

**CHAPTER 282****TAX-FORFEITED LAND SALES**

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### CLASSIFICATION AND SALE

#### 282.01 TAX-FORFEITED LANDS; CLASSIFICATION, SALE.

Subdivision 1. **Classification as conservation or nonconservation.** (a) When acting on behalf of the state under laws allowing the county board to classify and manage tax-forfeited lands held by the state in trust for the local units as provided in section 281.25, the county board has the discretion to decide that some lands in public ownership should be retained and managed for public benefits while other lands should be returned to private ownership. Parcels of land becoming the property of the state in trust under law declaring the forfeiture of lands to the state for taxes must be classified by the county board of the county in which the parcels lie as conservation or nonconservation. In making the classification the board shall consider the present use of adjacent lands, the productivity of the soil, the character of forest or other growth, accessibility of lands to established roads, schools, and other public services, their peculiar suitability or desirability for particular uses, and the suitability of the forest resources on the land for multiple use and sustained yield management. The classification, furthermore, must: (1) encourage and foster a mode of land utilization that will facilitate the economical and adequate provision of transportation, roads, water supply, drainage, sanitation, education, and recreation; (2) facilitate reduction of governmental expenditures; (3) conserve and develop the natural resources; and (4) foster and develop agriculture and other industries in the districts and places best suited to them.

(b) Whenever the county board deems it appropriate, the board may hold a meeting for the purpose of reclassifying tax-forfeited land that has not been sold or released from the trust. The criteria and procedures for reclassification are the same as those required for an initial classification.

(c) Prior to meeting for the purpose of classifying or reclassifying tax-forfeited lands, the county board must give notice of its intent to meet for that purpose as provided in this paragraph. The notice must be given no more than 90 days and no less than 60 days before the date of the meeting; provided that if the meeting is rescheduled, notice of the new date, time, and location must be given at least 14 days before the date of the rescheduled meeting. The notice must be posted on a Web site. The notice must also be mailed or otherwise delivered to each person who has filed a request for notice of special meetings with the public body, regardless of whether the matter is considered at a regular or special meeting. The notice must be mailed or delivered at least 60 days before the date of the meeting. If the meeting is rescheduled, notice of the new date, time, and location must be mailed or delivered at least 14 days before the date of the rescheduled meeting. The public body shall publish the notice once, at least 30 days before the meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation within the area of the public body's authority. The board must also mail a notice by electronic means to each person who requests notice of meetings dealing with this subject and who agrees as provided in chapter 325L to accept notice that is mailed by electronic means. Receipt of actual notice under the conditions specified in section 13D.04, subdivision 7, satisfies the notice requirements of this paragraph.

The board may classify or reclassify tax-forfeited lands at any regular or special meeting, as those terms are defined in chapter 13D and may conduct only this business, or this business as well as other business or activities at the meeting.

(d) At the meeting, the county board must allow any person or agency possessing pertinent information to make or submit comments and recommendations about the pending classification or reclassification. In addition, representatives of governmental entities in attendance must be allowed to describe plans, ideas, or

projects that may involve use or acquisition of the property by that or another governmental entity. The county board must solicit and consider any relevant components of current municipal or metropolitan comprehensive land use plans that incorporate the area in which the land is located. After allowing testimony, the board may classify, reclassify, or delay taking action on any parcel or parcels. In order for a state agency or a governmental subdivision of the state to preserve its right to request a purchase or other acquisition of a forfeited parcel, it may, at any time following forfeiture, file a written request to withhold the parcel from sale or lease to others under the provisions of subdivision 1a.

(e) When classifying, reclassifying, appraising, and selling lands under this chapter, the county board may designate the tracts as assessed and acquired, or may by resolution provide for the subdivision of the tracts into smaller units or for the grouping of several tracts into one tract when the subdivision or grouping is deemed advantageous for conservation or sale purposes. This paragraph does not authorize the county board to subdivide a parcel or tract of tax-forfeited land that, as assessed and acquired, is withheld from sale under section 282.018, subdivision 1.

(f) A county board may by resolution elect to use the classification and reclassification procedures provided in paragraphs (g), (h), and (i), instead of the procedures provided in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d). Once an election is made under this paragraph, it is effective for a minimum of five years.

(g) The classification or reclassification of tax-forfeited land that has not been sold or released from the trust may be made by the county board using information made available to it by any office or department of the federal, state, or local governments, or by any other person or agency possessing pertinent information at the time the classification is made.

(h) If the lands are located within the boundaries of an organized town or incorporated municipality, a classification or reclassification and sale must first be approved by the town board of the town or the governing body of the municipality in which the lands are located. The town board of the town or the governing body of the municipality is considered to have approved the classification or reclassification and sale if the county board is not notified of the disapproval of the classification or reclassification and sale within 60 days of the date the request for approval was transmitted to the town board of the town or governing body of the municipality. If the town board or governing body disapproves of the classification or reclassification and sale, the county board must follow the procedures in paragraphs (c) and (d), with regard to the parcel, and must additionally cause to be published in a newspaper a notice of the date, time, location, and purpose of the required meeting.

(i) If a town board or a governing body of a municipality or a park and recreation board in a city of the first class desires to acquire any parcel lying in the town or municipality by procedures authorized in this section, it may file a written request under subdivision 1a, paragraph (a).

Subd. 1a. **Conveyance to public entities.** (a) Upon written request from a state agency or a governmental subdivision of the state, a parcel of unsold tax-forfeited land must be withheld from sale or lease to others for a maximum of six months. The request must be submitted to the county auditor. Upon receipt, the county auditor must withhold the parcel from sale or lease to any other party for six months, and must confirm the starting date of the six-month withholding period to the requesting agency or subdivision. If the request is from a governmental subdivision of the state, the governmental subdivision must pay the maintenance costs incurred by the county during the period the parcel is withheld. The county board may approve a sale or conveyance to the requesting party during the withholding period. A conveyance of the property to the requesting party terminates the withholding period.

A governmental subdivision of the state must not make, and a county auditor must not act upon, a second request to withhold a parcel from sale or lease within 18 months of a previous request for that parcel. A county may reject a request made under this paragraph if the request is made more than 30 days after the county has given notice to the requesting state agency or governmental subdivision of the state that the county intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the property.

(b) Nonconservation tax-forfeited lands may be sold by the county board, for their market value as determined by the county board, to an organized or incorporated governmental subdivision of the state for any public purpose for which the subdivision is authorized to acquire property. When the term "market value" is used in this section, it means an estimate of the full and actual market value of the parcel as determined by the county board, but in making this determination, the board and the persons employed by or under contract with the board in order to perform, conduct, or assist in the determination, are exempt from the licensure requirements of chapter 82B.

(c) Nonconservation tax-forfeited lands may be sold by the county board, for their market value as determined by the county board, to a state agency for any public purpose for which the agency is authorized to acquire property.

(d) Nonconservation tax-forfeited lands may be sold by the county board to an organized or incorporated governmental subdivision of the state or state agency for less than their market value if:

(1) the county board determines that a sale at a reduced price is in the public interest because a reduced price is necessary to provide an incentive to correct the blighted conditions that make the lands undesirable in the open market, or the reduced price will lead to the development of affordable housing; and

(2) the governmental subdivision or state agency has documented its specific plans for correcting the blighted conditions or developing affordable housing, and the specific law or laws that empower it to acquire real property in furtherance of the plans.

If the sale under this paragraph is to a governmental subdivision of the state, the commissioner of revenue must convey the property on behalf of the state by quitclaim deed. If the sale under this paragraph is to a state agency, the property is released from the trust in favor of the taxing districts and the commissioner of revenue must convey the property on behalf of the state by quitclaim deed to the agency.

(e) Nonconservation tax-forfeited land held in trust in favor of the taxing districts may be conveyed by the commissioner of revenue in the name of the state to a governmental subdivision for an authorized public use, if an application is submitted to the commissioner which includes a statement of facts as to the use to be made of the tract and the favorable recommendation of the county board. For the purposes of this paragraph, "authorized public use" means a use that allows an indefinite segment of the public to physically use and enjoy the property in numbers appropriate to its size and use, or is for a public service facility. Authorized public uses as defined in this paragraph are limited to:

(1) a road, or right-of-way for a road;

(2) a park that is both available to, and accessible by, the public that contains improvements such as campgrounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or shelters;

(3) trails for walking, bicycling, snowmobiling, or other recreational purposes, along with a reasonable amount of surrounding land maintained in its natural state;

(4) transit facilities for buses, light rail transit, commuter rail or passenger rail, including transit ways, park-and-ride lots, transit stations, maintenance and garage facilities, and other facilities related to a public transit system;

(5) public beaches or boat launches;

(6) public parking;

(7) civic recreation or conference facilities; and

(8) public service facilities such as fire halls, police stations, lift stations, water towers, sanitation facilities, water treatment facilities, and administrative offices.

No monetary compensation or consideration is required for the conveyance, except as provided in subdivision 1g, but the conveyance is subject to the conditions provided in law, including, but not limited to, the reversion provisions of subdivisions 1c and 1d.

(f) The commissioner of revenue shall convey a parcel of nonconservation tax-forfeited land to a local governmental subdivision of the state by quitclaim deed on behalf of the state upon the favorable recommendation of the county board if the governmental subdivision has certified to the board that prior to forfeiture the subdivision was entitled to the parcel under a written development agreement or instrument, but the conveyance failed to occur prior to forfeiture. No compensation or consideration is required for, and no conditions attach to, the conveyance.

(g) The commissioner of revenue shall convey a parcel of nonconservation tax-forfeited land to the association of a common interest community by quitclaim deed upon the favorable recommendation of the county board if the association certifies to the board that prior to forfeiture the association was entitled to the parcel under a written agreement, but the conveyance failed to occur prior to forfeiture. No compensation or consideration is required for, and no conditions attach to, the conveyance.

(h) Conservation tax-forfeited land may be sold to a governmental subdivision of the state for less than its market value for either: (1) creation or preservation of wetlands; (2) drainage or storage of storm water under a storm water management plan; or (3) preservation, or restoration and preservation, of the land in its natural state. The deed must contain a restrictive covenant limiting the use of the land to one of these purposes for 30 years or until the property is reconveyed back to the state in trust. At any time, the governmental subdivision may reconvey the property to the state in trust for the taxing districts. The deed of reconveyance is subject to approval by the commissioner of revenue. No part of a purchase price determined under this paragraph shall be refunded upon a reconveyance, but the amount paid for a conveyance under this paragraph may be taken into account by the county board when setting the terms of a future sale of the same property to the same governmental subdivision under paragraph (b) or (d). If the lands are unplatted and located outside of an incorporated municipality and the commissioner of natural resources determines there is a mineral use potential, the sale is subject to the approval of the commissioner of natural resources.

(i) A park and recreation board in a city of the first class is a governmental subdivision for the purposes of this section.

(j) Tax-forfeited land held in trust in favor of the taxing districts may be conveyed by the commissioner of revenue in the name of the state to a governmental subdivision for a school forest under section 89.41. An application that includes a statement of facts as to the use to be made of the tract and the favorable recommendation of the county board and the commissioner of natural resources must be submitted to the commissioner of revenue. No monetary compensation or consideration is required for the conveyance, but the conveyance is subject to the conditional use and reversion provisions of subdivisions 1c and 1d, paragraph

(e). At any time, the governmental subdivision may reconvey the property back to the state in trust for the taxing districts. The deed of reconveyance is subject to approval by the commissioner of revenue.

**Subd. 1b. Conveyance; targeted community lands.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1a, in the case of tax-forfeited lands located in a targeted community in a city of the first class, the commissioner of revenue shall convey by quitclaim deed in the name of the state any tract of tax-forfeited land held in trust in favor of the taxing districts, to a political subdivision of the state that submits an application to the commissioner of revenue and the favorable recommendation of the county board. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "targeted community" has the meaning given in section 469.201, subdivision 10, except that the land must be located within a first class city.

**Subd. 1c. Deed of conveyance; form; approvals.** The deed conveying property for an authorized public use under the authorities in this section, must be on a form approved by the attorney general and must be conditioned on continued use of the property for the purpose stated in the application as provided in this section. All deeds conveying property for an authorized public use, regardless of when executed, are conditional use deeds that convey a defeasible estate. Reversion of the estate occurs by operation of law and without the requirement for any affirmative act by or on behalf of the state when there is a failure to put the property to the approved authorized public use for which it was conveyed, or an abandonment of that use, except as provided in subdivision 1d.

**Subd. 1d. Reverter for failure to use; conveyance to state.** (a) After three years from the date of any conveyance of tax-forfeited land to a governmental subdivision for an authorized public use as provided in this section, regardless of when the deed for the authorized public use was executed, if the governmental subdivision has failed to put the land to that use, or abandons that use, the governing body of the subdivision must: (1) with the approval of the county board, purchase the property for an authorized public purpose at the present market value as determined by the county board, or (2) authorize the proper officers to convey the land, or the part of the land not required for an authorized public use, to the state of Minnesota in trust for the taxing districts. If the governing body purchases the property under clause (1), the commissioner of revenue shall, upon proper application submitted by the county auditor and upon the reconveyance of the land subject to the conditional use deed to the state, convey the property on behalf of the state by quitclaim deed to the subdivision free of a use restriction and the possibility of reversion or defeasement. If the governing body decides to reconvey the property to the state under this clause, the officers shall execute a deed of conveyance immediately. The conveyance is subject to the approval of the commissioner and its form must be approved by the attorney general. For 15 years from the date of the conveyance, there is no failure to put the land to the authorized public use and no abandonment of that use if a formal plan of the governmental subdivision, including, but not limited to, a comprehensive plan or land use plan, shows an intended future use of the land for the authorized public use.

(b) Property held by a governmental subdivision of the state under a conditional use deed executed under this section by the commissioner of revenue on or after January 1, 2007, may be acquired by that governmental subdivision after 15 years from the date of the conveyance if the commissioner determines upon written application from the subdivision that the subdivision has in fact put the property to the authorized public use for which it was conveyed, and the subdivision has made a finding that it has no current plans to change the use of the lands. Prior to conveying the property, the commissioner shall inquire whether the county board where the land is located objects to a conveyance of the property to the subdivision without conditions and without further act by or obligation of the subdivision. If the county does not object within 60 days, and the commissioner makes a favorable determination, the commissioner shall issue a quitclaim deed on behalf of the state unconditionally conveying the property to the governmental subdivision. For purposes of this

paragraph, demonstration of an intended future use for the authorized public use in a formal plan of the governmental subdivision does not constitute use for that authorized public use.

(c) Property held by a governmental subdivision of the state under a conditional use deed executed under this section by the commissioner of revenue before January 1, 2007, is released from the use restriction and possibility of reversion on January 1, 2022, if the county board records a resolution describing the land and citing this paragraph. The county board may authorize the county treasurer to deduct the amount of the recording fees from future settlements of property taxes to the subdivision.

(d) Except for tax-forfeited land conveyed to establish a school forest under section 89.41, property conveyed under a conditional use deed executed under this section by the commissioner of revenue, regardless of when the deed for the authorized public use was executed, is released from the use restriction and reverter, and any use restriction or reverter for which no declaration of reversion has been recorded with the county recorder or registrar of titles, as appropriate, is nullified on the later of: (1) January 1, 2015; (2) 30 years from the date the deed was acknowledged; or (3) final resolution of an appeal to district court under subdivision 1e, if a lis pendens related to the appeal is recorded in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, as appropriate, prior to January 1, 2015.

(e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) to (d), tax-forfeited land conveyed to establish a school forest under section 89.41 is subject to a perpetual conditional use deed and reverter. The property reverts to the state in trust for the taxing districts by operation of law if the commissioner of natural resources determines and reports to the commissioner of revenue under section 89.41, subdivision 3, that the governmental subdivision has failed to use the land for school forest purposes for three consecutive years. The commissioner of revenue shall record a declaration of reversion for land that has reverted under this paragraph.

**Subd. 1e. Notice and declaration of reversion.** If the tax-forfeited land is not either purchased or conveyed to the state in accordance with subdivision 1d, the commissioner of revenue shall by written instrument, in form approved by the attorney general, declare the land to have reverted to the state, and shall serve a notice of reversion, with a copy of the declaration, by certified mail upon the clerk or recorder of the governmental subdivision concerned. No declaration of reversion under this subdivision shall be made earlier than 60 days after the expiration of the three-year period described in subdivision 1d. The commissioner shall file the original declaration in the commissioner's office, with verified proof of service. The governmental subdivision may appeal to the district court of the county in which the land lies by filing with the court administrator a notice of appeal, specifying the grounds of appeal and the description of the land involved, mailing a copy of the notice of appeal by certified mail to the commissioner of revenue, and filing a copy for record with the county recorder or registrar of titles, all within 30 days after the mailing of the notice of reversion. The appeal shall be tried by the court in like manner as a civil action. If no appeal is taken as provided in this subdivision, the declaration of reversion is final. The commissioner of revenue shall file for record with the county recorder or registrar of titles, of the county within which the land lies, a certified copy of the declaration of reversion and proof of service.

**Subd. 1f. Land exchanges; Minneapolis.** A city of the first class with a population of 450,000, or over, or its board of park commissioners, which has acquired tax-forfeited land for a specified public use under this section, may convey the land in exchange for other land of substantially equal worth located in the city. The land conveyed to the city, or its board of park commissioners, in exchange is subject to the public use and reversionary provisions of this section. The tax-forfeited land so conveyed is thereafter free from the public use and reversionary provisions of this section. The exchange shall in no way affect the mineral rights of the state of Minnesota, if any, in the lands exchanged.

Subd. 1g. **Conditional use deed fees.** (a) A governmental subdivision of the state applying for a conditional use deed under subdivision 1a, paragraph (e), must submit a fee of \$250 to the commissioner of revenue along with the application. If the application is denied, the commissioner shall refund \$150 of the application fee.

(b) The proceeds from the fees must be deposited in a Department of Revenue conditional use deed revolving fund. The sums deposited into the revolving fund are appropriated to the commissioner of revenue for the purpose of making the refunds described in this subdivision and administering conditional use deed laws.

Subd. 1h. **Conveyance; form.** The instruments of conveyance executed and issued by the commissioner of revenue under subdivision 1a, paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), and subdivision 1d, paragraph (b), must be on a form approved by the attorney general and are prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein and that the execution and issuance of the conveyance complies with the applicable laws.

Subd. 2. **Conservation lands; county board supervision.** (a) Lands classified as conservation lands must be held under the supervision of the county board of the county within which the parcels lie and must not be conveyed or sold unless the lands are:

- (1) reclassified as nonconservation lands;
- (2) conveyed to a governmental subdivision of the state under subdivision 1a;
- (3) released from the trust in favor of the taxing districts as provided in paragraph (b); or
- (4) conveyed or sold under the authority of another general or special law.

(b) The county board may, by resolution duly adopted, resolve that certain lands classified as conservation lands shall be devoted to conservation uses and may submit a resolution to the commissioner of natural resources. If, upon investigation, the commissioner of natural resources determines that the lands covered by the resolution, or any part thereof, can be managed and developed for conservation purposes, the commissioner shall make a certificate describing the lands and reciting the acceptance thereof on behalf of the state. The commissioner shall transmit the certificate to the county auditor, who shall note the same upon the auditor's records and record the same with the county recorder. The title to all lands so accepted shall be held by the state free from any trust in favor of any and all taxing districts and the lands shall be devoted thereafter to the purposes of forestry, water conservation, flood control, parks, game refuges, controlled game management areas, public shooting grounds, or other public recreational or conservation uses, and managed, controlled, and regulated under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources and the divisions of the department.

(c) All proceeds derived from the sale of timber, lease of crops of hay, or other revenue from lands under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources shall be credited to the general fund of the state.

(d) If the commissioner of natural resources determines that any tract of land acquired by the state under paragraph (b) and situated within or adjacent to the boundaries of any governmental subdivision of the state is suitable for use by the subdivision for any authorized public purpose, the commissioner may convey the tract by deed in the name of the state to the subdivision upon the filing with the commissioner of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of all the members of the governing body thereof, stating the purpose for which the land is desired. The deed of conveyance shall be upon a form approved by the attorney general and must be conditioned upon continued use for the purpose stated in the resolution.



(e) The county auditor, with the approval of the county board, may lease conservation lands remaining under the supervision of the county board and sell timber and hay stumpage thereon in the manner hereinafter provided, and all proceeds derived therefrom shall be distributed in the same manner as provided in section 282.04.

**Subd. 3. Nonconservation lands; appraisal and sale.** (a) All parcels of land classified as nonconservation, except those which may be reserved, shall be sold as provided, if it is determined, by the county board of the county in which the parcels lie, that it is advisable to do so, having in mind their accessibility, their proximity to existing public improvements, and the effect of their sale and occupancy on the public burdens. Any parcels of land proposed to be sold shall be first appraised by the county board of the county in which the parcels lie. The parcels may be reappraised whenever the county board deems it necessary to carry out the intent of sections 282.01 to 282.13.

(b) In an appraisal the value of the land and any standing timber on it shall be separately determined. No parcel of land containing any standing timber may be sold until the appraised value of the timber on it and the sale of the land have been approved by the commissioner of natural resources. The commissioner shall base review of a proposed sale on the policy and considerations specified in subdivision 1. The decision of the commissioner shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for it. The commissioner's decision is exempt from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. The county may appeal the decision of the commissioner in accordance with chapter 14.

(c) In any county in which a state forest or any part of it is located, the county auditor shall submit to the commissioner at least 60 days before the first publication of the list of lands to be offered for sale a list of all lands included on the list which are situated outside of any incorporated municipality. If, at any time before the opening of the sale, the commissioner notifies the county auditor in writing that there is standing timber on any parcel of land, the parcel shall not be sold unless the requirements of this section respecting the separate appraisal of the timber and the approval of the appraisal by the commissioner have been complied with. The commissioner may waive the requirement of the 60-day notice as to any parcel of land which has been examined and the timber value approved as required by this section.

(d) If any public improvement is made by a municipality after any parcel of land has been forfeited to the state for the nonpayment of taxes, and the improvement is assessed in whole or in part against the property benefited by it, the clerk of the municipality shall certify to the county auditor, immediately upon the determination of the assessments for the improvement, the total amount that would have been assessed against the parcel of land if it had been subject to assessment; or if the public improvement is made, petitioned for, ordered in or assessed, whether the improvement is completed in whole or in part, at any time between the appraisal and the sale of the parcel of land, the cost of the improvement shall be included as a separate item and added to the appraised value of the parcel of land at the time it is sold. No sale of a parcel of land shall discharge or free the parcel of land from lien for the special benefit conferred upon it by reason of the public improvement until the cost of it, including penalties, if any, is paid. The county board shall determine the amount, if any, by which the value of the parcel was enhanced by the improvement and include the amount as a separate item in fixing the appraised value for the purpose of sale.

**Subd. 4. Sale; method; requirements; effects.** (a) The sale authorized under subdivision 3 must be conducted by the county auditor at the county seat of the county in which the parcels lie, except that in St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, the sale may be conducted in any county facility within the county. The sale must not be for less than the appraised value except as provided in subdivision 7a. The parcels must be sold for cash only, unless the county board of the county has adopted a resolution providing for their sale on terms, in which event the resolution controls with respect to the sale. When the sale is made on terms other than for cash only (1) a payment of at least ten percent of the purchase price must be made at the time

of purchase, and the balance must be paid in no more than ten equal annual installments, or (2) the payments must be made in accordance with county board policy, but in no event may the board require more than 12 installments annually, and the contract term must not be for more than ten years. Standing timber or timber products must not be removed from these lands until an amount equal to the appraised value of all standing timber or timber products on the lands at the time of purchase has been paid by the purchaser. If a parcel of land bearing standing timber or timber products is sold at public auction for more than the appraised value, the amount bid in excess of the appraised value must be allocated between the land and the timber in proportion to their respective appraised values. In that case, standing timber or timber products must not be removed from the land until the amount of the excess bid allocated to timber or timber products has been paid in addition to the appraised value of the land. The purchaser is entitled to immediate possession, subject to the provisions of any existing valid lease made in behalf of the state.

(b) For sales occurring on or after July 1, 1982, the unpaid balance of the purchase price is subject to interest at the rate determined pursuant to section 549.09. The unpaid balance of the purchase price for sales occurring after December 31, 1990, is subject to interest at the rate determined in section 279.03, subdivision 1a. The interest rate is subject to change each year on the unpaid balance in the manner provided for rate changes in section 549.09 or 279.03, subdivision 1a, whichever, is applicable. Interest on the unpaid contract balance on sales occurring before July 1, 1982, is payable at the rate applicable to the sale at the time that the sale occurred.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision 7, a county board may by resolution provide for the listing and sale of individual parcels by other means, including through a real estate broker. However, if the buyer under this paragraph could have repurchased a parcel of property under section 282.012 or 282.241, that buyer may not purchase that same parcel of property at the sale under this subdivision for a purchase price less than the sum of all taxes, assessments, penalties, interest, and costs due at the time of forfeiture computed under section 282.251, and any special assessments for improvements certified as of the date of sale. This subdivision shall be liberally construed to encourage the sale and utilization of tax-forfeited land in order to eliminate nuisances and dangerous conditions and to increase compliance with land use ordinances.

**Subd. 5. Sale on terms, certificate; failure to comply.** When sales hereafter are made on terms the purchaser shall receive a certificate from the county auditor in such form, consistent with the provisions of sections 282.01 to 282.13 and setting forth the terms of sale, as may be prescribed by the attorney general. Failure of the purchaser or any person claiming under the purchaser, to pay any of the deferred installments with interest, or the current taxes, or to comply with any conditions that may have been stipulated in the notice of sale or in the auditor's certificate herein provided for, shall constitute default; and the state may, by order of the county board, during the continuance of such default, declare such certificate canceled and take possession of such lands and may thereafter resell or lease the same in the same manner and under the same rules as other lands forfeited to the state for taxes are sold or leased. When the county board shall have adopted a resolution ordering the cancellation of such certificate or certificates and the cancellation shall have been completed in accord with section 282.40, then a reentry shall be deemed to have been made on the part of the state without any other act or deed, and without any right of redemption by the purchaser or any one claiming under the purchaser; and the original purchaser in default or any person claiming under the original purchaser, who shall remain in possession or enter thereon shall be deemed a willful trespasser and shall be punished as such.

When the cancellation of such certificate has been completed the county auditor shall cancel all taxes and tax liens, delinquent and current, and special assessments, delinquent or otherwise, imposed upon the lands described in the certificate after its issuance.

**Subd. 6. Duties of commissioner after sale.** When any sale has been made by the county auditor under sections 282.01 to 282.13, the auditor shall immediately certify to the commissioner of revenue such information relating to such sale, on such forms as the commissioner of revenue may prescribe as will enable the commissioner of revenue to prepare an appropriate deed if the sale is for cash, or keep necessary records if the sale is on terms; and not later than October 31 of each year the county auditor shall submit to the commissioner of revenue a statement of all instances wherein any payment of principal, interest, or current taxes on lands held under certificate, due or to be paid during the preceding calendar years, are still outstanding at the time such certificate is made. When such statement shows that a purchaser or the purchaser's assignee is in default, the commissioner of revenue may instruct the county board of the county in which the land is located to cancel said certificate of sale in the manner provided by subdivision 5, provided that upon recommendation of the county board, and where the circumstances are such that the commissioner of revenue after investigation is satisfied that the purchaser has made every effort reasonable to make payment of both the annual installment and said taxes, and that there has been no willful neglect on the part of the purchaser in meeting these obligations, then the commissioner of revenue may extend the time for the payment for such period as the commissioner may deem warranted, not to exceed one year. On payment in full of the purchase price, appropriate conveyance in fee, in such form as may be prescribed by the attorney general, shall be issued by the commissioner of revenue, which conveyance must be recorded by the county and shall have the force and effect of a patent from the state subject to easements and restrictions of record at the date of the tax judgment sale, including, but without limitation, permits for telephone and electric power lines either by underground cable or conduit or otherwise, sewer and water lines, highways, railroads, and pipe lines for gas, liquids, or solids in suspension.

**Subd. 7. County sales; notice, purchase price, disposition.** The sale must commence at the time determined by the county board of the county in which the parcels are located. The county auditor shall offer the parcels of land in order in which they appear in the notice of sale, and shall sell them to the highest bidder, but not for a sum less than the appraised value, until all of the parcels of land have been offered. Then the county auditor shall sell any remaining parcels to anyone offering to pay the appraised value, except that if the person could have repurchased a parcel of property under section 282.012 or 282.241, that person may not purchase that same parcel of property at the sale under this subdivision for a purchase price less than the sum of all taxes, assessments, penalties, interest, and costs due at the time of forfeiture computed under section 282.251, and any special assessments for improvements certified as of the date of sale. The sale must continue until all the parcels are sold or until the county board orders a reappraisal or withdraws any or all of the parcels from sale. The list of lands may be added to and the added lands may be sold at any time by publishing the descriptions and appraised values. The added lands must be: (1) parcels of land that have become forfeited and classified as nonconservation since the commencement of any prior sale; (2) parcels classified as nonconservation that have been reappraised; (3) parcels that have been reclassified as nonconservation; or (4) other parcels that are subject to sale but were omitted from the existing list for any reason. The descriptions and appraised values must be published in the same manner as provided for the publication of the original list. Parcels added to the list must first be offered for sale to the highest bidder before they are sold at appraised value. All parcels of land not offered for immediate sale, as well as parcels that are offered and not immediately sold, continue to be held in trust by the state for the taxing districts interested in each of the parcels, under the supervision of the county board. Those parcels may be used for public purposes until sold, as directed by the county board.

**Subd. 7a. City sales; alternate procedures.** Land located in a home rule charter or statutory city, or in a town which cannot be improved because of noncompliance with local ordinances regarding minimum area, shape, frontage or access may be sold by the county auditor pursuant to this subdivision if the auditor determines that a nonpublic sale will encourage the approval of sale of the land by the city or town and promote its return to the tax rolls. If the physical characteristics of the land indicate that its highest and best

use will be achieved by combining it with an adjoining parcel and the city or town has not adopted a local ordinance governing minimum area, shape, frontage, or access, the land may also be sold pursuant to this subdivision. If the property consists of an undivided interest in land or land and improvements, the property may also be sold to the other owners under this subdivision. The sale of land pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to any conditions imposed by the county board pursuant to section 282.03. The governing body of the city or town may recommend to the county board conditions to be imposed on the sale. The county auditor may restrict the sale to owners of lands adjoining the land to be sold. The county auditor shall conduct the sale by sealed bid or may select another means of sale. The land shall be sold to the highest bidder and may be sold for less than its appraised value. All owners of land adjoining the land to be sold shall be given a written notice at least 30 days prior to the sale.

This subdivision shall be liberally construed to encourage the sale and utilization of tax-forfeited land, to eliminate nuisances and dangerous conditions and to increase compliance with land use ordinances.

**Subd. 8. Minerals in tax-forfeited land and tax-forfeited stockpiled metallic minerals material subject to mining; procedures.** In case the commissioner of natural resources shall notify the county auditor of any county in writing that the minerals in any tax-forfeited land or tax-forfeited stockpiled metallic minerals material located on tax-forfeited land in such county have been designated as a mining unit as provided by law, or that such minerals or tax-forfeited stockpiled metallic minerals material are subject to a mining permit or lease issued therefor as provided by law, the surface of such tax-forfeited land shall be subject to disposal and use for mining purposes pursuant to such designation, permit, or lease, and shall be withheld from sale or lease by the county auditor until the commissioner shall notify the county auditor that such land has been removed from the list of mining units or that any mining permit or lease theretofore issued thereon is no longer in force; provided, that the surface of such tax-forfeited land may be leased by the county auditor as provided by law, with the written approval of the commissioner, subject to disposal and use for mining purposes as herein provided and to any special conditions relating thereto that the commissioner may prescribe, also subject to cancellation for mining purposes on three months written notice from the commissioner to the county auditor.

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 2010 c 389 art 9 s 14]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 2010 c 389 art 9 s 14]

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 2010 c 389 art 9 s 14]

**Subd. 12. Notice; public hearing for use change.** If a governmental subdivision that acquired a parcel for public use under this section later determines to change the use, it must hold a public hearing on the proposed use change. The governmental subdivision must mail written notice of the proposed use change and the public hearing to each owner of property that is within 400 feet of the parcel at least ten days and no more than 60 days before it holds the hearing. The notice must identify: (1) the parcel, (2) its current use, (3) the proposed use, (4) the date, time, and place of the public hearing, and (5) where to submit written comments on the proposal and that the public is invited to testify at the public hearing.

**Subd. 13. Online auction.** A county board, or a county auditor if the auditor has been delegated such authority under section 282.135, may sell tax-forfeited lands through an online auction. When an online auction is used to sell tax-forfeited lands, the county auditor shall post a physical notice of the online auction and shall publish a notice of the online auction on its Web site not less than ten days before the online auction begins, in addition to any other notice required.

**History:** (2139-15) 1935 c 386 s 1; Ex1935 c 105 s 1; 1939 c 328 s 1; 1941 c 394 s 1; 1941 c 511 s 1; 1943 c 37 s 1; 1943 c 204 s 1,2; 1943 c 627 s 1-3; 1945 c 99 s 1; 1945 c 150 s 1,2; 1945 c 574 s 1; 1947 c

*140 s 1; 1949 c 251 s 1; 1949 c 359 s 1; 1953 c 144 s 1; 1953 c 316 s 1; 1953 c 493 s 1; 1953 c 549 s 1; 1957 c 667 s 1-3; 1959 c 348 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1974 c 278 s 1; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1978 c 674 s 60; 1980 c 437 s 13,14; 1982 c 424 s 63,130; 1982 c 511 s 24,25; 1982 c 523 art 39 s 5,6; 1983 c 222 s 19; 1983 c 247 s 121; 1983 c 342 art 15 s 30; 1984 c 443 s 1; 1985 c 300 s 13; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 20 s 14; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1987 c 291 s 211; 1989 c 328 art 6 s 1; 1990 c 480 art 8 s 14; 1990 c 604 art 3 s 37; 1991 c 291 art 12 s 19; 1992 c 511 art 2 s 27; 1993 c 11 s 1; 1994 c 416 art 1 s 36; 1997 c 231 art 8 s 5; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 8-10; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 59-63; 2003 c 127 art 5 s 33,46,47; 2004 c 221 s 45; 2004 c 262 art 2 s 8; 2008 c 277 art 1 s 60; 2010 c 389 art 9 s 1-13; 2011 c 112 art 7 s 4-6; 2013 c 73 s 4,5; 2014 c 308 art 9 s 52; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 30,31; art 15 s 30,31*

## **LANDS CLASSIFIED FOR CONSERVATION OR FOREST PURPOSES**

### **282.011 CLASSIFICATION AND SALE.**

Subdivision 1. **Classification, sale, procedures and conditions.** Any lands which have become the absolute property of the state through forfeiture for nonpayment of taxes and which have been classified by the county board as conservation lands under the provisions of section 282.01, or have been classified as nonagricultural lands under the provisions of section 282.14, or any such lands which shall hereafter be so classified, may be designated by the county board of the county in which such lands lie, by resolution duly adopted, as appropriate and primarily suitable for either specific conservation purposes or for auxiliary forest lands. Any resolution so adopted, together with a list of the lands involved shall be forwarded to the commissioner of natural resources who shall promptly approve or disapprove the whole or any part thereof. The commissioner shall thereupon make a certificate showing the lands approved, transmit the same to the county auditor who shall record the same. Lands so designated and so approved shall thereupon be appraised and the whole, or any part thereof, may be offered for sale and sold in the same manner as provided for the sale of lands classified as nonconservation lands under section 282.01, or as agricultural lands under section 282.14, as the case may be, according to the status of such lands upon forfeiture. The right to a deed of conveyance to such property accorded the purchaser at any such sale shall be conditioned upon the lands being placed in an auxiliary forest or used for designated conservation purposes as designated by the resolution of the county board.

Subd. 2. **Conditions, form of conveyance.** The condition as to the placing of land into an auxiliary forest or for use for designated conservation purposes shall be a condition precedent. Any deed of conveyance of lands so placed shall be upon a form approved by the attorney general but such conveyance shall not be a fee determinable nor contain any conditions therein other than a reservation of the minerals and mineral rights to the state for its own use, or in trust for the appropriate taxing district as the case may be, according to the status of the land upon forfeiture. The land so placed, however, shall be subject to the requirements for withdrawal of lands from an auxiliary forest contained in section 88.49, subdivision 9. The procedure contained in that section shall also be applicable, so far as possible, to lands designated for conservation purposes other than an auxiliary forest.

Subd. 3. **Title examination.** The commissioner of revenue shall, if requested by the purchaser or the county attorney of the county where all or a portion of the land is situated, deliver the deed to the county attorney for use under Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 88.48, subdivision 5, but such delivery shall not be considered delivery to the purchaser. The county attorney shall be instructed when taking the transferral of the deed that said deed shall not be delivered to the purchaser unless the land involved is accepted as and placed into an auxiliary forest.

Subd. 4. **Replacing old deeds.** All deeds executed and delivered by the state pursuant to this section before the effective date of Laws 1955, chapter 389, containing conditions subsequent or conveying determinable fees, shall at the request of the purchaser, be returned to the commissioner who is herewith empowered to issue a new deed pursuant to subdivision 2.

**History:** 1947 c 496 s 1; 1955 c 389 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1986 c 444; 1Sp2015 c 4 art 4 s 126

#### **282.012 PRIOR OWNER MAY PURCHASE; CONDITIONS.**

At least one week before the date of sale, the person who was the owner of any included parcel when it forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes, or the person's heirs, successors or assigns or any person to whom the right to pay taxes on such lands was given by statute, mortgage, or other agreement, may purchase the parcel. The purchase price is the greater of (1) the appraised value of the parcel, or (2) the sum of all delinquent taxes and assessments, computed under section 282.251, together with penalties, interest, and costs, that accrued or would have accrued if the parcel had not forfeited to the state. The purchaser's title and right is conditioned upon the primary use as designated by the resolution of the county board. The right of the purchaser to purchase shall be evidenced by the purchaser's duly verified written application showing the qualifications required by this section and filed with the county auditor.

**History:** 1947 c 496 s 2; 1986 c 444; 1992 c 511 art 2 s 28

**282.013** [Repealed, 1Sp2015 c 4 art 4 s 150]

#### **282.014 COMPLETION OF SALE, FEE, CONVEYANCE RECORDED.**

(a) Upon compliance by the purchaser with the provisions of this chapter and with the terms and conditions of the sale, and upon full payment for the land, plus a \$25 fee in addition to the sale price, the sale shall be complete and a conveyance of the land shall be issued to the purchaser as provided by the appropriate statutes according to the status of the land upon forfeiture.

The conveyance must be forwarded to the county auditor who shall have the conveyance recorded before issuing it to the purchaser.

(b) In order for the commissioner of revenue to issue a conveyance of tax-forfeited land under any provision of this chapter other than section 282.01, subdivision 1a, paragraph (e), or 282.33, and that is not covered by paragraph (a), the grantee must pay the fee provided in paragraph (a).

The conveyance must be forwarded to the county auditor who shall have the conveyance recorded before issuing it to the grantee.

**History:** 1947 c 496 s 4; 1982 c 523 art 19 s 3; 1985 c 300 s 14; 1987 c 268 art 7 s 49; 1990 c 594 art 1 s 64; 1994 c 416 art 1 s 37; 2011 c 112 art 7 s 7

#### **282.015 PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

The proceeds of each such sale shall be disposed of as provided in the case of sales of other lands becoming the property of the state in the same manner as the lands sold hereunder.

**History:** 1947 c 496 s 5

**PROHIBITED OR LIMITED SALES****282.016 PROHIBITED PURCHASERS.**

(a) A county auditor, county treasurer, county attorney, court administrator of the district court, county assessor, supervisor of assessments, deputy or clerk or an employee of such officer, a commissioner for tax-forfeited lands or an assistant to such commissioner, must not become a purchaser, either personally or as an agent or attorney for another person, of the properties offered for sale under the provisions of this chapter in the county for which the person performs duties.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), such officer, deputy, clerk, or employee or commissioner for tax-forfeited lands or assistant to such commissioner may (1) purchase lands owned by that official at the time the state became the absolute owner thereof or (2) bid upon and purchase forfeited property offered for sale under the alternate sale procedure described in section 282.01, subdivision 7a.

(c) In addition to the persons identified in paragraph (a), a county auditor may prohibit other persons and entities from becoming a purchaser, either personally or as an agent or attorney for another person or entity, of the properties offered for sale under this chapter in the following circumstances: (1) the person or entity owns another property within the county for which there are delinquent taxes owing; (2) the person or entity has held a rental license in the county and the license has been revoked within the last five years; or (3) the person or entity has been the vendee of a contract for purchase of a property offered for sale under this chapter, which contract has been canceled within the last five years.

(d) A person prohibited from purchasing property under this section must not directly or indirectly have another person purchase it on behalf of the prohibited purchaser for the prohibited purchaser's benefit or gain.

**History:** 1959 c 280 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1992 c 511 art 9 s 6; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 31; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 32

**282.017 CONVEYANCE OF INTERESTS TO GOVERNMENTS.**

Notwithstanding any existing law to the contrary, the county auditor of any county, is hereby authorized on behalf of the state, for such price and on such terms and conditions, including provision for reversion in the event of nonuser, as the county board may prescribe, to convey to the United States or to the state of Minnesota upon tax-forfeited lands under the administration of the county, permanent or temporary easements for specified periods or otherwise for highways, roads and trails, flowage for development of fish and game resources, stream protection, flood control, and necessary appurtenances thereto.

**History:** Ex1967 c 21 s 2

**282.018 LAND BY PUBLIC WATERS, NONFORESTED MARGINAL LAND, WETLANDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Land on or adjacent to public waters.** (a) All land which is the property of the state as a result of forfeiture to the state for nonpayment of taxes, regardless of whether the land is held in trust for taxing districts, and which borders on or is adjacent to meandered lakes and other public waters and watercourses, and the live timber growing or being thereon, is hereby withdrawn from sale except as hereinafter provided. The authority having jurisdiction over the timber on any of these lands may sell the timber as otherwise provided by law for cutting and removal under the conditions as the authority may prescribe in accordance with approved, sustained yield forestry practices. The authority having jurisdiction over the timber shall reserve the timber and impose the conditions as the authority deems necessary for the protection of watersheds, wildlife habitat, shorelines, and scenic features. Within the area in Cook, Lake,

and St. Louis counties described in the Act of Congress approved July 10, 1930 (46 Stat. 1020), the timber on tax-forfeited lands shall be subject to like restrictions as are now imposed by that act on federal lands.

(b) Of all tax-forfeited land bordering on or adjacent to meandered lakes and other public waters and watercourses and so withdrawn from sale, a strip two rods in width, the ordinary high-water mark being the waterside boundary thereof, and the land side boundary thereof being a line drawn parallel to the ordinary high-water mark and two rods distant landward therefrom, hereby is reserved for public travel thereon, and whatever the conformation of the shore line or conditions require, the authority having jurisdiction over these lands shall reserve a wider strip for these purposes.

(c) Any tract or parcel of land which has 150 feet or less of waterfront may be sold by the authority having jurisdiction over the land, in the manner otherwise provided by law for the sale of the lands, if the authority determines that it is in the public interest to do so. Any tract or parcel of land within a plat of record bordering on or adjacent to meandered lakes and other public waters and watercourses may be sold by the authority having jurisdiction over the land, in the manner otherwise provided by law for the sale of the lands, if the authority determines that it is in the public interest to do so. If the authority having jurisdiction over the land is not the commissioner of natural resources, the land may not be offered for sale without the prior approval of the commissioner of natural resources.

(d) Where the authority having jurisdiction over lands withdrawn from sale under this section is not the commissioner of natural resources, the authority may submit proposals for disposition of the lands to the commissioner. The commissioner of natural resources shall evaluate the lands and their public benefits and make recommendations on the proposed dispositions to the committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over natural resources. The commissioner shall include any recommendations of the commissioner for disposition of lands withdrawn from sale under this section over which the commissioner has jurisdiction. The commissioner's recommendations may include a public sale, sale to a private party, acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources for public purposes, or a cooperative management agreement with, or transfer to, another unit of government.

(e) Notwithstanding this subdivision, a county may sell property governed by this section upon written authorization from the commissioner of natural resources. Prior to the sale or conveyance of lands under this subdivision, the county board must give notice of its intent to meet for that purpose as provided in section 282.01, subdivision 1.

Subd. 2. **Marginal land and wetlands.** Nonforested marginal land and wetlands on land that is property of the state as a result of forfeiture to the state for nonpayment of taxes is withdrawn from sale as provided in section 103F.535 unless:

(1) notice of the existence of the nonforested marginal land or wetlands, in a form prescribed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, is provided to prospective purchasers; and

(2) the deed contains a restrictive covenant, in a form prescribed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, that precludes enrollment of the land in a state-funded program providing compensation for conservation of marginal land or wetlands.

**History:** 1973 c 369 s 1; 1984 c 490 s 2; 1989 c 353 s 9; 1991 c 159 s 2; 1991 c 354 art 10 s 9; 2002 c 366 s 4; 2017 c 93 art 2 s 143; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 33

## **282.019 LAND SUBJECT TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE OR PETROLEUM RELEASE.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** When there is a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant, as defined in section 115B.02, or of petroleum as defined in section 115C.02, in or on



tax-forfeited land under the authority of a county or the commissioner of natural resources, the county or commissioner shall comply with the provisions of this section.

**Subd. 2. Management requirements.** When managing the land, the county or commissioner of natural resources shall:

(1) cooperate with the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture, their employees, agents, and contractors, so that the response actions considered necessary under chapter 115B or 115C may be carried out on the property, including granting access to the property and refraining from actions that would interfere with investigation of or response to the release or threatened release;

(2) refrain from actions that would significantly contribute to the release or threatened release; and

(3) notify the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture in advance of actions necessary to manage the land which may affect the investigation of or response to the release or threatened release, and follow the direction of the agency when taking such actions.

The requirements of this subdivision also apply to a person managing the land under a lease or other similar arrangement with the county or commissioner of natural resources.

**Subd. 3. Transfer of ownership; procedure, conditions.** (a) Before transfer of ownership of the land the county auditor, with the approval of the county board, shall:

(1) prepare and file the affidavit required under section 282.0195;

(2) set appropriate conditions on the transfer of the land to assure that the transferee and the transferee's successors will grant access for and cooperate with the completion of a response action taken or approved by the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture, including investigation of the release or threatened release, and implementation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of response actions; and

(3) set conditions on the use of the land by the transferee and the transferee's successors as required by the Pollution Control Agency to protect the public health and welfare and the environment, assure proper operation, maintenance, and monitoring of completed response actions, and comply with applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations.

(b) The county board may set conditions on the transfer in addition to those under paragraph (a), including requiring the transferee to implement, maintain, operate, or monitor response actions approved by the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture.

**Subd. 4. Alternate sale procedures.** Land described in subdivision 1 may be sold by the county auditor under an alternative sale procedure under this subdivision if the county board determines that an alternate sale procedure will encourage the implementation of response actions needed to address a release in or on the land and will promote the return of the land to the tax rolls. The sale may be public or nonpublic, by sealed bid, negotiation, or other means. The county auditor shall give at least 30 days' written notice of the sale to the Pollution Control Agency and owners of land adjoining the land to be sold. Sale may be restricted to the owners of adjoining land. The land may not be sold for less than its appraised value unless the purchaser agrees to implement response actions approved by the Pollution Control Agency and shows that the appraised value does not adequately reflect the estimated response action costs. The notice of sale shall include the amount of an environmental lien or estimated expenses for cleanup or response actions.

**Subd. 5. State cleanup expenses recoverable.** (a) Prior to or at the time of the forfeiture of any lands, the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture may file an environmental lien under

section 514.672 to recover the expenses incurred under section 115B.17 or 115C.03 to respond to a release or threatened release on the land. The agency or the commissioner of agriculture shall provide a copy of the lien to the county assessor. A sale of the land after forfeiture does not discharge or free it from an environmental lien. If continuation of an environmental lien will prohibit the return of the tax-forfeited land to the tax rolls, the county board may request release or reduction of the lien from the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture as provided under section 514.672, subdivision 5.

(b) When a parcel of tax-forfeited land has been benefited by response actions for which expenses were incurred by the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture under section 115B.17 or 115C.03, and no environmental lien was filed before or at the time of forfeiture, the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture shall certify to the county the expenses that have been incurred. Prior to sale of the parcel, the county board shall compare the amount of the certified expenses with the amount to which the value of the parcel has been enhanced by the response actions and may adjust the appraisal of the land accordingly, adding the expenses as a separate item to the appraisal of the land.

**History:** 1990 c 586 s 6

#### **282.0195 SUPERFUND AND STORAGE TANK SITES; AFFIDAVIT, NOTICE.**

Subdivision 1. **Superfund sites.** The affidavit requirement of section 115B.16, subdivision 2, applies to tax-forfeited land only if the land has been placed on the permanent list of priorities under section 115B.17, subdivision 13. The county auditor shall file the affidavit, but no liability may be imposed under section 115B.16, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), for failing to record the affidavit.

Subd. 2. **Storage tank sites.** The county auditor shall file a notification or affidavit required under section 116.48 with respect to an underground or aboveground storage tank on tax-forfeited land, or the transfer of ownership of tax-forfeited land where an underground or aboveground storage tank is located or where there is a release from a tank for which no corrective action has been taken.

**History:** 1990 c 586 s 7

### **NOTICE OF SALE**

#### **282.02 LIST OF LANDS FOR SALE; NOTICE; ONLINE AUCTIONS PERMITTED.**

(a) Immediately after classification and appraisal of the land, and after approval by the commissioner of natural resources when required pursuant to section 282.01, subdivision 3, the county board shall provide and file with the county auditor a list of parcels of land to be offered for sale. This list shall contain a description of the parcels of land and the appraised value thereof. The auditor shall publish a notice of the intended public sale of such parcels of land and a copy of the resolution of the county board fixing the terms of the sale, if other than for cash only, by publication once a week for two weeks in the official newspaper of the county, the last publication to be not less than ten days previous to the commencement of the sale.

(b) The notice shall include the parcel's description and appraised value. The notice shall also indicate the amount of any special assessments which may be the subject of a reassessment or new assessment or which may result in the imposition of a fee or charge pursuant to sections 429.071, subdivision 4, 435.23, and 444.076. The county auditor shall also mail notice to the owners of land adjoining the parcel to be sold. For purposes of this section, "owner" means the taxpayer as listed in the records of the county auditor.

(c) If the county board determines that the sale shall take place in a county facility other than the courthouse, the notice shall specify the facility and its location. If the county board determines that the sale

shall take place as an online auction under section 282.01, subdivision 13, the notice shall specify the auction Web site and the date of the auction.

**History:** (2139-16) 1935 c 386 s 2; 1939 c 328 s 2; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1974 c 278 s 2; 1976 c 259 s 4; 1982 c 511 s 26; 1987 c 268 art 7 s 50; 1995 c 83 s 1; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 34

**282.021** [Repealed, 1987 c 268 art 7 s 55]

## LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT; VETERANS' CREDIT

### 282.03 LIMITATIONS IN USE OF LANDS.

There may be attached to the sale of any parcel of forfeited land, if in the judgment of the county board it seems advisable, conditions limiting the use of the parcel so sold or limiting the public expenditures that shall be made for the benefit of the parcel or otherwise safeguarding against the sale and occupancy of these parcels unduly burdening the public treasury.

**History:** (2139-17) 1935 c 386 s 3

**282.031** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.032** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.033** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.034** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.035** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.036** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

**282.037** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 36]

### 282.038 VETERAN'S CREDIT FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND.

Any veteran, as defined in section 197.447, who served on active duty in World War I or II, or during the periods June 27, 1950, to July 1, 1955, or July 1, 1958, to July 27, 1973, and who owns land which was purchased at public auction pursuant to this chapter may apply for a credit as provided in this section if the veteran has developed and cultivated the land for agricultural purposes within five years after the date of purchase.

A veteran who desires to receive a credit shall apply to the county board not later than six years after the date of purchase. The application shall state: (a) that the veteran is the owner of the land; (b) the price of the land, improvements and timber as appraised at the time of purchase and the actual price paid by the veteran; and (c) the number of acres of land purchased and the number of acres which the veteran has developed and cultivated for agricultural purposes.

If the board finds that the veteran is eligible for a credit and that land purchased by the veteran is primarily devoted to use for agricultural purposes it shall pay a credit to the veteran equal to one-half of the difference between the appraised price at the time of purchase and the actual price paid for the land. A credit shall be limited to one purchase of 320 acres of contiguous land.

**History:** 1982 c 511 s 27

**282.039** [Repealed, 1982 c 511 s 28]

**282.04 TIMBER SALES; LAND USE, LEASE, PARTITION, EASEMENT.**

Subdivision 1. **Timber sales; land leases and uses.** (a) The county auditor, with terms and conditions set by the county board, may sell timber upon any tract that may be approved by the natural resources commissioner. The sale of timber shall be made for cash at not less than the appraised value determined by the county board to the highest bidder after not less than one week's published notice in an official paper within the county. Any timber offered at the public sale and not sold may thereafter be sold at private sale by the county auditor at not less than the appraised value thereof, until the time as the county board may withdraw the timber from sale. The appraised value of the timber and the forestry practices to be followed in the cutting of said timber shall be approved by the commissioner of natural resources.

(b) Payment of the full sale price of all timber sold on tax-forfeited lands shall be made in cash at the time of the timber sale, except in the case of oral or sealed bid auction sales, the down payment shall be no less than 15 percent of the appraised value, and the balance shall be paid prior to entry. In the case of auction sales that are partitioned and sold as a single sale with predetermined cutting blocks, the down payment shall be no less than 15 percent of the appraised price of the entire timber sale which may be held until the satisfactory completion of the sale or applied in whole or in part to the final cutting block. The value of each separate block must be paid in full before any cutting may begin in that block. With the permission of the county contract administrator the purchaser may enter unpaid blocks and cut necessary timber incidental to developing logging roads as may be needed to log other blocks provided that no timber may be removed from an unpaid block until separately scaled and paid for. If payment is provided as specified in this paragraph as security under paragraph (a) and no cutting has taken place on the contract, the county auditor may credit the security provided, less any down payment required for an auction sale under this paragraph, to any other contract issued to the contract holder by the county under this chapter to which the contract holder requests in writing that it be credited, provided the request and transfer is made within the same calendar year as the security was received.

(c) The county board may sell any timber, including biomass, as appraised or scaled. Any parcels of land from which timber is to be sold by scale of cut products shall be so designated in the published notice of sale under paragraph (a), in which case the notice shall contain a description of the parcels, a statement of the estimated quantity of each species of timber, and the appraised price of each species of timber for 1,000 feet, per cord or per piece, as the case may be. In those cases any bids offered over and above the appraised prices shall be by percentage, the percent bid to be added to the appraised price of each of the different species of timber advertised on the land. The purchaser of timber from the parcels shall pay in cash at the time of sale at the rate bid for all of the timber shown in the notice of sale as estimated to be standing on the land, and in addition shall pay at the same rate for any additional amounts which the final scale shows to have been cut or was available for cutting on the land at the time of sale under the terms of the sale. Where the final scale of cut products shows that less timber was cut or was available for cutting under terms of the sale than was originally paid for, the excess payment shall be refunded from the forfeited tax sale fund upon the claim of the purchaser, to be audited and allowed by the county board as in case of other claims against the county. No timber, except hardwood pulpwood, may be removed from the parcels of land or other designated landings until scaled by a person or persons designated by the county board and approved by the commissioner of natural resources. Landings other than the parcel of land from which timber is cut may be designated for scaling by the county board by written agreement with the purchaser of the timber. The county board may, by written agreement with the purchaser and with a consumer designated by the purchaser when the timber is sold by the county auditor, and with the approval of the commissioner of natural resources, accept the consumer's scale of cut products delivered at the consumer's landing. No timber shall be removed

until fully paid for in cash. Small amounts of timber not exceeding 500 cords in appraised volume may be sold for not less than the full appraised value at private sale to individual persons without first publishing notice of sale or calling for bids, provided that in case of a sale involving a total appraised value of more than \$200 the sale shall be made subject to final settlement on the basis of a scale of cut products in the manner above provided and not more than two of the sales, directly or indirectly to any individual shall be in effect at one time.

(d) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations or organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale, and at the prices and under the terms as the county board may prescribe, for use as cottage and camp sites and for agricultural purposes and for the purpose of taking and removing of hay, stumps, sand, gravel, clay, rock, marl, and black dirt from the land, and for garden sites and other temporary uses provided that no leases shall be for a period to exceed ten years; provided, further that any leases involving a consideration of more than \$12,000 per year, except to an organized subdivision of the state shall first be offered at public sale in the manner provided herein for sale of timber. Upon the sale of any leased land, it shall remain subject to the lease for not to exceed one year from the beginning of the term of the lease. Any rent paid by the lessee for the portion of the term cut off by the cancellation shall be refunded from the forfeited tax sale fund upon the claim of the lessee, to be audited and allowed by the county board as in case of other claims against the county.

(e) As directed by the county board, the county auditor may lease tax-forfeited land to individuals, corporations, or organized subdivisions of the state at public or private sale, at the prices and under the terms as the county board may prescribe, for the purpose of taking and removing for use for road construction and other purposes tax-forfeited stockpiled iron-bearing material. The county auditor must determine that the material is needed and suitable for use in the construction or maintenance of a road, tailings basin, settling basin, dike, dam, bank fill, or other works on public or private property, and that the use would be in the best interests of the public. No lease shall exceed ten years. The use of a stockpile for these purposes must first be approved by the commissioner of natural resources. The request shall be deemed approved unless the requesting county is notified to the contrary by the commissioner of natural resources within six months after receipt of a request for approval for use of a stockpile. Once use of a stockpile has been approved, the county may continue to lease it for these purposes until approval is withdrawn by the commissioner of natural resources.

(f) The county auditor, with the approval of the county board is authorized to grant permits, licenses, and leases to tax-forfeited lands for the depositing of stripping, lean ores, tailings, or waste products from mines or ore milling plants, or to use for facilities needed to recover iron-bearing oxides from tailings basins or stockpiles, or for a buffer area needed for a mining operation, upon the conditions and for the consideration and for the period of time, not exceeding 25 years, as the county board may determine. The permits, licenses, or leases are subject to approval by the commissioner of natural resources.

(g) Any person who removes any timber from tax-forfeited land before said timber has been scaled and fully paid for as provided in this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(h) The county auditor may, with the approval of the county board, and without first offering at public sale, grant leases, for a term not exceeding 25 years, for the removal of peat and for the production or removal of farm-grown closed-loop biomass as defined in section 216B.2424, subdivision 1, or short-rotation woody crops from tax-forfeited lands upon the terms and conditions as the county board may prescribe. Any lease for the removal of peat, farm-grown closed-loop biomass, or short-rotation woody crops from tax-forfeited lands must first be reviewed and approved by the commissioner of natural resources if the lease covers 320 or more acres. No lease for the removal of peat, farm-grown closed-loop biomass, or short-rotation woody crops shall be made by the county auditor pursuant to this section without first holding a public hearing on

the auditor's intention to lease. One printed notice in a legal newspaper in the county at least ten days before the hearing, and posted notice in the courthouse at least 20 days before the hearing shall be given of the hearing.

(i) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (c) to the contrary, the St. Louis County auditor may, at the discretion of the county board, sell timber to the party who bids the highest price for all the several kinds of timber, as provided for sales by the commissioner of natural resources under section 90.14. Bids offered over and above the appraised price need not be applied proportionately to the appraised price of each of the different species of timber.

(j) In lieu of any payment or deposit required in paragraph (b), as directed by the county board and under terms set by the county board, the county auditor may accept an irrevocable bank letter of credit in the amount equal to the amount otherwise determined in paragraph (b). If an irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided under this paragraph, at the written request of the purchaser, the county may periodically allow the bank letter of credit to be reduced by an amount proportionate to the value of timber that has been harvested and for which the county has received payment. The remaining amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction under this paragraph must not be less than 20 percent of the value of the timber purchased. If an irrevocable bank letter of credit or cash deposit is provided for the down payment required in paragraph (b), and no cutting of timber has taken place on the contract for which a letter of credit has been provided, the county may allow the transfer of the letter of credit to any other contract issued to the contract holder by the county under this chapter to which the contract holder requests in writing that it be credited.

Subd. 1a. **Leasing without bids.** The county auditor may within a period of two years immediately following the date of forfeiture lease tax-forfeited land on which are located structures or buildings without advertising for bids. Notwithstanding subdivision 1, the property may be leased for a period no longer than one year without bids, regardless of the consideration received for the lease. With the approval of the county board, the county auditor may under similar circumstances enter into a management contract without bids when that action is necessary for the operation, use or preservation of the property and the safety of the public.

Subd. 2. **Rights before sale; improvements, insurance, demolition.** (a) Before the sale of a parcel of forfeited land the county auditor may, with the approval of the county board of commissioners, provide for the repair and improvement of any building or structure located upon the parcel, and may provide for maintenance of tax-forfeited lands, if it is determined by the county board that such repairs, improvements, or maintenance are necessary for the operation, use, preservation, and safety of the building or structure.

(b) If so authorized by the county board, the county auditor may insure the building or structure against loss or damage resulting from fire or windstorm, may purchase workers' compensation insurance to insure the county against claims for injury to the persons employed in the building or structure by the county, and may insure the county, its officers and employees against claims for injuries to persons or property because of the management, use, or operation of the building or structure.

(c) The county auditor may, with the approval of the county board, provide:

(1) for the demolition of the building or structure, which has been determined by the county board to be especially liable to fire or so situated as to endanger life or limb or other buildings or property in the vicinity because of age, dilapidated condition, defective chimney, defective electric wiring, any gas connection, heating apparatus, or other defect; and

(2) for the sale of salvaged materials from the building or structure.

(d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the county auditor, with the approval of the county board, may provide for the sale or disposal of personal property remaining after the certificate under section 281.23, subdivision 9, has been recorded. The county auditor must make reasonable efforts to provide at least 28 days' notice of the sale or disposal to the former owner, taxpayer, and any occupants at the time of forfeiture. A sale may be made by the sheriff using the procedures for the sale of abandoned property in section 345.15 or by the county auditor using a sale procedure approved by the county board. A county may contract with a third party to assist with removal, disposal, or sale of personal property. The net proceeds from any sale of the personal property, salvaged materials, timber or other products, or leases made under this law must be deposited in the forfeited tax sale fund and must be distributed in the same manner as if the parcel had been sold.

(e) The county auditor, with the approval of the county board, may provide for the demolition of any structure on tax-forfeited lands, if in the opinion of the county board, the county auditor, and the land commissioner, if there is one, the sale of the land with the structure on it, or the continued existence of the structure by reason of age, dilapidated condition or excessive size as compared with nearby structures, will result in a material lessening of net tax capacities of real estate in the vicinity of the tax-forfeited lands, or if the demolition of the structure or structures will aid in disposing of the tax-forfeited property.

(f) Before the sale of a parcel of forfeited land located in an urban area, the county auditor may with the approval of the county board provide for the grading of the land by filling or the removal of any surplus material from it. If the physical condition of forfeited lands is such that a reasonable grading of the lands is necessary for the protection and preservation of the property of any adjoining owner, the adjoining property owner or owners may apply to the county board to have the grading done. If, after considering the application, the county board believes that the grading will enhance the value of the forfeited lands commensurate with the cost involved, it may approve it, and the work must be performed under the supervision of the county or city engineer, as the case may be, and the expense paid from the forfeited tax sale fund.

**Subd. 3. Partition.** Where an undivided portion of any parcel of land is forfeited to the state for taxes, the owner or owners of the portions of said parcel not forfeited, or the state of Minnesota, may in the manner provided by sections 558.01 to 558.32, maintain an action for the partition of said parcel making the state or other owners as their interests may appear a defendant in the action. If the state is made a defendant in the action, the summons shall be served upon the auditor of the county in which the land is located, and the county attorney shall appear for the state.

**Subd. 4. Easements.** The county auditor, when and for such price and on such terms and for such period as the county board prescribes, may grant easements or permits on unsold tax-forfeited land for telephone and electric power lines either by underground cable or conduit or otherwise, sewer and water lines, highways, recreational trails, railroads, and pipe lines for gas, liquids, or solids in suspension. Any such easement or permit may be canceled by resolution of the county board after reasonable notice for any substantial breach of its terms or if at any time its continuance will conflict with public use of the land, or any part thereof, on which it is granted. Land affected by any such easement or permit may be sold or leased for mineral or other legal purpose, but sale or lease shall be subject to the easement or permit, and all rights granted by the easement or permit shall be excepted from the conveyance or lease of the land and be reserved, and may be canceled by the county board in the same manner and for the same reasons as it could have been canceled before sale and in that case the rights granted thereby shall vest in the state in trust as the land on which it was granted was held before sale or lease. Any easement or permit granted before passage of Laws 1951, chapter 203, may be governed thereby if the holder thereof and county board so agree. Reasonable notice as used in this subdivision, means a 90-day written notice addressed to the record owner of the easement at

the last known address, and upon cancellation the county board may grant extensions of time to vacate the premises affected.

Subd. 4a. **Private easements.** (a) A county board may convey a road easement across unsold tax-forfeited land to an individual or a private entity requesting an easement for access to private property owned by the individual or private entity if:

(1) there are no reasonable alternatives to obtain access to the individual's or private entity's property; and

(2) exercising the easement will not cause significant adverse environmental or natural resource management impacts.

(b) The county auditor shall require an individual or a private entity applying for an easement under paragraph (a) to pay the appraised value of the easement. The conveyance must provide that the easement reverts to the state in trust for the taxing district in the event of nonuse.

Subd. 5. **County not a road authority for roads used for managing certain tax-forfeited lands.** Notwithstanding section 160.02, subdivision 25, a county is not a road authority under section 160.05 with respect to a road constructed, acquired, maintained, or administered by the county for the purpose of managing tax-forfeited lands that have been classified as conservation lands under this chapter.

**History:** (2139-18) 1935 c 386 s 4; 1939 c 328 s 3; 1941 c 355 s 1; 1943 c 627 s 4; 1945 c 92 s 1; 1945 c 93 s 1; 1951 c 203 s 1,2; 1951 c 534 s 1; 1953 c 111 s 1; 1955 c 653 s 1; 1957 c 346 s 1; 1959 c 453 s 1; 1959 c 454 s 1; 1961 c 594 s 1; 1961 c 718 s 1; 1963 c 415 s 1; 1967 c 90 s 1; 1967 c 269 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 285 s 1; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1976 c 141 s 1; 1979 c 78 s 1; 1981 c 305 s 12; 1982 c 511 s 29; 1982 c 523 art 39 s 7; 1985 c 9 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 719 art 5 s 84; 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20; 1993 c 113 art 1 s 3; 1994 c 416 art 1 s 38; 1995 c 83 s 2,3; 1995 c 121 s 1; 1997 c 231 art 8 s 6; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 11; 2001 c 164 s 1,2; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 23; 2002 c 351 s 29; 2004 c 241 s 13; 2005 c 136 art 9 s 3; 2005 c 141 s 13; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 141; 2007 c 57 art 1 s 148; 2008 c 368 art 1 s 15; 2009 c 176 art 3 s 6; 2013 c 114 art 4 s 95; 2014 c 308 art 9 s 53; 2017 c 93 art 2 s 144; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 35

## 282.041 ALTERNATIVE RECORDING FOR COUNTY FOREST ROAD.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** "County forest road" means a road constructed, acquired, maintained, or administered by the county for the purpose of public access and management of tax-forfeited lands that have been classified as conservation lands under this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Authorization.** A county board may adopt a recorded county forest road map according to section 89.715 to record county forest road prescriptive easements. For purposes of this section, "recorded county forest road map" means the official map of county forest roads.

Subd. 3. **Unrecorded road or trail not affected.** This section does not affect the legal status or county obligations of roads and trails not shown on the recorded county forest road map.

**History:** 2005 c 101 s 2



**SALE PROCEEDS; TAXES; MINERAL RIGHTS****282.05 PROCEEDS APPORTIONED.**

The net proceeds received from the sale or rental of forfeited lands shall be apportioned to the general funds of the state or municipal subdivision thereof, in the manner provided in section 282.08.

**History:** (2139-19) 1935 c 386 s 5; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 12

**282.06 EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN LANDS.**

Lands becoming the absolute property of the state embraced within any game preserve, created by and established under authority of sections 84A.01 to 84A.101, or any like act, or embraced within any reforestation or flood control project created by and established under authority of sections 84A.20 to 84A.30 or sections 84A.31 to 84A.40, except lands in cities, shall not be subject to the provisions of sections 282.01 to 282.13.

**History:** (2139-20) 1935 c 386 s 6; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 2014 c 290 s 69

**282.07 AUDITOR TO CANCEL TAXES.**

Immediately after forfeiture to the state of any parcel of land, as provided by sections 281.16 to 281.25, 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. When the interest of a purchaser of state trust fund land sold under certificate of sale, or of the purchaser's heirs or assigns or successors in interest, shall by reason of tax delinquency be transferred to the state as provided by law, such interest shall pass to the state free from any trust obligation to any taxing district and free from all special assessments and such land shall become unsold trust fund land.

**History:** (2139-21) 1935 c 386 s 7; Ex1936 c 105 s 2; 1937 c 326 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1997 c 7 art 1 s 118

**282.08 APPORTIONMENT OF PROCEEDS TO TAXING DISTRICTS.**

The net proceeds from the sale or rental of any parcel of forfeited land, or from the sale of products from the forfeited land, must be apportioned by the county auditor to the taxing districts interested in the land, as follows:

(1) the portion required to pay any amounts included in the appraised value under section 282.01, subdivision 3, as representing increased value due to any public improvement made after forfeiture of the parcel to the state, but not exceeding the amount certified by the appropriate governmental authority must be apportioned to the governmental subdivision entitled to it;

(2) the portion required to pay any amount included in the appraised value under section 282.019, subdivision 5, representing increased value due to response actions taken after forfeiture of the parcel to the state, but not exceeding the amount of expenses certified by the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner of agriculture, must be apportioned to the agency or the commissioner of agriculture and deposited in the fund from which the expenses were paid;

(3) the portion of the remainder required to discharge any special assessment chargeable against the parcel for drainage or other purpose whether due or deferred at the time of forfeiture, must be apportioned to the governmental subdivision entitled to it; and

(4) any balance must be apportioned as follows:

(i) The county board may annually by resolution set aside no more than 30 percent of the receipts remaining to be used for forest development on tax-forfeited land and dedicated memorial forests, to be expended under the supervision of the county board. It must be expended only on projects improving the health and management of the forest resource.

(ii) The county board may annually by resolution set aside no more than 20 percent of the receipts remaining to be used for the acquisition and maintenance of county parks or recreational areas as defined in sections 398.31 to 398.36, to be expended under the supervision of the county board.

(iii) Any balance remaining must be apportioned as follows: county, 40 percent; town or city, 20 percent; and school district, 40 percent, provided, however, that in unorganized territory that portion which would have accrued to the township must be administered by the county board of commissioners.

**History:** (2139-22) 1935 c 386 s 8; 1939 c 328 s 4; 1941 c 394 s 2; 1947 c 553 s 1; 1949 c 27 s 1; 1949 c 401 s 1; 1963 c 519 s 1; Ex1967 c 35 s 1; 1969 c 9 s 73; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 775 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1982 c 523 art 39 s 8; 1987 c 384 art 1 s 56; 1990 c 586 s 8; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 13; 2003 c 127 art 5 s 34; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 32; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 142; 2008 c 366 art 6 s 35; 2009 c 88 art 2 s 25; 2012 c 187 art 1 s 47

#### **282.09 FORFEITED TAX SALE FUND.**

Subdivision 1. **Money placed in fund; fees and disbursements.** The county auditor and county treasurer shall place all money received through the operation of sections 282.01 to 282.13 in a fund to be known as the forfeited tax sale fund, and all disbursements and costs must be charged against that fund, when allowed by the county board. Members of the county board may be paid a per diem pursuant to section 375.055, subdivision 1, and reimbursed for their necessary expenses, and may receive mileage as fixed by law. The amount of compensation of a land commissioner and assistants, if a land commissioner is appointed, must be determined by the county board. The county auditor must receive 50 cents for each certificate of sale, each contract for deed and each lease executed by the auditor, and, in counties where no land commissioner is appointed, additional annual compensation, not exceeding \$300, as fixed by the county board. The amount of compensation of any other clerical help needed by the county auditor or land commissioner must be determined by the county board. All compensation provided for in this subdivision is in addition to other compensation allowed by law. Fees so charged in addition to the fee imposed in section 282.014 must be included in the annual settlement by the county auditor as hereinafter provided. On or before February 1 each year, the commissioner of revenue shall certify to the commissioner of management and budget, by counties, the total number of state deeds issued and reissued during the preceding calendar year for which such fees are charged and the total amount of fees. On or before March 1 each year, each county shall remit to the commissioner of revenue, from the forfeited tax sale fund, the aggregate amount of the fees imposed by section 282.014 in the preceding calendar year. The commissioner of revenue shall deposit the amounts received in the state treasury to the credit of the general fund. When disbursements are made from the fund for repairs, refunds, expenses of actions to quiet title, or any other purpose which particularly affects specific parcels of forfeited lands, the amount of the disbursements must be charged to the forfeited tax sale fund. The county auditor shall make an annual settlement of the net proceeds received from sales and rentals by the operation of sections 282.01 to 282.13, on the settlement day determined in section 276.09, for the preceding calendar year.

Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** In all counties, the authorities responsible for carrying out the duties imposed by sections 282.01 to 282.13, at their discretion, may expend moneys from the forfeited tax sale fund to repair any sewer or water main either inside or outside of any curb line situated along any property forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes, to acquire and maintain equipment used exclusively for the maintenance

and improvement of tax-forfeited lands, to cut down, otherwise destroy or eradicate noxious weeds on all tax-forfeited lands, and to maintain tax-forfeited lands.

**History:** (2139-23) 1935 c 386 s 9; 1939 c 328 s 5; 1943 c 472 s 1; 1945 c 158 s 1; 1945 c 294 s 1; 1947 c 346 s 1; 1949 c 46 s 1; 1951 c 468 s 1; 1963 c 518 s 1; Ex1967 c 23 s 1; 1969 c 1148 s 39; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1975 c 301 s 4; 1982 c 523 art 19 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1990 c 480 art 8 s 15; 1992 c 511 art 4 s 20; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 14; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

**282.10** [Repealed, 2014 c 308 art 9 s 94]

**282.11** [Repealed, 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 190]

### **282.12 ALL MINERALS RESERVED.**

Any conveyance of forfeited lands shall be subject to exceptions and reservations in this state, in trust for the taxing districts of all minerals and mineral rights.

**History:** (2139-24) 1935 c 386 s 10; 2011 c 112 art 7 s 8

## **DUTIES AND POWERS**

### **282.13 COUNTY LAND COMMISSIONERS; CITY LAND EXCHANGES.**

The county board may appoint a land commissioner and necessary assistants, such land commissioner to perform any or all of the following duties as directed by the county board: to gather data and information on tax-forfeited lands; make land classifications and appraisals of land, timber and other products and uses; enforce trespass laws and regulations; seize and appraise timber and other products and property cut and removed illegally from tax-forfeited lands; assist the county auditor in the sale and rental of forfeited lands and the products thereon; and such other duties concerning tax-forfeited lands as the county board may direct. Such appointment shall be for such time as the county board may determine. The compensation of said land commissioner and assistants shall be fixed by the county board and their salaries and expenses shall be paid from the forfeited tax sale fund, except that in counties having more than 300,000 and less than 450,000 inhabitants an officer or employee of a city of the first class situated therein who is appointed shall receive no additional compensation therefor. Any funds required by the commissioner of revenue for the purpose of cancellation of contracts, as provided in section 282.01, shall be paid by the county auditor upon the written order of the commissioner of revenue from moneys then available in the fund.

When tax-forfeited lands have been acquired by a city of the first class for municipal purposes, and a privately owned lot lies between such tax-forfeited land, and it is in the interest of the municipality that such privately owned lot be acquired for the same municipal use to which the tax-forfeited lands have been devoted, such city of the first class may exchange on such basis as may be approved by the governing body thereof, a portion of the tax-forfeited lands acquired by the municipality for the privately owned lot, and the officers of such municipality are hereby authorized to execute deeds to carry out such purpose.

**History:** (2139-25) 1935 c 386 s 11; 1943 c 627 s 5; 1951 c 562 s 1; 1953 c 340 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1986 c 444

### **282.131 CERTAIN POWERS AND DUTIES DELEGATED.**

All powers and duties concerning approval of appraised timber values, forestry practices and parcels of land from which timber may be sold which are conferred upon the commissioner of natural resources, by sections 282.01 to 282.13, may be delegated by the commissioner to competent forestry field officers of the

Natural Resources Department or such approval may be waived at the discretion of the commissioner in such manner as the commissioner shall prescribe shall be sufficient for the purposes of sections 282.01 to 282.13.

**History:** *1943 c 627 s 6; 1947 c 369 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444*

#### **282.132 TIMBER DEFINED.**

As used in sections 282.01 to 282.13, "timber" means trees that will produce forest products of value, whether standing or down, and including, but not limited to, logs, bolts, pulpwood, posts, poles, cordwood, lumber and decorative material.

**History:** *1959 c 185 s 1; 1982 c 511 s 30*

#### **282.135 DELEGATION BY COUNTY BOARD.**

Except as provided in section 282.13 and notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the county board may delegate to the county auditor any authority, power, or responsibility relating generally to the administration of tax-forfeited land assigned to the county board this chapter. This delegation includes, but is not limited to, the authority, power, and responsibility to classify tax-forfeited land as conservation or nonconservation property; set the appraisal values and terms of sale and sell at public auction; initiate legal proceedings to cancel purchase and repurchase contracts in default status; authorize reinstatement of canceled tax-forfeited contracts; and authorize former owners and other eligible parties to repurchase tax-forfeited land. If delegation is granted under this section, the county board shall prescribe the conditions for delegation and may revoke the delegation without good cause or prior notice. If the county auditor holds elective office, no delegation shall be made under this section unless the county auditor concurs in the delegation.

**History:** *1995 c 264 art 3 s 21*

### **LANDS IN CONSERVATION AREAS**

#### **282.14 CLASSIFICATION AS AGRICULTURAL; SALE CONDITIONS, GENERALLY.**

All parcels of land becoming the absolute property of the state under the provisions of the 1938 Supplement to Mason's Minnesota Statutes of 1927, section 2139-2, and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, situated within any conservation or reforestation area created under the provisions of sections 84A.20 to 84A.30, or 84A.31 to 84A.42, shall be classified by the county board of the county wherein such parcels lie as agricultural and nonagricultural, which classification shall be approved by the commissioner of natural resources before any lands are offered for sale. The county board of the county wherein such parcels lie shall determine the appraised value of all lands classified and approved as agricultural and may reappraise annually if in their judgment it be deemed necessary to carry out the intent of sections 282.14 to 282.22. Any merchantable timber on such agricultural land shall be appraised separately, and such appraisal approved by the commissioner of natural resources. All such parcels of land, classified as agricultural, shall be sold by the state at public sale, as provided in sections 282.15 and 282.16, when it shall be determined by the county board of the county wherein such parcels lie that it is advisable to do so. No such lands shall be sold by the board of county commissioners without the approval of the commissioner of natural resources. All sales of land shall be made in accordance with the subdivisions thereof by the United States surveys unless the same shall have been subdivided into smaller parcels or lots, but no land shall be sold in larger quantity than 160 acres.

**History:** *(2139-27b) 1939 c 320 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2*

**282.15 SALES OF FORFEITED AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

The sale shall be conducted by the auditor of the county in which the parcels lie. The parcels shall be sold to the highest bidder but not for less than the appraised value. The sales shall be for cash or on the following terms: The appraised value of all merchantable timber on agricultural lands shall be paid for in full at the date of sale. At least 15 percent of the purchase price of the land shall be paid in cash at the time of purchase. The balance shall be paid in not more than 20 equal annual installments, with interest at a rate equal to the rate in effect at the time under section 549.09 on the unpaid balance each year. Both principal and interest are due and payable on December 31 each year following that in which the purchase was made. The purchaser may pay any number of installments of principal and interest on or before their due date. When the sale is on terms other than for cash in full, the purchaser shall receive from the county auditor a contract for deed, in a form prescribed by the attorney general. The county auditor shall make a report to the commissioner of natural resources not more than 30 days after each public sale showing the lands sold at the sales, and submit a copy of each contract of sale.

All lands sold pursuant to this section must be restored to the tax rolls and become subject to taxation in the same manner as they were assessed and taxed before becoming the absolute property of the state for the assessment year determined under section 272.02, subdivision 38, paragraph (c).

**History:** (2139-27c) 1939 c 320 s 2; 1945 c 381 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1979 c 50 s 36; 1980 c 437 s 15; 1982 c 531 s 3; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 33

**282.151 SALE OF CERTAIN NONCONSERVATION LANDS.**

In case the commissioner of natural resources shall determine, after investigation, that any lands now or hereafter forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes in Township 49 North, Range 23 West, in the County of Aitkin, within the conservation area created under sections 84A.20 to 84A.30, are suitable for any lawful private use and are not suitable or necessary for public use, the commissioner may, on application of the county board, authorize and approve the classification and sale of such lands as nonconservation lands, and such lands may thereupon be sold in the manner provided for the sale of agricultural lands under the provisions of sections 282.14 to 282.21, and acts amendatory thereof.

**History:** 1945 c 467 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1986 c 444

**282.16 PUBLIC SALE AS AGRICULTURAL LANDS; NOTICE.**

Subdivision 1. **Offer; notice.** All lands so classified and appraised and remaining unsold shall be offered for sale at a public sale to be held by the county auditor at the time determined by the county board in a resolution fixing the date of the sale. The auditor shall publish a notice of the intended sale by publication once a week for two weeks in an official newspaper of the county, the last publication to be not less than ten days previous to the commencement of the sale. Notice of the sale shall be given in substantially the following form:

**"NOTICE OF SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Notice is hereby given that I shall sell to the highest bidder at my office in the courthouse in the city of ..... in the county of ....., the following described parcels of land forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes, which have been classified and appraised as provided by law. The sale will be governed by Laws 1939, chapter 320, and will commence at ..... o'clock a.m., on the ..... day of ....., .....

Description				Appraised Value of Land	Appraised Value of Timber
Subdivision or Lot	Sec. or Block	Twp.	Range	\$	\$

Given under my hand and seal this ..... day of

....., .....

.....

County Auditor

.....

County, Minnesota."

If the county board of St. Louis or Koochiching Counties determines that the sale shall take place in a county facility other than the courthouse, the notice shall specify such facility and its location.

Subd. 2. **Lands not sold.** Any lands not sold at this sale may, at any time within four months following the opening of the sale, be sold by the county auditor at a price not less than the appraised value thereof. All lands remaining unsold shall be included in the notice of sale and offered for sale by the county auditor in each following year until the same shall be sold.

**History:** (2139-27d) 1939 c 320 s 3; 1941 c 59; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1974 c 278 s 3; 1976 c 2 s 99; 1998 c 254 art 1 s 107

**282.17 CANCELLATION OF CONTRACTS ON DEFAULT.**

Failure of the purchaser to make any payment of any installment or of any interest required under a contract within six months from the date on which such payment becomes due, or to pay before they become delinquent all taxes that may be levied upon the lands so purchased shall constitute a default, and thereupon the contract shall be deemed canceled, and all right, title, and interest of the purchaser, or the purchaser's heirs, representatives, or assigns in the premises shall terminate upon cancellation in accord with section 282.40. A record of such default shall be made in the state land records kept by or under the direction of the commissioner of natural resources, and a certificate of such default may be made by or under the direction of the commissioner and filed with the county treasurer or recorded in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the premises are situated. Any such record or certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated, but the making of such record or certificate shall not be essential to the taking effect of such cancellation and termination, and thereupon the land described in the contract shall be subject to disposition as provided in sections 282.15 and 282.16, upon first having been reclassified and reappraised as provided by section 282.14. The county auditor shall report any such default to the commissioner of natural resources on or before June 30 of each year.

**History:** (2139-27e) 1939 c 320 s 4; 1945 c 381 s 2; 1947 c 484 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1983 c 342 art 15 s 32; 1986 c 444

**282.171 CONTRACTS, MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES, CANCELLATION.**

No contract entered into by persons in the armed forces of the United States prior to their induction or enlistment for the purchase of tax-forfeited or other lands from the state of Minnesota on the installment plan shall be terminated or canceled for nonpayment of installments except as provided herein.

Any person in the armed forces of the United States, who, as vendee, in any contract with the state of Minnesota for the purchase of tax-forfeited or other lands, is in default on any installment, or is unable to pay any installment or installments thereafter becoming due, and desires to retain all rights under said contract, and such contract has not heretofore been canceled and the land sold, shall during the period of military service file, or cause to be filed by an adult, with knowledge of the facts, with the county auditor or other state agency, having charge of said contract, an affidavit, giving the legal description of said lands, and the number, if any, of said contract, and stating that the vendee in said contract is in the military service of the United States, the branch of the service, the date of enlistment or induction, and that said vendee desires to retain all rights under said contract. If said affidavit is filed within the time herein limited and provided, said contract shall remain in full force and effect, notwithstanding any default or nonpayment of any installment or installments thereunder, for six months after the vendee's discharge from the military service. If said vendee fails to pay all delinquent installments within six months after being discharged, then in such event said contract may be canceled and terminated as provided in section 282.40.

**History:** 1943 c 341 s 1,2; 1945 c 75 s 1; 1951 c 34 s 1; 1983 c 342 art 15 s 33; 1986 c 444

**282.18 COUNTY AUDITOR TO LEASE LANDS.**

Until after the sale of any parcel of forfeited land classified as agricultural, the county auditor may lease such land, as directed by the county board.

**History:** (2139-27f) 1939 c 320 s 5

**282.19 COUNTY COLLECTS PAYMENTS; REPORTS; EXPENSES.**

The county treasurer shall collect all payments made under sections 282.14 to 282.22 and place the same in a special fund and forthwith submit to the natural resources commissioner a copy of the receipt specifying the name and address of the person making the payment and the date and amount thereof, whether for principal, timber, improvements or interest, the fund to which it is applicable, and the number of the certificate. Such receipt shall be countersigned by the auditor of such county, and shall have the same force and effect as if given by the commissioner of management and budget. The county treasurer shall report all collections to the commissioner of natural resources on June 30 and December 31 of each year and at such other times when requested by the commissioner. There shall be transferred from such special fund to the revenue fund of the county the cost of giving the notices herein required and there may be paid from such fund to the members of the county board, upon warrant of the county auditor, a per diem pursuant to section 375.055, subdivision 1 and mileage as now or hereafter fixed by law, and to the county auditor and the county treasurer for their additional duties such sums as the county board may by resolution determine, not to exceed to each annually one percent of the annual receipts under sections 282.14 to 282.22, and to help to defray the costs of equipment and supplies, and for additional clerk hire in the county auditor's office such amount as the county board may by resolution determine, not to exceed annually ten percent of the annual receipts under sections 282.14 to 282.22, but in any event not to exceed the sum of \$1,000 for equipment, supplies and clerk hire in any fiscal year. Where a county board has appointed a land commissioner under the provisions of section 282.13 the actual expenses of the land commissioner, together with mileage reimbursement in accordance with section 471.665 for necessary travel in gathering data and information to assist the county board in making classifications and appraisals under sections 282.14 to 282.22, shall be paid from this fund

upon warrant of the county auditor. The amount remaining in the fund shall be transmitted by the county treasurer to the commissioner of natural resources as of June 30 and December 31 each year, and at such other times when requested by the commissioner, and disposed of as provided by the laws governing the fund derived from the respective areas in which the lands sold were situated.

**History:** (2139-27g) 1939 c 320 s 6; 1945 c 381 s 3; 1945 c 466 s 1,2; 1947 c 484 s 2; 1949 c 524 s 1; 1961 c 523 s 1; 1963 c 387 s 3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1975 c 301 s 5; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

### **282.20 MINERAL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

Any sale of such forfeited lands shall be subject to exceptions and reservations in this state of all minerals and mineral rights.

**History:** (2139-27h) 1939 c 320 s 7

### **282.21 FORM OF CONVEYANCE.**

When any sale has been made under sections 282.14 to 282.22, upon payment in full of the purchase price, appropriate conveyance in fee in such form as may be prescribed by the attorney general shall be issued by the commissioner of natural resources to the purchaser or the purchaser's assigns and this conveyance shall have the force and effect of a patent from the state.

**History:** (2139-27i) 1939 c 320 s 8; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1986 c 444; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 34

### **282.22 NONAGRICULTURAL LANDS RESERVED FOR CONSERVATION.**

The lands classified as nonagricultural, as provided under section 282.14, shall be reserved and dedicated to conservation purposes to be managed as provided by the laws governing the respective areas in which the same are situated.

**History:** (2139-27j) 1939 c 320 s 9

## **RED LAKE PRESERVE**

### **282.221 FORFEITED AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Classified and sold.** All lands which become the absolute property of the state under the provisions of section 84A.07, and are suitable for agricultural purposes, shall be classified as such by the county board of the county wherein the lands are situated. No lands shall be offered for sale under the provisions of sections 282.221 to 282.226 until their classification by the county board as agricultural lands shall have been approved by the commissioner. The county auditor may with the approval of the commissioner sell any parcel of tax-forfeited land or any portion thereof to any organized or incorporated governmental subdivision of the state for any public purpose for which the subdivision may acquire property at not less than the appraised value thereof as determined by the county board.

Subd. 2. **Appraisal.** All lands which have become the absolute property of the state under the provisions of section 84A.07 and are classified as agricultural lands shall be appraised by the county board of the county wherein the lands are situated, and this appraisal shall be filed in the office of the auditor of the county. Any merchantable timber on such lands shall be appraised separately and such appraisal shall be approved by the commissioner. The county board may reappraise any such lands when, in its judgment, the reappraisal



is necessary in effectuating the provisions of sections 282.221 to 282.226, but no such lands shall be appraised more than once in any 12-month period.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2, 5620-13 1/2a) 1935 c 210 s 1,2; 1941 c 278 s 1,2

**282.222 SALE.**

Subdivision 1. **Public sale; notice.** All lands so classified and appraised and remaining unsold shall be offered for sale at a public sale to be held by the county auditor at the time determined by the county board in a resolution authorizing the sale and fixing the date of the commencement thereof. The auditor shall publish a notice of the intended sale and the resolution authorizing same by publication once a week for two weeks in an official newspaper of the county, the last publication to be not less than ten days previous to the commencement of the sale. Notice of the sale shall be given in substantially the following form:

"NOTICE OF SALE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Notice is hereby given that on ....., the ..... day of ....., ....., at my office in ..... in the county of ....., I shall sell to the highest bidder the following described parcels of land in the county, which have been forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes, and which have been classified as agricultural lands and appraised as provided by law. This sale will be governed by the provisions of sections 282.221 to 282.226 and by the resolution of the county board authorizing such sale, which resolution is as follows:

(Insert resolution)

Description

Section	Twp.	Range	Appraised value
or	or		
Lot	Block		\$ .....
			.....

Auditor of .....County."

The land shall be described in the notice and offered for sale in parcels not exceeding one-quarter section in area.

If the county board of St. Louis or Koochiching Counties determines that the sale shall take place in a county facility other than the courthouse, the notice shall specify such facility and its location.

Subd. 2. **Appraised value minimum price.** These lands shall be sold to the highest bidder and at a price not less than the appraised value thereof. Any lands not sold at this public sale may be sold by the county auditor at a price not less than the appraised value thereof. The sale shall continue until all parcels are sold or until the county board shall order a reappraisal or shall withdraw any or all such parcels from sale or until such time as the county board shall have determined by resolution adopted before giving notice of sale. Any lands remaining unsold may be included in the notice of sale and offered for sale by the county auditor in each following year until the same shall be sold, or the original list of lands may be added to annually by publishing, in the same manner as provided for the publication of the original list, the descriptions and appraised values of such additional parcels which have been classified as agricultural and which classification

shall have been approved as provided by law. The purchasers at such sale shall be entitled to immediate possession, subject to the provisions of any existing valid lease made in behalf of the state.

**Subd. 3. Who may purchase.** Any parcel of land described in any such notice of sale may, at any time not less than one week prior to the date of the sale, be purchased at the appraised value thereof by the person who is a bona fide federal entryman or patentee of any such land or by the person who was the record owner of the fee title thereto at the time the state became the absolute owner thereof.

**Subd. 4. Terms of sale.** All sales under sections 282.221 to 282.226 shall be for cash or on the following terms: at least 15 percent of the purchase price shall be paid in cash at the time of the sale, and the balance shall be paid in equal annual installments over a period of 20 years, with interest at a rate equal to the rate in effect at the time under section 549.09, payable annually, on the portion remaining unpaid, with privilege of prepayment of any installment on any interest date. Sales on terms shall be evidenced by a certificate issued by the county auditor in a form prescribed by the attorney general. The county auditor shall submit a copy of the certificate to the commissioner of natural resources within 30 days. The appraised value of all merchantable timber on such agricultural lands shall be paid for in cash in full at the time of sale. The county auditor shall report all sales to the commissioner of natural resources within 30 days. Failure of the purchaser to make any payment of any installment or of any interest required under any contract within six months from the date on which the payment is due, or to pay all taxes that may be levied upon the land purchased before they become delinquent, shall constitute a default. Upon default the contract shall be canceled and all right, title, and interest of the purchaser, or the purchaser's heirs, representatives, or assigns in the premises shall terminate upon cancellation in accord with section 282.40. A record of the default shall be made in the state land records kept by or under the direction of the commissioner of natural resources. A certificate of the default may be made by or under the direction of the commissioner and filed with the county treasurer or recorded in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the premises are situated. Any record or certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in it. The making of the record or certificate is not essential to the taking effect of the cancellation and termination. Upon cancellation and termination, the land described in the contract shall be subject to disposition as provided in this section after having been reclassified and reappraised as provided by section 282.221. The county auditor shall report any default to the commissioner of natural resources on or before June 30th of each year.

**Subd. 5. Cancellation validated.** In any case where a certificate of cancellation of any certificate of sale of lands sold pursuant to sections 282.221 to 282.226, has heretofore been made by either the commissioner of management and budget or the commissioner of natural resources and filed in the office of the officer executing the same or in the office of the commissioner of management and budget or recorded in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the land lies, such cancellation is hereby validated and made effective, and the certificate of sale shall be deemed canceled as if canceled by the proper officer and in the manner prescribed by law. All cancellations made after January 1, 1984, shall be in accord with section 282.40.

**Subd. 6. Abandonment presumed.** In any case where prior to the passage of Laws 1947, chapter 484, the purchaser has defaulted in the payment of any installment on the principal or interest due on a certificate of sale of land made pursuant to sections 282.221 to 282.226, or has failed to pay before they became delinquent all taxes levied upon the land so purchased, and where a certificate of cancellation has been made and filed or recorded as provided in subdivision 5, it shall be presumed that the purchaser, and all persons claiming under the purchaser, have left and abandoned the land and all right, title, and interest therein and claim thereto, and have released the same absolutely to the state and its assigns.

**Subd. 7. Right of action denied.** In any case where prior to the passage of Laws 1947, chapter 484, the purchaser has defaulted in the payment of any installment of the principal or interest due under a certificate

of sale of land issued pursuant to sections 282.221 to 282.226, or has failed to pay all taxes that may have been levied upon the lands, and where a certificate of cancellation has been made and filed or recorded as provided in subdivision 5, no action for the recovery or possession of the land or the enforcement of any right, title, or interest therein, or claim thereto shall be maintained by the purchaser or any one claiming under the purchaser unless such action is commenced within six months after the passage of Laws 1947, chapter 484.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2b, 5620-13 1/2c, 5620-13 1/2d, 5620-13 1/2e) 1935 c 210 s 3-6; 1939 c 328 s 6,7; 1941 c 278 s 3-5; 1947 c 484 s 3-6; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1974 c 278 s 4; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1980 c 437 s 16; 1982 c 531 s 4; 1983 c 342 art 15 s 34,35; 1986 c 444; 1998 c 254 art 1 s 107; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

#### **282.223 TAXES CANCELED.**

When any lands shall be sold under sections 282.221 to 282.226 all public liens thereon for taxes, special assessments, and other charges, whether extended on the tax lists or not, shall forthwith be canceled, and the county auditor, county treasurer, and county recorders shall note such cancellation upon the records of their respective offices.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2f) 1935 c 210 s 7; 1976 c 181 s 2

#### **282.224 FORM OF CONVEYANCE.**

When any sale has been made under sections 282.221 to 282.226, upon payment in full of the purchase price, appropriate conveyance in fee, in such form as may be prescribed by the attorney general, shall be issued by the commissioner of natural resources to the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee, and the conveyance shall have the force and effect of a patent from the state.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2g) 1935 c 210 s 8; 1971 c 25 s 57; 1986 c 444; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 35

#### **282.225 MINERAL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

Every certificate of sale and instrument of conveyance issued under sections 282.221 to 282.226 shall state that the sale or conveyance does not include any right, title, or interest in or to any iron, coal, copper, gold, or other valuable minerals which may be upon the land therein described, and that these minerals are reserved by the state for its own use; but no instrument shall be effective to transfer any right, title, or interest in or to any such minerals, notwithstanding the failure of the proper officer to insert this statement.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2h) 1935 c 210 s 9

#### **282.226 COUNTY COLLECTS PAYMENTS; REPORTS; EXPENSES.**

The county treasurer shall collect all payments of principal and interest made under sections 282.221 to 282.226, place the same in a special fund, and forthwith submit to the natural resources commissioner a copy of the receipt specifying the name and address of the person making the payment and the date and amount thereof, whether for principal, timber, improvements or interest, the fund to which it is applicable, and the number of the certificate. Such receipt shall be countersigned by the auditor of such county, and shall have the same force and effect as if given by the commissioner of management and budget. The county treasurer shall report all collections to the commissioner of natural resources on June 30 and December 31 of each year and at such other times when requested by the commissioner. There shall be transferred from this special fund to the revenue fund of the county the cost of giving the notices required in section 282.222, subdivisions 1 and 2, and there shall be paid from this fund to the members of the county board upon warrant

of the county auditor \$10 per day for each day necessarily consumed in the classification and appraisal of the lands under sections 282.221 to 282.226 and mileage at the rate of six cents per mile for necessary travel and to the county auditor and the county treasurer for their additional duties such sums as the county board may by resolution determine, not to exceed to each annually one percent of the annual receipts under sections 282.221 to 282.226, and to help defray the costs of equipment and supplies, and for additional clerk hire in the county auditor's office such amount as the county board may by resolution determine, not to exceed annually ten percent of the annual receipts under sections 282.221 to 282.226. Where a county board has appointed a land commissioner under the provisions of section 282.13, instead of the amount provided for costs of equipment and supplies and additional clerk hire in the county auditor's office, such amount as the county board may by resolution determine, not to exceed annually ten percent of the annual receipts under sections 282.221 to 282.226, may be transferred from such fund to the tax-forfeited land fund to help defray expenses incurred by the county land department in administering such lands. The net amount remaining in this fund shall be transmitted by the county treasurer to the commissioner of natural resources as of June 30 and December 31 each year, and at such other times when requested by the commissioner, and credited to the Red Lake Game Preserve fund created by section 84A.03.

**History:** (5620-13 1/2i) 1935 c 210 s 10; 1941 c 278 s 6; 1947 c 484 s 7; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1974 c 318 s 1; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

**282.23** [Repealed, 2014 c 308 art 9 s 94]

## REPURCHASE

### 282.241 REPURCHASE AFTER FORFEITURE.

Subdivision 1. **Repurchase requirements.** The owner at the time of forfeiture, or the owner's heirs, devisees, or representatives, or any person to whom the right to pay taxes was given by statute, mortgage, or other agreement, may repurchase any parcel of land claimed by the state to be forfeited to the state for taxes unless before the time repurchase is made the parcel is sold under installment payments, or otherwise, by the state as provided by law, or is under mineral prospecting permit or lease, or proceedings have been commenced by the state or any of its political subdivisions or by the United States to condemn the parcel of land. The parcel of land may be repurchased for the sum of all delinquent taxes and assessments computed under section 282.251, together with penalties, interest, and costs, that accrued or would have accrued if the parcel of land had not forfeited to the state. Except for property which was homesteaded on the date of forfeiture, repurchase is permitted during six months only from the date of forfeiture, and in any case only after the adoption of a resolution by the board of county commissioners determining that by repurchase undue hardship or injustice resulting from the forfeiture will be corrected, or that permitting the repurchase will promote the use of the lands that will best serve the public interest. If the county board has good cause to believe that a repurchase installment payment plan for a particular parcel is unnecessary and not in the public interest, the county board may require as a condition of repurchase that the entire repurchase price be paid at the time of repurchase. A repurchase is subject to any easement, lease, or other encumbrance granted by the state before the repurchase, and if the land is located within a restricted area established by any county under Laws 1939, chapter 340, the repurchase must not be permitted unless the resolution approving the repurchase is adopted by the unanimous vote of the board of county commissioners.

The person seeking to repurchase under this section shall pay all maintenance costs incurred by the county auditor during the time the property was tax-forfeited.

Subd. 2. **Alternative computation of repurchase amount.** A county board may by resolution establish an alternative method of computing the repurchase amount under this subdivision for property homesteaded

at the time of forfeiture that has been in forfeited status for more than ten years. Equivalent taxes, penalties, interest, and costs for each year the property was in forfeiture status must be computed using the simple average of the assessor's estimated market value at forfeiture and the assessor's current estimated market value multiplied by the classification rates under current law and applying the current tax, penalty, and interest rates. Those amounts, plus any unpaid special assessments reinstated and included in the purchase price under section 282.251, including the penalties and interest that accrued or would have accrued on the special assessments, computed under current rates, are the repurchase price. The county assessor shall determine the current market value and classification of the property.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 1; 1947 c 490 s 1; 1949 c 461 s 1; 1951 c 514 s 1; 1953 c 471 s 1; 1955 c 612 s 1; 1957 c 32 s 1; 1957 c 832 s 1; 1975 c 316 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 268 art 7 s 51; 1992 c 511 art 2 s 29; 1993 c 11 s 2; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 15; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 64; 2014 c 308 art 10 s 12; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 36

### **282.251 TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS REINSTATED UPON REPURCHASE.**

Upon the repurchase of land pursuant to section 282.241 any special assessments heretofore canceled because of forfeiture of said land for nonpayment of taxes shall be reinstated by the county auditor and any such special assessments so reinstated which are payable in the future shall be paid at the time and in the manner said special assessments would have been payable except for forfeiture, except that special assessments payable in the year in which repurchase is made, shall be paid in full at the time of repurchase. The sum of such special assessments that would, except for forfeiture, have been levied and assessed against such land between the date of forfeiture and the date of repurchase and which would have been payable prior to the year in which repurchase is made shall be computed by the county auditor and included in the purchase price hereunder. When an application to repurchase a parcel of land is made hereunder the county auditor shall compute and determine as in the case of omitted taxes, upon the basis of the net tax capacity of such parcel in effect at the time of forfeiture, the amount of taxes that would have been assessed and levied against such parcel between the date of forfeiture and the date of repurchase, and the amount so determined with penalties and costs, with interest at the rate fixed by law for the respective years shall be included in the purchase price hereunder. When the term "delinquent taxes" is used in section 282.241, it means the sum of taxes and assessments together with penalties and costs, with interest at the rate fixed by law for the respective years computed to the date of repurchase from the time such taxes and assessments became delinquent, and also the sum of taxes and assessments with penalties and costs, with interest at the rate fixed by law for the respective years to the date of repurchase from the time such taxes and assessments would have been delinquent that would have been levied and assessed against a parcel between the date of forfeiture and the date of repurchase, computed by the county auditor in the manner provided by this section. The county auditor shall levy taxes on the parcel as in the case of omitted taxes for all the years in which on account of the forfeiture no tax was levied.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 2; 1955 c 612 s 2; 1988 c 719 art 5 s 84; 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20

### **282.261 TERMS OF REPURCHASE.**

Subdivision 1. **Payments; taxes.** A person repurchasing under section 282.241 shall pay at the time of repurchase not less than one-tenth of the repurchase price and shall pay the balance in ten equal annual installments, with the privilege of paying the unpaid balance in full at any time, with interest as provided in subdivision 2, the first installment of principal and interest to become due and payable on December 31 of the year following the year in which the repurchase was made, the remaining installments to become due and payable on December 31 of each year thereafter until fully paid. The person shall pay the current taxes each year thereafter before they become delinquent up to the time the repurchase price has been paid in full.

Subd. 2. **Interest rate.** The unpaid balance on any repurchase contract approved by the county board is subject to interest at the rate determined in section 279.03, subdivision 1a. The interest rate is subject to change each year on the unpaid balance in the manner provided for rate changes in section 279.03, subdivision 1a.

Subd. 3. **Alternative treatment of nonhomestead property.** A county board of commissioners may by resolution provide that the installment arrangement in subdivision 1 is not applicable to nonhomestead property and that this subdivision applies instead. If the resolution is approved, the minimum downpayment shall be 20 percent of the repurchase price and the balance shall be payable in four equal annual installments. A resolution shall remain in force for at least one year after approval and shall be applied uniformly to all nonhomestead property in the county. "Nonhomestead property" means all property except that which is classified for property tax purposes as homestead property at the time that the repurchase application is approved.

Subd. 4. **Service fee.** The county auditor may collect a service fee to cover administrative costs as set by the county board for each repurchase application. The fee must be paid at the time of application and must be credited to the county general revenue fund.

Subd. 5. **County may impose conditions of repurchase.** The county auditor, after receiving county board approval, may impose conditions on repurchase of tax-forfeited lands limiting the use of the parcel subject to the repurchase, including, but not limited to, environmental remediation action plan restrictions or covenants, or easements for lines or equipment for telephone, electric power, or telecommunications.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 3; 1980 c 437 s 17; 1982 c 523 art 39 s 9; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 20 s 16; 1986 c 444; 1990 c 480 art 8 s 16; 1999 c 243 art 13 s 16,17; 2014 c 308 art 9 s 54-56

#### **282.271 NOTICE OF PAYMENTS DUE.**

The county auditor shall give notice by mail not later than November 30 of each year to the person or persons making such repurchase at the address given therein of the payment due under the repurchase on the following December 31. Failure to send or receive the notice shall not operate to postpone any payment or excuse any default under the repurchase.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 4

#### **282.281 REPURCHASE SUBJECT TO EXISTING LEASES.**

Until repurchased all parcels of land subject to the provisions of sections 282.241 to 282.324 shall be subject to lease under the provisions of sections 282.01 to 282.271, and any repurchase of such land under sections 282.241 to 282.324, shall be subject to the provisions of any such existing lease.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 5; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 132

#### **282.291 PAYMENTS, WHERE MADE.**

All payments under sections 282.241 to 282.324 shall be made to the treasurer of the county in which the parcel of land upon which such payments are made is located. Such payments shall be deposited by the county treasurer in the forfeited tax sale fund and be distributed in the manner in which other moneys in said fund are distributed.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 6

**282.301 RECEIPTS FOR PAYMENTS.**

When any sale has been made under sections 282.012 and 282.241 to 282.324, the purchaser shall receive from the county auditor at the time of repurchase a receipt, in such form as may be prescribed by the attorney general. When the purchase price of a parcel of land shall be paid in full, the following facts shall be certified by the county auditor to the commissioner of revenue of the state of Minnesota: the description of land, the date of sale, the name of the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee, and the date when the final installment of the purchase price was paid. Upon payment in full of the purchase price, the purchaser or the assignee shall receive a quitclaim deed from the state, to be executed by the commissioner of revenue. The deed must be sent to the county auditor who shall have it recorded before it is forwarded to the purchaser. Failure to make any payment herein required shall constitute default and upon such default and cancellation in accord with section 282.40, the right, title and interest of the purchaser or the purchaser's heirs, representatives, or assigns in such parcel shall terminate.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 7; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1983 c 342 art 15 s 36; 1985 c 300 s 15; 1986 c 444; 1994 c 416 art 1 s 39; 2005 c 151 art 5 s 36

**282.311 EXCEPTIONS.**

Sections 282.241 to 282.324 shall not apply to any lands which have been classified by the county board as conservation land or to lands within the game preserve established by section 84A.01, or conservation areas established by section 84A.20, or by section 84A.31, which included in the sum for which said lands were forfeited any ditch assessments, or to any lands sold to a governmental subdivision or released from trust upon application of a state agency, or devoted to and accepted for conservation or other purposes in behalf of the state, free from trust under section 282.01.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 8

**282.321 LIMITATIONS ON LAND USE.**

When any forfeited lands are repurchased, as provided for in sections 282.241 to 282.324, no structure, minerals, sand, gravel, topsoil, subsoil, or peat shall be removed, nor shall any timber or timber products be cut and removed until the purchase price has been paid in full. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the removal of such sand, gravel, topsoil, subsoil, or peat as may be incidental to the erection of structures on such repurchased lands or to the grading of such lands whenever such removal or grading shall result in enhancing the value thereof.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 9

**282.322 FORFEITED LANDS LIST.**

The county board of any county may file a list of forfeited lands with the county auditor, if the board is of the opinion that such lands may be acquired by the state or any municipal subdivision of the state for public purposes. Upon the filing of the list of forfeited lands, the county auditor shall withhold said lands from repurchase. If no proceeding is started to acquire such lands by the state or some municipal subdivision of the state within one year after the filing of the list of forfeited lands, the county board shall withdraw the list and thereafter, if the property was classified as nonhomestead at the time of forfeiture, the owner shall have not more than six months in which to repurchase.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 10; 2014 c 308 art 9 s 57; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 2 s 37

**282.323 CAPITOL AREAS.**

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1969 c 1150 s 7; 1974 c 435 art 6 s 1]

Subd. 2. **Exception.** Sections 282.241 to 282.324 shall not apply to any parcel of land forfeited to the state for taxes which is within the boundaries of a capitol area.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1974 c 435 art 6 s 1]

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 11

**282.324 WHEN RIGHT OF REPURCHASE VESTS.**

No right of repurchase created or arising hereunder shall be deemed vested until consummation of the repurchase as provided in sections 282.241 to 282.324.

**History:** 1945 c 296 s 12

**OTHER PROVISIONS****282.33 LOST OR DESTROYED DEEDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Application for new deed; fee.** Whenever an unrecorded deed from the state of Minnesota conveying tax-forfeited lands shall have been lost or destroyed, an application, in form approved by the attorney general, for a new deed may be made by the grantee or the grantee's successor in interest to the commissioner of revenue. If it appears to the commissioner of revenue that the facts stated in the petition are true, the commissioner shall issue a new deed to the original grantee, in form approved by the attorney general, with like effect as the original deed. The commissioner shall send the new deed to the county recorder, who after recording the deed will forward it to the county auditor. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$25, payable to the commissioner of revenue, which shall be deposited with the commissioner of management and budget and credited to the general fund.

Subd. 2. **Ratification of old deeds lost or destroyed.** All declarations or certificates heretofore issued by the commissioner of revenue relating to the issuance of state deeds to tax-forfeited lands which have been lost or destroyed are hereby ratified. Every such declaration or certificate and the record thereof shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated.

**History:** 1943 c 195; 1945 c 131 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1974 c 160 s 1; 1983 c 222 s 20; 1985 c 300 s 16; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 268 art 7 s 52; 1991 c 291 art 12 s 20; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

**282.34** [Superseded by 282.341]

**282.341 REINSTATEMENT OF TAX-FORFEITED CERTIFICATE.**

Subdivision 1. **Conditions.** Whenever a county auditor's certificate of the sale of tax-forfeited lands upon installments has been canceled for the failure to pay any of the deferred installments and interest or the current taxes, the purchaser having paid 50 percent or more of the purchase price, if such lands have not been sold or zoned so as to restrict the sale thereof, the said purchaser may reinstate such certificate by depositing with the county auditor all delinquent installments and interest due upon such certificate at the time of the cancellation thereof, those installments and interest that would have accrued in the absence of such cancellation, together with an amount equal to all unpaid taxes, penalties, interest, and costs up to the date of the cancellation thereof, and have an amount equal to the taxes and assessments that would have



been levied and payable but for the cancellation of such certificates; such taxes shall be computed by the county auditor as in the case of omitted taxes that would have been assessed between the date of the cancellation of such certificate and the reinstatement thereof.

Subd. 2. **Recordation, payment, levy.** Thereupon the county auditor shall record the reinstatement and shall pay over to the county treasurer the amount deposited by the petitioner. If such reinstatement is made after January 2 the county auditor shall levy taxes for the year in which reinstatement is made on said land as in the case of omitted taxes.

**History:** 1945 c 98 s 1,2; 1979 c 50 s 37; 1986 c 444

**282.35** [Repealed, 1982 c 531 s 5]

### **282.36 FEES PAYABLE BY REPURCHASER.**

Any person repurchasing land after forfeiture to the state for nonpayment of taxes under the provisions of a repurchase law shall at the time the certificate of repurchase is issued and recorded by the county auditor or before receiving quitclaim deed pursuant thereto, pay to the county treasurer a fee in an amount equal to the fee provided in section 282.014. Fees so collected during any calendar year shall be credited to a special fund and, upon a warrant issued by the county auditor on or before March 1 of the year following, shall be remitted to the commissioner of revenue and credited to the general fund. The commissioner of revenue shall, on or before February 1 in each year, certify to the commissioner of management and budget the number of deeds issued during the preceding calendar year to which these fees apply, showing by counties the number of deeds so issued and the total fees due therefor. This section shall not apply to repurchases made under any law enacted prior to January 1, 1945.

**History:** 1945 c 487 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1974 c 160 s 2; 1985 c 300 s 17; 1992 c 511 art 4 s 21; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109

### **282.37 LANDS BORDERING LAKES AND STREAMS, EASEMENT TO STATE.**

The commissioner of revenue upon recommendation of the boards of county commissioners is hereby authorized to grant or convey permanent easements on tax-forfeited lands bordering lakes and streams, such easement to be held in the name of the state department of natural resources.

**History:** 1961 c 691 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 582 s 3

### **282.38 FOREST DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Development.** In any county where the county board by proper resolution sets aside funds for forest development pursuant to section 282.08, clause (5), item (i), or section 459.06, subdivision 2, the commissioner of Iron Range resources and rehabilitation, after consultation with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, may upon request of the county board assist said county in carrying out any project for the long range development of its forest resources through matching of funds or otherwise.

Subd. 2. **Tax levy.** In any county where the county board shall determine that insufficient moneys will be available from tax-forfeited funds to carry out the intentions of this section as set forth in the statutes enumerated in subdivision 1, the county board may levy a tax upon the real and personal property of the county for that purpose, and the proceeds of said levy may be used in the same manner as funds set aside pursuant to section 282.08, clause (3)(a), and section 459.06, subdivision 2.

Subd. 3. **Not to affect commissioner of Iron Range resources and rehabilitation.** Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or abrogate the authority of the commissioner of Iron Range resources and rehabilitation to give temporary assistance to any county in the development of its land use program.

**History:** *1951 c 365 s 1-3; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1973 c 583 s 19; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 46,47; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 143; 2017 c 94 art 7 s 19,20*

#### **282.40 CANCELLATION OF INSTALLMENT SALE CONTRACTS BY STATE.**

The cancellation of any sale by the state of Minnesota under an installment contract of any parcel of land shall be completed pursuant to section 559.21, and all costs, attorney's fees, and other amounts payable by the purchaser thereunder shall be payable to the county.

**History:** *1983 c 342 art 15 s 37*