

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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habitat conditions within the forest, i.e., savanna type openings for sharp tail grouse management or is the appropriate silvicultural system, due consideration shall be given to the attainment of biological diversity of the future forest, the development of edge for wildlife, a variety of age classes in future growth and esthetic quality of the area. Clearcutting is a silvicultural system usually applicable to intolerant species and is defined for purposes of this policy as a timber removal practice that results in a residual stand of less than 30 feet of basal area per acre upon completion of a timber sale. Furthermore, as the existing acreage of overmature even-aged stands change, the long-range goal of the board shall be to increase the intensities of professional management on the state and county forests.

(4) Special management practices shall apply to eagle and osprey nesting sites, deer yards, to lake and stream shoreline zones, to sensitive soil types, to springs and important watersheds, to selected esthetically managed roadsides and to land use zones identified in the master plan as managed more restrictive.

(5) Block type plantings of a single species that create a monotype culture within an area shall be discouraged. Plantations shall be established to achieve a more esthetically pleasing appearance and to provide for added diversity of type. Planting will be accomplished by varying the direction of the rows or contouring to create a more natural appearance, planting on the contour, using shallow furrows or eliminating furrows where practical. In planting adjacent to a major roadway, the first rows should be parallel to the roadway to meet esthetic concern and provide game cover. Existing and new plantations will be thinned at the earliest opportunity and periodically thereafter to develop an understory for wildlife habitat and a more natural environment.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 1.30 State park system. (1) State parks shall be classified, as follows, into their most logical employment and greatest usefulness:

(a) *Scenic parks.* Parks having unusual scenic charm and beauty, distinctive landscapes, and particular appeal to nature lovers, and of sufficient size to enable use by large numbers of people without destruction of the qualities essential to their purpose.

(b) *Historical - memorial parks.* Parks of archaeological, memorial and historical significance.

(c) *Roadside parks.* Parks possessing scenic and other park characteristics adjacent to or associated with important state trunk or interstate highways.

(d) *Recreation parks.* Parks which offer the best natural values for recreation, have scenic qualities, and contain water for recreational purposes and are of sufficient size to prevent destruction through overuse.

(e) *Park trails.* Continuous corridors, whether or not associated with a state park or state forest, suitable for hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, canoeing or nature study.

(2) No overnight lodging facilities other than designated campgrounds, group camps and staff residences shall be constructed in state parks, except for a cabin constructed for use exclusively by people with physical disabilities, with their family or attendant or both and over-

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night lodging in the Seth Peterson cottage, both at Mirror Lake state park.

(3) Archaeological features and historic buildings located in state parks may be restored and preserved.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1975, No. 232, eff. 5-1-75; am. (2), Register, January, 1991, No. 421, eff. 2-1-91.

NR 1.31 State-owned islands. The department shall maintain state-owned islands in natural and undisturbed condition consistent with controlled public use on islands suited for recreational purposes. Each state-owned island shall be classified for its most desirable use such as camping or picnicking, or to be maintained in a natural condition. Preference shall be given to aesthetic management and every effort shall be made to maintain forest growth and ground vegetation in as near a natural state consistent with other desirable uses.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1975, No. 232, eff. 5-1-75.

NR 1.32 Natural areas and scientific areas. (1) The legislature has indicated its intent to acquire, establish and preserve natural areas and scientific areas by creating ss. 15.347(4), 23.27 and 23.092, Stats. The natural resources board agrees that such areas, by their preservation, protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state.

Note: Section 23.27, Stats., defines "natural areas" to include tracts of land or water which have native biotic communities, unique natural features or significant geological or archeological sites. Generally, natural areas are remnant areas which largely have escaped disturbance since settlement or which exhibit little recent disturbance so that recovery has occurred and presettlement conditions are approached. Generally, scientific areas are natural areas of at least statewide significance and useful for education or research.

(2) The department, with the advice and assistance of the scientific areas preservation council, shall:

(a) Conduct inventories of natural areas statewide including department controlled properties.

(b) Recommend for natural resources board approval sites on department properties as scientific areas.

(c) Recommend for natural resources board approval the acquisition of natural areas and designation of appropriate tracts as additions to the scientific areas system.

(d) Manage natural areas and scientific areas to perpetuate the native biotic communities, unique natural features and geological or archaeological sites.

(e) Encourage research and educational use by groups and persons on department controlled scientific areas, consistent with the individual site management guidelines.

(3) Prior to any change in status of a scientific area located on lands owned or controlled by the department, the natural resources board, with the advice of the scientific areas preservation council, shall determine in each instance that:

(a) The site is no longer suitable and no longer needed for the scientific area use for which it was established; or