

**ISOLATED
CONSOLIDATED-CONSERVATION
[CON-CON] LANDS
REPORT
TO THE
MINNESOTA SENATE AND HOUSE
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEES**

**AS REQUIRED BY LAWS OF MINNESOTA 2000
CHAPTER 485, SECTION 26**

**BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JANUARY 15, 2001**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISOLATED CON-CON LANDS

Background-The commissioner of the Minnesota Department Natural Resources (DNR) is required (Laws of Minnesota 2000, Chapter 485 Sec. 26) to report to the legislative policy and finance committees the recommendations for disposition of isolated consolidated-conservation (con-con) lands in areas that were subject to the 1989 and 1991 DNR commissioner's orders which classified these con-con lands as wildlife management areas. The 1989 commissioner's order applied to land in Lake of the Woods county. The 1991 order applied to land in Beltrami, Roseau and Marshall counties.

Section 26 (b) states: The recommendations ... may include designation, exchange, or sale of isolated consolidated-conservation lands. Isolated consolidated-conservation lands that are not appropriate for conservation and recreation purposes may be recommended for sale or exchange. (c) For the purposes of this section, "isolated consolidated-conservation lands" are parcels of consolidated-conservation land of 40 acres or less that are not contiguous with other public land.

Recommendations-The DNR Division of Lands and Minerals generated a list of parcels that meet the definition of "isolated" that were reviewed by department staff as required by this law. The recommendation for each of these parcels is given below.

BELTRAMI COUNTY:

No known isolated parcels.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY:

Lot 8 (SE1/4-SE1/4), Section 16, Township 162, Range 32 (13.65 acres).

This lot was designated into the Four Mile Bay WMA by the 2000 legislation. It was also listed in the 1989 commissioner's order. The outlet dam on Lake of the Woods was installed after the original land survey. The dam caused the lake level to rise. This, coupled with shoreline erosion, has submerged this parcel. Consequently, it is not a good candidate for designation, sale or exchange.

Recommendation: Leave designated as is.

MARSHALL COUNTY:

1) SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 29, Township 157, Range 39 (40 Acres).

This parcel is landlocked. It contains 36 acres of wetland, including a protected wetland, and provides valuable conservation benefits.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the Grygla WMA until exchanged.

2) SW1/4-NE1/4, Section 31, Township 157, Range 39 (40 Acres).

This parcel is landlocked. It is comprised of both timbered and shrub dominated habitats and includes 20 acres of wetland. This parcel provides valuable conservation benefits.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the Grygla WMA until exchanged.

3) Lot 1 (NE1/4-NE1/4), Section 1, Township 158, Range 39 (40.20 Acres).

This parcel is accessible by road. It contains 34 acres of lowland brush/forested wetland.. This parcel is utilized by deer, ruffed grouse and bear hunters for recreation purposes. It provides valuable conservation benefits.

Recommendation: Designate as part of the Thief Lake WMA because of its accessibility, its history of public use, and for the resource benefits this parcel currently provides.

4) NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 10, Township 158, Range 39 (40 Acres).

This parcel is accessible by road. It contains 37 acres of lowland brush/forested wetland and is utilized by deer, bear and ruffed grouse hunters for recreation purposes. It provides valuable conservation benefits.

Recommendation: Designate as part of the Thief Lake WMA as it is accessible, it has a history of public use, and because of the recreation and resource benefits this parcel provides.

5) NW1/4-SW1/4, Section 8, Township 158, Range 44 (40 Acres).

This parcel is accessible by road. It is within 1/4 mile of the East Park WMA boundary. It is mostly upland and is utilized by hunters. It was recently logged for the aspen stumpage.

Recommendation: Designate as part of the East Park WMA because it is accessible, is in close proximity to East Park WMA, and because of the recreation and resource benefits this parcel provides.

ROSEAU COUNTY:

1) NW1/4-NE1/4, Section 21, Township 162, Range 36 (40 Acres).

This tract is accessible on the north side by a township road. Thirty acres of the parcel are gravel pit, some of which has been mined below the water table. There is little if any good quality gravel remaining. After reclamation the pit area will be an attractive and somewhat unique wetland complex that will feature some open water wildlife habitat.

The other ten acres of this parcel are a combination of lowland brush (wetland), aspen and upland grass. The parcel is used by ruffed grouse, bear and deer hunters.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the East Branch WMA until exchanged.

2) SE1/4-NE1/4, Section 28, Township 162, Range 36 (40 Acres).

This tract is accessible on the east side by a township road. Twenty-one acres of the tract are comprised of aspen woodland that has two age classes. Timber harvest planning has identified part of the older age class for harvest during the next harvest cycle. There are nine acres of upland grass and ten acres of wetland. This area receives extensive public use by ruffed grouse, bear and deer hunters.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the East Branch WMA until exchanged.

3) NE1/4-NE1/4, Section 10, Township 162, Range 37 (40 Acres).

This parcel is landlocked. It is comprised entirely of wetland (type two and type six). Sharp-tailed grouse, sandhill crane and deer use it extensively. It provides valuable wetland and wildlife resource benefits.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the Cedar Bend WMA until exchanged.

4) That part of SW1/4-SW1/4 north of county ditch, Section 10, Township 162, Range 37 (28 Acres).

This parcel is accessible from a county road by crossing a county ditch. It is comprised entirely of type two and type six wetland. It provides valuable brushland habitat for deer, sharp-tailed grouse and sandhill cranes.

Recommendation: Exchange for a nearby parcel that provides similar resource values. Designate as part of the Cedar Bend WMA until exchanged.

5) NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 14, Township 159, Range 39 (40 Acres).

This parcel is accessible by road after crossing a judicial ditch. It is mostly wetland with some aspen. This parcel provides habitat for whitetail deer, woodcock and early successional nongame birds.

Recommendation: Designate as part of the Skime WMA because it is accessible and provides recreation and valuable wetland and wildlife resource values.

6) South 10 Acres of SE1/4-NW1/4, Section 34, Township 159, Range 39 (10 Acres).

This parcel is landlocked. It is comprised of mature aspen with some ash.

Recommendation: Sell. Designate as part of the Skime WMA until sold.

7) SE1/4-SW1/4, except the 2 acres described in warranty deed filed for record on October 30, 1923, in Book 161, page 143, Section 30, Township 163, Range 39 (38 Acres).

The southwest part of this parcel is on the Roseau River, and access to the parcel is only by river. There is approximately 1/3 mile of river frontage. Overland access for land management activity, including for timber sales, has been obtained. The parcel's vegetation is comprised of twenty-six acres of lowland hardwood woodland and twelve acres of upland grass. This is important riparian wildlife habitat. The water-for-water exchange requirement limits exchange possibilities for this parcel.

Recommendation: Designate as the Rosver WMA because of the valuable riparian and wildlife resource values this parcel provides.

8) NW1/4-NW1/4, Section 23, Township 159, Range 41 (40 Acres).

This parcel is accessible by road. It is within 1/4 mile of the main part of the Palmville WMA. It is comprised of a mix of upland grass, brush and timber and has habitat management projects planned for it. It currently provides hunting and bird watching activity and valuable conservation benefits. Because of its proximity to the Palmville WMA, this parcel's habitat mix compliments the adjacent WMA lands.

Recommendation: Designate as part of the Palmville WMA because it is accessible to the public, is in close proximity to the existing Palmville WMA, it has a history of public recreational use, and provides valuable resource benefits.