

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 9/4/2013

LRB Number	13-2981/2	Introduction Number	SB-278	Estimate Type	Original
Description Public access to managed forest land that is located in a proposed mining site					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under this bill landowners who have lands described under a ferrous ore bulk sampling pre-application under s. 295.46(1), Stats. and who have provided their pre-application notification under s. 295.465 are exempted from allowing public access on lands open to public recreation. Landowners may, however, enter into an agreement with DNR to allow certain recreational activities for parts of the year and the department would post these temporary closures on the DNR internet site. Landowners who close lands or restrict access because of ferrous ore bulk sampling will be required to pay the closed acreage fee in the year following the closing of the lands.

Currently there are 7 Managed Forest Law (MFL) orders owned by mining companies in which lands may be closed to public recreation if bulk sampling were to occur. There are currently 5 bulk sampling sites currently approved for exploration totaling 3.95 acres, four legal descriptions, and two sections of land. If the bulk sampling that is currently occurring today represents an annual bulk sampling plan, and if the entire legal description is closed to public access during the bulk sampling period, DNR would close an average of 160 acres annually to public recreation that are being taxed as MFL-Open lands. If it takes 15 minutes to develop one new map for each section of land to correctly show the lands open to public recreation, and another 15 minutes per map to upload and change the DNR database, roughly two hours of staff time would be spent to correctly show the lands closed to public recreation as a result of ferrous mining (30 minutes/map x 4 maps = 2 hours).

DNR would issue a correction order and record those corrections at the Register of Deeds office for each correction, costing an average of \$240 (\$30 per Correction Order x 4 maps x 2 times (changing from open to closed, and then back to open) = \$240). In addition, the Department would incur a one-time cost of \$3,000 to change the DNR database to allow for proper notification of open and closed to public recreation and the amount of acreage share tax to collect for each legal description.

Local municipalities will not be impacted by this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications