12 speeds or in a reckless, careless, or exhibitivie manner. No person shall operate a vehicle  
13 in such a manner as to create unnecessary engine noise, tire squeals, skidding, or  
14 sliding.

15 Subp. 4. **Motor vehicle law.** Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169, governing motor  
16 vehicle use on public roads and highways, applies to all roads within state parks.

17 Subp. 5. **Snowmobiles.** No person shall operate a snowmobile in a state park unless  
18 on trails and areas posted and designated for snowmobile use, under conditions of  
19 snow cover considered adequate for protection of the park by the park manager. Within  
20 state parks no snowmobile shall be operated before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., except  
21 as otherwise posted.

## 22 **6100.1950 MOTOR VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES; FOREST LANDS.**

23 Subpart 1. **Classified forest lands.** The operation of motor vehicles and snowmobiles  
24 on forest lands classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use  
25 according to subpart 2 and Minnesota Statutes, section 89.002, is regulated according to  
26 items A to C.

1           A. Motor vehicles may operate on forest lands classified as managed ~~only~~ on forest  
2 roads and forest trails that are not posted and designated closed, subject to the  
3 limitations and exceptions in this part.

4           B. Motor vehicles may operate on forest lands classified as limited ~~only~~ on forest  
5 roads that are not posted and designated closed and on forest trails or areas that are  
6 posted and designated to allow motor vehicle use, subject to the limitations and  
7 exceptions in this part.

8           C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on forest lands  
9 classified as closed, unless on frozen public waters where operation is not otherwise  
10 prohibited. Motor vehicles that are licensed for use on public highways may be operated  
11 on forest roads that are not posted or gated closed. Snowmobiles may operate on  
12 designated trails.

13           Subp. 2. **Criteria for classification.** The following criteria shall be considered when  
14 classifying forest lands for motor vehicle use:

15           A. resource sensitivity and management objectives;

16           B. resource impact by motorized and nonmotorized use, including erosion, rutting,  
17 and impacts on vegetation, wildlife, air, water, or natural habitats;

18           C. motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunity in area;

19           D. user needs, such as trails, parking, signs, and access;

20           E. the degree and trend of motor vehicle use in the area;

21           F. the degree and trend of nonmotor vehicle use in the area;

22           G. competing interests among different user groups; and

23           H. public safety and law enforcement concerns; ~~and~~

24           ~~I. any other factors deemed appropriate by the commissioner for resource or~~  
25 ~~recreation management or public safety purposes.~~

1 Subp. 3. **Notice and public meeting.** Before changing the classification of forest lands  
2 for motor vehicle use, the commissioner shall provide notice and a public meeting  
3 according to items A to C.

4 A. A public meeting shall be held in the county where the largest portion of the  
5 forest lands are located to provide information to and receive comment from the public  
6 regarding the proposed classification change.

7 B. Sixty days before the public meeting, notice of the proposed classification  
8 change shall be published in legal newspapers that serve the counties in which the lands  
9 are located and in a statewide Department of Natural Resources news release and in the  
10 State Register. The notice shall include a summary of the proposed action, a request for  
11 public comment, and notice of the public meeting.

12 C. Twenty-one days before the public meeting, notice of the meeting shall be  
13 announced in a statewide Department of Natural Resources news release.

14 Subp. 4. **Commissioner's decision.** The commissioner shall make a decision about the  
15 proposed classification change after considering the criteria listed in subpart 2 and any  
16 public comment received and explaining how the nature and magnitude of the criteria  
17 and comments relate to the classification.

18 Subp. 5. **Nonmotorized trails.** No person shall operate a motor vehicle or  
19 snowmobile on forest lands on a designated nonmotorized trail, including ski, foot,  
20 horse, bike, or accessible trail, unless the trail is also posted open for a motorized use.

21 Subp. 6. **Lakes, rivers, and streams.** No person shall operate a motor vehicle ~~or~~  
22 ~~snowmobile~~ on forest lands on or over the beds of lakes, rivers, or streams when ice is  
23 not covering the water body, except on a bridge, culvert, or similar structure or  
24 designated low water crossing.

25 Subp. 7. **Other prohibitions and exceptions.**

26 ~~A. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on forest lands off a forest road or trail,~~  
27 ~~except:~~

1           ~~(1) on forest lands classified as managed or limited during the seasons open for~~  
2 ~~taking big game, licensed hunters may use ATVs off forest trails to retrieve big game~~  
3 ~~animals by taking the most direct route between the carcass and the trail; and~~

4           ~~(2) inside the boundaries of a posted and designated scramble area.~~

5           ~~B.~~ A. No person shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on forest lands in a  
6 manner that causes erosion or rutting or injures, damages, or destroys trees or growing  
7 crops. The rutting prohibition does not apply on trails that are designated and  
8 maintained for motorized use.

9           ~~C.~~ No person shall create an unauthorized trail on forest lands.

10           ~~D.~~ B. No person shall operate motor vehicles or snowmobiles on forest lands  
11 within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to the operation  
12 of motor vehicles or snowmobiles.

13           ~~E.~~ C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile in the Richard J.  
14 Dorer memorial hardwood forest, except on forest roads that are not posted and  
15 designated as closed, and on forest trails or areas that are posted and designated to  
16 allow the use of motor vehicles or snowmobiles. The exception for big game retrieval  
17 under item A, subitem (1), does not apply.

18           Subp. 8. **Forest roads.**

19           A. A motor vehicle on a forest road shall travel at a speed that is reasonable and  
20 prudent. It is a violation of this part to exceed a posted speed limit.

21           B. All posted parking and traffic regulations, including signs designating speed  
22 limits, stop signs, one-way traffic, and do not enter, shall be obeyed on a forest road.

23           C. No person, passenger, or operator of a motor vehicle shall travel on or along a  
24 forest road that is designated as closed with signs, barricaded, or blocked with a gate.

25           D. Removing snow from a forest road is prohibited when the road is posted for no  
26 snow removal.



1 E. No person shall operate, nor shall an owner permit the operation of a motor  
2 vehicle, on a forest road or trail in a manner that causes damage to the road, land, or  
3 other natural resources.

4 ~~Subp. 9. **Operating under the influence.** A person may not operate or be in control of~~  
5 ~~a motor vehicle or snowmobile on forest lands while under the influence of alcohol or a~~  
6 ~~controlled or hazardous substance. Arrest and testing procedures are according to~~  
7 ~~Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.91 to 84.911.~~

8 **6100.2350 OFFICIAL USE AND VARIANCE.**

9 Parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 do not apply to a licensed peace officer or an employee  
10 or agent of the department of natural resources while engaged in the performance of  
11 official duties. The commissioner may grant a variance from the requirements of parts  
12 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 when the commissioner considers it necessary for maintenance,  
13 conservation, or public safety purposes.

14 **6100.2400 SUSPENSION OF RULES.**

15 In situations of emergency or in the case of authorized special events, the  
16 commissioner may provide temporary exceptions to parts 6100.0100 to 6100.2400 by  
17 posting notice of the exception at the site.

18 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6100.0400; 6100.0500, subparts 3a, 5c, 5d, and 7c;  
19 6100.0800, subparts 3 and 4; 6100.1300; 6100.1610; 6100.1800; 6100.1905; 6100.1910;  
20 6100.1920; 6100.1930; 6100.2000; 6100.2100; and 6100.2300, are repealed.