

## **Appendix A**

## Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

Forest City Input Meeting

September 24, 2012

*What opportunities do we have in outdoor recreation right now?*

- *Want to recreate need more places to do it*
- *Increasing accessibility will help increase participation*
  - *Hunting and fishing access*
  - *Amenities (shelters/bathrooms)*
- *Snowmobiling*
- *Non-consumptive*
- *Alternative forms to access lands (trails along active rail lines)*
- *ATV and 4-wheeler*
- *Water Trails*
- *Shooting Sports*
- *Money (buying/developing vs. maintaining)*
- *Clean environment*
- *Disk Golf*
- *Hunting and Fishing*

*How do we capitalize on those opportunities to get more interest/participation in outdoor recreation?*

- *It takes money to get things going*
  - *Sustainable funding*
  - *User fees*
  - *Full funding of REAP*
  - *Partnerships*
  - *Friends groups*
  - *Foundation funding*
  - *Sponsorships (local and corporate sponsors)*
- *Passionate people wanting to get going. Get groups/individuals together to make it happen*
- *Get the next generation engaged – education and make sure people know what is available*
- *More advertising about what is out there*

*What is threatening current levels and interest/future participation in outdoor recreation?*

- *Regulations – accessibility/encroachment/cultural and T&E Species issues*
- *Climate – water levels/consistency with snow*

- Deteriorating infrastructure and facilities. It's easy to get money to build new, harder to get money for maintenance
- Vandalism
- Completion with technology
- Animal Rights/anti-hunting/Special interest groups (not necessarily anti hunting/rights) trying to shutdown a recreation opportunity
- Not all groups working together
- Economics – cost of recreation
- Agriculture – used to be able to walk the fencerows or railroad tracks to hunt, things have changed.

*What can we do to minimize/avoid the impacts of real and potential threats?*

- Use technology to get the interest turned into action
- Get vandals involved in the area they have been destroying. Taking ownership can help reduce vandalism
- Factor in annual maintenance costs when considering a new development. Need to keep money for maintenance not just new development
- Education (youth/values)
- Advertise, marketing, information and public relations
- DNR listserve
- DNR image – Regulation vs. Conservation
- Get the story/information out and try to combat misinformation
- Liability
- Outdoor Recreation image
- Get families more involved
- Wildlife and population numbers go up so will the recreation

## **Outdoor Recreation in Iowa**

Urbandale Input Meeting  
September 27, 2012

*What opportunities do we have in outdoor recreation right now?*

- Build and link regional trail systems (build off of momentum).
- Gather multiple user groups and work together - one direction and pull together multiple funds for one goal.
- Connect economic advocacy and health advocacy to get a bigger message for Iowa
- IWILL and Polk County Bond moved forward- political opportunities
- Communicate and get Iowa's support. Get them informed, engaged and keep them engaged.

*How do we capitalize on those opportunities to get more interest/participation in outdoor recreation?*

- Leveraging resources. Private sector (economic benefits) building the advocacy.
- Look locally
- Get the message out
- Make it personal (what do we have and how it impacts them)
- Find out why other states/counties/cities are successful and prosper in outdoor recreation (per capita spending) vs. Iowa.
- Tap into Blue Zone communities
- Do we sell recreation or health? What is the right brand?

*What is threatening current levels and interest/future participation in outdoor recreation?*

- Funding
- Conservation land reverting to agriculture.
- Loss of open spaces.
- Political climate.
- Loss of appropriate messaging (value of land, recreation).

- Lack of a champion to move this forward.
- Diminished understanding of what the brand is (outdoor recreation).

*What can we do to minimize/avoid the impacts of real and potential threats?*

- Coalition building (political and private sector).
- Educate/communicate the brand to get everyone to understand the connection.
- Marketing – do we know what we have to sell and how do we sell it.
- Partnerships – tourism, private, etc... a group working to move outdoor recreation forward.
- Corn and Soybean excise tax.
- Surtax on the water bill/sewer to maintain the resources.
- Go back to the conservation commission.

## Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

Coralville Input Meeting

October 4, 2012

*What opportunities do we have in outdoor recreation right now?*

- Water trails is a growing interest.
- Snowmobile trails have more funding available to them due to new policies that will enable trails to be maintained and improved.
- Walking and biking trails are the simplest to build and maintain. Connecting and linking is important and it has a tourism benefit.
- Off-road vehicle has a new fee based pay which will give it more money and opportunity.
- Trails summits offer an opportunity for all types of trail users to get together for a common purpose.
- Mountain biking is viewed as an extreme sport and is appealing to younger people.
- Events are an attractant. Ex: Winter games, RAGBRAI. Need more events to attract people outside.
- Frisbee Golf, younger ages participate and it is a cheap sport that anyone can do. Easily incorporated into areas if there is sufficient space for the course.
- Bird watching. Example: Decorah Bald Eagle cam. Lots of publicity.
- Get more youth involvement in hunting.
- Fishing is a family activity. Promote ice fishing with riding snowmobiles.
- Projects that have trash pick-up/clean-up efforts (ex: Project AWARE).
  - People want to get out and want to help in the communities
  - It's an event
  - Gets the word out and is televised
- Camping is relaxing and gets everyone to see the state parks.

*How do we capitalize on those opportunities to get more interest/participation in outdoor recreation?*

- Look for areas where they can engage in many activities at one place – 1 experience with multiple areas of engagement.
- Better promotion. Make people aware of opportunities (as more people are engaged it might mean we need to update facilities).
  - Participants to promote
  - DNR
  - State Associations
  - My County Parks
  - 1-stop shop

- Government to promote on more fronts.
- Partnership and collaboration.
  - Funding
  - Combine the man power of volunteer groups with the money
- Expand rental business. Tap into benefitting retailers/gas stations.
- Intro classes.
  - Train the trainer
  - Schools
  - Publications grouped to make it easy. “Here’s what to do in Iowa” with contacts
  - Get more out/in the tourism guide
  - Website – one-stop-shop
  - Advertise the website better
- Promote good models for getting more people participating (including a list of passionate instructors who are willing to travel the state to teach outdoor skills classes).
- Money – IWILL passage.
- Connect with companies and businesses to have them go on “school field trip” like trips. Maybe to volunteer on a project or learn skills. Some businesses allow employees to take leave to go do volunteer work etc...
- Capitalize on connecting in company volunteer programs.
- Outdoor recreational users need to advocate for their activities (show the need – what will you do with the dollars).
- Pay-your-way with user fees or permit fees like what is done in snowmobile and ATV, while not discouraging the casual or beginning learner.
- Take your child... (hiking, biking etc...).
- Look for easy entry activities as they get more engaged then add a user/permit fee.

*What is threatening current levels and interest/future participation in outdoor recreation?*

- The “outdoors” keeps people away.
- Safety perception/crime. Due to more publicity and too much information.
- Other stakeholder groups working against outdoor recreation.
- Land ownership issues.
  - Being afraid of lawsuits
  - Out-of-state owners
  - Leasing of land
- Land availability.
- Land restrictions.
- Lack of public lands.
- Lack of time.
- Public priorities that are skewed away from land for public activities.

- Politics funding recreation less.
- Schools cutting some forms of outdoor recreation out of curriculum.
- Pollution and invasive species.
- Nintendo/technology. It is easier to sit and play a game than go outside.
- Weather.
- Lack of money.

*What can we do to minimize/avoid the impacts of real and potential threats?*

- Get more involvement in schools.
  - Bird watching
  - Hunter Safety
  - Trash pick-up/Clean-up efforts
  - Get more money to get the kids out
  - You don't have to go far, promote the "schoolyard" "backyard"
  - Tie it to local community
  - Get conservation groups programming in the schools
  - Tie it to standards and the curriculum
- Work with before and after schools and daycare and promote them going in their "backyard".
- Use technology.
  - Advertise on apps/game apps that are related
  - Develop an app to get engagement (Dominos Pizza example)
  - Live stream more outdoors opportunities
  - Geocache
- Education on safety and perceptions.
  - Get it out on apps or through the web
  - Make it so the information is easy to get
- How-to instruction. Make it live and have on-line opportunities.
- Better communication with decision makers. Decisions are based on impacts and are data based decisions.
- Provide more information on how to participate no matter what the weather.
- Promote at the end of movies. (Ex: Hunger Games/promote archery)
- Get educational shows into the libraries or on you-tube.
- Sponsor TV shows/cable TV and provide links to further the activities.
- Cross promotional with the local vendors. When you purchase a shotgun you get information on where to go same with kayak purchase etc...
- More vendors/businesses to supply for the need/use.
- Welcome centers assist with information and selling of passes/permits. Need to provide better education to those working the centers.

- Connection from the community to recreation. Partner opportunities like the Charles City kayak course/fishing opportunity.

## Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

Decorah Input Meeting

October 17, 2012

*What opportunities do we have in outdoor recreation right now?*

- Fishing – a huge economic driver in NE Iowa, fly fishing especially. Lots of streams and rivers.
- Trail Riding – opportunities for riding on private land as groups get permission from various landowners to have special trail ride events. Volga has a new handicap access area for riding – build it and they are coming.
- Snowmobiles – 5,000 miles of trails in the state. Also have trails on private ground with agreements with landowners.
- Kayak and Canoe – tourism and chambers are promoting locally. Upper Iowa River is a natural draw.
- Biking – Users come to “stay”. Many do overnight trips and do other activities while they are there, ex. Proximity to river trail helps, new trails/scenic trails help.
- Gardening – locally grown food movement. Good exercise, individuals can do by themselves. In the local area, “seed Savers”, Co-op, Kids camps. Gardening supplies and places are easily accessible.
- ATV – trail riding events etc.. on private land too.
- Boating fishing on lakes (Volga lake local)
- Hunting – youth classes are full
- Birding – winter bird counts and local Audubon Chapter does bird walks. Eagle Cam in the area is a huge draw.
- Hiking – paved trails are heavily used while off pavement trails are not used as much. Lots of opportunity locally because they have many trails between the county, Luther College, etc...
- Camping – people do other activities in conjunction with camping while some, depending on the area they are camping in, just stay at the tent.
- Outdoor Photography – more people out taking photos, sending into local TV stations, websites, newspaper etc...
- Dog walking – people want to take their dogs along. Like off-leash opportunities too.
- Agri-tourism – Farm tours popular as a way for people to experience that side.
- Golf – many courses
- Cross-country skiing

*How do we capitalize on those opportunities to get more interest/participation in outdoor recreation?*

- Public access/private access
  - Need easements
  - Reduce Segmentation
  - Need parking lot type access to areas

- Look at “ways to get in”
- Access/communication – multi/use looking at shared season use opportunities. Communicate what is out there.
- Nature hikes or larger events to get people engaged
- Iowa Trails Summit – need to get all groups more involved and working together
- Communication and education – doing builds respect
- Appropriate facilities for use – do we need bathrooms, more/better trails
- Look at opportunities to add amenities for people with disabilities, older generations so they can stay/be involved
- Publications and awareness materials – get the information out there where people can see it and learn how they can get involved/participate. Add signage to trails or properties that explain what to do where.
- All groups need to work together
  - Communication between stakeholder groups
  - Networking
  - Communication with landowners
  - Communicate with users
  - Face-to-face meetings (service providers with users)

*What is threatening current levels and interest/future participation in outdoor recreation?*

- Gas process (sometimes a threat, sometimes an opportunity)
- Groups disrespecting other’s recreation (multi-use)
- Funding
- Youth too busy with activities (sports type) or too plugged in to care
- Urbanization – bringing the town to wildlife
- Growing recreation businesses is a challenge when you have regulation and zoning hold-ups. Can discourage some from trying, building, growing.
- Time – dual careers, families
- Technology – a phone and electronic world for both kids and adults
- DNR closing lands to use (trails etc...) and private lands closed off to use (leasing, fear of law suits)
- Corporate agriculture use – more land out of CRP into ag, out-of-state owned operations, federal regulation and the farm bill changes.

*What can we do to minimize/avoid the impacts of real and potential threats?*

- Education and publicity – should be a cooperative effort amongst all groups (marketing and advertising)
- Events – outdoor expo type where lots of stakeholder groups come together (have locally based expos and a statewide expo)

- Service providers (state, county, cities) need to collaborate on projects, opportunities, publicity, etc..
- Joint collaboration – more meetings that bring the users and the service providers together to talk, plan, do.
- Youth education – get opportunities to get kids outside more
- Sponsor funding – work with those entities that have a stake

## Miscellaneous Comments Received By Email

\*\*People responded directly to questions asked during meetings

### ***What opportunities do we have in outdoor recreation right now?***

- We have many opportunities in outdoor recreation, but I think the most important are those that give participants the opportunity and the willingness to preserve and protect our natural areas, parks and preserves for future generations. That includes encouraging participants to learn about our natural environment—if they understand it they will protect it. In order to learn and appreciate, participants need to slow down, observe, touch, watch quietly and appreciate the quiet that can be found in natural areas.
- Learning and observation of life other than us (what's that, and that, and that? How do you tell? Leaves, bark, flowers, colors, wings, etc.), hiking, photography, snowshoeing
- Public and private recreational areas - campgrounds, lakes, river accesses, preserves, parks, and wildlife areas.
- I think the greatest opportunities in outdoor recreation right now are with our younger residents. Continuing to invest in programs that get youngsters outside will pay dividends as they grow up to value outdoor recreation and support the work of the DNR and other conservation agencies.
- Also, I rely heavily on information on the DNR and county conservation websites to plan visits to nature areas around the state. Having thorough information online about nature areas and well-developed maps and other resources can really help make an outdoor recreation trip more pleasant as less effort is made in planning.
- It never hurts to promote outdoor recreation by doing regular maintenance at nature areas to keep them visually attractive. I took the attached photo at Burk's Run Wildlife in Lee County, and folks driving on US 61 on the other side of the overgrown shrubs are not even aware there is a nature area there because the sign is obscured.
- Many of the best recreation opportunities are on and along our rivers. This is where many of our scarce natural areas remain, and walking, birding, wildlife watching, and biking the trails of the greenways and paddling along the rivers and creeks give many of our best outdoor recreation opportunities. We also have protected some great natural areas with our state,, county, and community parks. Our county conservation provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation, providing environmental education and open spaces for enjoying the outdoors.

- Running, hiking, cross-country skiing, golf, sailing, and team sports (basketball, baseball, swimming, etc) were not mentioned.
- Is there a place for amateur team sports or competitive individual sports in the Iowa DNR plan? (Maybe the title of the plan should be more specific, like "IDNR managed-lands Outdoor Recreation in Iowa")

***How do we capitalize on those opportunities to get more interest/participation in outdoor recreation?***

- Perhaps there should be more natural resource interpretation in the parks, although I know staffing can be a problem. However, with more appreciation and understanding of the many threats that can impact our natural areas, our waters, our parks and preserves from development, pollution, encroachment, people will support more funding.
- Turn the parks into “destinations”, Disney worlds
- Advertise them through radio, TV, billboards, and internet!!! Advertise to healthy Iowans, family activities, camping, hunting and fishing, and tourism. Have field days and special events/activities. Be in the public eye.
- Perhaps programs can work with an increasingly technologically-savvy generation to provide smart phone applications that assist in geocaching or animal and plant identification. Text message alerts can be sent to remind people of upcoming outdoor education events.
- As technology becomes more integrated into our lives I think any investment in website development or advertising would be productive. A group could be hired to study website usage and determine which areas would be most useful to grow or remove. Developing a Google Earth file locating nature areas would be fantastic.
- Perhaps hiring groups of local volunteers to do a trash clean-up at their local nature area would help.
- Festivals such as the Chichaqua Bottoms Prairie Festival and the Audubon Pelican Festival seem to attract large crowds and get first-time visitors to sample the recreational opportunities there. The Ikes in Des Moines also have an outdoor festival that attracts large crowds. These events may offer birding, programs on wildlife, chances to actually paddle a canoe or kayak, and go on hikes on the trails with naturalists. Our Polk County Conservation Board has a great outreach program.
- Camping is widely available (we don't need more electric spots). Work on cleaning up the water in our lakes and streams; people want to recreate in cleaner water. Family-oriented programs are good. River cleanups are quite well-received and get new people out on the water. Trails are a great entry into a more active outdoor experience.

***What is threatening current levels and interest/future participation in outdoor recreation?***

- Of course, the Internet, television, computer games, etc. are a threat to getting young people out. Our busy lives are also a threat. There are several organizations in Iowa that already conduct many outings per year, and coordination with those organizations or planning events with them could increase participation. Organizations like Iowa Ornithologist Union, Iowa Native Plant Society, Iowa Prairie Network, Audubon Chapters, Sierra Groups like the Central Iowa Sierra Group and the Dubuque Sierra Group, "White Pine Group" have many hikes and outdoor activities, especially during the summer months. Most of these are also educational and most are free. Activities at state parks and preserves could be enhanced by cooperation and planning with these groups.
- Lack of funding, poor appearances of current parks and campgrounds, lack of advertising, and lack of advertising or PR.
- Laziness, bad habits, fear (insects, disease, too hot, too cold, too wet) and electronic entertainment that usually does not involve physical exertion and is fantasy.
- I think the biggest threat is the increasing use of electronics for entertainment, as people seem to be finding less value in spending time outdoors away from electronic gadgets.
- To a small degree, I think a general degradation in the quality of our nature areas is turning people off from outdoor recreation.
- Damage to the natural areas. Development pressures continually threaten natural areas. People look at a map of the floodplain and see "nothing there" and want to put a road there. Some aggressive users of ATV's (and to some degree horseback riders) are not aware of the damage their illegal use does to stream beds and other natural areas.
- Lack of funding in protecting and supporting outdoor recreation. Iowa's Water and Land Legacy needs to be funded; 63% of us supported it.
- If we don't engage today's children, we won't have people who care in the future.
- Making "regulation" a bad word is a threat. We need rules and regulations to protect our water, our fragile lands, and our clean air.

***What can we do to minimize/avoid the impacts of real and potential threats?***

- Try to get more publicity out about the parks and preserves and other natural areas. Small town newspapers are usually happy to print articles. Take advantage of staff people like John Pearson, who has a wealth of knowledge. Be sure to do outreach to the non-consumptive groups who are sometimes aware of such threats.
- Unfortunately, I really don't know. However, I admire your efforts to try.

- Be proactive. Iowans voted their support of conservation, clean water, and recreational opportunities. Push for funding of public areas and their care and regulations for clean water and air. Action would depend on the specific threats.
- As mentioned under question No. 2, an increase in dependence on technology can be leveraged to enhance an outdoor recreation activity through, for example, smart phone applications.
- Continue or enhance management effort of nature areas to help promote more involvement in outdoor recreation.
- Find appropriate funding levels to work on invasive species, clean up Iowa's waters, maintain the parks, protect greenways, connect trails, do lots of environmental education, keep something "close to home" for families, support the River Trails programs, educate the legislators on the values of our outdoor recreation.
- The health factor is big now, and increasing in importance. Outdoor activity is good for our state's health. Getting people active outdoors provides great health benefits. I walk, run, bird watch and bike along the greenbelts in my community, and thanks to the trail connections, in neighboring communities as well. And because I get out there in the natural areas, I care about them.
- Encourage intergenerational activities. Grandparents biking with grandchildren, Partner with school mentoring programs to utilize public recreation opportunities.
- Encourage team events. Multisport (like canoe/bike/run) events are fun for families to train for and compete in as teams or individuals together.

## Miscellaneous Comments Received By Email

Comments are random and not pertaining to questions asked in the meetings.

- (ties into trails)Mt. Biking- would like more promotion of areas or more areas in general.
- Hunting
- Lack of public areas. Challenge is money to get into sport.
- One thing I would like to see, are improvements to the beaches at our lakes in Cass County. As a child, I rarely swam at the community pool, as we went to Lewis or Anita frequently to swim. I was shocked when I moved back to the area to buy my family farm after being away 10 years, by the serious degradation of the two beaches. My family camps frequently at Cold Springs (and we really only live about 7 miles away), but we cannot enjoy the beach when we are there. The weeds are growing up through the sand; there is almost no beach there anymore. My kids say it's too yucky to play or swim there (and they aren't too picky, they swim at home with our ducks, lol!) Anita is somewhat better, but could also use a beach maintenance plan and a bath house/beach house. I hate to say it, but this summer my family camped most often out of our county for this very reason...my kids and their cousins are getting to an age where the beach is a huge part of their camping experience. So we drove the extra distance to Viking and Icaria for a number of camping trips. I have just assumed that beach maintenance is not in the budget, but I think more attractive beaches would draw more families back to using our lakes. Also, my family enjoys hiking trails; so that would be another suggestion I have. I feel like our area lakes should be the hub of summer fun, and while I realize that they are not suited for boat rentals and jet skis, I think at least improving the current offerings and adding more activities (that are logical to the specific parks) would create more use. I don't know what it would take to get things like that done- private donors, fundraisers, grants- but if there was something I could do to help (now that I've voiced my opinion) I sure would.
- A quick list of my concerns
  - I so enjoy the diversity of plants, birds and insects that can be found on public lands. But I am concerned that this “rest of life”, the life that is other than us, the life that helps sustain us and our world, does not get the attention or the funding that is needed. I want my portion of general funds to go towards biodiversity.
  - State preserves are some of the best of public lands, my lands, yet it is my understanding that the Iowa DNR State Preserves have no dedicated funding. These Iowa ecological gems are home to diverse plants and animals (yes, this includes insects). I, for one would like state preserves to have funding to be managed for biodiversity. As

an example, the access lane at Woodman Hollow is complete tangle necessitating access via the adjacent private land.

- Land management/restoration on more public lands: state preserves, state parks, recreation areas, and wildlife management areas – invasive species are everywhere.
  - It would be grand if every wildlife district could have a 'model' land restoration, an oak savannah, native prairie, open woodland, or wetland that demonstrates what could be with more funding, and as an example for private landowners. Ledges State Park has beautiful but completely overgrown oak savannahs as well as little prairie openings that are disappearing. Hayden Prairie, the forest is coming. Yellow River State Forest, that nice goat prairie will be gone one of these years, overgrown with encroaching woody plants.
  - Not every oak and walnut needs to be logged before its natural time of death. I would like my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to walk in an open woodland of mature trees (other than boxelders).
  - The Upper Iowa River is both a protected river and a destination river. As a protected river, manure can be knifed in zero feet from the banks. True protection is needed as well as ecological management of the public lands along the river. As a destination river members of the public (sometimes enhanced with alcohol) can be ill behaved. We need some oversight, state or county.
  - DNR website – is getting better all the time. Thank you much. The “clickable state map” (in development) for Iowa State Parks will be much welcomed. A similar clickable map for Iowa State Preserves would also be welcome. It is currently difficult to find Iowa State Preserves by county especially if one doesn't know the name of the preserve.
  - A useful and educational goal for the future: on-line species lists. Imagine hiking a state preserve with a bird or plant list in hand.
  - I do not need to be entertained on public lands but rather enjoy the solitude, spirituality and diversity of life in the few bits of habitat that remain in the otherwise sea of corn and soybeans (and wafting aroma of CAFO's). But constituents are diverse with varied interests. How to be all things for all people.
- I go to state areas and other parks for their natural areas - to explore their natural features of vegetation and geology, and I know many people who do this, but I also know people who do this for bird watching and some for looking at insects or even lichens.
  - I favor low-impact activities such as hiking and walking, and I also appreciate interpretive signs that help people who are less knowledgeable about the natural features appreciate these, encouraging them to treat them with care.

- An additional reason for not going to a park for a walk is the fear these days of being vulnerable. Being alone in a natural area can lead to fear. I go to Sioux City Prairie and to the Talbot Preserve in Stone Park alone, but I can imagine being fearful of walking alone in wooded areas, especially if the wooded area is near or in a city. I am less fearful since I am an older woman, as young women have more to fear. Some form of walking club would take care of this, or a way for people to find others who'd like to also walk, and they could flexibly make arrangements.
- I'm encouraged by the playscapes in getting families comfortable with being outdoors.
- I also favor the use of funds in adding buffers or new additions to the parks, and the use of funds for management of the natural resources.
- If funds can be used for summer help and internships, that would also be a win-win.
- I definitely would like to see fewer mowed areas.
- Money is always an issue as there is never enough to purchase property, manage property/recreation areas or to maintain the areas. As managers we need to do a better job of developing partnerships and being more resourceful.
- Sportsmen are not always the most vocal group. We need to do a better job of speaking up for the resources and recreation. A marketing plan should be in place to make the general public/legislators aware of the value wildlife/recreation/shooting sports have in this state. The quality of life issue should not be that hard to market. Missouri has done a tremendous job in this area. IACCB is working toward developing a marketing plan and working with the tourism folks.
- The shooting sports have taken off with young people. Look at the archery in the schools program and the high school shooting sports and the growth they have had in the last 5 years. This is an area that we should be putting time and money into as a way to get the kids involved. As a coach of our high school team, I can tell you that we need lots of dedicated volunteers because to do a good job with the program it takes a lot of time and money. More grants to CCB's and other groups to provide more fishing, hunting and outdoor rec programs would do some good. We just completed the first year of a grant for this purpose and it worked good. The hard part is finding someone competent enough to teach the kids about hunting, fishing, and shooting along with keeping them engaged.
- The DNR has started a range grant program that should help promote the shooting sports. Most areas of the state do not even have a trap range, let alone a skeet or sporting clays facility. The cost of a good trap and house is around \$10,000, plus you need to own the property and have enough area to contain the shot fall. Having electricity nearby is also a big issue because it will cost \$6,000 to \$12,000 just to bring a power line ¼ mile depending on your power company.

The growth of the shooting sports will depend on grants like this to develop places to teach the kids to shoot and provide a safe place to work on their skills. Our home range for the high school trap team is in Austin, MN!!!!

- Trails, especially bike trails, are issues that keep coming up. People in Worth Co. think that we are anti-bike trail, we are not against having a bike trail it is the cost of maintaining the trail that keeps us from supporting a trail. According to the counties that have a bike trail the average cost for maintenance is \$1,800 per mile/per year. We do not have the staff or the money to maintain a trail even if it was given to us. There is no doubt that a bike trail that actually goes somewhere is a huge economic benefit. For the trails to really do Iowa any good we need an agency to lead in the development, financing and maintaining them. The Iowa DOT does not have the desire to be that agency. I am not sure that the Iowa DNR does either. Look at Minnesota, their DNR has a trail section and they are developing trails that cross the state and allow users to actually go somewhere. The recreational and economic benefits are unbelievable. Trails in Iowa will always be second rate unless a state agency is willing to step up and lead the way to develop and market trails.
- We use the state park facilities at Pilot Knob, Forest City, and McIntosh Woods, Clear Lake, on a regular basis. We especially cross-country ski and kayak but also hike, bicycle, camp, and pick up litter. Our biggest concern is the lack of paddle access on Clear Lake. We want to challenge current practice and ask that Iowa's DNR consider providing paddle access (footpath wide enough for canoes and kayaks to be transported from the bank to the lake) at every existing boat launch site. At the present time, we must use boat launches, often in queues with the boaters. We believe Iowa's paddlers are deserving of a warm and welcoming invitation to its lakes.
- We are also disc golfers and would welcome an increase in disc golf courses throughout the state. I imagine local and regional disc golf clubs forming partnerships with the DNR to provide creative direction, installation, and maintenance for the courses.
- One concern I have is the shared use of park trails in the wintertime. Although signage has increased, I still feel endangered at times while cross-country skiing in Pilot Knob State Park when the snowmobilers are wrongly riding the entire road, and often times the trails, disrespecting the rights and safety of cross-country skiers.
- We both support the implementation of a state park fee schedule and are accustomed to paying for daily, 3-day, weekly, or annual passes in neighboring states.
- One improvement I would like to see is to add food plots to all public hunting areas in north Iowa. I do not believe that "native prairie grass" provides good wintering cover or a good food source for upland game or deer during a long Iowa winter. Native prairie should be a part of our public lands, but we should also make sure that all public areas have the ability to assist wildlife with food and heavy cover that stands up in winter months, along with providing good nesting

cover in the spring. Also, we should consider relaxing rules on WRP and permanent easement ground to allow land owner to plant some food plots and winter nesting cover in some of these areas. There seems to be way too many public hunting areas in north Iowa that are simply grassy areas with little winter food source, or winter cover.

## **Appendix B**