

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC Contract with Iowa State University for Economic Impact and Value of Iowa's Lakes

Commission approval is requested for a seventeen month service contract with Iowa State University, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) of Ames, Iowa. The contract will begin on July 1, 2009 and terminate on December 31, 2010. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$128,658. DNR shall have the option to renew this contract long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period.

This contract will be funded through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Lake Restoration Program.

The DNR intends to utilize the information gathered and analyzed in this Contract to (a) assess the changes in usage that Iowans have made to Iowa lakes in response to changes in water quality and the cost of accessing the lakes and (b) to assess the economic impact associated with the presence of Iowa lakes in local communities and how that impact might change relative to changes in water quality. This information will contribute to the cost-effective management of lake restoration projects.

The parties propose to enter into this Contract for the purpose of retaining the Contractor to provide the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with information on the economic impact generated by Iowa lakes for local communities and to provide ongoing visitation information to Iowa lakes. Two primary sources of data will be collected to provide the needed information. First, data on the usage of Iowa lakes by a random population sample will be collected for the calendar year of 2009. Second, extensive expenditure data will be collected and combined with economic impact modeling.

Iowa Code Section 455B.103 allows the Department to contract, with public agencies of this state, to provide laboratory, scientific field and environmental quality evaluation services. The Department has a long history of working with the proposed Contractor on a variety of water quality and economic related research. Past contracts have been completed in a timely, professional manner.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 11, 2009