

CHAPTER 282

TAX-FORFEITED LAND SALES

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282.01 TAX-FORFEITED LANDS.

Subdivision 1. Classification. It is the general policy of this state to encourage the best use of tax-forfeited lands, recognizing 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 shall 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, sustained yield management. The classification, furthermore, must 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; facilitate reduction of governmental expenditures; conserve and develop the natural resources; and foster and develop agriculture and other industries in the districts and places best suited to them.

In making the classification the county board may use information made available 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. The lands may be reclassified from time to time as the county board may consider necessary or desirable, except for conservation lands held by the state free from any trust in favor of any taxing district.

If the lands are located within the boundaries of an organized town, with taxable valuation in excess of \$20,000, or incorporated municipality, the 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 90 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 desires to acquire any parcel lying in the town or municipality by procedures authorized in this subdivision, it must file a written application with the county board to withhold the parcel from public sale. The application must be filed within 90 days of the request for classification or reclassification and sale. The county board shall then withhold the parcel from public sale for one year. A clerical error made by county officials does not serve to eliminate the request of the town board or governing body if the board or governing body has forwarded the application to the county auditor.

[For text of subs 1a to 11, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 12 s 19

282.018 TAX-FORFEITED LAND; MEANDERED LAKES, NONFORESTED MARGINAL LAND, AND WETLANDS; SALE; EXCEPTION.

Subdivision 1. Property 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, regard-

less 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 such lands may sell the timber as otherwise provided by law for cutting and removal under such conditions as the authority may prescribe in accordance with approved, sustained yield forestry practices. The authority having jurisdiction over the timber shall reserve such timber and impose such 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 such lands shall reserve a wider strip for such purposes.

(c) Any tract or parcel of land which has 50 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 such 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.

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: 1991 c 159 s 2; 1991 c 354 art 10 s 9

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 state treasurer and credited to the general fund.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 12 s 20