

## Conservation and Recreation Stakeholder Legislative Forum Discussion

### Stakeholder Suggestions

Reduced number of participants – especially hunting and fishing

Don't limit access with new legislation

Continue toward clean water

- Keep manure out of rivers
- Trash removal

Preventative Initiatives

- Deposit on appliances, tires, etc.
- At least \$.10 deposit on bottles

Bees/colonies/colony loss; need localized research; referenced criticism from Europe

Anti groups petitioning with misinformation

Flood plain mgmt/Upland game/habitat use – using practices to bring in pheasants, etc.

- Predators vs. habitat

Expanding trails

- All kinds
- Parallel (dual) tracks

Watershed protection

- Relation to urban development planning/zoning – is there need for increased standards for local gov. and impacts to watershed?
- Greenbelt protection/zoning/land use

Destination Parks

- Good golf course
- Docks hard to access
- Completed Construction

Strong Sustainable Funding Coalition

- General discussion – make sure F&W Trust Fund gets portion – need to alleviate increased license fees
- Director would like tool see increases standardized with CPI – Sustainable Funding could help hold increases down.
- Enabling statutory language on front end vs. back end.of legislation
- Sustainable Funding does not replace REAP

Implementation of deer study advisory committee recommendations

- Non-resident
  - Zones
  - Pilot effort to allow landowners/public to cooperate on access & capturing more economic value of hunt experience.

Strengthening of goals of DNR

- Dove Bill
- Catfish as state fish
- State Park infrastructure – attract new users – first monies that flows into parks elevates infrastructure (health and safety). Set standard or template of all the basic infrastructure all parks need (drinking water, waste water, solid waste water, etc.)

\$2 out of state fishing license – camp and fish for a few hours

Fundraising idea – charge tax (\$2K/yr) which goes toward buying protected lands

Invasive Species

Portion of sales tax that is already being charged to be returned to sport for specific uses.

Improvements for handicapped users (hunters)

Youth Hunting extending season (beneficial to continue)

What is DNR's stand on Lead?

Waterfowl  
Raptors eating  
Lead Shot  
Non-game wildlife/habitat  
Lake Restoration Program – uses of lakes (need clarification – how listed, how determined for dredging, shallow lake mgmt). Sustainable funding will add more resources to this.  
Should be done as DNR determines the need not by political will.  
Non-resident landowners – allow for them to be more involved in good conservation/land management practices – more liberalized hunting laws to allow non-residents to participate  
Enforcement – look at rules – make less onerous. Too many rules/regs. – i.e registering your deer kill, antlers, etc.  
Deer hunting needs to maintain a resource for the state – do not put in private hands. Privatization of resource concerns. Deer herd controls – privatization  
More Comprehensive River Management

- River Restoration – need more resources
- Biological Monitoring of Rivers

Expand Public Shooting Ranges around state manned/unmanned  
Constitutional budgetary pressures – protect source of funds we have while trying to expand

- Part of bonding proposal is uncommitted – some for NR enhancement/protection  
Hold legislature to stated intent to these funds and not move funds to other areas.

Continued Education of public (users, youth, landowners, etc)  
Hunting/fishing/economical impact study  
Buying more public wildlife areas

## Summary

- **Funding**
- **Watershed, greenbelt, upland game – habitat work**
- **Water quality – understanding lakes and doing more with rivers**
- **Trails**
- **Research – bee, lead, deer study**
- **Access, privatization, recruitment, retention**
- **Education**

**Legislative Effort that should emerge from these issues.**

**License Fees – tied to cost of living rather than big increase every 5 years**

**Alternate Funding – bird watchers, bird feeders, trail users, etc.**

**Outfitter Fee**

### 1. CPI adjustment for license fees

Strategy –

- Timing implications of sustainable funding & fee increases
- Outfitters tracked = fees ? (concern it will limit local users)

### 2. Legislative support for recruit/retain study group

Strategy –

- Create educational program for schools
- Iowa Outdoors – to all schools
- Competitive matching grant pilot program

- Schools – field trips, hunter ed as elective, shooting sports
- Iowa Trails Summit – Outdoors Coalition
- Trans-Continental Trail
- Wayfinding & Signage

### **3. Wildlife/Habitat**

Strategy –

- Volunteer Riparian Protection Fund
- Summit - ag – NRCS – DNR -
- Standing bonding authority in event of disaster (i.e. flooding)
- Ensure Sustainable Funding is additive
- Watersheds – have riparian area at end of watershed for flood control and also habitat
- More DNR decision making

### **4. Water Quality**

Strategy –

- Farming practices – waterway protection with NRCS
- Authority for local governments to regulate urban/suburban development practices and its impact on watersheds?
- Collaboration and partnerships with non-hunting groups
- Develop More Comprehensive River Management Program
  - Study Group, funding from Sust. Funding
  - Manure Spreading Concerns → fish kills
  - Sediment control, nutrient pollution prevention
  - Support for signage/NPDES Outlets
  - Buffers and Wetlands ~ long-term management lands for all producers

### **5. Trails**

Strategy –

- Clarity on trail terms (i.e. dual)
- Motorized/non-motorized
- Consider User Fees/Maintenance Fund/Support

### **6. Research**

Strategy –

- Pheasants
- Hawk Season?
- Predators

## Environmental Stakeholder Legislative Forum Discussion

### Stakeholder Suggestions

- More state level incentives for more fuel-efficient vehicles – like license fees
- Increase activities with handling invasive species
- Increase in litter penalty laws – including illegal dumping – with funds go back to the community of occurrence and Keep Iowa Beautiful fund – tie in waterways
- Additional funding for mercury testing in fish
- Water Resources Coordinating Council – actively use the council to provide leadership and recommendations. Coordination through the Governor’s Office to lead efforts in coordinating efforts in multiple agencies and requests with the Legislature.
- Thinking outside of the box to leverage resources with the private sector. The private sector can be more engaged in protecting the environment. Post department priorities and projects that private sector may develop partnerships.
- Stronger statewide public awareness/outreach of PM2.5 attainment and non-attainment for communities, businesses, and agricultural industry.
- Support funding for applied solutions – like the livestock odor study. Feasibility of recommendations should be evaluated. (counterpoint) Concerns that tax dollars are used to support the program.
- Support expressed for the Department to continue with legislation related to engine idling.
- Increase efficiency by submitting applications, permits, etc electronically.
- Concern expressed with the impact of ATVs with use of recreation on levees and banks and damage to native vegetation.
- State assistance with solid waste EMS facilities to smaller communities. Currently in pilot status with applications due by the end of August 2009.
- Concerns expressed with maintaining high quality wet lands related to the Iowa Plan. (counterpoint) The DNR should support the pilot plan, determine what worked, and provide scientific recommendations.
- Recommendation to perform monitoring prior to CREP programs to compare with monitoring after the CREP program is initiated. Could be an opportunity to partner with stakeholders. Transparency and cooperation is important.
- Stakeholder support expressed for the below DNR recommended 2010 legislative initiatives.
  - Waste tire management
  - Asbestos cleanup fund
  - Trash burning ban
  - PM2.5 monitoring
  - Increase of the water supply annual operating fee cap from \$350,000 to \$1,000,000.
- Concerned expressed for current tight budgets and expected budgets are not forecasted to be better if the Department plans to increase fees.
- Does the Department entertain the idea of sponsored state resources? Yes, state parks partner with counties.
- Do not ignore regulatory frameworks for handling concerns utilizing scientific based data. Remove “handcuffs” of code to regulate beyond Federal standards. Remove anti-stringency clause from Iowa Code.