

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas

A Minnesota Non-profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation
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March 9, 2017

To Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature

Re: **House File 1560; Senate File 1440** – Management of Sand Dunes State Forest
Please Vote “NO”

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) is a Minnesota non-profit, tax-exempt corporation whose mission is to advocate for the protection, management, and perpetuation of Minnesota's 160+ Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). One of these SNAs is Uncas Dunes SNA, located within Sand Dunes State Forest.

As personal background information, I worked for the Minnesota DNR for 31 years and supervised the SNA program for 25 years. I'm presently retired and serve on the FMSNA Board of Directors. I also served on the Sand Dunes State Forest Stakeholder Advisory Group.

FMSNA would like to go on record in opposition to the above proposed legislation in that it would, in effect, dictate management of all public lands in the Sand Dunes State Forest to the detriment rare species and rare natural features

Specifically, if passed into law, public land management would be decided by a small group of people representing primarily local residents and their desires.

The proposed legislation would prescribe management that ignores ecological conditions on the ground and, instead, set goals based on local desires pertaining to the use of public forest land adjacent to private lands. Further, the legislation would dictate forest management practices within the view sheds of private residences and from roads, trails and other access points. In addition, restrictions would be imposed that set conditions as to when and where management actions necessary to protect and enhance rare species habitat and features can be carried out, to the detriment of some of Minnesota's rarest resources.

This legislation poses a precedent that could ultimately adversely affect the management of all public forest lands statewide. Public forest lands are best managed by professionally trained resource management teams that take into account ecological conditions, use best management practices for timber resources, wildlife needs and the needs of rare species and natural communities. Advisory committees may have a role in expressing concerns as it pertains to their desired outcomes, but they in no way can replace the role provided by professional trained resource managers.

Please contact me any time if our organization can be of any assistance. My personal telephone number is: (651) 357-0917 and my e-mail is:rdjupstrom@msn.com.

Very truly yours,

Robert Djupstrom/ttec

Robert Djupstrom, Board Member
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas