

CHAPTER 84

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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#### 84.01 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Name change.** The name of the department of conservation is changed to the department of natural resources. The name of the commissioner of conservation is changed to the commissioner of natural resources. Subject to the provisions of Laws 1969, chapter 1129, and other applicable laws, the department of natural resources with its commissioner and other officers shall continue to exercise all the powers and duties vested in, or imposed upon its commissioner as existing and constituted immediately prior to the effective date of Laws 1969, chapter 1129.

Subd. 2. **Appointments.** The commissioner of natural resources is appointed by the governor under the provisions of section 15.06. The commissioner may appoint a deputy commissioner.

Subd. 3. **Employees; delegation.** Subject to the provisions of Laws 1969, chapter 1129, and to other applicable laws the commissioner shall organize the department and employ three assistant commissioners, each of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner in the unclassified service, one of whom shall have responsibility for coordinating and directing the planning of every division within the agency, and such other officers, employees, and agents as the commissioner may deem necessary to discharge the functions of the department, define the duties of such officers, employees, and agents and to delegate to them any of the commissioner's powers, duties, and responsibilities subject to the control of, and under the conditions prescribed by, the commissioner. Appointments to exercise delegated power shall be by written order filed with the secretary of state.

Subd. 4. **Oath.** Before entering upon the duties of office the commissioner of natural resources shall take and subscribe an oath.

Subd. 5. **Task forces.** The commissioner of natural resources may request from time to time, as the commissioner deems necessary, information and advice on technical natural resource matters from advisory task forces or individuals having specialized knowledge or experience in such matters. A task force shall expire and the terms, compensation and removal of members shall be as provided in section 15.059. The expenses allowed shall be paid from any money appropriated to the commissioner for salaries, supplies, and expenses.

**History:** 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 1,4; 1971 c 113 s 1; 1976 c 149 s 16; 1977 c 305 s 18; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 306 s 1; 1987 c 404 s 91; 1991 c 326 s 4

**84.024** [Repealed, 1996 c 310 s 1]

**84.025 CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES.**

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1977 c 172 s 3]

Subd. 7. **Contracts.** The commissioner of natural resources may contract with the federal government, local governmental units, the University of Minnesota, and other educational institutions, and private persons as may be necessary in the performance of duties. Contracts made pursuant to this section for professional services shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter 16C, as they relate to competitive bidding.

Subd. 8. **Recreational areas; maintenance services.** Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the commissioner of natural resources may negotiate contracts, with or without requiring the submission of bids therefor, for the providing of maintenance services for recreational facilities on land under the control of the commissioner of natural resources. The terms and conditions of such contracts shall be as agreed upon and shall be such as to promote and encourage the employment of needy, elderly persons.

Subd. 9. **Professional services support account.** The commissioner of natural resources may bill the various programs carried out by the commissioner for the costs of providing them with professional support services. Receipts must be credited to a special account in the state treasury and are appropriated to the commissioner to pay the costs for which the billings were made.

The commissioner of natural resources shall submit to the commissioner of finance before the start of each fiscal year a work plan showing the estimated work to be done during the coming year, the estimated cost of doing the work, and the positions and fees that will be necessary. This account is exempted from statewide and agency indirect cost payments.

Subd. 10. **Recreational vehicles and boats used for public purposes.** All snowmobiles and outboard motors that are purchased by the commissioner of natural resources must be of the four-stroke engine model. All all-terrain vehicles purchased by the commissioner must be manufactured in the state of Minnesota.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 1; 1947 c 609 s 25; 1949 c 467 s 1; 1949 c 739 s 7 subd 1; 1951 c 713 s 10; 1957 c 898 s 1; 1967 c 905 s 2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 929 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 66; 1995 c 186 s 21; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 24; 2002 c 355 s 1

**84.026 CONTRACTS FOR PROVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICES.**

The commissioner of natural resources is authorized to enter into contractual agreements with any public or private entity for the provision of statutorily prescribed natural resources services by the department. The contracts shall specify the services to be provided and the amount and method of reimbursement. Funds generated in a contractual agreement made pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the special revenue fund and are appropriated to the department for purposes of providing the services specified in the contracts. All such contractual agreements shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of section 16C.05. The commissioner shall report revenues collected and expenditures made under this section to the chairs of the committees on appropriations in the house and finance in the senate by January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

**History:** 1984 c 654 art 2 s 78; 1985 c 248 s 68; 1986 c 444; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 25

**84.0261 DISPOSITION OF REIMBURSEMENT FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.**

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, money received by the commissioner of natural resources as reimbursement for damages, losses, or service costs incurred

because of a natural disaster shall be deposited in the special revenue fund and is appropriated to the commissioner to accomplish the goals of those programs from which funds were diverted in response to the natural disaster.

**History:** *1Sp2001 c 2 s 72*

#### **84.027 POWERS AND DUTIES.**

**Subdivision 1. Powers and duties.** The commissioner of natural resources shall be the administrative and executive head of the department. Subject to the provisions hereof and other applicable laws, the commissioner shall have the powers and duties herein prescribed. The enumeration of specific powers and duties herein shall not limit or exclude other powers or duties.

**Subd. 2. General.** The commissioner shall have charge and control of all the public lands, parks, timber, waters, minerals, and wild animals of the state and of the use, sale, leasing, or other disposition thereof, and of all records pertaining to the performance of the commissioner's functions relating thereto.

**Subd. 3. Former powers and duties of commissioner of conservation.** The commissioner shall have all the powers and duties prescribed for the commissioner of conservation by Laws 1931, chapter 186, all the powers and duties therein prescribed for the conservation commission except the power to appoint a commissioner, and all other powers and duties now prescribed by law for the commissioner of conservation, the conservation commission, the department of conservation, its divisions, or the director of any division.

**Subd. 4. Certain powers and duties of state auditor.** The commissioner shall have all existing powers and duties now or heretofore vested in or imposed upon the state auditor in any capacity and not heretofore transferred to any other officer or agency with respect to the public lands, parks, timber, waters, and minerals of the state, and the records thereof; provided, that nothing herein shall divest the state auditor of any power or duty otherwise prescribed by law with respect to auditing, accounting, disbursement, or other disposition of funds pertaining to the matters herein specified, nor of any power or duty expressly vested in or imposed upon the state auditor by the following provisions of law:

(1) The provisions of Mason's Minnesota Statutes 1927, section 76, so far as the same pertain to the crediting of payments on account of state lands, timber, or other products to the proper funds, or to the depositing and keeping of conveyances and abstracts of title; also all other provisions pertaining to the filing or keeping of deeds, grants, or conveyances to the state or abstracts or other evidence of title to state property;

(2) All provisions pertaining to escheated property;

(3) Mason's Minnesota Statutes 1927, sections 2220, 6442 to 6449, 6646, 6660, and 8223.

**Subd. 5. Descriptions of lands.** The commissioner shall have all the powers and duties prescribed for the state auditor by Mason's Supplement 1940, sections 5620-1 to 5620-13, 6452-1 to 6452-13, and 4031-75 to 4031-88, with respect to the receipt, filing, keeping, and certification of reports, lists, and records of descriptions of lands, reserving to the state auditor all other powers and duties therein prescribed for the state auditor. The county auditor shall make and transmit to the state auditor all the certificates and reports therein required except certificates and reports of land descriptions, which shall be made and transmitted to the commissioner.

**Subd. 6. Land sales and conveyances.** The commissioner shall have all the powers and duties prescribed for the state auditor by Mason's Supplement 1940, sections 5620-13 1/2 to 5620-13 1/2j, as amended, and 2139-27b to 2139-27k, as amended, with respect to the receipt, filing, and keeping of reports of sales of land and the execution of conveyances, reserving to the state auditor all other powers and duties therein prescribed for the state auditor. The county auditors shall make and transmit to the commissioner all the certificates and reports therein required to be made to the state auditor with respect to such sales and conveyances. The county treasurers shall make

all reports of collections thereunder in duplicate and shall transmit a copy of each report to the commissioner of finance and the commissioner.

Subd. 7. **Limitation of powers.** Except as otherwise expressly provided, nothing herein shall confer on the commissioner any authority over any property of the state devoted pursuant to law to any specific purpose under any officer or agency of the state other than the commissioner or the department of natural resources or its divisions.

Subd. 8. **Selection of lands for certain purposes.** The commissioner of natural resources may select from any available lands owned by the United States in this state such lands as the commissioner deems suitable in lieu of any deficiencies which may have occurred in grants of school lands or other lands heretofore made to the state under any act of Congress, and may, with the approval of the executive council, accept on behalf of the state any grants or patents of lands so selected issued by the United States to the state.

This subdivision shall not be deemed to amend, supersede, or repeal any existing law, but shall be supplementary thereto.

Subd. 9. **Condemnation with landowner's consent.** If authorized by law to acquire any interest in real estate, the commissioner of natural resources may acquire by condemnation with the written consent of the landowner, that real estate which the commissioner deems to be in the best interests of the state. This subdivision shall apply only in those situations where condemnation is not otherwise authorized for the acquisition.

Subd. 10. **Sale of surplus lands to local governments for recreational or natural resources purposes.** (a) The commissioner, with the approval of the state executive council, may sell the class of land or interest in land under paragraph (b) to a county, home rule charter or statutory city, town, or other governmental subdivision of the state for public use, including recreational or natural resource purposes.

(b) The commissioner may sell the class of land or interest in land that has been acquired by gift, purchase, or eminent domain and the commissioner has declared surplus. The commissioner shall declare land surplus in writing and state the reasons why the land or interest in land is no longer needed.

(c) The commissioner shall appraise the land or interest in land before the land or interest in land is sold, and may sell the land or interest in land for less than the appraised value if the commissioner determines, in writing, that it is in the public interest.

(d) The commissioner shall convey the state's interest in the name of the state by quitclaim deed in a form approved by the attorney general. The deed must reserve to the state minerals and mineral rights in the manner provided in sections 93.01 and 93.02, and provide that the land or interest in land reverts to the state if the governmental subdivision acquiring the land or interest in land:

- (1) fails to provide the public use intended on the property;
- (2) allows a public use other than the public use agreed to by the commissioner at the time of conveyance without the written approval of the commissioner; or
- (3) abandons the public use of the property.

Subd. 11. **Federal conservation grants.** The commissioner of natural resources shall receive and administer grants under the land and water conservation grant program authorized by Congress in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended.

Subd. 12. **Property disposal; gift acknowledgment; advertising sales.** (a) The commissioner may give away to members of the public items with a value of less than \$10 that are intended to promote conservation of natural resources or create awareness of the state and its resources or natural resource management programs. The total value of items given to the public under this paragraph may not exceed \$25,000 per year.

(b) The commissioner may recognize the contribution of money or in-kind services on plaques, signs, publications, audio-visual materials, and media advertisements by allowing the organization's contribution to be acknowledged in print of readable size.

(c) The commissioner may accept paid advertising for departmental publications. Advertising revenues received are appropriated to the commissioner to be used to defray costs of publications, media productions, or other informational materials. The commissioner may not accept paid advertising from any elected official or candidate for elective office.

Subd. 13. **Game and fish rules.** (a) The commissioner of natural resources may adopt rules under sections 97A.0451 to 97A.0459 and this subdivision that are authorized under:

(1) chapters 97A, 97B, and 97C to set open seasons and areas, to close seasons and areas, to select hunters for areas, to provide for tagging and registration of game, to prohibit or allow taking of wild animals to protect a species, and to prohibit or allow importation, transportation, or possession of a wild animal;

(2) sections 84.093, 84.15, and 84.152 to set seasons for harvesting wild ginseng roots and wild rice and to restrict or prohibit harvesting in designated areas; and

(3) section 84D.12 to designate prohibited exotic species, regulated exotic species, unregulated exotic species, and infested waters.

(b) If conditions exist that do not allow the commissioner to comply with sections 97A.0451 to 97A.0459, the commissioner may adopt a rule under this subdivision by submitting the rule to the attorney general for review under section 97A.0455, publishing a notice in the State Register and filing the rule with the secretary of state and the legislative coordinating commission, and complying with section 97A.0459, and including a statement of the emergency conditions and a copy of the rule in the notice. The notice may be published after it is received from the attorney general or five business days after it is submitted to the attorney general, whichever is earlier.

(c) Rules adopted under paragraph (b) are effective upon publishing in the State Register and may be effective up to seven days before publishing and filing under paragraph (b), if:

(1) the commissioner of natural resources determines that an emergency exists;

(2) the attorney general approves the rule; and

(3) for a rule that affects more than three counties the commissioner publishes the rule once in a legal newspaper published in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, or for a rule that affects three or fewer counties the commissioner publishes the rule once in a legal newspaper in each of the affected counties.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e), a rule published under paragraph (c), clause (3), may not be effective earlier than seven days after publication.

(e) A rule published under paragraph (c), clause (3), may be effective the day the rule is published if the commissioner gives notice and holds a public hearing on the rule within 15 days before publication.

(f) The commissioner shall attempt to notify persons or groups of persons affected by rules adopted under paragraphs (b) and (c) by public announcements, posting, and other appropriate means as determined by the commissioner.

(g) Notwithstanding section 97A.0458, a rule adopted under this subdivision is effective for the period stated in the notice but not longer than 18 months after the rule is adopted.

Subd. 14. **Mission; efficiency.** It is part of the department's mission that within the department's resources the commissioner shall endeavor to:

(1) prevent the waste or unnecessary spending of public money;

(2) use innovative fiscal and human resource practices to manage the state's resources and operate the department as efficiently as possible;

(3) coordinate the department's activities wherever appropriate with the activities of other governmental agencies;

(4) use technology where appropriate to increase agency productivity, improve customer service, increase public access to information about government, and increase public participation in the business of government;

(5) utilize constructive and cooperative labor-management practices to the extent otherwise required by chapters 43A and 179A;

(6) report to the legislature on the performance of agency operations and the accomplishment of agency goals in the agency's biennial budget according to section 16A.10, subdivision 1; and

(7) recommend to the legislature appropriate changes in law necessary to carry out the mission and improve the performance of the department.

Subd. 15. **Electronic transactions.** (a) The commissioner may receive an application for, sell, and issue any license, stamp, permit, registration, or transfer under the jurisdiction of the commissioner by electronic means, including by telephone. Notwithstanding section 97A.472, electronic and telephone transactions may be made outside of the state. The commissioner may:

(1) provide for the electronic transfer of funds generated by electronic transactions, including by telephone;

(2) assign a license identification number to an applicant who purchases a hunting or fishing license by electronic means, to serve as temporary authorization to engage in the licensed activity until the license is received or expires;

(3) charge and permit agents to charge a fee of individuals who make electronic transactions and transactions by telephone, including the issuing fee under section 97A.485, subdivision 6, and an additional transaction fee not to exceed \$3.50;

(4) select up to four volunteer counties, not more than two in the metropolitan area, to participate in this pilot project and the counties shall select the participating agents;

(5) upon completion of a pilot project, implement a statewide system and select the participating agents; and

(6) adopt rules to administer the provisions of this subdivision.

(b) A county shall not collect a commission for the sale of licenses or permits made by agents selected by the participating counties under this subdivision.

(c) Establishment of the transaction fee under paragraph (a), clause (3), is not subject to the rulemaking procedures of chapter 14.

(d) Money received from fees and commissions collected under this subdivision, including interest earned, is annually appropriated from the game and fish fund and the natural resources fund to the commissioner for the cost of electronic licensing.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 2; 1953 c 382 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1976 c 96 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 628 s 1; 1993 c 172 s 32; 1994 c 509 s 1; 1995 c 233 art 2 s 39; 1995 c 248 art 11 s 6; 1996 c 385 art 2 s 1; 1997 c 7 art 1 s 20; 1997 c 216 s 58; 1998 c 366 s 53; 1999 c 92 s 1; 1999 c 231 s 83

**84.0271** [Repealed, 1984 c 553 s 2]

#### **84.0272 PROCEDURE IN ACQUIRING LANDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Acquisition procedure.** When the commissioner of natural resources is authorized to acquire lands or interests in lands the procedure set forth in this section shall apply. The commissioner of natural resources shall first prepare a fact sheet showing the lands to be acquired, the legal authority for their acquisition, and the qualities of the land that make it a desirable acquisition. The commissioner of natural resources shall cause the lands to be appraised. An appraiser shall before entering upon the duties of office take and subscribe an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties as appraiser according to the best of the appraiser's ability and that the appraiser is not interested directly or indirectly in any of the lands to be appraised or the timber or improvements thereon or in the sale thereof and has entered into no agreement or combination to purchase the same or any part thereof,

which oath shall be attached to the report of the appraisal. The commissioner of natural resources may pay less than the appraised value, but shall not agree to pay more than ten percent above the appraised value, except that if the commissioner pays less than the appraised value for a parcel of land, the difference between the purchase price and the appraised value may be used to apply to purchases at more than the appraised value. The sum of accumulated differences between appraised amounts and purchases for more than the appraised amount may not exceed the sum of accumulated differences between appraised amounts and purchases for less than the appraised amount. New appraisals may be made at the discretion of the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 2. **Stream easements.** (a) Notwithstanding subdivision 1, the commissioner may acquire permanent stream easements for angler access, fish management, and habitat work for a onetime payment based on a value attributed to both the stream and the easement corridor. The payment shall equal:

(1) the per linear foot of stream within the easement corridor times \$5; plus

(2) the easement corridor acres times the estimated market value.

(b) The estimated market value is equal to:

(1) the total farm market value plus the timberlands value; divided by

(2) the acres of deeded farmland plus the acres of timber.

(c) The total farm market value, timberlands value, acres of deeded farmland, and acres of timber are determined from data collected by the department of revenue during its annual spring mini abstract survey. The commissioner must use the most recent available data for the city or township within which the easement corridor is located.

(d) The commissioner shall periodically review the easement payment rates under this subdivision to determine whether the stream easement payments reflect current shoreland market values. If the commissioner determines that the easements do not reflect current shoreland market values, the commissioner shall report to the senate and house of representatives natural resources policy committees with recommendations for changes to this subdivision that are necessary for the stream easement payment rates to reflect current shoreland market values. The recommendations may include an adjustment to the dollar amount in paragraph (a), clause (1).

**History:** 1975 c 144 s 1; 1980 c 458 s 10; 1984 c 553 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 404 s 92; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 67; 2002 c.366 s 1

#### **84.0273 ESTABLISHMENT OF BOUNDARY LINES RELATING TO CERTAIN STATE LANDHOLDINGS.**

In order to resolve boundary line issues affecting the ownership interests of the state and adjacent landowners, the commissioner of natural resources may, in the name of the state upon terms the commissioner deems appropriate, convey, by a boundary line agreement, quitclaim deed, or management agreement in such form as the attorney general approves, such rights, titles, and interests of the state in state lands for such rights, titles and interests in adjacent lands as are necessary for the purpose of establishing boundaries. A notice of the proposed conveyance and a brief statement of the reason therefor shall be published once in the State Register by the commissioner between 15 and 30 days prior to conveyance. The provisions of this section are not intended to replace or supersede laws relating to land exchange or disposal of surplus state property.

**History:** 1980 c 458 s 9; 1986 c 444; 1993 c 285 s 1; 1997 c 216 s 59

#### **84.0274 LANDOWNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Citation.** This section may be cited as "the landowners' bill of rights."



Subd. 2. **Policy.** It is the intent of this section to clarify the responsibilities of the state in the natural resources land acquisition process and to provide additional protections to landowners in their dealings with the state.

Subd. 3. **Condemnation limits.** No lands shall be acquired by the commissioner of natural resources by means of condemnation unless the owner requests that the owner's lands be condemned or the condemnation is specifically authorized by law.

Subd. 4. **Rights cumulative.** The protections for landowners and responsibilities of the state set forth in this section shall not limit, but shall be in addition to all rights and responsibilities contained in state or federal law.

Subd. 5. **Owner's rights.** When the state proposes to purchase in fee or any lesser interest in land which will be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, the landowner shall have the following rights:

(a) The right to be informed of the specific intended use of the property and of any change in the intended use of the property which occurs during the acquisition process. The owner shall also be informed that the documents regarding the purchase will be public records if the land is purchased by the state;

(b) The right to be paid a fair price for the property. The price shall include the fair market value of the land plus:

(1) All necessary incidental costs such as abstracting and recording fees related to the sale. The costs of clearing title defects, paying taxes, and attorney's fees are not reimbursable; and

(2) Any penalties incurred by the owner where the property is security for a loan or advance of credit that contains a provision requiring or permitting the imposition of a penalty if the loan or advance of credit is prepaid;

(c) The right to payment, at the owner's election, in a lump sum or in up to four annual installments;

(d) The right to have the property fairly appraised by the state. The state's appraiser shall physically inspect the property and shall allow the owner along when the appraisal is made. The state's appraiser shall certify in the appraisal report to having physically inspected the property and having given the landowner an opportunity to go along on inspections. The landowner shall be given a resume of the state's certified appraisal. The resume shall include the appraiser's conclusions as to value, acreage and type of land, value of buildings and other improvements, value of timber, special damages and any special elements of value;

(e) The right to retain a qualified independent appraiser to conduct an appraisal at any time prior to certification of the state's appraisal of the property and to be reimbursed for appraisal fees as provided in section 117.232, subdivision 1, if the land is sold to the state and to have that appraisal considered along with the state's in certifying the selling price;

(f) The right to have the state acquire the property by means of condemnation upon the owner's request with the agreement of the commissioner;

(g) The right to receive or waive relocation assistance, services, payments and benefits as provided in sections 117.52 and 117.521;

(h) The right to accept the state's offer for the property and contest the state's offer for relocation and moving expenses;

(i) The right to continue occupancy of the property until full payment is received, provided that when the owner elects to receive payment in annual installments pursuant to clause (c), the owner may retain occupancy until the first payment is made; and

(j) The right to seek the advice of counsel regarding any aspect of the land transaction.

Subd. 6. **State's responsibilities.** When the state proposes to purchase land for natural resources purposes, the commissioner of natural resources and, where applicable, the commissioner of administration shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) The responsibility to deal fairly and openly with the landowner in the purchase of property;

(b) The responsibility to refrain from discussing price with the landowner before an appraisal has been made. In addition, the same person shall not both appraise and negotiate for purchase of a tract of land;

(c) The responsibility to use private fee appraisers to lower the state's acquisition costs to the greatest extent practicable; and

(d) The responsibility to acquire land in as expeditious a manner as possible. No option shall be made for a period of greater than two months if no survey is required or for nine months if a survey is required, unless the landowner, in writing, expressly requests a longer period of time. Provided that, if county board approval of the transaction is required pursuant to section 97A.145, no time limits shall apply. If the state elects not to purchase property upon which it has an option, it shall pay the landowner \$500 after the expiration of the option period. If the state elects to purchase the property, unless the landowner elects otherwise, payment to the landowner shall be made no later than 90 days following the state's election to purchase the property provided that the title is marketable and the owner acts expeditiously to complete the transaction.

**Subd. 7. Disclosure.** When the state proposes to purchase lands for natural resources purposes, the landowner shall be given a written statement in lay terms of the rights and responsibilities provided for in subdivisions 5 and 6. Before a purchase can be made, the landowner must sign a statement acknowledging in writing that the statement has been provided and explained to the landowner. Within 60 days following the date of final approval of Laws 1980, Chapter 45B, the commissioner of natural resources shall submit a proposed form for the statement to the legislative commission on Minnesota resources. The commission shall review the proposed form for compliance with the intent of this section and shall make any changes which it deems proper.

**Subd. 8. Exception for railroad right-of-way acquisitions.** When the commissioner of natural resources acquires abandoned railroad right-of-way from a railroad, railroad holding company, or similar entity, any or all of the provisions of this section may be waived by mutual agreement of the commissioner and the landowner.

**History:** 1980 c 458 s 1-7; 1986 c 386 art 4 s 5; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 690 art 1 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 68,269

#### **84.0275 VIOLATIONS.**

If the state acquires any land for natural resources purposes in violation of any of the provisions of section 84.0274, subdivisions 5 to 7, the landowner may maintain an action against the commissioner of natural resources for any damages suffered. However, no title to land purchased for natural resources purposes will be invalid as a result of such violations.

**History:** 1980 c 458 s 8

#### **84.0276 LAND TRANSFERS BY A FEDERAL AGENCY.**

Before the commissioner of natural resources accepts agricultural land or a farm homestead transferred in fee by a federal agency, the commissioner must consult with the board of water and soil resources for a determination of marginal land, tillable farmland, and farm homestead. The commissioner must comply with the acquisition procedure under section 97A.145, subdivision 2, if the agricultural land or farm homestead was in an agricultural preserve as provided in section 40A.10.

**History:** 1989 c 350 art 6 s 1; 1989 c 353 s 7

#### **84.028 COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Commissioner to control department responsibilities.** The powers, duties and responsibilities of the department of natural resources relating to boat safety, firearm safety, wild rice harvest program, ginseng harvest program, and such

other programs as are now or hereafter vested by statute in the department of natural resources, shall be under the control and supervision of the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 2. **Development and planning duties.** The overall coordination of acquisition and development programs, comprehensive planning activities, including statewide recreational planning programs required by state or federal law, and not the responsibility of the commissioner of trade and economic development, are under the control and supervision of the commissioner.

Subd. 3. **Game warden duties; conservation officers.** The operation of the game warden service in the division of game and fish as constituted before July 1, 1967 is under the direct control and supervision of the commissioner. The name of the personnel in such game warden service is changed to conservation officers. Conservation officers shall continue to have the powers and duties of game wardens as they existed before July 1, 1967 and may be assigned to public relations, conservation instructional activities, and the enforcement of laws relating to resources management which the commissioner shall direct. The commissioner shall create a separate division entitled the division of enforcement and field service, to be composed of conservation officers and shall appoint a director of the division. The commissioner may place the director's position in the unclassified service if the position meets the criteria established in section 43A.08, subdivision 1a.

**History:** 1967 c 905 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 5; art 10 s 2; 1979 c 94 s 1; 1981 c 356 s 100; 1982 c 560 s 41; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 1; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2

#### **84.0285 GAME AND FISH CITATION QUOTAS PROHIBITED.**

The commissioner of natural resources, or the director of the division of enforcement and field service, may not order, mandate, require, or in any manner suggest, directly or indirectly, to a conservation officer that the conservation officer issue a certain number of game and fish law violations on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly quota basis.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 6; 1986 c 474 s 1; 2001 c 32 s 1

#### **84.029 RECREATIONAL AREAS ON PUBLIC LAND.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment, development, maintenance and operation.** In addition to other lawful authority, the commissioner of natural resources may establish, develop, maintain, and operate recreational areas, including but not limited to trails and canoe routes, for the use and enjoyment of the public on any state-owned or leased land under the commissioner's jurisdiction. Each employee of the department of natural resources, while engaged in employment in connection with such recreational areas, has and possesses the authority and power of a peace officer when so designated by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Acquisition of land for trails.** The commissioner may acquire, by gift, purchase, or lease, easements or other interests in land for trails, and recreational uses related to trails, where necessary to complete trails established primarily in state forests, state parks, or other public land under the jurisdiction of the commissioner, when railroad rights-of-way are abandoned, when the use of township roads is compatible with vehicular travel, and when needed to complete trails established by the legislature.

**History:** 1969 c 190 s 1,2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 713 s 1; 1975 c 353 s 13; 1986 c 444

#### **84.03 ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND POWERS.**

So far as practicable the commissioner shall collect and arrange statistics and other information in reference to the lands and general and special resources of the state.

The commissioner is hereby authorized and empowered to take such measures as the commissioner may deem advisable to advertise, both within and without the state,

sales of all state lands, and to secure, compile, and issue such valuable statistics of the resources of the state.

The commissioner may adopt and promulgate reasonable rules, not inconsistent with law, governing the use and enjoyment of state land reserved from sale, state parks, state water access sites, state trails, state monuments, state scientific and natural areas, state wilderness areas, and recreational areas owned by other state, local and federal agencies and operated under agreement by the department of natural resources, which shall have the force and effect of law. A reasonable fee may be fixed, charged, and collected by the commissioner for the privilege of the use of any or all of the foregoing privileges and facilities.

The commissioner, on or before November 15 of each even numbered year, shall report to the legislature the commissioner's acts and doings, with recommendation for the improvement or conservation of state parks, state water access sites, state trails, and state monuments, state scientific and natural areas, state forests, state wildlife management areas, public hunting grounds, public shooting grounds, food and cover planting areas, wildlife lands, recreational or public hunting areas, state wild and scenic rivers, state wilderness areas, and all other recreational lands under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources, and for desirable accessions thereto, such report to include an inventory of the tracts and parcels of land, and rights, interests, and easements therein, held by the state or withdrawn from sale for any of these purposes, with the value thereof, and a list of the name, location, size, and description of each state trail, state scientific and natural area, state wildlife management area, state water access site, and state wild, scenic, or recreational river designated by the commissioner, and each public hunting grounds, public shooting grounds, food and cover planting area, wildlife lands, and recreational or public hunting area acquired by the commissioner since the last report. The commissioner shall maintain a long range plan governing the use of the public domain under the commissioner's jurisdiction.

**History:** (77, 4342, 6460, 6466) 1905 c 201 s 1; 1907 c 267 s 5; 1923 c 430 s 8,14; 1941 c 222 s 1; 1967 c 905 s 4; 1969 c 470 s 2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1974 c 406 s 59; 1975 c 353 s 14; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

**84.031** [Repealed, 1990 c 391 art 10 s 4]

**84.032** [Repealed, 1990 c 391 art 10 s 4]

#### **84.033 SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS.**

The commissioner of natural resources may acquire by gift, lease, easement, or purchase, in the manner prescribed under chapter 117, in the name of the state, lands or any interest in lands suitable and desirable for establishing and maintaining scientific and natural areas. The commissioner shall designate any land so acquired as a scientific and natural area and shall administer any land so acquired and designated as provided by section 86A.05.

**History:** 1969 c 470 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 35 s 22; 1975 c 353 s 15

#### **84.034 MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERY IN WHITEWATER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.**

The commissioner shall maintain in a proper and decent manner and keep free of weeds any cemetery in the Whitewater state wildlife management area.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 7

#### **84.035 PEATLAND PROTECTION.**

Subdivision 1. **Citation.** Sections 84.035 and 84.036 may be cited as the "Minnesota Peatland Protection Act."

Subd. 2. **Findings.** The legislature finds that certain Minnesota peatlands possess unique scientific, aesthetic, vegetative, hydrologic, geologic, wildlife, wilderness, and educational values and represent the various peatland ecological types in the state. The

legislature finds that it is desirable and appropriate to protect and preserve these patterned peatlands as a peatland management system through establishment and designation of certain peatland core areas as scientific and natural areas.

Subd. 3. **Definitions.** Unless language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following terms, for the purposes of sections 84.035 and 84.036, have the meanings given to them.

(a) "Winter road" means an access route which may be used by vehicles only when the substrate is frozen, except as provided in subdivision 5, paragraph (b), clause (3).

(b) "Corridors of disturbance" means rights-of-way which are in existence on the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, such as ditches, ditch banks, transmission lines, pipelines, permanent roads, winter roads, and recreational trails. The existence, on the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, of a corridor of disturbance may be demonstrated by physical evidence, document recorded in the office of county recorder or other public official, aerial survey, or other evidence similar to the above.

(c) "State land" means land owned by the state of Minnesota and administered by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Designation of peatland scientific and natural areas.** Within the peatland areas described in section 84.036, state lands are hereby established and designated as scientific and natural areas to be preserved and managed by the commissioner in accordance with subdivision 5 and section 86A.05, subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. **Activities in peatland scientific and natural areas.** Areas designated in subdivision 4 as peatland scientific and natural areas are subject to the following conditions:

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all restrictions otherwise applicable to scientific and natural areas designated under section 86A.05, subdivision 5, apply to the surface use and to any use of the mineral estate which would significantly modify or alter the peatland water levels or flows, peatland water chemistry, plant or animal species or communities, or other natural features of the peatland scientific and natural areas, including, but not limited to, the following prohibitions:

(1) construction of any new public drainage systems after the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, or improvement or repair to a public drainage system in existence on the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, under authority of chapter 103E, or any other alteration of surface water or ground water levels or flows unless specifically permitted under paragraph (b), clause (5) or (6);

(2) removal of peat, sand, gravel, or other industrial minerals;

(3) exploratory boring or other exploration or removal of oil, natural gas, radioactive materials or metallic minerals which would significantly modify or alter the peatland water levels or flows, peatland water chemistry, plant or animal species or communities, or natural features of the peatland scientific and natural areas, except in the event of a national emergency declared by Congress;

(4) commercial timber harvesting;

(5) construction of new corridors of disturbance, of the kind defined in subdivision 3, after June 5, 1991; and

(6) ditching, draining, filling, or any other activities which modify or alter the peatland water levels or flows, peatland water chemistry, plant or animal species or communities, or other natural features of the peatland scientific and natural areas.

(b) The following activities are allowed:

(1) recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature observation, or other recreational activities permitted in the management plan approved by the commissioner;

(2) scientific and educational work and research;

(3) maintenance of corridors of disturbance, including survey lines and preparation of winter roads, consistent with protection of the peatland ecosystem;

(4) use of corridors of disturbance unless limited by a management plan adopted by the commissioner under subdivision 6;

(5) improvements to a public drainage system in existence on the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, only when it is for the protection and maintenance of the ecological integrity of the peatland scientific and natural area and when included in a management plan adopted by the commissioner under subdivision 6;

(6) repairs to a public drainage system in existence on the effective date of Laws 1991, chapter 354, which crosses a peatland scientific and natural area and is used for the purposes of providing a drainage outlet for lands outside of the peatland scientific and natural area, provided that there are no other feasible and prudent alternative means of providing the drainage outlet. The commissioner shall cooperate with the ditch authority in the determination of any feasible and prudent alternatives. No repairs which would significantly modify or alter the peatland water levels or flows, peatland water chemistry, plant or animal species or communities, or other natural features of the peatland scientific and natural areas shall be made unless approved by the commissioner;

(7) motorized uses on a corridor of disturbance, if the corridor existed on or before January 1, 1992, provided that recreational motorized uses may occur only when the substrate is frozen, or the corridor is snow packed, subject to a management plan developed in accordance with subdivision 6;

(8) control of forest insects, disease, and wildfires, as described in a management plan adopted by the commissioner under subdivision 6; and

(9) geological and geophysical surveys which would not significantly modify or alter the peatland water levels or flows, peatland water chemistry, plant or animal species or communities, or other natural features of the peatland scientific and natural areas.

**Subd. 6. Management plans.** The commissioner shall develop in consultation with the affected local government unit a management plan for each peatland scientific and natural area designated under section 84.036 in a manner prescribed by section 86A.09.

The management plan shall address recreational trails. In those peatland scientific and natural areas where no corridor of disturbance was used as a recreational trail on or before January 1, 1992, the plan may permit only one corridor of disturbance, in each peatland scientific and natural area, to be used as a recreational motorized trail.

**Subd. 7. Establishing baseline ecological data.** The commissioner shall establish baseline data on the ecology and biological diversity of peatland scientific and natural areas and provide for ongoing, long-term ecological monitoring to determine whether changes are occurring in the peatland scientific and natural areas. This research is intended to identify any changes occurring in peatland scientific and natural areas as a result of any permitted activities outside the peatland scientific and natural areas. This baseline data may include, but is not limited to, the history of the peatlands and their geologic origins, plant and animal communities, hydrology, water chemistry, and contaminants introduced from remote sources of atmospheric deposition.

**Subd. 8. Ditch abandonments.** In order to eliminate repairs or improvements to any public drainage system that crosses a peatland scientific and natural area in those instances where the repair or improvement adversely affects an area, the commissioner may petition for the abandonment of parts of the public drainage system under section 103E.811. If the public drainage system is necessary as a drainage outlet for lands outside of the peatland scientific and natural area, the commissioner will cooperate with the ditch authority in the development of feasible and prudent alternative means of providing a drainage outlet which avoids the crossing of and damage to the peatland scientific and natural area. In so doing, the commissioner shall grant flowage easements to the ditch authority for disposal of the outlet water on other state lands. The ditch authority shall approve the abandonment of parts of any public drainage system crossing a peatland scientific and natural area if the public drainage system crossing of those areas is not necessary as a drainage outlet for lands outside of the areas or if there are feasible and prudent alternative means of providing a drainage outlet without crossing such areas. In any abandonment under this subdivision the commissioner may

enter into an agreement with the ditch authority regarding apportionment of costs and, contingent upon appropriations of money for that purpose, may agree to pay a reasonable share of the cost of abandonment.

**Subd. 9. Compensation for trust fund lands.** The commissioner shall acquire by exchange or eminent domain the surface interests, including peat, on trust fund lands contained in peatland scientific and natural areas established in subdivision 4.

**Subd. 10. Acquisition of peatland scientific and natural areas.** The commissioner may acquire by purchase the surface interests, including peat, of lands within the boundaries of the peatland areas described in section 84.036, that are owned, or that hereafter become owned, by the state and administered by the local county board.

The commissioner shall designate any land acquired under this subdivision as peatland scientific and natural area and preserve and administer any land so acquired and designated in accordance with subdivision 5 and section 86A.05.

**History:** 1991 c 354 art 8 s 1; 1992 c 464 art 2 s 1; 1996 c 462 s 1,2; 1997 c 2 s 7

#### **84.036 PEATLAND SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS; DESIGNATION.**

The following scientific and natural areas are established and are composed of all of the core peatland areas identified on maps in the 1984 commissioner of natural resources report, "Recommendations for the Protection of Ecologically Significant Peatlands in Minnesota" and maps on file at the department of natural resources:

(1) Red Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Beltrami, Koochiching, and Lake of the Woods counties;

(2) Myrtle Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(3) Lost River Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(4) North Black River Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(5) Sand Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Lake county;

(6) Mulligan Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Lake of the Woods county;

(7) Lost Lake Scientific and Natural Area in St. Louis county;

(8) Pine Creek Scientific and Natural Area in Roseau county;

(9) Hole in the Bog Scientific and Natural Area in Cass county;

(10) Wawina Scientific and Natural Area in St. Louis county;

(11) Nett Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(12) East Rat Root River Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(13) South Black River Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(14) Winter Road Lake Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county;

(15) Sprague Creek Scientific and Natural Area in Roseau county;

(16) Luxemburg Scientific and Natural Area in Roseau county;

(17) West Rat Root River Scientific and Natural Area in Koochiching county; and

(18) Norris Camp Scientific and Natural Area in Lake of the Woods county.

**History:** 1991 c 354 art 8 s 2

#### **84.081 DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS AND BUREAUS.**

**Subdivision 1. Directors.** Subject to the commissioner's authority to revise or abolish existing divisions and to establish new divisions, all as prescribed in section 84.083, subdivision 1, the department of natural resources shall be organized with the following divisions: a division of lands and forestry, a division of waters, soils and minerals, a division of game and fish, a division of parks and recreation, and a division of enforcement and field service. Each division shall be under the immediate charge of a director, subject to the supervision and control of the commissioner. The commissioner may place a director's position in the unclassified service if the position meets the criteria established in section 43A.08, subdivision 1a. They shall be chosen with regard to knowledge, training, experience, ability in administering the work of their respective divisions, and with consideration given to applicable professional registration.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1991 c 326 s 27]

Subd. 3. **Directors may employ assistants.** Each director, with the approval of the commissioner, may employ such assistants as may be necessary for the work of the director's division. Each director, with the approval of the commissioner, may designate one employee as deputy director, and may revoke such designation at any time, regardless of the civil service status of such employee and without affecting such status. Each deputy director may exercise all of the powers of the director, subject to the director's direction and control, including powers delegated by the commissioner unless otherwise prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 3; 1943 c 601 s 1; 1947 c 587 s 17; 1949 c 356 s 1; 1949 c 739 s 7 subd 2; 1951 c 713 s 11; 1967 c 905 s 5; 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 6; 1973 c 615 s 1; 1982 c 560 s 42; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 306 s 2

#### 84.082 VACANCIES.

In case of a vacancy in the office of commissioner or of any director, the respective deputy shall have all of the powers and perform all of the duties thereof until a successor, either as an acting or regular incumbent, has been appointed and has qualified; provided, no deputy commissioner serving as commissioner in the event of a vacancy shall have power to discharge a director or to revise or change the assignments of activities among the divisions of the department or to designate another deputy. While serving in such vacated office a deputy shall receive the same salary as the regular incumbent.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 4; 1986 c 444

#### 84.083 ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION OF DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Division duties; delegation.** Each division shall have charge of administering the activities indicated by its title and such other duties and functions as may be assigned by the commissioner, subject to the right of the commissioner to revise and change assignments of any and all activities or of specific duties or functions at any time as the commissioner may see fit, including but not limited to the right to abolish or revise existing divisions or to establish new divisions. The commissioner may, by written order filed in the office of the secretary of state, delegate to the directors or other designated employees, any of the powers or duties vested in or imposed upon the commissioner by this act or by any other law upon such conditions as the commissioner may prescribe and subject to modification or revocation at the commissioner's pleasure. Such delegated powers and duties may be exercised or performed by the respective directors or other employees in their own names or in the name of the commissioner, as the commissioner may direct.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1996 c 310 s 1]

Subd. 3. **Purchasing.** The director of the division of waters may purchase technical and scientific equipment needed for the functions and duties of the director's office.

Subd. 4. **Appropriations available.** Money appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources for the division of waters or its director to conduct hydrologic studies remains available until spent.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 5; 1949 c 356 s 2; 1967 c 905 s 5,6; 1973 c 615 s 2; 1986 c 444; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 10,11

#### 84.084 TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

The commissioner may authorize the performance of services for any division by any other division or by the department staff, and, with the approval of the commissioner of administration, may require appropriate transfers of funds to compensate for the cost of such service.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 6



**84.0845 ADVANCE OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

The commissioner may advance funds appropriated for fish and wildlife programs to government agencies, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, federally recognized Indian tribes and bands, and private, nonprofit organizations for the purposes of securing nonstate matching funds for projects involving acquisition and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and related research and management. The commissioner shall execute agreements for contracts with the matching parties under sections 16C.03, subdivision 4, and 16C.05 prior to advancing any state funds. The agreement or contract shall contain provisions for return of the state's share and the matching funds within a period of time specified by the commissioner. The state's funds and the nonstate matching funds must be deposited in a separate account and expended solely for the purposes set forth in the agreement or contract. The commissioner shall enter into agreements or contracts only with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and federal and nonprofit authorities deemed by the commissioner to be dedicated to the purposes of the project.

**History:** 1993 c 269 s 1; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 26

**84.0846 NATURAL RESOURCE SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES.**

The commissioner of natural resources may advance funds appropriated for natural resource programs to government agencies, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, federally recognized Indian tribes and bands, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations deemed by the commissioner to be dedicated to the goals and objectives of the department for the purpose of sponsoring or cosponsoring conferences and seminars related to natural resources issues and management. The commissioner shall execute grants or contracts with the responsible parties under section 16C.05 prior to advancing any state funds and the agreements must provide for a full accounting of how the state's funds will be spent.

**History:** 2000 c 495 s 2

**84.085 MS 1969 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 3 s 77 subd 3]****84.085 ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** (a) The commissioner of natural resources may accept for and on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devise, or grants of lands or interest in lands or personal property of any kind or of money tendered to the state for any purpose pertaining to the activities of the department or any of its divisions. Any money so received is hereby appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which it is granted. Lands and interests in lands so received may be sold or exchanged as provided in chapter 94.

(b) The commissioner of natural resources, on behalf of the state, may accept and use grants of money or property from the United States or other grantors for conservation purposes not inconsistent with the laws of this state. Any money or property so received is hereby appropriated and dedicated for the purposes for which it is granted, and shall be expended or used solely for such purposes in accordance with the federal laws and regulations pertaining thereto, subject to applicable state laws and rules as to manner of expenditure or use providing that the commissioner may make subgrants of any money received to other agencies, units of local government, and private nonprofit corporations. Appropriate funds and accounts shall be maintained by the commissioner of finance to secure compliance with this section.

(c) The commissioner may accept for and on behalf of the permanent school fund a donation of lands, interest in lands, or improvements on lands. A donation so received shall become state property, be classified as school trust land as defined in section 92.025, and be managed consistent with section 127A.31.

Subd. 2. **Wetlands.** The commissioner of natural resources must accept a gift, bequest, devise, or grant of wetlands, as defined in section 103G.005, subdivision 19, or public waters wetlands, as defined in section 103G.005, subdivision 15a, unless:

(1) the commissioner determines that the value of the wetland for water quality, floodwater retention, public recreation, wildlife habitat, or other public benefits is minimal;

(2) the wetland has been degraded by activities conducted without a required permit by the person offering the wetland and the person has not taken actions determined by the commissioner to be necessary to restore the wetland;

(3) the commissioner determines that the wetland has been contaminated by a hazardous substance as defined in section 115B.02, subdivision 8, a pollutant or contaminant as defined in section 115B.02, subdivision 13, or petroleum as defined in section 115C.02, subdivision 10, and the contamination has not been remedied as required under chapter 115B or 115C;

(4) the wetland is subject to a lien or other encumbrance; or

(5) the commissioner, after reasonable effort, has been unable to obtain an access to the wetland.

**History:** *Ex 1971 c 3 s 77 subd 1; 1984 c 654 art 2 s 79; 1989 c 51 s 1; 1991 c 354 art 10 s 1; 1994 c 578 s 1; 1996 c 462 s 43; 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3*

#### **84.0855 SALES; RECEIPTS; APPROPRIATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Sales authorized; gift certificates.** The commissioner may sell natural resources-related publications and maps; federal migratory waterfowl, junior duck, and other federal stamps; and other nature-related merchandise, and may rent or sell items for the convenience of persons using department of natural resources facilities or services. The commissioner may sell gift certificates for any items rented or sold. Notwithstanding section 16A.1285, a fee charged by the commissioner under this section may include a reasonable amount in excess of the actual cost to support department of natural resources programs. The commissioner may advertise the availability of a program or item offered under this section.

Subd. 1a. **Software sales.** Notwithstanding section 16B.405, the commissioner may sell or license intellectual property and software products or services developed by the department or custom developed by a vendor for the department.

Subd. 2. **Receipts; appropriation.** Money received by the commissioner under this section or to buy supplies for the use of volunteers, may be credited to one or more special accounts in the state treasury and is appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes for which the money was received. Money received from sales at the state fair shall be available for state fair related costs. Money received from sales of intellectual property and software products or services shall be available for development, maintenance, and support of software products and systems.

**History:** *1987 c 404 s 93; 1991 c 254 art 2 s 4; 1992 c 513 art 2 s 19; 1997 c 226 s 6; 1999 c 231 s 84,85*

#### **84.0856 FLEET MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.**

The commissioner of natural resources may bill organizational units within the department of natural resources for the costs of providing them with equipment. Costs billed may include acquisition, licensing, insurance, maintenance, repair, and other direct costs as determined by the commissioner. Receipts and interest earned on the receipts shall be credited to a special account in the state treasury and are appropriated to the commissioner to pay the costs for which the billings were made.

**History:** *1987 c 404 s 94*

#### **84.086 SEALS, UNIFORMS, AND BADGES.**

Subdivision 1. **Seals required.** The department of natural resources and the several divisions thereof shall have seals in the form and design heretofore adopted, bearing the words "State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources," also, in case of a division seal, the title of the division. The seals may be used to authenticate the official

acts of the commissioner or the directors, respectively, but omission or absence of the seal shall not affect the validity or force of any such act.

Subd. 2. **Badges and uniforms.** (a) The commissioner may provide for the issuance at state expense of such badges and uniforms as the commissioner deems necessary and suitable for officers or employees of the department and its divisions.

(b) Uniforms for conservation officers and their supervisors shall be equipped with distinctive emblems, and shall be distinctive from the uniforms of any division or section of the department of natural resources, the state patrol, or any other state department or agency.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 8,9; 1965 c 181 s 1; 1967 c 905 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1981 c 37 s 2; 1986 c 444

#### **84.087 KEEPING RECORDS AND ORDERS.**

Except as otherwise prescribed or required by law, the originals of all official records, orders, and other documents made, executed, or issued by or under the authority of the commissioner of natural resources or the directors of the several divisions of the department shall be filed and kept in the respective offices where the same were made, executed, or issued, or in such other office in the department as the commissioner may direct.

**History:** 1943 c 60 s 10; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2

#### **84.0875 ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTERS.**

The commissioner may acquire and better, or make grants to counties, home rule charter or statutory cities, or school districts to acquire and better, residential environmental learning centers where students may learn how to use, preserve, and renew the natural resources of this state. A facility and reasonable access to it must be owned by the state or a political subdivision but may be leased to or managed by a nonprofit organization to carry out an environmental learning program established by the commissioner. The lease or management agreement must comply with the requirements of section 16A.695 and must provide for the procurement of liability insurance by the nonprofit organization. A nonprofit organization that is operating an environmental learning center under this section is a municipality for purposes of the liability limitations of section 466.04 while acting within the scope of these activities.

**History:** 1994 c 643 s 46; 2002 c 360 s 1

**84.088** [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 13 s 376]

**84.0885** [Repealed, 1992 c 513 art 2 s 32]

#### **84.0887 MINNESOTA CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAMS.**

Subdivision 1. **Program content.** The commissioner shall operate Minnesota Conservation Corps programs which may include summer youth programs and year-round young adult programs. The commissioner shall insure that youths in all parts of the state have an equal opportunity for employment and that equal numbers of male and female youth are selected for the summer programs. Youth corps members must be 15 to 18 years old and young adult corps members must be 18 to 26 years old. Minnesota Conservation Corps members are not public employees under chapter 43A or 179A. Minnesota Conservation Corps programs may provide services that include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) conservation, rehabilitation, and the improvement of wildlife habitat, prairie, parks, and recreational areas;
- (2) urban and rural revitalization, historical and cultural site preservation, and reforestation of both urban and rural areas;
- (3) fish culture, wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement, and other fishery assistance;
- (4) road and trail development, maintenance, and improvement;

- (5) erosion, flood, drought, and storm damage assistance and controls;
- (6) stream, lake, waterfront harbor, and port improvement;
- (7) wetlands protection and pollution control;
- (8) insect, disease, rodent, and fire prevention and control;
- (9) the improvement of abandoned railroad beds and rights-of-way;
- (10) energy conservation projects, renewable resource enhancement, and recovery of biomass;
- (11) reclamation and improvement of strip-mined land; and
- (12) forestry, nursery, and cultural operations.

Subd. 2. **Additional services.** In addition to services under subdivision 1, Minnesota Conservation Corps programs may coordinate with or provide services to:

- (1) making public facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities;
- (2) federal, state, local, and regional governmental agencies;
- (3) nursing homes, hospices, senior centers, hospitals, local libraries, parks, recreational facilities, child and adult day care centers, programs servicing individuals with disabilities, and schools;
- (4) law enforcement agencies, and penal and probation systems;
- (5) private nonprofit organizations that primarily focus on social service such as community action agencies;
- (6) activities that focus on the rehabilitation or improvement of public facilities, neighborhood improvements, literacy training that benefits educationally disadvantaged individuals, weatherization of and basic repairs to low-income housing including housing occupied by older adults, activities that focus on drug and alcohol abuse education, prevention, and treatment; and
- (7) any other nonpartisan civic activities and services that the commissioner determines to be of a substantial social benefit in meeting unmet human, educational, or environmental needs, particularly needs related to poverty, or in the community where volunteer service is to be performed.

Subd. 3. **Ineligible services.** Ineligible service categories include:

- (1) business organized for profit;
- (2) labor unions;
- (3) partisan political organizations;
- (4) organizations engaged in religious activities, unless such activities do not involve the use of funds provided under this title by program participants and program staff to give religious instruction, conduct worship services, or engage in any form of proselytization; or
- (5) domestic or personal service companies or organizations.

Subd. 4. **Advisory committee.** The commissioner shall establish a Minnesota Conservation Corps advisory committee with broad state representation including youth. Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, or other law to the contrary, the committee expires June 30, 2003.

Subd. 5. **Older members.** Minnesota Conservation Corps programs may enroll a limited number of special corps members over age 26 so that the corps may draw on their unique knowledge, skills, or abilities to fulfill the purposes of the programs.

Subd. 6. **Expenditures from special funds.** An appropriation from a special revenue fund or account to the commissioner for Minnesota Conservation Corps programs must be spent for projects that are consistent with the purposes of the fund or account from which the appropriation was made.

Subd. 7. **Group health and accidental death insurance.** The commissioner may provide group health and accidental death insurance coverage for youth and young adult corps members through an insurance carrier under contract with the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps.

Subd. 8. **Education awards.** (a) A person employed as a corps member for one year of continuous service, as determined by standards adopted by the commissioner, and who receives a satisfactory evaluation upon termination of employment may be provided an incentive award of \$500 or an education certificate in an amount not less than \$1,000 nor more than stipulated in the National and Community Service Act (Public Law Number 101-610, United States Code, title 42, sections 12501 through 12681).

(b) The commissioner may authorize a partial incentive award or education certificate to a person employed as a corps member who receives a satisfactory evaluation upon termination of employment if the person is employed as a corps member for less than one year of continuous employment if the commissioner determines that employment was terminated because of special circumstances beyond the control of the corps member. Partial awards may also be made if the person is employed as a corps member for at least ten months but less than one year and the commissioner determines that employment was terminated in order to enable the person to attend an institution of higher education, vocational institution, or other training program or to enable the person to obtain other employment.

(c) The education certificate is valid for seven years after the date of issuance for the payment of tuition, related educational expenses, and required program activity fees at any institution of higher education which accepts the certificate. In instances where a corps member has attained a degree or certificate from an institution of higher education and has an education loan outstanding, the education certificate may be used to repay that loan. The commissioner shall authorize payment to the institution of face value of the certificate upon presentation.

Subd. 9. **Contracts; grants.** The commissioner of natural resources may contract with and make grants to nonprofit agencies to assist in carrying out the purposes, plans, and programs of the Minnesota Conservation Corps.

**History:** 1992 c 513 art 2 s 20; 1994 c 632 art 2 s 18,19; 1997 c 46 s 1,2; 1997 c 216 s 60; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 73-78

#### 84.089 VOLUNTEERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Volunteers permitted.** The commissioner of natural resources may recruit, train, and accept without regard to personnel laws, or rules, the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of activities in and related to the areas or programs administered by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Incidental expenses.** The commissioner may provide for the incidental expenses of a volunteer, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence.

Subd. 3. **Application of law.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer is not a state employee and is not subject to the provisions of law relating to state employment, including but not limited to those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment benefits, and state employee benefits. A volunteer accepted under this section is a state employee for the purposes of section 176.011, subdivision 9, and the provisions of chapter 176, relating to workers' compensation apply to the volunteer.

**History:** 1980 c 384 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1994 c 488 s 8; 1999 c 107 s 66; 2000 c 343 s 4

#### 84.0894 ENFORCEMENT OF AQUATIC PLANTS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

An enforcement officer shall enforce a violation of sections 84.0895, 84.091, 84.093, 84.152, and 103G.615 in the same manner as a violation of the game and fish laws.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 8; 1987 c 149 art 2 s 1; 1990 c 391 art 10 s 3

#### 84.0895 PROTECTION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

Subdivision 1. **Prohibition.** Notwithstanding any other law, a person may not take, import, transport, or sell any portion of an endangered species of wild animal or plant,

or sell or possess with intent to sell an article made with any part of the skin, hide, or parts of an endangered species of wild animal or plant, except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 7.

Subd. 2. **Application.** (a) Subdivision 1 does not apply to:

(1) plants on land classified for property tax purposes as class 2a or 2c agricultural land under section 273.13, or on ditches and roadways; and

(2) noxious weeds designated pursuant to sections 18.76 to 18.88 or to weeds otherwise designated as troublesome by the department of agriculture.

(b) If control of noxious weeds is necessary, it takes priority over the protection of endangered plant species, as long as a reasonable effort is taken to preserve the endangered plant species first.

(c) The taking or killing of an endangered plant species on land adjacent to class 3 or 3b agricultural land as a result of the application of pesticides or other agricultural chemical on the class 3 or 3b land is not a violation of subdivision 1, if reasonable care is taken in the application of the pesticide or other chemical to avoid impact on adjacent lands. For the purpose of this paragraph, class 3 or 3b agricultural land does not include timber land, waste land, or other land for which the owner receives a state paid wetlands or native prairie tax credit.

(d) The accidental taking of an endangered plant, where the existence of the plant is not known at the time of the taking, is not a violation of subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Designation.** (a) The commissioner shall adopt rules under chapter 14, to designate species of wild animal or plant as:

(1) endangered, if the species is threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range;

(2) threatened, if the species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; or

(3) species of special concern, if although the species is not endangered or threatened, it is extremely uncommon in this state, or has unique or highly specific habitat requirements and deserves careful monitoring of its status. Species on the periphery of their range that are not listed as threatened may be included in this category along with those species that were once threatened or endangered but now have increasing or protected, stable populations.

(b) The range of the species in this state is a factor in determining its status as endangered, threatened, or of special concern. A designation by the secretary of the interior that a species is threatened or endangered is a prima facie showing under this section.

(c) The commissioner shall reevaluate the designated species list every three years after it is first adopted and make appropriate changes. The review must consider the need for further protection of species on the species of special concern list. Species may be withdrawn from designation in the same manner that species are designated.

Subd. 4. **Studies.** The commissioner may conduct investigations to determine the status and requirements for survival of a resident species of wild animal or plant.

Subd. 5. **Management.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the commissioner may undertake management programs, issue orders, and adopt rules necessary to bring a resident species of wild animal or plant that has been designated as threatened or endangered to a point at which it is no longer threatened or endangered.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subdivision 6, management programs for endangered or threatened species include research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition, habitat maintenance, propagation, live trapping, transplantation, and regulated taking.

Subd. 6. **Enforcement.** A peace officer or conservation officer, pursuant to chapter 626, may execute a warrant to search for and seize goods, merchandise, plant or animal taken, sold or offered for sale in violation of this section, or items used in connection with a violation of this section. Seized property must be held pending judicial

proceedings. Upon conviction, seized property is forfeited to the state and must be offered to a scientific or educational institution or destroyed.

Subd. 7. **General exceptions.** (a) The commissioner may prescribe conditions for an act otherwise prohibited by subdivision 1 if:

- (1) the act is for the purpose of zoological, educational, or scientific study;
- (2) the act enhances the propagation or survival of the affected species;
- (3) the act prevents injury to persons or property; or
- (4) the social and economic benefits of the act outweigh the harm caused by it.

(b) A member of an endangered species may not be destroyed under clause (3) or (4) until all alternatives, including live trapping and transplantation, have been evaluated and rejected. The commissioner may prescribe conditions to propagate a species or subspecies.

(c) A person may capture or destroy a member of an endangered species, without permit, to avoid an immediate and demonstrable threat to human life or property.

(d) The commissioner must give approval under this subdivision for forest management, including permit, sale, or lease of land for timber harvesting.

Subd. 8. **Application.** This section does not apply retroactively or prohibit importation into this state and subsequent possession, transport, and sale of wild animals, wild plants, or parts of wild animals or plants that are legally imported into the United States or legally acquired and exported from another territory, state, possession, or political subdivision of the United States.

Subd. 9. **Violations.** A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 9; 1995 c 186 s 22

**84.09** [Repealed, 1996 c 410 s 57]

#### **84.091 AQUATIC VEGETATION IN PUBLIC WATERS.**

Subdivision 1. **Ownership.** The state is the owner of wild rice and other aquatic vegetation growing in public waters. A person may not acquire a property interest in wild rice or other aquatic vegetation or destroy wild rice or aquatic vegetation, except as authorized under this chapter.

Subd. 2. **License required; exception.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person may not harvest, buy, sell, transport, or possess aquatic plants without a license required under this chapter. A license shall be issued in the same manner as provided under the game and fish laws.

(b) A resident under the age of 16 years may harvest wild rice without a license, if accompanied by a person with a wild rice license.

Subd. 3. **License fees.** (a) The fees for the following licenses, to be issued to residents only, are:

- (1) for harvesting wild rice, \$12.50;
  - (2) for buying and selling wild ginseng, \$5;
  - (3) for a wild rice dealer's license to buy and sell 50,000 pounds or less, \$70; and
  - (4) for a wild rice dealer's license to buy and sell more than 50,000 pounds, \$250.
- (b) The weight of the wild rice shall be determined in its raw state.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 10; 1987 c 404 s 96; 1991 c 200 s 1

#### **84.0911 WILD RICE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The wild rice management account is established as an account in the state treasury.

Subd. 2. **Receipts.** Money received from the sale of wild rice licenses issued by the commissioner under section 84.091, subdivision 3, clauses (1) and (3), shall be credited to the wild rice management account.

Subd. 3. **Use of money in account.** (a) Money in the wild rice management account shall be used by the commissioner for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production.

(b) Money that is not appropriated from the wild rice management account does not cancel but shall remain in the wild rice management account until appropriated.

**History:** 1987 c 149 art 1 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 106,109; 1990 c 594 art 1 s 78; 1995 c 186 s 23

**84.092** [Repealed, 1990 c 391 art 10 s 4]

**84.0921** [Repealed, 1990 c 391 art 10 s 4]

**84.093 WILD GINSENG.**

The commissioner may establish rules including seasons for harvesting to conserve wild ginseng.

**History:** 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 386 art 4 s 12

**84.10 WILD RICE HARVESTED IN CERTAIN LAKES.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to take wild rice grain from any of the waters within the original boundaries of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Nett Lake, Vermillion, Grand Portage, Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs reservations except said persons be of Indian blood, or residents of the reservation upon which said wild rice grain is taken.

**History:** (6131-5) 1939 c 231 s 2; 1941 c 217 s 1; 1943 c 220 s 1; 1945 c 171 s 1; 1947 c 424 s 1

**84.105 WILD RICE SEASON.**

Ripe wild rice may be harvested from July 15 to September 30.

**History:** 1996 c 410 s 19

**84.11** [Repealed, 1947 c 424 s 6]

**84.111 RICE HARVESTING.**

Subdivision 1. **Watercraft restrictions.** It shall be unlawful to use, in harvesting wild rice in any public waters in this state, any watercraft other than a boat, skiff, or canoe propelled by hand, which boat, skiff, or canoe may have a top width of not more than 36 inches and a length of not more than 18 feet, or any machine or mechanical device for gathering or harvesting the grain other than with flails not over 30 inches in length nor over one pound in weight, which flails must be held and operated by hand.

Subd. 2. **Pole restrictions.** It is unlawful to use any pole for propelling any watercraft used in such harvesting which is not forked at the end, with each branch less than 12 inches in length.

Subd. 3. **Machine restrictions.** It is unlawful to use in such harvesting any machine or device for gathering the grain other than a flail not over 30 inches in length nor over one pound in weight, held and operated by hand.

Subd. 4. **Harvest hours.** It is unlawful to harvest any wild rice in any public waters between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. following except as otherwise expressly permitted in writing by an authorized committee member or other agent of the commissioner pursuant to rules of the commissioner.

Subd. 5. **Fee holder provisions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 1 to 3, any person holding fee title to all property surrounding a body of public waters may use mechanical harvesting devices to harvest wild rice in those waters. This subdivision does not apply to:

(a) Any body of public waters greater than 125 acres in size;

(b) Any body of public waters to which the public has access directly or through a channel or watercourse;



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(c) Any body of public waters within the original boundaries of any Indian reservation; or

(d) Harvesting of wild rice for use or sale by any person other than the owner of the surrounding property.

**History:** 1949 c 506 s 3,4; 1959 c 684 s 1; 1963 c 174 s 1; 1982 c 543 s 1; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

**84.12** [Repealed, 1947 c 424 s 6]

**84.13** [Repealed, 1947 c 424 s 6]

**84.14** [Repealed, 1996 c 410 s 57]

## **84.15 COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY; RICE HARVESTING.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority to restrict harvest.** The commissioner may restrict or prohibit the harvesting of wild rice grain on public waters of any designated area when, upon investigation of conditions, it shall be determined necessary or advisable to protect against undue depletion of the crop so as to retard reseeding or restocking of such area or so as to endanger its effective use as a natural food for waterfowl.

Subd. 2. **Harvest for research or planting.** The commissioner may harvest not to exceed 10,000 pounds of wild rice in any calendar year for the purposes of obtaining wild rice seed for experimental and research purposes and replanting in public waters of the state, including waters within the original boundaries of the Minnesota Indian reservations.

**History:** (6131-15) 1939 c 231 s 12; 1949 c 628 s 1; 1957 c 85 s 1; 1986 c 444

**84.151** [Expired]

## **84.152 WILD RICE.**

Subdivision 1. **Rules.** The commissioner shall prescribe rules for harvesting and possessing wild rice.

Subd. 2. **License required.** A person who buys wild rice within the state for resale to anyone except consumers, or sells wild rice imported from outside the state to anyone within the state except consumers must have a wild rice dealer's license.

Subd. 3. **Application.** (a) An application for a wild rice dealer's license must be made under a written oath. The form of a wild rice dealer's license application must include:

(1) the amount of wild rice, whether raw or processed, bought or sold by the applicant during the preceding calendar year;

(2) the amount of wild rice the applicant estimates will be bought or sold under the license; and

(3) other pertinent information required by the commissioner.

(b) The license fee must be paid in advance, based on the applicant's estimate. A license may not be issued for a fee based on a lesser amount of wild rice than was bought or sold by the applicant during the preceding calendar year.

Subd. 4. **Supplemental license.** A wild rice dealer may not buy or sell wild rice for which a license is required in excess of the amount covered by the license. If a wild rice dealer desires to buy or sell wild rice in excess of the licensed amount, the dealer must apply for a supplemental license. The supplemental license shall be issued for the additional amount of wild rice upon payment of the prescribed fee, less credit for the fees paid for the previous license or licenses issued for the same calendar year. When the supplemental license is issued, the previous licenses held by the dealer shall be surrendered to the commissioner.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1989 c 350 art 19 s 2]

Subd. 6. **Penalties.** (a) A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who:

(1) willfully makes a false statement in an application for a license or in a required report or record; or

(2) violates a provision relating to wild rice dealers.

(b) Each violation is a separate offense. An acquittal prohibits later prosecution based on a similar charge involving other wild rice in the same transaction.

(c) If a wild rice dealer is convicted of two offenses under this subdivision within three years, the dealer's license is null and void and the dealer may not be issued a license for one year after the date of the conviction.

**History:** 1986 c 386 art 4 s 13

#### 84.1525 STROMATOLITES.

Subdivision 1. **Permit required.** A person may not possess, move, or disturb a stromatolite located in waters of the state except under a permit issued by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules establishing criteria and procedures for:

(1) the issuance of stromatolite permits with reasonable conditions; and

(2) the denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of stromatolite permits for cause.

**History:** 1992 c 462 s 2; 1993 c 231 s 2

#### 84.153 PROPERTY; LEASING, RENTING.

(a) The commissioner is hereby authorized at public or private vendue and at such prices and under such terms and conditions as the commissioner may prescribe, to lease any buildings or lands not now authorized to be leased, acquired in the name of the state of Minnesota by any of the several divisions of the department which are not presently needed for the uses and purposes of any of the divisions of the department. The purposes for which such leases may be executed shall be in the furtherance of the interests of conservation and such uses shall not result in any permanent injury to the land. No such lease shall be made for a term to exceed two years and shall contain a provision for cancellation at any time by the commissioner upon three months written notice. All money received from these leases shall be credited to the fund from which the property was acquired, except an amount equal to the cost of maintenance of the leased property shall be credited to the fund charged with the cost of maintenance. Money credited for leased property maintenance is appropriated to the commissioner for that purpose.

(b) The commissioner is hereby authorized to rent or lease to employees of the various divisions of the department such cabins, buildings, or living quarters as are now or may hereafter be constructed upon state-owned lands under the control of the several divisions of the department, when this occupancy is found to be necessary or beneficial to the work of the department. These leases or rental agreements shall be upon a month to month basis and provide for surrender by the lessee upon demand at any time the lessee's services with the state may be terminated, without the necessity of any written notice. All receipts from rents shall be paid in to the state treasurer and credited to the fund charged with the cost of maintenance of such buildings and are hereby appropriated for such use.

(c) All instruments and transactions so negotiated shall be approved as to form, validity, and execution by the attorney general.

(d) Hunting of wild game is prohibited on any land which has been posted by the lessee to prohibit hunting. Such prohibition shall apply to all persons including the lessee.

**History:** 1941 c 291 s 1-3; 1965 c 382 s 1; 1986 c 444; 2002 c 376 s 1

**84.154 LAC QUI PARLE WATER CONTROL PROJECT.**

Subdivision 1. **Conservation project.** The commissioner is hereby authorized, with the approval of the executive council, and on such terms as may be deemed advantageous to the state, to sell and convey to the United States the fee title, free from any mineral reservation, of lands acquired by the state for the Lac qui Parle River water control project upon which dams and appurtenant structures have been or may be constructed and such rights-of-way as may be required by the United States to provide access thereto for the purposes of construction, maintenance and operation, and to grant, sell and convey either such fee title to, or flowage rights over, all lands acquired for the project on and above Lac qui Parle Lake which lie below the 935.7 foot elevation on project datum, and to grant, sell and convey flowage rights only over all lands so acquired on or above Marsh Lake which lie below the 939.5 foot elevation on project datum and over all of such lands on and above either of these lakes which lie above such elevations, and to lease to any appropriate agency of the United States for conservation purposes, subject to such flowage rights, any of such lands the ownership of which is retained by the state, or to enter into a cooperative agreement with any such agency for the development and management of any wild life or other conservation activity thereon; provided, that no such conveyance or agreement shall waive any claim of the state for reimbursement from the United States under the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938, and any amendments thereof. Each such lease for conservation purposes and each such cooperative agreement for the development and management of wild life or other conservation activity on such lands shall contain specific conditions reserving to the public during all open seasons for hunting wild waterfowl at least 40 percent of the area of these lands suitable for hunting waterfowl as public shooting grounds.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner may complete Lac qui Parle and Big Stone Lake projects.** Inasmuch as the cessation of the work relief program of the federal government and the entry of the United States into the present war prevented completion of certain contemplated features of the Lac qui Parle and Big Stone Lake water control projects heretofore undertaken by the executive council, in cooperation with Federal agencies, and it is desirable that such projects be completed in order to secure effective control and utilization of the waters affected for the purposes of prevention and control of floods, water conservation, improvement of conditions for game and fish, and other authorized public uses, the commissioner of natural resources is authorized to construct all works and improvements pertaining or incidental to said projects which the commissioner deems necessary for such purposes, and to maintain and operate the same so far as not transferred to the United States pursuant to law.

Subd. 3. **Powers of commissioner.** The commissioner of natural resources may use for any project herein authorized any land of the state under the commissioner's jurisdiction or control so far as is not inconsistent with the laws governing the same, may acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation any additional lands or interests in lands required for such projects, including lands or interests in adjacent states if authorized by the laws thereof, may accept gifts or grants of money or property from the United States or any other source for such projects, may use and apply any money or property so received in accordance with the terms of the gift or grant so far as is not inconsistent with the provisions of this section or other laws, may act in behalf of the state as sponsor for any such project undertaken or authorized by the United States, may make any sponsor's contributions required for any such project out of money appropriated by Laws 1943, chapter 476, or otherwise made available therefor, and may cooperate with the United States or any adjacent state or any authorized agency of either in constructing, maintaining and operating any such project upon such terms and conditions as the commissioner may deem proper not inconsistent with the laws of this state.

Subd. 4. **May sell or lease land.** The commissioner of natural resources may, in behalf of the state, with the approval of the governor, sell or lease to the United States any part of the lands or interests in lands heretofore or hereafter acquired by the state for the purposes of such projects, with any structures or improvements thereon, upon

such terms and conditions as the commissioner may deem proper, providing for the continued maintenance and operation of such projects for the purposes herein specified; provided that the provisions of this section shall not be deemed to repeal or supersede the provisions of Laws 1941, chapters 142 and 518, with respect to lands or interests heretofore acquired, so far as applicable thereto; provided, that the governor shall not approve any such sale or lease without first consulting the legislative advisory commission and securing their recommendation, which shall be advisory only. Failure or refusal of the commission to make a recommendation promptly shall be deemed a negative recommendation.

**Subd. 5. Special funds created.** (1) There is hereby created a special fund to be known as the Lac qui Parle and Big Stone Lake water control projects fund, in which shall be placed all moneys heretofore or hereafter received for any lands or other property acquired by the state for the Lac qui Parle water control project and heretofore or hereafter sold or leased to the United States pursuant to Laws 1941, chapter 518, or otherwise, also all money heretofore or hereafter received from any source for the sale or lease under any other law of any lands or other property acquired by the state for either the Lac qui Parle or Big Stone Lake water control project, except as otherwise provided in clause (2).

(2) All moneys in excess of \$2,500 remaining June 30, 1943, and at the end of each fiscal year thereafter in the Lac qui Parle revolving fund designated by Laws 1941, chapter 142, shall be transferred to said projects fund. When all the property authorized to be sold under said chapter has been sold and the proceeds have been received the executive council shall notify the commissioner of finance thereof. Thereupon the balance remaining in said revolving fund shall be transferred to said projects fund and said revolving fund shall be abolished.

(3) All moneys in said projects fund are hereby appropriated to the commissioner of conservation for the purposes of Laws 1943, chapter 476, to remain available therefor until expended hereunder or otherwise expressly disposed of by law; provided, that all expenditures hereunder shall be subject to the approval of the governor; provided, that the governor shall not approve any such expenditure without first consulting the legislative advisory commission and securing their recommendation, which shall be advisory only. Failure or refusal of the commission to make a recommendation promptly shall be deemed a negative recommendation.

**Subd. 6. Transfer to commissioner.** (1) The supervision and control of the Lac qui Parle project lands, which is now vested in the executive council by Laws 1925, chapter 426; Laws 1933, chapter 355; Extra Session Laws 1933, chapter 25; Laws 1935, chapter 51; Extra Session Laws 1935, chapter 101; Laws 1937, chapters 209 and 459; Extra Session Laws 1937, chapter 89; Laws 1941, chapters 142 and 518; Laws 1943, chapter 476; Laws 1945, chapter 325; Laws 1947, chapter 571; and Minnesota Statutes, section 84.154, are hereby transferred to the commissioner of natural resources.

(2) These lands, which consist of 22,000 acres, more or less, located in the north and east edge of Lac qui Parle county and portions of the south and west edges of Chippewa, Swift and Big Stone counties, shall be used and developed as a game refuge and public hunting grounds as the commissioner of natural resources may designate and shall include all state-owned lands acquired pursuant to the provisions of law above stated.

(3) The right of eminent domain will not be exercised in the case of the acquisition of additional lands to this game refuge and public hunting ground.

**History:** 1941 c 518 s 1; 1943 c 476 s 1; 1957 c 755 s 1-3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1986 c 444

#### **84.155 CONSERVATION PROJECTS; BELTRAMI ISLAND, PINE ISLAND.**

**Subdivision 1: Certain leases between the state and the United States of America ratified and approved.** Leases entered into between the United States of America and the state of Minnesota, through the commissioner of conservation, under date of August 2, 1940, demising to the state of Minnesota federal owned lands in what are

known as the Beltrami and Pine Island areas, located in the counties of Koochiching, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, and Beltrami, in the state of Minnesota, for a period of 50 years, are hereby in all things ratified and approved.

**Subd. 2. Beltrami Island conservation project created.** For the purpose of protecting, preserving, and managing wild life, forest and water resources, there is hereby established the Beltrami Island conservation project consisting of all lands within the descriptions hereinafter contained. All public lands, except tax forfeited lands, lying within these areas are hereby set aside and reserved from sale. These areas shall comprise the following lands and waters in Beltrami county, Minnesota:

All of Townships 155 and 156, North, in Ranges 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 157 and 158, North, in Ranges 36 and 37 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

and the following described lands and waters in the Lake of the Woods county, Minnesota:

All of Township 157, North, Range 32 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 157, 158 and 159, North, in Range 33 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 157, 158, 159 and 160, North, in Range 34 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 157, 158, 159 and 160, North, in Range 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 159 and 160, North, in Range 36 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

and the following described lands and waters in Roseau county, Minnesota:

The South one-half of Township 161, North, in Range 35 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

The South one-half of Township 161, North, in Range 36 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 159 and 160 and the South two-thirds of Township 161, North, in Range 37 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, and

The East two-thirds of Township 160, North, in Range 38 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

**Subd. 3. Pine Island conservation project created.** For the purpose of protecting, preserving and managing wild life, forest and water resources, there is hereby established the Pine Island conservation project consisting of all lands within the descriptions hereinafter contained. All public lands, except tax-forfeited lands, lying within these areas are hereby set aside and reserved from sale. These areas shall comprise the following lands and waters in Koochiching county, Minnesota:

All of Townships 64 and 65, North, in Range 24 and 25 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 64, 65, 66 and 67, North, in Range 26 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian:

All of the lands in Townships 64, 65, 66 and 67, North, in Range 27 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian:

All of Township 152; the South one-half of Township 153; all of Townships 155 and 156; the West two-thirds of Township 157 and that portion of Township 158, North, situated South of the center line of Black River, all in Range 25 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Township 152, North; the South one-half of Township 153; the North one-half of Township 155; all of Townships 156 and 157 and that portion of Township 158, North, situated South of the center line of Black River, all in Range 26 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 153 and 154; the North one-half of Township 155; all of Townships 156 and 157; and that portion of Township 158, North, situated South of the center line of Black River and East of that branch of the Black River which flows North through Sections 33 and 28, in Range 27 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian:

All of Townships 153, 154, 155, 156, 157 and 158 and the West one-third of Township 159, North, in Range 28 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian; and

All of Townships 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 159, North, in Range 29 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

**Subd. 4. Lands to be under management of commissioner.** All public lands except tax-forfeited lands, owned by the state of Minnesota, as well as lands owned by the United States and leased by the state of Minnesota within the Beltrami and Pine Island projects shall be under the management and control of the commissioner, who shall have authority to negotiate for and enter into on behalf of the state of Minnesota, leases for hay stumpage and timber stumpage at such fees and prices as the commissioner may determine reasonable and just.

**Subd. 5. Commissioner to make rules.** Within the boundaries of the Beltrami Island and Pine Island areas, the commissioner is hereby given full power and authority to make, establish, promulgate, and enforce all necessary rules for the care, preservation, protection, breeding, propagation, and disposition of any and all species of wild life therein and the regulation, issuance, sale, and revocation of special licenses or special permits for hunting, fishing, trapping, camping and other uses within the areas not inconsistent with the terms of this section. The commissioner shall have the power and authority to declare the terms and conditions of such licenses and permits and the charges to be made therefor. The commissioner may issue rules specifying and controlling the terms under and by which any wild animals may be taken, captured, or killed therein or under and by which fur-bearing animals having commercial value may be sold and transported. The commissioner may regulate and effect the sale of merchantable timber from such lands as are owned or leased by the state; provided, authority as to the leased lands shall not exceed that provided in the leases.

**Subd. 6. Two accounts created; disposition of receipts.** There shall be created two accounts, one to be known as the Beltrami Island conservation account and the other as the Pine Island conservation account. All income and revenue received by virtue of all hay and stumpage leases, timber sales, sales of special licenses and permits, as hereinabove provided, from each of the areas described in this section, shall be paid in to the state treasury and credited to that account bearing the name of the project from which the income was derived. These sums are hereby appropriated for the purpose of administering said areas in accordance with the terms of this section and the terms of the leases herein referred to as having been approved and ratified and for making repairs and replacements on the properties leased as provided by the leases. Any portion of income or revenue not needed for the above purposes may be used, subject to the mutual agreement between the state of Minnesota and the United States provided for in the leases, covering the acquisition by the state of Minnesota of additional lands to block in, round out and enlarge its holdings. Nothing herein contained shall alter, modify, or change the method of handling revenue or income provided for in Laws 1929, Chapter 258, from lands now in the public domain under the provisions of that act and nothing herein contained shall alter, modify, or change the method of handling revenue or income provided for in Laws 1929, Chapter 258, from lands now in the public domain under the provisions of this section.

**History:** 1941 c 215 s 2-6; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 106

#### **84.156 INTEREST IN CERTAIN LANDS TRANSFERRED TO UNITED STATES.**

**Subdivision 1. Grant of easement to United States.** There is hereby granted to the United States an easement and right to flow and overflow by water the right-of-way of any and all town, county and state roads or highways lying within the Lac qui Parle water control project in Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Big Stone, and Swift counties, below the 945.0 foot elevation on project datum, and no claims for damage shall be

maintainable against the United States by the state or any of its governmental subdivisions for any damage or injury to such roadways or highways, below such 945.0 foot elevation, because of the operation of any of the dams in said project or the maintenance of any water levels thereby.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner to acquire certain titles.** The commissioner of natural resources of the state of Minnesota is hereby authorized to acquire by gift, purchase or condemnation, the underlying fee title to the right-of-way of any township or county roads or highways lying within such water control project and not now in public ownership, or the right to flow and overflow the same. The commissioner is further authorized to convey such fee title or flowage easements to the United States, together with any fee titles or easements heretofore obtained by or on behalf of the state, the counties or townships involved, to the right-of-way of any such roads or highways, when such conveyances are required to carry out the purposes of Laws 1943, chapter 476, and Laws 1941, chapter 518.

Subd. 3. **Grant effective upon acceptance.** The grant contained in subdivision 1 herein shall become effective upon the acceptance of title or easements by the United States to lands adjacent to each such road or highway.

Subd. 4. **Certain laws continued in effect.** Nothing herein shall be deemed to repeal or supersede Laws 1943, chapter 476, or Laws 1941, chapter 518, but the same and the whole thereof shall be continued in effect.

**History:** 1945 c 325 s 1-4; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2

#### 84.157 EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN STATE LANDS.

Notwithstanding any provision of section 94.343, subdivision 2, or any other existing law to the contrary, Class A state lands located within the Red Lake Game Preserve, the conservation areas created under sections 84A.20 and 84A.31, the Beltrami Island Conservation Project, the Beltrami Island State Forest, the Pine Island Conservation Project, the Pine Island State Forest, and all state forests or parts thereof in the area within the proclaimed boundaries of the Superior National Forest and the Chippewa National Forest wherein consent of the state to acquisition of land by the United States has heretofore been given by or pursuant to law may be exchanged for other lands within or without said areas upon compliance with all other provisions of law relating to the exchange of such lands, even though such exchanges may reduce land holdings of the state within the respective areas above specified.

**History:** 1945 c 341 s 1

84.158 [Repealed, 1990 c 391 art 10 s 4]

#### 84.161 LAND ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

The commissioner of natural resources is hereby authorized to acquire on behalf of the department of natural resources, state of Minnesota, all dam site and flowage easements and other interests in land by gift, purchase, condemnation or otherwise which may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section and to construct all dams, structures and control works needed to restore and control the water levels of Goose and Mud Lakes, Cass county, Minnesota, which authority to condemn shall include the condemnation of state-owned land whether held in trust or otherwise and whether or not the same be set aside as lake shore property or other special use under other provisions of law and the commissioner may further use any land of the state under the commissioner's jurisdiction for this project; all for the purpose of improving habitat for fish, wild fowl and game, wild rice and for forestry and fire protection.

**History:** 1957 c 69 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444

#### 84.162 POWERS OF COMMISSIONER; FLOWAGE RIGHTS.

The commissioner of natural resources is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with the United States and any authorized agency thereof for the use by the state of any flowage rights and other interests in land held by the United States

needed for the flowage of land for this project and the commissioner of natural resources may acquire such property in fee and may further contract and cooperate with the United States for the operation and control of the levels of said water and the construction and maintenance of any of the structures needed therefor upon such terms and conditions as the commissioner may deem necessary and proper not otherwise inconsistent with law.

**History:** 1957 c 69 s 2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444

#### **84.163 BATTLE POINT; CONVEYANCE TO TODD COUNTY.**

The governor, upon the recommendation of the commissioner of natural resources is hereby granted power to quitclaim and convey to the county of Todd the state's interests in the lands described below, and any state structures located thereon, on the condition that the county agree to improve and maintain for the benefit of the public for the purposes of fishing, hunting, picnicking, camping, playing of athletic games, access to the lake, and general recreational purposes, the following described lands located in Todd county: Commencing at the westerly corner of a triangular tract of land in section 5, township 128, range 35, designated as tract "A" of Michael's Subdivision of a portion of government lot 1, section 4, township 128, range 35, according to the recorded plat thereof, thence southwesterly, westerly and northwesterly, curving to the right along the shore of Lake Osakis, to the tip of Battle Point; thence southeasterly along the shore of Lake Osakis, to a point where the shore line intersects the north-south section line between sections 4 and 5 of township 128, range 35; thence north along said section line, between said sections 4 and 5 of township 128, range 35; to the southerly corner of the hereinbefore mentioned tract "A" of said Michael's Subdivision; thence northwesterly to the point of beginning known as Battle Point. The lands and structures shall be conveyed in such form as the attorney general shall prescribe and the conveyance shall contain a provision that the lands and structures shall revert to the state in the event that the county of Todd fails to operate and maintain the same as prescribed by this section.

**History:** 1963 c 58 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1977 c 52 s 1

**84.164** [Repealed, 1971 c 859 s 14]

#### **84.361 TAXES CANCELED IN CERTAIN CASES.**

After forfeiture to the state of any parcel of land lying within the Red Lake game preserve, as provided by Laws 1935, Chapter 278, the county auditor shall cancel all taxes and tax liens appearing upon the records, both delinquent and current, and all special assessments, delinquent or otherwise.

**History:** 1941 c 278 s 7

#### **84.362 REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES.**

Until after the sale of any parcel of tax-forfeited land, whether classified as agricultural or nonagricultural hereunder, the county auditor may, with the approval of the commissioner, provide for the sale or demolition of any structure located thereon, which has been determined by the county board to be within the purview of section 299F.10, and for the sale of salvage material, if any, therefrom.

**History:** 1941 c 278 s 8

#### **84.363 SALE OF DEAD AND DOWN TIMBER.**

The county auditor may with the approval of the county board sell dead, down and mature timber upon any tract of agricultural land designated by the commissioner of natural resources. Such sale of timber products shall be for cash at not less than the appraised value thereof, as determined by the commissioner, to the highest bidder after not less than one week's published notice in an official paper within the county. Any timber offered at such public sale and not sold may thereafter be sold at private sale by



the county auditor at not less than the appraised value thereof. The forestry practices to be followed in the cutting of this timber shall be approved by the commissioner.

*History:* 1941 c 278 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2

**84.37** [Repealed, 1963 c 5 s 12]

**84.38** [Repealed, 1963 c 5 s 12]

**84.39** [Repealed, 1963 c 5 s 12]

**84.40** [Repealed, 1963 c 5 s 12]

**84.41** [Repealed, 1963 c 5 s 12]

#### **84.415 UTILITY LICENSES, PERMITS.**

Subdivision 1. **Utility companies, permit to cross state-owned lands.** The commissioner of natural resources shall, on or before January 1, 1974, promulgate in the manner provided by chapter 15, rules containing standards and criteria governing the sale of licenses permitting the passage of utilities over public lands and waters. The rules shall include provisions to insure that all projects for which licenses are sold will have a minimum adverse impact on the environment. The commissioner of natural resources may, at public or private sale and for such price and upon such terms as are specified in the rules (except where prohibited by law) grant licenses permitting passage over, under, or across any part of any school, university, internal improvement, swamp, tax-forfeited or other land or public water under the control of the commissioner of natural resources, of telephone, telegraph, and electric power lines, cables or conduits, underground or otherwise, or mains or pipe lines for gas, liquids, or solids in suspension. Any such license shall be cancelable upon reasonable notice by the commissioner for substantial violation of its terms, or if at any time its continuance will conflict with a public use of the land or water over or upon which it is granted, or for any other cause. All such land or public water shall remain subject to sale or lease or other legal use, but in case of sale, lease or other use there may be excepted from the grant or other disposition of land or public water all rights included in any license over, under, or across it, and the license may contain an agreement that there will be such exception. The commissioner may charge a fee in lieu of but not less than that authorized by subdivision 5 if issuing a license containing an agreement that there will be such an exception. All rights so excepted shall be reserved to the state and be cancelable by the commissioner for the same reasons or cause as they might have been canceled before such sale, lease or other use of the land or water. Upon such cancellation, which shall be only after reasonable notice to the licensee, all rights granted by the license shall be vested in the state and may be granted again by the commissioner on the terms and conditions the commissioner may prescribe, but subject to cancellation for the same reasons or causes as they might have been originally canceled unless ownership of the fee and of the license are merged. Any license granted before April 13, 1951, may be governed by it if the licensee and commissioner so agree. Reasonable notice as used in this subdivision means a 90 day written notice addressed to the record owner of the license at the last known address, and upon cancellation the commissioner may grant extensions of time to vacate the premises affected.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1967 c 536 s 3]

Subd. 3. **Application, form.** The application for license or permit shall be in quadruplicate, and shall include with each copy a legal description of the lands or waters affected, a metes and bounds description of the required right-of-way, a map showing said features, and a detailed design of any structures necessary, or in lieu thereof shall be in such other form, and include such other descriptions, maps or designs, as the commissioner may require. The commissioner may at any time order such changes or modifications respecting construction or maintenance of structures or

other conditions of the license or permit as the commissioner deems necessary to protect the public health and safety.

Subd. 4. **Attorney general, duties.** The license or permit to be granted shall be in a form to be prescribed by the attorney general; shall describe the location of the license or permit thereby granted and shall continue until canceled by the commissioner, subject to change or modification as herein provided.

Subd. 5. **Fee.** In the event the construction of such lines causes damage to timber or other property of the state on or along the same, the license or permit shall also provide for payment to the state treasurer of the amount thereof as may be determined by the commissioner.

All money received under such licenses or permits shall be credited to the fund to which other income or proceeds of sale from such land would be credited, if provision therefor be made by law, otherwise to the general fund.

**History:** 1941 c 145; 1943 c 540 s 1; 1947 c 568 s 1; 1951 c 356 s 1,2; 1967 c 536 s 2; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 516 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 479 s 1,2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### 84.42 VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Penalties.** Any person violating any of the provisions of sections 84.091 to 84.15, or any of the orders of the commissioner promulgated in pursuance of the provisions thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; and, upon a second conviction within a period of three years, the person's license shall become null and void and no license of the same kind shall be issued to the person for one year after the date of such conviction; and any person violating, or threatening to violate, any provisions of sections 84.091 to 84.15 and Laws 1939, Chapter 231, may be restrained by injunction proceedings brought in the name of the state by the attorney general or by any county attorney.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73]

**History:** (3109-6, 6131-19) 1939 c 207 s 6; 1939 c 231 s 16; 1969 c 129 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1996 c 410 s 58

#### 84.43 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The definitions given in this section shall govern for the purposes of sections 84.43 to 84.52 unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the language or context.

Subd. 2. **Wilderness area.** "Wilderness area" shall mean any of the following areas or parts thereof:

(1) all those portions of the Superior National Forest described in section 2 of Public Law Number 733, 80th Congress, approved June 22, 1948, and all public waters included therein or bordering thereon except the following: Crane Lake, Moose Lake in Township 64 North, Range 9 West, Snow Bank Lake, Sawbill Lake, Brule Lake, Big Lake in Townships 64 and 65 North, Range 13 West, Saganaga Lake, Seagull Lake, Clearwater Lake in Township 65 North, Range 1 East, and East Bearskin Lake in Township 64 North, Range 1 East and Range 1 West;

(2) such other areas as may be designated by the commissioner of natural resources as hereinafter provided within the present boundaries of the Superior National Forest and the Kabetogama and Pigeon River purchase units thereof as heretofore established by federal authority and not less than five miles from any public highway.

Subd. 3. **Public waters.** "Public waters" shall mean all waters lying wholly within the state and all portions of boundary waters within the jurisdiction of the state contained within any wilderness areas designated hereunder and which the public have a right to use for navigation, fishing, hunting or any other beneficial public use.

Subd. 4. **Aircraft.** "Aircraft" shall mean any contrivance now known or hereafter invented and used or designed for navigation or flight in the air.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2

#### 84.44 DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It is hereby declared that regulation and control of the operation of aircraft and watercraft upon or over any wilderness area and public waters therein is necessary for the protection and promotion of public health, safety and welfare and other interests of the public therein and for the protection and conservation of natural wilderness conditions and other natural resources therein for the public benefit.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 2

#### 84.45 COMMISSIONER DUTIES; WILDERNESS AREAS.

The commissioner of natural resources shall designate such wilderness areas within the limits hereinbefore authorized as the commissioner shall determine after investigation to be necessary for the purposes of sections 84.43 to 84.52, and to add to, withdraw from, or otherwise modify such designations from time to time as the fulfillment of such purposes may require. Such designations shall be made by rules adopted as provided by and subject to the laws relating to rules of administrative agencies of the state, and may be modified or rescinded in like manner; provided, that in addition to or in connection with the proceedings required under said laws, the commissioner of natural resources or an authorized agent shall hold a public hearing on any proposal for a designation or a change therein hereunder at a place designated by the commissioner in a county containing lands affected thereby, of which at least two weeks' published notice shall be given in each county affected, and at least 30 days' notice shall be given by mail to the county auditor of each such county.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### 84.46 COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION; AIRCRAFT CHECKING STATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment of checking stations.** The commissioner of transportation shall as soon as practicable after the passage of Laws 1949, chapter 630, to designate as aircraft checking stations at least three airports having suitable facilities for the landing of aircraft equipped for flying and landing in wilderness areas. Such checking stations shall be located so as to cover the commonly used approaches to such wilderness areas by air from all sides, as far as practicable, and each such station shall be within 100 miles of the nearest point on the boundary of such wilderness areas. The designation of such checking stations shall be made by rules adopted as provided by and subject to the laws relating to rules of the commissioner of transportation, and may be modified or rescinded in like manner from time to time as may be necessary for the purposes of sections 84.43 to 84.52. The commissioner of natural resources shall appoint attendants for such checking stations and shall prescribe their powers and duties, subject to the provisions hereof. Officers or employees of other state departments or governmental subdivisions of the state may be appointed as such attendants with the approval of their appointing authorities.

Subd. 2. **Report required.** The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to all aircraft and pilots thereof except as otherwise provided herein. From and after the designation of not less than three checking stations as hereinbefore provided, no such aircraft pilot shall fly an aircraft into or over any wilderness area at a height less than 2,000 feet from the ground, except as may be necessary for safety, without first landing at a checking station designated hereunder and making a written report to the attendant, on a form prescribed by the commissioner of natural resources, containing the following information: type and federal registration number of the aircraft; name, address, and license number of the pilot; names and addresses of the passengers; purpose of flight; proposed line of flight and destination within the wilderness areas; proposed period of stay therein, and proposed checking station for reporting on

departure therefrom. The attendant shall deliver to the pilot a countersigned copy of the report, which the pilot shall retain in possession at all times while in the wilderness areas on the trip covered thereby. During the period of such trip as stated in the report, the aircraft shall not be operated, landed, or kept at any place within the wilderness areas except as specified in the report, and shall not remain within such areas after the expiration of such period. Upon leaving such areas at any time after entering the same, the pilot, before landing the aircraft at any other place, shall immediately proceed to and land at the checking station designated for checking out in the pilot's report, and shall check out by submitting a copy of the report to the attendant, who shall endorse the same to show such checking-out and return the same to the pilot; provided, that if by reason of weather conditions or otherwise it is impracticable for the pilot to check out at the station designated in the report, the pilot may check out at any other checking station established hereunder, submitting a written statement of reasons therefor. All records made hereunder shall be kept on file at the checking stations, and shall be subject to inspection by the commissioner of transportation, the commissioner of natural resources, or their authorized agents, and by any conservation officer or other law enforcement officer.

**Subd. 3. Exemption.** The provisions of sections 84.43 to 84.52 shall not apply to the use of aircraft by any officer or agency of the state or of the United States for any authorized public purpose.

**Subd. 4. Emergency operation permitted.** The provisions of sections 84.43 to 84.52 shall not prohibit or prevent the operation or landing of any aircraft within any such area so far as may be necessary to save life or property or prevent substantial injury thereto in an emergency.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 4; 1967 c 905 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### **84.47 PERMITS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS; AIRCRAFT FOR HIRE.**

**Subdivision 1. Permit issuance; requirements.** In case there shall be any private property situated within any such area and such private property, at the time such area is designated, is improved and used for purposes for which air transportation is essential, written permits shall be issued by the commissioner of transportation which shall authorize the operation of aircraft without check in or check out for the transportation of persons, their lawful possessions and materials to such extent as is necessary for the continuation of the use of the property affected existing at the time of the designation of the area, such permits to be issued upon the following conditions:

(a) The owner, lessee or operator of such private property shall have a licensed seaplane base on or adjacent to the property.

(b) Such permits shall thereupon be issued to the owner or operator of any aircraft to fly to, from, and between such bases and such other points as may be designated in the permit, provided such aircraft owner or operator has first complied with reasonable standards as to safety, equipment, and insurance to be established by the commissioner of transportation as provided by law.

(c) If the private property affected is situated in a wilderness area designated by the commissioner of natural resources as hereinbefore provided, a permit shall be issued for such aircraft operation as may be necessary for the continuation of any lawful use of the property; whether existing at the time of the designation of such area or thereafter developed.

(d) A permit shall be effective until the end of the calendar year in which it is issued, and shall be renewable annually upon the continued existence of the conditions authorizing its original issue. Every permit shall be subject to suspension or revocation, as the commissioner of transportation shall determine, upon conviction of the permittee of any violation of the provisions of sections 84.43 to 84.52.

(e) Every holder of a permit hereunder shall keep daily written records in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the commissioner of natural resources, of all aircraft operations under the permit, containing the following information as to each flight, in

addition to such other information as may be required by law or by rules of the commissioner of natural resources: type and federal registration number of the aircraft; name, address, and license number of the pilot; names and addresses of passengers; purposes of flight, place, date, and time of beginning and termination of flight, line of flight and destinations. On or before the fifth of each month the permittee shall mail one of the duplicates of such records for all flights during the preceding calendar month to the commissioner of natural resources, who shall keep the same on file and subject to inspection in like manner as hereinbefore provided for inspection of copies of reports at checking stations.

Subd. 2. **Aircraft for hire.** Any aircraft owner or operator carrying passengers for hire from a licensed seaplane base outside of the wilderness areas may obtain a permit in like manner as hereinbefore provided for operating between such base or other points outside of such areas, to be designated in the permit, and any points within such areas, subject to compliance with the requirements for keeping and mailing records and all other conditions pertaining to permits as hereinbefore prescribed, so far as applicable.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 5; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### **84.48 TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM.**

No aircraft shall fly into or over any such area except at the altitudes authorized in section 84.46, without being equipped with a two-way radio system, provided that this requirement shall not become effective until prescribed by order of the commissioner of transportation and provided further that when it has been so prescribed, the operator of each such aircraft shall report the operator's presence and location by radio to such station as may be designated by the commissioner of transportation and at such times during the operator's stay within the area as the commissioner of transportation may prescribe. Orders of the commissioner of transportation under this section shall be prescribed by rules adopted, modified, or rescinded as may be necessary for the purposes of sections 84.43 to 84.52 in accordance with the laws relating to the commissioner's rules in other cases.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 6; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### **84.49 WATERCRAFT, LIMITATION OF OPERATION.**

No aircraft pilot, owner or operator shall keep or maintain within any wilderness area designated hereunder, any boat, canoe or other watercraft at any point within such area except at private property encumbered with a structure or structures suitable for human occupancy, or unless in the immediate possession and control of a person authorized by the owner to so possess and control it. Any boat, canoe or other watercraft not so maintained, possessed or controlled shall be deemed contraband and be subject to confiscation in the name of the state by any state conservation officer or peace officer and shall be disposed of in the same manner as other property confiscated by the director of game and fish.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 7; 1967 c 905 s 9

#### **84.50 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.**

Violation of any provision of sections 84.43 to 84.52 shall be a misdemeanor, and any court imposing sentence shall be authorized upon recommendation of the commissioner of transportation to prohibit the pilot so convicted from operating an aircraft within the state for a period not exceeding one year.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 8; 1976 c 166 s 7

#### **84.51 INSPECTION.**

Every aircraft while landed at a checking station to report as herein provided shall be subject to inspection by the commissioner of natural resources or an authorized agent, or by any conservation officer, any of whom may, without a warrant, examine

and search such aircraft for wild animals illegally taken or possessed or for other things declared contraband by the laws relating to wild animals, and may seize and confiscate in the name of the state any such contraband which may thereupon be found.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 9; 1967 c 905 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444

#### **84.52 CERTAIN ZONING RULES APPLICABLE.**

Nothing herein contained shall authorize interference or conflict with the operation of any airport or other aeronautics facilities authorized, constructed, or maintained under any law, nor so as to interfere or conflict with any zoning rules or any other rules relating to aeronautics prescribed by or adopted pursuant to any other law.

**History:** 1949 c 630 s 10; 1985 c 248 s 70

#### **84.521 SUSPENSION OF SECTIONS 84.43 TO 84.52.**

The operation of Minnesota Statutes 1949, sections 84.43 to 84.52, is hereby temporarily suspended, which suspension shall be effective during such time as Executive Order 10092, issued December 20, 1949, by the President of the United States remains in effect.

**History:** 1951 c 157 s 1

#### **84.523 BWCA; MANAGEMENT OF MINERALS AND RELATED RESOURCES.**

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, the term "boundary waters canoe area" means that area of lands and waters included within the boundaries designated in federal regulation REG U-3, Code of Federal Regulations, title 36, section 293.16, as that regulation provided on January 1, 1975.

Subd. 2. **Intent.** The legislature finds that a combination of state legislative and administrative actions and court decisions have established a public policy of primarily wilderness management for state lands and waters within the boundary waters canoe area. This state policy, together with a similar federal policy and international actions consistent with these state and federal policies, has created an area of hundreds of thousands of acres of land and water containing myriad lakes and streams, wooded shores, virgin forests, and other natural attractions of surpassing scenic beauty and solitude, free from substantially all commercial activities and artificial development such as hydroelectric dams and power lines, resorts, roads, sawmills, and timber harvesting in no-cut zones.

Subd. 3. **Mining; prohibition.** Except with the prior approval of the legislature in those cases of national emergency which have been declared by the Congress and which direct the need for exploration and mining of federal lands within the boundary waters canoe area, and after an investigation and determination by the commissioner of natural resources pursuant to subdivision 5 no state-owned or administered land may be leased for exploration or mining of minerals, and no state permits, licenses or leases shall be issued to use any other state natural resources for any mineral exploration or mining operations in the boundary waters canoe area.

Subd. 4. **Peat harvesting; prohibition.** Except with prior approval of the legislature in those cases of national emergency which have been declared by the Congress and which direct the need for exploitation of peat deposits on federal land within the boundary waters canoe area, and after an investigation and determination by the commissioner of natural resources pursuant to subdivision 5 no state-owned or administered land may be leased for the purpose of harvesting peat, and no state permits, licenses or leases shall be issued to use any other state natural resources for the purpose of harvesting peat in the boundary waters canoe area.

Subd. 5. **Investigation and determination.** In the event of a national emergency declared by Congress which requires, for the protection of national interests, exploitation of natural resources of the type found in the boundary waters canoe area, the commissioner of natural resources shall investigate and determine if there are reasonable alternative methods for providing the needed resources. If the investigation shows there are reasonable alternatives to exploitation of natural resources in the area, no

permit for development shall be issued. If the commissioner of natural resources determines there is a need to provide resources from within the boundary waters canoe area, and that there is no reasonable alternative available to meet the need, a permit may be issued upon approval by the state legislature.

**History:** 1976 c 322 s 1

**84.524** Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1993 c 337 s 20]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1993 c 337 s 20]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68]

**84.525 MAINTENANCE OF CAMPSITES IN THE BWCA.**

All reservation fees paid to the state attributable to state-owned lands within the boundary waters canoe area must be credited to an account in the special revenue fund and are appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources for maintenance of state-owned campsites within the boundary waters canoe area. The commissioner may enter into cooperative agreements with the federal government for maintenance of the campsites.

**History:** 1992 c 513 art 2 s 21

**84.53 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY.**

The commissioner of natural resources is authorized to make or provide for a topographic survey of the state and maps thereof, including preliminary aerial surveys incidental thereto, so far as funds may be made available therefor, and subject to the provisions hereof. For that purpose the commissioner may cooperate with the United States Geological Survey or any other federal, state, or local public agency or governmental subdivision, or with any private agency, under conditions mutually agreed upon. The commissioner may accept gifts or grants of money or property for the purposes hereof, and the same are hereby appropriated therefor. All surveys and maps made hereunder shall conform with standards prescribed or approved by the United States Geological Survey or other federal authority.

**History:** 1949 c 669 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444

**84.54** [Repealed, 1993 c 163 art 1 s 35]

**84.55 COOPERATION OF COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY.**

The county board of any county or the governing body of any municipality may cooperate with or through the commissioner of natural resources and may provide facilities or equipment and expend money in furtherance of the provisions of sections 84.53 to 84.55 in consideration of benefits derived therefrom. Such expenditures may be made by direct payment for specified projects or operations or by contributions to the commissioner of natural resources for disposal in accordance with any agreement made hereunder.

**History:** 1949 c 669 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 63

**84.56** [Temporary appropriation]

**84.57** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.58** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.59** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.60** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.61** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.611** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.62** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

**84.621** [Repealed, 1989 c 326 art 3 s 48]

### **84.63 CONVEYANCE OF INTERESTS IN LANDS TO STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.**

Notwithstanding any existing law to the contrary, the commissioner of natural resources is hereby authorized on behalf of the state to convey to the United States or to the state of Minnesota or any of its subdivisions, upon state-owned lands under the administration of the commissioner of natural resources, permanent or temporary easements for specified periods or otherwise for trails, highways, roads including limitation of right of access from the lands to adjacent highways and roads, flowage for development of fish and game resources, stream protection, flood control, and necessary appurtenances thereto, such conveyances to be made upon such terms and conditions including provision for reversion in the event of non-user as the commissioner of natural resources may determine.

**History:** *Ex1967 c 21 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1998 c 403 s 2*

### **84.631 ROAD EASEMENTS ACROSS STATE LANDS.**

Except as provided in section 85.015, subdivision 1b, the commissioner, on behalf of the state, may convey a road easement across state land under the commissioner's jurisdiction other than school trust land, to a private person requesting an easement for access to property owned by the person only if the following requirements are met: (1) there are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the property; and (2) the exercise of the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts. The commissioner shall:

- (1) require the applicant to pay the market value of the easement;
- (2) provide that the easement reverts to the state in the event of nonuse; and
- (3) impose other terms and conditions of use as necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

**History:** *1983 c 297 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 628 s 2; 1995 c 220 s 58*

### **84.632 CONVEYANCE OF UNNEEDED STATE EASEMENTS.**

(a) Notwithstanding section 92.45, the commissioner of natural resources may, in the name of the state, release all or part of an easement acquired by the state upon application of a landowner whose property is burdened with the easement if the easement is not needed for state purposes.

(b) All or part of an easement may be released by payment of consideration of not less than \$500, to be determined by the commissioner. The release must be in a form approved by the attorney general.

(c) Money received for release of the easement must be credited to the account from which money was expended for purchase of the easement. If there is no specific account, the money must be credited to the land acquisition account established in section 94.165.

**History:** *1988 c 628 s 3; 1993 c 285 s 2*

### **84.64 CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Acquisition.** A conservation restriction for a definite period or in perpetuity may be acquired by:

- (a) The commissioner of natural resources, in the name of the state, by gift, purchase or exchange, with funds specifically made available for that purpose;
- (b) A nonprofit charitable corporation whose purposes include conservation of land or water areas; or



(c) A home rule charter or statutory city.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purpose of this section, a "conservation restriction" means a right, whether or not stated in the form of a restriction, easement, covenant or condition, in any deed, will or other instrument executed by or on behalf of the owner of land or in any order of taking, appropriate to retaining land or water areas predominately in their natural, scenic, open or wooded condition, or as suitable habitat for fish and wild life, to forbid or limit any or all:

(a) Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, utilities or other structures on or above the ground.

(b) Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive materials.

(c) Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs or other vegetation.

(d) Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock or other material substance in such manner as to affect the surface.

(e) Surface use except for purposes permitting the land or water area to remain predominately in its natural condition.

(f) Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control or soil conservation, or fish and wild life habitat preservation, or

(g) Other acts or uses detrimental to such retention of land or water areas.

**History:** 1974 c 531 s 1; 1975 c 163 s 1; 1979 c 159 s 1

#### 84.65 CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS; EFFECT OF RECORDING; RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS; ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Enforceability; notice; recording.** No conservation restriction defined in section 84.64 and acquired pursuant to section 84.64, subdivision 1, shall be unenforceable on account of lack of privity of estate or contract or lack of benefit to particular land. Nonprofit charitable corporations or home rule charter or statutory cities acquiring such conservation restrictions shall file a notice of each such acquisition with the department of natural resources within 90 days. All restrictions shall be duly recorded and indexed in the office of the county recorder or the registrar of titles for the county where the land lies so as to affect its title, in the manner of other conveyances of interests in land, and shall describe the land subject to the restrictions by adequate legal description or by reference to a recorded plat showing its boundaries.

Subd. 2. **Remedy; right to enter.** The restriction may be enforced by injunction and shall entitle representatives of the holder of it to enter the land in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times to assure compliance.

Subd. 3. **Conveyance; release; reversion.** The restriction may be conveyed in the same manner as any other interest in land. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a restriction may be released by the holder of the restriction or the dominant interest to the holder of the fee title or the servient interest. In the event a corporation, defined in section 84.64, subdivision 1, clause (b), no longer holds a license to do business in Minnesota, and said corporation has made no provision for the disposition of a conservation restriction held by it by transfer to another nonprofit corporation, the conservation restriction shall revert to and vest in the state of Minnesota and be administered by the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 4. **Construction.** This section shall not be construed to imply that any restriction, easement, covenant or condition which does not have the benefit of this section shall, on account of any provision hereof, be unenforceable. Nothing in this section or section 84.64 shall diminish the powers granted by law to the commissioner of natural resources or to any other state agency or political subdivision to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise and to use land for public purposes.

**History:** 1974 c 531 s 2; 1975 c 163 s 2,3; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1979 c 159 s 2

## OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES

**84.787 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 84.787 to 84.796.

Subd. 2. **Accompanied.** "Accompanied" means subject to continuous direction or control.

Subd. 3. **City.** "City" means a statutory or home rule charter city.

Subd. 4. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 5. **Dealer.** "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling off-highway motorcycles at wholesale or retail.

Subd. 6. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of manufacturing off-highway motorcycles.

Subd. 7. **Off-highway motorcycle.** "Off-highway motorcycle" means a motorized, off-highway vehicle traveling on two wheels and having a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control, including a vehicle that is registered under chapter 168 for highway use if it is also used for off-highway operation on trails or unimproved terrain.

Subd. 8. **Owner.** "Owner" means a person, other than a person with a security interest, that has a property interest in or title to an off-highway motorcycle and is entitled to the use and possession of the motorcycle.

Subd. 9. **Person.** "Person" has the meaning given it in section 336.1-201, subsection (30).

Subd. 10. **Public road right-of-way.** "Public road right-of-way" means the entire right-of-way of a town road or a county, county state-aid, or trunk highway, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians.

Subd. 11. **Register.** "Register" means the act of assigning a registration number to an off-highway motorcycle.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 1

**84.788 REGISTRATION.**

Subdivision 1. **General requirements.** Unless exempted in subdivision 2, after January 1, 1994, a person may not operate and an owner may not give permission for another to operate an off-highway motorcycle on public lands or waters unless the vehicle has been registered under this section.

Subd. 2. **Exemptions.** Registration is not required for off-highway motorcycles:

(1) owned and used by the United States, the state, another state, or a political subdivision;

(2) registered in another state or country that have not been within this state for more than 30 consecutive days;

(3) used exclusively in organized track racing events;

(4) being used on private land with the permission of the landowner; or

(5) registered under chapter 168, when operated on forest roads to gain access to a state forest campground.

Subd. 3. **Application; issuance; reports.** (a) Application for registration or continued registration must be made to the commissioner or an authorized deputy registrar of motor vehicles in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form must state the name and address of every owner of the off-highway motorcycle.

(b) A person who purchases from a retail dealer an off-highway motorcycle that is intended to be operated on public lands or waters shall make application for registration to the dealer at the point of sale. The dealer shall issue a temporary ten-day registration permit to each purchaser who applies to the dealer for registration. The

dealer shall submit the completed registration applications and fees to the deputy registrar at least once each week. No fee may be charged by a dealer to a purchaser for providing the temporary permit.

(c) Upon receipt of the application and the appropriate fee, the commissioner or deputy registrar shall issue to the applicant, or provide to the dealer, a 60-day temporary receipt and shall assign a registration number that must be affixed to the motorcycle in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. A dealer subject to paragraph (b) shall provide the registration materials and temporary receipt to the purchaser within the ten-day temporary permit period.

(d) The commissioner shall develop a registration system to register vehicles under this section. A deputy registrar of motor vehicles acting under section 168.33, is also a deputy registrar of off-highway motorcycles. The commissioner of natural resources in agreement with the commissioner of public safety may prescribe the accounting and procedural requirements necessary to ensure efficient handling of registrations and registration fees. Deputy registrars shall strictly comply with the accounting and procedural requirements. A fee of \$2 in addition to other fees prescribed by law is charged for each off-highway motorcycle registered by:

(1) a deputy registrar and must be deposited in the treasury of the jurisdiction where the deputy is appointed, or kept if the deputy is not a public official; or

(2) the commissioner and must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-highway motorcycle account.

**Subd. 4. Registration card; signature; replacement fee.** The commissioner shall provide to the registrant a registration card that includes the registration number, the date of registration, the make and serial number of the off-highway motorcycle, the owner's name and address, and additional information the commissioner may require. The registration is not valid unless signed by at least one owner. Information concerning registrations must be kept by the commissioner. Upon a satisfactory showing that the registration card has been lost or destroyed, the commissioner shall issue a replacement registration card upon payment of a fee of \$4. The fees collected from replacement registration cards must be credited to the off-highway motorcycle account.

**Subd. 5. Report of transfers; fee.** A person who sells or transfers ownership of an off-highway motorcycle registered under this section shall report the sale or transfer to the commissioner within 15 days of the date of transfer. An application for transfer must be executed by the registered owner and the buyer on a form prescribed by the commissioner with the owner's registration certificate, a bill of sale, and a \$4 fee.

**Subd. 6. Registration fees.** (a) The fee for registration of an off-highway motorcycle under this section, other than those registered by a dealer or manufacturer under paragraph (b) or (c), is \$30 for three years and \$4 for a duplicate or transfer.

(b) The total registration fee for off-highway motorcycles owned by a dealer and operated for demonstration or testing purposes is \$50 per year. Dealer registrations are not transferable.

(c) The total registration fee for off-highway motorcycles owned by a manufacturer and operated for research, testing, experimentation, or demonstration purposes is \$150 per year. Manufacturer registrations are not transferable.

(d) The fees collected under this subdivision must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-highway motorcycle account.

**Subd. 7. Renewal.** An owner of an off-highway motorcycle must renew registration in a manner prescribed by the commissioner upon payment of the appropriate registration fee in subdivision 6.

**Subd. 8. Vehicles owned by state or political subdivision.** A registration number must be issued without the payment of a fee for off-highway motorcycles owned by the state or political subdivision upon application.

Subd. 9. **Licensing by political subdivisions.** A political subdivision of this state may not require licensing or registration of off-highway motorcycles covered by sections 84.787 to 84.796.

Subd. 10. **Registration by minors prohibited.** A person under the age of 18 may not register an off-highway motorcycle.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 2; 1995 c 220 s 59; 1996 c 410 s 20; 2001 c 185 s 2,3

#### **84.789 REQUIREMENTS OF MAKERS OF OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES.**

Subdivision 1. **Identification number.** An off-highway motorcycle made after January 1, 1994, and sold in the state, must have a manufacturer's permanent identification number stamped in letters and numbers on the vehicle in the form and at a location prescribed by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Registration number.** An off-highway motorcycle made after January 1, 1995, and sold in the state, must be designed and made to provide an area to affix the registration number. This area must be at a location and of dimensions prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 3

#### **84.79 RULEMAKING; ACCIDENT REPORT.**

(a) With a view of achieving proper use of off-highway motorcycles consistent with protection of the environment, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of public safety and transportation, shall adopt rules under chapter 14 relating to:

- (1) registration of off-highway motorcycles and display of registration numbers;
- (2) use of off-highway motorcycles insofar as game and fish resources are affected;
- (3) use of off-highway motorcycles on public lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner;
- (4) uniform signs to be used by the state, counties, and cities necessary or desirable to control, direct, or regulate the operation and use of off-highway motorcycles; and
- (5) off-highway motorcycle sound levels.

(b) The commissioner of public safety, in consultation with the commissioners of natural resources and transportation, may adopt rules under chapter 14 regulating the use of off-highway motorcycles on public roads.

(c) The operator and an officer investigating an accident of an off-highway motorcycle resulting in injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization to or death of a person or total damage to an extent of \$500 or more shall forward within ten days a written report of the accident to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 4

#### **84.791 EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

Subdivision 1. **Program established.** The commissioner shall establish a comprehensive off-highway motorcycle environment and safety education and training program, including the preparation and dissemination of vehicle information and safety advice to the public, the training of off-highway motorcycle operators, and the issuance of off-highway motorcycle safety certificates to operators under the age of 16 years who successfully complete the off-highway motorcycle environment and safety education and training courses.

Subd. 2. **Fee.** For the purposes of administering the program and to defray a portion of the expenses of training and certifying vehicle operators, the commissioner shall collect a fee not to exceed \$5 from each person who receives the training. The fees must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-highway motorcycle account.

Subd. 3. **Cooperation and consultation.** The commissioner shall cooperate with private organizations and associations, private and public corporations, and local

governmental units in furtherance of the program established under this section. The commissioner shall consult with the commissioner of public safety in regard to training program subject matter and performance testing that leads to the certification of off-road motorcycle operators.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 5

**84.792** [Repealed, 2001 c 185 s 34]

**84.793 YOUTHFUL OPERATORS; PROHIBITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Prohibitions on youthful operators.** (a) After January 1, 1995, a person less than 16 years of age operating an off-highway motorcycle on public lands or waters must possess a valid off-highway motorcycle safety certificate issued by the commissioner.

(b) Except for operation on public road rights-of-way that is permitted under section 84.795, subdivision 1, a driver's license issued by the state or another state is required to operate an off-highway motorcycle along or on a public road right-of-way.

(c) A person under 12 years of age may not:

(1) make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way;

(2) operate an off-highway motorcycle on a public road right-of-way in the state;  
or

(3) operate an off-highway motorcycle on public lands or waters unless accompanied on another off-highway motorcycle by a person 18 years of age or older.

(d) Except for public road rights-of-way of interstate highways, a person less than 16 years of age may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway only if that person is accompanied on another off-highway motorcycle by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

(e) A person less than 16 years of age may operate an off-highway motorcycle on public road rights-of-way in accordance with section 84.795, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), only if that person is accompanied on another off-highway motorcycle by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

Subd. 2. **Helmet required.** A person less than 18 years of age may not operate an off-highway motorcycle on public land, public waters, or on a public road right-of-way unless wearing a safety helmet approved by the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 3. **Prohibitions on owner.** An owner of an off-highway motorcycle may not knowingly allow it to be operated contrary to this section.

Subd. 4. **Eye protection required.** A person may not operate an off-highway motorcycle without an eye-protective device.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 7

**84.794 OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE ACCOUNT; RECEIPTS AND ALLOCATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Registration revenue.** Fees from the registration of off-highway motorcycles and the unrefunded gasoline tax attributable to off-highway motorcycle use under section 296A.18 must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-highway motorcycle account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2. **Purposes.** (a) Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money in the off-highway motorcycle account may only be spent for:

(1) administration, enforcement, and implementation of sections 84.787 to 84.796;

(2) acquisition, maintenance, and development of off-highway motorcycle trails and use areas; and

(3) grants-in-aid to counties and municipalities to construct and maintain off-highway motorcycle trails and use areas.

(b) The distribution of funds made available for grants-in-aid must be guided by the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 8; 1994 c 587 art 12 s 1; 1998 c 299 s 30

#### **84.795 OPERATION REQUIREMENTS; LOCAL REGULATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Operation on public road rights-of-way.** (a) A person may not operate an off-highway motorcycle within the right-of-way of a town road or a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway in this state unless the right-of-way encompasses:

(1) a trail administered by the commissioner and designated for off-highway motorcycle use or multiple use; or

(2) a corridor access trail designated under paragraph (b).

(b) A road authority, as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25, may designate, with the approval of the commissioner, corridor access trails on public road rights-of-way for gaining access to established off-highway motorcycle trails.

(c) A person may not operate an off-highway motorcycle upon a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway in this state unless the vehicle is equipped with at least one headlight and one taillight, each of minimum candlepower as prescribed by rule of the commissioner, and with brakes conforming to standards prescribed by rule of the commissioner, all of which are subject to the approval of the commissioner of public safety.

(d) A person may not operate an off-highway motorcycle at any time within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway within this state.

Subd. 2. **Crossing public road right-of-way.** (a) A person operating an off-highway motorcycle may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way provided:

(1) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the road and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;

(2) the off-highway motorcycle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the road;

(3) the driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard;

(4) in crossing a divided road, the crossing is made only at an intersection of the road with another public road; and

(5) if the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.

(b) Chapters 169 and 169A apply to the operation of off-highway motorcycles upon streets and highways, except for those provisions relating to required equipment and those provisions that by their nature have no application.

Subd. 3. **Exemptions.** Subdivisions 1 and 2 do not apply to vehicles registered for public road use under chapter 168 when being operated on a traveled portion of a public road.

Subd. 4. **Operation generally.** A person may not drive or operate an off-highway motorcycle:

(1) at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under the surrounding circumstances;

(2) in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger or to cause injury or damage to the person or property of another;

(3) in a tree nursery or planting in a manner that damages or destroys growing stock;

(4) without a brake operational by either hand or foot;

(5) at a speed exceeding ten miles per hour on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person fishing or a fishing shelter; or

(6) in a manner that violates operation rules adopted by the commissioner.

Subd. 5. **Operating under influence of alcohol or controlled substance.** A person may not operate or be in control of an off-highway motorcycle anywhere in this state or on the ice of any boundary water of this state while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, as provided in section 169A.20, and is subject to sections 169A.50 to 169A.53. A conservation officer of the department of natural resources is a peace officer for the purposes of sections 169A.20 and 169A.50 to 169A.53 as applied to the operation of an off-highway motorcycle in a manner not subject to registration under chapter 168.

Subd. 6. **Operation prohibited on airports.** A person may not drive or operate an off-highway motorcycle on an airport defined in section 360.013, subdivision 39.

Subd. 7. **Organized contests.** Nothing in this section or chapter 169 prohibits the use of off-highway motorcycles within the right-of-way of a state trunk or county state-aid highway or upon public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, in an organized contest or event, subject to the consent of the official or board having jurisdiction over the highway or public lands or waters.

In permitting the contest or event, the official or board having jurisdiction may prescribe restrictions, conditions, or permit revocation procedures, as the official or board considers advisable.

Subd. 8. **Regulations by political subdivisions.** A county, city, or town, acting through its governing body, may regulate the operation of off-highway motorcycles on public lands, waters, and property under its jurisdiction other than public road rights-of-way within its boundaries, by resolution or ordinance of the governing body and by giving appropriate notice, provided that:

(1) the regulations must be consistent with sections 84.787 to 84.796 and rules adopted under section 84.79;

(2) an ordinance may not impose a fee for the use of public land or water under the jurisdiction of either the department of natural resources or another agency of the state, or for the use of an access to it owned by the state, a county, or a city; and

(3) an ordinance may not require an off-highway motorcycle operator to possess a motor vehicle driver's license while operating an off-highway motorcycle.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 9; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7

#### 84.796 PENALTIES.

(a) A person who violates a provision of section 84.788, 84.789, 84.793, or 84.795 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A person who violates a provision of a rule adopted under section 84.79 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 1 s 10; 1Sp1995 c 1 s 4; 2001 c 185 s 4

### OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

#### 84.797 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 84.797 to 84.805.

Subd. 2. **City.** "City" means a statutory or home rule charter city.

Subd. 3. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 4. **Dealer.** "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling off-road vehicles at wholesale or retail.

Subd. 5. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of manufacturing off-road vehicles.

Subd. 6. **Off-road.** "Off-road" means on trails or nonpublic roads or for cross-country travel on natural terrain. For purposes of sections 84.797 to 84.805, nonpublic

roads include state forest roads, county forest roads, and other roads and trails that are not operated by a public road authority as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25.

**Subd. 7. Off-road vehicle.** "Off-road vehicle" or "vehicle" means a motor-driven recreational vehicle capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain without benefit of a road or trail. Off-road vehicle does not include a snowmobile; an all-terrain vehicle; a motorcycle; a watercraft; a farm vehicle being used for farming; a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes; a construction or logging vehicle used in the performance of its common function; a motor vehicle owned by or operated under contract with a utility, whether publicly or privately owned, when used for work on utilities; a commercial vehicle being used for its intended purpose; snow-grooming equipment when used for its intended purpose; or an aircraft.

**Subd. 8. Off-road vehicle use area.** "Off-road vehicle use area" means an area that is posted or designated for off-road vehicle use in accordance with rules adopted by the managing authority.

**Subd. 9. Owner.** "Owner" means a person, other than a person with a security interest, that has a property interest in or title to an off-road vehicle and is entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle.

**Subd. 10. Person.** "Person" has the meaning given in section 336.1-201, paragraph (30).

**Subd. 11. Public road right-of-way.** "Public road right-of-way" means the entire right-of-way of a roadway that is not privately owned, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians.

**Subd. 12. Off-road vehicle staging area.** "Off-road vehicle staging area" means a parking lot, trail head, campground, or other location to or from which an off-road vehicle is transported by truck, trailer, or other motor vehicle so that it may be placed into operation or removed from operation on public lands. Off-road vehicle staging area does not include a location to which an off-road vehicle is transported primarily for servicing, maintenance, repair, storage, or sale.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 1

## 84.798 REGISTRATION.

**Subdivision 1. General requirements.** Unless exempted under subdivision 2, after January 1, 1995, a person may not operate and an owner may not give permission for another to operate a vehicle off-road, nor may a person have an off-road vehicle not registered under chapter 168 in possession at an off-road vehicle staging area, or designated trail or area, unless the vehicle has been registered under this section.

**Subd. 2. Exemptions.** Registration is not required for an off-road vehicle that is:

- (1) owned and used by the United States, the state, another state, or a political subdivision; or
- (2) registered in another state or country and has not been in this state for more than 30 consecutive days.

**Subd. 3. Application; issuance.** Application for registration or continued registration must be made to the commissioner, or an authorized deputy registrar of motor vehicles in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form must state the name and address of every owner of the off-road vehicle. Upon receipt of the application and the appropriate fee, the commissioner shall register the off-road vehicle and assign a registration number that must be affixed to the vehicle in accordance with subdivision 4. A deputy registrar of motor vehicles acting under section 168.33 is also a deputy registrar of off-road vehicles. The commissioner of natural resources in cooperation with the commissioner of public safety may prescribe the accounting and procedural requirements necessary to ensure efficient handling of registrations and registration fees. Deputy registrars shall strictly comply with the accounting and procedural requirements. A fee of \$2 in addition to other fees prescribed by law must be charged for each off-road vehicle registered by:



(1) a deputy registrar and must be deposited in the treasury of the jurisdiction where the deputy is appointed, or retained if the deputy is not a public official; or

(2) the commissioner and must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-road vehicle account.

**Subd. 4. Registration sticker.** An off-road vehicle must display a registration sticker issued by the commissioner. If the vehicle is licensed as a motor vehicle, the registration sticker must be affixed on the upper left corner of the rear license plate. If the vehicle is not licensed as a motor vehicle, the owner shall provide a plate not less than four inches high and 7-1/2 inches wide. The plate must be attached to the rear of the vehicle at least 12 inches from the ground. The registration sticker must be affixed on the upper left corner of the plate. Plates and registration stickers must be maintained in a clean and legible condition.

**Subd. 5. Registration card; signature; replacement fee.** The commissioner shall provide to the registrant a registration card that includes the registration number, date of expiration, make and serial number of the off-road vehicle, owner's name and address, and additional information the commissioner may require. The registration is not valid unless signed by at least one owner. Information concerning each registration must be kept by the commissioner. If a registration card is lost or destroyed, the commissioner shall issue a replacement registration card on payment of a fee of \$4. The fees collected from replacement registration cards must be credited to the off-road vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

**Subd. 6. Registration fees.** (a) The fee for registration of an off-road vehicle under this section, other than those registered by a dealer or manufacturer under paragraph (b) or (c), is \$30 for three years and \$4 for a duplicate or transfer.

(b) The total registration fee for off-road vehicles owned by a dealer and operated off-road for demonstration or testing purposes is \$50 per year. Dealer registrations are not transferable.

(c) The total registration fee for off-road vehicles owned by a manufacturer and operated off-road for research, testing, experimentation, or demonstration purposes is \$150 per year. Manufacturer registrations are not transferable.

(d) The fees collected under this subdivision must be credited to the off-road vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

**Subd. 7. Renewal.** An owner of an off-road vehicle must renew registration in a manner prescribed by the commissioner upon payment of the appropriate registration fee under subdivision 5.

**Subd. 8. Licensing by political subdivisions.** A political subdivision may not require licensing or registration of off-road vehicles regulated under sections 84.797 to 84.805.

**Subd. 9. Registration by minors prohibited.** A person under the age of 18 may not register an off-road vehicle.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 2; 1995 c 220 s 60; 2001 c 185 s 5,6

#### **84.799 VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.**

An off-road vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1995, and sold in the state must have a manufacturer's permanent identification number stamped in letters and numbers on the vehicle.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 3

#### **84.80 RULEMAKING; ACCIDENT REPORT.**

**Subdivision 1. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules under chapter 14 relating to:

(1) the use of off-road vehicles, in a manner consistent with protection of the environment, on public lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, including measures to minimize adverse impacts on soils, waters, vegetation, and wildlife;

(2) off-road vehicle equipment and safety standards, in consultation with the commissioner of public safety;

(3) uniform signs to be used by the state, counties, and cities to control, direct, or regulate the operation and use of off-road vehicles; and

(4) maximum off-road vehicle sound levels.

Subd. 2. **Accident report; requirement and form.** The operator and an officer investigating an accident involving an off-road vehicle and resulting in injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization, death, or total damage of \$300 or more shall forward within ten days a written report of the accident to the commissioner of natural resources on a form prescribed by either the commissioner or the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 4

**84.801** [Repealed, 2001 c 185 s 34]

**84.802 YOUTHFUL OPERATORS; PROHIBITIONS.**

(a) A person under 16 years of age may not operate an off-road vehicle.

(b) Except for operation on public road rights-of-way that is permitted under section 84.804, a driver's license issued by the state or another state is required to operate an off-road vehicle along or on a public road right-of-way.

(c) An owner of an off-road vehicle may not knowingly allow it to be operated in violation of this section.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 6

**84.803 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACCOUNT; RECEIPTS AND ALLOCATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Registration revenue.** Fees from the registration of off-road vehicles and unrefunded gasoline tax attributable to off-road vehicle use under section 296A.18 must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-road vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2. **Purposes.** Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money in the off-road vehicle account may only be spent for:

(1) administration and implementation of sections 84.797 to 84.805 and Laws 1993, chapter 311, article 2, section 18;

(2) acquisition, maintenance, and development of off-road vehicle trails and use areas;

(3) grant-in-aid programs to counties and municipalities to construct and maintain off-road vehicle trails and use areas; and

(4) grants-in-aid to local safety programs.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 7; 1994 c 587 art 12 s 2; 1998 c 299 s 30

**84.804 OPERATION REQUIREMENTS; LOCAL REGULATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Operation on public road rights-of-way.** (a) A person may not operate a vehicle off-road within a public road right-of-way in this state except on a trail designated by the commissioner and approved by the unit of government having jurisdiction over the right-of-way.

(b) A person may not operate a vehicle off-road within a public road right-of-way between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except on the right-hand side of the right-of-way and in the same direction as traffic on the nearest lane of the road.

(c) A person may not operate an off-road vehicle within the right-of-way of an interstate highway.

Subd. 2. **Crossing public road rights-of-way.** (a) An off-road vehicle not registered under chapter 168 may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way for the purpose of continuing on a designated off-road trail if:

(1) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the road and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;

(2) the vehicle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the road;

(3) the driver yields the right-of-way to all traffic;

(4) in crossing a divided road, the crossing is made only at an intersection of the road with another public road; and

(5) if the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.

(b) An off-road vehicle not registered under chapter 168 may be operated on a bridge, other than a bridge that is part of the main traveled lanes of an interstate highway, or a roadway shoulder or inside bank of a public road right-of-way when required to avoid obstructions to travel and no other method of avoidance is possible, provided that the vehicle is operated in the farthest right-hand lane, the entrance to the roadway is made within 100 feet of the bridge or obstacle, and the crossing is made without undue delay.

(c) A person may not operate an off-road vehicle on a public street or highway unless the off-road vehicle is equipped with at least one headlight and one taillight, each of minimum candlepower as prescribed by rules of the commissioner, and with brakes conforming to standards prescribed by rule of the commissioner, and all of which are subject to the approval of the commissioner of public safety.

(d) Chapter 169 applies to the operation of off-road vehicles on streets and highways, except that those provisions that by their nature have no application and those provisions relating to required equipment do not apply to vehicles not registered under chapter 168. Chapter 169A applies to the operation of off-road vehicles anywhere in the state and on the ice of boundary waters.

(e) A road authority, as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25, may, with the approval of the commissioner, designate access trails on public road rights-of-way for gaining access to established off-road vehicle trails.

Subd. 3. **Operation generally.** A person may not drive or operate a vehicle off-road:

(1) at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable under the surrounding circumstances;

(2) in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner which may endanger or cause injury or damage to the person or property of another;

(3) without a functioning stoplight if so equipped;

(4) in a tree nursery or planting in a manner that damages or destroys growing stock;

(5) without a brake operational by either hand or foot; or

(6) in a manner that violates rules adopted by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Operation prohibited on airports.** It is unlawful for a person to drive or operate an off-road vehicle on an airport, as defined in section 360.013, subdivision 39, except in connection with the operation of the airport.

Subd. 5. **Organized contests.** (a) Nothing in this section or chapter 169 prohibits the use of vehicles off-road within the right-of-way of a state trunk or county state-aid highway or on public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner in an organized contest or event, subject to the consent of the official or board having jurisdiction over the highway or public lands or waters.

(b) In permitting the contest or event, the official or board having jurisdiction must obtain the commissioner's approval and may prescribe restrictions or conditions it considers advisable.

Subd. 6. **Regulation by political subdivisions.** (a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), a county, city, or town acting through its governing body may regulate the

operation of off-road vehicles on public lands, waters, and property under its jurisdiction, other than public road rights-of-way within its boundaries, by ordinance of the governing body and by giving appropriate notice.

(b) The ordinance must be consistent with sections 84.797 to 84.805 and rules adopted under section 84.80.

(c) An ordinance may not impose a fee for the use of public land or water under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources or another agency of the state, or for the use of an access to the public land or water owned by the state, a county, or a city.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 8; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7

#### 84.805 PENALTIES.

A person who violates any provision of sections 84.797 to 84.804 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1993 c 311 art 2 s 9

### SNOWMOBILES

#### 84.81 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** For the purposes of Laws 1967, chapter 876, the terms defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Person.** "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, the state and its agencies and subdivisions, and any body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

Subd. 3. **Snowmobile.** "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice steered by skis or runners.

Subd. 4. **Owner.** "Owner" means a person, other than a lien holder, having the property in or title to a snowmobile entitled to the use or possession thereof.

Subd. 5. **Operate.** "Operate" means to ride in or on and control the operation of a snowmobile.

Subd. 6. **Operator.** "Operator" means every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.

Subd. 7. **Register.** "Register" means the act of assigning a registration number to a snowmobile.

Subd. 8. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources acting directly or through the commissioner's authorized agent.

Subd. 9. **Roadway.** "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Subd. 10. **Dealer.** "Dealer" means a person, partnership, or corporation engaged in the business of selling snowmobiles at wholesale or retail.

Subd. 11. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person, partnership, or corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing snowmobiles.

Subd. 12. **Collector snowmobile.** "Collector snowmobile" means a snowmobile that is 25 years old or older, was originally produced as a separate identifiable make by a manufacturer, and is owned and operated solely as a collector's item.

Subd. 13. **Metal traction device.** "Metal traction device" means any metal device or array of metal devices attached to a snowmobile track to enhance traction that is:

(1) made of metal, except that metal cleats affixed perpendicular to the direction of travel of a snowmobile track which was manufactured in 1981 or earlier shall not be considered a metal traction device; or

(2) affixed to a snowmobile track with metal components that extend more than one-fourth inch from the bottom of the track.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 3; 1969 c 695 s 1,2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 577 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1995 c 1 s 5; 1999 c 231 s 86

**84.82 SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION.**

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1984 c 654 art 2 s 155]

Subd. 1a. **General requirements.** A person may not operate or transport a snowmobile unless the snowmobile has been registered under this section. A person may not sell a snowmobile without furnishing the buyer a bill of sale on a form prescribed by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Application, issuance, reports, additional fee.** (a) Application for registration or reregistration shall be made to the commissioner of natural resources, or the commissioner of public safety or an authorized deputy registrar of motor vehicles in such form as the commissioner of public safety shall prescribe, and shall state the legal name and address of every owner of the snowmobile.

(b) A person who purchases a snowmobile from a retail dealer shall make application for registration to the dealer at the point of sale. The dealer shall issue a temporary registration permit to each purchaser who applies to the dealer for registration. The temporary registration is valid for 60 days from the date of issue. Each retail dealer shall submit completed registration and fees to the deputy registrar at least once a week. Upon receipt of the application and the appropriate fee as hereinafter provided, such snowmobile shall be registered and a registration number assigned which shall be affixed to the snowmobile in a clearly visible and permanent manner for enforcement purposes as the commissioner of natural resources shall prescribe. The registration is not valid unless signed by at least one owner.

(c) Each deputy registrar of motor vehicles acting pursuant to section 168.33, shall also be a deputy registrar of snowmobiles. The commissioner of natural resources in agreement with the commissioner of public safety may prescribe the accounting and procedural requirements necessary to assure efficient handling of registrations and registration fees. Deputy registrars shall strictly comply with these accounting and procedural requirements.

(d) A fee of \$2 in addition to that otherwise prescribed by law shall be charged for:

(1) each snowmobile registered by the registrar or a deputy registrar and the additional fee shall be disposed of in the manner provided in section 168.33, subdivision 2; or

(2) each snowmobile registered by the commissioner and the additional fee shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 3. **Fees for registration.** (a) The fee for registration of each snowmobile, other than those used for an agricultural purpose, as defined in section 84.92, subdivision 1c, or those registered by a dealer or manufacturer pursuant to clause (b) or (c) shall be as follows: \$45 for three years and \$4 for a duplicate or transfer.

(b) The total registration fee for all snowmobiles owned by a dealer and operated for demonstration or testing purposes shall be \$50 per year.

(c) The total registration fee for all snowmobiles owned by a manufacturer and operated for research, testing, experimentation, or demonstration purposes shall be \$150 per year. Dealer and manufacturer registrations are not transferable.

Subd. 4. **Renewal.** Every owner of a snowmobile shall renew its registration in such manner as the commissioner shall prescribe, upon payment of the same registration fees provided in subdivision 3 hereof.

Subd. 5. **Snowmobiles owned by state or political subdivision.** A registration number shall be issued without the payment of a fee for snowmobiles owned by the state of Minnesota or a political subdivision thereof upon application therefor.

Subd. 6. **Exemptions.** Registration is not required under this section for:

(1) a snowmobile owned and used by the United States, another state, or a political subdivision thereof;

(2) a snowmobile registered in a country other than the United States temporarily used within this state;

(3) a snowmobile that is covered by a valid license of another state and has not been within this state for more than 30 consecutive days;

(4) a snowmobile used exclusively in organized track racing events;

(5) a snowmobile in transit by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer; or

(6) a snowmobile at least 15 years old in transit by an individual for use only on land owned or leased by the individual.

Subd. 7. **Out of state snowmobiles.** The commissioner of natural resources may issue special permits to out of state snowmobiles from a state or country where registration is not required to operate in Minnesota for limited periods of time not to exceed 30 days in connection with organized group outings, trailrides, races, rallies and other promotional events.

Subd. 7a. **Collector snowmobiles.** The commissioner may issue a special permit to a person or organization to operate or transport a collector snowmobile without registration in parades or organized group outings, such as races, rallies, and other promotional events and for up to ten days each year for personal transportation. The commissioner may impose a reasonable restriction on a permittee and may revoke, amend, suspend, or modify a permit for cause.

Subd. 8. **Registration by persons under 18 prohibited.** No person under the age of 18 years may register a snowmobile.

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1985 c 54 s 3]

Subd. 10. **Proof of sales tax payment.** A person applying for initial registration of a snowmobile must provide a snowmobile purchaser's certificate, showing a complete description of the snowmobile, the seller's name and address, the full purchase price of the snowmobile, and the trade-in allowance, if any. The certificate must include information showing either (1) that the sales and use tax under chapter 297A was paid or (2) the purchase was exempt from tax under chapter 297A. The commissioner of public safety, in consultation with the commissioner and the commissioner of revenue, shall prescribe the form of the certificate.

The certificate is not required if the applicant provides a receipt, invoice, or other document that shows the snowmobile was purchased from a retailer maintaining a place of business in this state as defined in section 297A.66, subdivision 1.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 4; 1969 c 131 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 3,4; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 577 s 2-5; Ex1971 c 48 s 33,34; 1973 c 202 s 1; 1979 c 241 s 1; 1982 c 580 s 1,2; 1985 c 54 s 1,2; 1986 c 444; 1991 c 254 art 2 s 5,6; 1991 c 291 art 8 s 1; 1993 c 375 art 1 s 1; 1995 c 220 s 61; 1Sp1995 c 1 s 6,7; 1997 c 216 s 61; 1997 c 226 s 7; 2000 c 418 art 1 s 44; 2001 c 185 s 7

#### 84.8205 SNOWMOBILE STATE TRAIL STICKER.

Subdivision 1. **Sticker required; fee.** A person may not operate a snowmobile that is not registered in this state on a state or grant-in-aid snowmobile trail unless a snowmobile state trail sticker is affixed to the snowmobile. The commissioner of natural resources shall issue a sticker upon application and payment of a \$15 fee. The sticker is valid from November 1 through April 30. Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2. **Placement of sticker.** The state trail sticker shall be permanently affixed to the forward half of the snowmobile directly above or below the headlight of the snowmobile.

Subd. 3. **License agents.** County auditors are appointed agents of the commissioner for the sale of snowmobile state trail stickers. The commissioner may appoint other state agencies as agents for the sale of the stickers. A county auditor may appoint subagents within the county or within adjacent counties to sell stickers. Upon appointment of a subagent, the auditor shall notify the commissioner of the name and address

of the subagent. The auditor may revoke the appointment of a subagent, and the commissioner may revoke the appointment of a state agency at any time. The commissioner may require an auditor to revoke a subagent's appointment. The auditor shall furnish stickers on consignment to any subagent who furnishes a surety bond in favor of the county in an amount at least equal to the value of the stickers to be consigned to that subagent. A surety bond is not required for a state agency appointed by the commissioner. The county auditor shall be responsible for all stickers issued to and user fees received by agents except in a county where the county auditor does not retain fees paid for license purposes. In these counties, the responsibilities imposed by this section upon the county auditor are imposed upon the county. The commissioner may promulgate additional rules governing the accounting and procedures for handling state trail stickers as provided in section 97A.485, subdivision 11.

Any resident desiring to sell snowmobile state trail stickers may either purchase for cash or obtain on consignment stickers from a county auditor in groups of not less than ten individual stickers. In selling stickers, the resident shall be deemed a subagent of the county auditor and the commissioner, and shall observe all rules promulgated by the commissioner for accounting and handling of licenses and stickers pursuant to section 97A.485, subdivision 11.

The county auditor shall promptly deposit all money received from the sale of the stickers with the county treasurer and shall promptly transmit any reports required by the commissioner, plus 96 percent of the price paid by each stickerholder, exclusive of the issuing fee, for each sticker sold or consigned by the auditor and subsequently sold to a stickerholder during the accounting period. The county auditor shall retain as a commission four percent of all sticker fees, excluding the issuing fee for stickers consigned to subagents and the issuing fee on stickers sold by the auditor to stickerholders.

Unsold stickers in the hands of any subagent shall be redeemed by the commissioner if presented for redemption within the time prescribed by the commissioner. Any stickers not presented for redemption within the period prescribed shall be conclusively presumed to have been sold, and the subagent possessing the same or to whom they are charged shall be accountable.

Subd. 4. **Distribution of stickers.** The commissioner shall provide stickers to all agents authorized to issue stickers by the commissioner.

Subd. 5. **Agent's fee.** The fee for a sticker shall be increased by the amount of an issuing fee of \$1 per sticker. The issuing fee may be retained by the seller of the sticker.

Subd. 6. **Duplicate state trail stickers.** The commissioner shall issue a duplicate sticker to persons whose sticker is lost or destroyed using the process established under section 97A.405, subdivision 3, and rules promulgated thereunder. The fee for a duplicate state trail sticker is \$2, with an issuing fee of 50 cents.

*History: 1997 c 216 s 62; 1998 c 401 s 21; 1999 c 231 s 87*

#### **84.821 REQUIREMENTS OF MAKERS OF SNOWMOBILES.**

Subdivision 1. **Identification number.** All snowmobiles made after June 30, 1972, and sold in Minnesota, shall bear the maker's permanent identification number stamped in letters and numbers in the form and at a location prescribed by rule of the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Area for registration number.** All snowmobiles made after June 30, 1972, and sold in Minnesota, shall be designed and made to provide an area on which to affix the registration number. This area shall be at a location and of dimensions prescribed by rule of the commissioner.

*History: 1971 c 577 s 6; 1985 c 248 s 70*

#### **84.83 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS AND ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNT; RECEIPTS AND ALLOCATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** There is created in the state treasury an account known as the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2. **Money deposited in the account.** Fees from the registration of snowmobiles and the unrefunded gasoline tax attributable to snowmobile use pursuant to section 296A.18, as well as the net proceeds from the sale of snowmobiles forfeited pursuant to section 169A.63, shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account.

Subd. 3. **Purposes for the account.** The money deposited in the account and interest earned on that money may be expended only as appropriated by law for the following purposes:

(1) for a grant-in-aid program to counties and municipalities for construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails, including maintenance of trails on lands and waters of Voyageurs National Park;

(2) for acquisition, development, and maintenance of state recreational snowmobile trails;

(3) for snowmobile safety programs; and

(4) for the administration and enforcement of sections 84.81 to 84.91 and appropriated grants to local law enforcement agencies.

Subd. 4. **Provisions applicable to funding recipients.** (a) Recipients of Minnesota trail assistance program funds must be afforded the same protection and be held to the same standard of liability as a political subdivision under chapter 466 for activities associated with the administration, design, construction, maintenance, and grooming of snowmobile trails.

(b) Recipients of Minnesota trail assistance program funds who maintain ice trails on waters of Voyageurs National Park are expressly immune from liability under section 466.03, subdivision 6e.

Subd. 4a. **Trail continuation on lands acquired by the state.** When the commissioner acquires lands with easements or other agreements for snowmobile trails that have received grant-in-aid financing under this section, the commissioner shall:

(1) continue the easements or other agreements for the snowmobile trail; or

(2) develop an alternative route for the trail, including acquiring any necessary easements or other agreements for the trail right-of-way and providing funding for all expenses associated with clearing and marking the snowmobile trail.

Subd. 5. **Fines and forfeited bail.** The disposition of fines and forfeited bail collected from prosecutions of violations of sections 84.81 to 84.91 or rules adopted thereunder, and violations of section 169A.20 that involve off-road recreational vehicles, as defined in section 169A.03, subdivision 16, are governed by section 97A.065.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 5; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 5; 1982 c 580 s 3; 1987 c 404 s 97; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 17; 1992 c 573 s 1; 1995 c 230 s 1,2; 1Sp1997 c 2 s 1,67; 1998 c 299 s 30; 1999 c 231 s 88,89; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7; 2001 c 165 s 1; 2001 c 185 s 8,9; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 79

#### 84.84 TRANSFER OR TERMINATION OF SNOWMOBILE OWNERSHIP.

Within 15 days after the transfer of ownership, or any part thereof, other than a security interest, or the destruction or abandonment of any snowmobile, written notice thereof shall be given to the commissioner in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe. Every owner or part owner of a snowmobile shall, upon failure to give such notice, be subject to the penalties imposed by Laws 1967, chapter 876.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 6; 1986 c 444

#### 84.85 LICENSING BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

No political subdivision of this state shall require licensing or registration of snowmobiles covered by the provisions of Laws 1967, chapter 876.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 7



**84.86 RULES.**

Subdivision 1. **Required rules.** With a view of achieving maximum use of snowmobiles consistent with protection of the environment the commissioner of natural resources shall adopt rules in the manner provided by chapter 14, for the following purposes:

- (1) Registration of snowmobiles and display of registration numbers.
- (2) Use of snowmobiles insofar as game and fish resources are affected.
- (3) Use of snowmobiles on public lands and waters, or on grant-in-aid trails.
- (4) Uniform signs to be used by the state, counties, and cities, which are necessary or desirable to control, direct, or regulate the operation and use of snowmobiles.
- (5) Specifications relating to snowmobile mufflers.
- (6) A comprehensive snowmobile information and safety education and training program, including but not limited to the preparation and dissemination of snowmobile information and safety advice to the public, the training of snowmobile operators, and the issuance of snowmobile safety certificates to snowmobile operators who successfully complete the snowmobile safety education and training course. For the purpose of administering such program and to defray expenses of training and certifying snowmobile operators, the commissioner shall collect a fee from each person who receives the youth and young adult training or the adult training. The commissioner shall establish a fee that neither significantly overrecovers nor underrecovers costs, including overhead costs, involved in providing the services. The fee is not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. The fees must be deposited in the snowmobile trails and enforcement account and the amount thereof is appropriated annually to the enforcement division of the department of natural resources for the administration of such programs. In addition to the fee established by the commissioner, instructors may charge each person up to the established fee amount for class materials and expenses. The commissioner shall cooperate with private organizations and associations, private and public corporations, and local governmental units in furtherance of the program established under this clause. School districts may cooperate with the commissioner and volunteer instructors to provide space for the classroom portion of the training. The commissioner shall consult with the commissioner of public safety in regard to training program subject matter and performance testing that leads to the certification of snowmobile operators.
- (7) The operator of any snowmobile involved in an accident resulting in injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization to or death of any person or total damage to an extent of \$500 or more, shall forward a written report of the accident to the commissioner on such form as the commissioner shall prescribe. If the operator is killed or is unable to file a report due to incapacitation, any peace officer investigating the accident shall file the accident report within ten business days.

Subd. 2. **Public safety rules.** The commissioner of public safety may adopt rules not inconsistent herewith in the manner provided by chapter 14, regulating the use of snowmobiles on streets and highways.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 8; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 6; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 491 s 1; 1971 c 577 s 7; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 594 s 2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1Sp1985 c 13 s 194; 1986 c 444; 1993 c 184 s 1; 1997 c 216 s 63; 1998 c 401 s 22; 1999 c 4 s 1; 1999 c 231 s 90; 2000 c 495 s 3

**84.862 SNOWMOBILE TRAINING REQUIRED.**

Subdivision 1. **Youth and young adult safety training.** (a) Effective October 1, 1998, any resident born after December 31, 1979, who operates a snowmobile in Minnesota, must possess:

- (1) a valid snowmobile safety certificate;
- (2) a driver's license that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12; or

(3) an identification card that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

(b) The certificate or qualification indicator may only be issued upon successful completion of a course authorized under section 84.86. Either the youth course under this subdivision or the adult course under subdivision 2 may be completed by persons 16 years of age or older.

Subd. 2. **Adult safety training.** (a) Effective October 1, 2002, any resident born after December 31, 1976, and before December 31, 1983, who operates a snowmobile in Minnesota, must possess:

(1) a valid snowmobile safety certificate;

(2) a driver's license that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12; or

(3) an identification card that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

(b) The certificate or qualification indicator may only be issued upon successful completion of a safety course designed for adults or persons 16 years of age or older. Whenever possible, the safety course shall include a riding component that stresses stopping distances.

Subd. 3. **Training for offenders.** Any person who is convicted for a second or subsequent speeding violation in a snowmobile season, or any conviction for careless or reckless operation of a snowmobile, must successfully complete the training course in subdivision 1 or 2 before continuing operation of a snowmobile.

**History:** 1997 c 216 s 64; 1999 c 231 s 91,92; 2001 c 185 s 10,11

#### **84.87 OPERATION; REGULATIONS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Operation on streets and highways.** (a) No person shall operate a snowmobile upon the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any trunk, county state aid, or county highway in this state and, in the case of a divided trunk or county highway, on the right-of-way between the opposing lanes of traffic, except as provided in sections 84.81 to 84.90. No person shall operate a snowmobile within the right-of-way of any trunk, county state aid, or county highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except on the right-hand side of such right-of-way and in the same direction as the highway traffic on the nearest lane of the roadway adjacent thereto. No snowmobile shall be operated at any time within the right-of-way of any interstate highway or freeway within this state.

(b) A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a street or highway at any hour of the day provided:

(1) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing; and

(2) the snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway; and

(3) the driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard; and

(4) in crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway; and

(5) if the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on; and

(6) a snowmobile may be operated upon a bridge, other than a bridge that is part of the main traveled lanes of an interstate highway, when required for the purpose of avoiding obstructions to travel when no other method of avoidance is possible; provided the snowmobile is operated in the extreme right-hand lane, the entrance to the roadway is made within 100 feet of the bridge and the crossing is made without undue delay.

(c) No snowmobile shall be operated upon a public street or highway unless it is equipped with at least one headlamp, one tail lamp, each of minimum candlepower as prescribed by rules of the commissioner, reflector material of a minimum area of 16 square inches mounted on each side forward of the handle bars, and with brakes each of which shall conform to standards prescribed by rule of the commissioner pursuant to the authority vested in the commissioner by section 84.86, and each of which shall be subject to approval of the commissioner of public safety.

(d) A snowmobile may be operated upon a public street or highway other than as provided by clause (b) in an emergency during the period of time when and at locations where snow upon the roadway renders travel by automobile impractical.

(e) All provisions of chapters 169 and 169A shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, and except those which by their nature have no application. Section 169.09 applies to the operation of snowmobiles anywhere in the state or on the ice of any boundary water of the state.

(f) Any sled, trailer, or other device being towed by a snowmobile must be equipped with reflective materials as required by rule of the commissioner.

Subd. 1a. **Organized contests, use of highways, etc.** Nothing in this section or chapter 169 shall prohibit the use of snowmobiles within the right-of-way of any state trunk or county state-aid highway or upon public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, in any organized contest, subject to the consent of the official or board having jurisdiction over the highway or public lands or waters.

In permitting such contest, the official or board having jurisdiction may prescribe such restrictions or conditions as they may deem advisable.

Subd. 2. **Operation generally.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following unsafe or harassing ways:

(1) at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all the surrounding circumstances;

(2) in a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto;

(3) without a lighted head and taillight when required for safety; or

(4) in any tree nursery or planting in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock.

Subd. 2a. **Operation prohibited on airports.** It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile on an airport defined in section 360.013, subdivision 39, or other applicable law.

Subd. 2b. [Repealed, 1994 c 615 s 28]

Subd. 2c. **Application of speed limits to testing activities.** (a) A speed limit established by the commissioner in rules adopted under section 84.86 does not apply to a snowmobile that is being operated as part of a testing program established by a snowmobile manufacturer if:

(1) the snowmobile is operated for testing purposes by a driver employed by the snowmobile manufacturer;

(2) the snowmobile is clearly marked as a test machine; and

(3) the snowmobile is operated in compliance with all other applicable laws and rules.

(b) A card containing a photograph of the driver and identifying the driver as a test driver for the manufacturer must be in the driver's possession at all times when the snowmobile is being operated at a speed in excess of the limit established by the commissioner under section 84.86.

Subd. 3. **Regulations by political subdivisions.** Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, a county board may by resolution permit the operation of snowmobiles upon the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any county

highway or county state aid highway if safe operation in the ditch or outside bank or slope thereof is impossible, in which case the county board shall cause appropriate notice thereof to be given.

Any county, city, or any town acting by its town board, may regulate the operation of snowmobiles on public lands, waters, and property under their jurisdiction and on streets and highways within their boundaries by resolution or ordinance of the governing body and by giving appropriate notice, provided such regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88 inclusive and rules promulgated thereunder. However, no such governmental unit may adopt an ordinance which (1) imposes a fee for the use of public land or water under the jurisdiction of either the commissioner of natural resources or any other agency of the state, or for the use of any access thereto owned by the state, or a county or city; or (2) require a snowmobile operator to possess a motor vehicle driver's license while operating a snowmobile.

**Subd. 4. Snowmobile speed limit; lakes greater than 10,000 acres.** Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, a county may enact an ordinance to raise the speed limit up to 65 miles per hour for snowmobiles traveling on marked trails during daylight hours on lakes greater than 10,000 acres, subject to the approval of the commissioner of natural resources. Within any posted speed limit, it remains unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable or proper under all of the surrounding conditions or circumstances.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 9; 1969 c 1 s 1; 1969 c 695 s 7,8; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 491 s 2; 1971 c 577 s 8; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 701 s 1; 1974 c 51 s 1; 1974 c 239 s 1; 1976 c 2 s 48; 1977 c 31 s 1; 1981 c 363 s 1; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 368 s 1,2; 1989 c 331 s 2; 1992 c 573 s 2; 1997 c 226 s 8; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7; 2002 c 355 s 5

#### **84.871 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Mufflers.** Except as provided in this section, every snowmobile shall be equipped at all times with a muffler in good working order which blends the exhaust noise into the overall snowmobile noise and is in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. The exhaust system shall not emit or produce a sharp popping or crackling sound. This section does not apply to organized races or similar competitive events held on (1) private lands, with the permission of the owner, lessee, or custodian of the land; (2) public lands and water under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, with the commissioner's permission; or (3) other public lands, with the consent of the public agency owning the land. No person shall have for sale, sell, or offer for sale on any new snowmobile any muffler that fails to comply with the specifications required by the rules of the commissioner after the effective date of the rules.

**Subd. 2.** [Repealed, 1999 c 4 s 5]

**History:** 1969 c 695 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1998 c 401 s 23

#### **84.8712 METAL TRACTION DEVICES; PROHIBITION ON PAVED TRAILS.**

**Subdivision 1. Prohibition.** A person may not use a snowmobile with metal traction devices on a paved public trail, except as otherwise provided by a local government with jurisdiction over a trail or any portion of a paved state trail designated by the commissioner.

**Subd. 2. Civil citation; authority to issue.** Conservation officers and other licensed peace officers may issue civil citations to a person who operates a snowmobile in violation of this section or section 84.8713. The citation must impose a penalty of no more than \$50 for the first offense, no more than \$300 for the second offense, and no more than \$600 for third and subsequent offenses.

**Subd. 3. Appeals.** Civil citations for offenses under this section or section 84.8713 may be appealed under the procedures in section 116.072, subdivision 6, if the recipient of the citation requests a hearing by notifying the commissioner in writing within 15 days after receipt of the citation. For the purposes of the enforcement of this section, the terms "commissioner" and "agency" as used in section 116.072 mean the commis-

sioner of natural resources. If a hearing is not requested within the 15-day period, the citation becomes a final order not subject to further review.

Subd. 4. **Enforcement.** Civil citations for offenses under this section or section 84.8713 may be enforced under section 116.072, subdivision 9. If a person fails to pay a penalty owed under this section, the person may not operate a snowmobile until the penalty is paid. Penalty amounts must be remitted within 30 days of issuance of the penalty citation.

Subd. 5. **Allocation of penalty amounts.** Penalty amounts collected from civil citations issued under this section are deposited to the unit of government employing the officer that issues the civil citation. The commissioner must deposit penalty amounts received by the state in the snowmobile trails and enforcement account established by section 84.83, subdivision 1. The penalty amounts in the account must be dedicated for the repair of paved public trails.

Subd. 6. **Selection of remedy.** A person operating a snowmobile in violation of this section or section 84.8713 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no more than \$50 for the first offense, no more than \$300 for the second offense, and no more than \$600 for the third and subsequent offenses. A peace officer may not seek both civil and petty misdemeanor penalties for a violation of this section or section 84.8713.

*History:* 1999 c 4 s 2; 1999 c 231 s 93; 2000 c 324 s 1-4

#### **84.8713 METAL TRACTION DEVICE STICKER.**

Subdivision 1. **Sticker required; fee.** (a) An owner of a snowmobile registered in the state may not operate the snowmobile with a track equipped with metal traction devices unless a metal traction device sticker is affixed to the snowmobile. The commissioner shall issue a metal traction device sticker upon application and payment of a \$12 fee. The sticker is valid for one year following June 30 in the year it is issued.

(b) The requirements in paragraph (a) do not apply to snowmobiles owned, leased, or operated by the state or a political subdivision, or to snowmobiles used in an organized race, so long as they do not utilize a paved public trail, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(c) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund. Money deposited under this section is appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources, and must be used for repair of paved public trails, unless a trail is exempted by local authorities under section 84.8712, except that any money not necessary for this purpose may be used for the grant-in-aid snowmobile trail system.

(d) This section shall be enforced under section 84.8712.

Subd. 2. **Placement of sticker.** The metal traction device sticker must be permanently affixed to the forward half of the snowmobile and clearly visible to law enforcement authorities.

Subd. 3. **License agents.** The commissioner shall sell metal traction device stickers for a \$1 issuance fee through the process established under section 84.82, subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Duplicate metal traction device stickers.** The commissioner or an authorized deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall issue a duplicate metal traction device sticker to a person whose sticker is lost or destroyed. A duplicate sticker may not be issued unless the applicant takes an oath covering the facts of loss or destruction of the sticker and signs an affidavit. The fee for a duplicate metal traction device sticker is \$2, with an issuing fee of 50 cents.

Subd. 5. **Repealer.** This section is repealed on July 1, 2004.

*History:* 1999 c 231 s 94; 2000 c 324 s 5

**84.8715** [Repealed, 1999 c 4 s 5]

**84.872 YOUTHFUL SNOWMOBILE OPERATORS; PROHIBITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Restrictions on operation.** (a) Notwithstanding anything in section 84.87 to the contrary, no person under 14 years of age shall make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway as the operator of a snowmobile, or operate a snowmobile upon a street or highway within a municipality.

A person 14 years of age or older, but less than 18 years of age, may make a direct crossing of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway only if the person has in immediate possession:

- (1) a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner;
- (2) a driver's license that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12; or
- (3) an identification card that has a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

(b) Notwithstanding section 84.862, no person under the age of 14 years shall operate a snowmobile on any public land, public easements, or water or grant-in-aid trail unless accompanied by one of the following listed persons on the same or an accompanying snowmobile, or on a device towed by the same or an accompanying snowmobile: the person's parent, legal guardian, or other person 18 years of age or older designated by the parent or guardian. However, a person 12 years of age or older but under the age of 14 years may operate a snowmobile on public lands, public easements, and waters or a grant-in-aid trail if the person has in immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate issued by the commissioner or an identification card with a valid snowmobile qualification indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 12.

Subd. 1a. **Helmet required.** (a) No person under the age of 18 shall operate or ride a snowmobile in this state without wearing protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety.

(b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to persons during their participation in a parade that has been granted a permit or other official authorization by a local unit of government or to a person operating a snowmobile on land that is owned by the person or the person's parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, or aunts.

Subd. 2. **Owner's duties.** It is unlawful for any person who is the owner or in lawful control of a snowmobile to permit the snowmobile to be operated contrary to the provisions of this section.

Subd. 3. **Reporting convictions; suspensions.** When the judge of a juvenile court, or any of its duly authorized agents, shall determine that any person, while less than 18 years of age, has violated the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88, or any other state or local law or ordinance regulating the operation of snowmobiles, the judge, or duly authorized agent, shall immediately report this determination to the commissioner and may recommend the suspension of the person's snowmobile safety certificate. The commissioner is hereby authorized to suspend the certificate, without a hearing.

**History:** 1969 c 695 s 10; 1971 c 577 s 9; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 89 s 1; 1993 c 184 s 2; 1994 c 623 art 1 s 9; 1994 c 632 art 2 s 20; 1997 c 226 s 9; 1999 c 231 s 95; 2001 c 185 s 12

**84.873** [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

**84.88 PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Penalty.** Any person who shall violate any provision of sections 84.81 to 84.89 or any rule of the commissioner of natural resources or of the commissioner of public safety promulgated pursuant to law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. **Owner's penalty.** A person registered as owner of a snowmobile may be fined not to exceed \$300 if a snowmobile bearing the person's registration number is operated contrary to the provisions of sections 84.81 to 84.88, or 97B.091. The

registered owner may not be so fined if (a) the snowmobile was reported as stolen to the commissioner or a law enforcement agency at the time of the alleged unlawful act, or if (b) the registered owner demonstrates that the snowmobile either was stolen or was not in use at the time of the alleged unlawful act, or if (c) the registered owner furnishes to law enforcement officers upon request the identity of the person in actual physical control of the snowmobile at the time of such violation. The provisions of this subdivision do not apply to any person who rents or leases a snowmobile if such person keeps a record of the name and address of the person or persons renting or leasing such snowmobile, the registration number thereof, the departure date and time, and expected time of return thereof. Such record shall be preserved for at least six months and shall be prima facie evidence that the person named therein was the operator thereof at the time it was operated contrary to sections 84.81 to 84.88, or 97B.091. The provisions of this subdivision do not prohibit or limit the prosecution of a snowmobile operator for violating any of the sections referred to in this subdivision.

**History:** 1967 c 876 s 10; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 23 s 10; 1971 c 491 s 3; 1971 c 577 s 10; 1973 c 701 s 2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 386 art 4 s 14; 1986 c 444

#### 84.89 CONFISCATION OF SNOWMOBILE USED IN BURGLARY.

A law enforcement officer shall seize any snowmobile, as defined in section 84.81, used for the purpose of gaining access to property for the purpose of committing the crime of burglary, as defined in section 609.582. Any snowmobile seized pursuant to this section shall be held, subject to the order of the district court of the county in which the burglary was committed, and shall be confiscated after conviction of the person from whom the snowmobile was seized and disposed of in accordance with the procedure provided for equipment used in committing game and fish violations by section 97A.225, except that the balance of the proceeds from the sale of a confiscated snowmobile which are paid into the state treasury shall be credited to the general fund.

**History:** 1969 c 176 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1986 c 386 art 4 s 15; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1

#### 84.90 LIMITATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLES.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section the following terms have the meanings given them: (a) "Recreational motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle and any vehicle propelled or drawn by a self-propelled vehicle used for recreational purposes, including but not limited to snowmobile, trail bike or other all-terrain vehicle, hovercraft, or motor vehicle licensed for highway operation which is being used for off-road recreational purposes. (b) "Snowmobile" has the same meaning given by section 84.81, subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. **Within metropolitan area.** Within the seven county metropolitan area, no person shall enter and operate a recreational motor vehicle on lands not owned by the person, except where otherwise allowed by law, without the written or oral permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee of such lands. Written permission may be given by a posted notice of any kind or description that the owner, occupant, or lessee prefers, so long as it specifies the kind of vehicles allowed, such as by saying "Recreational Vehicles Allowed," "Snowmobiles Allowed," "Trail Bikes Allowed," "All-Terrain Vehicles Allowed," or words substantially similar.

Subd. 3. **Outside metropolitan area.** Outside the seven county metropolitan area, no person shall enter on any land not owned by the person for the purpose of operating a recreational motor vehicle after being notified, either orally or by written or posted notice, by the owner, occupant, or lessee not to do so. Where posted notice is used, signs shall bear letters not less than two inches high and shall state one of the following: "Recreational Vehicles Prohibited," "Snowmobiles Prohibited," "Trail Bikes Prohibited," "All-Terrain Vehicles Prohibited," or words substantially similar. In lieu of the above notice an owner, occupant or lessee may post any sign prohibiting recreational motor vehicles which has been adopted by rule of the commissioner of natural resources. The notice or sign shall be posted at corners and ordinary ingress and egress

to the property and when so posted shall serve so as to raise a conclusive presumption that a person operating a recreational motor vehicle thereon had knowledge of entering upon such posted lands. Failure to post notice as provided in this subdivision shall not deprive a person of the right to bring a civil action for damage to one's person or property as otherwise provided by law.

**Subd. 4. Posting; trail facilities.** It is unlawful for a person to post, mutilate, or remove any notice or sign provided in this section upon any lands or waters over which the person has no right, title, interest, or license. It is unlawful for a person other than a duly constituted legal authority to so post any public lands, including but not limited to tax-forfeited lands, as above described. It is unlawful for a person to mutilate, destroy, damage, or remove any shelter, comfort station or other trail facility on any trail established on state-owned land or on any recreational trail which is funded in whole or in part by state grant-in-aid funds.

**Subd. 5. Gates; fencing.** No person shall enter or leave the lands of another with a recreational motor vehicle, or pass from one portion of such lands to another portion, through a closed gate, without returning the gate to its original position. No person shall enter or leave the lands of another with a recreational motor vehicle by cutting any wire or tearing down or destroying any fence.

**Subd. 6. Additional prohibitions.** Nothing in this section shall limit or otherwise qualify the power of municipalities, counties, school districts, or other political subdivisions of the state or any agency of the state to impose additional restrictions or prohibitions on the operation of recreational motor vehicles on property not owned by the operator in accordance with law.

**Subd. 7. Penalty.** A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1974 c 468 s 1; 1981 c 215 s 1; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444

#### **84.91 OPERATION OF SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES BY PERSONS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

**Subdivision 1. Acts prohibited.** (a) No owner or other person having charge or control of any snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle shall authorize or permit any individual the person knows or has reason to believe is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance or other substance to operate the snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle anywhere in this state or on the ice of any boundary water of this state.

(b) No owner or other person having charge or control of any snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle shall knowingly authorize or permit any person, who by reason of any physical or mental disability is incapable of operating the vehicle, to operate the snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle anywhere in this state or on the ice of any boundary water of this state.

(c) A person who operates or is in physical control of a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle anywhere in this state or on the ice of any boundary water of this state is subject to chapter 169A. In addition to the applicable sanctions under chapter 169A, a person who is convicted of violating section 169A.20 or an ordinance in conformity with it while operating a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle, or who refuses to comply with a lawful request to submit to testing under sections 169A.50 to 169A.53 or an ordinance in conformity with it, shall be prohibited from operating the snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle for a period of one year. The commissioner shall notify the person of the time period during which the person is prohibited from operating a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.

(d) Administrative and judicial review of the operating privileges prohibition is governed by section 97B.066, subdivisions 7 to 9, if the person does not have a prior impaired driving conviction or prior license revocation, as defined in section 169A.03. Otherwise, administrative and judicial review of the prohibition is governed by section 169A.53.



(e) The court shall promptly forward to the commissioner and the department of public safety copies of all convictions and criminal and civil sanctions imposed under this section and chapter 169 relating to snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.

(f) A person who violates paragraph (a) or (b), or an ordinance in conformity with either of them, is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person who operates a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle during the time period the person is prohibited from operating a vehicle under paragraph (c) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 5a. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

**History:** 1987 c 368 s 3; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 12; 1992 c 570 art 2 s 1; 1994 c 615 s 1,2; 1995 c 230 s 3; 1Sp1997 c 2 s 2; 1999 c 231 s 96; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7; 2000 c 495 s 4

#### 84.911 REPORTS OF DEATH.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

Subd. 7. **Coroner to report death.** Every coroner or medical examiner shall report in writing to the department of natural resources the death of any person within the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as the result of an accident involving an off-road recreational vehicle, as defined in section 169A.03, subdivision 16, and the circumstances of the accident. The report shall be made within 15 days after the death.

In the case of drivers killed in off-road recreational vehicle accidents and of the death of passengers 14 years of age or older, who die within four hours after accident, the coroner or medical examiner shall examine the body and shall make tests as are necessary to determine the presence and percentage concentration of alcohol, and drugs if feasible, in the blood of the victim. This information shall be included in each report submitted pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision and shall be tabulated by the department of natural resources. Periodically, the commissioner of natural resources must transmit a summary of the reports to the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1987 c 368 s 4; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 13,14; 1992 c 570 art 2 s 2; 1994 c 615 s 3; 1995 c 185 s 1; 1Sp1997 c 2 s 3; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7

84.912 [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

#### 84.915 LAND USE FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES RESTRICTED.

After June 1, 1993, the commissioner may not allow the use of state lands or acquire private lands for development or operation of a motor sports area for use by all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, or four-wheel drive trucks without legislative approval. This restriction does not apply to recreational trails.

**History:** 1993 c 203 s 1

## ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

**84.92 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 84.92 to 84.929.

Subd. 1a. **Agricultural zone.** "Agricultural zone" means the areas in Minnesota lying south and west of a line starting at the Minnesota-North Dakota border and formed by rights-of-way of trunk highway No. 10, thence easterly along trunk highway No. 10 to trunk highway No. 23, thence easterly along trunk highway No. 23 to trunk highway No. 95, thence easterly along trunk highway No. 95 to its termination at the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

Subd. 1b. **Accompanied.** "Accompanied" means being subject to continuous direction or control.

Subd. 1c. **Agricultural purpose.** "Agricultural purpose" means used exclusively for an agricultural use as defined in subdivision 1d.

Subd. 1d. **Agricultural use.** "Agricultural use" means use in agriculturally related activities or harvesting of wood for commercial or firewood purposes by any person.

Subd. 1e. **City.** "City" means a home rule charter or statutory city.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 3. **Dealer.** "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling all-terrain vehicles at wholesale or retail.

Subd. 4. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of manufacturing all-terrain vehicles.

Subd. 5. **Owner.** "Owner" means a person, other than a person with a security interest, having a property interest in or title to an all-terrain vehicle and entitled to the use and possession of the vehicle.

Subd. 6. **Person.** "Person" means an individual or an organization as defined in section 336.1-201, paragraph (30).

Subd. 6a. **Public road right-of-way.** "Public road right-of-way" means the entire right-of-way of a public road, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians of a roadway, that is not privately owned.

Subd. 7. **Register.** "Register" means the act of assigning a registration number to an all-terrain vehicle.

Subd. 8. **All-terrain vehicle.** "All-terrain vehicle" or "vehicle" means a motorized flotation-tired vehicle of not less than three low pressure tires, but not more than six tires, that is limited in engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight less than 800 pounds.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 1; 1986 c 452 s 1; 1989 c 331 s 3-8; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1Sp1995 c 1 s 8

**84.922 REGISTRATION.**

Subdivision 1. **General requirements.** Unless exempted in subdivision 1a, a person may not operate and an owner may not give permission for another to operate an all-terrain vehicle within the state unless the vehicle has been registered with the commissioner of natural resources, or is exempt from registration.

Subd. 1a. **Exemptions.** All-terrain vehicles exempt from registration are:

- (1) vehicles owned and used by the United States, the state, another state, or a political subdivision;
- (2) vehicles registered in another state or country that have not been in this state for more than 30 consecutive days; and
- (3) vehicles used exclusively in organized track racing events.

Subd. 2. **Application, issuance, reports.** (a) Application for registration or continued registration shall be made to the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of public safety or an authorized deputy registrar of motor vehicles in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form must state the name and address of every owner of the vehicle.

(b) A person who purchases an all-terrain vehicle from a retail dealer shall make application for registration to the dealer at the point of sale. The dealer shall issue a temporary ten-day registration permit to each purchaser who applies to the dealer for registration. The dealer shall submit the completed registration application and fees to the deputy registrar at least once each week. No fee may be charged by a dealer to a purchaser for providing the temporary permit.

(c) Upon receipt of the application and the appropriate fee, the commissioner or deputy registrar shall issue to the applicant, or provide to the dealer, a 60-day temporary receipt and shall assign a registration number that must be affixed to the vehicle in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. A dealer subject to paragraph (b) shall provide the registration materials and temporary receipt to the purchaser within the ten-day temporary permit period. The commissioner shall use the snowmobile registration system to register vehicles under this section.

(d) Each deputy registrar of motor vehicles acting under section 168.33, is also a deputy registrar of all-terrain vehicles. The commissioner of natural resources in agreement with the commissioner of public safety may prescribe the accounting and procedural requirements necessary to assure efficient handling of registrations and registration fees. Deputy registrars shall strictly comply with the accounting and procedural requirements.

(e) A fee of \$2 in addition to other fees prescribed by law shall be charged for each vehicle registered by:

(1) a deputy registrar and shall be deposited in the treasury of the jurisdiction where the deputy is appointed, or retained if the deputy is not a public official; or

(2) the commissioner and shall be deposited to the state treasury and credited to the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2a. **Private use registration.** All-terrain vehicles may be registered for private use that are used exclusively for private or agricultural use or used exclusively on private property. Private use registration is valid from the date of issuance until ownership of the all-terrain vehicle is transferred. Private or agricultural use registrations are not transferable.

Subd. 3. **Registration card; signature.** The commissioner shall provide to the registrant a registration card that includes the registration number, the date of registration, the make and serial number of the vehicle, the owner's name and address, and additional information the commissioner may require. Information concerning each registration shall be retained by the commissioner. The registration is not valid unless signed by at least one owner. Upon a satisfactory showing that the registration card has been lost or destroyed the commissioner shall issue a replacement registration card upon payment of a fee of \$4. The fees collected from replacement registration cards shall be deposited in the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 4. **Report of transfers.** A person who sells or transfers ownership of a vehicle registered under this section shall report the sale or transfer to the commissioner within 15 days of the date of transfer. An application for transfer must be executed by the registered owner and the purchaser on a form prescribed by the commissioner with the owner's registration certificate, a bill of sale and a \$4 fee.

Subd. 5. **Fees for registration.** (a) The fee for a three-year registration of an all-terrain vehicle under this section, other than those registered by a dealer or manufacturer under paragraph (b) or (c), is:

(1) for public use, \$18;

(2) for private use, \$6; and

(3) for a duplicate or transfer, \$4.

(b) The total registration fee for all-terrain vehicles owned by a dealer and operated for demonstration or testing purposes is \$50 per year. Dealer registrations are not transferable.

(c) The total registration fee for all-terrain vehicles owned by a manufacturer and operated for research, testing, experimentation, or demonstration purposes is \$150 per year. Manufacturer registrations are not transferable.

(d) The fees collected under this subdivision must be credited to the all-terrain vehicle account.

**Subd. 6. Renewal.** Every owner of an all-terrain vehicle must renew registration in a manner prescribed by the commissioner upon payment of the registration fees in subdivision 5.

**Subd. 7. Vehicles owned by state or political subdivision.** A registration number must be issued without the payment of a fee for all-terrain vehicles owned by the state or a political subdivision upon application.

**Subd. 8.** [Repealed, 1989 c 331 s 26]

**Subd. 9. Licensing by political subdivisions.** No political subdivision of this state shall require licensing or registration of all-terrain vehicles covered by sections 84.92 to 84.929.

**Subd. 10. Registration by minors prohibited.** No person under the age of 18 may register an all-terrain vehicle.

**Subd. 11. Proof of sales tax payment.** A person applying for initial registration in Minnesota of an all-terrain vehicle shall provide a purchaser's certificate showing a complete description of the all-terrain vehicle, the seller's name and address, the full purchase price of the all-terrain vehicle, and the trade-in allowance, if any. The certificate also must include information showing either that (1) the sales and use tax under chapter 297A was paid, or (2) the purchase was exempt from tax under chapter 297A. The certificate is not required if the applicant provides a receipt, invoice, or other document that shows the all-terrain vehicle was purchased from a retailer maintaining a place of business in this state as defined in section 297A.66, subdivision 1.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 2; 1986 c 452 s 2-9; 1989 c 331 s 9-12; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 18; 1995 c 220 s 62; 1996 c 410 s 21; 2001 c 185 s 13,14; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 2

#### 84.923 REQUIREMENTS OF MAKERS OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES.

**Subdivision 1. Identification number.** All vehicles made after January 1, 1985, and sold in the state, must have manufacturer's permanent identification number stamped in letters and numbers on the vehicle in the form and at a location prescribed by the commissioner.

**Subd. 2. Registration number.** All vehicles made after January 1, 1985, and sold in the state, must be designed and made to provide an area to affix the registration number. This area shall be at a location and of dimensions prescribed by the commissioner.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 3

#### 84.924 RULEMAKING; ACCIDENT REPORT.

**Subdivision 1. Commissioner of natural resources.** With a view of achieving proper use of all-terrain vehicles consistent with protection of the environment, the commissioner of natural resources shall adopt rules under chapter 14 relating to:

- (1) registration of all-terrain vehicles and display of registration numbers;
- (2) use of all-terrain vehicles insofar as game and fish resources are affected;
- (3) use of all-terrain vehicles on public lands and waters;
- (4) uniform signs to be used by the state, counties, and cities necessary or desirable to control, direct, or regulate the operation and use of all-terrain vehicles; and
- (5) specifications relating to all-terrain vehicle mufflers.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner of public safety.** The commissioner of public safety may adopt rules under chapter 14 regulating the use of all-terrain vehicles on streets and highways.

Subd. 3. **Accident report; requirement and form.** The operator and an officer investigating an accident of an all-terrain vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury requiring medical attention or hospitalization to or death of a person or total damage to an extent of \$500 or more shall within ten business days forward a written report of the accident to the commissioner of natural resources on a form prescribed by either the commissioner of natural resources or by the commissioner of public safety. If the operator is killed or is unable to file a report due to incapacitation, any peace officer investigating the accident shall file the accident report within ten business days. Periodically, the commissioner of natural resources must transmit a summary of the accident reports to the commissioner of public safety.

**History:** 1986 c 452 s 10; 1989 c 331 s 13; 1993 c 184 s 3,4; 1994 c 615 s 4

### 84.925 EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Program established.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a comprehensive all-terrain vehicle environmental and safety education and training program, including the preparation and dissemination of vehicle information and safety advice to the public, the training of all-terrain vehicle operators, and the issuance of all-terrain vehicle safety certificates to vehicle operators over the age of 12 years who successfully complete the all-terrain vehicle environmental and safety education and training course.

(b) For the purpose of administering the program and to defray a portion of the expenses of training and certifying vehicle operators, the commissioner shall collect a fee of \$15 from each person who receives the training. Fee proceeds shall be deposited in the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

(c) The commissioner shall cooperate with private organizations and associations, private and public corporations, and local governmental units in furtherance of the program established under this section. School districts may cooperate with the commissioner and volunteer instructors to provide space for the classroom portion of the training. The commissioner shall consult with the commissioner of public safety in regard to training program subject matter and performance testing that leads to the certification of vehicle operators. By June 30, 2003, the commissioner shall incorporate a riding component in the safety education and training program.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1989 c 331 s 26]

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 452 s 11; 2000 c 495 s 5; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 80

84.9254 [Repealed, 1Sp1997 c 2 s 69]

### 84.9256 YOUTHFUL OPERATORS; PROHIBITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Prohibitions on youthful operators.** (a) Except for operation on public road rights-of-way that is permitted under section 84.928, a driver's license issued by the state or another state is required to operate an all-terrain vehicle along or on a public road right-of-way.

(b) A person under 12 years of age shall not:

- (1) make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way;
- (2) operate an all-terrain vehicle on a public road right-of-way in the state; or
- (3) operate an all-terrain vehicle on public lands or waters.

(c) Except for public road rights-of-way of interstate highways, a person 12 years of age but less than 16 years may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway or operate on public lands and waters, only if that person possesses a valid all-terrain vehicle safety certificate issued by the

commissioner and is accompanied on another all-terrain vehicle by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

(d) All-terrain vehicle safety certificates issued by the commissioner to persons 12 years old, but less than 16 years old, are not valid for machines in excess of 90cc engine capacity unless:

(1) the person successfully completed the safety education and training program under section 84.925, subdivision 1, including a riding component;

(2) the riding component of the training was conducted using an all-terrain vehicle with over 90cc engine capacity; and

(3) the person is able to properly reach and control the handle bars and reach the foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat of the all-terrain vehicle.

Subd. 2. **Helmet required.** A person less than 18 years of age shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle on public land, public waters, or on a public road right-of-way unless wearing a safety helmet approved by the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 3. **Prohibitions on person in lawful control.** It is unlawful for any person who is in lawful control of an all-terrain vehicle to permit it to be operated contrary to this section.

Subd. 4. **Suspension.** When the judge of a juvenile court, or its duly authorized agent, determines that a person, while less than 18 years of age, has violated sections 84.92 to 84.929, or other state or local law or ordinance regulating the operation of an all-terrain vehicle, the judge or duly authorized agent shall immediately report the determination to the commissioner and (1) may recommend the suspension of the person's all-terrain vehicle safety certificate, or (2) may recommend to the commissioner of public safety, the suspension of the person's driver's license. The commissioner may suspend the certificate without a hearing.

**History:** 1986 c 452 s 13; 1989 c 331 s 14-16; 1993 c 184 s 5; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 81

#### 84.9257 PASSENGERS.

(a) A parent or guardian may operate an all-terrain vehicle carrying one passenger who is under 16 years of age and who wears a safety helmet approved by the commissioner of public safety.

(b) For the purpose of this section, "guardian" means a legal guardian of a person under age 16, or a person 18 or older who has been authorized by the parent or legal guardian to supervise the person under age 16.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 2 s 82

#### 84.926 VEHICLE USE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC LANDS BY THE COMMISSIONER.

On a case by case basis, after notice and public hearing, the commissioner may allow vehicles on public trails under the commissioner's jurisdiction during specified times.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 5; 1986 c 444

#### 84.927 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE ACCOUNT; RECEIPTS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Registration revenue.** Fees from the registration of all-terrain vehicles and the unrefunded gasoline tax attributable to all-terrain vehicle use under section 296A.18, as well as the net proceeds from the sale of all-terrain vehicles forfeited pursuant to section 169A.63, shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund.

Subd. 2. **Purposes.** Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money in the all-terrain vehicle account may only be spent for:

(1) the education and training program under section 84.925;

(2) administration and implementation of sections 84.92 to 84.929 and Laws 1984, chapter 647, sections 9 and 10;

(3) acquisition, maintenance, and development of vehicle trails and use areas;

(4) grant-in-aid programs to counties and municipalities to construct and maintain all-terrain vehicle trails and use areas; and

(5) grants-in-aid to local safety programs.

The distribution of funds made available through grant-in-aid programs must be guided by the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 6; 1986 c 452 s 14; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 19; 1995 c 230 s 5; 1Sp1997 c 2 s 4; 1998 c 299 s 30; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7

#### 84.928 OPERATION REQUIREMENTS; LOCAL REGULATION.

Subdivision 1. **Operation on roads and rights-of-way.** (a) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle along or on the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of a public road right-of-way other than in the ditch or the outside bank or slope of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway in this state unless otherwise allowed in sections 84.92 to 84.929.

(b) A person may operate an all-terrain vehicle registered for private use and used for agricultural purposes on a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway in this state if the all-terrain vehicle is operated on the extreme right-hand side of the road, and left turns may be made from any part of the road if it is safe to do so under the prevailing conditions.

(c) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle within the public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway from April 1 to August 1 in the agricultural zone unless the vehicle is being used exclusively as transportation to and from work on agricultural lands. This paragraph does not apply to an agent or employee of a road authority, as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25, or the department of natural resources when performing or exercising official duties or powers.

(d) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle within the public road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except on the right-hand side of the right-of-way and in the same direction as the highway traffic on the nearest lane of the adjacent roadway.

(e) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle at any time within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway within this state.

Subd. 1a. **Crossings of a public road right-of-way.** (a) An all-terrain vehicle may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way provided:

(1) the crossing is made at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the road and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;

(2) the vehicle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the road;

(3) the driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate hazard;

(4) in crossing a divided road, the crossing is made only at an intersection of the road with another public road; and

(5) if the crossing is made between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility, only if both front and rear lights are on.

(b) An all-terrain vehicle may be operated upon a bridge, other than a bridge that is part of the main traveled lanes of an interstate highway, or roadway shoulder or inside bank of a public road right-of-way when required for the purpose of avoiding obstructions to travel when no other method of avoidance is possible; provided the all-terrain vehicle is operated in the extreme right-hand lane, the entrance to the roadway is made within 100 feet of the bridge or obstacle, and the crossing is made without undue delay.

(c) A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle upon a public street or highway unless the vehicle is equipped with at least one headlight and one taillight,

each of minimum candlepower as prescribed by rules of the commissioner, and with brakes conforming to standards prescribed by rule of the commissioner, and all of which are subject to the approval of the commissioner of public safety.

(d) An all-terrain vehicle may be operated upon a public road right-of-way other than as provided by paragraph (b) in an emergency during the period of time when and at locations where the condition of the roadway renders travel by automobile impractical.

(e) Chapters 169 and 169A apply to the operation of all-terrain vehicles upon streets and highways, except for those provisions relating to required equipment and except those provisions which by their nature have no application.

(f) A sled, trailer, or other device being towed by an all-terrain vehicle must be equipped with reflective materials as required by rule of the commissioner.

(g) A driver's license is not required to operate an all-terrain vehicle along or on a public road right-of-way if the right-of-way encompasses a trail administered by the commissioner and designated for all-terrain vehicle use or multiple use.

(h) A road authority as defined in section 160.02, subdivision 25, may by permit designate corridor access trails on public road rights-of-way for purposes of accessing established all-terrain vehicle trails. A driver's license is not required to operate an all-terrain vehicle on a designated corridor access trail.

**Subd. 2. Operation generally.** A person may not drive or operate an all-terrain vehicle:

(1) at a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under the surrounding circumstances;

(2) in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger or to cause injury or damage to the person or property of another;

(3) without headlight and taillight lighted at all times if the vehicle is equipped with headlight and taillight;

(4) without a functioning stoplight if so equipped;

(5) in a tree nursery or planting in a manner that damages or destroys growing stock;

(6) without a brake operational by either hand or foot;

(7) with more persons on the vehicle than it was designed for, except as allowed under section 84.9257;

(8) at a speed exceeding ten miles per hour on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person not on an all-terrain vehicle or within 100 feet of a fishing shelter; or

(9) in a manner that violates operation rules adopted by the commissioner.

**Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1994 c 615 s 28]**

**Subd. 4. Operation prohibited on airports.** Except for employees and agents while acting incident to the operation of the airport, it is unlawful for a person to drive or operate an all-terrain vehicle on an airport defined in section 360.013, subdivision 39.

**Subd. 5. Organized contests, use of highways and public lands and waters.** Nothing in this section or chapter 169 prohibits the use of all-terrain vehicles within the right-of-way of a state trunk or county state-aid highway or upon public lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources, in an organized contest or event, subject to the consent of the official or board having jurisdiction over the highway or public lands or waters.

In permitting the contest or event, the official or board having jurisdiction may prescribe restrictions or conditions as they may deem advisable.

**Subd. 6. Regulations by political subdivisions.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a city or town, acting through its governing body, may by resolution or ordinance prohibit the operation of all-terrain vehicles on city streets or town roads in its jurisdiction provided the regulations are otherwise consistent with sections 84.92 to 84.929.



(b) A county or city, or a town acting by its town board, may regulate the operation of all-terrain vehicles on public lands, waters, and property under its jurisdiction other than public road rights-of-way within its boundaries, by resolution or ordinance of the governing body and by giving appropriate notice, provided:

(1) the regulations must be consistent with sections 84.92 to 84.929 and rules adopted under section 84.924;

(2) an ordinance may not impose a fee for the use of public land or water under the jurisdiction of either the department of natural resources or other agency of the state, or for the use of an access to it owned by the state or a county or a city; and

(3) an ordinance may not require an all-terrain vehicle operator to possess a motor vehicle driver's license while operating an all-terrain vehicle.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a county board by ordinance may allow the operation of all-terrain vehicles on the road right-of-way shoulder, or inside bank or slope of a county highway or county state-aid highway, if:

(1) the highway is in the agricultural zone; or

(2) safe operation in the ditch or outside slope is impossible, and the county posts the appropriate notice.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1989 c 331 s 26]

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 7; 1986 c 452 s 15; 1987 c 149 art 2 s 2; 1987 c 368 s 5; 1989 c 331 s 17-19; 1994 c 635 art 2 s 1; 2000 c 478 art 2 s 7; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 83

#### 84.929 PENALTIES.

Any person who violates any provision of sections 84.92 to 84.928 or rules of the commissioner is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1984 c 647 s 8; 1989 c 331 s.20

### PLANNING AND PROTECTION OF RESOURCES

#### 84.94 AGGREGATE PLANNING AND PROTECTION.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** It is the purpose of this section to protect aggregate resources; to promote orderly and environmentally sound development; to spread the burden of development; and to introduce aggregate resource protection into local comprehensive planning and land use controls.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purpose of this section, "municipality" means a home rule charter or statutory city, or a town.

Subd. 3. **Identification and classification.** The department of natural resources, with the cooperation of the state geological survey, departments of transportation, and energy, planning and development, outside of the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, shall conduct a program of identification and classification of potentially valuable publicly or privately owned aggregate lands located outside of urban or developed areas where aggregate mining is restricted, without consideration of their present land use. The program shall give priority to identification and classification in areas of the state where urbanization or other factors are or may be resulting in a loss of aggregate resources to development. Lands shall be classified as:

(1) identified resources, being those containing significant aggregate deposits;

(2) potential resources, being those containing potentially significant deposits and meriting further evaluation; or

(3) subeconomic resources, being those containing no significant deposits.

As lands are classified, the information on the classification shall be transmitted to each of the departments and agencies named in this subdivision, to the planning authority of the appropriate county and municipality, and to the appropriate county engineer. The county planning authority shall notify owners of land classified under this subdivision by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or by mail.

Subd. 4. **Local action.** Each planning authority of a county or municipality receiving information pursuant to subdivision 3 shall consider the protection of identified and important aggregate resources in their land use decisions.

**History:** 1984 c 605 s 1

### FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### 84.941 POLICY.

It is the policy of the state that fish and wildlife are renewable natural resources to be conserved and enhanced through planned scientific management, protection, and utilization.

**History:** 1986 c 383 s 7

#### 84.942 FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Preparation.** The commissioner of natural resources shall prepare a comprehensive fish and wildlife management plan designed to accomplish the policy of section 84.941. The comprehensive fish and wildlife management plan shall include a strategic plan as outlined in subdivision 2. The strategic plan must be completed by July 1, 1986. The management plan must also include the long-range and operational plans as described in subdivisions 3 and 4. The management plan must be completed by July 1, 1988.

Subd. 2. **Strategic plan.** The strategic plan must be updated every six years and include:

- (1) an issues analysis describing major fish and wildlife management problems;
- (2) a description of strategies to address management problems; and
- (3) an assessment of the need for additional fish and wildlife research facilities.

Subd. 3. **Long-range plan.** The long-range plan must be updated every six years and include:

- (1) an assessment of historical, present, and projected demand for fish and wildlife resources;
- (2) an assessment of the capability of fish and wildlife resources to meet present and future demand;
- (3) development of a database capable of continuous updating and usable as a resource management tool; and
- (4) a statement of major goals, objectives, and policies to address fish and wildlife resource management issues.

Subd. 4. **Operational plan.** The operational plan must be reviewed and updated every two years. The operational plan must include the following:

- (1) a description of specific actions needed to address resource management issues;
- (2) an estimate of the expenditures necessary to implement the management actions and a description of the sources and amounts of revenue available;
- (3) a procedure to review expenditures and evaluate the effectiveness of the management program; and
- (4) recommendations for additional actions necessary to meet fish and wildlife management needs.

Subd. 5. **Public agency coordination.** The commissioner of natural resources must coordinate fish and wildlife planning efforts with appropriate public agencies to achieve optimum public benefit.

Subd. 6. **Public involvement.** The commissioner of natural resources must make fish and wildlife management plans available for public input, review, and comment.

**History:** 1986 c 383 s 8

## CRITICAL NATURAL HABITAT

**84.943 MINNESOTA CRITICAL HABITAT PRIVATE SECTOR MATCHING ACCOUNT.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Minnesota critical habitat private sector matching account is established as a separate account in the reinvest in Minnesota resources fund established under section 84.95. The account shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. **Funding sources.** The critical habitat private sector matching account shall consist of contributions from private sources and appropriations.

Subd. 3. **Appropriations must be matched by private funds.** Appropriations transferred to the critical habitat private sector matching account and money credited to the account under section 168.1296, subdivision 5, may be expended only to the extent that they are matched equally with contributions to the account from private sources or by funds contributed to the nongame wildlife management account. The private contributions may be made in cash or in contributions of land or interests in land that are designated by the commissioner of natural resources as program acquisitions. Appropriations transferred to the account that are not matched within three years from the date of the appropriation shall cancel to the source of the appropriation. For the purposes of this section, the private contributions of land or interests in land shall be valued in accordance with their appraised value.

Subd. 4. **Management.** The critical habitat private sector matching account shall be managed to earn the highest interest compatible with prudent investment, preservation of principal, and reasonable liquidity. Unless an appropriation to the account reverts to its original source under subdivision 3, the principal and interest in the account remain in the account until expended as provided in this section.

Subd. 5. **Pledges and contributions.** The commissioner of natural resources may accept contributions and pledges to the critical habitat private sector matching account. A pledge that is made contingent on an appropriation is acceptable and shall be reported with other pledges as required in this section. In the budget request for each biennium, the commissioner shall report the balance of contributions in the account and the amount that has been pledged for payment in the succeeding two calendar years.

Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources only for the direct acquisition or improvement of land or interests in land as provided in section 84.944. To the extent of available appropriations other than bond proceeds, the money matched to the nongame wildlife management account may be used for the management of nongame wildlife projects as specified in section 290.431. Acquisition includes: (1) purchase of land or an interest in land by the commissioner; or (2) acceptance by the commissioner of gifts of land or interests in land as program projects.

**History:** 1986 c 383 s 9; 1987 c 357 s 13-15; 1995 c 220 s 63

**84.944 ACQUISITION OF CRITICAL NATURAL HABITAT.**

Subdivision 1. **Acquisition considerations.** (a) In determining what critical natural habitat shall be acquired or improved, the commissioner shall consider:

(1) the significance of the land or water as existing or potential habitat for fish and wildlife and providing fish and wildlife oriented recreation;

(2) the significance of the land, water, or habitat improvement to maintain or enhance native plant, fish, or wildlife species designated as endangered or threatened under section 84.0895;

(3) the presence of native ecological communities that are now uncommon or diminishing; and

(4) the significance of the land, water or habitat improvement to protect or enhance natural features within or contiguous to natural areas including fish spawning

areas, wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, riparian habitat and fish and wildlife management projects.

(b) Based on the above clauses, the commissioner by rule must establish a process to prioritize what critical habitat shall be acquired or improved.

Subd. 2. **Designation of acquired sites.** The critical natural habitat acquired in fee title by the commissioner under this section shall be designated by the commissioner as: (1) an outdoor recreation unit pursuant to section 86A.07, subdivision 3, or (2) as provided in sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), 97A.101, 97A.125, 97C.001, and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any critical natural habitat acquired in less than fee title.

Subd. 3. **County acquisition approval.** The commissioner must follow the procedures under section 97A.145, subdivision 2, for critical natural habitat acquired under this section.

**History:** 1986 c 383 s 10; 1987 c 149 art 2 s 3-5; 1987 c 357 s 16; 1991 c 254 art 2 s 7; 1991 c 259 s 7; 2000 c 375 s 1

### REINVESTMENT IN MINNESOTA RESOURCES FUND

#### 84.95 REINVEST IN MINNESOTA RESOURCES FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Program fund; establishment.** A reinvest in Minnesota resources fund is created as a separate fund in the state treasury. The fund shall be managed to earn the highest interest compatible with prudent investment, preservation of principal, and reasonable liquidity. The principal and interest attributable to the principal shall remain in the fund until spent. Proceeds of state bonds issued for purposes of the fund shall be segregated in a special account and disbursed only for capital costs of the acquisition and betterment of public land and easements in land and improvements in land for which the proceeds are appropriated.

Subd. 2. **Purposes and expenditures.** Money from the reinvest in Minnesota resources fund may only be spent for the following fish and wildlife conservation enhancement purposes:

(1) development and implementation of the comprehensive fish and wildlife management plan under section 84.942;

(2) implementation of the conservation reserve program established by section 103F.515;

(3) soil and water conservation practices to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and crop surpluses;

(4) enhancement or restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on lakes, streams, wetlands, and public and private forest lands;

(5) acquisition and development of public access sites and recreation easements to lakes, streams, and rivers for fish and wildlife oriented recreation;

(6) matching funds with government agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes and bands, and the private sector for acquisition and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat;

(7) research and surveys of fish and wildlife species and habitat;

(8) enforcement of natural resource laws and rules;

(9) information and education;

(10) implementing the aspen recycling program under section 88.80 and for other forest wildlife management projects; and

(11) necessary support services to carry out these purposes.

Subd. 3. **Work plan.** By February 1 of each year the commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture, must present a written work plan for expenditure of money from the reinvest in Minnesota resources fund for the next fiscal year to the senate and house committees on agriculture and environment

and natural resources for their review and comment. Any recommendations to the commissioners by the committees must be returned to the commissioners by March 15. By April 30 of each year the commissioner must make the work plan, with any revisions, available to the public for comment. In so doing, the commissioner must hold at least three public meetings to inform the public of the work plan; one meeting to be held in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the others at non-Twin Cities locations, one each in northern and southern Minnesota. By January 15 of each year, the commissioner must prepare a written progress report on projects undertaken and money encumbered during the fiscal year just ended, and must transmit the report to the above committees and make the report available to the public.

**History:** 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 383 s 12; 1987 c 357 s 17,18; 1989 c 353 s 8; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 15; 1993 c 227 s 1

#### 84.96 NATIVE PRAIRIE BANK.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner shall establish a native prairie bank, determine where native prairie land is located in the state, and prescribe eligibility requirements for inclusion of land in the native prairie bank.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "native prairie" means land that has never been plowed, with less than ten percent tree cover and with predominantly native prairie vegetation.

Subd. 3. **Easement acquisition.** (a) The commissioner may acquire native prairie for conservation purposes by entering into easements with landowners. The easements must be conservation easements as defined in section 84C.01, clause (1), except the easements may be made possessory as well as nonpossessory if agreed upon by the landowner and the commissioner.

(b) The easements may be permanent or of limited duration. Highest priority must be given to permanent easements consistent with the purposes of this section. Easements of limited duration must be for at least 20 years, with provision for renewal for at least another 20-year period. For easements of limited duration, the commissioner may reexamine and adjust the payment rates at the beginning of any renewal period after considering current land and crop values.

Subd. 4. **Easement agreement.** (a) In the easement between the commissioner and an owner, the owner must agree:

(1) to place in the program for the period of the easement eligible native prairie areas designated by the owner, including prairie covered by a federal or state easement that allows agricultural use and desirable land adjacent to the prairie as determined by the commissioner;

(2) not to alter the native prairie by plowing, heavy grazing, seeding to nonnative grasses or legumes, spraying with large amounts of herbicides, or otherwise destroying the native prairie character of the easement area, except mowing the native prairie tract for wild hay may qualify for easement as determined by the commissioner;

(3) to implement the native prairie conservation and development plan as provided in the easement agreement, unless a requirement in the easement agreement is waived or modified by the commissioner;

(4) to forfeit all rights to further payments under the terms of the easement and to refund to the state all payments received under the easement if the easement is violated at any time when the owner has control of the land subject to the easement, if the commissioner determines that the violation warrants termination of the easement, or if the commissioner determines that the violation does not warrant termination of the easement, the commissioner may determine refunds or payment adjustments to be paid by the commissioner;

(5) not to adopt a practice specified by the commissioner in the easement as a practice that would tend to defeat the purposes of the easement; and

(6) to additional provisions included in the easement that the commissioner determines are desirable.

(b) In return for the easement of the owner, the commissioner shall make payments as provided in subdivision 5 and may provide advice on conservation and development practices on the native prairie in the easement and adjacent areas.

Subd. 5. **Payments.** (a) The commissioner must make payments to the landowner under this subdivision for the easement.

(b) For a permanent easement, the commissioner must pay 65 percent of the permanent marginal agricultural land payment rate as established by the board of water and soil resources for the time period when the application is made.

(c) For an easement of limited duration, the commissioner must pay 65 percent of the permanent prairie bank easement rate for the time period when the application is made.

(d) To maintain and protect native prairies, the commissioner may enter into easements that allow selected agricultural practices. Payment must be based on paragraph (b) or (c) but may be reduced due to the agricultural practices allowed after negotiation with the landowner.

Subd. 6. **Renewal.** A limited-term easement may be converted to a permanent easement or renewed at the end of the easement period by mutual agreement of the commissioner and the owner, subject to any rate redetermination by the commissioner.

Subd. 7. **Easement runs with land.** If during the easement period the owner sells or otherwise disposes of the ownership or right of occupancy of the land, the new owner must continue the easement under the same terms or conditions.

Subd. 8. **Modification and termination by agreement.** The commissioner may terminate an easement by mutual agreement with the owner if the commissioner determines that the termination would be in the public interest. The commissioner may agree to modifications of agreements if the commissioner determines the modification is desirable to implement the native prairie program.

Subd. 9. **Rules.** The commissioner of natural resources may adopt rules that include the procedures and payment rates to implement this section.

**History:** 1987 c 357 s 19; 1991 c 254 art 2 s 8

## PRAIRIE LAND MANAGEMENT

### 84.961 PRAIRIE LAND MANAGEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Native prairie values.** The commissioner of natural resources must recognize the value of native prairie land by taking into consideration the wildlife, scientific, erosion control, educational, and recreational benefits of native prairie.

Subd. 2. **Planning.** The commissioner must plan for management, development, and restoration of:

- (1) prairie land under the commissioner's jurisdiction; and
- (2) prairie landscape reserves, comprised of an integrated network of protected prairie lands, prairie restoration sites, and private prairie lands.

Subd. 3. **Prairie landscape reserves.** The commissioner must develop and manage permanent prairie landscape reserves to maintain the native plant and animal populations, landscape features, and habitat types that are characteristic of intact native prairie ecosystems. Management practices may include haying and grazing.

Subd. 4. **Prairie biologist.** The position of prairie biologist is established in the department of natural resources to plan, develop, and manage native prairie reserves and prairie land under this section. The prairie biologist shall be located within the central part of the prairie region and be under the supervision of the scientific and natural areas program.

**History:** 1987 c 404 s 98

### 84.963 PRAIRIE PLANT SEED PRODUCTION AREAS.

The commissioner of natural resources shall study the feasibility of establishing private or public prairie plant seed production areas within prairie land locations. If

prairie plant seed production is feasible, the commissioner may aid the establishment of production areas. The commissioner may enter cost-share or sharecrop agreements with landowners having easements for conservation purposes of ten or more years on their land to commercially produce prairie plant seed of Minnesota origin. The commissioner may only aid prairie plant seed production areas on agricultural land used to produce crops before December 23, 1985, and cropped three out of five years between 1981 and 1985.

**History:** 1987 c 404 s 99

#### 84.964 INTERAGENCY NATIVE VEGETATION TASK FORCE.

(a) An interagency task force on native plant conservation is established composed of the commissioners or their designees of the departments of agriculture, natural resources, transportation, and the pollution control agency and the executive director or designee of the board of water and soil resources. The commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner's designee shall chair the task force.

(b) The purpose of the task force is to identify priority conservation needs for native plants and their habitats in the ecological regions of the state, and to coordinate implementation of interagency programs to address those needs. The task force shall also ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that native plant species and communities are maintained, enhanced, restored, or established on public lands, and are promoted on private lands.

**History:** 1995 c 220 s 64

#### 84.965 APPROVAL OF PROJECT BY GOVERNOR.

Subdivision 1. **Project coordination.** The commissioner of natural resources shall develop a plan that establishes: a priority for unemployed youths who are economically, socially, physically, or educationally disadvantaged; the ways in which participants will be assisted in gaining ongoing employment or training upon completing the projects; the ways in which exclusive bargaining representatives are to be consulted in regard to the positions and job duties of persons employed in projects; and how the projects are coordinated with other publicly authorized or subsidized programs.

Subd. 2. **Corps member status; fees.** All camp staff except camp directors in the young adult program are corps members. Corps members are not covered for unemployment benefits if their services are excluded under section 268.035, subdivision 20, and they are not eligible for other benefits except workers' compensation. The corps members are not employees of the state of Minnesota within the meaning of section 43A.02, subdivision 21. The commissioner may charge a fee for any service performed by the corps.

**History:** 1963 c 790 art 7 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 3; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 4,5; 1988 c 690 art 1 s 21; 1990 c 516 s 1; 1994 c 488 s 8; 1999 c 107 s 66; 2000 c 343 s 4; 2001 c 7 s 20

84.966 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.967 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.968 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.969 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.9691 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.9692 [Repealed, 1996 c 385 art 2 s 8]

84.9695 [Renumbered 17.457]

## CONTROLLED BURNING

**84.97 CONTROLLED BURNING.**

Subdivision 1. **Program established.** The commissioner may establish a controlled burning program on public and private land to propagate wildlife requiring new vegetative growth and brush habitats, to manage the prairie, and to reduce the wildfire hazard.

Subd. 2. **Burning permits.** (a) A person may not conduct a controlled burn without a permit.

(b) The commissioner may provide a manual that describes financial and technical assistance available and provides detailed information on conducting a controlled burn.

Subd. 3. **Assistance for private burns.** The commissioner may provide financial and technical assistance to persons who desire to conduct controlled burns approved by the commissioner. Technical assistance includes controlled burn plan development, demonstration controlled burns, and personnel assistance for a controlled burn.

**History:** 1988 c 714 s 1

## SHORELAND MANAGEMENT GRANTS

**84.975 SHORELAND MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Purposes.** The commissioner of natural resources may make grants to local governments:

(1) to administer, monitor, and enforce state approved shoreland management ordinances;

(2) to adopt shoreland management ordinances consistent with statewide standards;

(3) to develop comprehensive lake by lake or river shoreland management strategies that provide a unique plan to guide activities on and adjacent to a lake or river; and

(4) to implement elements of a comprehensive lake or river management strategy.

Subd. 2. **Action on grant applications.** Upon receipt of a request for a shoreland management grant, the commissioner of natural resources must confer with the local government requesting the grant and may make a grant based on the following considerations:

(1) the number and classification of lakes and rivers in the jurisdiction of the local government;

(2) the extent of current shoreland development;

(3) the development trends for the lakes and rivers;

(4) the miles of lake and river shoreline;

(5) whether the shoreland management ordinance or regulation adopted by the local government meets the minimum standards established by the commissioner;

(6) the degree and effectiveness of administration, enforcement, and monitoring of the existing shoreland ordinances;

(7) the ability of the local government to finance the program or project; and

(8) the degree to which the program considers a comprehensive approach to lake or river management including land use, recreation, water levels, surface water use, fish, wildlife, and water quality that may be secondary to the other elements.

Subd. 3. **Limitations.** The maximum annual shoreland management grant to local government for purposes of subdivision 1, clauses (1) and (2), may not exceed the local contribution to the shoreland management activity. Any federal program aid for shoreland management shall serve to reduce the state and local contribution to the activity.



Subd. 4. **Aquatic plant grants.** The commissioner may make grants for aquatic plant restoration projects, research, and propagation.

**History:** 1989 c 335 art 1 s 266; 2002 c 376 s 2

## MINNESOTA CONSERVATION CORPS

### 84.98 MINNESOTA CONSERVATION CORPS.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Minnesota conservation corps is established and is under the supervision of the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 2. **Plan.** (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall develop a plan for the Minnesota conservation corps to provide:

(1) equal opportunities of employment for youths with preference given to youths who are economically, socially, physically, or educationally disadvantaged and youths residing in areas of substantial unemployment;

(2) equal opportunity for female and male youths;

(3) summer youth programs and year-round young adult programs;

(4) ways in which exclusive bargaining representatives are to be involved in regard to the planning and implementation of positions and job duties of persons employed in projects;

(5) methods for coordinating the programs of the Minnesota conservation corps with other publicly authorized or subsidized programs in cooperation with the commissioners of children, families, and learning and economic security, the workforce development council, and other state and local youth service and education entities;

(6) programs for participants to be assisted in gaining employment or training upon completing the projects, including, where feasible, in cooperation with the department of economic security and educational agencies, arranging for career assessment and planning services designed to enhance participant transition from the Minnesota conservation corps to future employment or education;

(7) a remedial education component utilizing, as resources permit and where feasible, the services of the department of economic security and educational agencies including instruction in life skills and basic remedial skills for participants who are deficient in the skills or who have not completed high school;

(8) the manner of allocating the services of Minnesota conservation corps members to the various divisions of the department of natural resources, to other state, local, and federal governmental conservation and natural resource managers, and to federally recognized Indian tribes or bands;

(9) standards of conduct and other operating guidelines for Minnesota conservation corps members; and

(10) a determination of preference for projects that will provide long-term benefits to the public, will provide productive work and public service experience to Minnesota conservation corps members, will be primarily labor intensive, and will provide a significant return on taxpayer investment.

(b) No later than July 1, 1990, the plan established under this subdivision shall be adopted under the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14.

Subd. 3. **Criteria for determining economic, social, physical, or educational disadvantage.** (a) The criteria for determining economic, social, physical, or educational disadvantage shall be determined as provided in this subdivision.

(b) Economically disadvantaged are persons who meet the criteria for disadvantaged established by the department of economic security or persons receiving services provided by the department of human services such as welfare payments, food stamps, or Minnesota family investment program.

(c) Socially disadvantaged are persons who have been classified as persons in need of supervision by the court system.

(d) Physically disadvantaged are persons who have been identified as having special needs by public agencies that deal with employment for the disabled.

(e) Educationally disadvantaged are persons who have dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out of school and persons with learning disabilities or in need of special education classes.

**Subd. 4. Requirements for eligibility for enrollment in the corps.** A person is eligible to enroll in the Minnesota conservation corps if the person is:

- (1) a permanent resident of the state;
- (2) unemployed or underemployed;
- (3) at least age 15, but not older than age 26 years;
- (4) free from medical or behavioral problems that would render an individual unable to adjust to the standards, discipline, or requirements of the corps; and
- (5) in the young adult program, the person must have a high school diploma or equivalent, or agree to work towards a high school diploma or equivalent while participating in the program.

**Subd. 5. Corps member status.** Minnesota conservation corps members are not covered for unemployment benefits if their services are excluded under section 268.035, subdivision 20, and they are not eligible for other benefits except workers' compensation. The corps members are not employees of the state within the meaning of section 43A.02, subdivision 21.

**Subd. 6. Fees.** The commissioner may charge a fee for any service performed by the Minnesota conservation corps. Fees generated shall be deposited in a special revenue fund and appropriated to the commissioner for Minnesota conservation corps projects and administration.

**Subd. 7. Limitations on Minnesota conservation corps projects.** Each employing agency must certify that the assignment of Minnesota conservation corps members will not result in the displacement of currently employed workers or workers on seasonal layoff or layoff from a substantially equivalent position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours of nonovertime work, wages, or other employment benefits. Supervising agencies that participate in the program may not terminate, lay off, reduce the seasonal hours, or reduce the working hours of any employee for the purpose of using a corps member with available funds. The positions and job duties of persons employed in projects shall be submitted to affected exclusive representatives prior to actual assignment.

**Subd. 8. Expenditure of corps funds.** The commissioner shall allocate money received for Minnesota conservation corps work projects. An appropriation from a special revenue fund or account to the commissioner for Minnesota conservation corps programs must be spent for projects that are consistent with the purposes of the fund or account from which the appropriation was made.

**History:** 1989 c 335 art 1 s 70; 1990 c 516 s 2; 1994 c 483 s 1; 1994 c 488 s 8; 1995 c 131 s 2; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 4 s 30; art 16 s 13; 1997 c 85 art 4 s 3; 1997 c 187 art 1 s 7; 1999 c 107 s 66; 1999 c 159 s 5; 1999 c 231 s 97; 2000 c 343 s 4; 2001 c 7 s 21

## 84.99 WORK CREWS; ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

The commissioner of natural resources is authorized to provide Minnesota conservation corps crew services to the 14 forested counties that operate land departments under chapter 282. Crews shall work on natural resources projects including, but not limited to, forestry projects.

All participating counties will be eligible to receive a minimum of four weeks of three-person crew service. In determining the allocation of additional crew services, the commissioner will apportion the remaining crew time to participating counties in the proportion of the managed commercial forest land in each participating county to the total managed commercial forest land in all participating counties. Participating counties shall submit a two-year work plan to the commissioner in the first year of the

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biennium. The plan must describe proposed natural resources projects having demonstrable results and long-term benefits. Eligible counties shall notify the commissioner of their intention to participate by April 1 of each odd-numbered year. Crew time not fully utilized by a participating county in the first year of the biennium will be available to that participating county in the second year of the biennium.

**History:** *1989 c 335 art 1 s 71; 1997 c 46 s 3*