

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

17

DECISION

TOPIC

Notice of Intended Action: Chapter 78 – Ginseng Harvesting and Sale

The Commission is asked to approve the Notice of Intended Action to Amend Chapter 78, “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale” of the Iowa Administrative Code. The proposed amendments would rescind the existing regulations and replace them with new requirements that clarify reporting and permit requirements, put in place more procedural safeguards, and provide additional protection to one of Iowa’s natural resources that is under pressure from a growing commercial demand.

Iowa Code section 456A.24(11) authorizes the Department to establish a program for the harvesting and sale of American Ginseng subject to the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, to provide for the time and conditions for harvesting the plant, and to provide requirements for the registration of dealers and exporters, the records kept by dealers and exporters, and the certification of a legal taking. The goal of the Department’s program is to ensure that American Ginseng, a slow-growing plant with increased demand due to its medicinal and commercial value, remains a sustainable resource in the state of Iowa.

The rules are currently under review at the state and federal levels and shall be provided to the Commission under separate cover and posted for public review prior to the 05/08/08 meeting.

Kenneth Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
May 8, 2008