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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, you know, I believe that this is probably one of the best deals you're ever going to get, and you've heard me mention the areas that I have in my district that are maintained by the Game and Parks: Fremont State Lakes and Dead Timber Recreation Area. And it's one of the best deals you're ever going to get, and we don't realize; I do, I believe, but the majority of our constituents don't realize what treasures they really have so close to their areas. At Dead Timber, it's a small area. You have some fishing there, you can camp, and it lays between Scribner and West Point. Apparently, at one time it was part of the Elkhorn River, and the state is...it's a kind of a minimum maintenance area. It doesn't cost a lot to maintain that particular site. But then you get to the Fremont area, where there are old sandpits that have been dredged out for gravel on our county roads. Now I don't remember when it was that the state took those over and made an area out that was open to the public. And, as been mentioned before, you can walk in there. You don't need a permit to walk in. But if you look at it this way, with a \$6 increase, that is around...it's a little less than a nickel a day that that permit would cost you, and that's for a whole year. I support this bill. I think it's something that needs to be done in order to maintain what we have at those areas. I remember 40 years ago or better what that area was like then. There were no boat docks. They were just sandpits. About all the Game and Parks did at that time or the...if it was even called that then, was mow some of the grass. I remember one evening I took my dad's pickup and I had built a boat and my brother and I took it down to the Fremont lakes and we were going to launch that homemade boat. It's probably a good thing we never got the job done because it would probably have sunk, but, needless to say, I backed the pickup down on one of the sandbars and I got stuck. So I had to walk about a mile to a farmer's place to get a tractor to pull my pickup out, and it cost me...or, no, I didn't get a...I found a wrecker somewhere to do that, a tow truck, and it cost me \$20 to get my dad's pickup pulled out of the sand. Needless to say, \$20 at that time was a heck of a lot of money and I didn't have enough money for gas for about two or three weeks, so I couldn't go anywhere. But I believe that my constituents probably use that area as much as anyone does throughout the state. I know