

DNR Update

JCNRCB July Meeting

DNR continues to perform all its functions, although teleworking as much as possible. We are following the Governor's executive orders and MMB guidelines for Covid -19. The State Parks are open and most of our State Park campgrounds are operating, but we are short staffed due to a hiring freeze.

In the Northeast, there are some waves in timber markets, with Verso shutting down indefinitely. Verso has been the biggest user of balsam fir, and some permittees are feeling like they are stuck with unsellable wood. The shutdown of a SAPPI paper machine in Wisconsin may result in need for more fiber at SAPPI Cloquet (Aitkin County is in their high procurement area). In the Northwest timber harvest seems to be holding steady for now. DNR has met their timber offer goal of the 870,000 plus 30,000 cords for Fiscal Year 2020.

DNR and the Office of School Trust are beginning a process to prepare a School Trust Asset Management Plan. Scoping is in process and the draft plan is due out later this year.

DNR continues to prepare a wolf management plan. We are still collecting scoping comments on that as well.

Hunting regulations for this fall are out and available on the DNR website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/hunting/index.html>. There are new testing areas and procedures in some parts of Minnesota for Chronic Wasting Disease. Testing is voluntary however carcass moving restrictions remain in place for those areas where there has been positive CWD. Again the information for CWD can be found on our website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/index.html> .