

IOWA HABITAT AND ACCESS PROGRAM PROCESS

Iowa's Habitat and Access Program (IHAP) is an initiative by the DNR's wildlife bureau with the support of VPA-HIP funding to improve wildlife habitat on private lands through monetary incentives in exchange for public hunting access to these managed lands.

Individual landowners or land managers, with 40 acres or more, interested in learning more about the Iowa Habitat and Access Program should contact their local DNR private lands staff person (see map and contact info link). The enrollment process is as follows:

- DNR staff person conducts a field visit to determine wildlife habitat needs for the property based on wildlife species expected to be hunted on the site.
- A wildlife habitat plan for the property is developed by DNR and landowner.
- Based on wildlife habitat plan, DNR staff person completes and submits program application. Applications are ranked and reviewed with all other applications submitted within the same 30-day period.
- Landowners are notified of their acceptance within 30 days.
- Selected landowner signs IHAP contract with DNR, detailing DNR and landowner commitments including habitat work to be completed.
- State of Iowa signs a contract with the landowner to complete habitat work outlined in IHAP contract.
- DNR staff person provides technical assistance during the habitat installation process, including providing payment to the landowner upon completion of habitat work.
- DNR places "open for public hunting September 1 through May 31" signs on boundaries by August 31.
- DNR monitors site throughout contract period to ensure habitat improvement projects are successful.
- As with wildlife management areas, DNR conservation officers patrol IHAP sites and enforce applicable laws and regulations.