### Appendix B: State Plan Priorities

**Iowa Wildlife Action Plan**

#### A Vision for Iowa’s Wildlife
- Common species will continue to be common.
- Populations of species of greatest conservation need will increase to viable (self sustaining) levels.
- The abundance and distribution of wildlife will be balanced with its impact on the economic livelihood and social tolerance of Iowans.

#### A Vision for Wildlife Habitats
- The amount of permanently protected wildlife habitat in Iowa will be doubled to 4% of the state's land area.
- Protected habitats will be diverse, representative, native plant communities in large and small blocks on public and privately owned land and waters.

#### A Vision for Wildlife Management
- Wildlife and fisheries management will be based on science.

#### A Vision for Wildlife-Associated Recreation
- The number of Iowans participating in wildlife-associated recreation (wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, outdoor classrooms, hunting, fishing, etc.) should increase 50% by 2030.
- Wildlife-associated recreation will be available to all Iowans on public lands near their home.

#### A Vision for Wildlife Education
- Iowans will understand the relationships of:
  - Land use, and its impacts on wildlife diversity and abundance
  - Land use, and its impacts on quality of life for all citizens
  - Land use, and its impacts on Iowa's economic sectors related to wildlife recreation
  - Wildlife diversity & abundance, and its impacts on quality of life in Iowa
  - Wildlife diversity & abundance, and its impacts on Iowa's economy
  - Quality of life for all citizens, and its impacts on Iowa's economy
  - Iowa's economic decisions and their impacts on wildlife-based contributions to quality of life for all citizens

#### A Vision to Fund Wildlife Conservation
- Government (federal, state, and county) and private conservation spending will be increased so that the goals of this plan are reached by 2030.
- Funding will be dependable, secure, and appreciated as a powerful economic and social investment.
# Iowa's Forests Today: An Assessment of the Issues and Strategies for Conserving & Maintaining Iowa's Forests

## Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Loss of forest land
- Loss of forest productivity
- Changing Ownership
- Lack of forest ecosystem diversity
- Lack of well managed private or public forest land
- Insufficient availability of professional forestry technical assistance
- Lack of awareness the values trees provide people
- Lack of community forest inventory data on both private and public areas
- Lack of tree species diversity in communities
- Lack of Management within the urban community forest resource
- Lack of funding for urban forestry programs
- Lack of locally adapted landscape nursery stock
- Decline of oak-hickory forest types
- Forest Fragmentation
- Forest parcelization
- Consistency and transparency in the development of landowner incentive programs
- Lack of forest habitat for species of greatest conservation need
- Changing landowner demographics
- Economic viability of private and public sector nurseries
- Maintaining a supply of native low cost conservation seedlings
- Maintain a population of threatened native tree species on public land
- Loss of early successional forest habitat

## Productive Capacity of Forest Ecosystems
- Decline in the number of loggers, timber buyers, sawmills and secondary wood processors
- Lack of Understanding about the economic importance of the forest resource
- Lack of awareness about forests
- Development of woody biomass markets

## Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality
- Forest health
- Impact of EAB on urban trees and rural forests
- Ozone monitoring
**Invasive species**
- Forest regeneration challenges where localized heavy deer populations exist
- Lack of trained fire personnel
- Building homes in the wildland urban interface
- Better oak management within fire dependent ecosystems
- Lack of prescribed fire knowledge

**Conservation & Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources**
- Availability of cost-share programs for forestry practices
- Recognition about the role that forest cover has for maintaining/improving water quality
- Community storm water runoff
- Soil erosion
- Deriving annual forest income from property

**Forest Contributions to Global Carbon Cycles**
- Carbon sequestration

**Forest Enhancement of Long-term Multiple Socioeconomic Benefits to Meet the Needs of Society**
- Lack of financial return for forest stand improvement activities
- Lack of public forest land
- Lack of funding for forest management on public land
- Lack of applied research for silvicultural methods within Iowa
- Lack of funding for forestry programs
- Declining involvement with universities
- Lack of forestry education in schools
- Lack of stewardship plans written in relation to the amount of forest

**Issues of Forest Related Planning, Policy and Law**
- Lack of policies or laws to encourage better management of forest land
- Continuing education for foresters, loggers and consultants
- Improve communication among forestry stakeholders
- Green certification
- Assist communities with forest resource management to minimize the effects on trees caused by natural disaster

**Wetland Program Plan for Iowa**

**Monitoring and Assessment**
- Development of groundwater and open water wetland methods
- Partner with Region 7 EPA and state partners on NWCA
- Create an ambient wetland monitoring network
Develop data retention schedule and data sharing portal for the public
Mapping for fen sites
Enhance long term management of wetlands
Build upon the existing Iowa DNR "Wetlands" website

**Voluntary Restoration and Protection**
- Identify critical wetland areas for higher priority in terms of protection and restoration
- Increase wetland conservation work
- Promote coordination of interagency and NGO functions impacting wetlands
- Develop and implement fen protection/preservation project

**Wetlands Regulatory Program**
- Improve 401 Water Quality Certification regulations, policies and guidance
- Natural Resource Conservation Service oversees Farm Bill compliance for wetland protection
- Iowa Department of Transportation wetland mitigation for road projects

**Water Quality Standards**
- Iowa DNR works to develop a classification and water quality standards system

**Education**
- Participate in meetings, workshops and outreach activities with interested parties to promote wetland resources

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### Cultivating the Future of Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

**Improve Partnerships Among Agencies, Organizations and Industry to Collaboratively and Effectively Implement R3 Efforts**
- Host an annual R3 Summit for agencies, NGO's and outdoor industry stakeholders
- Participate in industry-wide 60 in 60 campaign
- Develop and host Iowa R3 web page on Iowa DNR website to allow access to resources and tools

**Improve Agency and Organizational Capacity to Design, Implement and Evaluate Outcome Driven R3 Efforts**
- Maximize partner impact through an inventory of current programs/efforts, assist in evaluation efforts and adjust based on identified gaps and deficiencies
- Define target audiences
- Maintain outdoor participation and license trend data
- Design and implement an R3 grant program

**Increase Access and Opportunity for Outdoor Recreation in Iowa**
- Understand where outdoor recreationists live in relation to opportunities (determine recreational capacity)
- Develop an urban planning tool to assist development in understanding the value of providing quality access
- Expand the use of County Conservation Board parks, DNR State Parks & Recreation Areas, and Federal refuges to increase recreational opportunities
- Provide diverse opportunities to fish in urban areas
- Maximize marketing resources to promote opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation including but not limited to hunting, trapping, angling and recreational shooting activities across Iowa
| Inventory public and private shooting ranges and create a structured plan for DNR owned ranges |
| Increase consistent technical and financial assistance with landowners to grant public access |
| Increase access to Access Easement Program resources through an online resource center (e.g., IHAP, water trails, urban ponds and trout streams) |
| Increase education and awareness of CRP, IHAP and other private lands programs through 1 on 1 meetings with local and state government officials |

**Educate, Train and Equip Partners with the Necessary Tools to Enhance R3 Efforts**

| Recruit new coaches and teams to shooting sports |
| Encourage participation among R3 partners in the development of a formal mentor training program that is replicable among entities and can focus on large audiences |
| Implement the national AFWA Conservation Education Strategy |
| Encourage participation among R3 partners in the development of a conservationist club that is replicable among entities and can serve target audiences within a community |
| Develop a program/process for recycling/reusing equipment to individuals that identify equipment as a barrier to participation |

**Increase Customer Engagement and Satisfaction Through Improved Customer Relationship Management Practices and Services**

| Gain understanding of who our current and potential customers are and what they need |
| Continue and improve communication with existing outdoor recreationists |
| Assess the usability of the Iowa DNR website and social media channels |
| Build a tool box that addresses limited public access: programs, access programs, equipment and planning development |
| Improve regulatory clarity, license buying and camping reservation experience while strengthening customer relationships |
| Develop a marketing strategy for license vendors to promote increased sales and participation in urban areas and also improve the quality of data collected |
| Analyze data collection points and systems within DNR and partners to determine our current capacity and what’s needed to better track R3 programs/efforts going forward |

**Communicate Value of Outdoor Recreation to Expand Agency and Organizational Relevance**

| Create and distribute consistent marketing message and brand across agency and partner networks and communication channels |
| Clearly communicate the importance and value of increasing participation in outdoor recreation including but not limited to hunting, trapping, angling and recreational shooting |

**Connecting People with Water and Resources: The State Water Trails Plan**

**Provide Positive Water Trail Experiences Meeting User Expectations**

| Sensibly balance water trail experience options between urban and rural, landform region, historic and cultural resource context, and waterbody types |
| Provide information allowing water trail users to select routes meeting desired skill levels, time available and accessibility needs |
| Minimize limitations to water trail experiences based on users age and physical abilities |
| Enhance safety education for water trail users including skill-building and hazard avoidance |
### Use Water Trail Development To Strengthen Natural Resource Conservation

- Avoid impact from intensive use to known highly-sensitive aquatic and land-based species and habitats
- Implement low - or no-impact design standards for water trail amenities including parking areas, trails and launches
- Foster a greater sense of public awareness of and inspire citizen participation in watershed and restoration efforts on Iowa's waterways
- Coordinate with other related existing programs to enhance conservation efforts including Iowa's Protected Water Areas, Iowa Streamkeepers, IOWATER volunteer water monitoring program, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, and the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

### Adapt Water Trail Development Techniques to the Waterway's Individual Character

- Minimize avoidable damage to new launches by locating them with consideration of flooding patterns, stream channel evolution, borrowing techniques from the field of stream restoration
- Choose construction methods and materials relative to ability to maintain launch
- Provide tools and training to public managers working in the river setting
- Encourage broad stakeholder participation in trail planning, development, and maintenance including landowners, volunteer groups, and livers to consider unique, existing local features and develop within that context

### Support Public Access to Water for Recreational Purposes

- Promote close-to-home recreation opportunities for Iowans
- Encourage healthy lifestyles related to exercise and relaxation
- Provide alternatives for local economic development particularly in rural communities

### Create a Robust, Resilient System for Developing and Experiencing Water Trails

- Develop a systematic signage system for water trail users
- Develop and implement a comprehensive dam hazard warning signage system

### Encourage Education in Outdoor Settings

- Integrate historic and cultural resources awareness with recreational opportunities
- Promote learning about landscape impacts resulting from land management choices, including water quality

### Support Positive Water Trail Experiences by Initiating Strategies to Manage Intensively Used Areas

- Actively manage intensively-used areas at a higher level than in past
- Utilize training and education with emergency responders, law enforcement, and livers for hazard mitigation, user conflicts and litter control

### Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Long Range Plan

#### Policies and Practices

- Adopt and implement the complete streets policy that applies to all Iowa DOT projects
- Continue to ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act on all transportation projects
- Update the Design Manual and Bridge Design Manual to increase the quality and consistency of accommodations design across the state
- Provide technical expertise in the Central Office
- Develop and implement maintenance guidelines to address bicyclist and pedestrian needs
### Interagency Coordination
- Provide training for planners and engineers on how to effectively plan, select, and design appropriate and accessible accommodations
- Continue to develop and enhance coordination between the many agencies involved with developing a statewide network of trails
- Support the efforts of local and regional jurisdictions by sharing knowledge and providing guidance
- Encourage and support local and regional bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Encourage communities to apply for bicycle friendly and walk friendly community status

### Network Planning
- Reduce barriers created by major highways and other transportation facilities in cities and metro areas
- Expand connected bicycle and pedestrian networks in cities and metro areas to increase access and improve safety
- Expand connected bicycle and pedestrian networks in rural areas to increase access and improve safety
- Encourage transit integration with bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Regularly assess bicycle and pedestrian network needs, identify gaps, and target improvements

### Safety and Law Enforcement
- Identify key bicycle- and pedestrian- related enforcement issues based on crash data and other evidence
- Incorporate bicycle safety-related education into training for new and experienced law enforcement officers
- Enact legislation designed to protect vulnerable road users
- Evaluate key safety challenges pertaining to walking and bicycling and develop crash reduction strategies

### Education and Encouragement
- Provide education for all users on traffic laws and the rights of bicyclists and pedestrians
- Encourage more people to walk and bicycle in conjunction with education efforts
- Coordinate education and encouragement efforts with partners and events to reach broader audiences
- Encourage the provision of incentives for people who choose to walk and bicycle to work

### Healthy Iowans 2017 - 2021: Iowa’s Health Improvement Plan
#### Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health
- Address health access and barriers in rural and agricultural communities
- Continue to promote and support efforts to address social determinants of health
- Ensure that Federally Qualified Health Center patients receive an assessment that includes socioeconomic factors affecting their health
- Assure access to high quality family planning services for low-income Iowans
- Increase health equity and quality of life for people with disabilities
- Improve health equity among Iowans in low and moderate-income communicates by increasing access to healthy foods
- Reduce arthritis-related disparities in health and health care
- Reduce HIV-related disparities and heal inequities
- Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for persons living with HIV
- Increase health literacy among Iowans
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduce African-American infant mortality rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to provide specialty care to Iowans 200% below poverty level through the Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health - Safe Affordable Housing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improve housing and infrastructure for low and moderate-income Iowans</th>
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</table>

**Life Course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assure that children have a healthy start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect child health and water quality through pesticide reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address all aspects of transition to adulthood for youth with special health care needs through transition planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness about Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early detection to increase early detection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health System Improvement & Evidence-Based Decision Making**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase person and family engagement in decision-making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve care provided by critical access hospitals and emergency medical service providers to patients presenting with sudden cardiac arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the use of standardized methods to assess the development of young children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the percentage of Iowa school districts and accredited non-public schools with concussion management protocol supporting students returning to the classroom following concussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the quality of cause of death data collected on mortality records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assure equitable public health services across the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use data governance to ensure consistent practices at the Iowa Department of Public Health related to data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the number of Data Sharing Agreements to ensure that data are being provided to internal and external Iowa Department of Public Health stakeholders to promote evidence-based decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrate services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand the impact of the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal in evidence-based decision-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase participation in all services of the Iowa Health Information Network to create a complete network for health information exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop, sustain, and enhance laboratory-testing capabilities to detect and confirm novel anti-microbial resistance mechanisms to prevent transmission of difficult-to-treat pathogens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the laboratory workforce in Iowa to meet future demands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health System Improvement - Transportation**

| Provide transportation to health care services by making available State Transit Assistance Special Project funds to Iowa's 35 public transit agencies |

**Health System Improvement - Insurance Affordability & Coverage**

| Reduce the number of Iowa’s children and pregnant women who are un-or under-insured |

**Health System Improvement - Lack of Primary Care Services**

| Coordinate care for children and youth with special health care needs through a medical home |
| Increase in the number of young children who receive a vision screening |
| Improve access to preventive care and chronic care management services through pharmacists in Iowa communities |
| Ensure a stable health and long-term care direct care workforce prepared to provide quality care and support to Iowans |
### Acute Disease - Adolescent Immunizations
- Increase the number of adolescents 13-17 years of age who have received human papillomaviruses (HPV) vaccine
- Increase the number of adolescents in 7th and 12th grades who receive meningococcal vaccine
- Increase adolescent immunization rates by increasing access to adolescent vaccines administered by pharmacists

### Acute Disease - Flu Immunizations
- Increase the number of health care workers who receive the influenza vaccine annually
- Increase influenza vaccinations in adults 65 years of age and older

### Addictive Behaviors - Substance Abuse
- Decrease opioid-related overdoses/deaths
- Increase the availability of opioid reversal agents for patients at pharmacies across the state
- At the local level, share resources and education with multiple stakeholders addressing their issues of substance abuse
- Reduce excessive and disordered use of alcohol and other drugs, through prevention, treatment, and recovery supports
- Reduce the overall number of substance abuse illicit urinalysis and increase the number of self-referrals for substance abuse (alcohol and drug) in Iowa Army National Guard through urinalysis testing at the unit level, substance abuse screening, and prevention education/training

### Addictive Behaviors - Tobacco/Nicotine Use
- Reduce tobacco use and the toll of tobacco-caused disease and death by preventing youth from starting, helping Iowans to quit, and preventing exposure to secondhand smoke

### Chronic Disease - Cancer
- Increase colorectal cancer screening rates in Iowa
- Decrease incidence of lung cancer
- Follow nationally recognized guidelines to increase vaccination rates for all vaccines demonstrated to reduce the risk of cancer
- Increase protective behaviors from sun/ultraviolet exposure
- Decrease late state breast cancer diagnoses to reduce deaths due to breast cancer
- Increase the percentage of Iowa women receiving breast cancer and cervical cancer screening

### Chronic Disease - Diabetes
- Prevent diabetes from occurring in Iowans
- Reduce the complications of type 2 diabetes

### Chronic Disease - Heart Disease
- Decrease the rate of coronary heart disease as the primary cause of death
- Achieve a 75% blood pressure control rate at the Federally Qualified Health Centers

### Environmental Health - Water Quality
- Ensure a healthy and safe environment for work and play
- Provide clean water to Iowa citizens and reduce health risks by eliminating contaminants
- Ensure that Iowans using private wells for water supply have a safe water supply
- Develop a public health workforce that is knowledgeable about the intersection of water quality and health
Increase efforts to clean up Iowa’s surface and ground waters and prevent pollution, with a focus on protecting drinking water and popular recreation waters.

**Healthy Living - Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity**
- Increase the number of Iowans living active and healthy lifestyles
- Reduce the number of Iowa children, youth, and adults who are obese
- Improve access to nutritious meals, including access to fresh produce, for older Iowans ultimately empowering them to stay active and healthy
- During the summer when school is not in session, increase the availability of meals for children
- At a minimum, maintain the current level of participation in the Healthy Opportunities State employee wellness program
- Increase fruit and vegetable consumption among low-income Iowans
- Increase breastfeeding rates
- Increase the percentage of Iowans who engage in the recommended amounts of physical activity
- Improve the healthy weight status of all Iowans by creating supportive policy, systems, or environments for healthy eating and physical activity
- Reduce the total number of Iowa Army National Guard soldiers flagged for not meeting the Army physical fitness standards, creating a healthier and ready force

**Healthy Living - Lack of Oral Health/Dental Services**
- All Iowans will have access to optimally fluoridated water
- By 2020, assure optimal oral health for aging Iowans
- Iowans will have improved access to preventive oral health services through I-Smile Program expansion

**Healthy Living - Sexually Transmitted Diseases**
- Reduce the burden of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among disproportionately impacted populations

**Injury and Violence - Falls**
- Decrease patient falls in the healthcare setting
- Reduce falls in the elderly population
- Reduce injuries and deaths from falls by expanding the availability of evidence-based programs

**Injury and Violence - Motor Vehicle Crashes**
- Increase traffic safety

**Injury and Violence - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)/Trauma Informed Care**
- Reduce the number of children reporting risk factors associated with adverse childhood experiences
- Build capacity at the local and state levels to recognize and respond to trauma across the lifespan
- Assure that children and their caretakers affected by adverse childhood experiences receive relevant services

**Injury and Violence - Occupational & Farm Safety**
- By 2020, reduce deaths from work-related injuries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health, Illness, &amp; Suicide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevent suicide deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce the bi-annual numbers of suicidal ideation (thoughts of engaging in suicide behavior) and the number of deaths by suicide in the Iowa Army National Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to behavioral health services across the continuum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educate pharmacists to provide services to evaluate mental health pharmacotherapy and make referrals as appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce the use of prisons in Iowa to house individuals with chronic mental health issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve state employees' health and wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>By 2020, increase the number of Iowans who receive problem gambling treatment</td>
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