



## 2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 504

November 12, 2013 – Introduced by Representatives SCHRAA and CZAJA, cosponsored by Senators TIFFANY and GROTHMAN. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 77.83 (2) (a), 77.84 (2) (b) and 77.84 (2) (bm); and **to create**  
2             77.81 (5m), 77.83 (2) (d) and 77.84 (2) (br) of the statutes; **relating to:** public  
3             access to managed forest land that is located in a proposed mining site.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the owner of a parcel of land designated as MFL makes an annual acreage share payment that is lower than, and in lieu of, the property taxes that normally would be payable on the land. In exchange, the owner must comply with certain forestry practices. Under the program, MFL is designated as either “open” or “closed” to public access. MFL that is designated as “open” must be kept open for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross-country skiing (recreational activities). For MFL that is designated as “closed” the owner must make an additional payment per acre (closed acreage payment).

This bill exempts from the requirement that recreational activities be allowed on MFL that is designated as open if the MFL is within a site for which a mining company has notified DNR that it intends to file an application for an iron mining permit (proposed mining site). Instead, under the bill, the mining company and DNR may enter into an agreement to allow any or all of the recreational activities on all or part of the MFL during the entire year or during certain times of the year. However, the owner must make the closed acreage payment for each acre that is located within the proposed mining site and that is closed to any of the recreational activities during any time during the previous calendar year.

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The bill also requires DNR to post on its website information regarding recreational activities that are allowed under agreements that are entered into between a mining company and DNR.

For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 77.81 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

2           77.81 **(5m)** “Proposed ferrous mining site” means a proposed mining site, as  
3 described under s. 295.46 (1), for which the person proposing to engage in ferrous  
4 mining has provided preapplication notification under s. 295.465.

5           **SECTION 2.** 77.83 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           77.83 **(2)** (a) Except as provided in ~~sub. (1) and~~ pars. (b) ~~and~~, (c), and (d) and  
7 sub. (1), each owner of managed forest land shall permit public access to the land for  
8 the purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross-country skiing.

9           **SECTION 3.** 77.83 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

10           77.83 **(2)** (d) 1. The requirement under par. (a) that public access be permitted  
11 on managed forest land designated as open does not apply to managed forest land  
12 within a proposed ferrous mining site. The department and a person proposing to  
13 engage in ferrous mining on managed forest land designated as open within such a  
14 proposed ferrous mining site may enter into an agreement to allow that all or part  
15 of the land be open for public access during the entire year or certain times of the year  
16 for any or all of the purposes specified in par. (a).

17           2. The department shall post notice of each agreement entered into under subd.  
18 1. on the department’s Internet site. The notice shall include all of the following  
19 information:

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1 a. The areas where public access is permitted, and which activities, as specified  
2 in par. (a), are allowed in each area.

3 b. The dates and times that each activity allowed under subd. 2. a. is permitted  
4 in a given area.

5 3. This paragraph does not apply after the department approves or denies the  
6 application for a ferrous mining permit for the proposed ferrous mining site or after  
7 the department determines that the person who proposed to engage in ferrous  
8 mining has ceased to pursue a ferrous mining permit for the proposed mining site.

9 **SECTION 4.** 77.84 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 77.84 (2) (b) For managed forest land orders that take effect before April 28,  
11 2004, in addition to the payment under par. (a), each owner shall pay \$1 for each acre  
12 that is designated as closed under s. 77.83 and for each acre that is located in a  
13 proposed ferrous mining site and that is not open to all of the outdoor activities  
14 specified in s. 77.83 (2) (a) for any part of the previous calendar year. The payment  
15 shall be made to each municipal treasurer on or before January 31.

16 **SECTION 5.** 77.84 (2) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 77.84 (2) (bm) For managed forest land orders that take effect on or after April  
18 28, 2004, in addition to the payment under par. (am), each owner of managed forest  
19 land shall pay to each municipal treasurer, on or before January 31, an amount that  
20 is equal to 20 percent of the average statewide property tax per acre of property  
21 classified under s. 70.32 (2) (a) 6., as determined under par. (cm), for each acre that  
22 is designated as closed under s. 77.83 and for each acre that is located in a proposed  
23 ferrous mining site and that is not open to all of the outdoor activities specified in s.  
24 77.83 (2) (a) for any part of the previous calendar year.

25 **SECTION 6.** 77.84 (2) (br) of the statutes is created to read:

