

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

18

DECISION

TOPIC

Contract with The Nature Conservancy for Landowner Incentive Program Banks Easement

Commission approval is requested for a contract with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The contract will begin on May 15, 2009, and terminate on December 1, 2009. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$35,000. 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 Iowa Code section 455A.2 and 456A.24/Landowner Incentive Program Tier II funds.

The Landowner Incentive Program's purpose is to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for species of greatest conservation need. TNC proposes to acquire a permanent conservation easement over approximately 160 acres, known as the Banks (Chad & Robyn) tract, located within the Broken Kettle Grasslands Bird Conservation Area of the Loess Hills in Plymouth County, Iowa. The conservation easement will ensure that the Banks (Chad & Robyn) property will be retained forever substantially undisturbed in its natural, scenic, agricultural, and open space condition, and will prevent any use of the property that will significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values of the Banks tract, as defined in the easement. TNC shall enforce the terms and conditions of the easement, if it is successful in acquiring such an easement, and such enforcement shall remain the responsibility of TNC and its successors or assigns, as set forth in the easement, beyond the term of this Agreement.

The Nature Conservancy was chosen for this project because this property is within a LIP priority area and will add to the efforts currently underway to protect, enhance, and restore habitat within the Broken Kettle Bird Conservation Area for species of greatest conservation need.

Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
May 14, 2009