

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Teleconference: 442-242-3609 PIN: 883 789 392#

Video Conference: meet.google.com/sco-mbns-qva

King's Pointe Resort, 1520 East Lakeshore Dr, Storm Lake

Meeting Room-A

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

2:00 PM – NRC Business Meeting

April 8, Storm Lake Tour

NRC Commissioners will be attending an optional tour of the Storm Lake Fish Hatchery and Storm Lake Marina prior to the afternoon business meeting. Members of the public wishing to attend the tour should register with Alicia Plathe no later than 4:00pm on Monday, April 7, by emailing Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov

Public participation in the business meeting begins at approximately 2:30pm. If you are unable to attend the business meeting, comments regarding agenda items may be submitted for public record to Alicia Plathe at Alicia.Plathe@dnr.iowa.gov or 6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321 up to 24 hours prior to the business meeting.

1.	Approval of Agenda	Decision	Commission
	Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item)		
	*5. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Volga River State Recreation Area (stands 13, 14, and 24)		
	*6. Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area (stand 113)		
	*7. Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area (stand 34)		
	*8. Contract with Iowa State University-Forest Health Research		
	*10. Contract with Bachman Aero Inc.-Helicopter Equipment and Piloting Services for Annual Wildlife Surveys		
	*12. Public Land Management Projects (12.1-12.2)		
	*16. Contract with the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa-Lake Water Quality Monitoring		
	*21. Chapter 44, "Special Events and Fireworks Displays" – Final Rule		
	*24. Chapter 48, "Inspection of Permanently Moored Vessels" - Final Rule		
	*25. Chapter 49, "Operation of Motor Vehicles in Meandered Streams, Navigable Streams and Trout Streams" - Final Rule		
	*26. Chapter 50, "Regulated Vehicle and Vessel Bonding" – Final Rule		
	*27. Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas" – Final Rule		
	*28. Chapter 52, "Wildlife Refuges" – Final Rule		
	*29. Chapter 54, "Restrictions on Introduction and Removal of Plant Life" – Final Rule		
	*30. Chapter 55, "Nonpermanent Structures" – Final Rule		
	*32. Chapter 64, "Metal Detector Use in State Areas" – Final Rule		
	*33. Chapter 61, "State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping" and Chapter 63, "Keg Beer – Final Rules		
	*34. Chapter 66, "Saylorsville Multiuse Trail" – Final Rule		
	*35. Chapter 67, "Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas" – Final Rule		
	*36. Chapter 72, "Timber Buyers" – Final Rule		
	*37. Chapter 73, "Forest and Fruit-Tree Reservations" – Final Rule		
	*38. Chapter 74, "Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)" – Final Rule		
	*39. Chapters 91, 92, 97, 102, "Migratory Game Bird Hunting" – Final Rules		
	*40. Chapters 96, 100, 107, "Small Game Hunting" – Final Rule		
	*41. Chapters 98 and 99, "Wild Turkey Hunting" – Final Rule		

*42. Chapter 101, "Falconry Regulations" – Final Rule *43. Chapter 105, "Deer Population Management Zones – Final Rule *45. Chapter 114, "Nuisance Wildlife Control" – Final Rule			
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
*5.	Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Volga River State Recreation Area (stands 13, 14, and 24)	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*6.	Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area (stand 113)	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*7.	Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area (stand 34)	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*8.	Contract with Iowa State University-Forest Health Research	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
9.	Contract with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota-Crews to Assist Parks, Forests, and Preserves with Natural Resource Work	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*10.	Contract with Bachman Aero Inc.-Helicopter Equipment and Piloting Services for Annual Wildlife Surveys	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	Small Construction Projects: Elk Lake Wetland Enhancements, Roof Repair at Red Haw State Park, Spillway Repair at Lake of Three Fires State Park, Clear Lake Office Water Connection Enhancement, Earthen Ditch and Water Control Construction at Clear Lake WMA, and Wetland Pool Construction at Williams WMA.	Information	Travis Baker
*12.	Public Land Management Projects	Information	Travis Baker
12.1	Management Agreement with Pocahontas CCB-Sunken Grove Wildlife Management Area		
12.2	28-E Management Agreement with Iowa DOT-Catfish Creek Wetland Mitigation Site in Dubuque County		
13.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
13.1	Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Levee Repair-Jackson County		
13.2	Spring Run Wildlife Management Area, Shooting Range Improvements-Dickinson County		
14.	Contract with Studio Combine Architecture-Office/Shop Building Design at George Wyth State Park and the Upper Iowa River WMA	Decision	Travis Baker
15.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
15.1	North River WMA, Warren County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
15.2	Rice Lake WMA, Winnebago County-Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
*16.	Contract with the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa-Lake Water Quality Monitoring	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	Contract Amendment with Barr Engineering Company (Phosphorus Inactivation)	Decision	Travis Baker
18.	Contract Amendment with Bolton and Menk-Engineering Services	Decision	Travis Baker
19.	Contract with Polk County Conservation Board (Better Water Trails Project: Phase I)	Decision	Travis Baker
20.	Chapter 36, "Green Valley Lake Special Water Activity Rules"; Chapter 37, "Boating Safety Equipment,"; Chapter 38, "Boat Registration and Numbering"; Chapter 39, "Boating Passenger Capacity"; Chapter 40, "Boating Speed and Distance Zoning"; Chapter 41, "Boating Navigation Aids"; Chapter 42, "Boating Accident	Decision	Tammie Krausman

	Reports”; Chapter 43, “Motorboat Noise”; and Chapter 45, “Boat Motor Regulations” – Final Rules		
*21.	Chapter 44, “Special Events and Fireworks Displays” – Final Rule	Decision	Tammie Krausman
22.	Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicles, Off-Road Motorcycles and Off-Road Utility Vehicles” – Final Rule	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
23.	Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles” – Final Rule	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*24.	Chapter 48, “Inspection of Permanently Moored Vessels”- Final Rule	Decision	Craig Cutts
*25.	Chapter 49, “Operation of Motor Vehicles in Meandered Streams, Navigable Streams and Trout Streams”- Final Rule	Decision	Craig Cutts
*26.	Chapter 50, “Regulated Vehicle and Vessel Bonding” – Final Rule	Decision	Karmin Klingenberg
*27.	Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*28.	Chapter 52, “Wildlife Refuges” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*29.	Chapter 54, “Restrictions on Introduction and Removal of Plant Life” – Final Rule	Decision	Joe Larscheid
*30.	Chapter 55, “Nonpermanent Structures” – Final Rule	Decision	Matt Bruner
31.	Chapter 56, “Shooting Sports Program Grants” – Final Rule	Decision	Tammie Krausman
*32.	Chapter 64, “Metal Detector Use in State Areas” – Final Rule	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*33.	Chapter 61, “State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping” and Chapter 63, “Keg Beer – Final Rules	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*34.	Chapter 66, “Saylorville Multiuse Trail”– Final Rule	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*35.	Chapter 67, “Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas”– Final Rule	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
*36.	Chapter 72, “Timber Buyers” – Final Rule	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*37.	Chapter 73, “Forest and Fruit-Tree Reservations” – Final Rule	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*38.	Chapter 74, “Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)” – Final Rule	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*39.	Chapters 91, 92, 97, 102, “Migratory Game Bird Hunting” – Final Rules	Decision	Todd Bishop
*40.	Chapters 96, 100, 107, “Small Game Hunting” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*41.	Chapters 98 and 99, “Wild Turkey Hunting” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*42.	Chapter 101, “Falconry Regulations” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*43.	Chapter 105, “Deer Population Management Zones – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
44.	Chapters 108, 109, 110, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
*45.	Chapter 114, “Nuisance Wildlife Control” – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
46.	2024-2025 Deer Management Annual Report-Iowa City	Information	
47.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, May 8, Des Moines • June 11-12, Harrison and Monona Counties 			

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx>

Comments during the public participation period regarding proposed rules or notices of intended action are not included in the official comments for that rule package unless they are submitted as required in the Notice of Intended Action.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, English-language proficiency, disability, or age in the administration of its programs or activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DNR will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, threats, coercion, or retaliation against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights protected by federal or state law.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

March 13, 2025

**Video Teleconference
and
6200 Park Ave.**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

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Table of Contents

Call To Order	2
Commissioners Present.....	2
Commissioners Absent.....	2
Public Comment.....	2
Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda	2
Approved as Presented	2
Approval of Minutes	2
Approved as Presented	2
Director’s Remarks.....	2
Brass Bluegill Award Presentation	3
Information.....	3
Chapter 33, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program; County, City, Private Open Spaces and Conservation	
Education Grant Programs-Notice of Intended Action (NOIA)	3
Approved as Presented	3
Contract with Wildlife Management Institute (WMI)-Assistant Range Manager, Banner Shooting Range and Butch	
Olofson Shooting Range	3
Approved as Presented	3
Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repairs Phase 2	3
Approved as Presented	3
Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit, Flood Damage Repairs Phase 3	3
Approved as Presented	4
Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, Campground Renovation.....	4
Approved as Presented	4
Lake Anita, Prairie Rose, and Viking Lake State Parks, Sign Replacements	4
Approved as Presented	4
Fairport Fish Hatchery Roof Replacement.....	4
Approved as Presented	4
Shimek State Forest, Pavement Maintenance.....	4
Approved as Presented	4
Shimek State Forest, Pavement Maintenance.....	4
Approved as Presented	5
Nishnabotna Wildlife Management Unit, Road Maintenance	5
Approved as Presented	5
Contract with Stantec Consulting Services-Cedar River Project at Palisades-Kepler State Park	5
Approved as Presented	5
Contract with Shive-Hattery-Wastewater Treatment Facilities Planning and Design	5
Approved as Presented	5
Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board-Diamond Lake State Park.....	5
Approved as Presented	5
Timber Stand Improvement With Brett Meyer for YELlow River State Forest.....	5
Approved as Presented	6
General Discussion	6
Adjourn	6
Adjourned	6

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Chairperson Marcus Branstad at 9:30 am on March 13, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Uriah Hansen
Tom Prickett
Tammi Kircher
KR Buck
Laura Kudej
Marcus Branstad
Laura Foell

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- Donations
- Contract Amendment with City Industries, Inc.-Printing and Distribution of the Iowa Hunting, Trapping, and migratory Game Bird Regulations
- Contract with JEO Consulting Group, LLC-Funnel Trap Placement, Forestry
- Contract with Waste Management Connection of Iowa Inc.- Waste Management Services for Gull Point State Park Complex
- Contract Amendment with People Service, Inc.-Drinking Water Operations Assistance at Lewis and Clark State Park and Wilson Island State Recreation Area
- Contract with Confluence-Water Trail Planning Services

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- Director Lyon informed Commissioners of the Gift to Iowa celebration at the Capitol following the NRC business meeting which honors families that have transitioned their private property into public ownership for natural resource conservation in Iowa.

- Director Lyon shared that the full report from the wildlife listening sessions would be available late Spring; however she did not the 40% increase in attendance at the 2025 listening sessions from last calendar year.
- Director Lyon provided a short overview of her budget presentations to the Legislature, noting that a full copy of both presentations would be provided to Commissioners via email for their review.
- Director Lyon concluded her remarks by announcing the appointment of two new NRC Commissioners, William Moritz and Collin Brecher. Mr. Brecher and Mr. Moritz appointments are subject to Senate approval.

BRASS BLUEGILL AWARD PRESENTATION

Gus Elliott and Andy Jansen presented the Brass Bluegill Award to Bob Harris

INFORMATION

CHAPTER 33, RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM; COUNTY, CITY, PRIVATE OPEN SPACES AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAMS-NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION (NOIA)

Michelle Wilson requested Commission approval for the NOIA for Chapter 33. Miss Wilson noted that the new review committee structure will align the approval process for REAP grant distributions with other state grants.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tom Prickett.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (WMI)-ASSISTANT RANGE MANAGER, BANNER SHOOTING RANGE AND BUTCH OLOFSON SHOOTING RANGE

Jonathon Jones requested Commission approval for a contract with WMI for and Assistant Range Manager. Mr. Jones noted that one of the goals of the contract is to analyze the need for a full-time Assistant Range Manager.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS PHASE 2

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project at the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit for flood damage repairs.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

<i>Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>
--

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE UNIT, FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS PHASE 3

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project at the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit for flood damage repairs.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

BRUSHY CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA, CAMPGROUND RENOVATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project for campground renovation at Brushy Creek.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAKE ANITA, PRAIRIE ROSE, AND VIKING LAKE STATE PARKS, SIGN REPLACEMENTS

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to replace park signs at Lake Anita State Park, Prairie Rose State Park, and Viking Lake State Park. Commissioners held a robust discussion on the process of sign disposal and optional outlets for signs that are removed during the replacement project.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

FAIRPORT FISH HATCHERY ROOF REPLACEMENT

Travis Baker presented Commission approval for roof replacement at the Fairport Fish Hatchery.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SHIMEK STATE FOREST, PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for pavement work at Shimek State Forest.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SHIMEK STATE FOREST, PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for pavement work at Shimek State Forest.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

NISHNABOTNA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT, ROAD MAINTENANCE

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance at the Nishnabotna Wildlife Management Unit.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES-CEDAR RIVER PROJECT AT PALISADES-KEPLER STATE PARK

Nate Hoogeveen requested Commission approval for a contract with Stantec Consulting Services for engineering services related to a project on the Cedar River within Palisades-Kepler State Park.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Laura Foell to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SHIVE-HATTERY-WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES PLANNING AND DESIGN

George Antinou requested Commission approval for a contract with Shive-Hattery for planning and design services for a pair of wastewater treatment facilities at Iowa's State Parks.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE POWESHIEK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD-DIAMOND LAKE STATE PARK

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board related to restoration efforts at Diamond Lake.

Public Comments – None**Written Comments – None**

Motion was made by Tom Prickett to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Foell.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT WITH BRETT MEYER FOR YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST

Jeff Goerndt requested Commission approval for a timber stand improvement project at Yellow River State Forest.

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.

The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Several Commissions shared their recent outdoor experiences, wildlife sightings, and their experiences attending the February wildlife listening sessions.
- Laura Foell shared some of her future endeavors after her NRC term end in April, 2025.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Marcus Branstad adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:15 am on March 13, 2025.

ADJOURNED

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***5. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for Volga River State Recreation Area**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Kendrick, Inc. of Edgewood, IA, for Volga River State Recreation Area.

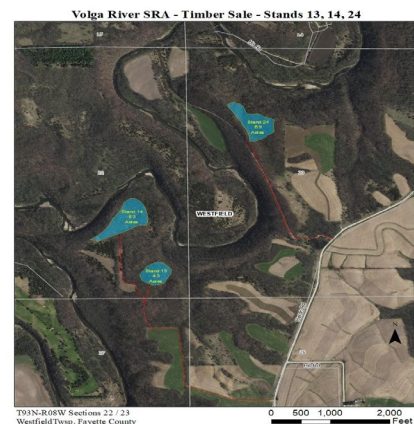
Contract Terms

Income: \$94,669.00

Dates: 04/09/25 to 04/09/2027

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 122,143 board feet in 662 mixed hardwood trees at Volga River SRA in Fayette County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Volga River State Forest Management Plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. Harvesting and regenerating these stands will help improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.



Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of an adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Selection Process Summary: An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 3/14/25

Number of Bids Received: 4

Recommendation: Kendrick, Inc.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$94,669.00
John Flanagan	Coggon, IA	\$87,200.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$65,500.00
Dan Jones	Waterville, IA	\$65,065.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
April, 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***6. Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with John Flanagan of Coggon, IA, for Volga River State Recreation Area.

Contract Terms

Income: \$40,500.00

Dates: 04/09/25 to 04/09/2027

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 95,140 board feet in 366 mixed hardwood trees at Volga River SRA in Fayette County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Volga River State Forest Management Plan to allow sunlight to stimulate the growth of oak seedlings already present on the site. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. Harvesting and regenerating these stands will help improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of an adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Selection Process Summary: An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 3/14/25

Number of Bids Received: 4

Recommendation: John Flanagan



Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
John Flanagan	Coggon, IA	\$40,500.00
Dan Jones	Waterville, IA	\$30,095.00
Grau Logs and Lumber Inc.	Elkader, IA	\$25,075.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$20,117.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
April, 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***7. Timber Sale Contract with John Flanagan for Volga River State Recreation Area**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with John Flanagan of Coggon, IA, for Volga River State Recreation Area.

Contract Terms

Income: \$45,069.00

Dates: 04/09/25 to 04/09/2027

Fund Deposited to: Conservation Fund - Forestry

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 95,140 board feet in 429 mixed hardwood trees at Volga River SRA in Fayette County. An uneven-aged management system will be used in accordance with the Volga River State Forest Management Plan to allow create small openings and allow sunlight to stimulate regeneration. A natural areas inventory was conducted and there are no known threatened and endangered species in the harvest areas. Harvesting and regenerating these stands will help improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.

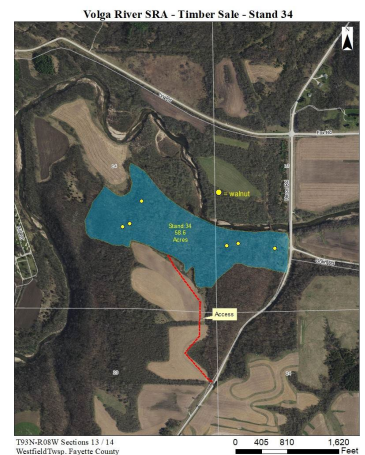
Wildlife den trees will be left standing. Iowa Forestry Best Management Practices will apply to the site. No tops or harvesting residue will be left in adjacent waterways. Harvesting is to occur only when ground is firm or frozen to minimize soil disturbance. Skid trails and landing areas will be repaired following the harvest. No skid trails will be allowed in the Stream Management Areas (within 50 feet of an adjacent waterway) except at designated stream crossings.

Selection Process Summary: An informal bid process was completed. To be qualified, a timber buyer must have on file with the State of Iowa a bond meeting the requirements of Section 456A.36 of the Code of Iowa and Chapter 571-72 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The area forester and supervisor reviewed the bid proposals and the highest bid from the most responsive and responsible bidder was selected.

Date bids received: 3/14/25

Number of Bids Received: 4

Recommendation: John Flanagan



Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
John Flanagan	Coggon, IA	\$45,069.00
Grau Logs and Lumber Inc.	Elkader, IA	\$41,236.00
Jones Wood Heating and Logging	McGregor, IA	\$35,344.00
Dan Jones	Waterville, IA	\$32,875.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
April, 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***8. Contract with Iowa State University**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Iowa State University of Ames, Iowa

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$40,000.00

Dates: May 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): State Woodland Health Funding

Contract Purpose:

This project directly supports the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' mission to conserve and enhance Iowa's natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations. By assessing forest health and resilience, the study contributes to sustainable forest management and conservation efforts. The project provides scientific data to support invasive species control, habitat restoration, and biodiversity conservation, key priorities of the Iowa DNR. The DNR intends to utilize the information gathered and analyzed in this Contract for Iowa State University to: train foresters within Iowa, as well as other natural resource practitioners, and to develop and publish an educational pamphlet.

This project will provide a comparison of forest health attributes for grazed and un-grazed forest stands across central Iowa. The analyzed data will ultimately help our foresters make management recommendations to landowners based upon whether or not their forests are grazed with livestock. The following tasks will be completed under this contract:

- 1) Site preparation and plot establishment
- 2) Data collection and insect trapping
- 3) Data analysis and reporting

Selection Process Summary: DNR has the authority to enter into this Contract pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 456A.24(7) to conduct research to be used to support invasive species control, habitat restoration, and biodiversity conservation.

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

9. Contract with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota (CCI) **of** St Paul, MN.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$471,200

Dates: April 11, 2025 to April 10, 2028

Funding Source(s): General Fund (100%)

Contract Purpose: The purpose in entering into this Contract is for DNR to provide funding to CCI to provide up to 76 weeks of up to 5-person crews to perform a variety of natural resource work for a period of up to three years.

The DNR Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau (PFP Bureau) has worked with CCI in the past to complete project-based tasks such as trail repair, forestry management, hazard tree removal and other labor needs in the PFP Bureau.

CCI is an organization that works in conjunction with DNR to provide labor crews for natural resource management, small project construction and completion of other operations tasks in state parks, forests and preserves.

The DNR will:

- Identify and provide the funding for the labor crews and will coordinate with CCI on the work performed by these individuals.
- Create priorities for each CCI crew and monitor day-to-day work.
- Provide the PFP Bureau structure within which the CCI Crew shall work.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and also published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Criteria Reviewed: Only one bid submitted

Proposal Due Date: 03/07/2025

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota

Sherry Arntzen, PFP Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***10. Contract with Bachman Aero Inc.**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Bachman Aero Inc., of Green Oaks, Illinois.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$49,999.00

Dates: April 8, 2025 to August 31, 2025

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

Contract Purpose:

Iowa's waterfowl populations are monitored annually via a statewide aerial survey for Canada geese and breeding pair counts on selected wetlands for ducks. Population status is used to help determine hunting regulations each year. Also, Federal regulations require the Canada goose population be monitored annually to use lethal control methods in Iowa. Waterfowl surveys have been conducted annually since 1993 in northern Iowa to assess population responses to habitat restoration and management initiatives. This survey data is used to develop biologically sound wildlife management and harvest programs.

This contract with Bachman Aero will provide helicopter equipment and piloting services for DNR staff to conduct annual wildlife surveys. Bachman Aero was initially contracted with the Department in April 2013 for this service; they continue to safely conduct the specialty service of low-level wildlife surveys at a competitive price.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited proposals from regional helicopter contractors that had previously expressed interest.

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included professional experience, direct wildlife survey experience, aircraft offered, and cost. Based on conditions and scenarios presented in the RFQ, bids reflect an estimated per survey cost.

Proposal Due Date: March 14, 2025

of Proposals Received: 3

Recommendation: Bachman Aero Inc.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Task 1 Estimate</u>	<u>Task 2 Estimate</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Bachman Aero	\$895.00	\$35,800.00	\$13,425.00	\$49,225.00
Iron Horse	\$1,300.00	\$57,250.00	\$20,550.00	\$77,800.00
Chem Air	\$1,345.00	\$56,490.00	\$25,555.00	\$82,045.00

Todd Bishop, (Wildlife) Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: April 8th, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Information Item

11. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects have been let utilizing the Competitive Quotation process for projects \$100,000 or less:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
2/27/25	24-01-21-01	ELK LAKE WPA	CLAY	This project is designed to enhance a wetland pool located on the south side of Elk Lake. Work includes removal of an existing culvert, excavation of a spillway, tile and installation of an inline water control structure.	\$26,000.00	\$21,000.00 \$23,397.00 \$24,998.67 \$28,854.00 \$31,635.28 \$35,371.89 \$36,760.00 \$52,370.00 \$53,890.00 \$57,665.00
2/27/25	25-05-59-03	RED HAW STATE PARK	LUCAS	This project consists of replacing shingles, underlayment, drip edge, and gutters on the shower building in the campground at Red Haw State Park.	\$14,000.00	\$7,180.00 \$8,167.72 \$9,600.00 \$10,980.00 \$12,500.00 \$12,860.00 \$13,590.00 \$14,295.00
2/27/25	25-04-87-01	LAKE OF THREE FIRES	TAYLOR	This is a spillway rehabilitation project that includes; filling voids with flowable mortar, placement of joint sealer and backer rod along deteriorated keyway joint.	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00 \$22,055.00 \$22,317.00
3/6/2025	23-03-17-08	CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK	CERRO GORDO	This project installs a water meter, backflow prevention and heated enclosure for a 3" water service	\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00 \$37,085.00

				connection at the Clear Lake office.		
3/13/2025	24-02-95-01	CLEAR LAKE WILDLIFE UNIT - LANGESEN WPA	WINNEBAGO	The purpose of this project is to construct three earthen ditch plugs and one concrete water control structure.	\$18,370.00	\$22,750.00 \$23,513.01
3/20/2025	21-01-71-01	WILLIAMS WMA	O'BRIEN	This project creates a wetland pool. Work includes excavation, tile work and installation of a water control structure.	\$50,000.00	\$28,750.00 \$34,843.40 \$36,991.00 \$40,477.50 \$43,059.11 \$44,652.50 \$55,488.30 \$57,350.00 \$60,720.00 \$67,875.00 \$67,877.50 \$105,603.92

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: April 08, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

***12. Public Land Management Projects**

12.1 The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Pocahontas County Conservation Board for Sunken Grove Wildlife Management Area located in Pocahontas County.

Location: This property is located on the northeast and south side of Sunken Grove Wildlife Management Area less than 2 mile north of the City of Varina.

Site Purpose: This 3.07 acre are is for the care and maintenance of the access roads on both the north and south sides of the Management Area and the wildlife viewing platform on the south access road.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Pocahontas County Conservation Board since 1998.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the Pocahontas County Conservation Board for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Pocahontas County Conservation Board on March 12, 2025.

12.2 28-E Management Agreement – Catfish Creek Wetland Mitigation Site – DOT - Dubuque Co.

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a 28E Agreement for Catfish Creek Wetland Mitigation Site in Dubuque County.

Project Description: The Iowa Department of Transportation is requesting a 28-E Agreement to transfer jurisdiction, from DOT to DNR, for the Catfish Creek Wetland Mitigation Site in Dubuque. This site is adjacent to the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area.

The size of the transfer will be 11.35

Local parks staff have reviewed the request and given their approval.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

13. Large Construction Items

13.1 Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Levee Repair – Jackson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary:

Green Island consists of 2,568 acres of Wildlife Management Area in northeast Jackson County. Being right off the Mississippi, this area uses a system of dikes, pumps and culverts to control water in various large sub-impoundments for management of wetlands and wildlife. In 2023, the Mississippi had a long duration of high flood events causing \$2.5M of damage to the area. These damage and mitigation repairs are still in the process of being approved by FEMA.



In the meantime, the DNR staff desires to fix a breach in the main levee along the Mississippi. This project repairs a 120-foot long breach and is a high priority due to the river's ability to inundate the sub-impoundments and a private field. The repair consists of dewatering the site by constructing coffer dams, removing the poor saturated material and bringing in approximately 600 truckloads of clay fill to reestablish the dike back to its original condition.

Engineering Project #: 25-06-49-03

Cost Estimate: \$190,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: FEMA 75%, Executive Council 25%

Bid Letting Date: 03/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 06/20/2025

Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Connolly Excavating, Inc	Cascade, IA	\$173,444.26
Flenker Excavating, LLC	Long Grove, IA	\$186,743.56
H&H Construction & Development LLC	Milo, IA	\$198,582.94
Tschiggfrie Excavating Co	Dubuque, IA	\$198,612.40
Shift General Contracting	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$207,126.50
Jones Contractors & Associates LLC	Dyersville, IA	\$220,744.90
Connolly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	\$235,887.11
Apollo Excavating	Milan, IL	\$288,693.00

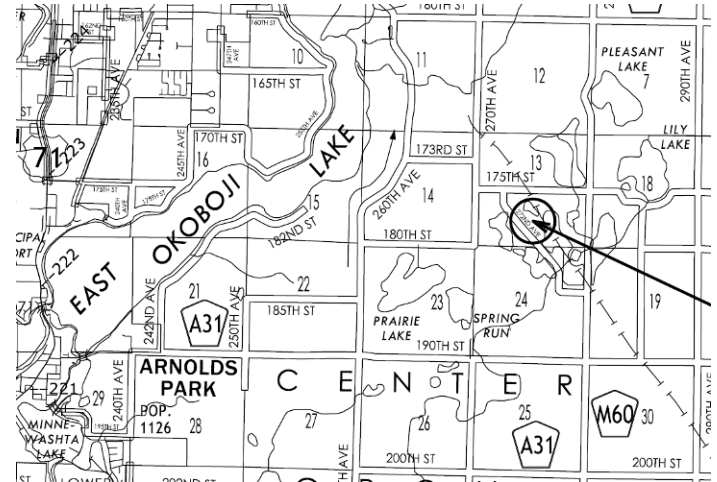
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Connolly Excavating, Inc.

13.2 Spring Run Wildlife Management Area, Shooting Range Improvements – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Spring Run Shooting Range is located within the Spring Run Complex, which is comprised of 3,583 acres of lake, marsh, and upland habitat. The shooting range is located approximately 1.5 miles east of East Okoboji Lake. The existing shooting range consisted of concrete culverts pointed at small earthen berms to contain projectiles. An open area adjacent to the culverts is used for clay targets. In preparation for this project, DNR staff have removed the concrete culverts and brush in the project area.

This project will regrade the area and construct 15-foot tall earthen backstops and 9-foot tall side berms for a 30-yard and 100-yard range. In addition to the berms, a series of fabricated steel baffles will be constructed to contain projectiles. Covered shooting structures will provide shelter along the firing line. Concrete sidewalks will be constructed throughout the range to provide ADA access to the firing line as well as the target lines. A concrete sidewalk and firing pad will be constructed adjacent to the firing lines for clay target shooting.



Engineering Project #: 22-01-30-08

Cost Estimate: \$355,000.00

Operating Bureau: Communications, Outreach, & Marketing; Wildlife

Funding Source: 87.5% Federal Grant, 12.5% donation from Dickinson County Conservation Board

Bid Letting Date: 3/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 9/15/2025

Number of Bids Received: 4

Bidders

B&S Tiling & Excavation, LLC	Lake City, Iowa	\$358,602.25
Steffes Companies	Milford, Iowa	\$448,139.36
Diamond Concrete & Construction, Inc.	Spirit Lake, Iowa	\$514,641.88

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to B&S Tiling & Excavation, LLC.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

14. Contract with Studio Combine Architecture (Office/Shop Building Design)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Studio Combine Architecture of North Liberty, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$160,000.00

Dates: May 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and Parks Infrastructure

Contract Background: The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Architectural and Engineering services from a qualified architectural firm. Services include building and systems design, creation of construction plans, technical specifications, and cost estimates. Services shall also include construction administration support services for each office/shop building at two separate locations. In addition to the structures, design will also include parking areas, site grading, on-site wastewater treatment, liquid propane connection, and utility connections to water and electric services. The projects are located at George Wyth State Park, Blackhawk County, Iowa and the Upper Iowa River Wildlife Management Area, Winneshiek County, Iowa.

Contract Purpose: Studio Combine Architecture will prepare final designs, including drawings, specifications and cost estimates for the:

George Wyth State Park Office/Shop Building; and,

Upper Iowa Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Office/Shop and Cold Storage Buildings.

The firm will be responsible for all aspects of design, from developing the facility plans through the construction bidding process, and will be retained to provide construction administration support during the construction process.

Selection Process Summary: The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Proposal Due Date: 3/19/2025

Scoring Criteria: Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFP, which included their ability to complete the scope of work within the desired timeline, comprehensive work plan, description and quality of previous and applicable work experience, and cost.

Proposals Received: 6

Recommendation: Shive-Hattery

Consultant	Location (City, State)	Total Score (100 pts)	Cost
Studio Combine Architecture	North Liberty, IA	79	\$160,000.00
One Eleven Design Collective	Waterloo, IA	78	\$169,750.00
MA Architecture, Inc	Des Moines, IA	72	\$152,800.00
Martin Gardner Architecture	Marion, IA	72	\$195,090.00
Pelds Design Services	Des Moines, IA	45	\$180,926.00
Slate Architecture	Omaha, NE	29	\$351,374.00

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: April 08, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

15. Public Land Acquisition Project

15.1 North River WMA, Warren County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Warren County adjacent to North River Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 159 acres

Appraised Price: \$882,000.00

DNR Purchase Price: \$810,000.00

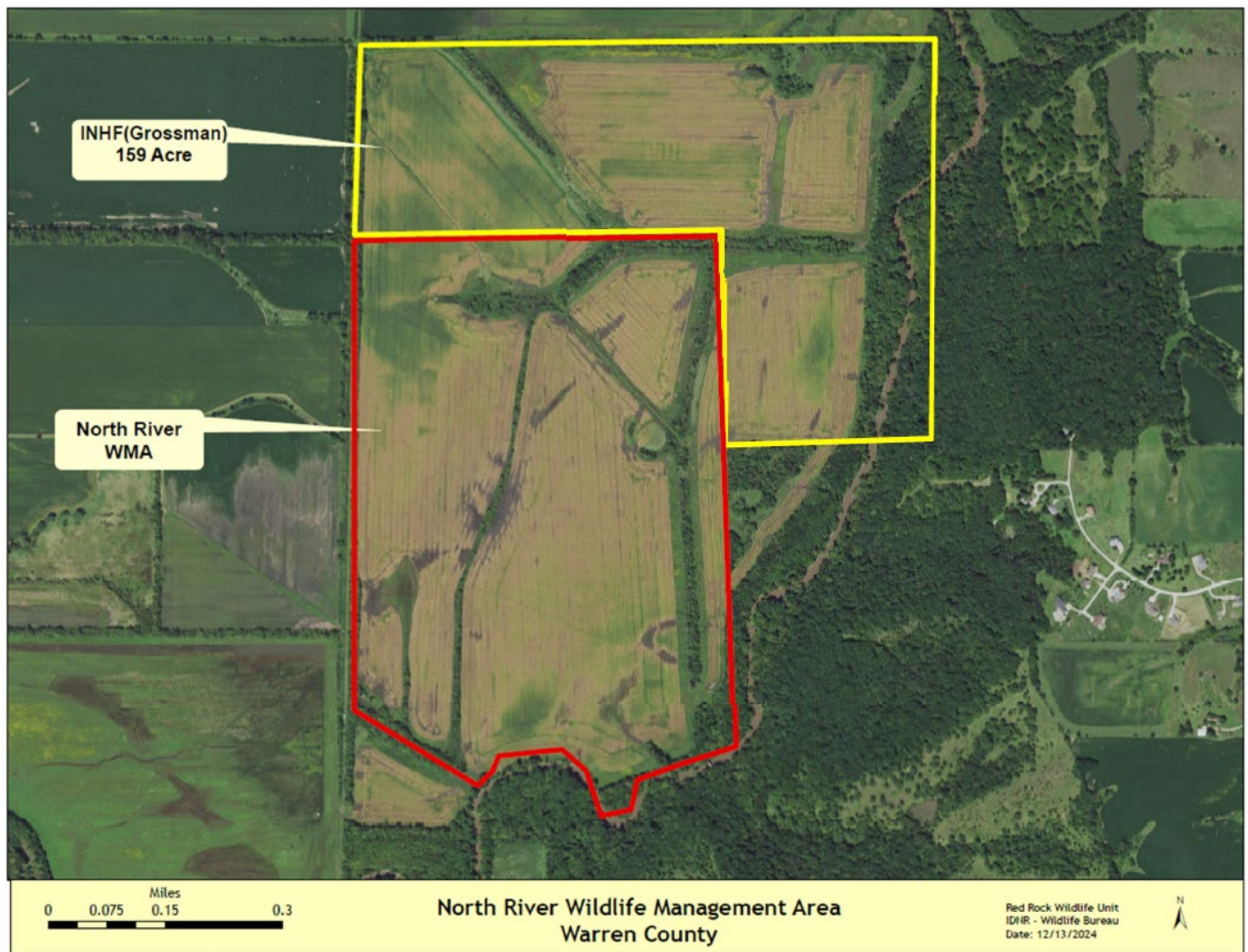
Property Description: This property is located in northern Warren county about 1 mile south of State Highway 5 and about 2 miles east of the City of Norwalk. It is located less than 2 miles south of the Des Moines metro area. Access will be provided by a county, level-B dirt road. The tract is located within the North River Floodplain and has been subjected to yearly flooding events. The property is also enrolled in a Conservation Reserve Program contract until September 2027. The DNR will assume the seller's position in the contract. The property can be described as mix of native grasses with timbered borders and ditches.

Purpose: This acquisition will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities. The tract will be managed to benefit upland habitat and wetland restoration opportunity exists which will make the property attractive to migratory waterfowl.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$172,500 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$607,500 Wildlife Restoration Land Grant, \$10,000 Warren County Pheasants Forever, \$10,000 Northern Polk Pheasants Forever, \$10,000 Iowa Capitol Pheasants Forever

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This parcel will remain on the Warren County property tax rolls.



15.2 Rice Lake WMA, Winnebago County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Winnebago County adjacent to Rice Lake Management Area (WMA).

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 8.78 acres

Appraised Price: \$42,000.00

DNR Purchase Price: \$42,000.00

Property Description: This property is a former homestead and an inholding within Rice Lake WMA. The property is located about 1 mile east of Leland. Access will be provided by the lane for the homestead. A portion of the large pothole located on the Rice Lake WMA is located on this parcel and this parcel is needed if the large pothole is to ever be restored.

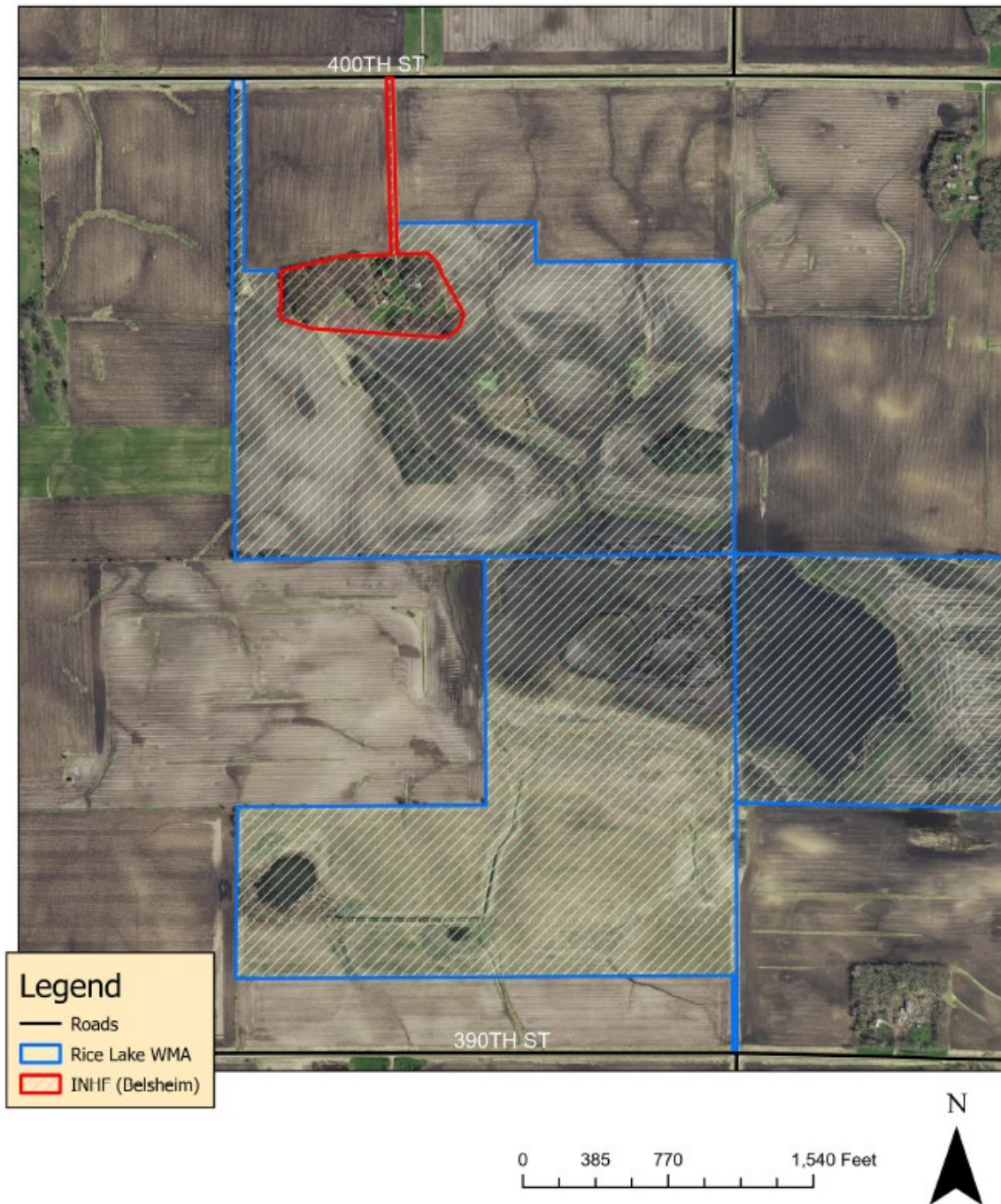
Purpose: This acquisition will provide for public access to hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities. This purchase will permanently remove the 200-yard shooting restriction that this homestead had created.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$42,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamps

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. This parcel will remain on Winnebago County property tax rolls.

Realty Services / Rice Lake WMA
Winnebago County / INHF (Belsheim)



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
04/08/2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***16. Contract with the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (Lake water quality monitoring)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the University of Iowa of Iowa City, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$75,000.00

Dates: April 15, 2025, through December 31, 2026

DNR shall have the option to extend this Contract for up to six years from the beginning date of the original contract by executing a signed amendment prior to the expiration of this Contract.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Contract Background: The Lake Restoration Program (LRP) utilizes several pathways to collect water quality data to inform management decisions, develop new restoration action plans, and evaluate the success of ongoing restoration efforts at a suite of high priority lakes around the state. As the program works to develop new restoration tools (such as the use of alum to control internal phosphorus recycling), it is critical that we monitor changes in water quality to better understand the effectiveness of these new tools and help guide future management decisions. This contract will fund water quality analysis for ongoing monitoring efforts at Green Valley Lake, Lake Darling, Prairie Rose Lake, and Lake of Three Fires, all of which are currently planned for alum treatments. Additionally, the program has a long history of collecting water quality data as a part of diagnostic and feasibility studies to better understand restoration needs at high priority lakes and determine appropriate management steps for restoring the lake and watershed. This contract will also fund water chemistry analysis costs for samples collected by project partner staff (mainly County Conservation Board staff) to be utilized as a part of a planned diagnostic and feasibility study for Hannen Lake (Benton County). Finally, ongoing monitoring at Clear Lake (in partnership with the APCL) will be incorporated into this contract. Monitoring has been ongoing since 2013 to track changes in lake water quality associated with restoration efforts in the lake and watershed. Data collected through these efforts will also be incorporated into the public facing database (AQuIA) where data are housed and made available for use to the general public. Additionally, data and monitoring reports that are created utilizing data from this contract will be made available to project partners at each of the respective lakes.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to provide water quality monitoring data to the lake restoration program and other stakeholders on a suite of high priority lakes in the program. Monitoring efforts supported through this contract will include ongoing monitoring at Clear Lake (in partnership with the APCL), supplemental water chemistry monitoring at Green Valley Lake, Prairie Rose Lake, Lake Darling, and Lake of Three Fires to track the success of ongoing alum treatments, and to analyze water chemistry data at Hannen Lake, which will serve as the backbone for the diagnostic and feasibility study planned for the fall of 2025.

Contract History: DNR has entered into contracts with the State Hygienic laboratory on a regular basis to provide water quality data on a number of high priority projects around the state. These data are used to inform future management decisions and gauge the success of ongoing restoration efforts. Most previous annual contracts have not exceeded \$25,000. Additional monitoring needs described here are anticipated in 2025 and 2026; thus, the need for a higher contract value.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the University of Iowa is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4. Also contracts with state universities and other public agencies for laboratory work, scientific field measurement and environmental quality evaluation services necessary to implement Iowa Code Chapter 455B is authorized under Iowa Code section 455B.103(3).

Travis Baker, Land and Water Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division
April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

17. Contract Amendment with Barr Engineering Company (Phosphorus Inactivation)

Commission approval is requested for a contract amendment with Barr Engineering Company, of Minneapolis, MN.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Amendment 3 Contract value not to exceed \$216,000.00; Original Contract value was \$209,972.00; total value of the Contract with all Amendments not to exceed \$449,801.00

Dates: April 15, 2025 to December 31, 2027

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Contract Background: High nutrient loading in Iowa Lakes, particularly phosphorus, has accelerated eutrophication of lakes and consequently degraded their water quality, impacting their ecological health and diminishing recreational opportunities. Frequent and pervasive algal blooms, low water transparency, noxious odors, depletion of oxygen, and fish kills have been observed and are even common in Iowa lake systems during the open water season.

The original contract included a phosphorus inactivation (P) dosing study on nine priority lakes and strategy for implementing an alum program in several lakes that were deemed to be good candidates for alum (study completed in 2024). Initially, two of the nine candidate lakes were selected as good candidates for an alum treatment program (Green Valley Lake (Union) and Prairie Rose Lake (Shelby)) and applications at each of these lakes are slated for the spring and fall of 2025 (Contract with Solitude Lake Management for \$1,789,374.99; approved January 2025), with follow up treatments in the in-lake sedimentation bays in both lakes in 2026. Ongoing monitoring support is needed during and after each application to monitor changes in pH during the application and analyze sediment phosphorus release rates following each application to better gauge the effectiveness and longevity of each alum treatment.

Two additional lakes included in the initial dosing study required more information to determine if they would also be good candidates for alum treatments – Lake Darling and Lake of Three Fires. DNR collected additional water quality samples through the 2024 growing season to better understand phosphorus concentrations and oxygen dynamics in each of these lakes to determine that both lakes would also be good candidates for alum treatments. Thus, DNR is pursuing this amendment to develop bid documents to complete alum treatments at Lake Darling and Lake of Three Fires in the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract amendment is to provide additional monitoring support for ongoing alum application programs at Green Valley Lake and Prairie Rose Lake, and to provide refined dosing strategies, bid specifications, community outreach, and monitoring support for Lake Darling and Lake of Three Fires. The goal of conducting P inactivation treatments is to reduce the internal phosphorus load and subsequent algal blooms that diminish water clarity.

Anticipated Future Work: Bid documents generated from this amendment will be used to bid alum treatments in 2025 and 2026 at Lake Darling and Lake of Three Fires, estimated at \$1.2 Million. Follow up treatments in the in-lake sediment basins are planned for 2026 and 2027 and estimated at \$700k. DNR will continue to monitor lakes where alum is being utilized as a part of a comprehensive restoration strategy and determine if additional lakes are good candidates for alum in the future.

Budget: The budget for this contract is as follows:

Original Contract	\$209,972.00
Amendment 1 (collected additional sediment information on nine candidate lakes as a part of the original dosing study; completed in 2024)	\$11,510.00
Amendment 2 (refined monitoring strategy and bid specification needs for Green Valley Lake and Prairie Rose Lake; completed in 2024)	\$12,319.00
Amendment 3 (Current Amendment – provide bid specifications for Lake Darling and Lake of Three Fires and follow-up monitoring and sediment coring at all four lakes where alum is being applied)	\$216,000.00
Total:	Not to exceed \$449,801.00

Selection Process Summary: The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a request for proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website. As a part of the original RFP, at the completion of the alum dosing study on nine candidate lakes, DNR reserved the right to move forward with Barr Engineering for additional engineering services, including those described in this amendment.

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

18. Contract Amendment with Bolton and Menk

Commission approval is requested for contract amendment 2 with Bolton and Menk of Spencer, IA.

Contract Amendment Terms:

Amount: Contract Amendment not to exceed \$337,600.00; Original Contract Value was \$559,922.75; Total value of Contract and Amendment is not to exceed \$897,522.75

Dates: April 15, 2025 to December 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Contract Background: Historic flooding in June 2024 caused a number of bank collapses along lake shorelines in Dickinson County, Iowa, (West Okoboji Lake, East Okoboji Lake, Big Spirit Lake, and Silver Lake). The number of collapses and scale of this event is a result of a combination of high water and storm events, which destabilized the toe (base) of the bank, and a heavy rainfall event that saturated soils on the lakeshore.

Shoreline erosion can result in diminished water quality and habitat for wildlife. Sedimentation from erosion alters the ecosystem by removing or damaging plants that provide stability and critical habitat, nutrient loading from eroding shorelands, and reduced in-lake water clarity. Shoreline erosion also creates other issues, including potential damage to near-shore infrastructure and safety concerns.

DNR completed an inventory of all the major shoreline collapses and issued an RFP in the fall of 2024 to begin to provide engineering design and cost estimates for repairing the toe slope of the 66 sites (about 2,500 feet of shoreline) identified with shoreline erosion from flooding. DNR contracted with Bolton and Menk to provide an assessment of the extent of the damage of the shorelines, preliminary engineering designs and cost estimates to repair the toe of the slope, summarizing their findings in a final report that was completed in March 2025. As a part of the original RFP, the Department reserved the right to move forward with additional engineering design services that included final design, permitting assistance, construction easement acquisitions, and some limited construction oversight and geotechnical services.

Contract Amendment Purpose: The purpose of this contract amendment is to fund additional engineering services described in the original RFP that include final engineering design to repair the toe of the shoreline for all sites around the Iowa Great Lakes that were impacted by the 2024 floods, construction easement acquisitions that will allow DNR temporary access to stabilize the shoreline at the water's edge, permitting assistance, and some limited construction oversight and geotechnical services.

Anticipated Future Work: Construction is slated for the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026 to repair shorelines identified as a part of the original RFP. Two construction bid packages are anticipated, with the goal of bidding projects in the late summer and fall, respectively. Total anticipated construction costs are \$2.5 Million and will include funding Lake Restoration and MFT. Some engineering and construction costs may be also be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

Selection Process Summary: The department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a request for proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website. As a part of the original RFP, at the completion of Phase 1 (completed March 2025), the Department reserved the right to move forward with Bolton and Menk for additional engineering design and construction services as described in this amendment.

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

19. Contract with Polk County Conservation Board (Better Water Trails Project: Phase I)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) of Granger, IA.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$65,000

Dates: April 18, 2025 to August 31, 2025

Funding Source(s): Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

Background: During the development of the 2010 Statewide Water Trails Plan, extensive community input revealed strong demand for more accessible river entry and exit points—not only for individuals with disabilities, but also for families with young children and older adults. Although the need was clearly identified, federal accessibility laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lack design criteria specific to water trail accesses. Fifteen years later, that has led to fewer accesses and associated amenities being constructed under criteria than anticipated, and the need to revisit plan recommendations. To date, only 3 percent of Iowa water accesses meet the minimum slope criteria of 8 percent or less.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to revisit accessibility in a subset of Iowa accesses with a local partner in order to generate new design templates on a variety of bank height and river width situations. Iowa DNR staff will work with our county partner to retain a consultant who will conduct the initial research for the overall project. It will review accesses on existing water trail projects.

Budget:

DNR Contribution (70%):	Not to exceed \$50,000.00
<u>PCCB Contribution (30%):</u>	<u>Not to exceed \$15,000.00</u>
Total Cost:	Not to exceed \$65,000.00

Anticipated Future Work: Phase I of this project (outlined above) will lay groundwork for Phases II & III that will result in the following deliverables:

- **4–5 professional, scalable design drawings** for carry-down launch areas;
- **1 professionally designed drawing for wading access areas;**
- **Strategic plan** to help communities and land managers apply research findings efficiently;
- **Communication guide** to support staff in clearly conveying access features and safe use;
- **Programming guide** to promote responsible, sustainable use of trail infrastructure.

Selection Process Summary: This contract is authorized by Iowa Administrative Code section 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

20. Chapter 36, “Green Valley Lake Special Water Activity Rules”; Chapter 37, “Boating Safety Equipment,”; Chapter 38, “Boat Registration and Numbering”; Chapter 39, “Boating Passenger Capacity”; Chapter 40, “Boating Speed and Distance Zoning”; Chapter 41, “Boating Navigation Aids”; Chapter 42, “Boating Accident Reports”; Chapter 43, “Motorboat Noise”; and Chapter 45, “Boat Motor Regulations” – Final Rules

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rules for Chapters 36 through 43 and 45. Chapters 36, 38 through 43, and 45 are rescinded and reserved. Chapter 37 is rescinded and replaced with a new consolidated chapter titled “Vessel Safety and Registration.” This is the result of Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: New Chapter 37 contains Iowa’s water navigational rules that exist to protect private and public property, and the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The chapter ensures uniformity of vessel use, operation, and equipment. Through this merger, the substance of these chapters eliminates redundancies, improves efficiency, and implements updates in accordance with federal law changes and U.S. Coast Guard guidance.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8596C. Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearing. Two written comments were received about general noise requirements, such as boat audio systems and speakers, for Little Miller’s Bay in Dickinson County. No changes were made to the rules regulating motorboat noise requirements. General noise requirements would be difficult to pin point and enforce. One change was made to the Coal Creek Marsh provision to more clearly identify boating restrictions as required by the donation.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Tammie Krausman, Chief
Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapters 36-43, 45 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 36, “Green Valley Lake Special Water Activity Rules,” and Chapter 37, “Boating Safety Equipment”; to adopt a new Chapter 37, “Vessel Safety and Registration”; and to rescind Chapter 38, “Boat Registration and Numbering,” Chapter 39, “Boating Passenger Capacity,” Chapter 40, “Boating Speed and Distance Zoning,” Chapter 41, “Boating Navigation Aids,” Chapter 42, “Boating Accident Reports,” Chapter 43, “Motorboat Noise,” and Chapter 45, “Boat Motor Regulations,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 462A.3, 462A.5, 462A.7, 462A.9, 462A.11, 462A.17, 462A.26 and 462A.32.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 462A.3, 462A.5, 462A.7, 462A.9, 462A.11, 462A.17, 462A.26 and 462A.32 and 2024 Iowa Acts, House File 2485.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 37 contains Iowa’s water navigational rules that exist to protect private and public property and the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The chapter ensures uniformity of vessel use, operation, and equipment. This chapter is the consolidation of former Chapters 36 through 43 and 45. This consolidation is the result of an Executive Order 10 (2023) review of Iowa’s boating regulations. Through this merger, the substance of these chapters has been revised to eliminate redundancies, improve efficiency, and implement updates in accordance with federal law changes and U.S. Coast Guard guidance. Notably, two new provisions have been added. First, Coal Creek Marsh in Warren County has been added to the list of artificial marshes in new Chapter 37 with relevant boating restrictions. Second, Lake Panorama-specific regulations were added to comply with 2024 Iowa Acts, House File 2485, which was signed into law during the 2024 Legislative Session.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8596C**.

Two virtual public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025. No one attended the hearings. Two written comments were received about general noise requirements, such as boat audio systems and speakers, for Little Miller's Bay in Dickinson County. No changes were made to the rules regulating motorboat noise requirements. General noise requirements would be difficult to pin point and enforce. One change was made to the Coal Creek Marsh provision to more clearly identify boating restrictions as required by the donation. No other changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 36.**

ITEM 2. Rescind 571—Chapter 37 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 37

VESSEL SAFETY AND REGISTRATION

571—37.1(462A) Purpose. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 462A.3, these rules set forth vessel safety equipment and registration requirements, vessel operation and waterway zoning, and vessel occurrence reporting requirements.

571—37.2(462A) Definitions. For the purpose of Divisions I, II, and III of this chapter:

“*A Scale*” or “*A*” means the physical scale marked “A” graduated in decibels on a sound level meter that meets the requirements of the American National Standards Institute, Incorporated, publication S1.4 — 1983 General Purpose Sound Level Meters.

“*Buoy*” means any device designed to float that is anchored in the water and that is used to convey a message.

“*Display area*” means the area on a sign or buoy needed for display of a waterway marker symbol.

“*Diver’s flag*” means a red flag or device with a white diagonal running from the upper left hand corner to the lower right hand corner (from mast head to lower outside corner).

“*PFD*” means a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device that is intended to be worn or thrown.

“*Regulatory marker*” means a waterway marker that has no equivalent in the U.S. Coast Guard system of navigational aids.

“*Sign*” means any device for carrying a message that is attached to another object such as a piling, buoy, structure or the land itself.

“*Symbols*” means geometric figures such as a diamond, circle, rectangle, etc., used to convey a basic message.

“*Throwable PFD*” means a PFD that is intended to be thrown to a person in the water. A PFD marked as Type IV or Type V with Type IV performance is considered a throwable PFD. Unless specifically marked otherwise, a wearable PFD is not a throwable PFD.

“*Waterway marker*” means any device designed to be placed in, on, or near the water to convey an official message to a boat operator on matters which may affect health, safety, or well-being, except that such devices of the U.S. or any agency of the United States are excluded from the meaning of this definition.

“*Wearable PFD*” means a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD that is intended to be worn or otherwise attached to the body. A PFD marked as Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V with Type I, II or III performance is considered a wearable PFD.

DIVISION I EQUIPMENT AND REGISTRATION

571—37.3(462A) Fire extinguishers. The number and type of fire extinguishers required for motorboats within the state of Iowa are as follows:

37.3(1) *Fire extinguisher type.* Fire extinguishers shall be a U.S. Coast Guard-approved B-I or B-II type as described in 33 CFR Part 175, Subpart E (June 1, 2024).

37.3(2) *Number of fire extinguishers.* The number of fire extinguishers required shall be dependent upon motorboat class and in compliance with 33 CFR Part 175, Subpart E (June 1, 2024).

Class	Minimum number of 5-B portable fire extinguishers
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	If no fixed fire extinguishing system	With fixed fire extinguishing system
I (less than 16 ft.)	1	0
II (16 ft. to under 26 ft.)	1	0
III (26 ft. to under 40 ft.)	2	1
IV (40 ft. to 65 ft.)	3	2

37.3(3) Fire extinguisher condition. Fire extinguishers must:

- a. Be on board and readily accessible;
- b. Not be expired or appear to have been previously used; and
- c. Be maintained in good and serviceable working condition, meaning:

- (1) If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator, the reading or indicator must be in the operable range or position;
- (2) The lock pin is firmly in place;
- (3) The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
- (4) The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

571—37.4(462A) Flame arrestors. All motorboat engines, except outboard engines, shall be equipped with an efficient flame arrestor, backfire trap or other similar device. An acceptable flame arrestor shall have evidence of compliance with UL Standard 1111 (October 31, 2008) or the revised 2020-02 Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J1928, titled “Devices Providing Backfire Flame Control for Gasoline Engines in Marine Applications.”

571—37.5(462A) Lights on vessels. The following lights shall be required on all vessels:

37.5(1) Vessels at anchor.

- a. A vessel at anchor shall exhibit between the hours of sunset and sunrise:

- (1) In the forepart, a white light to show 360 degrees around the horizon or one ball.
- (2) At or near the stern and at a lower level than the light prescribed in 37.5(1) “a”(1) a white light to show 360 degrees around the horizon.

- b. A vessel of less than 50 meters in length may exhibit a white light to show 360 degrees around the horizon instead of the lights prescribed in this subrule.

37.5(2) Vessels not powered by motor or sail. All vessels not powered by motor or sail and not at anchor shall exhibit a white light to show 360 degrees around the horizon that is visible from at least one mile under clear conditions between the hours of sunset and sunrise when operated on natural lakes, Corps of Engineers impoundments, border rivers excluding border portions of the Big Sioux and Des Moines rivers, and impoundments on inland rivers. If the white light is partially obscured due to the nature of the craft, an additional white light must be shown in sufficient time to prevent collision. When operated on bodies of water other than those listed in subrule, all vessels not powered by motor or sail and not at anchor shall have in possession a white light to be used when necessary between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

37.5(3) Sailing vessels.

- a. Vessels of all classes when propelled by sail alone shall exhibit one of the following lighting systems between sunset and sunrise and at all other times required by applicable laws:

- (1) While underway, one of the following lighting systems is acceptable:
 - 1. The international lighting system for the applicable class of vessel.
 - 2. The combined lantern or separate side lights required for the applicable class of vessel plus a white light so placed as to illuminate the sail so the sail is visible at a distance of at least one-half mile.
- (2) While at anchor, one of the following lighting systems is acceptable:

1. A white light that shows all around the horizon (360 degrees).
 2. An illuminated sail, to be visible all around the horizon (360 degrees) at a distance of one-half mile.
- b. A sailing vessel means any vessel whose sole source of propulsion is the natural element (i.e., wind). A sailing vessel using any auxiliary source of mechanical propulsion is a motorboat and must exhibit the lights required for the applicable class of motorboat.

571—37.6(462A) Buoyant safety equipment.

37.6(1) PFDs shall be U.S. Coast Guard-approved. Each PFD must be appropriately sized for the person for whom it is intended and be used in accordance with current U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment requirements as specified in 33 CFR 175.15 and 46 CFR 160 (June 1, 2024), any requirements on the approval label, and any requirements in the PFD's owner's manual if the approval label makes reference to such a manual.

Registered American Power Boat Association (APBA) drivers shall wear an APBA-certified PFD while in competition or practice related to an APBA-sanctioned event.

37.6(2) Wearable PFDs. Except as provided in 37.6(4), no person may use a vessel of any length unless at least one wearable PFD is on board for each person.

37.6(3) Throwable PFDs. No person may use a vessel 16 feet or more in length, except a canoe or kayak, unless at least one throwable PFD is on board in addition to the PFDs required in 37.6(2).

37.6(4) Exceptions. A person using a canoe or kayak that is enclosed by a deck and spray skirt need not comply with 37.6(2) if that person wears a vest-type lifesaving device that:

a. Has no less than 150 separate permanently inflated air sacs made of not less than 12 mil polyvinyl chloride film, and has not less than 13 pounds positive buoyancy in fresh water, if that person weighs more than 90 pounds; or

b. Has no less than 120 separate permanently inflated air sacs made of not less than 12 mil polyvinyl chloride film and has not less than 8½ pounds positive buoyancy in fresh water, if that person weighs 90 pounds or less.

37.6(5) Nonapproved devices. Any PFD that has a torn or missing strap, punctured flotation bag, waterlogged flotation material, rotted material in straps or webbing or cover, missing laces, missing hardware, envelope torn or perforated, torn stitching or any other condition that impairs the operating efficiency, any PFD on which the U.S. Coast Guard approval tag is no longer easily legible, or any inflatable device that has a discharged or otherwise inoperable gas cartridge shall be deemed as not approved for use on board vessels as equipment required by law.

37.6(6) Water skis and surfboards. Any person engaged in waterskiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, surfboarding, or other similar activity, except for vessels known as windsurfers, shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable PFD that is properly fastened and secured and used in accordance with current U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment requirements as specified in 33 CFR 175.15 and 46 CFR 160 (June 1, 2024), any requirements on the approval label, and any requirements in the PFD's owner's manual if the approval label makes reference to such a manual. Inflatable devices are not approved for waterskiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, or tow-behind activities. Skiers participating in a tournament or exhibition may be exempted from the PFD requirement if the skiers are wearing wet suits with built-in flotation and granted a specific exemption in the special events permit issued by the natural resource commission. A flotation wet suit may include a full suit (top and bottom) or a form-fitting top as long as the top will float the wearer when air is expelled from the wearer's lungs. A special event may include practice sessions if all practice sessions for the season are listed on the special event application. In that case, the application shall include a specific location, date and time for each practice session.

37.6(7) No person shall operate a vessel on any waters of this state under the jurisdiction of the commission, towing a person or persons on water skis, surfboard, or similar device, nor shall any person engage in waterskiing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, surfboarding, or similar activities, at any time between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to sunrise.

37.6(8) Personal watercraft (PWCs). All operators and passengers of PWCs must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable PFD that is properly fastened and secured and used in accordance with current U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment requirements as specified in 33 CFR 175.15 and 46 CFR 160 (June 1, 2024), any requirements on the approval label, and any requirements in the PFD's owner's manual if the approval label makes reference to such a manual. Inflatable PFDs are not approved for use on personal watercraft.

571—37.7(462A) Motorboat noise. No person shall operate any motorboat on waters of this state under the jurisdiction of the commission, in such a manner as to exceed the following noise levels:

37.7(1) Stationary sound level test. Motorboats manufactured prior to 1993 shall not exceed a noise level of 90dB(A) during a stationary sound level test as prescribed by 2018-06 Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J2005, titled “Stationary Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats.” For motorboats manufactured on or after January 1, 1993, a motorboat shall not exceed a noise level of 88dB(A) when subjected to a stationary sound level test as prescribed by 2018-06 Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J2005, titled “Stationary Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats.”

37.7(2) Shoreline sound level test. A motorboat engine shall not exceed a noise level of 75dB(A) when measured as specified in 2018-02 Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J1970, titled “Shoreline Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats.”

571—37.8(462A) Boat registration emblem placement. The current registration emblem shall be placed within six inches of the stern of the registration number on each side of the bow of the vessel. On sailboats, when the registration number is placed on the mast, the registration emblem shall be placed six inches below the registration number on each side of the mast. All newly registered boats or boats with renewed registrations will receive emblems with the registration certificate. This rule shall apply to all registered vessels, including those being used by dealers in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 462A.

571—37.9(462A) Procedure for application for boat registration number—content.

37.9(1) Application. An applicant for a boat registration number shall submit the required information described in 33 CFR 174.17 (June 1, 2024).

37.9(2) Vessels not previously registered. If a person or business is making application for a boat registration number for a used vessel that has never before been registered or titled and the person does not have any satisfactory proof of ownership, the county recorder may issue a certificate of number for the used vessel if the applicant has provided the recorder with a signed and notarized affidavit on an appropriate department of natural resources form, stating that the person making the application is the lawful owner of the vessel.

37.9(3) Information on certificate. The certificate of number shall show the information described in 33 CFR 174.19 (June 1, 2024).

37.9(4) Registration applied for card. The dealer selling the vessel shall legibly print on the registration applied for card all information described in 33 CFR 174.21 (June 1, 2024).

a. Use. The registration applied for card may be used only after an application for registration has been made to the county recorder. Placing a completed application for registration and required fee in the mail to the recorder shall constitute making an application.

b. Placement on vessel. The registration applied for card shall be placed on the forward half of the vessel in a position so as to be clearly visible at all times and shall be maintained in a legible manner.

c. Proof of purchase. The operator of any vessel displaying a registration applied for card shall carry and display to any peace officer upon request a valid bill of sale for said vessel.

571—37.10(462A) Vessels in storage. If the owner of a currently registered vessel places the vessel in storage, the owner shall return the registration certificate to the county recorder with an affidavit on an appropriate department form. The county recorder shall notify the department of each registered vessel placed in storage. When the owner of a stored vessel desires to renew the vessel’s registration, the owner shall apply to the county recorder and pay the applicable fees.

571—37.11(462A) Numbering pattern to be used. The identification numbers awarded under the Iowa system shall consist of three parts. The first part shall consist of the letters “IA” indicating this state. The second part shall consist of not more than four Arabic numerals. The third part shall consist of not more than two letters. Since the letters “I,” “O,” and “Q” may be mistaken for Arabic numerals, they shall not be used in the suffix. The parts shall be separated by a hyphen or an equivalent space. For example: IA-2500-C, IA-9875-EA, IA 7560 ZZ.

571—37.12(462A) Display of number on vessel.

37.12(1) The identification number awarded to any vessel under the Iowa numbering system shall be displayed thereon by being:

- a. Painted on, or attached to, each side of the bow (i.e., the forward half) of the vessel; read from left to right, and in such position as to provide maximum visibility.
- b. In block characters of good proportion not less than three inches in height.
- c. Of a color that will contrast with the color of the background (i.e., dark numbers on a light background, or light numbers on a dark background) and so maintained as to be clearly visible and legible.

37.12(2) On vessels propelled by sail only, the numbers may be placed in such a position as to provide maximum visibility, on each side of the bow or deck or on each side of the boom or mast. In all cases except placement on the mast, the numbers shall read from left to right and comply with 37.12(1) “b” and “c.” In placement on the mast, the number shall read from top to bottom and comply with 37.12(1) “b” and “c.”

37.12(3) Purchase and attachment of these letters and numbers is the responsibility of the vessel owner.

37.12(4) No other number shall be carried or displayed on the bow of the vessel.

571—37.13(462A) Special certificates for boat dealers or manufacturers. A manufacturer or dealer may operate an unregistered vessel for purposes of transporting, testing, demonstrating, or selling the vessel after first obtaining a special certificate from the department. An application for a special certificate shall be submitted on the appropriate department form. A manufacturer or dealer operating a vessel pursuant to the issuance of a special certificate shall file an annual report with the department.

571—37.14(462A) Boat dealer’s annual report of vessels with expired registrations. Each boat dealer shall file, before May 5 of each year, an annual report with the department on the appropriate form listing all used vessels held by the dealer for sale or trade and for which the registration fee for the current year has not been paid.

571—37.15(462A) Monthly reports by county recorders. Each county recorder shall submit a monthly report to the department listing all vessels registered in that county in the previous month. The applicable fees shall accompany the monthly report.

571—37.16(462A) Boats for hire. Each commercial boat operator will be required to number the boat or boats used to operate for hire with block characters of good proportion not less than three inches in height, in the following manner:

Upon making application for a number for commercially operated vessels, the following type number will be assigned: Example IA-1555-E.

To identify this vessel as a commercial vessel, it will be required that the commercial operator affix an X as the final letter of the suffix: Example IA-1555-EX.

When a commercial operator transfers a vessel to another individual, unless it be to another commercial operator, it will be the operator’s responsibility to remove the second letter from the suffix (the letter X).

Transferred to

Commercial Operator	Private Individual
IA-1555-XX	IA-1555-X
IA-1555-EX	IA-1555-E
Transferred to	
Private Individual	Commercial Operator
IA-1555-A	IA-1555-AX

571—37.17(462A) U.S. Coast Guard capacity rating. For vessels assigned a U.S. Coast Guard capacity rating in whole persons as evidenced by a U.S. Coast Guard capacity plate affixed to the vessel, that capacity shall be recognized as the registration capacity.

571—37.18(462A) Vessels assigned a capacity rating by the manufacturer. For vessels that have not been assigned a U.S. Coast Guard capacity rating in whole persons but that contain capacity information in whole persons on a plate affixed to the vessel furnished by the boating industry association, national marine manufacturer association or any similar organization, that capacity shall be recognized as the registration capacity.

571—37.19(462A) Vessels not containing capacity rating information. For vessels with no passenger capacity information provided by the U.S. Coast Guard or the manufacturer, the passenger capacity designated on the registration shall be O.R., “Operator’s Responsibility.” The operator of the vessel has responsibility for determining passenger capacity of a vessel so designated. Such operation must comply with the provisions of Iowa Code section 462A.12(1).

571—37.20(462A) Incorrect registration. When information contained on the registration certificate of a vessel is found to be incorrect regarding vessel length, vessel width, or passenger capacity, officers appointed by the department may, upon inspection of the vessel, or the county recorder, upon presentation of adequate documentation, including but not limited to an affidavit by the owner, may change the information on the certificate. The officer shall within four days notify the department and the county recorder of the county in which the vessel is registered of the changes.

571—37.21(462A) Number designating passenger capacity.

37.21(1) The passenger capacity of boats as assigned by the commission shall be painted or attached to the starboard side (the right side while in boat and facing the bow) of boat within nine inches of transom in three-inch or larger block numbers in a color contrasting to the boat color so that the numbers ride above the water line when boat is fully loaded.

37.21(2) The requirements of this rule pertaining to the display of registration decals, registration numbers and passenger capacity numbers do not apply to vessels that are exempt pursuant to Iowa Code section 462A.6A.

DIVISION II
Part I
Operating and Zoning

571—37.22(462A) Inland navigation rules. All vessels upon the inland waters, including border rivers, of this state shall conform to Subpart B, “Steering and Sailing Rules,” Rules 11 through 18, of the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980 (June 1, 2024).

571—37.23(462A) Uniform buoy system. All buoys placed shall be those of the uniform waterway marking system adopted by the commission and shall be constructed, placed, and maintained in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 462A and this chapter.

571—37.24(462A) Commission approval. The placement of buoys or official signs that restrict speed and distance or involve special zoning restrictions shall be approved by the commission.

571—37.25(462A) Restricted areas. All vessels, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated in compliance with, and all persons engaged in water recreation activities shall obey, restrictions with posted areas marked with a uniform waterway buoy or official signs adopted by the commission.

571—37.26(462A) Right for aggrieved party to appeal. Any finding or establishment of areas involving special speed and distance or zoning restrictions by the commission may be appealed by aggrieved party upon written notice. A hearing thereon shall be held by the commission within 30 days thereafter.

571—37.27(462A) Mooring of vessels on riparian property of the state of Iowa. Where the state of Iowa owns riparian property adjacent to sovereign land or water, mooring of vessels is prohibited between sunset and sunrise on those riparian or sovereign lands or waters where posted by either official buoys or official signs of the department.

571—37.28(462A) Horsepower limitations on artificial lakes. On artificial lakes of 100 acres or less, a vessel shall only be operated with an electric motor or with an outboard motor where permitted by the rules in division II, part II, of this chapter. On artificial lakes of more than 100 acres, vessels may be operated with unrestricted horsepower motors at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour except as otherwise permitted by the rules in division II, part II, of this chapter.

571—37.29(462A) Horsepower rating. The horsepower rating of an outboard motor permitted on artificial lakes under the authority of Iowa Code chapter 462A and these rules shall be as determined by the manufacturer when the motor was originally produced. An outboard motor that has been altered to increase its horsepower in excess of ten as rated by the original manufacturer shall not be permitted on artificial lakes.

571—37.30(462A) Propulsion mechanism not in use. Any power unit mounted or carried aboard a vessel, while not being used or operated as a source of propulsion, shall be lawful on artificial lakes, so long as the auxiliary power unit being used or operated as a source of propulsion is within the lawful horsepower limitation established for that lake.

Part II
Waterbody Specific Restrictions and Zoning

571—37.31(462A) Avenue of the Saints Lake, Bremer County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.32(462A) Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, Warren County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.33(462A) Beaver Lake, Dallas County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.34(462A) Beaver Creek Safety Zone, Polk County. A safety zone is hereby established on Beaver Creek within the property boundaries of the Camp Dodge military reservation in Polk County.

37.34(1) Watercraft and vehicles shall be prohibited from entering the safety zone in order to prevent access to areas within Camp Dodge where a hazard to the public may exist. This prohibition shall not apply to watercraft or vehicles explicitly authorized to enter the safety zone by the Iowa national guard. The safety zone boundaries shall be indicated by signage including the wording “Warning, Restricted Area, No Entrance.” The Iowa National Guard shall be responsible for the acquisition, placement, and maintenance of any signage.

37.34(2) The safety zone shall be recognized by the state of Iowa only where signage is posted as required. Any section of Beaver Creek that is not designated as a safety zone shall remain open to any otherwise lawful public access.

37.34(3) Signs establishing the safety zone boundaries may be moved within the present or future boundaries of Camp Dodge at the sole discretion of Iowa National Guard personnel. The Iowa National Guard shall notify the department when the location of the safety zone boundary is changed.

571—37.35(462A) Beeds Lake, Franklin County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.36(462A) Black Hawk Lake, Sac County. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the zoned area marked by the regulatory buoys. The zoned area shall be the area commonly known as Town Bay on the northwest corner of Black Hawk Lake. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.37(462A) Black Hawk Pits, Sac County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.38(462A) Brown's Lake, Woodbury County. Vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the two zoned areas designated by regulatory buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

37.38(1) Zone 1 shall extend 570 yards from the boat ramp east to the regulatory buoys and 150 yards west from the boat ramp.

37.38(2) Zone 2 shall begin at the regulatory buoys located at the 24-inch steel pipe and shall extend west.

571—37.39(462A) Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County. All vessels operated in a designated zone known as Shoal Pointe Canal shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. The City of Carter Lake shall designate and maintain the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with marker buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.40(462A) Cedar River and connected backwaters.

37.40(1) *Black Hawk County waters.* All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour when within 600 feet of the Franklin Street bridge. This 600-foot zone shall be designated by buoys, signs, or other approved uniform waterway marking devices. No vessel shall tow skiers, surfboard riders, or other towable devices within this zone.

37.40(2) *Chickasaw County waters.* The city of Nashua shall designate and maintain the following 5-mile-per-hour speed zones with marker buoys approved by the commission:

a. All vessels operated in a designated zone extending east 150 feet from the intersection of Wabash Street and Charles City Road and north 380 feet shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

b. All vessels operated in a designated zone extending north 131 feet from the intersection of Wabash Street and the north entrance to Cedar View Circle and east 80 feet and west 80 feet from this point along the shoreline and extending 110 feet north into the lake shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

37.40(3) *Floyd County waters.* All vessels operated in a designated zone extending 300 feet upstream from the upper dam shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. The city of Charles City shall designate and maintain the 5 miles per hour speed zone with marker buoys approved by the commission.

37.40(4) *Mitchell County waters.* Operation of vessels in Mitchell County is restricted to speeds not greater than 5 miles per hour where a speed zone is designated by buoys on the following impounded waters:

a. Cedar River from Mitchell Dam, thence upriver to the County "S" bridge.

b. Cedar River from the St. Ansgar Mill Dam, thence upriver to the Newberg Bridge crossing Highway 105.

c. Cedar River from the Otranto Dam upriver to the Great Western Railway Bridge crossing the Cedar River.

d. The Stacyville Pool, on the Little Cedar River at Stacyville.

571—37.41(462A) Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming with the use of regulatory buoys. Areas within close proximity of dredging operations may be designated as areas where the speed of vessels is restricted to not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.42(462A) Coralville Lake, Johnson County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming, wading, and restricted speed areas.

571—37.43(462A) Crawford Creek Recreation Area Lake, Ida County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.44(462A) Crystal Lake, Hancock County. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the 25-acre zoned area designated by regulatory buoys.

571—37.45(462A) Deer Creek Lake, Plymouth County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.46(462A) Des Moines River. Vessel operation on the Des Moines River from its confluence with the Mississippi River in Lee County to the northerly meander lines of both the East and West Branches shall be governed by this departmental rule as well as all applicable state laws and regulations. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming, wading, and restricted speed areas.

571—37.47(462A) Dickinson County lakes. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within 300 feet of shore on all lakes in Dickinson County. No vessels, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated at speeds greater than 25 miles per hour at any time between one-half hour after sunset and sunrise on all lakes located in Dickinson County.

37.47(1) East Okoboji Lake. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the three zoned areas designated by regulatory buoys on East Okoboji Lake.

a. Zone 1 shall be a line 150 yards east from the north end of the railroad trestle bridge at Clair Wilson State Park south to the shoreline of East Okoboji.

b. Zone 2 shall be the area which is 300 feet north of the area commonly known as the Narrows on East Okoboji and extends to a southern boundary of a buoy line from the point at 16486 255th Avenue east to the state property adjacent to 16313 256th Avenue on the east side of East Okoboji.

c. Zone 3 shall be the area 50 feet east of the bridge between East Okoboji and Upper Gar on the East Okoboji side running in a northwesterly direction toward the end of the island from Gingles Point then west toward the shoreline.

37.47(2) West Okoboji Lake. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the six zoned areas designated by regulatory buoys on West Okoboji Lake.

a. Zone 1 shall be a line from the east side of Givens Point to the south end of Arnolds Park City Beach on West Okoboji.

b. Zone 2 shall be the area commonly known as Okoboji Harbor at the northwest corner of West Okoboji.

c. Zone 3 shall be the area commonly known as the canals in the city of Wahpeton including Turtle Lake.

d. Zone 4 shall be the area commonly known as Lazy Lagoon located in the Triboji Area on West Okoboji.

e. Zone 5 shall be the area commonly known as Little Millers Bay. The zone shall start at Pinkies Point and extend southeasterly (160 degrees) approximately 370 yards until bisecting the southern shoreline of Little Millers Bay.

f. Zone 6 shall be the area commonly known as Little Emmerson Bay. The zone shall start at Breezy Point and extend southwesterly (235 degrees) approximately 330 yards until bisecting the west shoreline of Little Emmerson Bay.

37.47(3) Spirit Lake, Dickinson County. Operation of vessels in the area commonly known as Templar Park Lagoon is restricted to a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

37.47(4) Upper Gar Lake, Dickinson County. Operation of vessels on Upper Gar Lake is restricted to a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour between the Henshaw Bridge at the north end of Upper Gar and south end of East Lake and the Old Sawmill Bridge at the south end of Upper Gar and the north end of Minnewashta.

571—37.48(462A) Five Island Lake, Palo Alto County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.49(462A) Fogle Lake, Ringgold County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.50(462A) George Wyth Lake, Black Hawk County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.51(462A) Green Valley Lake, Union County.

37.51(1) No inboard boats, jet skis, or jet-powered boats are permitted. All boats must maintain a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour on the entire lake between the hours of sunset and 10:30 p.m. and between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. No boating is permitted on the lake between 10:30 p.m. and 4 a.m. No boat shall be operated within 100 feet of shore at speeds greater than 5 miles per hour.

37.51(2) A portion of the west arm of Green Valley Lake shall be designated as a ski zone and shall be marked by controlled area buoys as designated by Iowa's uniform waterway marking system. This designated area shall be referred to as the "ski zone." Waterskiing and general boating are permitted in the designated ski zone between 10 a.m. and sunset. All boats must maintain a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour when outside the ski zone. No one shall be permitted in the water in the ski zone except those persons engaged in waterskiing or similar activity. All boats in the ski zone not engaged in waterskiing or similar activity shall keep out of the general traffic pattern of the boats pulling skiers.

571—37.52(462A) Iowa River.

37.52(1) *Iowa River, Iowa Falls, Hardin County.*

a. All vessels operated in a designated zone between the River Street Bridge and the dock at Dougan's Landing shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

b. The city of Iowa Falls shall designate and maintain the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with marker buoys approved by the commission.

c. All vessels operated in a designated zone beginning at the west property boundary and ending at the east property boundary of the Scenic City Empress Boat Club property located at 1113 Union Street shall be operated at a no-wake speed. The zone shall not extend more than 75 feet into the Iowa River channel.

d. The Scenic City Empress Boat Club shall designate and maintain the no-wake zone with marker buoys approved by the commission.

37.52(2) *Iowa River, Iowa City, Johnson County.* No person shall operate any vessel towing persons on water skis, surfboards, or similar devices on the Iowa River in the area bounded by the Coralville Mill Dam and the Burlington Street Dam, except during regattas, races, marine parades, tournaments, or exhibitions authorized by the commission to be held in such area.

571—37.53(462A) Ingham Lake, Emmet County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.54(462A) Lake Cornelia, Wright County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour in the boat harbor and at the boat harbor entrance within the zoned area extending 300 feet from two points on shore and 100 feet in width, equidistant from either side of the harbor entrance. The Wright County conservation board shall designate the boat harbor entrance and the public swimming area with uniform marker buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.55(462A) Lake Icaria, Adams County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour when within 50 feet of another vessel that is not underway or is operating at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

37.55(1) No vessel, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be permitted in areas specifically designated for swimming and wading that are plainly marked by the use of buoys or signs.

37.55(2) No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated in marked bay areas at a speed greater than the limit designated by buoys or signs marking said bay.

37.55(3) No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated in restricted speed areas between the nearest shore and a line designated by uniform marker buoys or signs at a speed greater than the limit designated on the buoys or signs marking the area. Such zoned areas shall be not less than 50 feet nor more than 400 feet from shore.

571—37.56(462A) Lake Iowa, Iowa County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.57(462A) Lake Macbride, Johnson County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour only from September 8 through May 20 of each year. A motorboat with a power unit exceeding 10 horsepower shall not be permitted the remainder of the year.

571—37.58(462A) Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the zoned areas 300 feet from shore around Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie County.

571—37.59(462A) Lake Odessa, Louisa County. Areas may be designated restricted speed areas. All motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour year-round on two portions of Lake Odessa known as 1) the Sand Run Chute, lying south of the main lake to a point 100 yards south of the Sand Run Chute boat ramp, and 2) the lateral ditch, between the main lake and Bebee Pond, and on the channel between Yankee Chute and Beaver Pond.

571—37.60(462A) Lake of Three Fires, Taylor County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may operate at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.61(462A) Lake Panorama (Raccoon River), Guthrie County.

37.61(1) Areas may be designated as restricted speed, direction, swimming and no boating areas.

37.61(2) Areas may be designated with operation restrictions pursuant to Iowa Code sections 462A.17A and 462A.17B.

571—37.62(462A) Little Wall Lake. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the zoned area designated by regulatory buoys on Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County. The zoned area will not exceed approximately 20 acres in the northeast portion of the lake identified by a line from a point on the high-water mark approximately 296.6 feet west of the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 86 North, Range 24 West; thence northwest to the high-water mark which is 775 feet south and 319 feet west of the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 86 North, Range 24 West.

571—37.63(462A) Little River Lake, Decatur County. Vessels operating within a designated area beginning at the dam and extending north approximately to the mouth of “Bait Shop Bay” shall be operated at a speed no greater than 5 miles per hour. The Decatur County conservation board shall designate the speed zone with marker buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.64(462A) Loch Ayr, Ringgold County. Motorboats are restricted to not greater than 100 horsepower. A motorboat shall not be operated within 100 feet of shore at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.65(462A) Lost Island Lake, Palo Alto and Clay Counties. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.66(462A) Maquoketa River (Lake Delhi), Delaware County. Water recreation activity restrictions shall be obeyed, including restrictions within posted areas that are marked with approved buoys, on the impoundment of the Maquoketa River in Delaware County, extending westerly and northerly from the line between Sections 29 and 30 in Delhi Township in said county, to the line between Sections 10 and 15 in Milo Township in said county which impoundment is sometimes known and referred to as Hartwick Lake or Lake Delhi. No motorboat shall be operated at speeds greater than 10 miles per hour at any time between the hours from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

571—37.67(462A) Meadow Lake, Adair County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

571—37.68(462A) Mississippi River lock and dam safety zone. A safety zone is hereby established in Iowa waters above and below all navigation lock and dam structures on the Mississippi River between the Iowa-

Minnesota border and the Iowa-Missouri border. The established zone shall be 600 feet upstream and 150 feet downstream from the roller gate or tainter gate section of the structure.

37.68(1) The safety zone does not include the area directly above and below the navigation lock structure.

37.68(2) The safety zone does not include the area directly above and below the solid fill portion of the dam and structure.

37.68(3) The safety zone shall be recognized by the state of Iowa only when plainly marked as follows:

a. Upstream signs worded—Restricted area keep 600 feet from dam.

b. Downstream signs worded—Restricted area keep 150 feet from dam.

c. Flashing red lights will be used to make the outer limits of the restricted areas.

37.68(4) No boat or vessel of any type, except authorized vessels, shall enter the established safety zones recognized by the state of Iowa as described in this rule.

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY

571—37.69(462A) Mississippi River, Lansing, Allamakee County. All vessels, except commercial barge traffic, shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within an area extending 300 feet from shore and beginning at a point 800 feet north of river mile marker 662.2 and proceeding to Lansing City Marina Dike. The Friends of Pool 9 shall designate and maintain the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by commission.

571—37.70(462A) Harpers Slough, Harpers Ferry, Allamakee County. All vessels operated in Harpers Slough between a point 200 feet above the state ramp and 200 feet out from the west shore and extending 550 feet downstream from a point known as Sandy Point Road Dead-End shall operate at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. The city of Harpers Ferry will designate the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

CLAYTON COUNTY

571—37.71(462A) Mississippi River, Clayton, Clayton County. All vessels, except commercial barge traffic, shall be operated at a speed no greater than 5 miles per hour within an area extending 150 feet from shore and beginning at a point 1,012 feet north of Mississippi River Day Marker 624.7R and extending south to a point 1,012 feet south of the same marker (624.7R). The city of Clayton shall designate and maintain the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.72(462A) Mississippi River, Guttenberg river mile 616, Clayton County. All vessels operated between the ice dike and Bussey Lake access shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. The city will designate the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.73(462A) Mississippi River, Johnson Slough, Clayton County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area of river mile markers 627 and 629.8, in a backwater known as Johnson Slough and designated by marker buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.74(462A) Mississippi River, Marquette, Clayton County. All vessels, except commercial barge traffic, shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area of river mile markers 634.5 and 634.9 and designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. The city of Marquette will designate and maintain the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.75(462A) Mississippi River, McGregor, Clayton County. All vessels, except commercial barge traffic, shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area of river mile markers 634 and 633.4 and designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. The city of McGregor will designate the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

CLINTON COUNTY

571—37.76(462A) Mississippi River, Joyce Slough Area, Clinton County. The Joyce Slough Area, a portion of the Mississippi River within the city of Clinton, is hereby zoned to be a harbor area and vessels traveling therein shall not travel at speeds in excess of 5 miles per hour.

571—37.77(462A) Mississippi River, Swan Slough, Camanche, Clinton County. A restricted speed zone of not greater than 5 miles per hour is hereby established in all or part of the main channel of Swan Slough (Mississippi River mile 510.2 to 511.3), as designated by buoys.

DES MOINES COUNTY

571—37.78(462A) Mississippi River, Des Moines County, city of Burlington. All vessels shall be operated at a speed no greater than 5 miles per hour within the area designated by marker buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers beginning at the north city boat ramp and public dock and extending downstream to the south city boat ramp and public dock. The zoned area shall extend no farther than 150 feet from the shore and approximately 150 feet west of the west edge of the barge channel. The city of Burlington shall designate the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

DUBUQUE COUNTY

571—37.79(462A) Mississippi River, Dubuque, Dubuque County.

37.79(1) All vessels shall be limited to no more than 5 miles per hour in Lake Peosta Cut south and east of the Hawthorn Street municipal boat launching ramp.

37.79(2) A restricted speed zone of no more than 5 miles per hour is established in the vicinity of Chaplain Schmitt Memorial Island in proximity to the Schmitt Island municipal launching ramp and in waters adjacent to the southerly shoreline in the area of the Dubuque Yacht Basin.

37.79(3) A restricted speed zone of 5 miles per hour for the northern portion of Shawondasse Slough. Marker buoys shall be placed at a point approximately 750 feet upstream from the existing speed zone.

571—37.80(462A) Mississippi River, Massey Slough, Dubuque County. The operation of vessels in Massey Slough of the Mississippi River at Massey Station, Dubuque County, extending from a northerly to southerly direction from the upper end to the lower end of the slough, encompassing the water in Section 14, Township 88N, Range 3E of the 5th P.M., tract number NFIA-26M, is restricted as follows: all boats underway must maintain a speed of less than 5 miles per hour in said waters.

571—37.81(462A) Catfish Creek, Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area beginning at the mouth of Catfish Creek and extending upstream to the confluence of Catfish Creek and Granger Creek and designated by uniform marker buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.82(462A) Mississippi River, Mud Lake, Dubuque County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area of river mile markers 587.6 to 589.3, in a backwater known as Mud Lake and designated by marker buoys approved by the commission.

JACKSON COUNTY

571—37.83(462A) Mississippi River, Bellevue, Jackson County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the area designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers beginning at the mouth of Mill Creek and extending upstream 900 feet, and extending 200 feet perpendicular from shore. The area shall be designated by a minimum of four approved buoys to be uniformly placed along the 900-foot length of the zone parallel to the shore. The city of Bellevue will designate the 5-mile-per-hour speed zone with buoys approved by the commission.

571—37.84(462A) Green Island, Jackson County. All motorboats except authorized emergency vessels shall be operated at a speed no greater than 5 miles per hour year around on boat channels adjacent to the interior channel 4 levee at the Green Island State Wildlife area. Both channels begin at the Green Island county road

parking lot and proceed north 7,920 feet along each side of the channel 4 levee to an intersection with the Snag Slough complex.

571—37.85(462A) Mississippi River, City of Sabula, Jackson County. No motorboat shall operate at a speed to exceed 5 miles per hour within the four zoned areas designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. The city of Sabula shall designate the speed zones with uniform waterway markers (buoys) approved by the commission.

37.85(1) Zone 1 shall extend 200 feet from shore and begin at a point 250 feet upstream of the north Sabula city boat ramp and ending at a point downstream where Bank Street intersects the river bank.

37.85(2) Zone 2 shall extend 200 feet from shore and extend 100 feet upstream and 100 feet downstream from the entrance to the Island City Harbor.

37.85(3) Zone 3 shall extend 200 feet into South Sabula Lake from the county boat ramp and 100 feet to the west of the ramp and 600 feet to the east of the ramp.

37.85(4) Zone 4 shall extend 200 feet in all directions beginning at the center of the “cut” into Lower Sabula Lake.

571—37.86(462A) Mississippi River, Spruce Creek County Park, Jackson County. No motorboat shall operate at a speed to exceed 5 miles per hour within the area designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers, beginning at the entrance of Spruce Creek harbor and extending southeast 550 feet and extending east 150 feet from shore. The Jackson County conservation board will designate the speed zone with uniform waterway markers (buoys) approved by the commission.

571—37.87(462A) Otter Creek Lake, Tama County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.88(462A) Raccoon River Regional Park Lake, Polk County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys. A 40-acre body of water located in the southeast corner, and separate from the main lake, shall be designated for nonmotorized and electric motors only. The city of West Des Moines will designate the area with regulatory buoys and signs.

571—37.89(462A) Rathbun Lake, Appanoose County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming and wading, restricted speed, “no anchoring,” and “no boating” areas.

571—37.90(462A) Red Rock Lake, Marion County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming and wading, restricted speed, and “no anchoring” areas.

571—37.91(462A) Shell Rock River (Greene Impoundment), Floyd County. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed exceeding 5 miles per hour in the two zoned areas of the Greene Impoundment designated by buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. The first zoned area extends from the dam in the city of Greene, upstream approximately one-quarter mile to the north boundary of the city park in which the lower boat ramp is located. The second zoned area extends from the county bridge over the Shell Rock River on the north side of section 28 of Union Township in Floyd County, downstream approximately one-quarter mile to the south boundary of Gates Bridge County Park. The city of Greene and Floyd County shall designate their respective speed zones with uniform waterway markers (buoys) approved by the commission.

571—37.92(462A) Saylorville Lake, Polk County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming, wading, and restricted speed.

571—37.93(462A) Silver Lake, Delaware County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.94(462A) Snyder Bend Lake, Woodbury County. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour within the zoned area 400 yards from the boat ramp south to the regulatory sign and buoys. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.95(462A) Storm Lake, Buena Vista County. Areas may be specifically designated for swimming by the use of regulatory buoys.

571—37.96(462A) Thayer Lake, Union County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.97(462A) Three Mile Lake, Union County. Motorboats not to exceed 200 horsepower shall be permitted on Three Mile Lake. All vessels shall be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour when within 50 feet of another vessel that is not underway or is operating at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

37.97(1) No vessel, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be permitted in areas specifically designated for swimming and wading which are plainly marked by use of regulatory buoys. The Union County conservation board shall designate and maintain a swimming area(s) by the use of regulatory buoys approved by the commission.

37.97(2) No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated in marked bay areas at a speed greater than the limit designated by buoys or signs marking said bay. No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated other than at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour above a line of buoys placed across the lake at the point where County Road H33 intersects the lake.

37.97(3) No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated in restricted speed areas between the nearest shore and a line designated by regulatory buoys or signs at a speed greater than the limit designated on the buoys or signs marking the area. Such zoned areas shall be not less than 50 feet nor more than 400 feet from shore.

571—37.98(462A) Wapsipinicon River in Pinicon Ridge Park, Linn County. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than 5 miles per hour within the zoned area designated by regulatory buoys or signs on the off-channel waters of the Wapsipinicon River above the dam at Central City, Linn County. The zoned area will be the off-channel waters created in and adjacent to the developed recreation areas of the Pinicon Ridge Park on the west and south bank of the Wapsipinicon River above the dam at Central City, Linn County.

571—37.99(462A) Williamson Pond, Lucas County. Unrestricted-horsepower vessels may be operated at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour.

571—37.100(462A) Artificial marshes.

37.100(1) A motorboat equipped with any power unit mounted or carried aboard the vessel may be operated on the following listed artificial marshes under the jurisdiction of the department at a speed not greater than 5 miles per hour between January 1 and August 31 and with no speed restrictions between September 1 and December 31:

Bays Branch, Guthrie County

Big Marsh, Butler County

Brown's Slough, Lucas County

Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiek County

Dudgeon Lake, Benton County

Elk Creek Marsh, Worth County

Green Island, Jackson County

Hendrickson Marsh, Story County

Hooper Pond, Warren County

North Colyn, Lucas County

Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County

Princeton Area, Scott County

Riverton, Fremont County

Round Pond, Johnson County
South Colyn, Lucas County
Sweet Marsh, Bremer County
Walnut Creek Marsh, Ringgold County
Willow Slough, Mills County
Woodpecker Marsh, Wayne County

37.100(2) Coal Creek Marsh, Warren County. Restricted to vessels powered by electric motors only, and they shall not exceed 5 mph.

571—37.101(462A) Natural marshes. There shall be no horsepower limitations on vessels operated on natural marshes, except Shimon Marsh Wetland Complex, Pocahontas County, which is restricted to nonmotorized vessels only.

571—37.102(462A) Waterway markers. Waterway markers used on the waters of this state shall be as follows:

37.102(1) *Aids to navigation.*

a. A red buoy or sign that indicates that side of the channel to be kept to the right side of the vessel when entering the channel from the main water body or when proceeding upstream.

b. A green buoy or sign that indicates that side of the channel to be kept to the left of a vessel when entering the channel from the main water body or when proceeding upstream.

c. Buoys or signs described in 37.102 “*a*” and “*b*” above shall normally be used in pairs and only for the purpose of marking a clearly defined channel.

d. Red buoys and signs marking channels shall be identified with even numbers, and green buoys and signs marking channels shall be identified with odd numbers, the numbers increasing from the main water body or proceeding upstream.

e. Letters and numerals used with aids to navigation shall be white, in block characters of good proportion, and spaced in a manner that will provide maximum legibility. Such letters and numerals shall be at least six inches in height.

f. The shapes of aids to navigation shall be compatible with the shapes established by U.S. Coast Guard regulations for the equivalent U.S. Coast Guard aids to navigation. Where reflectorized materials are used, a red reflector will be used on a red buoy, and a green reflector on a green buoy.

37.102(2) *Regulatory markers.*

a. A diamond shape of international orange with white center indicates danger. The nature of the danger may be indicated by words or well-known abbreviations in black letters inside the diamond shape, or above or below it, or both, on white background.

b. A diamond shape of international orange with a cross of the same color within it against a white center without qualifying explanation indicates a zone from which all vessels are excluded.

c. A circle of international orange with white center indicates a control or restriction. The nature of the control or restriction shall be indicated by words, numerals, or well-known abbreviations in black letters inside the circle. Additional explanation may be given above or below it in black letters on white background.

d. A rectangular shape of international orange with white center indicates information, other than a danger, control or restriction, that may contribute to health, safety or well-being. The message will be presented within the rectangle in black letters.

e. Letters or numerals used with regulatory markers shall be black, in block characters of good proportion, spaced in a manner that will provide maximum legibility, and of a size that will provide the necessary degree of visibility.

571—37.103(462A) Authority to place markers.

37.103(1) No waterway marker shall be placed on, in, or near the waters of the state unless such placement is authorized by the agency or political subdivision of the state exercising jurisdiction, with respect to regulation of boating, over the area where placed, except that the provisions of this section shall not apply to private aids to navigation under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard.

37.103(2) Such agency or political subdivision of the state will, prior to authorizing placement, obtain the necessary clearances of federal and state agencies exercising regulatory authority over the area concerned.

37.103(3) The agency or political subdivision of the state authorizing the placement of a waterway marker will inform the department of the following:

- a. Exact location of the marker, expressed in distance and direction from one or more fixed objects whose precise location is known.
- b. The description and purpose of the marker including its identifying number, if any.

571—37.104(462A) Maintenance of waterway markers.

37.104(1) Waterway markers will be maintained in proper condition or be replaced or removed.

37.104(2) Zoned areas shall extend not less than 50 feet nor more than 400 feet from shore.

37.104(3) Buoys delineating the restricted speed zone shall be placed no more than 400 feet apart through the length of the affected portion of the channel.

571—37.105(462A) Display of waterway markers.

37.105(1) A waterway marker may be displayed as a sign or a fixed support, as a buoy bearing a symbol on its surface, or as a sign mounted on a buoy.

37.105(2) When a buoy is used to carry a symbol on its surface, it will be white, with bands of international orange on the top, and at the bottom above the water line.

37.105(3) A buoy whose sole purpose is to carry a sign above it will be marked with three bands of international orange alternating with two bands of white, each band occupying approximately one-fifth of the total area of the buoy above the water line, except where the sign itself carries orange bands; however, nothing in these rules shall be construed to prohibit the mounting of a sign on a buoy that has been placed for a purpose other than that of carrying a sign.

37.105(4) When symbols are placed on signs, a suitable white background may be used outside the symbol.

571—37.106(462A) Specifications for waterway markers.

37.106(1) The size of a display area shall be as required by circumstances, except that no display area shall be smaller than 1 foot in height. The size shall increase in increments of 6 inches; provided, however, that this specification for increase in increments shall not apply to markers in existence prior to the adoption of this rule.

37.106(2) The thickness of the symbol outline shall be one-tenth of the height of the display area.

37.106(3) The outside width of the diamond, the inner diameter of the circle, and the average of the inside and outside widths of a square shall be two-thirds of the display area height.

37.106(4) The sides of the diamond shall slope at a 35-degree angle from the vertical on a plane surface. Appropriate adjustments for curvature may be made when applied to a cylindrical surface.

37.106(5) Waterway markers shall be made of materials that will retain, despite weather and other exposures, the characteristics essential to their basic significance, such as color, shape, legibility and position. Reflectorized materials may be used.

571—37.107(462A) Mooring buoys and race course markers. For all waters under the jurisdiction of the commission, the following apply:

37.107(1) Mooring buoys shall be white with a 2-inch blue reflectorized band clearly visible above the water, extend a minimum of 12 inches above the surface of the water, and have at least 1 square foot of surface visible from any direction.

37.107(2) Placement of mooring buoys shall be within 250 feet of shore, except under certain circumstances the commission may require them to be placed at a lesser distance. Requirements for mooring buoys may be waived by the director under special circumstances.

37.107(3) Permanent race course marker buoys shall be white with a ball of international orange of at least 12 inches in diameter, extend a minimum of 2 feet above the surface of the water, be at least 16 inches in diameter, and be lighted during periods of low visibility and during the hours of darkness.

37.107(4) Markers such as mooring buoys and race course markers will be processed in the same manner as waterway markers, and authorization for their placement will be obtained from the agency or political

subdivision of the state exercising jurisdiction with respect to regulation of boating, and such agency or political subdivision will ensure that proper clearances for their placement are obtained from state and federal agencies exercising regulatory authority over the area concerned.

37.107(5) Such markers shall not be of a color, shape, configuration or marking that could result in their confusion with any federal or state aid to navigation or any state regulatory marker, and shall not be placed where they will obstruct navigation, cause confusion or constitute a hazard.

571—37.108(462A) Diver’s flag.

37.108(1) A diver’s flag shall, when displayed on the water, indicate the presence of a diver in the water in the immediate area.

37.108(2) Recognition of this flag by regulation will not be construed as conferring any rights or privileges on its users, and its presence in a water area will not be construed in itself as restricting the use of the water area so marked.

37.108(3) Operators of vessels will, however, exercise precaution commensurate with conditions indicated.

37.108(4) This flag shall be displayed only when diver activities are in progress, and its display in a water area when no diver activities are in progress in that area will constitute a violation of this rule and of Iowa Code chapter 462A.

DIVISION III
VESSEL OCCURRENCE REPORTING

571—37.109(462A) Accident report. In addition to provisions in Iowa Code section 462A.7, a written report is required in the case of loss of consciousness, disability in excess of 24 hours, and the disappearance of any person from onboard a vessel under circumstances that suggest any possibility of death or injury.

571—37.110(462A) Procedure. These reports shall be filed in writing within 48 hours of the accident with the department using forms provided by the department.

571—37.111(462A) Contents. The report shall include the information required in 33 CFR 173.57 (June 1, 2024).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321G.2, 321I.2, 462A.3, 462A.5, 462A.6A, 462A.7, 462A.9, 462A.11, 462A.12, 462A.13, 462A.15, 462A.16, 462A.17, 462A.19, 462A.20, 462A.24, 462A.26, 462A.31, 462A.32, 462A.36, and 456A.24.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 38.**

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 39.**

ITEM 5. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 40.**

ITEM 6. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 41.**

ITEM 7. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 42.**

ITEM 8. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 43.**

ITEM 9. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 45.**

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent*)

***21. Chapter 44, “Special Events and Fireworks Displays” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule for Chapter 44, “Vessel Safety and Registration.” This is the result of Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 44 provide rules on the issuance of permits for special events and fireworks displays held on public lands, waters, and ice of the state. The chapter allows for a balance with all user groups when scheduling special events and fireworks displays. Additionally, this chapter prevents the overuse, and potentially damaging use, of Iowa’s natural resources, including depleted fisheries. Excessive events on the water would create a safety hazard and harm to the public with increased boating accidents. Unmanaged fireworks displays would create excess debris in the water and on public lands and are potentially fire and public safety hazards.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8597C. Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Tammie Krausman, Chief
Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 44– Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 44, “Special Events and Fireworks Displays,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 321G.16, 321I.17, 461A.42, 462A.16 and 481A.38.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 321G.16, 321I.17, 461A.3, 461A.4, 461A.42, 462A.16, 481A.22 and 481A.38.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 44 provides rules on the issuance of permits for special events and fireworks displays held on public lands, waters, and ice of the state. The chapter allows for a balance with all user groups when scheduling special events and fireworks displays. Additionally, this chapter prevents the overuse, and potentially damaging use, of Iowa’s natural resources, including depleted fisheries. Excessive events on the water would create a safety hazard and harm to the public with increased boating accidents. Unmanaged fireworks displays would create excess debris in the water and on public lands and are potentially fire and public safety hazards. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8597C**.

Two virtual public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025. No one attended the hearings. No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 44 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 44

SPECIAL EVENTS AND FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

571—44.1(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Scope. The purpose of this chapter is to provide rules on the issuance of permits for special events and fireworks displays held on public land, waters, and ice of the state.

571—44.2(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

“Accredited postsecondary institution or program” means an institution or program listed in the U.S. Department of Education’s database of accredited postsecondary institutions and programs.

“Administrative processing fee” means the fee collected for the processing of each special event application that is submitted.

“All-terrain vehicle” or *“ATV”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1(1) “a.”

“Bass fishing tournament” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.39. For purposes of this chapter, “bass fishing tournament” is included in the definition of “special event” unless otherwise specified.

“Catfish fishing tournament” means an event with the purpose of fishing for catfish from boats that meets the definition of “fishing tournament.” For purposes of this chapter, “catfish fishing tournament” is included in the definition of “special event” unless otherwise specified.

“Centralized special events application system” means the web-based system used by applicants to submit applications for special events as permitted under this chapter. Approved

applications will be placed on a calendar of events web page, accessible from the department's homepage, to inform the general public of scheduled events on public, or when applicable, private, land, water, and ice.

“Department” means the Iowa department of natural resources.

“Field and retriever meet or trial” means the same as described in Iowa Code section 481A.22.

For purposes of this chapter, “field and retriever meet or trial” is included in the definition of “special event” unless otherwise specified.

“Fishing tournament” means any organized fishing event, except for department-sponsored fishing events held for educational purposes, involving any of the following: (1) six or more boats or 12 or more participants, except for waters of the Mississippi River, where the number of boats shall be 20 or more and the number of participants shall be 40 or more; (2) an entry fee is charged; or (3) prizes or other inducements are awarded. Additionally, a “virtual fishing tournament,” also known as a “catch-photo-release” tournament, is a fishing tournament where fish are not possessed (i.e., not placed in a live well) by the angler but instead are photographed and released upon catching. An “aggregated virtual fishing tournament” occurs when all participants are present on one body of water simultaneously. A “distributed virtual fishing tournament” occurs when participants are present on two or more bodies of water. Additionally, only five or fewer participants may be present on any one body of water simultaneously, and the tournament may occur over an extended time frame. For purposes of this chapter, “fishing tournament” is included in the definition of “special event” unless otherwise specified. “Friends group” means an organization incorporated under Iowa Code chapter 504 or prior statutory authority as a not-for-profit group which has been formed solely for the purpose of promoting and enhancing a

particular state park, recreation area, or the Iowa state park system, or any combination of the three.

“Off-road motorcycle” or *“ORM”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1(16).

“Off-road utility vehicle” or *“ORV”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1(17).

“Permit” means a document issued by the department that enumerates all stipulations, requirements, and contingencies that the applicant must accept and adhere to throughout the duration of the approved special event.

“Public land” means land under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission.

“Public water” means the same as “navigable waters” as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(22) and “waters of this state under the jurisdiction of the commission” as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(45).

“Sailing school” means an organization that provides basic and advanced sailing instruction by U.S. Sailing-certified instructors and is affiliated with a yacht club, an accredited postsecondary institution or program, a private or public primary or secondary school, a scouting organization, or a religious institution.

“Snowmobile” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1(26).

“Special event” means either of the following occurring on public land, water, or ice:

1. An organized race, tournament, exhibition, demonstration, or other planned event in which an admission fee is charged, prizes are awarded, or competition occurs between participants;
2. A planned event that, due to its nature, potential or actual size, or length, would likely adversely impact the use of the area by the public.

“*Vessel*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(40).

DIVISION I
SPECIAL EVENTS

571—44.3(321G,321I,461,462A,481A) Permit required. A permit is required in order to conduct a special event on any public land, water, or ice. A permit is also required for a field and retriever meet or trial held on private land.

571—44.4(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Permit conditions. The department may impose permit conditions not specifically covered herein as deemed necessary to protect the resource or to ensure public safety. Such conditions shall be included in the permit issued by the department.

44.4(1) *Use of concessionaire.* If the state park or recreation area where a special event is being held has a concessionaire, the sale of food or drinks shall be governed pursuant to 571—subrule 14.5(3). If a concessionaire chooses not to provide services during the special event, the event sponsor may bring in other concession operations as approved by the department.

44.4(2) *Special permit conditions for fishing tournaments.* In addition to permit conditions deemed necessary by rule 571—44.4(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A), the department may include some or all of the following permit conditions for fishing tournaments:

- a.* Release of live fish.
- b.* Fish measured to length and released from boat.
- c.* Multiple weigh-ins when water temperatures exceed 70°F.
- d.* Aerated live wells.
- e.* Designated release areas.
- f.* Designated release persons.

44.4(3) *Catfish fishing tournaments.* The daily catch limit for a catch and release catfish fishing tournament permitted under this chapter is five catfish per boat regardless of the number of tournament participants on the boat.

44.4(4) *Bass fishing tournaments.* In addition to permit conditions deemed necessary under the introductory paragraph of 571—44.4(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) or under 44.4(2), the permit conditions for bass fishing tournaments shall include those listed in Iowa Code section 483A.39(2).

571—44.5(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Application procedures. The following procedures shall be used to apply for a special event permit:

44.5(1) Applications are made and submitted through the department's centralized special events application system.

44.5(2) Applications—when submitted.

a. Events for the current year. Applications may be submitted anytime during the calendar year in which the special event is to begin but no later than 30 days prior to the special event.

b. Events for the next year. Applications for a special event that will start in the next calendar year shall not be submitted until 7 p.m. on September 1 of the current year.

44.5(3) The number of special events to be held at any area on the same day may be restricted if deemed necessary to avoid congestion within the area or to protect the resource.

44.5(4) One application form may be submitted for all events of the same type being held at the same location within a nine-day period and will be processed as a single application. A distributed virtual fishing tournament may extend beyond the nine-day period and need not be at a single location.

44.5(5) Submission of an application does not guarantee issuance of a permit.

44.5(6) Permits are nontransferable.

571—44.6(321G,321I,462A) Alternate dates for snowmobile, boating, all-terrain vehicle, off-road utility vehicle, and off-road motorcycle special events. An applicant may submit and the department may approve both a primary date and an alternate date for snowmobile, boating, ATV, ORM, and ORV special events. However, if both a primary date and an alternate date are approved, the primary date shall be used unless circumstances beyond the control of the applicant prevent its use. If the alternate date must be used for the event, the applicant shall contact the department representative at least one week in advance of the event date to obtain final approval to use the alternate date. The department representative shall document this approval in writing. Upon approval of an alternate date, the applicant shall notify the local conservation officer, and the department representative will update the calendar of events.

571—44.7(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Insurance coverage. The applicant shall secure liability insurance for the special event that names the department as an additional insured. Insurance information shall be available at the time the application is submitted. The applicant shall have a copy of the insurance policy available at the event location to present to department personnel if requested. These requirements do not apply to events sponsored by a friends group. The department reserves the right to waive these requirements on a case-by-case basis.

571—44.8(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Fees and exceptions.

44.8(1) The administrative fee for each special event application is \$25 plus a processing fee, except applications for field and retriever meets and trials, which are subject to the fee described in Iowa Code section 481A.22(1) “c.” The fees are nonrefundable.

44.8(2) The department will waive the administrative fee for processing special event applications for sailing schools; accredited postsecondary institutions and programs; private and

public primary and secondary schools; all department-approved watercraft education courses, ATV education courses, and snowmobile education courses; fishing clinics; friends groups; department-sponsored youth fishing days; and distributed virtual fishing tournaments.

571—44.9(321G,461A) Structures placed on ice during a special event. The following requirements apply to the placement, construction, or erection of structures on ice during a special event:

44.9(1) *Vendor information provided on application.* The applicant shall identify the names and addresses of any vendors who will be on site during the special event.

44.9(2) *Owner information.* The full name, street address, and city of the structure's owner shall be displayed legibly on all sides of the structure, in block letters at least four inches in height, and in a color contrasting to the background.

44.9(3) *Accessibility.* Structures cannot be locked when in use.

44.9(4) *Reflectors.* Reflectors shall be attached to all sides of the structure in such a manner to enable them to reflect light at all times from sunrise to sunset.

571—44.10(462A) Boating special events—registration exemptions.

44.10(1) A vessel entered in a boating special event shall not be required to be registered pursuant to Iowa Code sections 462A.4 and 462A.5 but shall be labeled with an identifying number or letter that is at least four inches high and is in a color contrasting to the vessel. The identifying number or letter shall be located in a prominent spot on the exterior of the vessel, other than on the bow.

44.10(2) The sponsor of the boating special event shall maintain a list containing:

- a. The names and addresses of all persons participating in the event.
- b. A description of and identifying number for each vessel in the event.

571—44.11(462A) Mississippi River or Missouri River. Upon notification and proof that a United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) permit has been secured, the department shall not require a special event application for fireworks displays or boating special events on the Mississippi River or the Missouri River. The regional U.S.C.G. office issuing permits for Mississippi River and Missouri River events is located in St. Louis, Missouri. This rule does not apply to fishing tournaments.

571—44.12(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Other requirements and permits. The applicant for a permit is responsible for ensuring full compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapters 321G, 321I, 461A, 462A, and 481A and any other Iowa Code chapters and rules promulgated under those chapters that may be applicable to special events. The applicant shall also acquire and comply with all applicable state and local permits issued by other state and local agencies necessary to hold the special event.

571—44.13(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Authority to cancel or stop a special event. If a peace officer or any department employee determines that a permit is being violated or that safety concerns warrant canceling or stopping the special event, the peace officer or department employee has the authority to cancel or stop the special event.

571—44.14(321G,321I,461A,462A,481A) Nonexclusive use of area. Issuance of a permit does not grant the applicant exclusive use of the public land, water, or ice that is the subject of the permit unless the permit explicitly provides otherwise.

DIVISION II

FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

571—44.15(461A) Entities eligible for permits. Permits for fireworks displays shall be issued only to qualified entities, such as political subdivisions of the state of Iowa, and to community or civic organizations. Permits shall not be issued to individuals. Permits are not transferable to another entity and do not relieve the sponsoring entity from obtaining any other permits required by the state or its political subdivisions.

571—44.16(461A) Permit conditions. The department may impose permit conditions not specifically required in these rules for any fireworks display special event as deemed necessary to protect the resource or ensure public safety. Conditions shall be included in the permit that the applicant or sponsoring organization receives if the event is approved.

571—44.17(461A) Application procedures. The following procedures shall be used to apply for a permit:

44.17(1) Applications shall be made and submitted through the department's centralized special events application system.

44.17(2) Applications—when submitted.

a. Events for current year. Applications may be submitted anytime during the calendar year in which the fireworks display is to begin but no later than 30 days prior to the display.

b. Events for the next year. Applications for a fireworks display that will start in the next calendar year may be submitted beginning at 7 p.m. on September 1 of the current year.

44.17(3) The number of fireworks displays or other special events at any one public land, water or ice location during a given day may be restricted if deemed necessary to avoid congestion with the public or competing events and to protect the resource.

44.17(4) The applicant shall certify in the application that the fireworks display shall be conducted by a competent operator. The location of the display shall be determined by the department representative in charge of the area.

44.17(5) Submission of an application does not guarantee issuance of a permit by the department.

571—44.18(461A) Fireworks display procedures.

44.18(1) The sponsoring entity shall take adequate safety precautions to ensure that persons not actively involved in conducting the display remain a safe distance from the firing area and any areas containing set pieces.

44.18(2) The department representative in charge of the area in which the display is conducted or any state peace officer may halt any display when the character, location, weather, or firing of the display makes it hazardous to property or dangerous to any person.

44.18(3) Any fireworks that remain unfired after the display is concluded shall be immediately disposed of by the operator or the sponsoring entity in a manner that is safe for the particular type of fireworks.

44.18(4)

The sponsoring entity shall make arrangements for firefighting equipment and emergency medical services to be on the scene at all times during the firing of the display.

44.18(5) The sponsoring entity is totally responsible for cleanup of the fireworks display site at the conclusion of the display.

571—44.19(461A) Fees. A nonrefundable administrative fee of \$25 plus a processing fee shall be charged for each fireworks display application.

571—44.20(461A) Insurance. The sponsoring entity for a fireworks display shall provide proof of liability insurance naming the applicant and the department as an additional insured in the sum of not less than \$1 million. The department may, at its discretion, require a greater amount. Insurance information shall be available at the time the application is submitted.

571—44.21(461A) Concessions. If the state park or recreation area has a concessionaire on site, sales of food and other items during the display shall be governed pursuant to 571—subrule 14.5(3). If a concessionaire chooses not to provide services during the event, the sponsoring entity may then bring in other concession operations as approved by the department.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321G.16, 321I.17, 461A.3, 461A.4, 461A.42, 461A.47, 461A.57, 462A.16, 481A.22, and 481A.38.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

46. Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicles, Off-Road Motorcycles and Off-Road Utility Vehicles” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicles, Off-Road Motorcycles and Off-Road Utility Vehicles.” This is the result of Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 46 describes the requirements for registration, renewal, operation, and accident reporting for all-terrain vehicles, off-road utility vehicles, and off-road motorcycles. The chapter also regulates dealers that sell off-highway vehicles and describes regulations for designated riding areas.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8598C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: One comment was received during the public comment period to request the county recorder fee be updated to reflect a recent legislative change. The comment was considered and included in the final rule. Additionally, the City of Waterloo changed the official name of Riverview Recreation Area to Paul Huting Recreation Area. The rule was updated to the new name.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicles, Off-Road Motorcycles and Off-Road Utility Vehicles” – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 46, “All-Terrain Vehicles, Off-Road Motorcycles and Off-Road Utility Vehicles.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 321I.2.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 321I.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 46 describes the requirements for registration, renewal, operation, and accident reporting for all-terrain vehicles, off-road utility vehicles, and off-road motorcycles. The chapter also regulates dealers that sell off-highway vehicles and describes regulations for designated riding areas. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8598C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings. One comment was received during the public comment period to request the county recorder fee be updated to reflect a recent legislative change. The requested change is included in the final rule. Additionally, the City of Waterloo changed the official name of Riverview Recreation Area to Paul Huting Recreation Area. The rule was updated to the new name. No other changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 46 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 46

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES AND
OFF-ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES

DIVISION I

REGISTRATION, RENEWAL, TITLING, DECAL PLACEMENT AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

571—46.1(321I) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

“All-terrain vehicle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“A scale” means the physical scale marked “A” and graduated in decibels on a sound level meter that meets the requirements of the American National Standards Institute, Incorporated, publication S1.4-2014, Electroacoustics—Sound Level Meters.

“Commission” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Designated riding area” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Designated riding trail” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Off-road motorcycle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Off-road utility vehicle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Operator” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Owner” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Public land” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Regulated vehicle” means all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, and off-road utility vehicles, either collectively or individually.

“Roadway” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

571—46.2(321I) Off-road motorcycles.

46.2(1) Off-road motorcycles shall be subject to the following:

- a. Registration requirements of this chapter; and
- b. Titling requirements of this chapter, if a title has not previously been issued under Iowa Code chapter 321.

46.2(2) An operator of an off-road motorcycle is subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 321I and this chapter, except that the operator is exempt from the safety instruction and certification program requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321I.

571—46.3(321I) Off-road utility vehicles.

46.3(1) An owner of an off-road utility vehicle operating the off-road utility vehicle on public land or ice, a designated riding area, or a designated riding trail shall register the off-road utility vehicle in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 321I and this chapter.

46.3(2) An operator of an off-road utility vehicle is subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 321.234A and chapter 321I and this chapter, except that the operator is exempt from the safety instruction and certification program requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321I.

571—46.4(321I) Operation on roadways, highways, streets, and snowmobile trails. A person shall not operate a regulated vehicle upon roadways, highways, streets, or snowmobile trails except as provided in Iowa Code sections 321.234A and 321I.10.

NOTE: Additional driving and operation limitations are listed in Iowa Code section 321I.14.

571—46.5(321I) Registration for regulated vehicles.

46.5(1) General. A person shall not operate, maintain, or give permission for the operation or maintenance of a regulated vehicle on public land, a designated riding area, a designated riding trail, or ice unless the regulated vehicle:

- a. Is registered in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321I and this chapter;
- b. Displays a current nonresident user permit decal issued as provided in 571—46.6(321I); or
- c. Is exempt from registration pursuant to Iowa Code section 321I.9.

46.5(2) Registration requirements.

a. The owner of each regulated vehicle required to be registered shall file an application for registration with the department through a county recorder and pay all applicable fees pursuant to Iowa Code section 321I.4 and these rules, except that a dealer of regulated vehicles shall make application and pay all applicable registration and title fees on behalf of a purchaser of a regulated vehicle.

(1) Application forms. Applications for registration shall be made on forms provided by the department. In the event the applicant does not have required documentation, the applicant may be required to secure a bond consistent with the requirements of 571—Chapter 50.

(2) Fees. The applicant shall pay the following fees: \$15 for the permit fee; \$2 for the writing fee; and \$1.50 for the administrative fee.

b. At such time the department or the county recorder is satisfied with the application and has received the required fees, the department or county recorder shall issue to the applicant a registration certificate and registration decal.

46.5(3) Preregistration grace period.

a. *Dealer purchases.* An unregistered regulated vehicle sold by a dealer to an Iowa resident for use in Iowa shall bear a card that includes the words “registration applied for” and the date of purchase. Such card shall entitle the purchaser to

operate the regulated vehicle for 45 days immediately following the purchase. The purchaser shall place this card on the rear of the all-terrain vehicle or off-road utility vehicle and the steering yoke of an off-road motorcycle in a position so as to be clearly visible at all times and maintained in a legible manner. The operator of any regulated vehicle displaying a “registration applied for” card described in this paragraph shall carry and provide upon request to any peace officer a valid bill of sale for the regulated vehicle.

b. Nondealer purchases. Regulated vehicles may be sold by nondealers, and the registration grace period may apply depending on the current registration of the vehicle.

(1) A regulated vehicle that is currently registered in the state of Iowa may be legally operated for 30 days before it is registered under the purchaser’s name.

(2) A regulated vehicle not currently registered in the state of Iowa shall not be operated until it is titled and registered in the purchaser’s name. Valid registration in another state does not authorize preregistration operation.

46.5(4) *Registration—renewals.* Every regulated vehicle registration certificate and registration decal expires at midnight December 31 of the year issued or at the time specified on the registration decal. Applications for renewal shall be completed pursuant to Iowa Code section 321I.7.

571—46.6(321I) Nonresident user permits.

46.6(1) A nonresident wishing to operate a regulated vehicle, other than such vehicle owned by a resident and registered pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 321I, on public land, a designated riding area, a designated riding trail, or ice of this state must first obtain a user permit from the department.

46.6(2) The department, a county recorder or license agent designated by the director may issue nonresident user permits. The applicant shall pay the following fees for a user permit: \$15 for the permit fee, \$2 for a writing fee, and \$1.50 for an administrative fee.

46.6(3) A nonresident user permit issued under this rule shall be valid for the calendar year or time period specified in the permit and be limited to the vehicle specified at the time of application.

46.6(4) Nonresident user permits are issued to a vehicle and are not transferable.

571—46.7(321I) Display of registration and nonresident user permit decals. The owner shall display the registration decal or nonresident user permit decal as follows:

46.7(1) *All-terrain vehicle.* The decal shall be affixed to the rear of the all-terrain vehicle so that the decal is clearly visible.

46.7(2) *Off-road motorcycle.* The decal shall be affixed to the steering yoke in such a manner that the decal does not cover up the vehicle identification number and is clearly visible.

46.7(3) *Off-road utility vehicle.* The decal shall be affixed to the rear of the vehicle so that the decal is clearly visible.

571—46.8(321I) Registration certificate.

46.8(1) An operator of a regulated vehicle shall carry the registration certificate either in such vehicle or on the person of the operator when the regulated vehicle is in use.

46.8(2) The operator of a regulated vehicle shall exhibit the registration certificate to all of the following:

- a.* To a peace officer or department personnel upon request;
- b.* To a person injured in an accident involving the regulated vehicle, or that person's agent;
- c.* To the owner or operator of another regulated vehicle when the regulated vehicle is involved in a collision or accident with the other regulated vehicle, or that person's agent;
- d.* To the owner of personal or real property when the regulated vehicle is involved in a collision or accident with the property of the other person, or that person's agent; and
- e.* To the property owner or tenant when the regulated vehicle is being operated on private property without permission from the property owner or tenant, or that person's agent.

571—46.9(321I) Owner's certificate of title. The owner of a regulated vehicle acquired on or after January 1, 2000, other than an all-terrain vehicle or an off-road utility vehicle used exclusively as a farm implement or an off-road motorcycle previously issued a title pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 321, shall apply to the county recorder of the county in which the owner resides for a certificate of title for the regulated vehicle. The owner shall make application within 30 days after acquisition of the regulated vehicle, using forms provided by the department, and shall include the required fees set out in Iowa Code section 321I.32.

571—46.10(321I) Procedures for application and for issuance of a vehicle identification number (VIN) for homebuilt regulated vehicles.

46.10(1) A person, other than a manufacturer, who constructs or rebuilds a regulated vehicle for which there is no legible VIN may make application to the department on forms provided by the department for the issuance of a new VIN. The application process shall include an inspection of the regulated vehicle by the department. If the application is approved, the VIN shall be affixed to the vehicle by a peace officer. The completed application shall then be surrendered to the county recorder.

46.10(2) The peace officer shall permanently affix the VIN as follows:

a. All-terrain vehicle. The VIN shall be affixed to the frame under the seat.

b. Off-road motorcycle. The VIN shall be affixed to the steering yoke.

c. Off-road utility vehicle. The VIN shall be affixed to the frame under the seat.

571—46.11(321I) Accident report.

46.11(1) Whenever any regulated vehicle is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person or property damage amounting to \$1,500 or more, the operator or a person acting for the operator shall immediately notify the county sheriff or another law enforcement agency in the state.

46.11(2) If the accident occurred on public land, a designated riding area, a designated riding trail, or ice under the jurisdiction of the commission, the operator shall file a report of the accident with the department within 72 hours. The report shall be on forms provided by the department.

46.11(3) Accidents other than those specified in 46.11(2) shall be reported as required in Iowa Code section 321.266.

571—46.12(321I) Sound level limitation. No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle or off-road motorcycle that is constructed or altered in a manner that noise emitted from the all-terrain vehicle or off-road motorcycle exceeds 96 decibels on the A scale when measured in the manner prescribed in the revised 2017-04, Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J1287, titled “Measurement of Exhaust Sound Pressure Levels of Stationary Motorcycles.”

DIVISION II

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE DEALERS

571—46.13(321I) Purpose. The rules in this division apply to registered regulated vehicle dealers, manufacturers, and distributors. These rules establish minimum standards for dealers as authorized under Iowa Code section 321I.22(9).

571—46.14(321I) Definitions. For purposes of this division, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Dealer*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“*Distributor*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“*Engaged in the business,*” or similar wording, means doing any of the following acts for the purpose of selling all-terrain vehicles at retail: acquiring, selling, exchanging, holding, offering, displaying, brokering, accepting on consignment or conducting a retail auction, or acting as an agent for the purpose of doing any of these acts. A person selling at retail more than five regulated vehicles during a 12-month period may be presumed to be engaged in the business.

“Established place of business” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Manufacturer” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Manufacturer’s certificate of origin” means a certification signed by the manufacturer, distributor or importer that the regulated vehicle described has been transferred to the person or dealer named, and that the transfer is the first transfer of the vehicle in ordinary trade and commerce. A manufacturer’s certificate of origin may also be referred to as a manufacturer’s statement of origin.

571—46.15(321I) Dealer’s established place of business. A dealer’s established place of business shall include phone service and an adequate office area for keeping business records, manufacturers’ certificates of origin, certificates of title or other evidence of ownership for regulated vehicles offered for sale.

571—46.16(321I) Zoning. Dealers licensed under these rules must comply with applicable local zoning ordinances. Upon request by the department, a dealer shall provide to the department written evidence, issued by the office responsible for the enforcement of zoning ordinances in the city or county where the dealer’s established place of business is located, that the dealer’s established place of business complies with all applicable zoning provisions.

571—46.17(321I) Sales tax permit. A dealer shall provide to the department written evidence that the dealer has obtained a sales tax permit issued by the department of revenue.

571—46.18(321I) Special registration certificates for manufacturers, distributors, and dealers.

46.18(1) A manufacturer, distributor, or dealer owning a regulated vehicle required to be registered under Iowa Code chapter 321I and this chapter may operate the unregistered regulated vehicle for purposes of transporting, testing, demonstrating, or selling it if both of the following requirements are met:

a. The manufacturer, distributor, or dealer obtains from the department a special registration certificate containing a general identification number in accordance with Iowa Code section 321I.22. An application for a special registration certificate shall be submitted on forms provided by the department; and

b. The manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has the assigned identification number printed upon or attached to a removable sign that is temporarily but firmly attached to the regulated vehicle being used.

46.18(2) If a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has an established place of business in more than one location, the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer shall obtain from the department a separate and distinct special registration certificate and general identification number for each place of business.

46.18(3) Duplicate special registration certificates may be obtained pursuant to the conditions set forth in Iowa Code section 321I.22.

571—46.19(321I) Information provided to purchaser. At the time of sale, a dealer shall provide all purchasers of all-terrain vehicles with information on how to access the department's website. The department shall provide regulations related to regulated vehicle use. Information provided on the department's website shall be deemed current information for purposes of this rule.

571—46.20(321I) Right of inspection. The department or any peace officer has the authority to inspect the following at any dealer location: (1) regulated vehicles or component parts of vehicles, (2) business records, and (3) manufacturers' certificates of origin, certificates of title and other evidence of ownership for regulated vehicles offered for sale. The department has the right at any time to verify compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements by a dealer registered under Iowa Code chapter 321I.

571—46.21(321I) Denial or revocation. The department may deny a dealer application or revoke a dealer registration certificate when the director determines the applicant or dealer has violated any rule of this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 321I or when continuation of the permit is not in the public interest. Such denial or revocation shall become effective upon a date specified in the notice. The notice shall state the extent of the denial or revocation and the reasons for the action. Within 30 days following receipt of the notice of a revocation or denial, the applicant or dealer, whichever is applicable, may file a notice of appeal, requesting a contested case pursuant to 561—Chapter 7. The notice of appeal shall specify the basis for requesting that the permit be issued or reinstated.

DIVISION III

REGULATION OF DESIGNATED RIDING AREAS

571—46.22(321I) Definitions. In addition to the definitions in division I and division II of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

“Direct supervision” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Local sponsor” means the entity that owns the designated riding area or is otherwise responsible for the day-to-day operations of the designated riding area. A local sponsor may or may not be a unit of government.

“Operate” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

571—46.23(321I) Designated riding areas.

46.23(1) Designated riding areas shall be considered to be public land, available and open to the public to use consistent with these rules.

46.23(2) The following areas are hereby established as designated riding areas:

- a.* Bluff Creek OHV Park, Mahaska County.
- b.* Lakeview OHV Park, Johnson County.
- c.* Gypsum City OHV Park, Webster County.
- d.* Nicholson-Ford OHV Park, Marshall County.
- e.* Rathbun OHV Park, Appanoose County.
- f.* River Valley OHV Park, Pottawattamie County.
- g.* Paul Huting Recreation Area, Black Hawk County.
- h.* Tama County OHV Park, Tama County.

46.23(3) A local sponsor may request that the commission adopt the local sponsor's riding area as a designated riding area by contacting the department in writing and providing information, as requested by the department, that demonstrates that the local sponsor's proposed designated riding area meets the minimum qualifications described in these rules. All studies or surveys required by these rules shall be at the local sponsor's expense. The department may require additional surveys or studies and conduct an on-site evaluation for each proposed designated riding area to determine whether the department should recommend that the commission adopt the proposed area as a designated riding area. The commission may adopt additional designated riding areas that meet the following minimum qualifications:

- a.* The site and plan for development and management is suitable for off-highway vehicle recreation. The department shall consider sites that were previously disturbed areas, such as agricultural lands, mining operations, road surfaces or other intensive land uses that have resulted in the elimination of high-quality natural areas, native plant communities, critical habitats and cultural resources.
- b.* There is demand for the proposed designated riding area. Consideration shall be given to nearby populations, distance to other OHV facilities, partnership possibilities and local support.
- c.* The local sponsor, through a letter of support, demonstrates a willingness and ability to maintain the proposed designated riding area consistent with these rules.

d. There is evidence that adjacent property owners, including those within the viewshed and within earshot of the proposed designated riding area, that exist at the time of establishment have been notified of the plan and their concerns have been addressed.

e. The proposed development and management of the proposed designated riding area comply with local, state or federal laws.

f. Any federal- or state-listed threatened or endangered species are identified and a plan to ensure that the development and management of the proposed designated riding area would not negatively impact those species is included.

g. Any cultural, historical or high-quality natural resources on the site are identified and a plan to ensure that the development and management of the proposed designated riding area would not negatively impact those resources is included. High-quality areas include those areas of high-quality native plant communities, highly restorable native plant communities or other areas that provide critical wildlife habitat. In addition, if a site contains fragments of high-quality areas, but has been determined by the commission as suitable for use as a designated riding area, the local sponsor shall include in the plan how it will protect and enhance those fragments.

46.23(4) Designated riding areas approved by the commission shall be subject to these rules and shall be managed according to the plan approved by the commission. Major modifications to the plan, including expansions, must be approved by the commission for the designated riding area to continue to be a recognized designated riding area under these rules.

571—46.24(321I) Department law enforcement at designated riding areas. A local sponsor may request that the department provide law enforcement and other management assistance and oversight at the designated riding area, including adjacent parking and unloading areas, and at camping areas if applicable. The department, in its sole discretion, may provide such law enforcement and other management assistance and oversight it deems appropriate, provided that the local sponsor and the department enter into a written agreement describing what role and responsibilities the department shall have at the designated riding area and affording the department the right to terminate such agreement at any time, for any reason.

571—46.25(321I) General rules for regulated vehicle operation in designated riding areas. Operation on designated riding areas is limited to regulated vehicles as defined in this chapter and as described below:

46.25(1) *Allowable vehicles.* Persons shall operate only the vehicles allowed at a designated riding area that is signed as open for the specified vehicle.

46.25(2) *Compliance with signs.* Persons at designated riding areas shall comply with all signs erected and maintained by the local sponsor or the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I).

46.25(3) *Hours of operation.* Designated riding areas shall be open from sunrise to sunset. There may be instances when operating regulated vehicles in dark conditions is permissible. In those instances, persons operating regulated vehicles between sunset and sunrise, or in otherwise dark conditions, in designated riding areas must have headlights and taillights equipped on their regulated vehicles and use such lights.

46.25(4) *Registration required.* A person shall not operate, maintain, or give permission for the operation or maintenance of a regulated vehicle in a designated riding area unless the regulated vehicle is registered and such registration is displayed in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 321I and these rules. This requirement includes nonresidents operating regulated vehicles in a designated riding area who are required to have nonresident user permits for their regulated vehicles.

46.25(5) *Safety equipment required.* All operators and their passengers shall wear helmets while operating a regulated vehicle on a designated riding area, including parking and unloading areas. The local sponsor, or the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I), may post signs that require operators to wear additional safety gear depending on conditions.

46.25(6) *Working brakes.* Every regulated vehicle operated in a designated riding area, including parking and unloading areas, shall be equipped with working brakes.

46.25(7) *Minors—supervision.* A person under 12 years of age shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle or an off-road motorcycle on a designated riding area unless one of the following applies:

- a.* The person is taking an education training course, and the operation of the vehicle is under the direct supervision of a certified education instructor.
- b.* The operation is under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian of at least 18 years of age who is experienced in all-terrain vehicle or off-road motorcycle operation and who possesses a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1.

571—46.26(321I) Unauthorized vehicles. The local sponsor, or the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I), may tow unauthorized vehicles, including hauling equipment. Towing shall be at the owner's expense.

571—46.27(321I) Parking and unloading areas. All vehicles, other than regulated vehicles, and trailers shall be parked in designated parking areas. No such vehicles, other than regulated vehicles, shall be left unattended in any park drive access point, unloading area, road or highway, except in the case of an emergency.

571—46.28(321I) Operation with passengers.

46.28(1) Persons shall not operate regulated vehicles on designated riding areas with a passenger unless the regulated vehicle is designed and constructed according to the manufacturer's specifications to carry a passenger. Passengers shall not ride on regulated vehicles that have been modified from the manufacturer's original design and construction to carry a passenger.

46.28(2) A person shall not operate a regulated vehicle in a designated riding area with a passenger without possession of a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1.

46.28(3) The number of passengers on a regulated vehicle in a designated riding area shall not exceed the manufacturer's capacity recommendation and shall not exceed the number of passenger restraints originally installed by the manufacturer.

46.28(4) A passenger on an all-terrain vehicle or off-road motorcycle must be seated behind the operator and have the physical ability to securely hold on to the operator or passenger handles.

46.28(5) Passengers on an off-road utility vehicle must be able to place both feet flat on the floor boards with their backs resting against the seat back.

571—46.29(321I) Off-road utility vehicle requirements. The following additional restrictions apply to the operation of off-road utility vehicle operation in designated riding areas signed open to such use:

46.29(1) Driver's license required. A person shall not operate an off-road utility vehicle in a designated riding area without possession of a valid driver's license as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1.

46.29(2) Vehicles shall not be homebuilt or substantially modified from the manufacturer's specifications in the sole opinion of a peace officer.

46.29(3) Vehicles must be equipped with a roll-over protection system (ROPS) installed by the manufacturer.

46.29(4) Vehicles must be equipped with manufacturer seat belts or equivalent that are in good working order. The operator and all passengers must wear seat belts at all times the vehicle is in motion.

46.29(5) The operator and all passengers must keep their hands, arms, legs, and feet inside the vehicle at all times the vehicle is in motion.

46.29(6) The vehicle must be no wider than 65 inches.

571—46.30(321I) Youth operational areas. The local sponsor, or the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I), may establish areas for youth all-terrain vehicle and off-road motorcycle operation on designated riding areas, may restrict the age of the operator and the size of the all-terrain vehicle, may limit the engine displacement for both all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles, and shall post such restrictions.

571—46.31(321I) Unlawful operation. A person shall not operate a regulated vehicle in any of the following instances:

46.31(1) At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under all existing circumstances or greater than the posted speed, whichever is less. In no event shall a person operate any vehicle in a parking area of or adjacent to a designated riding area in excess of five miles per hour.

46.31(2) In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto.

46.31(3) While under the influence of intoxicating substances or narcotics or habit-forming drugs.

46.31(4) Without a lighted headlight and taillight from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

46.31(5) Off established or marked trails or in prohibited areas.

46.31(6) In violation of official signs posted by the local sponsor or by the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I).

46.31(7) If the person's license to operate a motor vehicle is under suspension, revocation, bar, disqualification, cancellation or denial by this state or any other state.

571—46.32(321I) Alcohol prohibited. Persons shall not consume or possess alcohol in designated riding areas, except that the consumption and possession of alcohol shall be permitted at designated camping areas.

571—46.33(321I) Pets. Pets shall not be permitted in designated riding areas, except for parking and camping areas, if any.

571—46.34(321I) Camping. Camping shall not be permitted in designated riding areas, except for areas specifically designed for and identified by the local sponsor, or the department consistent with its relationship to the local sponsor under 571—46.53(321I), for such use. In such instances, camping rules shall be posted in such areas.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 321I.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

23. Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles.” This is the result of Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 47 sets forth the rules for registration, renewal, titling, decal placement, and accident reporting for snowmobiles. It also describes the process for dealer registration. This chapter was edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). In addition, this rulemaking also implements 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2423, which requires nonresidents to obtain a nonresident user permit prior to engaging in recreational snowmobile activities on public land, public ice, or designated snowmobile trails in this state.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8603C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: Four comments were received during the public comment period. Three comments were not germane to the current rulemaking effort. One comment requested to update the county recorder fee to reflect a recent legislative change and was included in the final rule.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles” – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 47, “Snowmobiles.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 321G.2 and 321G.21.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 321G and 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2423.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 47 sets forth the rules for registration, renewal, titling, decal placement, and accident reporting for snowmobiles. It also describes the process for dealer registration. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). This rulemaking also implements 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2423, which requires nonresidents to obtain a nonresident user permit prior to engaging in recreational snowmobile activities on public land, public ice, or designated snowmobile trails in this state.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8603C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings. Four comments were received during the public comment period. Three comments were not germane to the current rulemaking effort. One comment requested to update the county recorder fee to reflect a recent legislative change. This change was made in the final rule. No other changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 47 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 47

SNOWMOBILES

DIVISION I

REGISTRATION, RENEWAL, TITLING, DECAL PLACEMENT AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

571—47.1(321G) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall mean the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1:

“Commission”

“Department”

“Operator”

“Public land”

“Roadway”

“Snowmobile”

571—47.2(321G) Operation on roadways, highways, streets and snowmobile trails. A person shall not operate a snowmobile upon roadways, highways, streets, or designated snowmobile trails except as provided in Iowa Code section 321G.9.

NOTE: Additional driving and operation limitations are listed in Iowa Code section 321G.13.

571—47.3(321G) Registration for snowmobiles.

47.3(1) General. A person shall not operate, maintain, or give permission for the operation or maintenance of a snowmobile on public land, a designated snowmobile trail, or ice unless the snowmobile:

- a.* Is registered in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321G and this chapter;
- b.* Displays a current nonresident user permit decal issued as provided in 571—47.4(321G); or
- c.* Is exempt from registration pursuant to Iowa Code section 321G.8.

47.3(2) Registration requirements.

a. The owner of each snowmobile required to be registered shall file an application for registration with the department through a county recorder and pay all applicable fees pursuant to Iowa Code section 321G.4 and these rules, except that a snowmobile dealer shall make application and pay all applicable registration and title fees on behalf of a purchaser of a snowmobile.

(1) Application forms. Applications for registration shall be made on forms provided by the department. In the event the applicant does not have the required documentation, the applicant may be required to secure a bond consistent with the requirements of 571—Chapter 50.

(2) Fees. The applicant shall pay the following fees: \$30 for the registration fee; \$2 for the writing fee; and \$1.50 for the administrative fee.

b. At such time the department or the county recorder is satisfied with the application and has received the required fees, the department or county recorder shall issue to the applicant a registration certificate and registration decal.

47.3(3) Preregistration grace period.

a. Dealer purchases. An unregistered snowmobile sold by a dealer to an Iowa resident for use in Iowa shall bear a card made of cardstock or other similar material that includes the words “registration applied for” and the date of purchase. Such card shall entitle the purchaser to operate the snowmobile for 45 days immediately following the purchase. The purchaser shall place this card on the windshield area of the snowmobile in a position so as to be clearly visible at all times and maintained in a legible manner. The operator of any snowmobile displaying a “registration applied for” card described in this paragraph shall carry and provide upon request to any peace officer a valid bill of sale for the snowmobile.

b. Nondealer purchases. Snowmobiles may be sold by nondealers, and the registration grace period may apply depending on the current registration of the vehicle.

(1) A snowmobile that is currently registered in the state of Iowa may be legally operated for 30 days before it is registered under the purchaser’s name.

(2) A snowmobile not currently registered in the state of Iowa shall not be operated until it is titled and registered in the purchaser’s name. Valid registration in another state does not authorize preregistration operation.

47.3(4) Registration—renewals. Every snowmobile registration certificate and registration decal expires at midnight December 31 of the year issued or at the time specified on the registration decal. Applications for renewal shall be completed pursuant to Iowa Code section 321G.6.

571—47.4(321G) Nonresident user permits.

47.4(1) A nonresident wishing to operate a snowmobile, other than such vehicle owned by a resident and registered pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 321G, on public land, a designated snowmobile trail, or ice of this state must first obtain a nonresident user permit from the department.

47.4(2) The department, a county recorder or license agent designated by the director may issue nonresident user permits. The applicant shall pay the following fees for a user permit: \$15 for the permit fee; \$2 for a writing fee; and \$1.50 for an administrative fee.

47.4(3) A user permit issued under this rule shall be valid for the calendar year or time period specified in the permit and shall be limited to the vehicle specified at the time of application.

47.4(4) Nonresident user permits are issued to a vehicle and are not transferable.

571—47.5(321G) Display of registration and nonresident user permit decals. The owner of a snowmobile shall display the registration decal or nonresident user permit decal on the windshield of the snowmobile so that the decal is clearly

visible. If the snowmobile does not have a windshield, then the decal shall be affixed to the area of the hood near the headlamp so that the decal is clearly visible.

571—47.6(321G) Registration certificate.

47.6(1) An operator of a snowmobile shall carry the registration certificate either in such vehicle or on the person of the operator when the snowmobile is in use.

47.6(2) The operator of a snowmobile shall exhibit the registration certificate to all of the following:

- a.* To a peace officer or department personnel upon request;
- b.* To a person injured in an accident involving the snowmobile, or that person's agent;
- c.* To the owner or operator of another snowmobile when the snowmobile is involved in a collision or accident with the other snowmobile, or that person's agent;
- d.* To the owner of personal or real property when the snowmobile is involved in a collision or accident with the property of the other person, or that person's agent; and
- e.* To the property owner or tenant when the snowmobile is being operated on private property without permission from the property owner or tenant, or that person's agent.

571—47.7(321G) Owner's certificate of title.

47.7(1) The owner of a snowmobile acquired on or after January 28, 1998, other than a snowmobile used exclusively as a farm implement or a previously registered snowmobile that is more than 30 years old, shall apply to the county recorder of the county in which the owner resides for a certificate of title for the snowmobile. The owner shall make application within 30 days after acquisition of the snowmobile, using forms provided by the department, and shall include the required fees set out in Iowa Code section 321G.30.

47.7(2) A certificate of title issued by the county recorder shall be on forms provided by the department.

571—47.8(321G) Procedures for application and for issuance of a vehicle identification number (VIN) for homebuilt snowmobiles.

47.8(1) A person, other than a manufacturer, who constructs or rebuilds a snowmobile for which there is no legible VIN may make application to the department on forms provided by the department for the issuance of a new VIN. The application process shall include an inspection of the snowmobile by the department. If the application is approved, the VIN shall be affixed to the vehicle by a peace officer. The completed application shall then be surrendered to the county recorder.

47.8(2) The peace officer shall permanently affix the VIN to the frame under the seat of the snowmobile.

571—47.9(321G) Accident report.

47.9(1) Whenever any snowmobile is involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to anyone or property damage amounting to \$1,500 or more, the operator or someone acting for the operator shall immediately notify the county sheriff or another law enforcement agency of the state.

47.9(2) If the accident occurred on public land, a designated snowmobile trail, or ice under the jurisdiction of the commission, the operator shall file a report of the accident with the department within 72 hours. The report shall be on forms provided by the department.

47.9(3) Accidents other than those specified in 47.9(2) shall be reported as required in Iowa Code section 321.266.

571—47.10(321G) Snowmobile fee grants, cost-share programs, and contracts. The department shall transfer, via contract, at least 70 percent of snowmobile fees to a political subdivision or an incorporated private organization for distribution through snowmobile-related grants, cost-share agreements, or contracts consistent with Iowa Code section 321G.7(2). Terms of this contract shall, at a minimum, direct the receiving party to identify and make publicly available grant, cost-share program, and contract eligibility and selection criteria; accounting, auditing, and reporting requirements; termination terms; and unspent money repayment processes. Any contract entered into pursuant to this rule shall be available upon request from department snowmobile program staff.

DIVISION II

SNOWMOBILE DEALERS

571—47.11(321G) Purpose. The rules in this division apply to registered snowmobile dealers, manufacturers, and distributors. These rules establish minimal standards for snowmobile dealers as authorized under Iowa Code section 321G.21.

571—47.12(321G) Definitions. For purposes of this division, the following definitions shall apply:

“Dealer” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

“Distributor” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

“Engaged in the business,” or similar wording, means doing any of the following acts for the purpose of selling snowmobiles at retail: acquiring, selling, exchanging, holding, offering, displaying, brokering, accepting on consignment

or conducting a retail auction, or acting as an agent for the purpose of doing any of these acts. A person selling at retail more than five snowmobiles during a 12-month period may be presumed to be engaged in the business.

“Established place of business” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

“Manufacturer” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

“Manufacturer’s certificate of origin” means a certification signed by the manufacturer, distributor or importer that the snowmobile described has been transferred to the person or dealer named, and that the transfer is the first transfer of the vehicle in ordinary trade and commerce. A manufacturer’s certificate of origin may also be referred to as a manufacturer’s statement of origin.

571—47.13(321G) Dealer’s established place of business. A dealer’s established place of business shall include phone service and an adequate office area for keeping business records, manufacturers’ certificates of origin, certificates of title or other evidence of ownership for all snowmobiles offered for sale.

571—47.14(321G) Zoning. Dealers licensed under these rules must comply with applicable local zoning ordinances. Upon request by the department, a dealer shall provide to the department written evidence issued by the office responsible for the enforcement of zoning ordinances in the city or county where the dealer’s established place of business is located that the dealer’s established place of business complies with all applicable zoning provisions.

571—47.15(321G) Sales tax permit. A dealer shall provide to the department written evidence that the dealer has obtained a sales tax permit issued by the department of revenue.

571—47.16(321G) Special registration certificates for manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

47.16(1) A manufacturer, distributor, or dealer owning a snowmobile required to be registered under Iowa Code chapter 321G and this chapter may operate the unregistered snowmobile for purposes of transporting, testing, demonstrating, or selling it if both of the following requirements are met:

a. The manufacturer, distributor, or dealer obtains from the department a special registration certificate and decal containing a general identification number in accordance with Iowa Code section 321G.21. An application for a special registration certificate shall be submitted on forms provided by the department; and

b. The manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has the assigned decal attached to a removable sign that is temporarily but firmly attached to the snowmobile being used.

47.16(2) If a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has an established place of business in more than one location, the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer shall obtain from the department a separate and distinct special registration certificate, decal and general identification number for each place of business.

47.16(3) Duplicate special registration certificates and decals may be obtained pursuant to the conditions set forth in Iowa Code section 321G.21.

571—47.17(321G) Information provided to purchasers. At the time of sale, a dealer shall provide all purchasers of snowmobiles with information on how to access the department's website. The department shall provide regulations related to snowmobile use. Information provided on the department's website shall be deemed current information for purposes of this rule.

571—47.18(321G) Right of inspection. The department or any peace officer has the authority to inspect the following at any dealer location: (1) snowmobiles or component parts of vehicles, (2) business records, and (3) manufacturers' certificates of origin, certificates of title and other evidence of ownership for snowmobiles offered for sale. The department has the right at any time to verify compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements by a dealer registered under Iowa Code chapter 321G.

571—47.19(321G) Denial or revocation. The department may deny a dealer application or revoke a dealer registration certificate when the director determines the applicant or dealer has violated any rule of this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 321G or when continuation of the permit is not in the public interest. Such denial or revocation shall become effective upon a date specified in the notice. The notice shall state the extent of the denial or revocation and the reasons for the action. Within 30 days following receipt of the notice of a revocation or denial, the applicant or dealer, whichever is applicable, may file a notice of appeal, requesting a contested case pursuant to 561—Chapter 7. The notice of appeal shall specify the basis for requesting that the permit be issued or reinstated.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 321G.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***24. Chapter 48, "Inspection of Permanently Moored Vessels"- Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 48. This is the result of Law Enforcement Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 48 establishes procedures to inspect excursion boats used for gambling that have been removed from navigation and designated as permanently-moored vessels by the United States Coast Guard. This inspection oversight ensures a high-level of safety for the public on these vessels, which are moored on the dynamic and ever-changing waters of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The chapter improves clarity and removes language that is redundant to Iowa Code.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8604C. Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Craig Cutts, Chief
Law Enforcement Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 48 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 48, “Inspection of Permanently Moored Vessels,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 99F.7 and 462A.20.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 99F.7 and 462A.20.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 48 establishes procedures to inspect excursion boats used for gambling that have been removed from navigation and designated as permanently moored vessels by the United States Coast Guard. This inspection oversight ensures a high level of safety for the public on these vessels, which are moored on the dynamic and ever-changing waters of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8604C**.

Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025, both at 11am via Google Meets. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 48 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 48

INSPECTION OF PERMANENTLY MOORED VESSELS

571—48.1(462A) Purpose. This chapter is intended to establish the procedures for compliance with the inspection requirements of Iowa Code sections 99F.7(14) and 462A.20.

571—48.2(462A) Definitions.

“Commission” means the Iowa racing and gaming commission.

“Critical systems” on a PMV means fire safety systems, systems that protect against flooding and progressive flooding, emergency power systems, emergency lighting systems, emergency ventilation shutdown systems, and fuel and sewage discharge prevention systems.

“Permanently moored vessel” or *“PMV”* means an excursion boat used for gambling that is removed from navigation and defined as a vessel under 46 CFR, Subchapter K or H (June 1, 2024), that would have previously required a United States Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection.

571—48.3(462A) Inspection requirements. All PMVs shall be inspected by a qualified inspector to determine compliance with the “State of Iowa Permanently Moored Vessel Inspection Requirements,” 2005, as adopted by reference herein.

571—48.4(462A) Inspectors. Inspections of PMVs shall be conducted by a person or persons meeting the criteria set forth in this rule.

48.4(1) *Qualifications.* An inspector shall:

- a. Have prior experience as a U.S. Coast Guard marine inspector or as a classification society (recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard) surveyor; or
- b. Be a classification surveyor acting on behalf of a classification society; or
- c. Be a professional engineer licensed by one of the 50 states; or
- d. Be a professional naval architect or marine engineer.

48.4(2) *Minimum documented work experience.* An inspector shall:

- a. Have obtained three years’ experience in the examination of steel or aluminum vessels of similar design; and
- b. Be familiar with the regulations and standards under which the PMV was built; and
- c. Be familiar with permanent mooring arrangements and ship structures supporting the same; and
- d. Have experience in marine emergency response operations and planning that is sufficient for the individual to competently review emergency action plans required by these rules; and
- e. Have experience in the investigation of reportable occurrences as described in the “State of Iowa Permanently Moored Vessel Inspection Requirements,” 2005.

571—48.5(462A) Statewide inspection contract. If the department determines that the administration of this chapter could best be effectuated through a contract with one or more third parties, the state may award such a contract or contracts pursuant to the provisions of 561—Chapter 8, as adopted by reference in 571—8.1(17A).

48.5(1) A statewide inspection contract shall authorize an inspection program coordinator to conduct the inspections required by this chapter, prepare and submit the required reports, and engage in such other activities as may be necessary for the administration of the PMV inspection program.

48.5(2) A contract entered into pursuant to this rule shall establish fees to be paid by PMV operators to the inspection program coordinator for the inspection of PMVs. There shall be a fixed fee established by contract for inspections and administration of the program by the inspection program coordinator. The contract may establish additional fees to be charged by the inspection program coordinator for work related to addressing deficiencies or other noncompliance by a PMV operator. Said fees shall be the sole source of payment to the inspection program coordinator.

48.5(3) In the event that a statewide inspection contract is executed by the department, all submissions required by these rules shall be sent to the inspection program coordinator established by the contract.

571—48.6(462A) Submission. Any person making application to the commission for the licensing of a PMV shall submit proof to the department that the PMV has been inspected by a qualified inspector and that the PMV satisfies all of the requirements of the “State of Iowa Permanently Moored Vessel Inspection Requirements,” 2005. All PMVs licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99F shall submit to the department quarterly and annual reports in compliance with all of the requirements of the “State of Iowa Permanently Moored Vessel Inspection Requirements,” 2005.

571—48.7(462A) Notification to the commission. If a PMV operator fails to cure an inadequacy in an inspection report or to comply with a correction report for a critical system or maritime security deficiency within the applicable time period, a determination of inadequacy shall be forwarded to the commission and shall be subject to the appeal and contested case procedures of the department as established by 561—Chapter 7 and adopted by reference at 571—7.1(17A).

48.7(1) *Inspection reports.* The department shall, within 60 days of receipt of an initial inspection, quarterly or annual report, determine the adequacy of the report and shall notify the submitting party of such determination. The submitting party shall be given a minimum of 60 days to cure any inadequacy not involving critical systems or maritime security.

48.7(2) *Correction reports.* To minimize safety and maritime security risks to the public, the environment and the PMV itself, deficiencies found in critical systems or security systems shall be immediately reported to the department. After consulting with the PMV operator, the department may issue a correction report if the

deficiency was not immediately corrected. The correction report will direct the PMV operator to take corrective action within a specific period of time that is based on the nature and severity of the deficiency.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 99F.7(14) and 462A.20.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***25. Chapter 49, “Operation of Motor Vehicles in Meandered Streams, Navigable Streams and Trout Streams”-
Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 49. This is the result of Law Enforcement Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 49 creates a process to identify meandered streams, navigable streams, and trout streams and listing the streams in which operation of motor vehicles is prohibited. This rule is required by statute. The benefit of the rule is to protect aquatic organisms and water quality from erosion and disruption by restricting motor vehicle access. The increase in aquatic organisms and water quality is a benefit to the public participating in fishing and water sports on these waters. The prior chapter had an extensive internal process to identify the list of meandered streams, navigable streams, and trout streams; that process has been simplified in this new chapter.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8611C. Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: Two individuals attended the hearing but no comments were received that were germane to this chapter. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Craig Cutts, Chief
Law Enforcement Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 49 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 49, “Operation of Motor Vehicles in Meandered Streams, Navigable Streams and Trout Streams,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 462A.34A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 462A.34A.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 49 creates a process to identify meandered streams, navigable streams, and trout streams and lists the streams in which operation of motor vehicles is prohibited. This chapter is required by statute. The benefit of the chapter is to protect aquatic organisms and water quality from erosion and disruption by restricting motor vehicle access. The increase in aquatic organisms and water quality is a benefit to the public participating in fishing and water sports on these waters. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8611C**.

Two virtual public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025. Two individuals attended a hearing, but did not make comments that were germane to this chapter.

No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 49 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 49

OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN MEANDERED

STREAMS, NAVIGABLE STREAMS AND TROUT STREAMS

571—49.1(462A) Purpose and intent. This chapter implements Iowa Code section 462A.34A and identifies meandered streams, trout streams, and navigable streams in which motor vehicles may not be operated.

571—49.2(462A) Definitions.

“Department” means the department of natural resources.

“*Meandered stream*” means a lake or stream that, at the time of the original government survey, was surveyed as a navigable and important water body and was transferred to the state upon admission to the union to be transferred or retained by the public in accordance with the laws of the state upon admission to the union.

“*Motor vehicle*” means a vehicle that is self-propelled and not operated upon rails. A motor vehicle is not a watercraft as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2(43).

“*Navigable stream*” means all streams that can support a vessel capable of carrying one or more persons during a total of a six-month period in one out of every ten years.

“*Trout stream*” means a stream that, by natural or artificial methods, supports trout fish species.

571—49.3(462A) Motor vehicle prohibition in meandered streams, trout streams and navigable streams and identification of streams.

49.3(1) Motor vehicles shall not be operated in the following locations, except as provided for in Iowa Code section 462A.34A(2):

- a. Any portion of the bed of a navigable stream when covered by water.
- b. Any portion of a trout stream or meandered stream, including the dry bed and sandbars.

49.3(2) A vessel operating on any of the streams listed in this rule must be operating by floating on the water as a result of the buoyant force of the water. A vessel propelled by tires in contact with the bed of the stream is not a watercraft for the purpose of this rule.

49.3(3) For the purpose of this rule, meandered streams, trout streams and navigable streams include the following:

COUNTY	RIVER/STREAM	LOCATION
Adair	Middle Nodaway River	Adams/Adair line to Hwy. 92
	Middle River	All
	West Fork-Middle Nodaway	Mouth to County Road N51
Adams	East Nodaway River	Adams/Taylor line to County Road H24
	Middle Nodaway River	All
Allamakee	Bear Creek	Mouth, S1,T99N,R6W to West Line S30,T100N,R6W
	Clear Creek	Mouth, S35,T100,R5W to North Line S15,T100N,R5W

Clear Creek	Mouth, S29,T99N,R3W to West Line S25,T99N,R4W
Cota Creek	Mouth, S26,T97N,R3W to West Line S10,T97N,R3W
Dousman Creek	Mouth, S33,T96N,R3W to South Line S36,T96N,R3W
French Creek	Mouth, S1,T99N,R5W to East Line S23,T99N,R5W
Hickory Creek	Mouth, S23,R96N,R5W to South Line S28,T96N,R5W
Irish Hollow Creek	Mouth, S21,T100N,R4W to North Line S17,T100N,R4W
Little Paint Creek	Mouth, S32,T97N,R3W to North Line S30,T97N,R3W
Mississippi River	All
Norfolk Creek	Mouth, S6,T96,R5W to Conf. w/Teeple Creek, S24,T97N,R6W
Paint Creek	Conf. w/Little Paint Creek, S32,T97N,R3W to Road Crossing, S18,T97N,R4W
Patterson Creek	Mouth, S29,T99N,R6W to East Line S3,T98N,R6W
Silver Creek	Mouth, S4,T99N,R5W to South Line S31,T99N,R5W
Suttle Creek	Mouth, S18,T96N,R4W to South Line S31,T96N,R4W
Teeple Creek	Mouth, S24,T97N,R6W to West Line S11,T97N,R6W
Trout Run a/k/a Erickson's Brook	Mouth, S16,T98N,R4W to North Line S8,T98N,R4W
Unnamed Creek	Mouth, S12,T99N,R4W to West Line S12,T99N,R4W
Unnamed Tributary to Village Creek	Mouth, S23,T98N,R4W to West Line S23,T98N,R4W
Unnamed Tributary to Yellow River	Mouth, S13,T96N,R5W to North Line S12,T96N,R5W
Upper Iowa River	Mouth, S36,T100N,R4W to West Line S31,T100N,R6W
Village Creek	Mouth, S33,T99N,R3W to West Line S19,T98N,R4W

	Waterloo Creek	Conf. w/Bear Creek, S35,T100N,R6W to North Line S8,T100N,R6W
	Wexford Creek	Mouth, S5,T98N,R2W to West Line S25,T98N,R3W
	Yellow River	Mouth, S34,T96N,R3W to West Line S24,T96N,R5W
Appanoose	Chariton River	Missouri Line to Rathbun Dam
	North Chariton River	Rathbun Lake to Hwy. 14
	South Chariton River	Appanoose/Wayne Line to Rathbun Lake
Benton	Bear Creek	Benton County Line to Mouth at Cedar River
	Cedar River	All
	Iowa River	All
	Mud Creek	Road Crossing W½ S13,T84N,R11W to Mouth at Cedar River
	Opossum Creek	SE¼ S5,T84N,R9W to Benton/Linn Line
	Prairie Creek 2	Road Crossing N½ S24,T83N,R12W to Benton/Linn Line
	Wolf Creek	All
Black Hawk	Beaver Creek	Mouth, S34,T90N,R14W to West County Line, S31,T90N,R14W
	Black Hawk Creek	Mouth, S22,T89N,R13W to West County Line, S6,T87N,R14W
	Cedar River	All
	Shell Rock River	Mouth, S4,T90N,R14W to North County Line, S4,T90N,R14W
	Wapsipinicon River	All
	West Fork Cedar River	All
	Wolf Creek	Mouth, S19,T87N,R11W to South County Line
Boone	Beaver Creek	West Line of S10,T82N,R28W to South County Line
	Des Moines River	All

Bremer	Cedar River	All
	Shell Rock River	All
	Wapsipinicon River	All
Buchanan	Wapsipinicon River	All
Buena Vista	Little Sioux River	All
	North Raccoon River	South County Line to North Line of S15,T91N,R36W
	Beaver Creek	All
	Hartgraves Creek	West County Line to Mouth at West Fork of Cedar River
Butler	Maynes Creek	West County Line to Mouth at West Fork of Cedar River
	Shell Rock River	All
	West Fork Cedar River	All
Calhoun	Cedar Creek	South County Line to S31,T87N,R31W
	North Raccoon River	All
Carroll	Middle Raccoon River	South County Line to West Line of S23,T84N,R35W
	North Raccoon River	All
Cass	East Nishnabotna River	All
Cedar	Cedar River	All
	Clear Creek	East Line of S21,T82N,R4W to Mouth at Cedar River
	Rock Creek	Road Crossing North Line Section 1, T81N,R3W to Mouth at Cedar River
	Sugar Creek	Road Crossing North Line Section 29, T81N,R2W to South County Line
	Wapsipinicon River	All
Cerro Gordo	Beaverdam Creek	I-35 to Franklin County Line
	E Branch-Beaverdam Creek	Hwy. 65 to Mouth at Beaverdam Creek
	Shell Rock River	All
	Spring Creek	County Road B15 to Mouth at Winnebago River
	Willow Creek	Hwy. 18 to Mouth at Winnebago River
	Winnebago River	All
Cherokee	Grey Creek	North Line of S22,T93N,R40W to Mouth at Mill Creek
	Little Sioux River	All

	Maple River	North Line of S5,T90N,R39W to Ida County Line
	Mill Creek	North Line S13,T93N,R41W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
	Perry Creek	North Line of S5,T91N,R40W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
	Rock Creek	East Line of S4,T91N,R41W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
	West Fork, Little Sioux River	North Line of S12,T92N,R42W to Plymouth County Line
	Willow Creek	North Line S30,T91N,R41W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
Chickasaw	Cedar River	All
	Little Cedar River	All
	Little Turkey River	All
	Wapsipinicon River	All
Clay	Little Sioux River	All
	Ocheyedan River	All
Clayton	Bear Creek	South Line S18,T91N,R4W to South Line S26,T91N,R5W
	Bloody Run Creek	Mouth, S15,T95N,R3W to South Line S21,T95N,R4W
	Brownfield Creek	Mouth, S25,T91N,R4W to Source, S31,T91N,R3W
	Buck Creek	Mouth, S32,T92N,R2W to West Line S9,T93N,R3W
	Cox Creek	Conf. w/Spring Creek, S25,T92N,R6W to South Line S12,T91N,R6W
	Dry Mill Creek	Mouth, S25,T93N,R5W to West Line S9,T93N,R4W
	Hewett Creek	Mouth, S11,T92N,R6W to South Line S29,T92N,R6W
	Maquoketa River	South Line S32,T91N,R6W to West Line S19,T91N,R6W
	Miners Creek	Mouth, S20,T92N,R2W to West Line S1,T92N,R3W
	Mink Creek	Mouth, S30,T93N,R6W to West Line S19,T93N,R6W
	Mossy Glen Creek	Mouth, S3,T91N,R5W to South Line S3,T91N,R5W
	Mississippi River	All
	North Cedar Creek	Mouth, S8,T94N,R3W to Source, S24,T94N,R4W
	Pecks Creek	Mouth, S1,T91N,R3W to South Line S15,T91N,R3W
	Pine Creek	Mouth, S26,T91N,R4W to Conf. w/Brownfield Creek, S25,T91N,R4W

	Sny-Magill Creek	Mouth, S23,T94N,R3W to West Line S6,T94N,R3W
	a/k/a Magill	
	South Cedar Creek	North Line S7,T92N,R3W to North Line S24,T93N,R4W
	a/k/a Cedar	
	Spring Creek	Mouth, S25,T92N,R6W to Source, S10,T91N,R6W
	a/k/a Kleinlein Creek	
	Steeles Brook	Mouth, S26,T91N,R4W to South Line S34,T91N,R4W
Clinton	Turkey River	All
	Unnamed Tributary to	
	Sny-Magill a/k/a West Fork	Mouth, S7,T94N,R3W to West Line S7,T94N,R3W
	Volga River	All
	Brophys Creek	South Line of S4,T81N,R5E to Mouth at the
		Wapsipinicon River
	Drainage Ditch 12	South Line of S30,T82N,R2E to Mouth at the
		Wapsipinicon River
	Elk River	South Line of S5,T83N,R6E to Mouth at the
		Mississippi River
	Harts Mill Creek	South Line of S8,T81N,R6E to Mouth at Mill Creek
	Mill Creek	South Line of S14,T81N,R6E to Mouth with
		Mississippi River
Crawford	Mississippi River	All
	Silver Creek	South Line of S22,T82N,R3E to S6,T80N,R4E
	Wapsipinicon River	All
	Boyer River	All
	Soldier River	All
Dallas	Beaver Creek	All
	Des Moines River	All
	Middle Raccoon River	All
	Raccoon River	All

	South Raccoon River	All
Davis	Des Moines River	All
Decatur	Long Creek	DeKalb Wildlife Area to Mouth at the Thompson River
	Thompson River	All
	Weldon River	Missouri Border to Hwy. 2
Delaware	Fenchel Creek	Mouth, S5,T90N,R6W to Richmond Springs, S4,T90N,R6W
	Fountain Spring Creek a/k/a Odell Branch	Mouth, S10,T90N,R4W to West Line S9,T90N,R4W
	Little Turkey River	North County Line, S1,T90N,R3W to South Line S11,T90N,R3W
	Maquoketa River	All
	Schechtman Branch	Mouth, S14,T90N,R4W to South Line S14,T90N,R4W
	South Branch	
	Fountain Spring Creek	Mouth, S10,T90N,R4W to West Line S16,T90N,R4W
	Spring Branch	Mouth, S10,T88N,R5W to Spring Source, S35,T89N,R5W
	Steeles Branch	North County Line, S4,T90N,R4W to West Line S5,T90N,R4W
	Twin Springs Creek	Mouth, S2,T90N,R4W to Spring Source S12,T90N,R4W
Des Moines	Brush Creek	South Line of S5,T69N,R3W to Mouth at the Skunk River
	Cedar Fork Creek	West Line of S31,T72N,R3W to Mouth at the Flint River
	Dolbee Creek	East Line of S24,T72N,R2W to S31,T71N,R1W
	Flint River	County Line to Mouth at the Mississippi River
	Hawkeye Creek	North Line of S30,T72N,R3W to Mouth at the Mississippi River
	Knotty Creek	East Line of S25,T71N,R3W to the Mouth at the Flint River
	Long Creek	South Line of S3,T69N,R4W to the Mouth at the Skunk River
	Mississippi River	All
	Skunk River	All

	Spring Creek	South Line of S15,T69N,R3W to Mouth at the Mississippi River
Dickinson	Tributary to Flint River	South Line of S27,T71N,R3W to Mouth at the Flint River
	Little Sioux River	All
	Milford Creek	S12,T98N,R37W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
	West Branch, Little Sioux River	South Line of S27,T100N,R38W to Mouth at West Fork of Little Sioux River
	West Fork, Little Sioux River	South Line of S24,T100N,R38W to Mouth at Little Sioux River
Dubuque	Bloody Run	Mouth, S34,T90N,R2E to West Line S21,T90N,R2E
	Catfish Creek	South Line S9,T88N,R2E to Source S36,T88N,R1E
	Cloie Branch	Mouth, S5,T89N,R2E to West Line S5,T89N,R2E
	Hogans Branch	Mouth, S35,T89N,R1W to Gravel Road West Line S9,T88N,R1W
	Little Maquoketa River	S5,T88N,R1W to Mouth at Mississippi River
	Middle Fork, Little Maquoketa River a/k/a Bankston Creek	West Line S31,T90N,R1E to North Line S33,T90N,R1W
	Mississippi River	All
	North Fork, Maquoketa River	All
	Paint Hollow Creek a/k/a White Pine Creek	North County Line, S6,T90N,R2W to Spring Source S8,T90N,R2W

Emmet	East Fork, Des Moines River	Tuttle Lake Outlet to East County Line
	West Fork, Des Moines River	All
Fayette	Bass Creek a/k/a Turners	Mouth, S3,T95N,R9W to West Line S3,T95N,R9W
	Bear Creek	Mouth, S25,T93N,R7W to West Line S6,T92N,R7W
	Bell Creek	Mouth, S10,T94N,R7W to West Line S8,T94N,R7W
	Brush Creek	Mouth, S8,T92N,R7W to Road Crossing S20,T92N,R7W
	Little Turkey River	Mouth, S18,T95N,R8W to North Line S5,T95N,R10W
	Maquoketa River	East Line S24,T91N,R7W to Conf. w/Hwy. 3
	Mink Creek	East Line S24,T93N,R7W to West Line S15,T93N,R7W
	Otter Creek	Mouth, S13,T94N,R7W to S22,T94N,R8W
	Turkey River	All
	Unnamed Creek a/k/a Glovers Creek	Mouth, S22,T94N,R8W to West Line S15,T94N,R8W
	Unnamed Creek a/k/a Grannis Creek	Mouth, S30,T93N,R7W to Source, E¼ S36,T93N,R8W
	Volga River	East County Line to South Line S22,T93N,R8W
Floyd	Cedar River	All
	Little Cedar River	All
	Shell Rock River	All
	Winnebago River	All
Franklin	Bailey Creek	South Line of S13,T93N,R20W to Mouth at the West Fork, Cedar River
	Beaverdam Creek	North County Line to Mouth at the West Fork, Cedar River
	Hartgraves Creek	South Line of S28,T92N,R19W to East County Line
	Iowa River	All
	Maynes Creek	East Line of S30,T91N,R20W to East County Line

	Otter Creek	East Line of S31,T93N,R20W to Mouth at Hartgraves Creek
	Spring Creek	Beeds Lake Outlet to Mouth at Otter Creek
	West Fork, Cedar River	East Line of S19,T93N,R19W to East County Line
Fremont	East Nishnabotna River	Mouth at Nishnabotna River to East County Line
	Missouri River	All
	Nishnabotna River	Missouri/Iowa Line to South Line of S25,T68N,R41 W
	West Nishnabotna River	Mouth at Nishnabotna River to North County Line
Greene	Cedar Creek	Mouth at North Raccoon River to North County Line
	North Raccoon River	All
Grundy	Black Hawk Creek	East Line of S35,T88N,R17W to Black Hawk County Line
	North Black Hawk Creek	NE¼ S8,T88N,R15W to Black Hawk County Line
	South Beaver Creek	E½ S3,T88N,R18W to Butler County Line
	Wolf Creek	N½ of S31,T86N,R17W to Black Hawk County Line
Guthrie	Middle Raccoon River	All
	South Raccoon River	East County Line to County Road F32
Hamilton	Boone River	All
	Brewers Creek	Mouth at Boone River to County Road R27
	Eagle Creek	Mouth at Boone River to Wright County Line
	Skunk River	County Line to Hwy. 175
	White Fox Creek	Mouth at Boone River to Wright County Line
Hancock	East Fork, Iowa River	South County Line to Hwy. 18
	West Fork, Iowa River	South County Line to County Road B55
	Winnebago River	All
Hardin	Elk Creek	Mouth at Iowa River to County Road D35
	Honey Creek	South County Line to County Road D65
	Iowa River	All
	South Fork, Iowa River	Mouth at Iowa River to Hwy. 359
Harrison	Boyer River	All
	Little Sioux River	All
	Missouri River	All
	Soldier River	All
Henry	Big Creek	North Line of S31,T72N,R5W to S19,T70N,R5W
	Cedar Creek	County Line to Mouth at the Skunk River
	Crooked Creek	Mouth at S31,T73N,R7W to East Section Line

Howard	East Fork, Crooked Creek	All
	Little Cedar Creek	South County Line to Mouth at Cedar Creek
	Mud Creek	South Line of S15,T70N,R5W to Mouth at the Skunk River
	Skunk River	All
	Beaver Creek	Mouth, S19,T100N,R12W to County Road A23
	Bohemian Creek	East Line S13,T97N,R11W to West Line S2,T97N,R11W
	Chialk Creek	Mouth, S1,T98N,R11W to Road Crossing, S36,T99N,R11W
	Nichols Creek	East Line S13,T100N,R11W to County Road V58
	Staff Creek	Mouth, S7,T100N,R13W to County Road V10
	Turkey River	East Line S12,T98N,R11W to Hwy. 9
Humboldt	Upper Iowa River	East Line S12,T100N,R11W to North Line S11,T100N,R14W
	Wapsipinicon River	South Line S17,T97N,R14W to West Line S19,T98N,R14W
	Des Moines River	South County Line to Conf. of East and West Fork of Des Moines River
	East Fork, Des Moines River	Mouth at the Des Moines River to North County Line
	West Fork, Des Moines River	Mouth at the Des Moines River to West County Line
Ida	Little Sioux River	All
	Maple River	All
Iowa	Bear Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the Iowa River
	Iowa River	All
	North Fork, English River	All
	Old Man Creek	West Line of S35,T79N,R10W to East County Line
Jackson	Brush Creek	North Line S23,T85N,R3E to North Line S1,T85N,R3E
	Cedar Creek	Mouth, S30,T85N,R3E to East Line S29,T85N,R3E
	Little Mill Creek	Mouth, S13,T86N,R4E to West Line S29,T86N,R4E
	Maquoketa River	All

	Mill Creek	Conf. w/Little Mill Creek S13,T86N,R4E to West Line
	a/k/a Big Mill Creek	S1,T86N,R3E
	Mississippi River	All
	North Fork, Maquoketa River	West County Line to Mouth at the Maquoketa River
	Ozark Spring Run	Mouth, S32,T86N,R1E to Spring Source S32,T86N,R1E
	Pleasant Creek	East Line S11,T85N,R4E to West Line S15,T85N,R4E
	Unnamed Creek	Mouth, S7,T86N,R2E to West Line S11,T86N,R1E
	South Fork, Big Mill	Mouth, S8,T86N,R4E to West Line S17,T86N,R4E
	Storybook Hollow	Mouth, S7,T86N,R4E to South Line S12,T86N,R3E
	Unnamed Creek	Mouth, S1,T86N,R3E to West Line S2,T86N,R3E
Jasper	Indian Creek	All
	North Skunk River	All
	South Skunk River	All
Jefferson	Brush Creek	South Line of S18,T72N,R8W to the East County Line
	Cedar Creek	All
	Competine Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Cedar Creek
	Skunk River	All
	Walnut Creek	East Line of S22,T73N,R9W to the Mouth at the Skunk River
Johnson	Cedar River	All
	Clear Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the Iowa River
	Iowa River	All
	Old Mans Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the Iowa River
Jones	Buffalo Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the Wapsipinicon River
	Maquoketa River	All
	North Fork, Maquoketa River	All

	Wapsipinicon River	All
Keokuk	Bridge Creek	South Line of S23,T76N,R12W to the Mouth at the North Skunk River
	Cedar Creek	East Line of S19,T76N,R13W to the Mouth at the North Skunk River
	North Skunk River	West County Line to Mouth at the Skunk River
	Rock Creek	South Line of S21,T76N,R12W to Mouth at Cedar Creek
	South Fork, English River	West County Line to Mouth at the English River
	Skunk River	All
	South Skunk River	West County Line to Mouth at the Skunk River
Kossuth	Buffalo Creek	West Line of S4,T97N,R27W to Mouth at the East Fork, Des Moines River
	East Fork, Des Moines River	All
Lee	Big Sugar Creek	South Line of S26,T69N,R6W to Mouth at the Mississippi River
	Des Moines River	All
	Little Sugar Creek	South Line of S24,T68N,R7W to Mouth at the Des Moines River
	Lost Creek	South Line of S32,T69N,R4W to Mouth at the Mississippi River
	Mississippi River	All

	Pitman Creek	South Line of S10,T68N,R5W to Mouth at the Mississippi River
	Skunk River	All
Linn	Cedar River	All
	Prairie Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Cedar River
	Wapsipinicon River	All
Louisa	Big Slough Creek	East Line of S7,T74N,R5W to Mouth at Long Creek
	Cedar River	All
	Goose Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the Iowa River
	Iowa River	All
	Long Creek	South Line of S30,T75N,R5W to the Mouth at the Iowa River
	Mississippi River	All
	Muscatine Slough	North County Line to County Road Bridge in S31,T75N,R3W
	Muskrat Lake	S16,T74N,R3W to Mouth at the Iowa River
Lucas	Chariton River	Rathbun Lake to Hwy. 14
Lyon	Big Sioux River	All
	Little Rock River	East County Line to Mouth at Rock River
	Rock River	All
Madison	Clanton Creek	South Line of S32,T75N,R26W to the East County Line
	Middle River	All
	Thompson River	All
Mahaska	Cedar Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Des Moines River
	Des Moines River	All
	North Skunk River	All
	Skunk River	All
Marion	Des Moines River	All
	Skunk River	All
	Whitebreast Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Des Moines River
Marshall	Honey Creek	North County Line to Mouth at Iowa River
	Iowa River	All
	Minerva Creek	NW¼ S9,T85N,R20W to Mouth at Iowa River

	Timber Creek	County Road Bridge in S24,T83N,R18W to Mouth at Iowa River
Mills	Missouri River	All
	West Nishnabotna River	All
Mitchell	Beaver Creek	Mouth at S1,T98N,R16W to North Line S8,T99N,R15W
	Burr Oak Creek	County Road T46 to North Line S5,T98N,R16W
	Cedar River	South Line S13,T97N,R17W to North Line S8,T100N,R18W
	Little Cedar River	South Line S13,T97N,R15W to North Line S7,T100N,R16W
	Otter Creek	Mouth at S21,T100N,R18W to North Line S11,T100N,R18W
	Rock Creek	Conf. w/Goose Creek S35,T98N,R18W to Hwy. 9
	Spring Creek	Mouth at S13,T97N,R17W to North Line S8,T97N,R16W
	Turtle Creek	Mouth at S23,T99N,R18W to East Line S7,T99N,R17W
	Wapsipinicon River	East County Line to North Line of S20,T100N,R15W
Monona	Little Sioux River	All
	Maple River	Mouth at Little Sioux River to North County Line
	Missouri River	All
	Soldier River	All
	West Fork, Little Sioux River	Mouth at Little Sioux River to North County Line
Montgomery	East Nishnabotna River	All
	Middle Nodaway River	Mouth at Nodaway River to East County Line
	Nodaway River	All
Muscatine	Cedar River	All
	Mississippi River	All
	Mud Creek	West Line of S5,T78N,R1E to Mouth at Mississippi River
	Muscatine Slough	South Line of S4,T76N,R2W to South County Line
	Pike Run	South Line of S34,T78N,R3W to S19,T77N,R3W
	Pine Creek	Wildcat Den State Park to Mouth at Mississippi River
	Sugar Creek	North County Line to Mouth at the Cedar River
	Wapsinonoc Creek	North County Line to Mouth at the Cedar River
	Weise Slough	S19,T78N,R3W
O'Brien	Little Sioux River	All

Osceola	Little Rock River	All
	Ocheyedan River	All
Page	East Nishnabotna River	All
	East Nodaway River	East County Line to Mouth at the Nodaway River
	Nodaway River	All
	Tarkio River	Hwy. 2 to South County Line
Palo Alto	West Fork, Des Moines River	All
Plymouth	Big Sioux River	All
	Floyd River	All
	West Fork, Little Sioux River	All
Pocahontas	Lizard Creek	West Line of S2,T90N,R31W to East County Line
	North Branch, Lizard Creek	North Line of S6,T91N,R31W to Mouth with Lizard Creek
	Pilot Creek	West Line of S9,T92N,R31W to Mouth with the West Fork, Des Moines River
	West Fork, Des Moines River	All
Polk	Beaver Creek	All
	Des Moines River	All
	North River	All
	Raccoon River	All
	South Skunk River	All
	Walnut Creek	All
Pottawattamie	East Nishnabotna River	All
	Missouri River	All
	West Nishnabotna River	All
Poweshiek	Bear Creek	NW¼ S8,T80N,R14W to the East County Line

Ringgold	North Fork, English River	North Line of S23,T79N,R14W to East County Line
	North Skunk River	All
	East Fork, Grand River	South County Line to Hwy. 2
	Grand River	South County Line to Hwy. 66
	Platte River	All
Sac	Thompson River	All
	Big Cedar Creek	West Line of S10,T88N,R35W to the Mouth at the North Raccoon River
Scott	Boyer River	West Line of S5,T89N,R37W to South County Line
	Indian Creek	North Line of S7,T87N,R36W to Mouth at the North Raccoon River
	North Raccoon River	All
	Outlet Creek	East Line of S35,T87N,R36W to Mouth at Indian Creek
	Lost Creek	North Line of S32,T80N,R5E to Mouth at the Wapsipinicon River
	Mississippi River	All
	Mud Creek	County Road Bridge in S11,T79N,R1E to Mouth at the Wapsipinicon River
	Wapsipinicon River	All
Sioux	Big Sioux River	All
	Floyd River	Hwy. 18 to South County Line
	Rock River	All
Story	Skunk River	All
Tama	Iowa River	All
	Salt Creek	West Line of S28,T84N,R13W to Mouth at the Iowa River
	Wolf Creek	All
Taylor	East Fork, 102 River	Hwy. 49 to South County Line

Union	Platte River	All
	West Fork, 102 River	Hwy. 2 to South County Line
	Platte River	All
Van Buren	Thompson River	All
	Cedar Creek	All
	Des Moines River	All
Wapello	Des Moines River	All
Warren	Clanton Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Des Moines River
	Middle River	West County Line to Mouth at Des Moines River
	North River	All
	South River	All
	Whitebreast Creek	All
Washington	Camp Creek	North Line of S33,T77N,R7W to the Mouth at English River
	Clemons Creek	West Line of S9,T75N,R8W to the South Line S14,T75N,R8W
	Crooked Creek	East Line of S28,T76N,R9W to Henry County Line
	Dutch Creek	South Line of S21,T75N,R9W to the Mouth at the Skunk River
	East Fork, Crooked Creek	All
	English River	All
	Goose Creek	East County Line to East Line of S22,T76N,R6W
	Honey Creek	Lake Darling to Mouth at the Skunk River
	Iowa River	All
	Long Creek	East County Line to West Line of S26,T75N,R6W
	North Fork, Long Creek	East Line of S3,T75N,R7W to Mouth at Long Creek
	Skunk River	All
	Smith Creek	West County Line to Mouth at the English River
Wayne	South Fork, Long Creek	County Road W61 to Mouth at Long Creek
	Williams Creek	South County Line to Mouth at East Fork, Crooked Creek
	North Chariton River	Rathbun Lake to Hwy. 14
	South Chariton River	Rathbun Lake to County Road S56

Webster	Brushy Creek	North Line of S8,T88N,R27W to Mouth at the Des Moines River
	Deer Creek	North Line of S16,T90N,R29W to Mouth at the Des Moines River
	Des Moines River	All
	North Branch, Lizard Creek	West County Line to Mouth at Des Moines River
	Prairie Creek	West Line of S29,T88N,R28W to Mouth at the Des Moines River
Winnebago	Winnebago River	All
Winneshiek	Bear Creek	East Line, S25,T100N,R7W to East Line of S29,T100N,R7W
	Bohemian Creek	Mouth at Turkey River to West Line S18,T97N,R10W
	Canoe Creek	County Road W38 to West Line S8,T99N,R8W
	Casey Spring	Mouth in S25,T99N,R9W to West line S26,T99N,R9W
	Coldwater Creek	Mouth S32,T100N,R9W to North Line S11,T100N,R10W
	Coon Creek	Mouth S2,T98N,R7W to NW¼ S13,T98N,R7W
	Dry Run Creek	Mouth S17,T98N,R8W to West Line S36,T98N,R9W
	East Pine Creek	Mouth S28,T100N,R9W to North Line of S9,T100N,R9W
	Martha Creek	Mouth S6,T99N,R9W to West Line of S13,T99N,R10W
	Middle Bear Creek	Mouth S14,T100N,R7W to North Line S16,T100N,R7W
	Nichols Creek	Mouth S18,T100N,R10W to West Line S18,T100N,R10W
	North Bear Creek	Conf. w/South Bear Creek, S25,T100N,R7W to East Line of S10,T100N,R7W
	North Canoe Creek	Mouth S22,T99N,R8W to North Line S1,T99N,R8W
	Pine Creek	Mouth at Upper Iowa River to the North Line S7,T100N,R9W

	Pine Creek	Mouth at Canoe Creek to the North Line S21,T99N,R7W
	Paint Creek	East Line S13,T99N,R7W to West Line S11,T99N,R7W
	Silver Creek	Mouth at Upper Iowa River to North Line S26,T100N,R9W
	Smith Creek	Conf. w/Trout Creek in S21,T98N,R7W to South Line S33,T98N,R7W
	Ten Mile Creek	Mouth at Upper Iowa River to Conf. w/Walnut Creek at S18,T98N,R9W
	Trout Creek	Mouth at Upper Iowa River to Conf. w/Smith Creek at S21,T98N,R7W
	Trout Creek	Mouth at Upper Iowa River to East Line of S27,T98N,R8W
	Trout Run Creek	Road Crossing at NW¼ S1,T97N,R8W to Mouth at Trout Creek
	Twin Springs Creek	West Line of S17,T98N,R8W to Mouth at Upper Iowa River
Woodbury	Upper Iowa River	All
	Big Sioux River	All
	Floyd River	All
	Little Sioux River	All
	Maple River	All
	Missouri River	All
	West Fork, Little Sioux River	All
Worth	Beaver Creek	Hwy. 9 to Mouth at Winnebago River
	Deer Creek	County Road S56 to East County Line
	Elk Creek	Hwy. 105 to Mouth at Shell Rock River
	Shell Rock River	All
	Willow Creek	Hwy. 9 to Mouth at Winnebago River

Wright	Winans Creek	Hwy. 9 to Mouth at Winnebago River
	Boone River	All
	Eagle Creek	County Road R33 to South County Line
	East Fork, Iowa River	North County Line to Mouth at Iowa River
	Iowa River	South Line of S19,T93N,R23W to East County Line
	West Fork, Iowa River	North County Line to Mouth at Iowa River
	White Fox Creek	County Road R38 to South County Line

571—49.4(462A) Motor vehicle prohibition in meandered streams. Motor vehicles shall not be operated in any part of the beds of meandered streams, including dry sandbars. Meandered streams are the following:

1. Des Moines River. From Mississippi River to west line of T95N, R32W, Palo Alto County, west branch, and north line of T95N, R29W, Kossuth County, east branch at a point near Algona.
2. Iowa River. From Mississippi River to west line T81N, R11W, Iowa County, due north of Ladora.
3. Cedar River. From Iowa River to west line T89N, R13W, Black Hawk County, at the east edge of Cedar Falls.
4. Raccoon River. From Des Moines River to west line of Polk County.
5. Wapsipinicon River. From Mississippi River to west line T86N, R6W, Linn County, northwest of Central City.
6. Maquoketa River. From Mississippi River to west line T84N, R3E, Jackson County, due north of Maquoketa.
7. Skunk River. From Mississippi River to north line of Jefferson County, at the southwest edge of Coppock.
8. Turkey River. From Mississippi River to west line T95N, R7W, Fayette County, northwest of Clermont.
9. Nishnabotna River. From Missouri River to north line T67N, R42W, Fremont County, northeast of Hamburg.
10. Upper Iowa River. From Mississippi River to west line Section 28, T100N, R4W, Allamakee County, about two and one-half miles upstream from its mouth.
11. Little Maquoketa River. From Mississippi River to west line Section 35, T90N, R2E, Dubuque County, about one mile upstream from its mouth.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 462A.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***26. Chapter 50, “Regulated Vehicle and Vessel Bonding” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 50. This is the result of Customer and Employee Service Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 50 contains rules on vehicle and vessel bonding. Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 321I, 321G, and 462A, customers who are unable to show ownership of their all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or vessels for purposes of obtaining title or registration may file for a bond. This process allows customers to proceed with ownership documentation and registration and/or titling.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8605C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Karmin Klingenberg, Administrative Assistant II
Customer and Employee Service Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 50 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 50, “All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-Road Motorcycle, Off-Road Utility Vehicle, Snowmobile and Vessel Bonding,” and adopts a new Chapter 50, “Regulated Vehicle, Snowmobile and Vessel Bonding,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 321G.29, 321I.31, and 462A.5A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 321G.29, 321I.31, and 462A.5A

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 50 contains rules on vehicle and vessel bonding. Pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 321I, 321G, and 462A, customers who are unable to show ownership of their all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or vessels for purposes of obtaining title or registration may file for a bond. This process allows customers to proceed with ownership documentation and use their all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or vessels while also protecting prior owners in case of error or fraud.

This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). In an attempt to reduce and simplify regulatory burdens, the new chapter implements a new bonding process similar to what the Iowa Department of Transportation recently implemented for motor vehicles. Under the adopted language, the Department of Natural Resources (Department) may allow all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or vessels that are over 15 years old and have a retail value

of \$1,000 or less to be registered without obtaining a bond, provided all other statutory and rule requirements are met.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8605C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets. The other was held on February 6, 2025, at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request

by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 50 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 50

REGULATED VEHICLE, SNOWMOBILE AND VESSEL BONDING

571—50.1(321G,321I) Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

“All-terrain vehicle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Department” means the department of natural resources.

“Off-road motorcycle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Off-road utility vehicle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Regulated vehicle” means all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, and off-road utility vehicles, either collectively or individually. For purposes of this chapter only, “regulated vehicle” shall also include a snowmobile.

“Snowmobile” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

“Vessel” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2.

“Watercraft” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 462A.2. Docks, defined in and regulated by 571—Chapter 16, are not watercraft.

DIVISION I
REGULATED VEHICLES

571—50.2(321G,321I) Bond required before issuance of title or registration.

50.2(1) *Procedures.* An applicant for certificate of title who cannot provide the supporting documents required in 571—Chapters 46 and 47 (implementing Iowa Code chapters 321G and 321I) shall be required to complete the following procedures as a condition to obtaining a title and registration. The procedures described are in addition to the regular procedures for titling and registering a regulated vehicle.

a. The applicant shall submit a request form to the department on a form provided by the department. The request form shall include a copy of the written proof of ownership at the time the vehicle was acquired.

b. The applicant shall contact the department and provide identifying information in regard to the regulated vehicle. The required identifying information shall include the manufacturer identification number; registration sticker (if affixed to the regulated vehicle); photographs of the regulated vehicle that show the front, rear, and one side of the regulated vehicle; and any additional information about the regulated vehicle as may be requested by the department. If no manufacturer identification number is currently affixed to the regulated vehicle, the applicant shall complete the department's procedure for obtaining such number, and the assigned number shall be affixed before the applicant may proceed with the registration application process set forth in this chapter.

50.2(2) *Investigation.* The department, upon receipt of sufficient identifying information from an applicant, shall:

a. Search the department's registration records to determine whether there is an owner of record for the regulated vehicle and whether the regulated vehicle has been reported stolen or embezzled;

b. If the department finds a record of prior ownership in the department's registration records, mail the release of ownership and rights to the regulated vehicle by first-class mail to the owner of record at the owner's last-known address. The notice shall state that the owner of record may assert the owner's right to claim the regulated vehicle.

50.2(3) *Letter of release.* Upon receipt of the letter of release by the last registered owner or legal representative, the department may:

a. Provide approval notification to the applicant and the county recorder that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant is the rightful owner and that there is no known unsatisfied security interest, so the regulated vehicle may be registered and titled in Iowa.

b. Notify the appropriate authorities of the owner's claim to the regulated vehicle. No further action will be completed by the department.

50.2(4) *Letter of release.*

a. If the department receives no response from the owner of record within 30 days after the date of mailing or if the post office returns the notice to the department as undeliverable, the department will continue processing the bond request.

b. The department will determine the current retail value for the same type of regulated vehicle for which the registration is being sought with documentation from J.D. Power (formerly the National Automobile Dealers Association, or NADA) or Kelley Blue Book or through competitive pricing found on the Internet, or the applicant may submit an appraisal of the regulated vehicle by a licensed regulated vehicle dealer.

(1) If the current retail value of the regulated vehicle is \$1,000 or less as determined by the department and is over 15 years old, the department may allow the registration of the vehicle.

(2) If the current retail value of the regulated vehicle as determined by the department is more than \$1,000, the department will notify the applicant that the following requirements are needed to proceed with the bonding process:

1. A completed registration application form (as provided by the department).
2. Inspection of the regulated vehicle by a representative of the department, with a signature required on the registration application form.
3. A complete surety bond form (as provided by the department).

50.2(5) *Approval.* If the department determines that the applicant has complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant is the rightful owner, and that there is no known unsatisfied security interest, the department shall forward the original application to the county recorder and notify the applicant that the regulated vehicle may be registered and titled in Iowa.

50.2(6) *Disapproval.* If the department determines that the applicant has not complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant may not be the rightful owner, that there is an unsatisfied security interest, or that the owner of record asserts a claim for the regulated vehicle, the department shall not authorize issuance of a certificate of title or registration receipt and shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason(s).

DIVISION II

VESSELS

571—50.3(462A) Bond required before issuance of title or registration.

50.3(1) *Procedures.* An applicant for certificate of title who cannot provide the supporting documents required in 571—Chapters 46 and 47 (implementing Iowa Code chapters 321G and 321I) shall be required to complete the following procedures as a condition to obtaining a title and registration. The procedures described are in addition to the regular procedures for titling and registering a vessel.

a. The applicant shall submit a request form to the department on a form provided by the department. The request form shall include a copy of the written proof of ownership at the time the vessel was acquired.

b. The applicant shall contact the department and provide identifying information in regard to the vessel. The required identifying information shall include the manufacturer identification number; registration sticker (if affixed to the regulated vessel); photographs of the vessel that show the front, rear, and one side of the vessel; and any additional information about the vessel as may be requested by the department. If no manufacturer identification number is currently affixed to the vessel, the applicant shall complete the department's procedure for obtaining such number, and the assigned number shall be affixed before the applicant may proceed with the registration application process set forth in this chapter.

50.3(2) *Investigation.* The department, upon receipt of sufficient identifying information from an applicant, shall:

a. Search the department's registration records to determine whether there is an owner of record for the vessel and whether the vessel has been reported stolen or embezzled;

b. If the department finds a record of prior ownership in the department's registration records, mail the release of ownership and rights to the vessel by first-class mail to the owner of record at

the owner's last-known address. The notice shall state that the owner of record may assert the owner's right to claim the vessel.

50.3(3) *Letter of release.* Upon receipt of the letter of release by the last registered owner or legal representative, the department may:

a. Provide approval notification to the applicant and the county recorder that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant is the rightful owner and that there is no known unsatisfied security interest, so the vessel may be registered and titled in Iowa.

b. Notify the appropriate authorities of the owner's claim to the vessel. No further action will be completed by the department.

50.3(4) *Letter of release.*

a. If the department receives no response from the owner of record within 30 days after the date of mailing or if the post office returns the notice to the department as undeliverable, the department will continue processing the bond request.

b. The department will determine the current retail value for the same type of vessel for which the registration is being sought with documentation from J.D. Power (formerly NADA) or Kelley Blue Book or through competitive pricing found on the Internet, or the applicant may submit an appraisal of the vessel by a licensed vessel dealer.

(1) If the current retail value of the vessel is \$1,000 or less as determined by the department and is over 15 years old, the department may allow the registration of the vehicle.

(2) If the current retail value of the vessel as determined by the department is more than \$1,000, the department will notify the applicant that the following requirements are needed to proceed with the bonding process:

1. A completed registration application form (as provided by the department).

2. Inspection of the vessel by a representative of the department, with a signature required on the registration application form.

3. A complete surety bond form (as provided by the department).

50.3(5) *Approval.* If the department determines that the applicant has complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant is the rightful owner, and that there is no known unsatisfied security interest, the department shall forward the original application to the county recorder and notify the applicant that the vessel may be registered and titled in Iowa.

50.3(6) *Disapproval.* If the department determines that the applicant has not complied with this rule, that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the applicant may not be the rightful owner, that there is an unsatisfied security interest, or that the owner of record asserts a claim for the vessel, the department shall not authorize issuance of a certificate of title or registration receipt and shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason(s).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321I.31(9), 321G.29(9) and 462A.5A.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***27. Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 51. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 51 establishes allowable uses of Game Management Areas. The rules are designed to ensure that Game Management Areas meet the goals of Iowa Code section 481A.6, which are to maintain biological balance and to provide for public hunting, fishing, or trapping in conformity with sound wildlife management. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). Specifically, there were provisions in this chapter that were outdated or repetitive to statute. In addition, the new version updates and clarifies the process for power-driven mobility devices for persons with physical disabilities and removes a reference to a target shooting range at Bays Branch. This target shooting range is now closed.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8606C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 51 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission hereby rescinds Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2)“a” and 481A.6.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2)“a” and 481A.6.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 51 establishes allowable uses of Game Management Areas. The rules are designed to ensure that Game Management Areas meet the goals of Iowa Code section 481A.6, which are to maintain biological balance and to provide for public hunting, fishing, or trapping in conformity with sound wildlife management. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). Specifically, there were provisions in this chapter that were outdated or repetitive to statute. In addition, the new version updates and clarifies the process for power-driven mobility devices for persons with physical disabilities and removes a reference to a target shooting range at Bays Branch. This target shooting range is now closed.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8606C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 51 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 51

GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS

571—51.1(481A) Definitions.

“Blind” means a constructed place of ambush or concealment for the purpose of hunting, observing, or photographing any species of wildlife.

“Decoy” means a bird, or animal, or a likeness of one, used to lure game within shooting range.

“Horse” means any equine animal, including horses, mules, burros, donkeys, and all llamas or alpaca-like animals.

“Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle having at least three wheels and registered as a motor vehicle under Iowa Code chapter 321, 321G, or 321I.

“Person with a physical disability” means any of the following: an individual commonly termed a paraplegic or quadriplegic, with paralysis or a physical condition of the lower half of the body with the involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord; a person who is a single or double amputee of the legs; or a person with any other physical affliction that makes it impossible to ambulate successfully without the use of a motor vehicle.

“Target shooting” means the discharge of a firearm for any reason other than the taking of, or attempting to take, any game birds, game animals, or furbearers.

571—51.2(481A) Jurisdiction. All lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the department are established as game management areas under the provisions of Iowa Code section 481A.6. Use restrictions are established to protect the primary purpose of game management areas, which is to provide fish and wildlife habitat and associated fish- and wildlife-dependent recreation. In addition to the restrictions in this chapter, the department may close portions of game

management areas to any use if hazardous or poor conditions warrant. Use restrictions in this chapter do not apply to department personnel, law enforcement officials, or other authorized persons engaged in research, management, or enforcement when in performance of their duties.

571—51.3(481A) Use of firearms.

51.3(1) *Restrictions.* The use or possession of firearms on certain game management areas is restricted.

a. Target shooting with shotguns shooting shot is not restricted to a specific range, except as otherwise provided. Target shooters using shotguns with lead shot cannot discharge the shot over water.

b. Target shooting shall occur only on the designated and posted shooting range.

c. Any person target shooting with any type of handgun or any type of rifle, or shooting shotgun slugs through a shotgun, must fire through one of the firing tubes, if provided, or at the firing points on the rifle or pistol range.

d. It is a violation of these rules to place any target on the top of the earthen backstop or to fire at any target placed on top of the backstop.

e. The shotgun range, if provided, is restricted to the use of shotguns and the shooting of shotshells only.

f. Target shooting shall occur only between the hours of sunrise and sunset, unless otherwise posted.

g. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the shooting range or adjacent parking area.

h. Target shooting is restricted to legal firearms and shall not be done with any fully automatic pistol, rifle, or shotgun of any kind. Armor piercing and tracer ammunition is prohibited.

i. Targets are restricted to paper or cardboard targets or metal silhouette-type targets. Metal targets must be placed a minimum of 15 yards from the firing point for handguns and 100 yards away from the firing point for rifles. No glass, plastic containers, appliances, or other materials may be used. Targets must be removed from the area after use or must be disposed of in trash receptacles if provided.

j. All requirements listed in this subrule shall apply to the following shooting ranges:

(1) Brushy Creek Area—Webster County.

(2) Hawkeye Wildlife Area—Johnson County.

(3) Hull Wildlife Area—Mahaska County.

(4) Mines of Spain—Dubuque County.

(5) Ocheyedon Wildlife Area—Clay County.

(6) Spring Run Wildlife Area—Dickinson County.

(7) Oyens Shooting Range—Plymouth County. The range is closed to the public except between 9 a.m. and sunset.

(8) McIntosh Wildlife Area—Cerro Gordo County. The use or possession of firearms, except shotguns shooting shot only, is prohibited.

51.3(2) *Use of paintball guns.* The use of any item generally referred to as a paintball gun is prohibited on all game management areas.

571—51.4(481A) Use of horses on game management areas.

51.4(1) *Prohibition.* Horses are prohibited on all game management areas unless allowed by exception. This rule does not apply to state forests or state recreation areas.

51.4(2) *Exception for hunting and field trials.* Horses may be used on all game management areas for training raccoon hunting dogs from October 1 to February 1 and for hunting raccoons

during open hunting seasons. Horses may be used for participating in authorized field trials, unless this activity is posted as prohibited.

51.4(3) *Exception for horseback riding.* Horseback riding is allowed on the following game management areas from May 25 to September 30 and is confined to existing roads or trails as posted:

- a. Elk Grove Wildlife Area—Guthrie County.
- b. Lennon Mills Wildlife Area—Guthrie County.
- c. Marlow Ray Wildlife Area—Guthrie County.
- d. Middle Raccoon River Wildlife Area—Guthrie County.
- e. Sand Creek Wildlife Area—Decatur and Ringgold Counties.
- f. Cardinal Marsh—Winneshek County.
- g. Hawkeye Wildlife Area—Johnson County.
- h. Black Hawk Wildlife Area—Sac County.
- i. Turkey River Wildlife Area—Howard County.

571—51.5(481A) Dogs prohibited—exception. Dogs are prohibited on all state-owned game management areas between the dates of March 15 and July 15 each year. Training of dogs is permitted in designated training areas. Field and retriever meets are only permitted at designated sites and must have secured a permit as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.22 that shows the exact designated site of said meet, and all dogs shall be confined to that site.

571—51.6(481A) Use of blinds and decoys on game management areas.

51.6(1) *Stationary blinds.* The construction and use of stationary blinds on all game management areas, except on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National

Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River, are restricted as follows:

a. Construction. Any person may construct a stationary blind using only the natural vegetation found on the area. No trees or parts of trees other than willows may be cut for use in constructing a blind. No other man-made materials of any type may be used for building or providing access to a stationary blind.

b. Use of blinds. The use of any stationary blind that is constructed in violation of 51.6(1) “a” is prohibited.

c. Ownership of blinds. Any person who constructs or uses a stationary blind does not have any proprietary right-of-ownership to the blind.

51.6(2) *Portable blinds.* The construction and use of portable blinds on game management areas is restricted as follows:

a. Construction. A portable blind may be constructed of any natural or man-made material, as long as it is a self-contained unit capable of being readily moved from one site to another.

b. Prohibited use. Portable blinds shall be prohibited from one hour after sunset until midnight each day. Portable blinds that are built on, or are part of, a boat shall be considered as removed from an area when the boat and blind are tied up or moored at an approved access site. No boat shall be anchored away from shore and left unattended unless it is attached to a legal buoy.

c. Exception—tree blinds. Portable blinds placed in trees and used for purposes other than hunting waterfowl may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer or turkey and ending seven days after the final day of that open season. Portable blinds left on game management areas do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the blind when unattended, or exclusive use of the site.

d. Protection of trees. The use of any spike, nail, pin, or other object that is driven or screwed into a tree is prohibited.

51.6(3) *Use of decoys.* The use of decoys on any game management area, except on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River, is restricted as follows:

Decoys are prohibited from one hour after sunset until midnight each day, and decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one hour after sunset. Decoys are considered removed from an area when they are picked up and placed in a boat, vehicle or other container at an approved access site.

51.6(4) *Use of stationary blinds and waterfowl decoys on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River.* The use of stationary blinds for waterfowl hunting on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, and on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 of the Mississippi River is restricted as follows:

a. Registration. Hunters must register their blind site with the department of natural resources. Registration will be held annually in August. Registration is for a five-year period and requires payment of a fee of \$100. The blind registration number must be visibly posted at the blind's entrance.

b. Construction. Blinds must have minimum dimensions of 4 feet by 8 feet and not greater than 500 square feet of floor space, not including a boat hide. The blind must be constructed of biodegradable materials, including nontreated dimensional lumber and nontreated plywood,

unless the blind will be removed at the end of the waterfowl season. The use of metal or nylon fasteners, including but not limited to nails, screws, lag bolts, staples and ties, is allowed. Treated lumber, treated plywood, woven wire, chicken wire, cattle panels, tin and sheet metal, vinyl and plastic, and other nonbiodegradable materials are not allowed unless those materials or the entire blind is removed within three days after the close of the waterfowl season.

c. Tree and brush removal. The removal of brush or trees, except willows, surrounding any blind is prohibited. Willows and annual vegetation from the blind site may be used to cover the blind.

d. Occupation of blinds. Registrants must occupy their blind site by the opening of shooting time each day to claim the blind site for that day. After that time, unoccupied blind sites will be available to any other hunters. No person may claim or attempt to claim a blind that is legally occupied. No person may harass, in any manner, the occupants of a blind that is legally occupied.

e. Locking blinds. Locking of any blind is prohibited.

f. Decoys. Decoys may be left out for the entire waterfowl season but must be picked up and removed from the area within three days after the close of the waterfowl season. All jugs and other floating devices used to attract waterfowl are considered decoys.

571—51.7(481A) Trapping on game management areas—marking trap sites. The placement of traps, stakes, flags, markers, or any other item or device to be used for trapping furbearers, or to mark or otherwise claim any site for trapping furbearers on game management areas, is prohibited, except during the open season for taking furbearers other than coyote or raccoon.

571—51.8(481A) Motor vehicle restrictions. The use of motor vehicles on all game management areas is restricted.

51.8(1) *Roads and parking lots.* Except as otherwise provided in these rules, motor vehicles are prohibited on game management areas except on constructed and designated roads and parking lots.

51.8(2) *Use of motor vehicles by persons with a physical disability.* Persons with a physical disability may use certain motor vehicles to access specific areas in game management areas, according to restrictions set out in this subrule or otherwise provided for by the department's other power-driven mobility device (OPDMD) processes, in order to enjoy the same recreational opportunities available to others.

a. Reasonable accommodations. Each person with a physical disability or mobility impairment may request a reasonable accommodation to game management area staff in order to use an OPDMD within game management areas. Reasonable accommodation requests are considered on a case-by-case basis based on the facts and circumstances and considering need, protection of the permit holder, protection of other users, and protection of natural resources consistent with relevant state and federal law.

b. Permits. Persons with a physical disability or mobility impairment must have a permit issued by game management area staff in order to use a motor vehicle in specific, approved areas within game management areas. One companion may accompany the OPDMD user on the same vehicle if that vehicle is designed for more than one rider; otherwise, the companion must walk.

c. Exclusive use. The issuance of a permit does not imply that the permittee has exclusive or indiscriminate use of an area. Permittees shall take reasonable care not to unduly interfere with the use of the area by others.

d. Prohibited acts. Except as provided in 51.8(1), the use of a motor vehicle on any game management area by a person without a valid permit, or at any site not approved on a signed map,

is prohibited. Permits and maps must be carried by the permittee at any time the permittee is using a motor vehicle on a game management area and must be exhibited to any department employee or law enforcement official upon request.

e. Shooting from motor vehicle. Except where prohibited by law, a person with a physical disability or mobility impairment meeting the conditions of this rule may shoot from a stationary motor vehicle.

571—51.9(481A) Use of nontoxic shot on wildlife areas. It shall be unlawful to hunt any migratory game bird or resident game or furbearers, except deer and turkeys, or target shoot with a shotgun while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the following wildlife areas:

<u>County</u>	<u>Wildlife Area</u>
Benton	Iowa River Corridor
Boone	Harrier Marsh
Buena Vista	All state and federal areas
Calhoun	South Twin Lake
Cerro Gordo	All state and federal areas
Clay	All state and federal areas except the Ocheyedan wildlife area target shooting range
Dickinson	All state and federal areas except the Spring Run target shooting range
Emmet	All state and federal areas
Franklin	All state and federal areas
Greene	All state and federal areas except Rippey Access and McMahon Access
Guthrie	McCord Pond, Lakin Slough and Bays Branch
Hamilton	Little Wall Lake, Gordon Marsh and Bauer Slough
Hancock	All state and federal areas
Humboldt	All state and federal areas

Iowa	Iowa River Corridor
Jasper	Chichaqua
Kossuth	All state and federal areas
Osceola	All state and federal areas
Palo Alto	All state and federal areas
Pocahontas	All state and federal areas except Kalsow Prairie
Polk	Paul Errington Marsh and Chichaqua
Sac	All state and federal areas except White Horse Access and Sac City Access
Story	Hendrickson Marsh and Colo Bog
Tama	Iowa River Corridor
Winnebago	All state and federal areas
Worth	All state and federal areas
Wright	All state and federal areas

571—51.10(481A) Rock climbing and rappelling. Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited at all game management areas except at Indian Bluffs and Pictured Rocks wildlife management areas, Boone Forks wildlife management area only on the abandoned railroad bridge piers., and those authorized by 571—subrule 61.10(12). No one shall place bolts, pitons, or similar anchoring devices at Indian Bluffs or Pictured Rocks unless authorized to do so by the wildlife biologist in charge of the area.

571—51.11(481A) Camping restrictions. Primitive camping is allowed on all game management areas for a period not to exceed 14 days of consecutive use, unless specific restrictions are posted on site. The department may prohibit or restrict camping at any game management area by the posting of signs stating the applicable restrictions.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2) and 481A.6.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***28. Chapter 52, “Wildlife Refuges” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 52. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 52 establishes wildlife refuges on state-owned lands and water under the jurisdiction of the Department. Wildlife refuges are sanctuaries for wildlife and help preserve a species’ biological balance pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code sections 481A.35, 481A.6, and 481A.39; provide for the protection of public parks and public health, safety, and welfare; and effect sound wildlife management. This chapter has been edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). Several long provisions identifying wildlife refuges have been removed and replaced with a more user-friendly list and visual map (with a fixed date) on the Department’s website.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8607C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 52 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission hereby rescinds Chapter 52, “Wildlife Refuges,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same name.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.9 and 481A.39.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.5, 481A.6, 481A.9 and 481A.39.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 52 establishes wildlife refuges on state-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources (Department). Wildlife refuges are sanctuaries for wildlife and help preserve a species’ biological balance pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.35, and 481A.39; provide for the protection of public parks and public health, safety, and welfare; and effect sound wildlife management. This chapter has been edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). Several long provisions identifying wildlife refuges have been removed and replaced with a more user-friendly list and visual map (with a fixed date) on the Department’s website.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8607C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 52 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 52

WILDLIFE REFUGES

571—52.1(481A) Established. State-owned lands and water under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources may be established as wildlife refuges or sanctuaries for the purpose of preserving the biological balance pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 481A.39; for the protection of public parks and public health, safety and welfare; and to effect sound wildlife management.

52.1(1) *State parks, recreation areas and preserves.* State parks, recreation areas, and preserves listed on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting/hunting-licenses-laws are established as wildlife refuges, except where posted as open to public hunting.

52.1(2) *Wildlife refuges.* Areas listed on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting/hunting-licenses-laws are established as wildlife refuges where posted. It is unlawful to hunt, pursue, kill, trap, or take any wild animal, bird, or game on these areas at any time, and no one shall carry firearms thereon, except where and when specifically authorized by the department. It is unlawful to trespass in any manner on these areas, where posted, during the dates posted, both dates inclusive, except that department personnel, law enforcement officials, and other persons specifically authorized by the department may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties, and hunters, under the supervision of department staff, may enter the area when specifically authorized by the department.

52.1(3) *Waterfowl refuges.* Areas listed on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting/hunting-licenses-laws are established as waterfowl refuges where posted. It is unlawful to hunt ducks and geese on these areas, where posted, at any time during the year. It is unlawful to trespass in any manner on these areas, where posted, during the dates

posted, both dates inclusive, except that department personnel, law enforcement officials, and other persons specifically authorized by the department may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties, and hunters, under the supervision of department staff, may enter the area when specifically authorized by the department.

52.1(4) *Restricted areas.* It is unlawful to trespass in any manner on areas posted as restricted areas, except that department personnel, law enforcement officials, and other persons specifically authorized by the department may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.5, 481A.6, 481A.9 and 481A.39.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***29. Chapter 54, “Restrictions on Introduction and Removal of Plant Life” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 54. This is the result of Fisheries’ Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 54 governs the introduction and removal of aquatic plants in public waters and the harvest of other plants and fungi on public lands. More specifically, the chapter provides guidance on mushrooms and asparagus, fruit, American ginseng, and trees on public lands and aquatic plants under the jurisdiction of the Commission. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8608C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearing and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025.

Joe Larscheid, Chief
Fisheries Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 54 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 54, “Restrictions on Introduction and Removal of Plant Life,” and adopts a new Chapter 54, “Restrictions on Removal of Plant Life,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), 456A.24(11), 461A.35 and 461A.41.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), 456A.24(11), 461A.35 and 461A.41.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 54 governs the introduction and removal of aquatic plants in public waters and the harvest of other plants and fungi on public lands. More specifically, the chapter provides guidance on mushrooms and asparagus, fruit, American ginseng, and trees on public lands and aquatic plants under the jurisdiction of the Commission. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8608C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28th and 29th, 2025, both at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 54 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 54

RESTRICTIONS ON REMOVAL OF PLANT LIFE

571—54.1(461A) Mushrooms and asparagus. The public may harvest mushrooms and asparagus on lands under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission during the hours the areas are open to the public.

571—54.2(461A) Fruit. Lands under the jurisdiction of the commission shall be open for the harvesting of all varieties of nuts, fruits, and berries unless signs are posted prohibiting such activity. Nut, fruit, and berry gathering shall be permitted only during the hours the areas are open to the public and shall not be permitted in state preserves unless allowed by the preserve's management plan.

571—54.3(461A) American ginseng. The harvesting of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is subject to regulation by 571—Chapter 78.

571—54.4(461A) Trees. The commercial harvest of trees from lands under the jurisdiction of the commission shall be done in accordance with 561—8.5(17A,456A,461A) and 561—8.6(455B), according to the department's Forest Ecosystem Management Guide, approved by the commission on December 8, 1994, and hereby adopted by reference.

571—54.5(461A) Aquatic plants. This rule applies to the removal of plants in public waters as those waters are defined by rule 571—13.2(455A,461A,462A). For purposes of this rule, aquatic plants include vegetation that exists at or below the ordinary high-water line of a waterway.

54.5(1) *Permits.*

a. The department may issue permits for the removal of aquatic plants in public waters. To be considered for a permit under this rule, applicants shall use the department's application form for sovereign lands construction permits, as described in 571—13.9(455A,461A,462A), and complete all relevant information on that application form. Applicants shall also provide any additional information as may be necessary, as described in 571—13.10(455A,461A). The term of the permit shall be stated in the permit. Permits are nontransferable and are subject to reevaluation upon expiration. Permits may be issued for between one and five years.

b. Cities and counties in Iowa may use chemicals, including herbicides, to remove aquatic vegetation from water intake structures. Such cities and counties shall be required to obtain a permit under this rule unless operating under a vegetation management plan approved by the director. Permits under 567—Chapter 66 may be required separately. Additionally, a certified aquatic applicator is required to conduct all such use of chemicals, and any application is subject to the terms of a vegetation management plan approved by the director. Issuance of such permits and approval of a vegetation management plan is at the sole discretion of the department.

54.5(2) *Evaluation.* The department shall evaluate all permits sought under this rule in accordance with the evaluation criteria enumerated in 571—13.6(455A,461A,462A). In addition, the department shall consider the following criteria for aquatic plant removal:

- a. The plants shall be removed by hand-cutting, hand-pulling, hand-raking or mechanical cutting only;
- b. The plants shall be removed to establish a designated travel lane from a boat dock that has been permitted in accordance with 571—Chapter 16. Such travel lane shall not exceed a 15-foot width, and the placement of such lane shall be subject to the review and approval of the department. A travel lane allowed under this rule may be in the same location during the term of the permit, may be sited by the department to accommodate vegetation, and may not necessarily be the most direct path from the dock to the open water area; and
- c. All plant material removed under the permit must be left in place or collected and composted on the land owned, leased or otherwise subject to use by the applicant that is adjacent to the removal area.
- d. Unless otherwise provided by this rule, in no event may a person be allowed to apply chemicals including, without limitation, herbicides to remove aquatic plants from public waters. For nonpublic waters that meet certain designations in 567—Chapter 66, a person may be required to seek a permit under the rules established herein to use herbicides.

54.5(3) *Inspection requirements.* For the purpose of inspecting for compliance with permit conditions, the department shall have the right to enter the property attached to the public water at or near the place of removal. This inspection shall include, without limitation, identification of introduced species, a determination as to whether the travel lane is being maintained in accordance with the permit conditions, and whether removed plant material is left on site.

54.5(4) *Violations.* Persons in violation of this rule or who introduce aquatic plants to public waters are guilty of a simple misdemeanor as described by Iowa Code section 461A.57.

54.5(5) *Exceptions.*

a. A dock permittee whose dock meets the conditions of 571—16.4(461A,462A), 571—16.6(461A,462A), or 571—16.7(461A,462A) may remove aquatic vegetation without a permit if the aquatic vegetation:

- (1) Creates a hazardous or detrimental condition in the boating area around the dock, or
- (2) Covers a minimum of 75 percent of the boating area around the dock.

b. A dock permittee meeting one of the exceptions in 54.5(5)“a” must verify at inspection that the dock meets the criteria for a Class I, Class II or Class III dock permit and is limited to the following:

- (1) Removal of vegetation in a 20-foot radius around the dock;
- (2) Removal of a hazardous or detrimental condition when it interferes with safe boating passage and is located within the boating area around the dock;
- (3) Creation of a 15-foot-wide boating pathway utilizing a direct route from the dock to open water;
- (4) Adherence to the requirement to leave the vegetation in place or collect and compost it on land that is owned, leased or otherwise subject to use by the dock permittee and is adjacent to the removal area; and
- (5) Removal of the vegetation by hand-cutting, hand-pulling, hand-raking or mechanical cutting devices, excluding automated plant control devices that disturb the bottom substrate.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24, 461A.35, and 461A.42.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***30. Chapter 55, “Nonpermanent Structures” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 55, “Nonpermanent Structures.” This is the result of the Law Enforcement Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 55 governs the placement, construction, or erection of ice fishing shelters placed on or over lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission. It sets removal dates, owner identification requirements, accessibility requirements, and reflector requirements for shelters left on the ice overnight. Changes include setting a permanent removal date of March 1st or prior to ice melt, and reducing the owner-identification minimum requirement to just one side of a shelter and DNR number.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8610C. Two public hearings were held on Friday, January 31, 2025 and Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no public comments were received. The final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Matt Bruner, Captain
Law Enforcement Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 55 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 55, “Nonpermanent Structures,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 461A.4.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 461A.4.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 55 regulates the placement, visibility, and identification of ice fishing shelters on public waters. This chapter ensures increased safety on the ice, prevents accidents, and reduces the risk of shelters falling through melting ice. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8610C**.

Two virtual public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025. No one attended the hearings. No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 55 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 55

NONPERMANENT STRUCTURES

571—55.1(461A) Ice fishing shelters.

55.1(1) *General.* The following rules govern the placement, construction, or erection of ice fishing shelters placed on or over lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission.

55.1(2) *Removal.* Unattended ice fishing shelters and all material used in their construction shall be removed from on or over lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission before ice melt or March 1 of each year, whichever comes first.

55.1(3) *Owner information.* All unattended shelters left on the ice or state-owned land shall display the owner's assigned department number; or full name, street address and city in clearly visible three-inch-high block letters in a color contrasting to the background.

55.1(4) *Permit.* The owner information displayed in accordance with the provisions of this rule will act as the permit for the placement of ice fishing shelters on or over lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission.

55.1(5) *Accessibility.* Ice fishing shelters shall not be locked when in use.

55.1(6) *Reflectors.* All shelters on the ice after sunset shall display reflectors on all external sides in such a manner to enable them to reflect light at all times between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

55.1(7) *Shelter prohibited.* No person shall own or use any shelter placed on or over lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the natural resource commission in violation of any of the provisions of this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 461A.4.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

31. Chapter 56, "Shooting Sports Program Grants" – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 56 with a new chapter titled, "Shooting Sports Grant Program." This is the result of Communication, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 56 establishes a target shooting sports program to promote recreational target shooting sports. The purpose of the program is to introduce more lowans to target shooting sports, promote existing target shooting programs, provide more target shooting facilities, and improve existing target shooting facilities. Chapter 56 also establishes a grant program and provides clear requirements to lowans on how to apply for the grants.

New Chapter 56 recognizes that the two grant programs (the shooting sports development grant program and the shooting sports equipment grant program) follow the same process with just a few differences. Instead of separate subsections for each grant program, the chapter was streamlined to recognize the same process applies to both programs, with the few differences between the programs identified as appropriate.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8613C. Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025 and February 11, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: Two individuals attended the public hearings and five comments were received in writing. All comments were in support of continuing shooting sports program grants as funding allows. No changes to the rule itself were recommended. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Tammie Krausman, Communication, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 56 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 56, “Shooting Sports Program Grants,” and adopts a new Chapter 56 titled “Shooting Sports Grant Program,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 456A.30 and 481A.17.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.30 and 481A.17.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 56 establishes a target shooting sports grant program to promote recreational target shooting sports. The purpose of the program is to introduce more Iowans to target shooting sports, promote existing target shooting programs, provide more target shooting facilities, and improve existing target shooting facilities. Chapter 56 also establishes a grant program and provides clear requirements to Iowans on how to apply for the grants.

Consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023), this chapter was edited for length and clarity. Specifically, the new chapter recognizes that the two grant programs (the shooting sports development grant program and the shooting sports equipment grant program) follow the same process with just a few differences. Instead of separate rules for each grant program, the chapter was streamlined to recognize that the same process applies to both programs, with the few differences between the programs identified as appropriate.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8613C**.

Two public hearings were held on January 31, 2025, and February 11, 2025, both at 11am via Google Meets. Two individuals attended the public hearings and five comments were received in writing. All comments were in support of continuing shooting sports program grants as funding allows. No changes to the rule itself were recommended.

No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 56 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 56

SHOOTING SPORTS GRANT PROGRAM

571—56.1(456A,481A) Purpose. The purpose of the shooting sports development grant is to provide state cost sharing to eligible applicants for the creation of new shooting ranges and improvement of existing shooting ranges and facilities. The purpose of the shooting sports equipment grant is to provide state cost sharing to

eligible applicants for the purchase or improvement of shooting range equipment. The department of natural resources shall administer this program.

571—56.2(462A) Definitions.

“Commission” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 481A.1.

“Committee” means the review and selection committee established in 56.6(1).

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 481A.1.

“Director” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 481A.1.

571—56.3(456A,481A) Eligibility requirements. The applicant must submit an application and all supporting documents in a timely manner.

56.3(1) *Applicant requirements.* The entity submitting the application must meet the requirements of this subrule. The entity must:

- a. Allow public access;
- b. Be free of any unresolved close-out issues on prior grant projects;
- c. Ensure that the shooting range will be located on property owned by the applicant or that the property is enrolled in a long-term lease of at least 25 years;
- d. Have liability insurance unless not required by law; and
- e. Make the range available for department hunter education courses, department hunter and recreational shooter recruitment efforts, department archery programs, and Scholastic Clay Target Program and Scholastic Action Shooting Program activities.

56.3(2) *Eligible entities.* The following entities are eligible to apply for development grants:

- a. Iowa-based shooting sports organizations.
- b. Iowa primary and secondary public and private schools.
- c. Iowa public and private colleges and universities.
- d. Iowa nonprofit corporations.
- e. Public ranges not owned by the state.
- f. City park and recreation agencies, or county governments.

56.3(3) *Ineligible entities.* Privately owned for-profit ranges and state-owned-and-operated public ranges are not eligible for development grants.

571—56.4(456A,481A) Maximum grant amounts. The following are the maximum grant request amounts established for the development and equipment grant programs:

56.4(1) The maximum grant request amount for development grants is \$50,000 per project with at least a 25 percent match as described in 56.5(3).

56.4(2) There is no maximum grant request amount for equipment grants, but a 50 percent match is required as described in 56.5(3).

571—56.5(456A,481A) Grant application submissions.

56.5(1) *Form of application.* Grant applications shall be on forms provided by the department and shall follow guidelines provided by the department.

56.5(2) *Application deadline.* Grant applications (one original and five copies) must be received by the department by February 1.

56.5(3) *Match and local funding.* Applicants are expected to finance 25 percent of development grant projects or 50 percent of equipment grant projects, either through cash, donated materials and labor, or another preapproved in-kind match. An applicant shall certify that it has committed its match before the 90 percent up-front grant payment will be made pursuant to 571—56.11(456A,481A). A letter of intent signed by the mayor, the chairperson of the board of supervisors, the chairperson of the county conservation board, or the CEO or chief financial officer of an agency, organization, or corporation and submitted with the application showing intent to include matching funds in finalized budgets will be accepted as proof of commitment. Applicants must forward proof of local funding to the department by June 1. If proof of local funding is not submitted, the application will be removed from the list of approved projects.

56.5(4) *Competitive bids.* Any development or equipment grant expense of more than \$15,000 that is funded by grant dollars must be purchased through a competitive bid or quotation process. Records of such processes must be submitted with close-out documentation. Items purchased by any other means are not reimbursable under the grant.

571—56.6(456A,481A) Grant project review and selection.

56.6(1) *Review and selection committee.* The review and selection committee shall be comprised of six members appointed by the director. The committee shall review and evaluate grant applications and determine final project approval to be recommended to the commission. Three members shall be department staff, and three members shall be from the public/private sector and shall be appointed based upon their expertise and interest in one of the three shooting sports of rifle/handgun, shotgun, and archery.

56.6(2) *Conflict of interest.* If a grant project is submitted to the committee by an entity with a member or employee on the committee, that committee member shall not participate in discussion and shall not vote on that particular project.

56.6(3) *Consideration withheld.* The committee will not consider any application that, on the date of the selection session, is not complete or for which additional pertinent information has been requested and not received. The committee will not consider any application from an entity that, on the date of the selection session, has not demonstrated compliance with or does not have a reasonable plan for achieving compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 657.9.

56.6(4) *Application rating system.* The committee will apply a numerical rating system to each grant application that is considered for funding. The criteria and maximum number of points are as follows:

- a. Overall program strength and feasibility—30 points.
- b. Education—30 points.
- c. Proximity to other public ranges—25 points.
- d. Range capacity—15 points.
- e. Project type—10 points.

56.6(5) *Rating of scores for tiebreakers.* If two or more projects receive the same score, the committee shall use the points awarded for overall program strength and feasibility (56.6(4)“a”) to determine which project has a higher rank.

571—56.7(456A,481A) Commission review. The commission will review and act upon all committee recommendations at the next scheduled commission meeting. The commission may reject any grant application

selected for funding. Applicants shall be notified of their grant status in writing within 30 days after the commission meeting.

571—56.8(456A,481A) Appeals. Unfunded applicants may appeal the commission's decision to the director within five days of receipt of the commission's decision. A letter of appeal shall be sent to the director of the department. Before making a final decision as to the grant award, the director shall review the application, committee score sheets and commission minutes.

571—56.9(456A,481A) Grant amendments. Grant amendments may be made upon request by the applicant, subject to the availability of funds and approval by the director or the director's designee.

571—56.10(456A,481A) Timely commencement of projects. Grant recipients are expected to carry out their projects in an expeditious manner. Projects shall be initiated no later than two months following their approval by the committee and shall be completed no later than June 30 of the year following the grant award. Failure to initiate projects in a timely manner may be cause for termination of the agreement and cancellation of the grant.

571—56.11(456A,481A) Payments. Ninety percent of approved grant funding may be paid to project grantees when requested, but no earlier than the start-up date of the project. Ten percent of the grant total shall be withheld by the department, pending successful completion of the project and final site inspection, or until any irregularities discovered as a result of the final site inspection have been resolved.

56.11(1) *Expense documentation, balance payment or reimbursement.* Documentation of expenditures eligible for prepayment or reimbursement shall be submitted on forms provided by the department and shall be accompanied by applicable receipts showing evidence that the expense is necessary and reasonably related to the creation of a new shooting range or to the improvement of an existing shooting range or facility. The grantee shall sign a certification stating that all expenses for which reimbursement is requested are related to the project and have been paid by the grantee prior to requesting reimbursement. The grantee shall provide copies of evidence or documents to verify that expenses were made.

56.11(2) *Reasonable costs.* For purposes of this rule, expenses that are necessary and reasonably related to the creation of a new shooting range or to the improvement of an existing shooting range or facility include,

without limitation: (1) costs associated with the lease or acquisition of real property used for the project; (2) personal property acquired for use in the project; (3) management and maintenance costs associated with the project; and (4) if applicable, costs of the actual equipment approved as the funded project and associated delivery costs, as well as the management and maintenance costs associated with such equipment. However, in no event shall funds awarded under this program be used to cover costs associated with employment or personnel costs of the grant recipient, including salaries and benefits. Those costs, however, may be used to meet the match requirement described in 56.5(3).

571—56.12(456A,481A) Recordkeeping and retention. Grant recipients shall keep adequate records relating to the administration of the project, particularly relating to all incurred expenses. These records shall be available for audit by representatives of the department and the state auditor's office for a period of three years following the close of the grant. All records shall be retained in accordance with state laws.

56.12(1) *Definition of records.* Records include but are not necessarily limited to invoices, canceled checks, bank statements, and bid and quote documentation.

56.12(2) *Annual reports.* Grant recipients shall submit on forms provided by the department an annual report for five years following the close of the grant.

56.12(3) *Final performance reports.* At the conclusion of the project agreement, grant recipients shall submit on forms provided by the department a final performance report.

571—56.13(456A,481A) Project life and recovery of grant funds. Applicants shall state an expected project life of at least ten years, which will become part of the project agreement. Should the funded project cease to be used for public recreation before the end of the stated project life, the director may seek to recover the remaining value of the grant award.

571—56.14(456A,481A) Unlawful use of grant funds. Unlawful use of grant funds includes whenever any property, real or personal, acquired or developed with grant funds under this program passes from the control of the grantee or is used for purposes other than the approved project.

571—56.15(456A,481A) Remedy. Grant funds used without authorization for purposes other than the approved project, or unlawfully, must be returned to the department for deposit in the account supporting this program. In the case of diversion of personal property, the grantee shall remit to the department funds in the amount of the original purchase price of the property. The grantee shall have a period of three months after notification from the department in which to correct the unlawful use of funds. The remedy provided in this rule is in addition to others provided by law.

571—56.16(456A,481A) Ineligibility. Whenever the director determines that a grantee is in violation of these rules, that grantee shall be ineligible for further assistance until the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the director.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.30 and 481A.17.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent*)

***32. Chapter 64, “Metal Detector Use in State Areas” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 64, “Metal Detector Use in State Areas.” This is the result of Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 64 regulates the use of metal detectors in state areas. Chapter 64 allows members of the public to engage in metal detecting in areas that will be least disruptive to the natural environment and to other members of the public. Final changes include updating cross-references to other rule chapters, amending requirements for the permit to use a metal detector in support of an archaeological or scientific study, and removing the requirement that persons using metal detectors shall wear or carry a litter apron or bag.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8586C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearing and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 64 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 64, “Metal Detector Use in State Areas.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 461A.35.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 461A.35.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 64 regulates the use of metal detectors in state areas. This chapter allows members of the public to engage in metal detecting in areas that will be least disruptive to the natural environment and to other members of the public. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8586C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 64 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 64

METAL DETECTOR USE IN STATE AREAS

571—64.1(461A) Definitions.

“Beach” or *“beach area”* means that portion of state parks or recreation areas designated for swimming activity including the sand, a 200-foot buffer of land surrounding the sand or a designated area that is fenced in, and the water area contiguous to the beach as marked by swim buoys or swim lines.

“Metal detector” means a portable electronic device carried by an individual used only for detecting metal above or below the surface of the ground.

571—64.2(461A) Use areas. Metal detector use in state parks and recreation areas is prohibited except in the following areas:

64.2(1) *Designated beach areas.* From May 22 to September 7 each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day. From September 8 to May 21 each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas during the hours established in 571—subrule 61.10(10).

64.2(2) *Drained lakes.* When an artificial lake has been drained or the water level lowered for any reason, metal detector use may be allowed during the hours established in 571—subrule 61.10(10) only after the lake bed has been thoroughly surveyed for archaeological resources and a survey report has been completed and approved by the state historic preservation office.

571—64.3(461A) Archaeological/scientific studies. When the use of a metal detector may support an archaeological or scientific study, a sovereign lands construction permit may be issued. Review of all sovereign lands construction permit applications shall be coordinated with the state historic preservation office.

571—64.4(461A) Found items. All items found are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 556F.

571—64.5(461A) Lost item search by owner. An owner of lost property may use a metal detector to search for that item in an area where such use is prohibited under the following conditions:

64.5(1) Written approval has been granted by the director of the department of natural resources or designee.

64.5(2) The search is confined to a reasonable area within the park or recreation area.

64.5(3) The search is limited to 12 hours or less in length.

571—64.6(461A) Tools used. Tools used to recover items detected beneath the ground level shall be limited to the following:

64.6(1) Probes not over 12 inches long, 1-inch wide, and ¼-inch thick.

64.6(2) A sand scoop or sieve not over ten inches in diameter.

571—64.7(461A) Digging limitations and restoration.

64.7(1) In recovering items located below the ground, a person shall not unduly disturb the earth and shall limit all excavations to less than three inches square when using probes and ten inches in diameter when using sand scoops or sieves.

64.7(2) When digging is done to search for an object, the metal detector operator shall restore the disturbed area as nearly as possible to its original condition.

571—64.8(461A) Disposal of litter. All litter that is recovered shall be disposed of in approved trash receptacles.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 461A.35.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***33. Chapter 61, “State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping” and Chapter 63, “Keg Beer
– Final Rules**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to amend Chapter 61, “State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping” and to rescind and reserve Chapter 63, “Keg Beer Rules.” This is the result of Parks, Forests and Preserve Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 63 provides guidance on consumption of beer dispensed from a keg in state parks and recreation areas, and designated state forest campgrounds. This chapter is unnecessarily burdensome in light of other existing processes for gatherings within state parks, recreation areas, and designated state forests. Chapter 63 is being rescinded and reserved.

However, one rule from Chapter 63 has been adopted into Chapter 61, and an existing reference in Chapter 61 to Chapter 63 has been removed. Chapter 61 provides the citizens of Iowa and other visitors who use state parks, recreation areas, and state forest campgrounds with guidance with using these areas. Additionally, during review it was determined that certain definitions needed updated. The phrase “Boy Scouts of America” was no longer accurate and has been modified to “Scouts of America.” The phrases “recreation areas,” “state parks,” and “state park managed by another governmental entity” have also been modified to add sentences that were inadvertently removed during a prior rulemaking.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8585C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests and Preserve Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapters 61, 63 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby amends Chapter 61, “State Parks, Recreation Areas, and State Forest Camping” and rescinds and reserves Chapter 63, “Keg Beer Rules.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 461A.3 and 461A.35.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 461A.3 and 461A.35.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 63 provides guidance on consumption of beer dispensed from a keg in state parks and recreation areas, and designated state forest campgrounds. In compliance with Executive Order 10 (2023), Chapter 63 on gatherings involving keg beer is rescinded due to outdated and unnecessary language. This chapter is unnecessarily burdensome in light of other existing processes for gatherings within state parks, recreation areas, and designated state forests.

However, one rule from Chapter 63 has adopted into Chapter 61, and an existing reference in Chapter 61 to Chapter 63 has been removed. Chapter 61 provides the citizens of Iowa and other visitors who use state parks, recreation areas, and state forest campgrounds with guidance for using these areas. Additionally, during review it was determined that certain definitions needed to be updated. The phrase “Boy Scouts of America” is no longer accurate and has been changed to “Scouts of America.” The terms “recreation areas,” “state parks,” and “state park managed by another governmental entity” have also been modified to add sentences that were inadvertently removed during a prior rulemaking.

This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8585C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Amend rule **571—61.1(461A)**, definitions of “Chaperoned, organized youth group,” “Recreation areas,” “State park” and “State park managed by another governmental entity,” as follows:

“Chaperoned, organized youth group” means a group of persons 17 years of age and under, ~~which~~ that is sponsored by and accompanied by adult representatives of a formal organization, including, but not limited to, the ~~Boy~~ Scouts of America or Girl Scouts of America, a church, or a Young Men’s or Young Women’s Christian Association. “Chaperoned, organized youth group” does not include family members of a formal organization.

“Recreation areas” means the following areas that have been designated by action of the commission:

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>
Badger Creek Recreation Area	Madison
Brushy Creek Recreation Area	Webster
Clair Wilson Park	Dickinson
Emerson Bay and Lighthouse	Dickinson
Fairport Recreation Area	Muscatine
Lower Gar Access	Dickinson
Marble Beach	Dickinson
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	Dubuque
Pilot Knob State Recreation Area	Winnebago
Pleasant Creek Recreation Area	Linn
Templar Park	Dickinson
Volga River Recreation Area	Fayette
Wilson Island Recreation Area	Pottawattamie

These areas are managed for multiple uses, including public hunting, and are governed by rules established in this chapter as well as in 571—Chapters 51 and 105.

“State park” means areas managed by the state and designated by action of the commission and listed on the department’s website at www.iowadnr.gov. Use and management of these areas are governed by Iowa Code chapter 461A and by other restrictions prescribed on area signs pursuant to Iowa Code section 461A.44.

“State park managed by another governmental entity” means areas designated by action of the commission and listed on the department’s website at www.iowadnr.gov. Use and management of these areas are governed by Iowa Code chapter 461A, by this chapter, and by rules adopted by the managing entity.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **61.8(2)“a”** as follows:

a. Renters shall pay in full a damage deposit equal to the weekend daily or nightly rental fee for the facility or \$50, whichever is greater, by the established deadline for the facility. ~~If a gathering with keg beer takes place in a lodge or open shelter with kitchenette, the damage deposit shall be waived in lieu of a keg damage deposit as specified in 571—subrule 63.5(3) if the keg damage deposit is greater than the lodge or open shelter with kitchenette damage deposit.~~

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** subrule 61.10(15):

61.10(15) *Prohibited areas for kegs.* Gatherings at which keg beer is served shall not be conducted in beach areas, campgrounds, or parking areas or in areas immediately adjacent to those areas. Kegs are permitted in day-use lodges and open-air shelters with a kitchenette.

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 63.**

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***34. Chapter 66, "Saylorville Multiuse Trail"– Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 66, "Saylorville Multiuse Trail." This is the result of the Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 66 establishes rules regarding the Saylorville Multiuse Trail. The chapter identifies hunting, trapping, and area-use restrictions to decrease instances of noncompliance and to ensure the trail and surrounding areas are used in an authorized manner. The changes will remove outdated and redundant language.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as ARC 8587C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025, and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 66 - Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 66, “Saylorville Multiuse Trail.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 461A.35, 481A.5, and 481A.6.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 461A.35, 481A.5, and 481A.6.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 66 establishes the rules regarding the Saylorville Multiuse Trail. The chapter identifies hunting, trapping, and area-use restrictions to decrease instances of noncompliance and to ensure the trail and surrounding areas are used in an authorized manner. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8587C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 66 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 66

SAYLORVILLE MULTIUSE TRAIL

571—66.1(461A,481A) Applicability. This chapter governs activity in the following described areas, all in Polk County, Iowa:

66.1(1) The parking area and trailhead facility located adjacent to the Des Moines River on the north side of Kempton Road (NW 66th Street) locally known as Sycamore Access.

66.1(2) All federally owned property on the east side of the Des Moines River from Sycamore Access south to the north corporate limits of the city of Des Moines. This area is bounded on the west by the ordinary high water line of the Des Moines River and on the east by Morningstar Drive and NW 26th Street.

66.1(3) Federally owned property in Sections 15 and 22, Township 79N, Range 24W, located east of Morningstar Drive and north of the north corporate limits of the city of Des Moines.

571—66.2(456A,481A) Wildlife refuge. The following described areas are established as game refuges and shall be posted with signs designating the boundaries other than the river.

66.2(1) An area along and adjacent to the surfaced multiuse trail from the ordinary high water line of the Des Moines River to a point 50 yards east of the east edge of that trail extending from Sycamore Access to the north boundary of the right-of-way of Interstates 80-35.

66.2(2) All federally owned land on the east side of the Des Moines River from the north right-of-way boundary of Interstates 80-35 south to the north corporate limits of the city of Des Moines.

571—66.3(481A) Hunting and trapping restrictions.

66.3(1) *Hunting.* Hunting in those areas not designated as wildlife refuge shall be confined to the use of shotguns shooting shot only and use of bow and arrow. The use of any other method is prohibited. All laws and regulations governing hunting and trapping seasons and limits on possession are applicable on these areas.

66.3(2) *Trapping.*

a. The use of snares is prohibited on the area covered by this rule.

b. Any traps used on the area, including foothold, leghold, body gripping or conibear type must be set completely underwater.

571—66.4(461A) Area use restrictions.

66.4(1) The use of motor vehicles and snowmobiles is prohibited on the hard-surfaced multiuse trail except where signs authorize such use.

66.4(2) Snowmobile use is restricted to the area posted with signs permitting their use.

66.4(3) The use of equine animals is restricted to areas other than the hard-surfaced multiuse trail.

66.4(4) Permits may be issued by the director for special events on specific dates utilizing golf carts or similar transportation along the trail for elderly or handicapped persons.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 461A.35, 481A.5 and 481A.6.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***35. Chapter 67, “Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas”– Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 67, “Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas.” This is the result of the Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 67 identifies the guidelines for the development and proper management of recreational trails in state forests, parks, preserves and recreational areas. The chapter ensures that the trails are designated, constructed, and used in a safe and compliant manner. The changes will eliminate outdated or redundant provisions from the statute. Additionally, the process to request an equestrian hunting permit will be removed. This permit has not been requested by the public in the last decade, and the existing special events permit process provides similar benefits on certain state land. The current chapter is being rescinded and replaced.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as ARC 8588C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025, and February 6, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

SHERRY L. ARNTZEN, BUREAU CHIEF
Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 67, “Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas” - Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds and replaces Chapter 67, “Development and Management of Recreational Trails on State Forests, Parks, Preserves and Recreation Areas.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5, 456A.24, and 461A.35.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 455A.5, 456A.24, and 461A.35.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 67 identifies the guidelines for the development and proper management of recreational trails in state forests, parks, preserves and recreational areas. This chapter ensures that trails are designated, constructed, and used in a safe and compliant manner.

Consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023), this chapter was edited for length and clarity. Specifically, there were provisions in this chapter that were outdated or repetitive to statute. These provisions have been removed.

In addition, the changes to this chapter remove the process to request an equestrian hunting permit. This permit has not been requested by the public in the last decade, and the existing special events permit process provides similar benefits on certain state land.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8588C**.

Two public hearings were held. One was held on January 29, 2025, at Noon at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets, and the other was held on February 6, 2025 at 4pm at 6200 Park Avenue and via Google Meets.

No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. No changes from the NOIA have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 571-Chapter 11.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 67 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 67

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION TRAILS ON
STATE FORESTS, PARKS, PRESERVES AND RECREATION AREAS

571—67.1(456A,461A) Applicability. This chapter is applicable to all state-owned parks, recreation areas, forests and preserves under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources, except those areas under management by a local government entity.

571—67.2(456A,461A) Definitions.

“All-terrain vehicle” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321I.1.

“Area” means any park, recreation area, forest, or preserve under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 461A.1(2).

“Director” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 461A.1(3).

“Division administrator” means the division administrator of the department division responsible for managing the area in question.

“Equestrian” means a horse rider or a person who is horseback riding.

“Horse” means any equine animal, including horses, mules, burros, donkeys, and all llamas or alpaca-like animals.

“Snowmobile” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321G.1.

571—67.3(456A,461A) Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines for developing and properly managing the use of recreation trails on state parks, recreation areas, forests and preserves.

571—67.4(456A,461A) Establishment of trails. Establishment and designation of recreation trails shall not be undertaken until after a plan showing the basic design, location and designated use for any such trail has been prepared. The director shall approve all trail plans for areas, and trails shall follow only those routes designated on the plan.

571—67.5(456A,461A) Designation of recreation trails. All trails shall be designated by the department. Designation shall include an assignment of the use or uses for which each trail is intended. Uses shall be classified as follows: foot traffic, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, bicycling and multiple-

use trails. The intended uses of trails shall be described on signs at appropriate locations within the area, in informational brochures about the area, or on posted notice at the area's headquarters.

571—67.6(456A,461A) Guidelines for trail location. No new trail shall be designated or constructed:

1. On any slope where erosion will occur unless measures are taken to permanently control erosion. The measures may include, but not be limited to: water bars, steps, vegetative or crushed stone surfacing and terraces;
2. Through rare or sensitive plant communities, except for trails intended for interpretive purposes and designed for foot traffic only;
3. In locations where wildlife management practices are being carried out that would be negatively affected by trail activity;
4. To pass over archaeological sites or adversely affect known archaeological sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or known sites not yet evaluated;
5. Where past trail use has resulted in erosion or other environmental damage that would be exacerbated by continued trail use;
6. So as to allow travel through a river, stream or wetland or waterway except at designated crossings.

571—67.7(456A,461A) Control of trail use.

67.7(1) Use of trails may be temporarily limited or suspended by the area manager when use or any natural event has created conditions that will cause the trail to degrade if further use is allowed. Guidelines may include, but are not limited to, the following considerations:

- a.* Precipitation events (e.g., rain, thaws, or flooding that, based on the soils and topography, would present a problem for resource protection or public safety if the trail were to remain open).
- b.* Special events (e.g., events that are large, involve concessionaires, or would otherwise require a special event permit as described in 571—subrule 61.7(16) and would interfere with the safety or enjoyment of other trail users).
- c.* Ecosystem management activities (e.g., scheduled harvests, timber stand improvement, planting, or controlled burns that would temporarily disrupt trail use).
- d.* Trail construction or repair.

e. Off-trail use (e.g., vehicle or animal use that has created damage off the actual trail that affects the trail and needs to be corrected).

f. Conflicts between trail users.

g. Trail damage/erosion (e.g., overuse, use at the wrong time, or unauthorized vehicle use).

67.7(2) The area manager shall limit or suspend use of a trail by posting signs at appropriate trailheads and by posting notices in conspicuous locations within the area.

67.7(3) Upon suspension or limitation of trail use, the area manager shall take prompt and reasonable steps to correct the conditions that led to suspension or limitation. When, in the area manager's judgment, such conditions have been corrected, normal use of the trail may resume.

67.7(4) No trail shall be permanently closed to public use without approval of the director. Recommendations for permanent closure shall be made to the division administrator by the area manager. The division administrator shall prepare a report documenting reasons for closure and provide the report and recommendation to the director. At the request of six or more persons, the director shall direct that a public informational meeting be held in the vicinity of the area to inform the public of the planned closure and to receive public comments. A summary of the public comments made at the meeting shall be presented to the natural resource commission for review. The commission may uphold or reverse the director's decision and shall consider both public comments and staff recommendations before taking action.

571—67.8(456A,461A) Use of designated trails.

67.8(1) Bicyclists, equestrians and snowmobile operators shall use only trails officially designated and properly signed for such uses.

67.8(2) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the use of motorized all-terrain vehicles shall be limited to roadways on all areas except as necessary to carry on authorized activities such as area management, agricultural activity, search and rescue operations and special events authorized by the department.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 455A.5, 456A.24 and 461A.35.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***36. Chapter 72, “Timber Buyers” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 72, “Timber Buyers.” This is the result of the Forestry Section’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 72 outlines the procedures by which a timber buyer can become bonded in order to engage in the business of buying timber in Iowa. The bond amount is available to be claimed by the seller of timber in a situation in which a timber buyer cuts and takes possession of the timber, but fails to pay for it. In other words, this chapter ensures compliance with the law and provides protection for timber owners. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8589C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 72 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 72, “Timber Buyers,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code subsection 456A.36(6).

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 456A.36.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 72 outlines the procedures by which a timber buyer can become bonded in order to engage in the business of buying timber in Iowa. The bond amount is available to be claimed by the seller of timber in a situation in which a timber buyer cuts and takes possession of the timber but fails to pay for it. In other words, this chapter ensures compliance with the law and provides protection for timber owners. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8589C**.

Two virtual public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025. No members of the public attended the hearings.

No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 72 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 72

TIMBER BUYERS

571—72.1(456A) Definitions.

“Collateral bond” means a bond signed by the timber buyer as principal and accompanied by a bank certificate of deposit.

“Corporate surety bond” means a bond signed by the timber buyer as principal and a corporate surety authorized to engage in the business of executing surety bonds within Iowa.

“Department” means the department of natural resources.

“Director” means the director of the department of natural resources or the administrator of the division of forests and forestry who has been designated to act for the director.

“Proof of ownership” means a timber sale contract; bill of sale or bill of lading showing owner’s name, address, and telephone number, point of origin, and destination.

“The Act” means Iowa Code section 456A.36.

“Timber buyer” means a person engaged in the business of buying timber for sawing into lumber for processing or resale, but does not include a person who occasionally purchases timber for sawing or processing for the person’s own use and not for resale. “Timber buyer” includes a person who contracts with a timber grower on a shared-profit basis to harvest timber from the grower’s land.

“Timber buyer surety bond” means a bond signed by the timber buyer as principal, bonding the timber buyer to the commission for the performance under the Act.

571—72.2(456A) Applicability of rules.

72.2(1) Duty to file.

a. General. On and after January 1, 1981, no person shall engage in the business of timber buying in the state of Iowa unless the timber buyer shall have on file with the department a bond and application for bond approval in compliance with these rules.

b. Timber buying. All persons engaged in the business of timber buying shall file prior to engaging in business as a timber buyer, a bond complying with these rules and an application for bond approval as specified in 571—72.2(456A) and 571—72.3(456A). Should the department determine that the bond or application, although in substantial compliance, is insufficient to comply with the law, it shall provide notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. The timber buyer will be given 20 days to correct the insufficiency. If not corrected within that time period, or within an additional time period approved by the director, the timber buyer shall be deemed to be in violation of the Act and of these rules. If the department determines that the bond or application does not substantially comply with the Act or these rules, it shall immediately notify the timber buyer that the filing does not satisfy the statutory requirements for filing a bond or surety and that the buyer may not lawfully engage in the business of timber buying until a bond has been approved by the department.

c. Date of filing. For purposes of this rule, the date of filing shall be the date on which the materials are received by the department or the date postmarked, if mailed.

72.2(2) *Filing of required forms.*

a. Application for Bond Approval, Form NRC72-1.

(1) Form NRC72-1 shall be filed as a single copy with the department.

(2) Form NRC72-1 shall be filed prior to buying timber from timber growers in Iowa.

(3) Form NRC72-1 shall be refiled annually by January 1 of each calendar year the timber buyer will be engaged in the business of buying timber from timber growers in Iowa.

(4) The timber buyer shall report the amount of dollars paid to timber growers in one of the following ways:

(1) for the timber buyer's most recently completed fiscal or business year, or (2) for the 12 months preceding the filing of the application for bond approval and bond.

(5) Forms are available from the department.

b. Corporate Surety Bond, Form NRC72-2.

(1) Form NRC72-2 shall be filed as a single copy with the department at the same time as the application for bond approval unless a collateral bond and bank certificate of deposit are submitted.

(2) Form NRC72-2 shall be filed prior to buying timber from timber growers in Iowa.

(3) Form NRC72-2 shall be in the amount determined by the timber buyer and reported to the department by the timber buyer on Form NRC72-1, Application for Bond Approval.

(4) Forms are available from the department.

c. Timber Buyer Surety Bond, Form NRC72-3.

(1) Form NRC72-3 shall be filed as a single copy at the same time as the collateral assignment of certificate of deposit, Form NRC72-4, and the bank certificate of deposit, with the department.

(2) Form NRC72-3 shall be filed prior to buying timber from timber growers in Iowa.

(3) Forms are available from the department.

d. Collateral Assignment of Certificate of Deposit, Form NRC72-4.

(1) Form NRC72-4 shall be filed as a single copy with the department unless a surety bond is submitted.

(2) Form NRC72-4 shall be filed prior to buying timber from timber growers in Iowa.

(3) Form NRC72-4 shall be accompanied by a bank certificate of deposit in the amount determined by the timber buyer and reported to the department by the timber buyer on the Application for Bond Approval, Form NRC72-1, and by Timber Buyer Surety Bond, Form NRC72-3.

(4) Forms are available from the department.

e. Verified Application for Release of Bond and Certificate of Deposit, Form NRC72-5.

(1) Form NRC72-5 shall be filed with the department by timber buyers who wish the release of their certificate of deposit being held by the department in lieu of a surety bond because that person wishes to replace it with a surety bond or because that person no longer wishes to stay in the timber buying business in Iowa.

(2) Forms are available from the department.

f. All filings must be on approved department forms.

72.2(3) *Terms and conditions of bank certificate of deposit and collateral bond.* Collateral bonds shall be subject to the following conditions:

a. The department shall obtain possession of and keep in custody all collateral deposited by the timber buyer, until released or replaced.

b. Certificates of deposit shall be assigned to the department, in writing, and upon the books of the bank issuing such certificates.

c. Banks issuing these certificates shall waive all rights of setoff or liens that they have or might have against those certificates.

d. Certificates of deposit shall be automatically renewed unless the director approves release of the funds in writing.

e. The funds shall be made payable upon demand to the director, subject to the provisions of the Act, for the use and benefit of the people of the state and for the use and benefit of a timber grower whose timber has been cut by the timber buyer or the timber buyer's agents, and who has not been paid.

f. The timber buyer may, upon 60 days' written notice to the department, provide a surety bond in lieu of the certificate of deposit and collateral bond.

g. The certificate of deposit and collateral bond will be kept in custody by the department for one year beyond the date of presentation by the timber buyer of a surety bond in lieu of certificate of deposit and collateral bond or upon written notice to the department of termination of the business of buying timber in Iowa.

72.2(4) *Determination of the bond amount.*

a. The standard applied by the department in determining the amount of the bond shall be:

(1) The bond shall be in the principal amount of 10 percent of the total amount paid to timber growers during the preceding year, plus 10 percent of the total amount due or delinquent and unpaid to timber growers at the end of the preceding year, and 10 percent of the market value of growers' share of timber harvested during the previous year. However, the total amount of the bond shall be not less than \$25,000 and no more than \$50,000.

(2) In the case of a timber buyer not previously engaged in business as a timber buyer, the amount of the bond shall be based on the estimated dollar amount to be paid by the timber buyer to timber growers for timber purchased during the next succeeding year.

(3) In determining the amount of the bond, the department shall consider only amounts paid or estimated to be paid, to Iowa timber growers.

b. The timber buyer is responsible for maintaining the proper amount of bond to comply with the Act.

c. Change in bond amount. If the amount of the bond, as determined under this section, has changed from that of the existing bond on file, the timber buyer shall enclose a rider to the bond or an additional certificate of deposit as necessary to increase the amount of bonding to meet the required amount for the new year or may request approval of a substituted bond or certificate of deposit if the amount required for future bonding is reduced.

72.2(5) *Release of collateral bond and certificate of deposit.* The timber buyer, or any person authorized to act on behalf of the timber buyer, may file Form NRC72-5, Verified Application for Release of Bond and Certificate of Deposit with the department for release of the security and the department will respond as follows:

a. If the timber buyer replaces the certificate of deposit and collateral assignment with a surety bond, the department will release the certificate of deposit and collateral assignment to the timber buyer or the timber

buyer's authorized representative one year after the timber buyer files a surety bond, if no known claims on the collateral bond exist.

b. If the timber buyer no longer wishes to stay in the timber buying business in Iowa, the department will hold the verified application for 12 months from the date of receipt and after that time release the certificate of deposit and collateral bond to the timber buyer or the timber buyer's authorized representative by certified mail or in person, if no known claims on the collateral bond exist.

c. Should any person be adversely affected by the release of the collateral bond, that person may file a written request with the department to obtain notice of any application by the timber buyer for release of collateral bond. The request shall give name, mailing address, and the reason why that party would be affected.

72.2(6) *Use of bond proceeds when the bond is forfeited.* If the department realizes more than the amount of the liability from the security, after deducting expenses including all costs and expenses of the state in forfeiture proceedings and incurred by the state in converting the security into money, the department shall pay the excess as follows:

a. Certificate of deposit excess will be paid to the timber buyer who furnished the security.

b. Surety bond excess will be paid to the corporate surety.

72.2(7) *Requests for confidential treatment.*

a. If any person filing a document with the director for use in carrying out the responsibilities under the Act relating to timber buyer bonding claims that some or all the information contained in the document is exempted from disclosure by Iowa Code chapter 22, or is otherwise exempt by law from public disclosure, and if the person requests the director not to disclose this information, the person shall file together with the document a second copy of the document from which has been deleted the information for which confidential treatment is claimed. The person shall conspicuously indicate on the face of the original document that it is confidential information and shall file a statement specifying the justification of nondisclosure of the information for which confidential treatment is claimed. If the person filing a document does not submit a second copy of the document with the confidential information deleted, the director may assume that there is no objection to public disclosure of the document in its entirety.

b. The director retains the right to make a determination with regard to any claim of confidentiality. Notice of the decision by the director to deny a claim, in whole or in part, and an opportunity to respond shall be given to a person claiming confidentiality of information no less than five days if possible prior to its public disclosure, or placement in files open to the public.

571—72.3(456A) Forms. The forms required for use in complying with this chapter and Iowa Code section 456A.36 shall be available from the department. The forms are as follows:

NRC72-1	APPLICATION FOR BOND (Revised 2/23)
NRC72-2	CORPORATE SURETY BOND COVERING THE PURCHASE OF TIMBER FROM TIMBER GROWERS BY TIMBER BUYER OR BUYER'S AGENT (Revised 3/21)
NRC72-3	TIMBER BUYER SURETY BOND (USING A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT) GOVERNING THE PURCHASE OF TIMBER FROM TIMBER GROWERS BY BUYER OR BUYER'S AGENT (Revised 8/17)
NRC72-4	COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENT OF CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (Revised 8/17)
NRC72-5	VERIFICATION APPLICATION FOR RELEASE OF BOND AND CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (Revised 8/17)
NRC72-6	TIMBER TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE (Revised 5/20)

Copies of the forms may be obtained by writing Forestry Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321; by calling 515.725.8200; or online at iowadnr.gov.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24 and 456A.36.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***37. Chapter 73, “Forest and Fruit-Tree Reservations” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 73, “Forest and Fruit-Tree Reservations.” This is the result of the Forestry Section’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 73 sets the criteria for establishing forest and fruit-tree reservations and defines the format and components of the related annual report due to the Department of Natural Resources (Department). This chapter will ensure consistent application of the tax exemptions afforded such reservations as provided by Iowa Code chapter 427C and Iowa Code section 441.22.

Additionally, county assessors are required to report forest and fruit-tree reservation data to the Department annually. The previous version of this chapter did not specify the format for this data. This final rule making clarifies the format for the data to provide consistency across counties, and so that the data can be sorted and analyzed by the Department. This data is often requested by legislators and the public.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8622C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 73 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 73, “Forest and Fruit-Tree Reservations,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 427C.12.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 427C and 441.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 73 sets the criteria for establishing forest and fruit-tree reservations and defines the format and components of the related annual report due to the Department of Natural Resources (Department). Forest and fruit-tree reservations are exempt from taxation by the Iowa Code. This chapter ensures consistent application of the tax exemptions afforded such reservations as provided by Iowa Code chapter 427C and Iowa Code section 441.22.

Additionally, county assessors are required to report forest and fruit-tree reservation data to the Department annually. The previous version of this chapter did not specify the format for this data. The adopted chapter clarifies the format for the data to provide consistency across counties and to ensure that the data can be sorted and analyzed by the Department. This data is often requested by legislators and the public. This chapter has been otherwise reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025, as **ARC 8622C**.

Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025. No members of the public attended the hearings. No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 73 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 73

FOREST AND FRUIT-TREE RESERVATIONS

571—73.1(427C,456A) Criteria for establishing and maintaining forest and fruit-tree reservations.

73.1(1) *Designation.* The selection of a forest or fruit-tree reservation is the prerogative of the taxpayer and shall not be denied unless the criteria set forth in Iowa Code chapter 427C and these rules have not been satisfied.

73.1(2) *Area designated.* The area designated as a forest or fruit-tree reservation may be less than one legally described tract of land if the minimum acreage requirement of Iowa Code section 427C.2 is satisfied.

73.1(3) *Size of reservation.* As used in Iowa Code section 427C.2, the term “continuous area” means an area of land that is not separated by public roads or streets. A continuous area may include land contained in more than one legal description.

73.1(4) *Fencing.* It is not mandatory that a forest or fruit-tree reservation be fenced. However, it is the taxpayer’s responsibility to ensure that livestock are not permitted on the reservation (1938 O.A.G. 198).

73.1(5) *Number of trees.* To qualify initially as a forest reservation, a tract of land must contain at least 200 growing trees on each acre. However, if trees are removed pursuant to Iowa Code section 427C.4, a taxpayer has up to one year to replace the trees.

73.1(6) *Economic gain.* As used in Iowa Code section 427C.10, the term “gain from raising fruit or forest trees” means gain from the harvest from trees, including but not limited to fruit, nuts, Christmas trees and greens, posts, poles, logs, fuelwood, pulpwood, and tree sap.

571—73.2(427C,456A) County assessor's annual report on forest and fruit-tree reservations to the department of natural resources.

73.2(1) *Report content.* The report shall be submitted in a sortable Microsoft Excel file and shall contain the county, parcel ID, class of parcel (agricultural, commercial, residential, etc.), name of owner, mailing address of owner, number of acres for each parcel, and exempted dollar value of each parcel for each forest and fruit-tree reservation. In addition, the report shall include the total number of acres, total number of parcels, and total exempted value.

73.2(2) *Report due date.* The report shall be submitted annually to the department of natural resources no later than June 15 of the assessment year.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 427C and 441.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***38. Chapter 74, “Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind Chapter 74, “Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).” This is the result of the Forestry Section’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: Chapter 74 defines procedures by which federal, state, or private monies designated for forestry cost-share practices on private lands may be utilized for those purposes. This rule chapter is unnecessary. The Department can utilize funds for these purposes under the authority provided by Iowa Code sections 455A.13(1) and 456A.24(13). Therefore, consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023), this rule is rescinded.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8621C. Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 74 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 74, “Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP),” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 456A.24.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code subsection 456A.24(13).

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this chapter is to define the cost-sharing procedures between state and local public agencies or volunteer organizations to fund community tree planting projects. The Commission rescinds the chapter because the program can be run with more flexibility without these rules under the terms of the underlying federal grants and the accompanying grant agreements signed by recipients and the Department of Natural Resources (Department).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8621C**.

Two public hearings were held on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025. No attendees commented on this rule chapter. No public comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice of Intended Action.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 74**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***39. Chapters 91, 92, 97, 102, “Migratory Game Bird Hunting” – Final Rules**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 91 and to rescind and reserve Chapters 92, 97, and 102. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Rule: New Chapter 91 establishes and organizes migratory bird hunting requirements as required by law and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. Covered species include waterfowl and teal, coots, geese, common snipe, Virginia rail and sora, woodcock, dove, and crow. This chapter is the result of the consolidation of several existing chapters: Chapters 91, 92, 97, and 102. These chapters have been merged consistent with the principles of Executive Order 10 (2023). These rules ensure that the season dates are within the frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and compatible with current populations and habitat conditions.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8623C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapters 91, 92, 97, 102 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 91, “Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons” and adopts a new Chapter 91, “Migratory Game Bird Hunting”; and rescinds and reserves Chapter 92, “Migratory Game Birds,” Chapter 97, “Common Snipe, Virginia Rail and Sora, Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, and Dove Hunting Seasons,” and Chapter 102, “Falconry Regulations for Hunting Game,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48(2).

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 481A.48; 50 CFR 20.105 (see also 16 U.S.C. §703 through 712); preliminary regulations in 89 Fed. Reg. 8631 (February 8, 2024); and proposed supplemental regulations in 89 Fed. Reg. 41522 (May 13, 2024).

Purpose and Summary

New Chapter 91 establishes and organizes migratory bird hunting requirements as required by law and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. Covered species include waterfowl and teal, coots, geese, common snipe, Virginia rail and sora, woodcock, dove, and crow. This chapter is the result of the consolidation of several existing chapters, including Chapters 91, 92, 97, and 102. These chapters have been merged consistent with the principles of Executive Order 10 (2023).

Migratory bird hunting is an exciting recreational opportunity for licensed hunters. More importantly, though, Iowa relies upon hunters to help manage the state's wildlife, including migratory waterfowl, which are held in trust for the people and required by law to be managed for posterity. Approximately 30,000 individuals hold licenses to participate in migratory bird hunting in Iowa. These rules ensure that the season dates are within the frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and compatible with current populations and habitat conditions.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8623C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 91 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 91

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

571—91.1(481A) Duck hunting.

91.1(1) *Zone boundaries.* Zone boundaries are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department of natural resources' (department's) website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 1 "Waterfowl Hunting Zones."

91.1(2) *Season dates - north zone.* Special September teal season: Will be the maximum number of days allowed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A 16-day teal season will begin on September 1. A nine-day teal season will begin on the first Saturday in September. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 14 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(3) *Season dates - central zone.* Special September teal season: Will be the maximum number of days allowed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A 16-day teal season will begin on September 1. A nine-day teal season will begin on the first Saturday in September. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 7 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 21 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(4) *Season dates - south zone.* Special September teal season: Will be the maximum number of days allowed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A 16-day teal season will begin on September 1. A nine-day teal season will begin on the first Saturday in September. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 14 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 28 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(5) *Bag limit.* Bag limits for all species are as adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The daily bag limit for scaup will be one for the first 15 days of the duck hunting season and two for the remaining 45 days.

91.1(6) *Possession limit.* For the special September teal season and for all ducks: Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

91.1(7) *Shooting hours.* For the special September teal season: Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset each day. For all ducks: Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

571—91.2(481A) Coots (split season).

91.2(1) Same as duck season dates and shooting hours.

91.2(2) Bag and possession limits. Daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

571—91.3(481A) Goose hunting.

91.3(1) *Zone boundaries.* Zone boundaries are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 1 "Waterfowl Hunting Zones."

91.3(2) *Season dates - north zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 23 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 14 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 13 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(3) *Season dates - central zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 21 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 20 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(4) *Season dates - south zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 7 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 28 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 27 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(5) *Bag limit.* The daily bag limit for dark geese (Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant and any other geese that are not light geese) is five and may include no more than two

Canada geese during the first segment of the statewide season and no more than three Canada geese during the remainder of the statewide season. The daily bag limit for light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) is 20.

91.3(6) *Possession limit.* The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. There is no possession limit for light geese.

91.3(7) *Shooting hours.* Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset each day.

91.3(8) *Light goose conservation order season.* Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service beginning the day after the regular goose season closes and continuing until May 1.

- a. Zone boundaries.* Statewide.
- b. Shooting hours.* One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- c. Bag limit.* No bag limit.
- d. Possession limit.* No possession limit.
- e. Other regulations.* Methods of take approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting light geese during the conservation order season shall be permitted.

91.3(9) *Metropolitan goose hunting seasons and specified areas.*

- a. Season dates.* The second Saturday in September for nine consecutive days.
- b. Bag limit.* Daily bag limit is five Canada geese.
- c. Possession limit.* Three times the daily bag limit.
- d. Specified areas.*

(1) Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

(2) Des Moines. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

(3) Cedar Falls/Waterloo. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

571—91.4(481A) Closed areas. Waterfowl and coots may be hunted statewide except in specific areas.

91.4(1) *Waterfowl and coots.* There shall be no open season for ducks, coots and geese as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 3 "Areas Closed to Waterfowl Hunting."

91.4(2) *Canada geese.* There shall be no open season on Canada geese in certain areas described as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 4 "Areas Closed to Canada Goose Hunting."

571—91.5(481A) Canada goose hunting within closed areas.

91.5(1) *Closed areas.* All areas are as described in **91.4(2)**.

a. Purpose. The hunting of Canada geese in closed areas is being undertaken to allow landowners or tenants who farm in these closed areas to hunt Canada geese on land they own or farm in the closed area.

b. Criteria.

(1) Landowners and tenants who own or farm land in the closed areas will be permitted to hunt Canada geese in the closed areas.

(2) Landowners and those individuals named on the permit according to the criteria specified in **91.5(1)** “b”(9) will be permitted to hunt in the closed area. Tenants may obtain a permit instead of the landowner if the landowner transfers this privilege to the tenant. Landowners may choose, at their discretion, to include the tenant and those individuals of the tenant’s family specified in **91.5(1)** “b”(9) on their permit. Assigned permits must be signed by both the permittee and the landowner assigning the permit.

(3) Landowners must hold title to, or tenants must farm by a rent/share/lease arrangement, at least eight acres inside the closed area to qualify for a permit.

(4) No more than one permit will be issued to corporations, estates, or other legal associations that jointly own land in the closed area. No individual may obtain more than two permits nor may an individual be named as a participant on more than two permits.

(5) Persons holding a permit can hunt with those individuals named on their permit as specified in **91.5(1)** “b”(9) on any property they own (or rent/share/lease in the case of tenants) in the closed area provided their activity complies with all other regulations governing hunting. Nothing herein shall permit the hunting of Canada geese on public property within the closed area.

(6) Persons hunting under this permit must adhere to all municipal, county, state and federal regulations that are applicable to hunting and specifically applicable to Canada goose hunting. Hunting as authorized by this rule shall not be used to stir or rally waterfowl.

(7) Hunting within the closed area will be allowed through October 31.

(8) Permit holders will be allowed to take eight Canada geese per year in the closed area.

(9) Permits will be issued only to individual landowners or tenants; however, permit holders must specify, when requesting a permit, the names of all other individuals qualified to hunt on the permit. Individuals qualified to hunt on the permit shall include the landowners or tenants and their spouses, domestic partners, parents, grandparents, children, children's spouses, grandchildren, siblings and siblings' spouses only.

c. Procedures.

(1) Permits can be obtained from the local conservation officer or wildlife unit headquarters within the closed area no later than 48 hours before the first Canada goose season opens. The permit will be issued to an individual landowner or tenant and must list the names of all individuals who may hunt with the permittee. The permit will also contain a description of the property covered by the permit. The permit must be carried by a member of the hunting party whose name is listed on the permit. Conservation officers will keep a record of permittees and locations of properties that are covered by permits.

(2) Eight consecutively numbered tags will be issued with each permit. Geese will be tagged around the leg immediately upon being reduced to possession and will remain tagged until delivered to the person's abode.

(3) No one may attempt to take Canada geese under this permit unless the person possesses an unused tag for the current year.

(4) No landowner or tenant shall be responsible or liable for violations committed by other individuals listed on the permit issued to the landowner or tenant.

91.5(2) Reserved.

571—91.6(481A,483A) Youth waterfowl hunt. A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held the weekend before the first segment of the regular duck season in each duck hunting zone. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section **483A.1A** and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in **571—91.1**(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.

571—91.7(481A) Common snipe season. Open season for hunting common snipe shall be from the first Saturday in September through November 30. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 8; possession limit 24. Entire state open.

571—91.8(481A) Virginia rail and sora season. Open season for hunting Virginia rail and sora shall be from the first Saturday in September and continue for 70 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 12 and possession limit 36 in aggregate of both species. Entire state open.

571—91.9(481A) Woodcock season. Open season for hunting woodcock shall be from the first Saturday in October and continue for 45 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 3; possession limit 9. Entire state open.

571—91.10(481A) Dove season. Open season for hunting mourning doves and Eurasian collared- doves shall begin on September 1 and continue for 90 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 15; possession limit 45. Entire state open.

571—91.11(481A) Crow season. Open season for hunting crows shall be from October 15 through November 30 and January 14 through March 31 of each year. No bag or possession limit. Entire state open.

571—91.12(481A) General. Migratory game birds may be taken only in accordance with the daily bag and possession limits during the open season and shooting hours as prescribed annually by the natural resource commission.

571—91.13(481A) Duck stamp. It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to take any migratory waterfowl (brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans) unless at the time of such taking that person has with them an unexpired federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (commonly called duck stamp), validated by the person's signature written across the face of the stamp in ink, or an unexpired e-stamp version of the federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.

571—91.14(481A) Hunting methods. Migratory game birds may be taken by any method except those prohibited in this rule. No person shall take migratory game birds (brant, wild ducks, geese, rails, coots, woodcock, and snipe):

91.14(1) With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance;

91.14(2) With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells;

91.14(3) On all lands and waters of the state of Iowa while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This subrule shall not apply to the taking of woodcock.

91.14(4) From or by means or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;

91.14(5) From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-drive land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with the involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord;

91.14(6) From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased: Provided, that a craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds. However, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power;

91.14(7) By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this subrule for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of ten consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces

the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;

91.14(8) By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds;

91.14(9) By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird; or

91.14(10) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. As used in this subrule, “baited area” means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed. “Baiting” means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. However, nothing in this subrule shall prohibit:

a. The taking of all migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on or over standing crops, flooded standing crops (including aquatics), flooded harvested croplands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting; and

b. The taking of all migratory game birds, except waterfowl, on or over any lands where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of valid agricultural operations or procedures.

91.14(11) By any of the methods or means prohibited in this rule unless such methods or means have been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the taking of light geese during special light goose-only seasons or light goose-only hunts.

571—91.15(481A) Restrictions applicable to possession, tagging, and recordkeeping requirements.

91.15(1) No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place, where taken and either:

- a.* The person's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or
- b.* The person's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or
- c.* A migratory bird preservation facility; or
- d.* A post office; or
- e.* A common carrier facility.

91.15(2) No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place other than at the person's personal abode, or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the person's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

91.15(3) No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required under **91.15(2)**.

91.15(4) No migratory bird preservation facility shall:

a. Receive or have in custody any migratory game birds unless accurate records are maintained showing:

- (1) The number of each species;
- (2) The date such birds were received;
- (3) The name and address of the person from whom such birds were received;
- (4) The date such birds were disposed of;
- (5) The name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered.

b. Destroy any records required to be maintained under this rule for period of one year following the last entry on the record.

c. No migratory bird preservation facility shall prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried on.

571—91.16(481A) Transportation within the state or between states. No person shall transport or ship any migratory game birds, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported or shipped from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

571—91.17(481A) Wounded, live migratory game birds.

91.17(1) Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit.

91.17(2) Wanton waste. No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this chapter without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.

571—91.18(481A) Migratory game bird hunting by falconry.

91.18(1) In addition to the falconry permit, a falconer must have all other licenses, stamps, and permits required by law. A falconry observer is not required to be licensed for hunting, but an observer shall not assist in the hunt.

91.18(2) No falconer or observer may possess a long gun, bow, or crossbow while in the field with a raptor or in the act of falconry.

91.18(3) Ducks and coots. The season for taking ducks and coots by means of falconry may vary among duck hunting zones. Falconry seasons for ducks and coots shall be open whenever the conventional (gun) duck and coot hunting season is open in each zone, as described in **571—91.1**(481A) and **571—91.2**(481A), and shall also be open beginning the first Saturday in January in each zone and remain open until the combined total of the conventional hunting season days plus falconry hunting season days reaches 107 for the zone or February 28, whichever occurs first.

91.18(4) Geese. The season for taking geese by means of falconry may vary among goose hunting zones. Falconry seasons for white-fronted geese and light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) shall begin each year on the first day of the conventional (gun) hunting season for these geese in each zone, as described in **571—91.3**(481A). Falconry seasons for Canada geese and brant shall be open concurrently with the conventional (gun) hunting season for these geese.

91.18(5) Rails, snipe and woodcock. The seasons for taking rails, snipe, and woodcock by means of falconry shall begin each year on the first day of the conventional (gun) hunting seasons for these species, as described in 571—91.7(481A), 571—91.8(481A), and 571—91.9(481A), and continue for 107 consecutive days. The entire state is open for these species.

91.18(6) Hawking hours and limits. Hawking hours for migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The daily bag limit shall include no more than three migratory game birds, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. There are no hawking hour restrictions for nonmigratory game during the legal season.

571—91.19(481A) Harvest information program (HIP).

91.19(1) Each licensed hunter pursuing migratory game birds (brant, wild ducks, geese, rails, coots, snipe, woodcock, doves or any other migratory game bird) shall carry proof that they have first registered with the HIP. Hunters must supply their name, address, and information on the number of migratory game birds taken during the previous year, or other information that may be requested.

91.19(2) The natural resource commission will develop methods for collecting information from hunters at the time they purchase their hunting license or prior to going hunting, either by written or electronic means, and develop a method for validating in the field that hunters have registered.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48(2).

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 92**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 97**.

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 102**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***40. Chapters 96, 100, 107, “Small Game Hunting” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 96, and to rescind and reserve Chapters 100 and 107. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

New Chapter 96 governs small game hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates small game hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, and transportation requirements. This chapter is a consolidation of previous Chapters 96, 100, and 107.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8620C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapters 96, 100, 107 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 96, “Pheasant, Quail and Gray (Hungarian) Partridge Hunting Seasons”; to adopt a new Chapter 96, “Small Game Hunting”; and rescinds Chapter 100, “Crow and Pigeon Regulations,” and Chapter 107, “Rabbit and Squirrel Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

New Chapter 96 governs small game hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates small game hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, and transportation requirements. This chapter is a consolidation of previous Chapters 96, 100, and 107. This rulemaking is adopted consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8620C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 96 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 96

SMALL GAME HUNTING

571—96.1(481A) Pheasant season.

96.1(1) *Open season.* Open season for hunting cock pheasants is the last Saturday in October through January 10 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 3 cocks; possession limit 12. Shooting hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entire state open.

96.1(2) *Transportation.* No person shall transport a pheasant within the state without a leg and foot, or fully feathered wing, or fully feathered head attached to the intact carcass.

96.1(3) *Youth pheasant hunt.* A special two-day youth pheasant hunt for residents only will be held on the weekend preceding the last Saturday in October. Youth hunters must be 15 years old or younger. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt. Only the youth hunter may shoot pheasants. The daily bag limit is 1 cock bird and possession limit is 2 after the first day. All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular pheasant season apply to the youth hunt. Entire state open.

571—96.2(481A) Gray (Hungarian) partridge season. Open season for hunting gray partridge is the second Saturday in October through January 31 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 8; possession limit 16. Shooting hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entire state open.

571—96.3(481A) Bobwhite quail season. Open season for hunting quail is the last Saturday in October through January 31 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 8; possession limit 16. Shooting hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entire state open.

571—96.4(481A) Ruffed grouse season. Open season for hunting ruffed grouse is the first Saturday in October through January 31 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 3; possession limit 6. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

96.4(1) *Portion of the state open to hunting.* The area open to hunting shall be that portion of the state lying north and east of a line described as follows: beginning at Sabula, Iowa; thence west along State Highway 64 to U.S. Highway 151; thence west along U.S. Highway 151 to State Highway 13; thence north along State Highway 13 to U.S. Highway 20; thence west along U.S. Highway 20 to U.S. Highway 63; thence north along U.S. Highway 63 to the state line.

96.4(2) Reserved.

571—96.5(481A) Pigeon season. There is a continuous open season for hunting pigeons. No bag or possession limit. There are no restrictions on shooting hours. Entire state open.

571—96.6(481A) Cottontail rabbit season. Open season for hunting cottontail rabbits is the Saturday before Labor Day through February 28 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 10; possession limit 20. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset. Entire state open.

571—96.7(481A) Jackrabbit season. Continuous closed season.

571—96.8(481A) Squirrel season. Open season for hunting squirrels (fox and gray) is the Saturday before Labor Day through January 31 of the succeeding year. Daily bag limit 6; possession limit 12. There are no restrictions on shooting hours. Entire state open.

571—96.9(481A) Small game hunting by falconry.

96.9(1) In addition to the falconry permit, a falconer must have all other licenses, stamps, and permits required by law. A falconry observer is not required to be licensed for hunting, but an observer shall not assist in the hunt.

96.9(2) No falconer or observer may possess a long gun, bow, or crossbow while in the field with a raptor or in the act of falconry.

96.9(3) Seasons.

a. Pheasant (both sexes), quail, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, and jackrabbit. The season for the taking of pheasant, quail, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, and jackrabbit is October 1 of each year through March 31 of the following year.

b. Cottontail rabbit and squirrel. The season for the taking of cottontail rabbits and squirrels is September 1 of each year through March 31 of the following year.

96.9(4) Limits.

a. Pheasants (both sexes) and jackrabbit. The daily limit is two pheasants, no more than one of which may be a hen, and one jackrabbit; the possession limit is four pheasants and two jackrabbits.

b. Quail, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, squirrels and cottontail rabbit. The daily limit is two quail, two gray partridge, two ruffed grouse, four cottontail rabbits and four squirrels; the possession limit is four quail, four gray partridge, four ruffed grouse, eight cottontail rabbits, and eight squirrels.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 100**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 107**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***41. Chapters 98 and 99, “Wild Turkey Hunting” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 98 and rescind and reserve Chapter 99. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 98 governs spring and fall wild turkey hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates turkey hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and methods of take, and transportation and reporting requirements. Existing Chapters 98, “Wild Turkey Spring Hunting,” and 99, “Wild Turkey Fall Hunting,” which regulate spring and fall turkey hunting, respectively, are merged into a new Chapter 98 with the title “Wild Turkey Hunting” consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8590C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapters 98 and 99 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Spring Hunting,” and adopts a new Chapter 98 with the same title, and rescinds Chapter 99, “Wild Turkey Fall Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7 and 483A.24.

Purpose and Summary

New Chapter 98 governs spring and fall wild turkey hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates turkey hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and methods of take, and transportation and reporting requirements. Prior Chapters 98 and 99 collectively regulated spring and fall wild turkey hunting; these chapters are merged into new Chapter 98 and Chapter 99 is being rescinded and reserved. This rulemaking is adopted consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8590C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 98 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 98

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

RESIDENT WILD TURKEY HUNTING

571—98.1(483A) General. Wild turkey may be taken during the spring or fall season subject to the following:

98.1(1) License. When hunting wild turkey, all hunters must have in possession a wild turkey hunting license valid for the current year and season, the unused transportation tag issued with that license, a hunting license, and evidence of having paid the habitat fee (if normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). No one, while hunting wild turkey, shall carry or have in possession any license or transportation tag issued to another hunter. No one who is issued a wild turkey license and transportation tag shall allow another person to use or possess that license or transportation tag while turkey hunting or tagging a turkey. A hunter having a license valid for one of the spring turkey seasons may accompany, call for, or otherwise assist any other hunter who has a valid turkey hunting license for any of the spring seasons. The hunter who is assisting may not shoot a turkey or carry a firearm or bow unless the hunter has a valid license with an unused tag for the current season. Licenses for the fall turkey season will only be issued to Iowa residents, except as specified in 98.9(5).

a. Types of spring licenses.

(1) Combination shotgun-or-archery license. Combination shotgun-or-archery licenses shall be issued by season and shall be valid statewide in the designated season only.

(2) Archery-only license. Archery-only licenses shall be valid statewide and shall be valid during all seasons open for spring turkey hunting, except the youth season.

b. Number of spring licenses. No one may apply for or obtain more than two spring wild turkey hunting licenses. A hunter may obtain no more than two combination shotgun-or-archery licenses, or two archery-only licenses, or one of each. If two combination shotgun-or-archery licenses are obtained, at least one must be for season 4. If one combination shotgun-or-archery license and one archery-only license are obtained, the combination shotgun-or-archery license must be for season 4.

c. Types of fall licenses.

(1) Combination shotgun-or-archery licenses. Combination shotgun-or-archery licenses shall be valid for taking turkeys of either sex in the zone designated on the license.

(2) Archery-only licenses. Archery-only licenses shall be valid statewide for taking turkeys of either sex.

d. Number of fall licenses. No one may apply for or obtain more than two wild turkey fall hunting licenses. A hunter may obtain no more than two combination shotgun-or-archery licenses, or two archery-only licenses, or one of each. One license of either type may be free to eligible landowners or tenants.

98.1(2) *Daily bag and possession limit.* Season possession limit, including daily bag limit, is one bearded (or male) wild turkey per spring license. Season possession limit, including daily bag limit, is one turkey of either sex per fall license.

98.1(3) *Shooting hours.* Shooting hours for combination shotgun-archery licenses and spring archery-only licenses shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours for fall archery-only licenses shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

571—98.2(483A) Means and method of take.

98.2(1) *Permitted weapons.* Wild turkey may be taken in accordance with the type of license issued as follows:

a. Combination shotgun-or-archery license. Wild turkey may be taken by shotgun or muzzleloading shotgun not smaller than caliber .410 and shooting only shot sizes number 4 through 10 (lead or nontoxic) shot; or archery equipment as described in 98.2(1) “*b.*” A person shall not have shotshells containing shot of any size other than number 4 through 10 (lead or nontoxic) shot on the person while hunting wild turkey.

b. Archery-only license. Except for crossbows for persons with certain afflictions of the upper body, as provided in 571—15.22(481A), only longbows, compound bows, or recurve bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted. Blunthead arrows with a minimum diameter of 9/16 inch may also be used. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long. Arrows with chemical or explosive pods are not permitted.

98.2(2) *Prohibited devices.* The use of live decoys, dogs (except for fall licenses), horses, motorized vehicles, aircraft, bait, or crossbows, except as otherwise provided, and the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds, are prohibited. Paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with the involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord. “Bait” means grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts or any other natural food materials; commercial products containing natural food products; or by-products of such materials transported to or placed in an area for the intent of attracting wildlife.

98.2(3) *Zones, quotas and seasons.* A person with a resident wild turkey spring hunting license may take wild turkey statewide during the spring seasons. Fall resident hunting is limited to zones and permits as designated by the natural resource commission. Fall resident zones and quotas for combination shotgun-or-archery licenses will be issued by zone as follows:

- a.* Zone 4: 1,500.
- b.* Zone 5: 650.
- c.* Zone 6: 1,400.
- d.* Zone 7: 250.
- e.* Zone 8: 200.
- f.* Zone 9: 200.

98.2(4) *Archery-only licenses.* The number of fall archery-only licenses shall not be limited.

98.2(5) *Landowner/tenant licenses.* The total number of fall landowner/tenant licenses shall not be limited.

98.2(6) *Additional licenses.* Additional combination shotgun-or-archery licenses may be added to zone quotas if turkey surveys indicate that annual brood production and turkey populations are high enough to warrant additional hunting opportunity. The licenses will be added at the discretion of the commission upon advice from the wildlife bureau.

98.2(7) *Seasons.* Seasons will be established in accordance with the type of license issued.

a. *Spring combination shotgun-or-archery licenses.* Consecutive seasons are 4, 5, 7, and 19 days, respectively, with the first season beginning on the second Monday of April. These seasons shall be designated as seasons 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

b. *Spring archery-only licenses.* The season shall be 35 days beginning on the second Monday of April.

c. Fall combination shotgun-or-archery licenses. The dates for the fall combination shotgun-or-archery season shall be from the Monday following the second Saturday in October through the Friday before the first Saturday in December of the same year. Wild turkey may be taken with a combination shotgun-or-archery license only in the following zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as defined by the department of natural resources.

d. Fall archery-only licenses. The dates for the fall archery-only wild turkey hunting season shall be the same as the dates for the bow season for deer as described in **571—Chapter 106.**

571—98.3(483A) Procedures to obtain licenses. All wild turkey hunting licenses will be issued using the electronic licensing system for Iowa (ELSI). Licenses may be purchased through ELSI license agents, by calling the ELSI telephone ordering system, or through the ELSI Internet license sales website.

98.3(1) Spring wild turkey hunting licenses will be sold beginning December 15 through the last day of the season for which the license is valid. There will be no quotas for combination shotgun-or-archery licenses or for archery-only licenses for resident hunters.

98.3(2) Landowner/tenant licenses. An eligible resident landowner or tenant may obtain a combination shotgun-or-archery license or a free archery-only license. Nonresident landowners are not eligible for turkey hunting licenses.

a. Spring combination shotgun-or-archery licenses. A spring combination shotgun-or-archery license will be issued by season and will be valid only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant.

b. Spring archery-only licenses. A spring archery-only license will be valid for all seasons but only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant.

c. Number of spring licenses. One combination shotgun-or-archery license or one archery-only license may be obtained in addition to the free shotgun-or-archery license or the free archery-

only license. If an archery-only license and a combination shotgun-or-archery license are obtained, the shotgun-or-archery license must be for season 4. If a free shotgun-or-archery license and a paid shotgun-or-archery license are obtained, one of the licenses must be for season 4.

98.3(3) Fall license availability. All fall turkey hunting licenses for which a quota is established may be obtained from ELSI agents on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 15 until the quota fills, or through the last day of the hunting period for which the license is valid. All fall turkey hunting licenses that have no quota may be obtained from ELSI agents beginning August 15 through the last day of the hunting period for which a license is valid.

571—98.4(483A) Providing false information. If anyone provides false information when obtaining any turkey hunting license, that license and transportation tag and any other turkey hunting license and transportation tag obtained during the same year shall be invalid.

571—98.5(483A) Transportation tag. Immediately upon the killing of a wild turkey, the transportation tag issued with the license and bearing the license number of the licensee, year of issuance, and date of kill properly shown shall be visibly attached to one leg of the turkey. The hunter who shot the turkey must use the transportation tag issued to that hunter to tag the turkey. No one may tag a turkey with a transportation tag issued to another hunter. The tag must be attached in such a manner that it cannot be removed without mutilating or destroying the tag. The tag must be attached before the carcass can be moved in any manner from the place of kill. The transportation tag shall remain affixed to the leg of the turkey until the turkey is processed for consumption. The leg that bears the tag must be attached to the carcass of any wild turkey being transported within the state during any wild turkey hunting season. The tag shall be proof of possession of the carcass by the above-mentioned licensee.

571—98.6(483A) Eligibility for free landowner/tenant turkey licenses.

98.6(1) *Who qualifies for a landowner/tenant turkey hunting license.*

a. Owners and tenants of a farm unit and the spouse or domestic partner as defined by the Iowa department of administrative services and juvenile child of an owner or tenant who reside with the owner or tenant are eligible for free turkey licenses. The owner or tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit but must be actively engaged in farming it. Nonresident landowners do not qualify.

b. “Juvenile child” means a person less than 18 years of age or a person who is 18 or 19 years of age and is in full-time attendance at an accredited school pursuing a course of study leading to a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma. A person 18 years of age or older who has received a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma does not qualify.

98.6(2) *Who qualifies as a tenant.* A “tenant” is a person other than the landowner who is actively engaged in the operation of the farm. The tenant may be a member of the landowner’s family, including in some circumstances the landowner’s spouse or child, or a third party who is not a family member. The tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit.

98.6(3) *Definition of “actively engaged in farming.”* Landowners and tenants are “actively engaged in farming” if they personally participate in decisions about farm operations and those decisions, along with external factors such as weather and market prices, determine their profit or loss for the products they produce. Tenants qualify if they farm land owned by another and pay rent in cash or in kind. A farm manager or other third party that operates a farm for a fee or a laborer who works on the farm for a wage and is not a family member does not qualify as a tenant.

98.6(4) *Landowners who qualify as active farmers.* These landowners:

a. Are the sole operator of a farm unit (along with immediate family members); or

b. Make all decisions about farm operations, but contract for custom farming or hire labor to do some or all of the work; or

c. Participate annually in decisions about farm operations such as negotiations with federal farm agencies or negotiations about cropping practices on specific fields that are rented to a tenant; or

d. Raise specialty crops from operations such as orchards, nurseries, or tree farms that do not necessarily produce annual income but require annual operating decisions about maintenance or improvements; or

e. May have portions of the farm enrolled in a long-term land retirement program such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as long as other farm operations occur annually; or

f. Place their entire cropland in the CRP or other long-term land retirement program with no other active farming operation occurring on the farm.

98.6(5) *Landowners who do not qualify.* These landowners:

a. Use a farm manager or other third party to operate the farm; or

b. Cash rent the entire farm to a tenant who is responsible for all farm operations including following preapproved operations plans.

98.6(6) *Where landowner/tenant licenses are valid.* A free license is valid only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant. “Farm unit” means all parcels of land that are at least two contiguous acres in size, that are operated as a unit for agricultural purposes, and that are under lawful control of the landowner or tenant regardless of how that land is subdivided for business purposes. Individual parcels of land do not need to be adjacent to one another to be included in the farm unit. “Agricultural purposes” includes but is not limited to field crops, livestock,

horticultural crops (e.g., from nurseries, orchards, truck farms, or Christmas tree plantations), and land managed for timber production.

98.6(7) *How many landowner/tenant licenses may be obtained.* The maximum number of landowner/tenant licenses for the spring turkey season is two per farm unit, one for the landowner (or family member) and one for the tenant (or family member). If there is no tenant, the landowner's family may obtain only one license. A tenant or the tenant's family is entitled to only one landowner/tenant license even if the tenant farms land for more than one landowner.

98.6(8) *Registration of landowners and tenants.* Landowners and tenants and their eligible family members who want to obtain free spring wild turkey hunting licenses must register with the department of natural resources before the free licenses will be issued. Procedures for registering are described in **571—95.2**(481A).

571—98.7(483A) Youth spring wild turkey hunt.

98.7(1) *Licenses.* A special youth spring wild turkey hunting license valid statewide may be issued to any Iowa resident who is 15 years old or younger on the date the youth purchases the license. The youth license may be paid or free to persons eligible for free licenses. If the youth obtains a free landowner/tenant license, it will count as the one free license for which the youth's family is eligible. Each participating youth must be accompanied by an adult who possesses a valid wild turkey spring hunting license for one of the seasons and a hunting license, and has paid the habitat fee (if the adult is normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). The accompanying adult must not possess a firearm or bow and must be in the direct company of the youth at all times. A person may obtain only one youth turkey hunting license but may also obtain one archery-only license or one combination shotgun-or-archery license for season 4.

98.7(2) *Youth season dates.* The youth turkey hunting license shall be valid during the three days immediately before the first turkey season. A person who is issued a youth spring wild turkey hunting license and does not take a wild turkey during the youth spring wild turkey hunting season may use the wild turkey hunting license and unused tag during any remaining spring wild turkey hunting season in the year in which the youth license was issued.

98.7(3) *Limits and license quotas.* An unlimited number of licenses may be issued. The daily and season bag and possession limit is one bearded (or male) wild turkey.

98.7(4) *Method of take and other regulations.* Wild turkeys may be taken with shotguns, muzzleloaded shotguns or bows as described in 571—98.2(483A). All other spring wild turkey hunting regulations for residents shall apply.

98.7(5) *Procedures for obtaining licenses.* Youth season licenses may be obtained through ELSI beginning December 15 through the last day of the youth season.

571—98.8(481A) Harvest reporting. Each hunter who harvests a turkey must report that kill according to procedures described in 571—95.1(481A).

NONRESIDENT WILD TURKEY HUNTING

571—98.9(483A) General. Wild turkey may be taken during the spring season subject to the following:

98.9(1) *License.* When hunting wild turkey, all hunters must have in possession a valid nonresident wild turkey spring hunting license, the unused transportation tag issued with that license, a valid nonresident hunting license, and proof of having paid the current year's habitat fee. No one, while hunting turkey, shall carry or have in possession any license or transportation tag issued to another hunter. No one who is issued a wild turkey license and transportation tag shall allow another person to possess that license or transportation tag while turkey hunting or

tagging a turkey. Licenses will be issued by zone and season and will be valid in the designated zone and season only. No one shall obtain more than one nonresident wild turkey spring hunting license. A hunter having a license valid for one of the spring turkey seasons may accompany, call for, or otherwise assist any other hunter who has a valid turkey hunting license in that season and zone. The hunter who is providing assistance may not shoot a turkey or carry a firearm or bow unless that hunter has a valid license and an unused tag for the current season and zone. Two types of licenses will be issued:

a. Combination shotgun-or-archery license. Shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns and archery equipment as defined in 98.12(1) may be used.

b. Muzzleloading shotgun-only license. Only muzzleloading shotguns as defined in 98.12(1) may be used.

98.9(2) Seasons. Bearded (or male) wild turkey may be taken only by the use of shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, and bow and arrow during the first, second, third or fourth seasons as defined in 98.2(4) “a.”

98.9(3) Daily bag, possession and season limits. The daily bag limit is one bearded (or male) wild turkey; the possession and season limit is one bearded (or male) wild turkey.

98.9(4) Shooting hours. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

98.9(5) Fall special licenses. The commission shall issue licenses in conformance with Iowa Code section 483A.24(12) to nonresidents 21 years of age or younger who have a severe physical disability or who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. A person applying for this license must provide a completed form obtained from the department of natural resources. The application shall be certified by the applicant’s attending physician with an original signature and

declare that the applicant has a severe physical disability or a terminal illness using the criteria listed in 571—Chapter 15. A medical statement from the applicant's attending physician that specifies criteria met shall be on 8½" × 11" letterhead stationery. The attending physician shall be a currently practicing doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

571—98.10(483A) Zones open to hunting. Licenses shall be valid only in designated areas as follows:

1. Zone 4. Zone 4 is that portion of Iowa bounded on the north by Interstate Highway 80 and on the west by U.S. Highway 59.
2. Zone 5. Zone 5 is that portion of Iowa bounded on the north by U.S. Highway 20 and on the east by U.S. Highway 59.
3. Zone 6. Zone 6 is that portion of Iowa lying east of U.S. Highway 63 and north of Interstate Highway 80.
4. Zone 7. Zone 7 is that portion of Iowa bounded on the north by U.S. Highway 20, on the west by U.S. Highway 59, on the south by Interstate Highway 80, and on the east by U.S. Highway 63.
5. Zone 8. Zone 8 is that portion of Iowa north of U.S. Highway 20 and west of U.S. Highway 63.

571—98.11(483A) License quotas. A limited number of wild turkey hunting licenses will be issued in each zone in each season as follows:

98.11(1) *Combination shotgun-or-archery licenses.*

- a. Zone 4: 262.
- b. Zone 5: 55.

c. Zone 6: 165.

d. Zone 7: 35.

e. Zone 8: 20.

98.11(2) *Muzzleloading shotgun-only licenses.* 150 statewide. A hunter purchasing a muzzleloading shotgun license must declare a zone and season and hunt only in that zone and season.

571—98.12(483A) Means and method of take.

98.12(1) *Permitted weapons.* Wild turkey may be taken only with shotguns and muzzleloading shotguns not smaller than caliber .410 and shooting only shot sizes number 4 through 10 (lead or nontoxic) shot. No person may have shotshells containing shot of any size other than number 4 through 10 (lead or nontoxic) shot on the person while hunting wild turkey. Except for crossbows for persons with certain afflictions of the upper body, as provided in **571—15.22**(481A), only longbow, compound, or recurve bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted. Blunthead arrows with a minimum diameter of 9/16 inch may also be used. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long. No explosive or chemical devices may be attached to the arrow, broadhead, or blunthead.

98.12(2) *Prohibited devices.* The use of live decoys, dogs, horses, motorized vehicles, aircraft, bait, crossbows, except as otherwise provided, and the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds are prohibited, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with the involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord. “Bait” means grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts

or any other natural food materials; commercial products containing natural food materials; or by-products of such materials transported to or placed in an area for the intent of attracting wildlife.

571—98.13(483A) Application procedure.

98.13(1) Applications for nonresident wild turkey spring hunting licenses must be made through the ELSI telephone ordering system or the ELSI Internet license sales website. Applications will be accepted from December 15 through the last Sunday in January. No one may submit more than one application during the application period. If applications have been sold in excess of the license quota for any license type, zone, or season, a drawing will be held to determine which applicants receive licenses. Licenses or refunds of license fees will be mailed to applicants after the drawing is completed. License agent writing fees, department administrative fees, Internet sales charges and telephone order charges will not be refunded. If any license quota has not been filled, the excess licenses will be sold first-come, first-served through the telephone ordering system or the Internet license sales website beginning at 6 a.m. the second Saturday after the close of the application period until the quota has been filled or the last day of the season for which the license is valid, whichever occurs first. No one may obtain more than one nonresident wild turkey spring hunting license. Hunters may apply individually or as a group of up to 15 applicants. All members of a group will be accepted or rejected as a group in the drawing. If a group is rejected, members of that group may purchase licenses individually if excess licenses are available.

98.13(2) Each individual applicant who is unsuccessful in the drawing will be assigned one preference point for each year in which the individual applies and is unsuccessful. If a person who was unsuccessful in the drawing purchases a leftover license within four weeks, the person

will receive a refund for the cost of the preference point. Preference points will not accrue in a year in which an applicant fails to apply, but the applicant will retain any preference points previously earned. Once an applicant receives a license, all preference points will be erased. Preference points will apply to any zone or season for which a hunter applies. The first license drawing each year will be made from the pool of applicants with the most preference points. If licenses are still available after the first drawing, subsequent drawings will be made from pools of applicants with successively fewer preference points and continue until the license quota is reached or all applicants have received licenses. Applicants who apply as a group will be included in a pool of applicants with the same number of preference points as that of the member of the group with the fewest preference points assigned.

571—98.14(483A) Transportation tag. Immediately upon the killing of a wild turkey, the transportation tag issued with the license and bearing the license number of the licensee, year of issuance, and date of kill properly shown shall be visibly attached to one leg of the turkey. The hunter who shot the turkey must use the transportation tag issued to that hunter to tag the turkey. No one may tag a turkey with a transportation tag issued to another hunter. The tag must be attached in such a manner that it cannot be removed without mutilating or destroying the tag. The tag must be attached before the carcass can be moved in any manner from the place of kill. The transportation tag shall remain affixed to the leg of the turkey until the turkey is processed for consumption. The leg that bears the tag must be attached to the carcass of any wild turkey being transported within the state during any wild turkey spring hunting season. The tag shall be proof of possession of the carcass by the above-mentioned licensee.

571—98.15(481A) Harvest reporting. Each hunter who bags a turkey must report that kill according to procedures described in 571—95.1(481A).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7 and 483A.24.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 99**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***42. Chapter 101, “Falconry Regulations” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 101. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 101 governs falconry by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates raptor take and possession for the use of falconry and sets forth permit types and fees, species permitted to be taken from the wild, facility and equipment requirements, the wild Peregrine falcon take process, and annual reporting requirements. This chapter has been reviewed and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8609C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 101 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 101, “Falconry Regulations,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, 481A.38 and 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 101 governs falconry by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates raptor take and possession for the use of falconry and sets forth permit types and fees, species permitted to be taken from the wild, facility and equipment requirements, the wild Peregrine falcon take process, and annual reporting requirements. This chapter has been reviewed and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8609C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 101 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 101

FALCONRY REGULATIONS

571—101.1(481A) Falconry regulations. No person may take, transport, or possess any raptor without having first obtained a valid state/federal falconer's permit. Falconry permit holders shall comply with the department of natural resources' rules and with the current Code of Federal

Regulations pertaining to falconry. Only the following raptors may be taken from the wild: American kestrel, Cooper's hawk, Ferruginous hawk, American goshawk, Great horned owl, Gyrfalcon, Harris's hawk, Merlin, Peregrine falcon, Prairie falcon, Red-tailed hawk, Rough-legged hawk, and Sharp-shinned hawk. Raptors taken from the wild shall not be sold, bartered or traded. All wild raptors legally trapped or taken by a resident or nonresident falconer must be marked with an Iowa band provided by the department.

101.1(1) A falconry permit allows for the purchase, capture, possession and use of designated legal raptors in hunting, subject to state regulations.

101.1(2) A falconry permit may be issued to any person 14 years of age or older who has successfully passed a written examination provided by the department and approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior covering basic biology, care and handling of raptors, laws, regulations or other appropriate subject matter, with a minimum score of 80 percent, and who has satisfied the minimum requirements for keeping raptors as determined by inspection of the applicant's facilities. In the event an individual fails the examination, this individual may reapply.

101.1(3) There shall be three classes of falconer permits as follows:

a. Apprentice falconer.

(1) An applicant shall have a sponsor who is a holder of a general or master falconry permit and who has at least two years of active experience as a general falconer. A qualifying sponsor must submit a signed letter to the department in which the sponsor agrees to assist and mentor the apprentice falconer for the duration of the apprenticeship. A sponsor may have no more than two apprentices at any one time.

(2) Apprentice permit holders may only possess a Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and shall not possess more than one individual or obtain more than one replacement bird during any 12-month period. Apprentice permit holders may not take nestling or fledgling birds.

(3) A sponsor has the right to withdraw sponsorship at any time by submitting a signed letter to the department requesting withdrawal of sponsorship. If an apprentice falconer fails to successfully complete the required two-year apprenticeship, the apprentice falconer's Red-tailed hawk shall be transferred to the sponsor of record. The sponsor will be required to properly care for the bird until it is transferred to another permitted falconer or hatched back into the wild.

(4) Upon completion of the apprenticeship requirements, the apprentice's sponsor must submit a signed letter of endorsement confirming that the apprentice has satisfied the terms and conditions of the apprenticeship as required by these rules and approved by the department.

b. General falconer. An applicant shall be at least 18 years old. An applicant shall have at least two years of field experience in the practice of falconry at the apprentice level or its equivalent; the keeping of raptors without actively hunting the bird(s) shall not be considered field experience. General permit holders shall not possess more than three raptors and may not take more than one raptor for a replacement bird from the wild during any 12-month period. Licensed general class falconers may purchase properly marked captive-bred raptors only from federally licensed raptor propagators.

c. Master falconer. An applicant shall have at least five years of field experience in the practice of falconry at the general level or its equivalent. The keeping of raptors without actively hunting the bird(s) shall not be considered field experience. A master falconer shall possess no more than five raptors at any one time and be permitted to take no more than two replacement birds from

the wild in any 12-month period. Master class falconers may purchase properly marked captive-bred raptors only from federally licensed raptor propagators.

101.1(4) Falconry permits are \$61.50, are valid for a three-year period, and are nontransferable. Permits shall expire June 30 of the third year after issuance. Permits may be renewed without examination following the falconer's submission of an annual report of birds possessed during the previous year and provided that the department is satisfied as to the competency of the applicant whose permit has expired.

101.1(5) A federal raptor propagation permit is required before any raptor propagator may take, possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or transfer any captive-bred raptor, raptor egg, or raptor semen for propagation or sale purposes.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section **481A.48** and conforms to the federal regulations promulgated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

571—101.2(481A) Facilities and equipment. Before any individual shall be issued a falconry permit, the applicant's raptor housing facilities and falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative of the department as meeting the following standards:

101.2(1) Facilities. The primary consideration for raptor housing facilities, whether indoors or outdoors, is protection from the environment, predators or undue disturbance. Depending upon climatic conditions, the applicant shall have either or both of the following facilities:

a. Indoor facilities. Indoor facilities (mews) shall be a minimum of 6 feet high, with a floor area at least 6 feet square for each bird. If more than one raptor is to be kept in the mews, the raptors shall be tethered or separated by partitions. There shall be at least one window, protected on the inside by vertical bars spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body and a door that can be easily closed and secured. The floor of the mews shall permit easy cleaning. Falcons are

to be kept on perches with a flat perching surface while accipiters, buteos and eagles are to be kept on perches that have a perching surface round in cross section and all perches should provide a good grasping surface satisfactory to the bird in possession.

b. Indoor facilities—exception. An exception may be allowed from the standard size requirements listed in 101.2(1)“a” to general and master class permittees only for housing the smaller species of raptors; however, the facilities shall be large enough to allow the bird to fully extend its wings without touching the walls of the mew.

c. Outdoor facilities. Outdoor facilities (weathering area) shall be fenced and covered with netting or wire, or roofed to protect the birds from disturbance and attack by predators. The enclosed area shall be large enough to ensure the birds cannot strike the fence when flying from the perch. Protection from excessive sun, wind, and inclement weather shall be provided for each bird. Adequate perches shall be provided.

d. Transportation—temporary holding. A raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities, which shall be provided with an adequate perch and protected from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbance for a period not to exceed 30 days.

e. Maintenance and inspection. All facilities and equipment shall be kept at or above the preceding standards at all times and shall be available for inspection by representatives of the department at all reasonable hours.

101.2(2) Equipment. The following items shall be in the possession of the applicant before the applicant can obtain a permit.

a. Jesses. At least one pair of Alymeri or similar-type jesses constructed of pliable, high-quality leather or suitable synthetic material to be used when any raptor is flown free (traditional one-piece jesses may be used on raptors when the raptors are not being flown).

b. Leashes and swivels. At least one flexible, weather-resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design.

c. Bath container. At least one suitable container for each raptor, two to six inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor.

d. Outdoor perches. At least one weathering area perch of an acceptable design for each raptor.

e. Weighing device. A working scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor(s) held and graduated to increments of not more than two-tenths of an ounce, or five grams.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section **481A.48** and conforms to the federal regulations promulgated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

571—101.3(481A) Taking and possession provision. The taking of American kestrel, Cooper's hawk, Ferruginous hawk, American goshawk, Great horned owl, Gyrfalcon, Harris's hawk, Merlin, Prairie falcon, Red-tailed hawk, Rough-legged hawk, and Sharp-shinned hawk from the wild by resident falconers shall be limited to the following conditions:

101.3(1) Young birds not yet capable of flight may be taken at any time following hatch by a general class or master class falconer. The falconer may take no more than two nestlings, and at least one nestling shall be left in any nest from which a nestling is taken. The taking of nestlings and branchers is permitted only between April 1 and July 31. Removal of eggs from nests is prohibited.

101.3(2) First year (passage) birds shall be taken only from August 1 through March 31.

101.3(3) Only American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and Great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may be taken when over one year old; however, the permissible period for taking shall be no different than that prescribed for passage birds of all other legal species.

101.3(4) No permittee shall employ any method of taking raptors that is injurious to the bird.

101.3(5) Any species except endangered or threatened species or exotic birds, the import of which has been banned by the international convention, federal regulation or the department, may be possessed and used for falconry provided the license holder can provide evidence that the bird was legally acquired. No one may import a raptor into Iowa or export a raptor out of Iowa for a period greater than 30 days without having first obtained written permission of the department.

101.3(6) Recapture. Banded raptors that are lost to the wild through accident may be retrapped provided that the department has been advised of the loss and is notified of the attempt to recapture. If the banded raptor is recaptured, the department shall be notified of the recovery within 48 hours.

101.3(7) Previously banded birds. Any raptor captured with a federal leg band or any research band already attached shall be immediately released at the site of capture, and the band number and location of trapping site shall be reported to the department within 48 hours.

101.3(8) Nonresident raptor trapping. A permit may be issued upon application by a nonresident for the purpose of taking a raptor in Iowa, provided that the applicant's resident state provides for the taking of raptors by nonresidents. Nonresidents shall submit a photocopy of a valid state or federal falconry permit. Only general and master class nonresident raptor trapping permits shall be issued.

a. Trapping provisions. Trapping of raptors in Iowa by permitted nonresident falconers shall be limited to the legal species listed in these rules.

b. Marking requirements. Raptors legally trapped by nonresidents must be marked with an Iowa band provided by the department. No raptor shall be transported from Iowa without first having had the Iowa band attached. Permittees may, with written permission from the department, provide their own band issued by their state of residency. Permittees who provide their own band

shall place the band on the raptor immediately upon capture and must notify the department within five days of the capture and of the corresponding band number.

c. Fees. Fees for nonresident raptor trapping applications shall be reciprocal to the fee charged by the applicant's resident state. If the applicant's resident state does not provide for a nonresident raptor trapping fee, then the Iowa nonresident raptor trapping application fee shall be \$100.

d. Restrictions. Nonresident falconers may apply for one raptor trapping permit per trapping season. All nonresident raptor trapping permits shall be valid for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days, beginning on the date of issuance. No nestlings or raptor eggs may be taken. First year (passage) birds may be taken only from September 1 through January 31. The nonresident raptor trapping permit shall be valid for only one raptor of the species designated on the permit. The raptor trapping permit shall be carried by the permittee while in the act of trapping and the transportation of any subsequently trapped raptor.

571—101.4(481A) Wild Peregrine falcons. A wild Peregrine falcon permit allows for the capture, possession and use of a wild Peregrine falcon in hunting, subject to **571—Chapter 101**. In addition to the following provisions, the holder of a wild Peregrine falcon permit shall comply with **571—101.1**(481A), **571—101.2**(481A), and **571—101.5**(481A) through **571—101.7**(481A) as well as other applicable law.

101.4(1) The taking of Peregrine falcons from the wild shall be conducted only by resident general or master falconers with at least five consecutive years of field experience in the years immediately preceding the filing of an application as described in 101.4(4) and subject to the following conditions:

a. Nestling birds shall not be taken. Young birds not yet capable of flight shall not be taken. Removal of eggs from nests is prohibited.

b. Only wild Peregrine falcons less than one year old shall be taken, and only between September 20 and October 20.

c. No permittee shall employ any method of take that is injurious to the bird.

d. No more than one wild Peregrine falcon per person may be possessed at any given time.

101.4(2) Recapture. Banded Peregrine falcons that are lost to the wild through accident may be retrapped at any time provided that the department has been advised of the loss and is notified of the attempt to recapture. If the banded raptor is recaptured, the department shall be notified of the recovery within 48 hours.

101.4(3) Previously banded Peregrines. Any wild Peregrine falcon captured with a federal leg band or any research band already attached shall be immediately released at the site of capture, and the band number and location of trapping site shall be reported to the department within 48 hours.

101.4(4) Lottery. Applications for wild Peregrine falcon permits shall be received by the department no later than July 31 of each year. Permit drawing from the names of qualifying applicants will be held at the August commission meeting.

571—101.5(481A) Annual reports. Each holder of a falconer's permit shall submit an annual report to the department by July 31 of each year. This report shall list all raptors in possession on the preceding thirtieth day of June and any raptor held during the year by species, sex (if known), age (if known), date acquired and where or from whom acquired, and whether the raptor escaped, died, was recaptured, or was released during this time period and the date on which the event occurred.

571—101.6(481A) Other provisions.

101.6(1) Any raptor captured with a research radio transmitter attached must be reported to the department within five days, and the raptor shall be released immediately.

101.6(2) No permittee may take, purchase, receive or otherwise acquire, sell, barter, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any raptor unless such permittee submits federal Form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report), completed in accordance with the instructions on the form, to the issuing regional fish and wildlife service office within five days of such transaction. A falconry permittee shall notify the department in writing of the death, replacement, loss, release or temporary transfer or other such change in the status of the permittee's raptors within five days of such occurrence. Written authorization shall be obtained from the department before a replacement raptor may be secured. Each dead raptor shall be surrendered to the department or disposed of at the department's direction. Primary, secondary, and tail feathers may be retained and exchanged from these birds to imp or repair broken feathers.

101.6(3) Raptor exportation and importation permits may be issued to resident and nonresident falconers licensed to practice falconry in other states. Such permits shall be issued only when the export or import term will exceed 30 days. In the case of exportation or importation terms of less than 30 days, the permittee shall have in possession a photocopy of raptor possession documentation (Form 3-186A) and a photocopy of a valid state or federal falconry permit. Persons wishing to participate in hunting will be required to possess appropriate hunting licenses or permits.

101.6(4) A falconry permit holder shall obtain written authorization from the department before any raptor not indigenous to the state is intentionally released to the wild, at which time the band from the released raptor shall be removed and surrendered to the department. The band from an intentionally released raptor which is indigenous to the state shall also be removed and

surrendered to the department. A standard federal bird band shall be attached to such raptors by the state or a service-authorized federal bird bander whenever possible. A falconer shall not permanently release a captive-bred raptor to the wild.

101.6(5) A raptor possessed under a state or federal falconry permit may be temporarily held by a person other than the permittee only if that person is otherwise authorized to possess raptors and only if the raptor is accompanied at all times by the properly completed Form 3-186A (Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report) designating the permittee as the possessor of record and by a signed, dated statement from the permittee authorizing the temporary possession.

101.6(6) A general or master falconer may charge a fee for presentation of a raptor education program to the public. The fee cannot exceed the amount required to cover the falconer's expenses.

101.6(7) When a hybrid or exotic falconry bird is flown free, it must be fitted with two working radio telemetry transmitters.

571—101.7(481A) Compliance. Permits will be revoked for any individual failing to comply with the provisions of these rules.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections **481A.39** and **481A.42**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***43. Chapter 105, “Deer Population Management Zones – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 105. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 105 establishes deer management zone hunts to be used in areas that do not typically have hunting opportunities in order to safely, ethically, and effectively manage deer populations. The chapter includes additional measures for state parks, urban environments, county conservation board property, other government jurisdictions, and private property to make sure that the program is conducted safely and to guide the managing entities through the process. This chapter has been reviewed consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023). This rulemaking rescinds and replaces Chapter 105, “Deer Population Management Zones.”

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8628C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 105 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission hereby rescinds Chapter 105, “Deer Population Management Zones,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48 and 483A.8.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, 481A.38, 481A.48 and 483A.8.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 105 establishes deer management zones to be used in areas that do not typically have hunting opportunities in order to safely, ethically, and effectively manage deer populations. The chapter includes additional measures for state parks, urban environments, county conservation board property, other government jurisdictions, and private property to make sure that the program is conducted safely and to guide the managing entities through the process. This chapter has been reviewed consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8628C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 105 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 105

DEER POPULATION MANAGEMENT ZONES

571—105.1(481A) Definitions.

“Commission” means the natural resource commission.

“Department” means the department of natural resources.

“Special deer management zones” means defined units of public and private land, including state parks, state recreation areas, county parks, urban areas, and areas managed by other governmental jurisdictions.

“Urban deer management zones” means areas mostly within incorporated city limits including city, county, state, and private land.

571—105.2(481A) Special deer management zones. Special deer management zone boundaries, seasons, permitted weapons, license quotas, and other conditions for hunting shall be designated annually by the commission.

105.2(1) Seasons. Deer hunting in a special deer management zone may occur only on dates established by the commission. Season dates may or may not coincide with seasons for general deer hunting outside special deer management zones.

105.2(2) Licenses. Every hunter must have in possession a paid special hunting license valid only for the specific special deer management zone. The hunting license shall specify dates of hunting and the type of deer that may be taken as designated by the commission. The special licenses will be issued at locations and on dates announced by the commission. Special licenses shall be issued to Iowa residents only and shall cost the same as deer licenses issued during the general deer seasons. Incentives, including but not limited to issuing additional antlerless-only or any-deer licenses, may be used to attract hunters to a special hunt.

105.2(3) Permitted weapons. Only weapons permitted during the general deer seasons may be used. The commission may limit the use of specific weapons in some deer management zones and seasons on a case-by-case basis to improve the safety of hunters and the surrounding area.

105.2(4) *Hunter safety and proficiency.* Hunters may be required to pass a weapons proficiency test and attend a meeting prior to hunting in special deer management zones. The meeting will be used to familiarize hunters with zone boundaries, location of private lands, safety areas around buildings, access points, objectives of the hunt and other aspects of hunting in a special deer management zone.

105.2(5) *Checking deer.* A hunter who takes a deer may be required to check the deer at a designated headquarters prior to leaving the area.

105.2(6) *Educational hunts.* Hunts in designated special deer management zones may be restricted to youth or novice hunters to introduce them to safe and ethical deer hunting.

a. Age, experience or other eligibility restrictions may be designated by the commission. Zones, seasons and other conditions for hunting will be designated the same as specified in this rule.

b. An adult must accompany each youth participating in an educational hunt. The adult must be licensed as specified in **571—subrule 106.10(1)**.

c. A novice, nonyouth hunter may be accompanied by an adult mentor. The mentor must have a valid hunting license and have paid the habitat fee, if otherwise required to do so.

105.2(7) *Zone request.* Deer management zones will be established only upon request from cities, task forces, a county government, the federal government, or an appropriate responsible entity and when approved by the commission.

571—105.3(481A) State parks and recreation areas. A summary of public comments shall be included with other recommendations to the commission related to hunting in a state park or state recreation area.

571—105.4(481A) Urban deer management zones.

105.4(1) *Special restrictions.* Cities, deer task forces, or other public entities may require hunters to do one or more of the following: pass a hunter safety and education course, pass a weapons proficiency test, or be approved by the appropriate police department or conservation officer.

105.4(2) *Other methods.* The natural resource commission in cooperation with the city government may approve other methods of deer removal in urban areas.

571—105.5(481A) County park deer management zones—special restrictions. County park managers may require hunters to do one or more of the following: pass a hunter safety and education course, pass a weapons proficiency test, or be approved by the appropriate county sheriff or conservation officer.

571—105.6(481A) Special deer management zones on private land. Special deer management zones may be established on private land when approved by the commission. Zones, seasons, and other conditions for hunting will be determined by the commission. Hunters will be required to comply with all applicable regulations specified in **571—Chapter 106**.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections **481A.38**, **481A.39**, **481A.48** and **483A.8**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

44. Chapters 108, 109, 110, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 108 and to rescind and reserve Chapters 109 and 110. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

New Chapter 108 sets the season dates, daily bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. This chapter is a consolidation of existing Chapters 108, 109, and 110, which collectively regulate the take of various species of furbearers and trapping generally. This consolidation has been made consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8612C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings but four comments were received. One comment requested fewer trapping restrictions on predators, two comments related to thermal vision scopes, and one comment was not germane to the rule. The requested changes are not being adopted. The changes would be considered significant by many recreational users and also go beyond the intent of Executive Order 10. Additionally, current trapping regulations maximize recreational opportunities for trappers and hunters while being biologically responsible. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 108, 109, 110 – Final rules

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons” and adopts a new Chapter 108, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting”; and to rescind Chapter 109, “Groundhog Season,” and Chapter 110, “Trapping Limitations,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87 and 481A.90.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.87 and 481A.92.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, daily bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. This chapter is a consolidation of existing Chapters 108, 109, and 110, which collectively regulate the take of various species of furbearers and trapping generally. This consolidation has been made consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8612C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and four comments were received. One comment requested fewer trapping restrictions on predators, two comments related to thermal vision scopes and one comment was not germane to the rule. The requested changes are not being adopted. The changes would be considered significant by many recreational users and also go beyond the intent of Executive Order 10. Additionally, current trapping regulations maximize recreational opportunities for trappers and hunters while being biologically responsible. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special

meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

CHAPTER 108

WILD FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING

571—108.1(481A) Badger, opossum, striped skunk, red fox, gray fox, mink, muskrat and weasel. Open season for the taking of mink, muskrat and weasel shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through February 28 of the succeeding year. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

108.1(1) *Disturbing muskrat houses.* Any department of natural resources officer, natural resource biologist, or county conservation board director may permit trappers to dig into or disturb muskrat houses on specific state or county game management areas as provided in Iowa Code section **481A.90**, after finding that muskrats are causing excessive damage by destroying the vegetation essential to the welfare of a marsh and after so posting the area.

108.1(2) *Game management areas.* Open season for taking muskrats on certain state game management areas, certain federal national wildlife refuges, and certain county conservation board areas, only where approved by the wildlife bureau and posted accordingly, shall be from 8 a.m. the day after the regular muskrat trapping season ends until April 1. The use of foothold traps during this season is prohibited unless each trap is placed completely inside a muskrat house. No daily bag or possession limit.

571—108.2(481A) Groundhog. Continuous open season. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

571—108.3(481A) Raccoon.

108.3(1) *Hunting.* Continuous open season on private lands and from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through February 28 of the succeeding year on public lands. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

108.3(2) *Trapping.* Continuous open season using cage traps and dog-proof traps on private lands year-round. Trapping limitations described in this chapter apply to trapping raccoons from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through February 28 of the succeeding year on all lands. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

571—108.4(481A) Beaver. Open season for the taking of beaver shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through April 15 of the succeeding year. No daily bag or possession limit.

571—108.5(481A) Coyote.

108.5(1) *Hunting.* Continuous open season. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

108.5(2) *Trapping.* Open season for trapping coyote shall be 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through February 28 of the succeeding year. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit. Any conservation officer or wildlife biologist may authorize a landowner, tenant or designee to trap coyotes causing damage outside the established trapping season dates.

571—108.6(481A) Gray (timber) wolf and spotted skunk. Continuous closed season.

571—108.7(481A) River otter and bobcat.

108.7(1) *License requirements.* Each person who takes river otters or bobcats shall have a valid fur harvester license and pay the habitat fee if normally required to have a license to hunt or trap.

108.7(2) *Open area.* River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Cherokee, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and Woodbury.

108.7(3) *Seasonal daily bag limit.*

a. The seasonal daily bag limit for river otters is 3 river otters per person.

b. The seasonal daily bag limit for bobcats is 1 bobcat per person in the following counties: Audubon, Boone, Cedar, Cherokee, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Guthrie, Harrison, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lyon, Monona, Muscatine, Plymouth, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Webster, and Woodbury.

c. The seasonal daily bag limit for bobcats is 3 bobcats per person in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Cass, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

d. No more than 3 bobcats total can be legally harvested by a fur harvester in a season. River otters or bobcats trapped in excess of the seasonal daily bag limit or in a closed area must be turned over to the department; the fur harvester shall not be penalized.

108.7(4) *Season dates.* The season for taking river otters and bobcats opens on the first Saturday in November and closes on February 28 of the following year.

108.7(5) *Reporting requirements.* Anyone, including a landowner or tenant not required to have a fur harvester license, who takes a river otter or bobcat must report the harvest and arrange to receive a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag from the officer or designated department employee within seven days of harvest. The river otter or bobcat shall be skinned and its lower jaw or skull turned over to the department conservation officer or designated department employee at the time the CITES tag is issued. If the specimen is to be kept whole for taxidermy purposes, a cut shall be made by the trapper between the gum line and eye so the CITES tag can be attached to the skin.

108.7(6) *Tagging requirements.* Every river otter or bobcat that may legally be kept must have a CITES tag attached. Tags will be supplied by the conservation officer or designated department employee. The tag must remain with the pelt until the pelt is sold or used for other purposes that render it no longer available for sale. Persons displaying river otters or bobcats as taxidermy mounts or as other decorative items must keep the tags in their possession as proof of legal harvest.

571—108.8(481A) Accidental capture of a river otter or bobcat during a closed season. A person who accidentally captures a river otter or bobcat during a closed season or in a closed area or after the person's individual daily bag limit has been reached shall not be penalized provided that:

1. The river otter or bobcat is captured during a legal trapping season or as part of a legal depredation control process; and

2. A conservation officer is contacted within 24 hours and the river otter or bobcat and all parts thereof are turned over to a conservation officer as soon as practical.

571—108.9(481A) Trapping restrictions. Trapping for all furbearers will be restricted as follows:

108.9(1) *Exposed bait.* No person shall set or maintain any leghold, body-clasping trap, or snare within 20 feet of exposed bait on land anywhere in the state or over water in the following areas:

a. Mississippi River corridor—Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee Counties.

b. Missouri River corridor—Those portions of Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont Counties west of Interstate 29.

c. Des Moines River corridor—Boone, Dallas, Polk, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren Counties.

“Exposed bait” means meat or viscera or any animal, bird, fish, amphibian, or reptile with or without skin, hide, or feathers visible to soaring birds.

108.9(2) Reserved.

571—108.10(481A) Public roadside limitations—snares and body-gripping type traps. No person shall set or maintain any snare or body-gripping type trap within any public road right-of-way within 200 yards of buildings inhabited by human beings unless a resident of the dwelling adjacent to the public road right-of-way has given permission or unless the body-gripping type trap is completely underwater or at least one-half of the loop of a snare is underwater. Nothing in

this rule shall be construed as limiting the use of foothold traps or box-type live traps in public road rights-of-way. No person shall place or leave any trap, stake, or nonindigenous set making material upon any public road right-of-way except during a period of time that begins two weeks before the trapping season opens and ends on the last day of the season.

571—108.11(481A) Snares.

108.11(1) *Placement.* No person shall set or maintain any snare in any public road right-of-way so that the snare when fully extended can touch any fence. Snares may not be attached to a drag.

108.11(2) *Loop size.* No snare when set will have a loop larger than 8 inches in horizontal measurement except for snares set with at least one-half of the loop underwater or snares set on private land other than roadsides within 30 yards of a pond, lake, drainage ditch, creek, stream or river shall not have a loop larger than 11 inches in horizontal measurement.

108.11(3) *Deer locks.* All snares must have a functional deer lock that will not allow the snare loop to close smaller than 2½ inches in diameter.

108.11(4) *Mechanical snares.* It shall be illegal to set any mechanically powered snare designed to capture an animal by the neck or body unless such snares are placed completely underwater.

571—108.12(481A) Body-gripping traps. No person shall set or maintain any body-gripping trap on any public road right-of-way within five feet of any fence.

571—108.13(481A) Foothold traps. No person shall set or maintain on land any foothold trap with metal-serrated jaws, metal-toothed jaws or a spread inside the set jaws of greater than 7 inches.

571—108.14(481A) Removal of animals from traps and snares. All animals or animal carcasses caught in any type of trap or snare, except those that are placed entirely underwater and designed to drown the animal immediately, must be removed from the trap or snare by the trap or snare user immediately upon discovery and within 24 hours of the time the animal is caught.

571—108.15(481A) Trap tag requirements. All traps and snares, whether set or not, possessed by a person who can reasonably be presumed to be trapping shall have a metal tag attached plainly labeled with the user's name and address.

571—108.16(481A) Colony traps. All colony traps must be set entirely under water.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections **481A.6**, **481A.38**, **481A.39**, **481A.87**, **481A.90**, and **481A.92**.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 109**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 110**.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item (**indicates proposed consent item*)

***45. Chapter 114, “Nuisance Wildlife Control” – Final Rule**

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to rescind and replace Chapter 114. This is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 114 governs the nuisance wildlife control program. The rules contain specific requirements for application, testing, license requirements, special species considerations, annual reporting, and special permit guidance to nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCs). NWCs are experienced professionals who assist homeowners, businesses, and cities with removal of wildlife in conflict scenarios. Strong relationships between the Department and NWCs have resulted in a positive customer service response to the public.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its November 2024 meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as ARC 8624C. Two public hearings were held on January 28, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Changes from NOIA: No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Effective Date of Final Rule: June 18, 2025

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Attached: Chapter 114 – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission hereby rescinds Chapter 114, “Nuisance Wildlife Control,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 456A.24(8), 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.24(8) and 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 114 governs the nuisance wildlife control program. The rules contain specific requirements for application, testing, license requirements, special species considerations, annual reporting, and special permit guidance to nuisance wildlife control operators (NWCOS). NWCOS are experienced professionals who assist homeowners, businesses, and cities with removal of wildlife in conflict scenarios. Strong relationships between the Department of Natural Resources (Department) and NWCOS have resulted in a positive customer service response to the public.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 8, 2025 as **ARC 8624C**.

Public hearings were held on January 28, 2025, and January 29, 2025, at 12 noon at 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200. No one attended the hearings and no comments were received. The Final rule is identical to the NOIA.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Natural Resource Commission on April 8, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on June 18, 2025.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 114 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 114

NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL

571—114.1(456A) Nuisance wildlife control program. No provision of this chapter shall restrict a landowner from lawfully removing nuisance wildlife pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.87.

571—114.2(456A) Definitions.

“Annual activity report” means an annual report submitted on a form provided by the department of natural resources.

“Biologist” means a natural resource biologist employed by the wildlife bureau of the department.

“Guidebook” means the nuisance wildlife control operator’s manual provided by the department, updated November 2024.

“Helper” means a person who possesses a fur harvester license, has paid the habitat fee, and is listed, by name, on the permit as authorized to perform nuisance wildlife control operator duties under the direction of the permittee.

“Nuisance wildlife” means wild, native animals or birds under the jurisdiction of the department that are causing damage to property, creating a nuisance, or presenting a health hazard.

“Nuisance wildlife control operator” or *“NWCO”* means a person who operates as a business and charges a fee to remove nuisance wildlife.

“Permit” means an annual permit issued by the department under the authority of Iowa Code section 455A.5(6) “e” for the purpose of capturing and removing nuisance wildlife.

“Permittee” means an NWCO who possesses a valid nuisance wildlife control operator’s permit issued by the department.

“Special Canada goose control permit” or *“SCGCP”* means a permit to engage in the Canada goose population control activities specified by the department.

“Translocate” means to transport and release an animal at a site other than the site at which it was captured.

571—114.3(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s permit. An NWCO permit may be issued to an NWCO who complies with all requirements established within this chapter. This is an annual permit and may be renewed by January 10 of the following year and is not transferable. The department shall not renew a permit without first receiving a completed annual activity report for the previous year.

571—114.4(456A) Application requirements. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver’s license.

571—114.5(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s guidebook. All applicants will receive an NWCO guidebook at the time they submit a completed permit application form. The permittee shall refer to the guidebook as an operating manual for nuisance wildlife control activity. All requirements and procedures listed in the guidebook must be followed. The NWCO guidebook is hereby adopted by reference and shall be a part of this chapter as if set forth herein.

571—114.6(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s test and interview. An applicant must successfully pass a written test with a minimum test score of 80 percent before an NWCO permit will be issued. If the applicant fails the written test, the applicant must wait 45 days before retaking the test. If the applicant fails the written test a second time, the applicant must wait 180 days before reapplying. A \$25 testing fee will be assessed when the applicant successfully completes the test. In addition, the applicant must successfully complete an oral, in-person

interview with a representative of the department to determine the applicant's knowledge of wildlife and wildlife capture techniques, and to determine if the applicant has the ability to provide effective services to the public.

571—114.7(456A) Records and recordkeeping requirements. All permittees shall keep an up-to-date daily record of their nuisance wildlife control activities and keep it on file at the business location specified in the permit. Each record must contain the client's name, address, telephone number, date of service, service provider's name, species of animal, number of animals removed, control methods used, and disposition of the animals. Permittees holding an SCGCP must also document the locations of all Canada goose nests destroyed, the numbers of Canada goose eggs destroyed, and the numbers of Canada geese killed at each project site. The permittee shall provide these records for inspection by a department representative at any reasonable time.

571—114.8(456A) Annual activity report. The permittee shall submit an annual activity report on forms provided by the department no later than January 31 of the following year. The department shall not renew a permit until a complete and accurate annual activity report has been received for the preceding year.

571—114.9(456A) Permit renewal. An NWCO permit may be renewed by the department when all reporting requirements for the previous year have been met. An administrative fee of \$20 will be assessed at the time of permit renewal.

571—114.10(456A) Helper. A helper shall operate under the same conditions as the permittee. The permittee shall be responsible for all actions of the helpers listed on the permit. Compliance violations committed by a helper may be cause for the department to revoke the NWCO permit.

571—114.11(456A) Capture methods and trap tagging. The permittee and designated helpers shall observe all Iowa fur trapping and fur possession regulations as provided by Iowa law, the Iowa Administrative Code, and the NWCO guidebook. If traditional capture methods fail, the permittee may use chemicals, smoking devices, mechanical ferrets, wire, tools, instruments, or water to remove nuisance animals in accordance with the procedures contained in the guidebook. No person, except a person acting under an NWCO permit, shall capture or take, or attempt to capture or take, with any trap, snare, or net, any game bird.

571—114.12(456A) Endangered and threatened wildlife species. The permittee is not authorized to capture or possess any wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. A permittee may only capture or possess a federally protected species to the extent that the permittee is authorized to engage in specific Canada goose population control activities by the terms of a valid SCGCP. This prohibition includes but is not limited to the capture or possession of bobcats, spotted skunks, hawks, owls, eagles, migratory birds, waterfowl, and songbirds. When a nuisance wildlife problem involves an endangered or threatened species, the local state conservation officer must be contacted, and the officer will determine how the situation should be handled.

571—114.13(456A) Special Canada goose control permits. A person applying for a special Canada goose control permit to use lethal methods to control Canada goose populations or to trap and translocate Canada geese must be a currently certified NWCO and must abide by the following rules:

114.13(1) *Lethal control practices.* Permittees wishing to use lethal methods, such as nest destruction, egg oiling, egg addling, or killing geese, must comply with the following procedures:

a. Permittees must obtain written permission from the biologist responsible for the county in which the lethal control practice is proposed for every site where a lethal control practice is

proposed before implementing any such practice. The biologist will determine if lethal control practices are necessary and will specify the number of nests, eggs, or adult geese that can be destroyed at each site.

b. The permittee must follow the procedures in the NWCO guidebook for implementing lethal control practices and disposing of dead birds, eggs, and nests. Failure to follow such procedures will result in immediate revocation of the permit.

c. Permittees must satisfactorily complete at least two lethal control projects under the direct supervision of a biologist before being granted an SCGCP for lethal control practices. Upon the permittee's satisfactory completion of two lethal control projects, the biologist can issue the NWCO an SCGCP to perform lethal control activities without direct supervision by department personnel. The NWCO must carry this permit whenever engaged in lethal Canada goose control activities and exhibit it upon request by department personnel. Any persons assisting with the lethal control practices must be listed on the SCGCP. The permittee is responsible for the conduct of all persons listed on the SCGCP who are helping conduct lethal control operations.

d. All Canada goose work must be reported as specified in the NWCO guidebook by December 31 of the year for which the SCGCP is valid. The department will not renew a permit until a complete and accurate annual activity report has been received for the preceding year.

114.13(2) *Trapping and translocation operations.* Permittees wishing to trap and translocate Canada geese must comply with the following procedures:

a. Permittees must obtain written permission from the biologist responsible for the county in which the trap and translocation operation is proposed for every site where such operation is proposed before implementing any such operation. The biologist will determine if a trap and translocation operation is necessary and will specify the number of geese that can be translocated

from each site. The biologist will also specify release sites for the captured geese. Release sites must be approved by the biologist before any geese are captured.

b. The permittee must follow the procedures in the NWCO guidebook for implementing trap and translocation operations. Failure to follow such procedures will result in immediate revocation of the permit.

c. Before the permittee engages in a trap and translocation operation, the permittee's trapping and transport equipment must be inspected and approved by a biologist.

d. Permittees must satisfactorily complete at least four trap and translocation projects under the direct supervision of a biologist before being granted an SCGCP for trap and translocation operations. Upon satisfactory completion of four trap and translocation projects, the biologist can issue the NWCO an SCGCP to perform trap and translocation operations without direct supervision by department personnel. The NWCO must carry this permit whenever engaged in trap and translocation operations and exhibit it upon request by department personnel. Any persons assisting with the trap and translocation operations must be listed on the SCGCP. The permittee is responsible for the conduct of all persons listed on the SCGCP who are helping with trap and translocation operations.

e. Permittees must inform the biologist of the number of birds captured and translocated within 48 hours of the completion of each operation. Permittees must document the number of Canada geese trapped and released for each capture and release site and the number of geese that died during each trap and translocation operation. Any banded geese that are captured and translocated must be reported as specified in the NWCO guidebook within 48 hours of completion of the project.

f. Permittees must provide the department a written report of all trap and translocation operations by December 31 of the year for which the SCGCP is valid. Failure to provide this report by December 31 will result in the permittee's not being reauthorized to trap and translocate geese the following year.

114.13(3) *General provisions.*

a. The SCGCP is valid for one year and must be reauthorized by a biologist each year when the NWCO permit is renewed.

b. Any plumage, eggs, eggshells, nests, or dead birds encountered by the permittee when performing activities permitted under this rule may not be sold, offered for sale, bartered or shipped or possessed for the purposes of being sold, offered for sale, bartered or shipped.

c. Any properties on which lethal control or trap and transport operations are conducted must be open at all reasonable times, including during actual operations, to any biologist, conservation officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent, or U.S. Department of Agricultural Wildlife Services agent wishing to inspect the activity or the results of the activity.

d. Nothing in the permit should be construed to authorize the killing of any migratory bird or the destruction of the nests or eggs of any migratory bird other than resident Canada geese.

571—114.14(481A) Pigeons.

114.14(1) Pigeons causing a health or safety hazard may be taken by trapping, or any current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- and Iowa-registered pesticide repellent, or toxic perches. Strychnine-based products cannot be used. The person or organization engaging in such a program will provide for proper removal and disposal of all pigeons taken by such means.

114.14(2) If a specific problem involving the use of a toxic substance or a procedure designed to destroy problem pigeons proves not to be species-specific, the director, conservation officer or

biologist will issue an immediate order to stop the particular method being employed or the substance being used.

571—114.15(456A) Disposition of captured nuisance wildlife. Nuisance wildlife, with the exception of endangered or threatened species, may be relocated or euthanized. The permittee shall comply with the euthanization and release methods described in the NWCO guidebook. Sick or injured wildlife must be handled as described in the NWCO guidebook. The carcass of a dead nuisance animal must be disposed of in a legal manner and within 24 hours of the animal's death.

571—114.16(456A) General conditions for permits. Records and facilities shall be available for inspection by officers of the department during reasonable hours. All records and reports must be kept current and shall reflect a true and accurate account of the permittee's activities. The department's law enforcement bureau shall be notified in writing within 30 days if the permittee ceases operation as a nuisance wildlife control operator. Permittees and helpers must obtain and possess valid fur harvester licenses and have paid the habitat fees, except that permittees and helpers solely conducting Canada goose control activities with an SCGCP do not need to have a valid fur harvester license nor to have paid the habitat fee. Permittees must renew their NWCO permits by January 31 of each year.

571—114.17(456A) Permit refusal. The department may suspend, revoke, refuse to issue, or refuse to renew a nuisance wildlife control operator's permit if the department finds that the permittee, a helper, or an employee of the permittee is not in compliance with this chapter. In addition, any violation of Iowa Code chapter 481A, 481B, 482, 483A, 484A, 484B, or 716 shall be cause for the department to suspend, revoke, refuse to issue, or refuse to renew a permit.

571—114.18(456A) Penalties. A person or organization that violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24(8), 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

2024 - 2025 DEER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Iowa City City Council adopted its second 5-year Deer Management Plan in 2024. This plan was developed based on local public input in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and was approved through the Iowa Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The Plan includes ongoing non-lethal management efforts, five years of urban bow hunts, and a single sharpshooting event subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. To learn more, visit www.icgov.org/deer.

CONTENTS

- Background
- Deer-Related Calls and Complaints
- Collisions & City Interactions with Deer
- Non-Lethal Deer Management
- Deer Depredation
- Aerial Deer Surveys
- Analysis & Next Steps

Photo of backyard by resident of 438 Lexington Avenue



BACKGROUND

Iowa City's Deer Management Plan was formed in response to resident concerns about deer in urban and suburban areas. A deer count survey conducted in 2018 revealed the urban deer population had tripled since the City ceased its deer management program in 2010.

The City reestablished its deer management program in 2019 with the adoption of a Deer Management Plan after coordinating with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and soliciting public input. This plan was approved by the Iowa Natural Resource Commission (NRC) and included one year of professional sharpshooting, four years of urban bow hunts, and ongoing public education.

City Council adopted an updated 5-year Deer Management Plan in July 2024 after approval by the NRC. The new plan allows the City to continue its non-lethal deer management activities and annual urban bow hunt over the next five years, in addition to one possible professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. A full timeline, the City's Deer Management Plan, and annual reports are available at www.icgov.org/deer.

Public Input

The City's deer management program is based on several years of public conversations and feedback. The process began with the formation of a deer committee consisting of City staff and local stakeholders in 2018 and a public meeting on deer management attended by 60 community members. The input provided by the public, in addition to the DNR and NRC, formed the basis for the 5-year deer management plan approved by City Council in 2019.

This was followed by a regular process of working with stakeholders and soliciting feedback from the public to refine the City's deer management program. Highlights included:

- **2020:** Collaborating with the Iowa City Deer Friends on the rules for the urban bow hunt and receiving feedback over the course of 4 Council meetings about the urban bow hunt rules and deer feeding ordinance.
- **2022:** Holding a Deer Management Listening Session for the public (a summary of comments is available in the 2022-2023 Deer Management Annual Report).
- **2023:** Soliciting public input through a Virtual Listening Post (a summary of comments is available in the 2023-2024 Deer Management Annual Report).

Members of the public are invited to provide ongoing input on the City's deer management activities by contacting deermanagement@iowa-city.org. Typically, feedback is received after a property owner experiences a deer-related issue and wishes to share suggestions for managing the deer population. The City provides annual reports to Council on deer management efforts and makes the reports publicly available online. In addition, residents may directly address councilors during the public comment period at any regular Council meeting.

State Collaboration

In 2024, the City developed and adopted a new 5-year Deer Management Plan based on feedback from the NRC and DNR staff. This plan will allow the City to continue its non-lethal deer management activities and annual urban bow hunt over the next five years but also allows for the possibility of a professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. This approach is intended to provide long-term population control through consistent hunting efforts, while recognizing that a professional sharpshoot may be needed. The City continues to believe data suggests that sharpshooting in targeted areas is necessary to help manage growing deer levels in the short-term while the Urban Bow Hunt program continues to gain traction as a sustainable deer management tool.

The City also maintains close collaboration with DNR staff as it continues refining and expanding its Urban Bow Hunt. The City solicits input from DNR staff before and after its urban bow hunt seasons to enhance programmatic success. In preparation for this bow hunt season, the City identified and opened additional public lands for bow hunting, modified rules to maintain safety while broadening eligible areas for hunting, and worked closely with interested hunters and landowners to increase participation and engagement. More detail is available in the Deer Depredation section below. However, both City and DNR staff recognize that shifting social and political comfort levels with the program in Iowa City is a work in progress. The City looks forward to continue collaborating with the DNR and NRC to improve the bow hunt program.

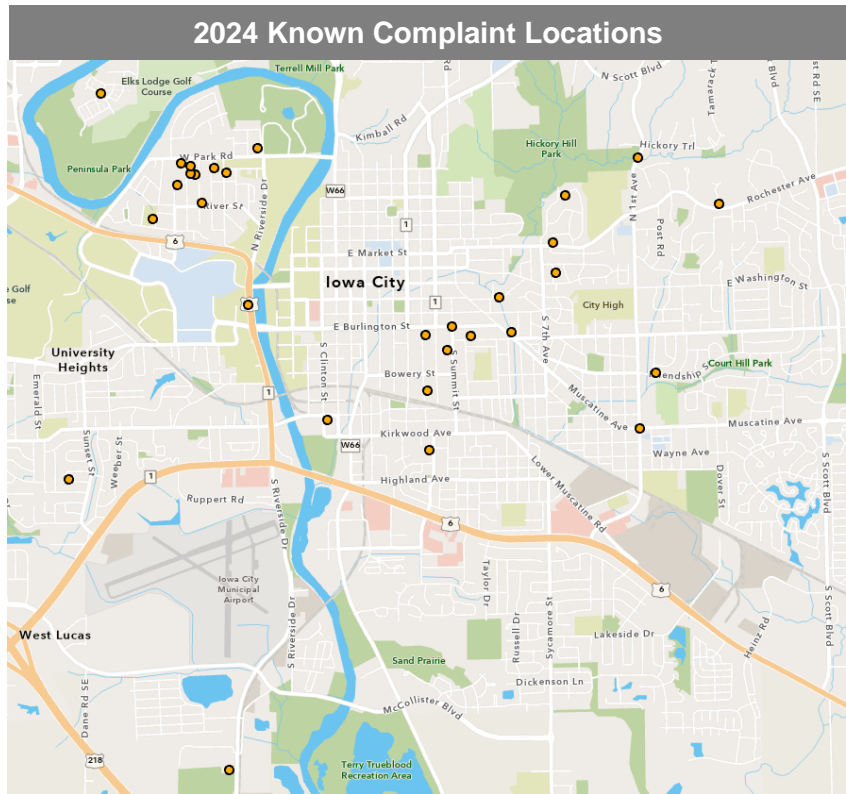
In addition, the City has been working with DNR staff to identify additional data sources that can help ensure more accurate tracking of deer populations and community impacts and help assess the success of management efforts over time. To that end, this report includes enhanced data collection efforts, including the results of an aerial drone survey and additional statistics regarding interactions with deer.



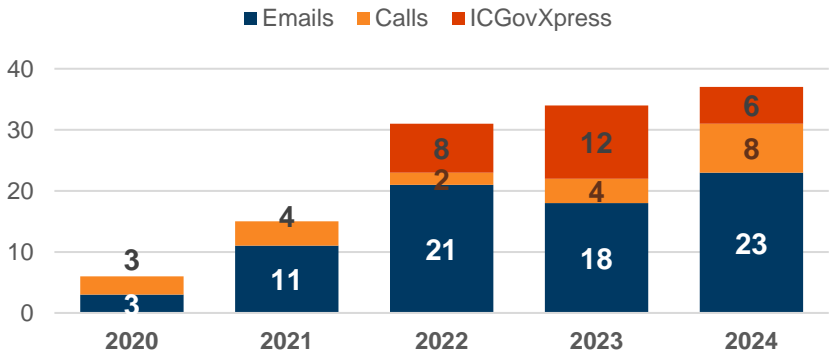
DEER-RELATED CALLS AND COMPLAINTS

The City received 23 emailed comments and complaints related to deer in 2024. In addition, the City received 1 request for a meeting, 8 phone calls and 6 deer-related complaints submitted through ICgovXpress, a digital platform allowing residents to report general concerns to the City. This is the highest number of complaints received since the City began tracking them in 2020.

Nearly all resident interactions expressed frustration that deer population levels were too high, concerns about traffic hazards and disease, complaints about landscaping and property damage, and views that the City needs to enhance its lethal deer management activities. Notably, multiple complaints mentioned that deer are no longer scared of humans, which increases fears of physical harm to residents and pets. In addition, many noted that deer-related issues are steadily getting worse with groups of deer as large as 25 witnessed in neighborhoods.



Deer-Related Comments & Complaints



In addition to concerns from the public, City staff in the Parks and Recreation Department report that deer have become a significant threat to public landscaping and urban tree health in general. Staff reports frequently observing damage to public trees and landscaping caused by deer.

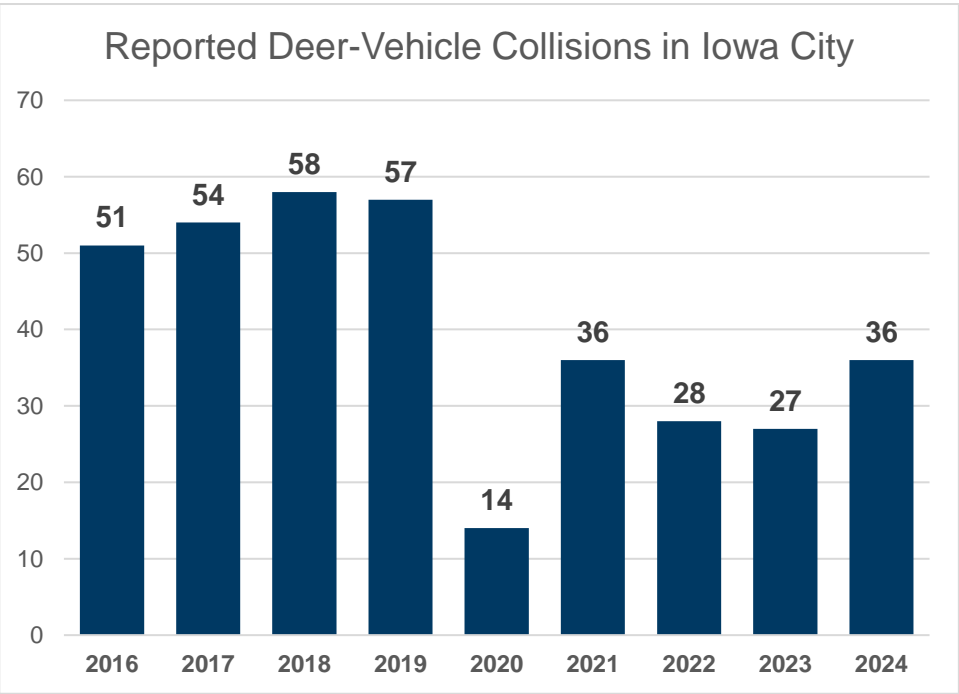
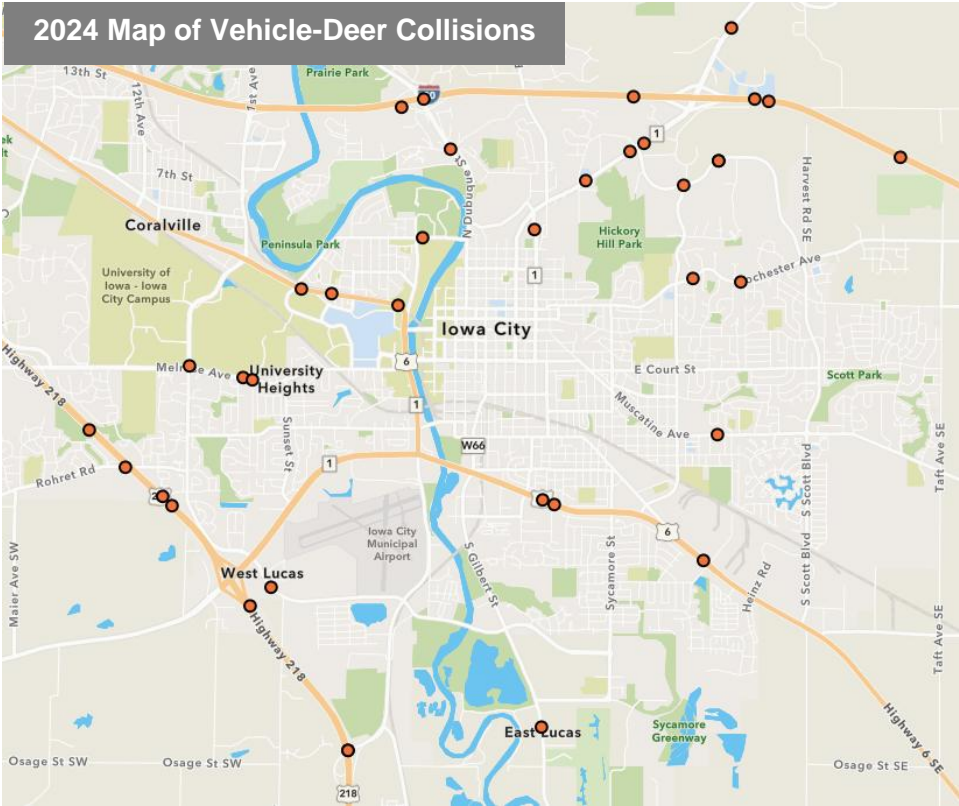
Photo of deer in backyard by resident of 1036 Woodlawn Avenue

COLLISIONS & CITY INTERACTIONS WITH DEER

In 2024, the Iowa City Police Department received 36 calls for service involving vehicular collisions with deer. Associated damage estimates totaled \$121,400. A full list of reported accidents is included in Appendix 1. An interactive map showing locations of vehicle-deer collisions over the years is available at www.icgov.org/deer.

The chart to the bottom right shows the number of reported deer-vehicle collisions by year. However, many deer-vehicle accidents do not result in calls-for-service to the police. Minor collisions are often addressed without police involvement.

To better understand the City's interactions with deer, the Department of Public Works began tracking the number of deer carcasses picked up by the Streets and Refuse divisions in June 2024. From June through December 2024, Streets and Refuse picked up at least 48 deer carcasses. While there is no data before June 2024, staff will continue tracking this metric in the future.

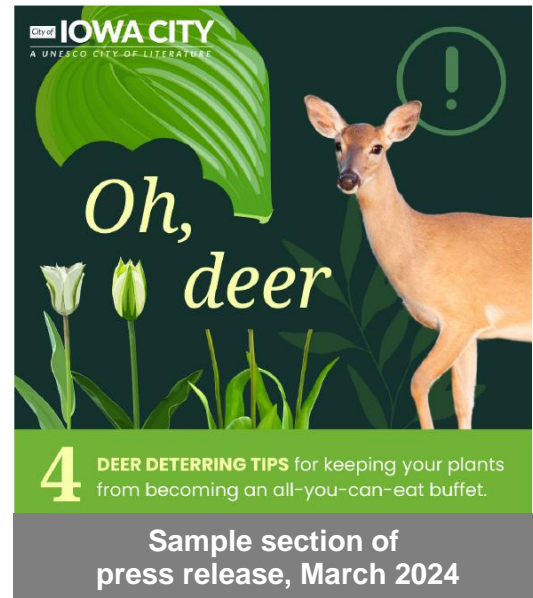


48 deer bodies picked up by Public Works, June through December

NON-LETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT

Iowa City's 5-Year Deer Management Plan includes a series of activities that the City continues to implement to help manage interactions with deer. These include:

- Publishing of a comprehensive set of deer management related content at www.icgov.org/deer, which includes background information, FAQs, non-lethal management tips, links to resources, a map of deer-vehicle collisions, and other content referenced in the 5-Year Deer Management Plan.
- Passing an ordinance which prohibits the feeding of deer and issuing periodic communications notifying residents.
- Issuing utility-bill inserts, news releases, and social media posts that advise residents how to minimize deer damage using non-lethal methods.



There are also several Deer Crossing signs that advise motorists to take extra caution. The City owns one on Dubuque Street, south of the I-80 bridge; two on Rochester Avenue between First Avenue and Scott Boulevard; and four on Scott Boulevard, between Hickory Heights Lane and just east of Tamarack Trail. In addition, the State owns a Deer Crossing on Dodge Street, west of ACT Circle, and the County owns one on Dubuque Street, north of Linder Road.

Finally, the City has adopted a practice of planting allium species in place of more deer-friendly vegetation, such as hostas, to deter deer from browsing on City-maintained plantings.

Protect your yard and garden from deer

Plant a diversity of plants. Ensure any plants that deer find appealing won't be available in high numbers. Deer don't like to search long for their favorite plants and may be deterred if they don't find something tasty right away.

Consult with nursery and garden center professionals. They can point out options that are less appealing to deer.

Consider deer repellent.

These are most effective when applied frequently.



Use fencing. Deer rarely jump fences that are at least 8' high or into spaces they perceive to be enclosed. If you are considering installing a fence, review the Fences, Walls, and Hedges standards in the City Code (14-4C-2, part L) first. To see if you need a permit, call Neighborhood and Development Services at 319-356-5120.

Remember: Feeding deer is prohibited in Iowa City. This includes putting out grain, fodder, salt licks, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible materials (including bird feed), which may be reasonably expected to result in deer feeding.

i For more information, including the 2022-2023 Deer Management Annual report, visit icgov.org/DeerProgram

Sample Utility Insert, May 2024

DEER DEPREDAATION

The 2019-2024 Deer Management Plan included one year of professional sharpshooting and a bow hunt in years 2020 through 2024. The new 5-Year Deer Management Plan approved by the NRC and adopted by City Council in July 2024 includes annual urban bow hunts over the next five years, in addition to one possible professional sharpshoot subject to NRC approval between 2026 and 2029. A summary of recent deer depredation efforts can be seen below.

Deer Harvest Summary by Year				
Year	Hunters Approved	Tags Purchased	Buck Incentive Earned	Deer Harvested
2019 – 2020 Sharpshooting	n/a	n/a	n/a	500
2020 – 2021 Urban Bow Hunt	5	14	0	3
2021 – 2022 Urban Bow Hunt	5	15	1	4
2022 – 2023 Urban Bow Hunt	12	46	6	29
2023 – 2024 Urban Bow Hunt	16	51	7	32
2024 – 2025 Urban Bow Hunt	20	67	10	44

2019 – 2024 Deer Management Plan

The City contracted with White Buffalo Inc., a wildlife management organization, to conduct the 2019-2020 professional sharpshooting deer cull. Approximately 500 deer were harvested through the sharpshoot. The meat was tested for safety by the DNR and then processed and donated to local food banks.

The sharpshoot was followed by four years of urban bow hunts. The City worked to increase the number of deer harvested each year. Below is a brief overview of the hunt by season:

- **2020-2021:** The hunt struggled to gain traction in its first year with only 3 deer harvested. All hunting occurring on private property per the hunt rules.
- **2021-2022:** The City implemented several rule changes to promote participation based on recommendations by DNR staff, including: lengthening the application period, opening the season earlier, and increasing the quota from 75 to 200 deer. However, the second year also experienced limited traction with only 4 deer harvested.
- **2022-2023:** To increase the success of the hunt, the City improved outreach based on DNR feedback and best practices. Efforts included inviting interested private property owners to participate and connecting them with approved hunters; contacting key property owners in areas with high deer densities; and collaborating with a local outfitter to promote the hunt. As a result, hunter participation improved, and the number of deer harvested significantly increased to 29.
- **2023-2024:** The City continued expanding access by developing a process to allow hunting on specified public lands. Each year, Council will consider which City-owned properties will be eligible as part of the hunt. This season, Council allowed hunting at Sand Prairie Park (1150 Covered Wagon Drive). While 4 additional hunters participated, the number of deer harvested only increased modestly to 32.

2024 – 2025 Urban Bow Hunt

Prior to the season, City Council again expanded hunting opportunities on public property. The use of Sand Prairie Park was renewed for hunting, and Council added properties at 2510 N. Dodge Street, 2099 Bristol Drive, 101 McCollister Boulevard, and along Sycamore Greenway. Council also approved hunting on City-owned properties near Manville Heights which experience a high number of deer-related issues, including City Park, the Ned Ashton house, and land maintained for flood mitigation. However, Council placed additional restrictions in these areas due to heavy public usage. In total, hunters harvested 4 deer on public property.

Council also implemented the following efforts to enhance the success of the hunt:

1. **Targeted Outreach.** Potentially eligible private property owners in the Manville Heights neighborhood were mailed letters inviting them to provide land for hunters.
2. **Revised Rules.** The hunt rules were modified to expand eligibility for properties that could allow hunting by removing a limit on the number of property line waivers allowed for a single property. This means that hunting on smaller lots is allowed if all property owners within 150 feet of the proposed stand provide a signed waiver.

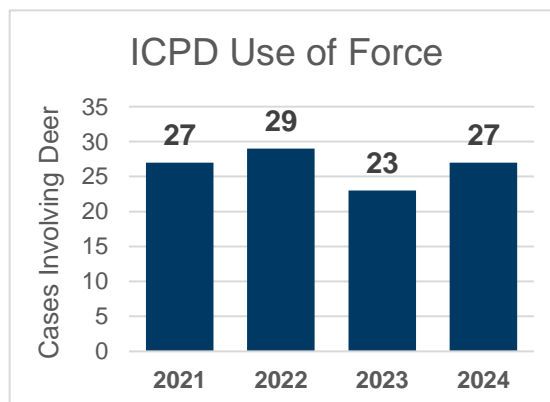
Iowa City's bow hunt season began on September 21, 2024, and ended January 10, 2025. The City accepted applications from bow hunters until November 1, 2024. In total, 20 hunters applied, and all were accepted for the hunt. All approved hunters held a valid DNR hunting license, completed the required qualifications at Fin & Feather, and appropriately registered their qualifications and hunt locations with the City. A total of 67 tags were purchased, 60 of which were for antlerless deer. In total, 44 deer were harvested during the hunt. 12 hunters successfully harvested deer, 10 of whom earned buck incentive tags which means they will be eligible for a buck tag for the 2025-2026 urban bow hunt season. The report of harvested deer by hunter is available in Appendix 2.

The City received one complaint from a resident about a hunter requesting to enter their property to look for a wounded deer. The resident complimented the hunter's politeness but wanted to advocate for professional sharpshooting. No reporting violations occurred.

The voluntary participation of large private property owners, enhanced outreach, and continued policy evolution resulted in a higher number of deer harvested. However, it is important not to depend too heavily on private property owners as their participation could change from year to year. As such, staff anticipates expanding the use of public lands for the 2025-2026 bow hunt following the process set by City Council.

Iowa City Police Department Use-of-Force on Deer

In addition to deer depredation through the bow hunt, the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD) are also called out to respond to incidents involving incapacitated or injured deer. When a response results in the humane dispatch of deer, this is considered a use of force and is captured in the ICPD statistics. This report marks the first time these numbers are included, but ICPD was able to gather use of force incidents related to deer back to 2021.



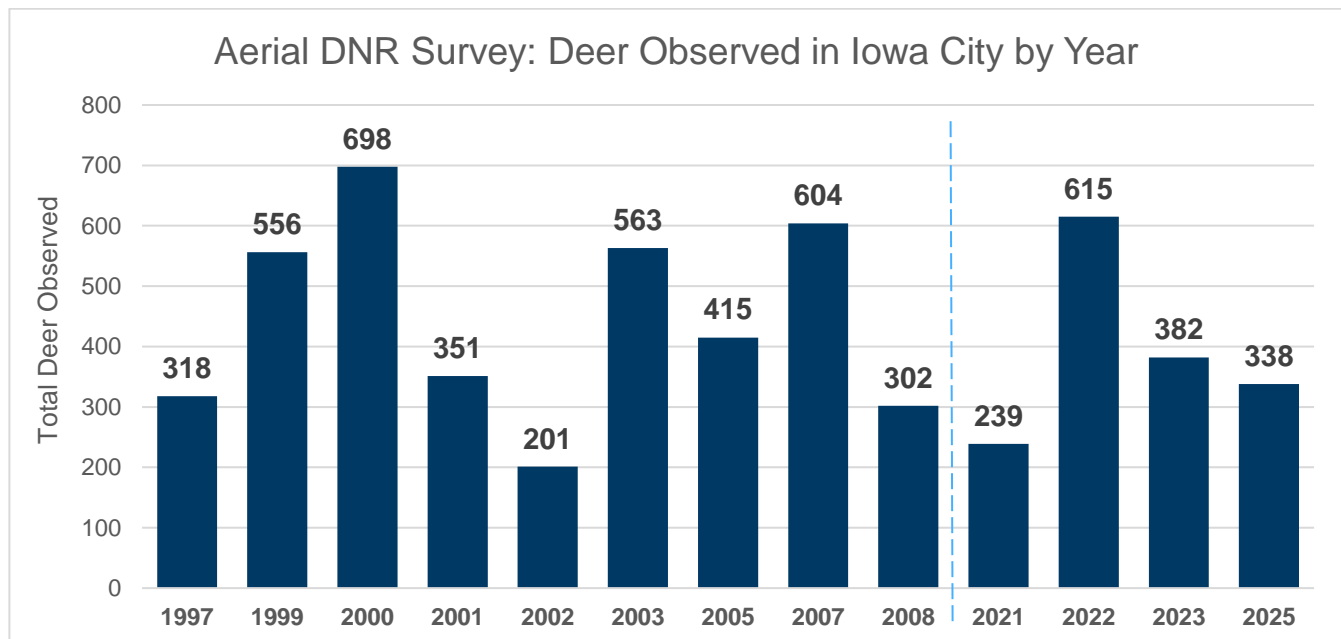
AERIAL DEER SURVEYS

When conditions allow, the City conducts an aerial survey each year in conjunction with the DNR to determine deer population and density. Because weather conditions in 2024 did not allow for an aerial deer survey, the City also began exploring alternative methods of survey to prevent reliance on a single source of data and provide another methodology to identify deer trends. For this year, the City contracted with White Buffalo, Inc. to conduct a drone survey of areas with a high number of deer-related complaints to better understand the concentration of deer.

Aerial DNR Survey

On February 20, 2025, the DNR completed a helicopter deer survey in Iowa City and observed 338 deer in all zones. Deer density estimates are provided by zone on the next page, with several zones exceeding the City's targeted deer population density of 25 deer per square mile. The areas with the highest deer densities tend to be on the north side of Iowa City.

However, DNR staff cautions that the trend in observed deer numbers over a long period time is the best datapoint while deer concentration numbers are a less reliable measure. This is because aerial surveys provide a snapshot of population levels, but a variety of factors influence the day-to-day movement of deer throughout the area. Variance in numbers from aerial surveys year to year can be due to variables such as weather, food availability, days of snow cover, or other factors. As a result, this survey is most valuable for studying population trends over time, but it is not a perfect measure as achieving comparable conditions while flying from year to year can be difficult.



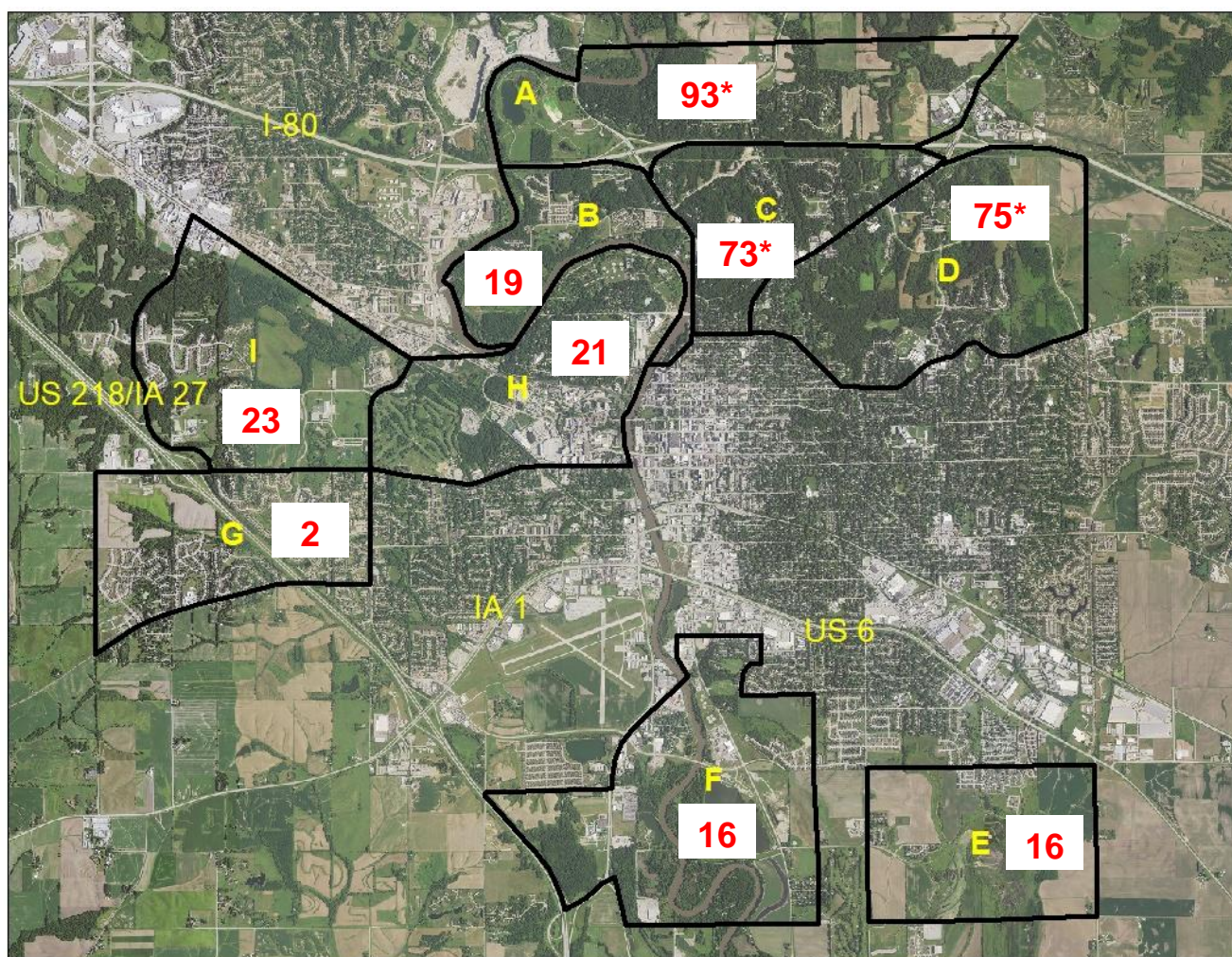
Note: Professional sharpshooting to manage deer occurred in 2000 – 2009 and ceased in 2010. One year of professional sharpshooting was again completed in 2020 and culled approximately 500 deer.

Iowa City Aerial Surveys and Deer Observed

Zone	Acres	Sq Miles	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005	2007	2008	2021	2022	2023	2025
A	1,398	2.18	37	60	74	64	29	76	71	170	80	15	180	72	93*
B	669	1.05	69	154	81	33	30	30	19	5	2	3	20	9	19
C	808	1.26	78	90	99	39	36	60	43	46	33	30	87	125	73*
D	1,489	2.33	65	127	140	38	25	100	88	65	36	103	130		75*
E	958	1.50	0	0	7	12	0	12	9	41	19	21	79	49	16
F	1,594	2.49	11	15	48	42	15	74	65	80	32	19	66	30	16
G	993	1.55	3	0	4	0	0	0	5	43	35	13	4	6	2
H	1,187	1.85	6	31	48	24	23	42	6	53	26	20	24	58	21
I	1,239	1.94	49	79	197	99	43	169	109	101	39	15	25	33	23
Total			318	556	698	351	201	563	415	604	302	239	615	382	338

* Zone is over the target density of 25 deer per square mile.

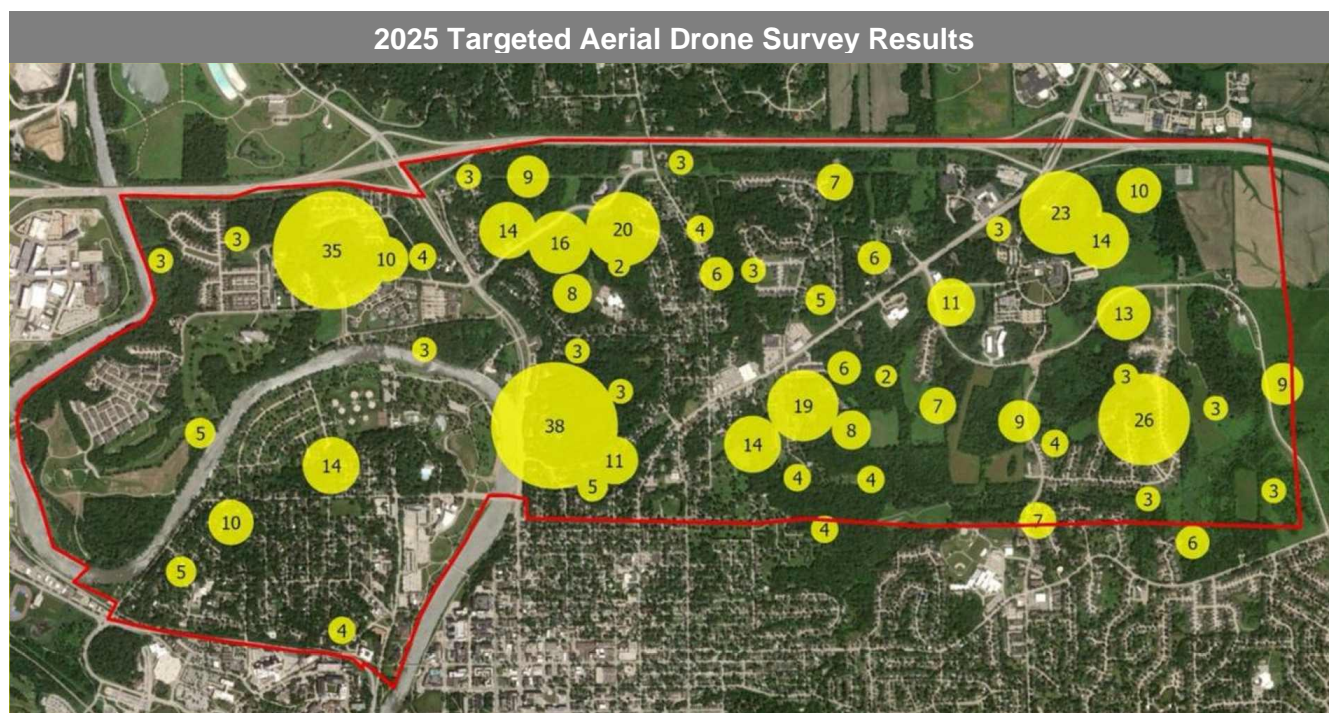
2025 Iowa City Aerial Survey Zone Map (with number of deer observed added in RED)



Targeted Aerial Drone Survey

From February 18 through February 21, the City contracted with White Buffalo, Inc. to conduct an aerial drone survey for northern Iowa City, which experiences the most deer-related issues. The survey used infrared and visual confirmation to identify 480 deer across the 4.8 square mile survey area. The study area and cluster map of all deer count locations are shown in the following map.

480 deer
in 4.8 mile area
per Targeted Aerial
Drone Survey



While the density of deer across the study area varied, the overall density was approximately 100 deer per square mile, which is four times higher than the 25 deer per square mile target set by the City's Deer Management Plan. The full drone survey report is available on the City's website at www.icgov.org/deer.

The 480 deer identified during the drone survey in northern Iowa City is significantly more than the 338 deer counted City-wide during the helicopter survey. This discrepancy may be due to the advantages drones can have over helicopters, such as the ability to fly lower and slower which can allow for more precise observations. For example, drones can pause when deer are spotted and thoroughly scan areas beneath trees from various heights and angles, reducing the likelihood of missing animals. However, to accurately track population trends over time, conducting surveys using the same methodology across multiple years is recommended as a single year's data only provides a snapshot of the population.

Based on both surveys, the portion of the City that experiences the highest rate of deer-related complaints, i.e. northern Iowa City, has a deer population above the City's target deer population. This corroborates what the City hears from its residents and can help the City focus additional hunting efforts where it will be most effective. The City will also continue exploring multiple methods of tracking deer populations in collaboration with DNR staff.

ANALYSIS & NEXT STEPS

Following adoption of the City's new 5-Year Deer Management Plan in 2024, the City has a good strategy to help manage its deer population. Over the past five years, the City successfully expanded its urban bow hunt program and looks forward to continuing supporting the growth of the hunt into the future. Staff already identified several additional public properties as potentially suitable for participation in the bow hunt next year, including a large piece of property recently dedicated to the City near the area where deer population levels are estimated to be the highest. This will help mitigate reliance on large private property owners in northeast Iowa City who voluntarily allow hunters on their property. In addition, recent rule changes and targeted outreach have yielded several property owner inquiries that may help identify other private properties interested in hosting hunters.

However, the City remains concerned that the urban bow hunt will not be able to reduce the present deer population to a manageable level. This is especially true in north and northeast Iowa City which experiences the most impacts related to the high concentration of deer. Specific concerns are related to the belt stretching from Manville Heights east through Morningside-Glendale and Washington Hills and north around Hickory Hill Park and the Bluffwood/Shimek neighborhoods, as documented in the drone and helicopter surveys and by the increasing number of complaints and additional datasets being explored by the City.

Consequently, the City believes it remains critical to obtain permission from the NRC for a professional sharpshoot in 2026 to reduce the population to a level that can be managed through the urban bow hunt. In the meantime, the City will continue to collect its new datasets to improve understanding of City interactions with deer and implement the urban bow hunt to ensure future success.



Photo of backyard by resident of 438 Lexington Avenue

APPENDIX 1: VEHICLE DEER COLLISIONS

2024 Vehicle-Deer Collisions (Iowa City Police Department)		
Date	Location of Deer Collision	Total Estimated Damage
1/4/2024	IA 1 N	\$5,000
1/5/2024	MELROSE AVE	\$1,500
1/29/2024	EAST FOSTER RD AND DUBUQUE ST	\$2,000
1/30/2024	POST RD AND ROCHESTER AVE	\$3,000
1/30/2024	US 218 N	\$1,500
2/4/2024	I 80 W	\$10,000
4/9/2024	RAMP US 218 N TO IA 1 N	\$5,000
4/14/2024	US 6 W	\$500
4/18/2024	EMERALD ST AND MELROSE AVE	\$1,000
4/20/2024	ROHRET RD	\$5,000
4/22/2024	RAMP I 80 E TO DUBUQUE ST, N	\$5,000
5/2/2024	MORMON TREK BLVD/EAGLE VIEW DR	\$2,000
5/10/2024	US 6 E	\$3,000
6/10/2024	IA 1 N	\$20,000
6/24/2024	IA 1 N	\$1,700
7/1/2024	IA 1 S	\$1,500
7/10/2024	SAND RD	\$3,000
7/20/2024	US 218 N	\$2,000
7/27/2024	I 80 E	\$2,000
8/12/2024	I 80 E/ 244	\$10,000
9/30/2024	MORMON TREK BLVD/ HAWKEYE PARK RD	\$1,500
10/26/2024	IA 1 N	\$1,000
10/28/2024	US 6 E	\$7,000
11/12/2024	I 80 246.9 E	\$1,500
11/18/2024	US 6 W E.B./ ROCKY SHORE DR.	\$1,500
11/18/2024	US 218 N	\$2,500
11/18/2024	US 218 N	\$2,000
11/22/2024	SCOTT BLVD	\$1,500
11/25/2024	US 6 W/ FAIRMEADOWS BLVD	\$2,000
11/25/2024	ROCHESTER AVE/ WINDMILL PL	\$200
11/30/2024	I 80 E	\$1,500
12/16/2024	US 218 S	\$4,000
12/17/2024	US 6 W	\$2,000
12/18/2024	PARK RD	\$3,000
12/21/2024	MUSCATINE AVE	\$5,000
12/23/2024	SCOTT BLVD	\$500

APPENDIX 2: 2024-2025 BOW HUNT RESULTS

2024-2025 Urban Bow Hunt Harvest Results by Hunter				
DNR #	Doe	Button Buck	Buck	Total Harvest
866190879	3		1	4
712186386	3			3
4465621	4			4
1738095	3			3
2672145-455268	3			3
586414070	2			2
2617694	3			3
1000277157	1		1	2
1000406124	5	2		7
1000333634	3		1	4
1000389712	3			3
61654539	5	1		6
Total harvested:	38	3	3	44