

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

December 11, 2025

**6200 Park Ave
Des Moines, IA, 50321**

Approved by the Commission January 20, 2026

RECORD COPY	
File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
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Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission or NRC) was called to order by Acting Chairperson Uriah Hansen at 9:32 am on December 11, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Uriah Hansen
Tom Prickett (9:30am-10:40am)
Tammi Kircher
Collin Brecher
Laura Kudej
KR Buck

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Bill Moritz

PUBLIC COMMENT

- David Kerr: Requests the DNR to institute a small game nonresident license for a fixed number of days; Consider raising the bobcat harvest in counties where it has been established; Consider removing hen harvest for the Fall turkey season
- Roy Russell: Requests that all kayaks be licensed in Iowa; Register bicycles in Iowa that utilize bicycle trails; Kudos to officer Eric Hoffman
- Wally Taylor, Sierra Club: Species of special concerns should be recognized in Chapter 77; Wildlife Action Plan doesn't address challenges of funding, and other challenges for the expansion of betterment of wildlife habitat on private and public land in Iowa

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *5. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for French Creek Wildlife Management Area
- *7. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University-Wildlife Monitoring in Driftless Region of Northeastern Iowa
- *13. Contract with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC (Pammel State Park, Harmon Tunnel Repairs)
- *14. Public Land Management Projects (14.1-14.6)

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the November 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

The Acting 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 provided an overview of the State Parks report which outlined several changes and updates for the 2026 calendar year. Director Lyon highlighted that campsites will now be 100% reservable, noted rate changes for camping, dynamic pricing updates, planned renovations, and several other park updates.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth announced that recreational ice activities are underway in Iowa with the northern 2/3 of the states developing ice. DA Hildreth highlighted ice safety tips.
- DA Hildreth gave an update on the deer season harvest to date, stating that nearly 60,000 deer have been taken during the 2025 deer season. DA Hildreth also provided CWD and EHD updates in Iowa.
- DA Hildreth invited Waterfowl biologist Orrin Jones to give a waterfowl season update to the Commission. Mr. Jones showed harvest trends as well season dates trends among midwestern states. Mr. Jones responded to questions regarding duck stamp sale trends in Iowa.
- DA Hildreth invited General Counsel Tamara McIntosh to present on EO10 and all of the steps in the process leading up to the Notices of Intended Action (NOIAs) presented on the agenda today. Ms. McIntosh outlined the steps to follow the approval of the NOIAs, noting that the Final rules will likely come before the Commission in April or May of 2026.
- Commissioner Buck highlighted his experience with the First Gentleman's hunt and thanked

2026 NRC MEETING TOUR SCHEDULE

Pete Hildreth requested Commission approval the 2026 NRC Meeting tour schedule. Commissioners thanked staff for the variety of locations represented in the schedule.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE DICKINSON COUNTY WATER QUALITY COMMISSION

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE POWESHIEK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (DIAMOND LAKE PARK)

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board for lake restoration efforts at Diamond Lake Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (EASTER LAKE)

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with Polk County Conservation Board at Easter Lake for lake restoration efforts. Commissioner commented that Easter Lake would be a good tour location for the future. Ms. Balmer responded to questions regarding publicizing lake restoration efforts, including signage onsite.

Public Comments – Roy Russel: restroom access for boat users could be improved

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

BUILDING DEMOLITION AND SITE RESTORATION-LAKE OF THREE FIRES (INFORMATION)

Travis Baker presented a building demolition and site restoration project at Lake of Three Fires to the Commission as an information item.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

HAWKEYE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, SWAN LAKE RD. & JAMES AVENUE RD. MAINTENANCES-JOHNSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road maintenance at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PIKES PEAK STATE PARK, OFFICE ROAD PAVEMENT REHABILITATION-CLAYTON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for road pavement work at Pikes Peak State Park. Commissioner Buck made note of the ADA campsite at Pikes Peak State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

EASTER LAKE, SHORELINE STABILIZATION-POLK COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a shoreline stabilization project at Easter Lake. Mr. Baker responded to questions on how funding is broken down for the project. Ms. Balmer responded to questions about the counters used to determine visitation rates at the lake.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

WAUBONSIE STATE PARK, WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS-FREMONT COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for water system improvements at Waubonsie State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK, EAST RESTROOM AND SHOWER BUILDING-CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project to restore the restroom and shower building at Clear Lake State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK, LODGE REPAIRS-CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project to repair the lodge at Clear Lake State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SPRING BRANCH 319 RESTORATION PROJECT-DELAWARE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a project to repair the stream bank at Spring Branch. Mr. Baker responded to questions regarding the cash donation for the project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT-COPELAND BEND WMA, FREMONT COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a land acquisition for a property near Copeland Bend WMA.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

RULEMAKING: AGENDA ITEMS 16-41

Uriah Hansen made a motion to address all rulemaking agenda items at once, including items 16-41, in lieu of addressing each rule package individually. Seconded by KR Buck.

Chapter 80: Commissioner Buck commented that he has received feedback from the public of the negative effects of allowing shed hunting for nonresidents without a license.

Chapter 77: Mr. Baker explained why the list of species of special concern were removed from Chapter 77. Kelly Poole explained the differences among the list of species of special concern, threatened species list, and endangered species list. Commissioners discussed opportunities to better educate the public on where the list of species of special concern are located.

Chapter 80: Mr. Bruner clarified the definition of highway within the rule referencing the collection of road kill game.

Chapter 113: Commissioner Kircher would like to increase the trip value outlined in the rule, when applicable, outside of EO10.

Chapter 16: Commissioners discussed the change in rule to allow hard covers on docks. The dock fee for a hard top is the same as a dock fee with a soft top. Attorney Aaron Brees noted that dock owners who have a hard top on their dock will need to show proof of liability insurance when seeking their dock permit.

General: Commissioner discussed the level of detail staff went into to answer questions on the rule packages. Commissioners commented on how staff can better educate the public on the rulemaking process.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve all rulemaking agenda items at once, including items 16-41. Seconded by KR Buck.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners approved the 2025 NRC report.
- Commissioner Brecher expressed his gratitude for his ride along opportunity with Conservation Officer Eighmy.
- Commissioners discussed their upcoming outdoor experiences and swan sitings.
- Commissioner Buck spoke about his experience speaking at the Great Lakes Fishing Club meeting and his experience at the First Gentleman's Hunt.
- DA Pete Hildreth presented on the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund report that was filed by the Department. DA Hildreth provided a quick overview and highlighted the recommendation at the end of the report requesting a 5% increase in license fees. DA Hildreth announced that the next step for the Department is to initiate the rulemaking process to increase the license fees.
- Commissioners requested projections for park revenue based on the recently announced fee increases starting in 2026.
- Commissioners requested projections for the impact on revenue if all kayaks were required to be registered in Iowa.
- Communications Director, Tammie Krausman, spoke about various geofencing projects that are underway in some of our public areas to help get valuable data regarding users of the state's public areas.

ADJOURN

Acting Chairperson Uriah Hansen adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 12:051 pm on December 11, 2025.

ADJOURNED

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, December 11, 2025

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

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

6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50321

Conf Room: Lake Darling

Thursday, December 11, 2025

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting

Public participation begins at approximately 10:00am. 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 Consent Agenda (*within agenda indicates proposed consent agenda item) *6. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick. Inc. for French Creek Wildlife Management Area *7. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University-Wildlife Monitoring in Driftless Region of Northeastern Iowa *13. Contract with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC (Pammel State Park, Harmon Tunnel Repairs) *14. Public Land Management Projects (14.1-14.6)	Decision	Commission
2.	Approval of the Minutes	Decision	Commission
3.	Director's Remarks	Information	Kayla Lyon
4.	Division Administrator's Remarks	Information	Pete Hildreth
5.	2026 NRC Meeting Tour Schedule	Decision	Pete Hildreth
*6.	Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick. Inc. for French Creek Wildlife Management Area	Decision	Jeff Goerndt
*7.	Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University-Wildlife Monitoring in Driftless Region of Northeastern Iowa	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	Contract with the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission	Decision	Travis Baker
9.	Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
10.	Contract with Polk County Conservation Board (Easter Lake)	Decision	Travis Baker
11.	Building Demolition and Site Restoration-Lake of Three Fires	Information	Travis Baker
12.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	12.1 Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Swan Lake Rd. & James Avenue Rd. Maintenance – Johnson County		
	12.2 Pikes Peak State Park, Office Road Pavement Rehabilitation – Clayton County		
	12.3 Easter Lake, Shoreline Stabilization – Polk County		
	12.4 Waubonsie State Park, Water System Improvements – Fremont County		
	12.5 Clear Lake State Park, East Restroom and Shower Building – Cerro Gordo County		
	12.6 Clear Lake State Park, Lodge Repairs – Cerro Gordo County		
	12.7 Spring Branch 319 Restoration – Delaware County		
*13.	Contract with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC (Pammel State Park, Harmon Tunnel Repairs)	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	14.1 Management Agreement – Little Wapsi, Hart Tract – Howard CCB	Decision	Travis Baker

14.2	Management Agreement – Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt – Polk County Conservation Board		
14.3	Management Agreement – Fogle Lake Recreation Area – City of Diagonal		
14.4	Management Agreement – Summit Lake Wildlife Management Area – City of Creston		
14.5	Management Agreement – Thayer Pond Recreation Area – Union CCB		
14.6	Management Agreement Amendment-#2 - Buena Vista County		
15.	Public Land Management Project-Copeland Bend WMA, Fremont County-Pheasants Forever	Decision	Travis Baker
16.	Chapter 15, “General License Regulations” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
17.	Chapter 16, “Docks and Other Structures on Public Waters” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Craig Cutts
18.	Chapter 76, “Unprotected Nongame” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
19.	Chapter 77, “Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animal Species” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Travis Baker
20.	Chapter 78, “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Karmin Klingenberg
21.	Chapter 79, “Fish Stocking Procedures and Fees for Private Waters” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
22.	Chapter 80, “Salvage of Fish and Game” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Matt Bruner
23.	Chapter 81, “Fishing Regulations” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
24.	Chapter 82, “Commercial Fishing” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
25.	Chapter 83, “Scuba and Skin Spearing of Rough Fish” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
26.	Chapter 84, “Promiscuous Fishing” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
27.	Chapter 86, “Turtles” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
28.	Chapter 87, “Mussel Regulations” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
29.	Chapter 89, “Aquaculture” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
30.	Chapter 90, “Aquatic Invasive Species” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
31.	Chapter 93, “Commercial Use of Captive-Reared Waterfowl” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
32.	Chapter 95, “Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Denise Roberg
33.	Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Hunting” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Chris Ensminger
34.	Chapter 103, “Mobile Radio Transmitters” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Matt Bruner
35.	Chapter 111, “Natural Resources Collector Permits: Research, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Karmin Klingenberg
36.	Chapter 112, “Hunting Preserves;” Chapter 104, “Wildlife Importation, Transportation and Disease Monitoring;” and Chapter 115, “Whitetail Hunting Preserves” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
37.	Chapter 113, “Restitution for Pollution Causing Injury to Wild Animals” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Joe Larscheid
38.	Chapter 116, “Help Us Stop Hunger Program Administration” – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
39.	Chapter 2, “Public Records and Fair Information Practices”; Chapter 3, “Submission of Information and Complaints - Investigations”; Chapter 4, “Agency Procedure for Rule Making”; Chapter 5, “Petition for Rulemaking”; and Chapter 6, “Declaratory Orders” - Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Kelli Book

40.	Chapter 7, “Rules of Practice in Contested Cases”; Chapter 8, “Contracts for Services and Public Improvements”; and Chapter 13, “Waivers from Administrative Rules” – Final Rule	Decision	Tamara McIntosh
41.	575 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapters 1-3, “Advisory Board for State Preserves”– Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Travis Baker
42.	General Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 NRC Report 		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, January 8, Des Moines • Thursday, February 12, Des Moines 			

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**

November 13, 2025

**6200 Park Ave
Des Moines, IA, 50321**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY

File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
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2026 NRC Meeting Dates	5
Approved as Amended	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 Tom Prickett at 9:30 am on October 9, 2025 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Uriah Hansen
Tom Prickett
Tammi Kircher
Bill Moritz
Collin Brecher
Laura Kudej
KR Buck

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Terry Thompson, Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club- in support of a license fee increase
- Fred Long, Iowa Conservation Alliance-in support of a license fee increase
- Ben Gleason (written), not in favor of license fee increase
- Koch Fertilizer Weaver (Amber Conlee, Erick Dohmen, Marc Oddo, Grani Vokshi, Allison Pearson-Chapter 17 lease request
- David Bulman (written), Iowa NWTF Chapter President-in support of a license fee increase
- Loren Wakemen (written), Iowa Bowhunters Association-in support of a license fee increase
- Matt Smith (written), NWTF board member-in support of a license fee increase
- Mike Hagen (written), NWTF board member-in support of a license fee increase
- Dan Rosauer (written) and Jed Siegwarth (written), American Fisheries Society President and Secretary-in support of a license fee increase
- The Board of Directors for the Iowa Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (written)-in support of a license fee increase
- Executive Board of the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society (written)-in support of a license fee increase

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

*5. Donations

*6. Chapter 30: Water Cost Share Grant Programs, Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Grant
Recommendations for FY 2026

*13. Contract Amendment, Nagel Construction, LLC

*14. Public Land Management Projects (14.1-14.3)

<i>Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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 shared about her ride along with a DNR conservation officer for the opening day of pheasant hunting season. Director Lyon also shared about her recent experiences helping with the winterization process at Pine Lake State Park and planting trees at Viking Lake State Park.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth gave a report out on the current deer harvest trends, noting a slight increase from the 2024 hunting season.
- DA Hildreth also shared about his pheasant opener ride along experience and his field experiences at Viking Lake and Pine Lake State Parks.
- DA Hildreth highlighted a few of the donations received and presented to the Commissioners.
- DA Hildreth concluded his remarks by providing several updates including the status of CWD in Iowa, the status of invasive species treatments taking place at Clear Lake, and an announcement regarding the upcoming good neighbor meeting to be held in Monona County.

CONTRACT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY-DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH OF THE EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE, TIMBER RATTLESNAKE, AND PLAIN BELLIED WATER SNAKE

Karen Kinkead requested Commission approval for a contract with Iowa State University for data collection and research assistance.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE IOWA CHAPTER OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY-EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE HABITAT MANAGEMENT, POPULATION MANAGEMENT, AND TISSUE SAMPLING

Karen Kinkead requested Commission approval for a contract with the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for habitat and population management.

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 item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT-ALUM APPLICATIONS AT GREEN VALLEY LAKE, AND LAKE OF THREE FIRES

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with Solitude Lake Management for alum applications at Green Valley Lake and Lake of Three Fires. Ms. Balmer discussed benefits of alum and the results received to date with alum application in Iowa.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

George Antoniou presented a variety of small construction projects to the Commission as information items: Road and Culvert repair at Rock Creek State Park; Bellevue State Park lodge roof replacement; dike construction at Hogsback WMA; and erosion repair at Harmon Lake WMA

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

PINE LAKE STATE PARK, PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for parking improvements at Pine Lake State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK, BEACH SIDE RESTROOM REPAIRS

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for restroom repairs at Clear Lake State Park.

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 item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH ENDEAVOR CIVIL ENGINEERING-GREEN ISLAND AND PRINCETON FLOOD REPAIR PROJECT

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for a contract with endeavor civil engineering for design work for flood damage repair at Green Island and Princeton Wildlife Areas.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH ENDEAVOR CIVIL ENGINEERING-GREEN ISLAND AND PRINCETON FLOOD REPAIR PROJECT

George Antoniou requested Commission approval for a contract with endeavor civil engineering for design work for flood damage repair at Green Island and Princeton Wildlife Areas.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 17 LEASE-KOCH FERTILIZER WAVER LLC-LEE COUNTY

Pete Hildreth requested Commission approval for a Chapter 17 lease for Koch Fertilizer Weaver in Lee County. Commissioners held a robust discussion on the fee rate for leases and their interest in exploring changes to the rule that sets fee rates for such leases. Assistant Attorney General Eric Dirth was present and responded to Commissioner questions regarding their options regarding the lease fees.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Collin Brecher-aye, Bill Moritz-aye, Laura Kudej-nay, Uriah Hansen-nay, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 17 LEASE-ZEN-NOH AMERICAN HOLDING CORPORATION -DES MOINES COUNTY

Pete Hildreth requested Commission approval for a Chapter17 lease with Zen-Noh American Holding Corporation.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.</i>

<i>The Chairperson asked for a roll call vote. Tammi Kircher-aye, KR Buck-aye, Collin Brecher-aye, Bill Moritz-aye, Laura Kudej-nay, Uriah Hansen-nay, Tom Prickett-aye. Motion passes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

2026 NRC MEETING DATES

Pete Hildreth requested Commission approval for the 2026 meeting dates and tour. Commissioners discussed adding additional tours, four in total. Commissioners decided to approve the dates and table the tour schedule until the December NRC meeting

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Bill Moritz to approve the 2026 meeting dates with the request to see a final tour schedule to approve at the December NRC meeting. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.</i>

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

APPROVED AS AMENDED**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Commissioners shared their recent outdoor experiences and gave Communications staff kudos for their recent Northern Lights promotion on social media. Commissioners discussed the upcoming First Gentleman's pheasant hunt and comments on the pheasant opener.
- Commissioners briefly discussed the 2025 NRC report and concurred that it will be finalized in December.
- Commissioners discussed, in length, the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund report that the Department is completing that will outline the income and expenses through FY25 and projection through FY30. The report will be filed no later than December 15th. Director Lyon, General Counsel McIntosh and DA Hildreth responded to several questions regarding the report, contents of the report and steps involved in increasing license fees. Commissioners highlighted stakeholder support that they have received for a license fee increase. Assistant Attorney General Eric Dirth also responded to questions regarding the process to change license fees. Commissioner Brecher, Commissioner Moritz and Chair Prickett volunteered to be on a Commission subcommittee to focus on pursuing an adjustment in license fees.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 12:05 pm on November 13, 2025.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

5. 2026 NRC Meeting Recommendations

Month	Meeting Date / Day / Time			Meeting Location (County)
January	01/8/26	Thu	9:30am NRC Business Meeting	Polk
February	02/12/26	Thu	9:30am NRC Business Meeting	Polk
March	03/12/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk
April	04/8/26	Wed	12:00pm Field Tour	Appanoose County
April	04/9/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Appanoose County
May	05/14/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting Butch Olofson Shooting Range	Polk
June	06/10/26	Wed	12:00pm Field Tour	Cerro Gordo County
	06/11/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Cerro Gordo County
July	07/9/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk
August	08/13/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk
September	09/10/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk
October	10/7/26	Wed	12:00pm Field Tour	Fremont County
	10/8/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Fremont County
November	11/12/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk
December	12/10/26	Thu	9:30am Business Meeting	Polk

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: 12/11/26

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

Decision Item (*proposed consent item)

***6. Timber Sale Contract with Kendrick, Inc. for French Creek Wildlife Management Area**

Commission approval is requested for a timber sale contract with Kendrick, Inc. of Edgewood, IA, for French Creek Wildlife Management Area

Contract Terms

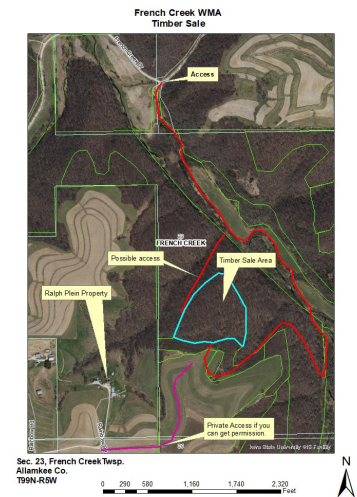
Income: \$59,500.00

Dates: 12/12/25 – 3/31/27

Fund Deposited to: Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Contract Purpose: This contract will facilitate a hardwood timber harvest of an estimated 118,077 board feet in 543 mixed hardwood trees at French Creek Wildlife Management Area in Allamakee County. An even-aged management system will be used in accordance with the French Creek Forest Stewardship 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 area. Harvesting and regenerating this stand will 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 the 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: 11/13/25

Number of Bids Received: 2

Recommendation: Kendrick, Inc.

Bidder	City, State	Amount of Bid
Kendrick, Inc.	Edgewood, IA	\$59,500.00
Dan Jones Logging	Waterville, IA	\$45,358.00

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Conservation and Recreation Division
December 11, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

***7. Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Upper Iowa University**

Commission approval is requested for a Subrecipient Agreement with Upper Iowa University, of Fayette, Iowa.

Agreement Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$68,023

Dates: January 1, 2026 to December 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): Competitive State Wildlife Grant

Background: The Driftless Area of northeastern Iowa contains the highest proportion of the state's native woodlands but has undergone significant habitat degradation due to lack of active woodland management, land use changes, and invasive species. This has resulted in declining populations of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Gray Fox, Golden-winged Warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will among others. There is also a lack of early-successional woodland habitat, which is critical for many of these species. Additionally, most of the Driftless Area is privately owned, making landowner engagement essential for effective conservation. This project will establish a standardized monitoring program for SGCN bird and mammal populations across public and private lands in the Driftless Area using acoustic recording devices (ARUs) and trail cameras. Data collected through this monitoring effort will inform future conservation actions and will help determine the population status and distribution of uncommon woodland SGCN birds and mammals in this region. This project will also restore 600 acres of early-successional and open-woodland habitat on public and private lands using woodland management practices including timber stand improvement, invasive species removal, edge feathering, and native tree and shrub plantings. We will also conduct pre- and post- habitat management monitoring using acoustic recording units and trail cameras to assess the impact of restoration efforts on SGCN birds and mammals. Finally, we will conduct three outreach events to educate landowners on woodland management and encourage participation in conservation efforts. If funded, this project will improve habitat conditions for multiple SGCN in an area of high conservation opportunity in northeastern Iowa, increase the availability of early-successional and open-canopy woodland habitat and restore active woodland management, both benefitting wildlife and increasing forest resilience to changing weather patterns, provide critical information on species distributions, including the potential reestablishment of the Fisher in Iowa, strengthen partnerships with private landowners to expand conservation efforts beyond public lands, and support adaptive management strategies aligned with Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan to ensure continued benefits for wildlife and forest resilience.

Agreement Purpose: This purpose of this Agreement with Upper Iowa University (UIU) is to monitor woodland species of greatest conservation need in the Driftless Region of northeastern Iowa. UIU will hire seasonal technicians to deploy ARUs and trail cameras to passively record birds and mammals on public and private lands. UIU will also deploy ARUs and trail cameras on public lands pre- and post-habitat management to evaluate SGCN bird and mammal response to management activities.

Recommendation: Approval of this Agreement to pass through funding is recommended in order to allow woodland SGCN monitoring in conjunction with woodland habitat management in northeastern Iowa.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Decision Item

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission (WQC), of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

9. Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (PCCB), of Montezuma, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$336,750.00

Dates: January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Constructed in the 1950s, Diamond Lake is a 98.7-acre lake with a 2,672-acre watershed which is comprised of a mix of public and privately-owned lands. The lake is located in Diamond Lake County Park in Poweshiek County and is managed by Poweshiek County Conservation. With a 27: 1 watershed to lake area ratio, the lake is an excellent candidate for restoration. The watershed has a mix of forested land, crop land, and grassland. Water quality is considered average for the State of Iowa, but the lake suffers periodically from algae blooms that lead to poor water clarity. The maximum depth of Diamond Lake is about 20' with the mean depth being 7.2' although the depths in the norther portion of the lake are fairly shallow and there has been some sediment deposition in the arms of the lake since it was constructed.

Both landowners within the watershed and the park staff have worked to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to the lake by installing a variety of best management practices on the landscape, including installation of a number of ponds, grassed waterways, prairie restoration, and timber stand improvement. DNR and PCCB completed an assessment of the watershed in the park in 2022 and began construction on several watershed practices to address nutrient and sediment runoff in 2024. The rehabilitation of two existing watershed ponds, as well as the construction of a new watershed pond and a section of stream restoration were completed in 2025 to help protect the lake (\$454k; \$341k LRP, \$113k PCCB).

DNR also worked with the CCB in 2015 to repair and modify the spillway at the lake outlet. The spillway was in need of repair, and upgrading the lakes infrastructure allowed project partners to modify the outlet structure to eliminate migration of undesirable fish species into the lake from downstream Moon Creek. Modification of the outlet was an important step in the long-term water quality improvement plan for Diamond Lake. The spillway modification was completed in 2015 for a total cost of \$160k, with the PCCB contributing \$32k to the project.

Diamond Lake is also the water supply for the City of Montezuma. Before any restoration work on the lake could commence, the city invested in installing a back up water supply (deep water well) so the lake could be drained. Construction on the well was completed in 2025 and cost the city over \$5 million to install. The City's partnership was critical for moving a project at Diamond Lake forward.

DNR and Poweshiek CCB hired Shive Hattery in the spring of 2025 to complete an assessment of Diamond Lake and present project partners with a suite of restoration alternatives that would improve water quality, restore depth to the lake, improve existing infrastructure, and provide new recreational opportunities to park users. As a part of this work, Shive developed a conceptual plan and budget for a proposed restoration project, which was presented to the community at a public meeting in November 2025.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with PCCB to retain Shive Hattery to complete final design and permitting on the proposed restoration plan, including targeted dredging of the eastern arm of the lake (blue on figure), removal of excess sediment in campground marsh (deep purple), construction of two spoil sites (light green), over 1,000 ft of shoreline stabilization (red and yellow lines), and installation of fish habitat (photos and deep blue circles). This project will also include drawing the lake down and



installing a low water drain that will allow managers to better manage water levels in the future. Shive will also provide some limited oversight of construction for the project, which is anticipated from Fall 2026 through the spring of 2028.

Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$ 336,750.00
<u>Poweshiek County Conservation Board Contribution</u>	<u>\$ 112,250.00</u>
Total budget	\$ 449,000.00

Anticipated Future Work: Future work will include construction of lake restoration practices, which will be completed as two phases (1. Lake drawdown and dam infrastructure; 2. In-lake restoration practices including targeted dredging, shoreline protection, fish habitat, and dredging of the campground marsh). Total anticipated costs for construction of in-lake practices is \$4 million. Dosing the lake is also anticipated for Diamond Lake after the main restoration project has been completed.

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the TCCB is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

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

Decision Item

10. Contract with Polk County Conservation Board (Easter Lake)

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

Contract Terms:

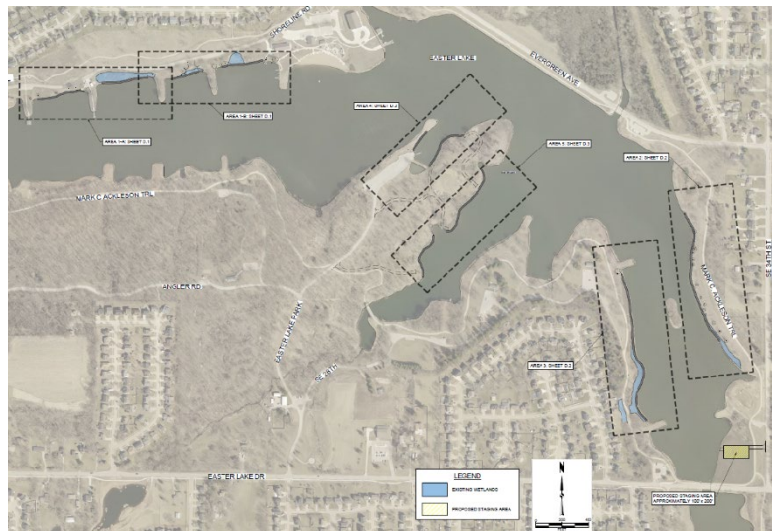
Amount: Not to exceed \$479,185.00

Dates: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Easter Lake is a 178-acre constructed lake that began as a lake in an agriculture/suburban watershed that over the years has shifted to a highly developed urban area. Easter Lake and Easter Lake Park is one of the many great recreational resources offered by Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) providing trails, park shelters, playgrounds and volleyball courts, boating, fishing, and a beach. Attracting over a million visitors each year, Easter Lake Park has been a great recreational resource to central Iowa since its creation in 1967. The Polk County Conservation Board owns and manages this area, and they continue to work in partnership with DNR and other stakeholders to accomplish lake and watershed improvements.

Extensive restoration work was completed in the watershed and at the park between 2012 and 2019, but some new areas of shoreline have eroded since the large lake project was completed in 2019. DNR and Polk CCB staff completed a survey of the shoreline in 2023 and identified areas in need of additional stabilization. The CCB hired Snyder Engineering to complete design for these sections of shoreline in 2024. Work completed as a part of the larger restoration project included: Stabilization of large sections of Yeader Creek (the primary tributary to the lake), targeted dredging, new ponds and stormwater structures, both in the park and throughout the watershed, neighborhood stormwater practices, shoreline stabilization, new park features (including a 4-mile trail that wraps around the lake, numerous jetties, and a new boat ramp), and a fish renovation and new fish habitat (~\$23 Million).



Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with PCCB to fund a shoreline stabilization project for 5,076 liner feet of shoreline that has eroded from wind and wave action, ice heave, and boating traffic. DNR will administer construction for the project and seek reimbursement from the county for work completed.

Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$479,185.00
Polk County Conservation Board	\$250,000.00
Total budget	\$729,185.00

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the PCCB is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 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
11/13/2025	26-04-87-01	LAKE OF THREE FIRES	TAYLOR	Demolition of a house and disposal of materials. The contractor will also fill the foundation void with contractor-furnished soil, placed and compacted to match surrounding the ground.	\$38,500.00	\$14,800.00 \$18,000.00 \$23,900.00 \$63,500.00 \$64,457.50

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

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

Decision Item

Construction Item

12.1 Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area, Swan Lake Rd. & James Avenue Rd. Maintenance – Johnson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: The Hawkeye WMA, located northwest of North Liberty, is adjacent to the Iowa River and encompasses 14,000 acres of timber upland and marsh. It is highly popular among hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, and photographers, known specifically for excellent birding during spring migration and duck hunting in the fall.

Two gravel roads, Swan Lake Road and James Avenue, are essential for accessing the WMA and require maintenance.

Design Summary: Specifically, the work will involve: Replacing one plastic and four corrugated metal culverts that are currently in poor condition with new reinforced concrete culverts; Maintenance improvements to a short section of the road ditch and a low-water crossing; and, Removal of two large trees currently within the right-of-way.



Low Water Crossing on Swan Lake Road

Engineering Project #: 25-06-52-04

Cost Estimate: \$140,000

Operating Bureau: Wildlife

Funding Source: 100% Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2026

Number of Bids Received: 9

Bidders

Boomerang Corp	Anamosa, IA	\$96,000.00
Adam Laubenthal DBA Laubenthal Excavation	Bradgate, IA	\$108,359.90
Triple B Construction	Wilton, IA	\$117,205.00
Connelly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	\$124,007.90
Dave Schmitt Construction	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$127,536.18
Ground Line Company	Onslow, IA	\$141,798.00
Eastern Iowa Excavation & Concrete, LLC	Cascade, IA	\$145,845.80
DeLong Construction, Inc	Washington, IA	\$152,953.00
H Johnson Services LLC	Creston, IA	\$220,135.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Boomerang Corp.

12.2 Pikes Peak State Park, Office Road Pavement Rehabilitation – Clayton County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Pikes Peak State Park is one of Iowa's premier nature destinations, famed for its majestic views of the Mississippi River. Located on a national scenic byway, the park features 11 miles of trails and scenic bluffs and valleys,



including the half-mile trail to Bridal Veil Falls, a hike to Point Ann overlooking McGregor, and the 500-foot bluff where the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers meet.

Necessary maintenance work is needed for the asphalt road and parking lots serving the Homestead Trailhead and the park office, as they have significantly deteriorated. Additionally, the road is narrow, and the first 300 feet require widening to better accommodate traffic flow and meet current design standards.

Design Summary: The construction will involve several key components: Transverse joint repairs; Widening the road for the initial 300 feet; Expanding the existing parking lot; Constructing a turnaround at the end of the road; and, Applying a double chip seal coat to all paved surfaces. Additionally, an ADA-compliant parking stall will be added to the parking

lot.

Engineering Project #: 20-03-22-02

Cost Estimate: \$110,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 75% Parks and Institutional Roads Fund / 25% Parks Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 09/18/2026

Number of Bids Received: 3

Bidders

Kluesner Construction	Farley, IA	\$104,616.36
Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, LLC	Cascade, IA	\$107,827.40
Skyline Construction, Inc	Decorah, IA	\$119,919.99

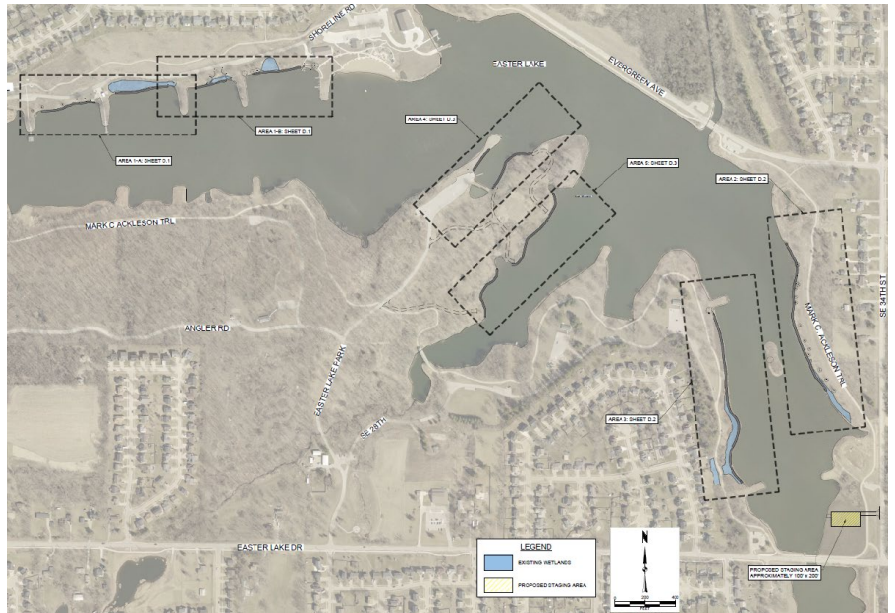
Upon Engineering’s review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Kluesner Construction.

12.3 Easter Lake, Shoreline Stabilization – Polk County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Easter Lake is a 178-acre constructed lake that began as a lake in an agriculture/suburban watershed that over the years has shifted to a highly developed urban area. Easter Lake and Easter Lake Park is one of the many great recreational resources offered by Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) providing trails, park shelters, playgrounds and volleyball courts, boating, fishing, and a beach. Attracting over a million visitors each year, Easter Lake Park has been a great recreational resource to central Iowa since its creation in 1967. The Polk County Conservation Board owns and manages this area, and they continue to work in partnership with DNR and other stakeholders to accomplish lake and watershed improvements. A fall 2023 field survey identified areas where wave action is currently eroding the shoreline of Easter Lake.

Design Summary: This project is designed to address shoreline erosion by armoring 5,076 feet of the shoreline using riprap. All work will be completed via barge. This approach is intended to minimize both disruption to the park and subsequent restoration requirements



Engineering Project #: 25-05-77-03

Cost Estimate: \$880,000

Operating Bureau: Land & Waters

Funding Source: 66% Lake Restoration; 33% Polk County Conservation Board

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/25

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2026

Number of Bids Received: 13

Bidders

TK Concrete, Inc	Pella, IA	\$729,185.00
Nagel Construction LLC	Allerton, IA	\$794,202.50
RW Excavating Solutions, LC	Prairie City, IA	\$795,470.00
G & H Marine Inc	Decatur, IL	\$868,318.86
Dubuque Barge & Fleeting Service Co	Dubuque, IA	\$950,740.50
Binder Irrigation Inc	Table Rock, NE	\$985,862.80
Three Oaks Construction Inc	North Sioux City, SD	\$990,990.00
Jones Contractors & Associates LLC	Dyersville, IA	\$999,902.18
Legacy Corporation of IL	East Moline, IL	\$1,063,390.00
Cramer and Associates Inc	Grimes, IA	\$1,078,300.00
Home Boy Enterprises, LTD	Bondurant, IA	\$1,358,931.87
Cushman Excavation LLC	Knoxville, IA	\$1,406,450.00
United Contractors Inc	Johnston, IA	\$1,572,265.00

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

12.4 Waubonsie State Park, Water System Improvements – Fremont County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Waubonsie State Park, located in Fremont County, encompasses nearly 2,000 acres of beautiful Loess Hills prairies and woodlands. It features an extensive trail system that offers hikers and equestrians impressive views of the Loess Hills and the Nebraska plains below. For visitors, Waubonsie State Park provides a variety of amenities, including a lodge, a standard campground, an equestrian campground, cabins, and shelters.

The primary water system currently serves the following facilities: the park office, restrooms, cabins, showers, the lodge, and the maintenance building. The equestrian campground operates on a separate water system.

Design Summary: The existing water system is old and the wellhouse does not meet all water supply standards. The system struggles to maintain enough water pressure at some cabins and restrooms due to the placement of the reservoirs in the system.

The project includes adding new storage tanks, reconfiguring the reservoirs and piping to create separate pressure zones to raise water pressure to acceptable levels. This will allow the existing booster pumps at cabins and restrooms to be removed. The project will also modernize the wellhouse and replace around 4000 linear feet of 1" and 2" watermain. Most of the new watermain will be bored.

Engineering Project #: 24-05-36-01

Cost Estimate: \$315,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests, and Preserves

Funding Source: Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 08/14/2026

Number of Bids Received: 3



Existing Wellhouse Interior

Bidders

Vicker Drilling LLC	Creston, IA	\$266,832.00
Dovel Construction LLC	Hamburg, IA	\$284,400.00
Harley Johnson	Creston, IA	\$522,450.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Vicker Drilling LLC.

12.5 Clear Lake State Park, East Restroom and Shower Building – Cerro Gordo County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Clear Lake State Park was established in 1941 and is situated on the southeast corner of the 3,643-acre Clear Lake. Amenities available to visitors include a beach, a modern campground, picnic areas, and two picnic shelters. The park also features a historic day-use lodge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Design Summary: The project encompasses maintenance and repair of the East Restroom and Shower Building in the Clear Lake State Park Campgrounds.

Exterior improvements/repairs include installing a new standing seam metal roof, sanding and refinishing wood fascia's, installing new aluminum soffits, and replacing door slabs and hardware. Additionally, the concrete walk surfaces and walls will be cleaned, remove and replace the sealant joints, remove the existing drinking fountains to install a new bottle filler; and, install new lighting with photoelectric sensors.



Interior improvements/repairs involve installing new epoxy flooring and replacing vanity countertops and backsplashes. The interior block walls will be cleaned and painted, and wall covering will be installed in the shower areas. Additionally, we will repair, clean, and refinish all wood wall and ceiling surfaces, and replace restroom fixtures, the toilets, urinals, shower units, and associated plumbing components.

Engineering Project #: 23-03-17-10

Cost Estimate: \$250,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 50% Parks Infrastructure / 50% Fed - Land and Water Conservation Fund

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 05/15/2026

Number of Bids Received: 6

Bidders

Sadler Construction Inc	Eagle Grove, IA	\$233,705.60
Matt Construction Inc	Sumner, IA	\$237,748.72
Larson Contracting Central, LLC	Lake Mills, IA	\$247,466.00
Lejas Corporation	Tempe, AZ	\$262,132.00
King Knutson Construction, Inc	Iowa Falls, IA	\$296,693.90
Dean Snyder Construction Co	Clear Lake, IA	\$321,111.00

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

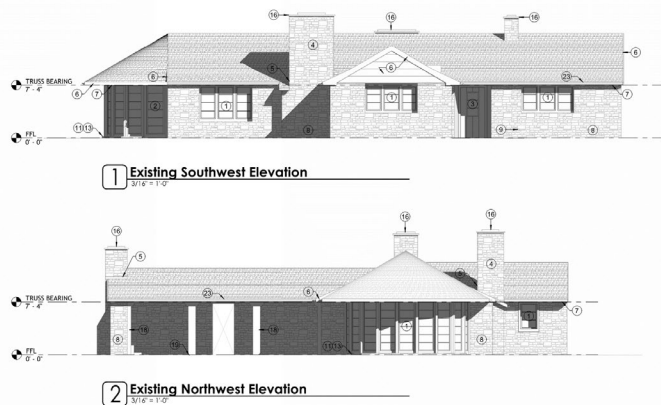
12.6 Clear Lake State Park, Lodge Repairs – Cerro Gordo County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Clear Lake State Park was established in 1941 and is situated on the southeast corner of the 3,643-acre Clear Lake. Amenities available to visitors include a beach, a modern campground, picnic areas, and two picnic shelters. The park also features a historic day-use lodge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Design Summary: This project involves the repair of Clear Lake State Park Lodge. The lodge is located just east of the State Park Beach. Since it was originally designed and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, the building is historical in nature. Therefore, renovation work must adhere to preservation guidelines, maintaining the original structure and design elements as much as possible.

The planned enhancements for the lodge renovation project include: Restrooms: New resinous flooring, updated fixtures and partitions, and a full remodel to ensure ADA compliance; Building: Installation of new, thermally efficient windows and a new roof gutter system; Structural and Woodwork: Repair or replacement of large timber structural members, repairs to existing trim work, and re-finishing of existing interior woodwork; Kitchen: Full renovation featuring new millwork and appliances; Mechanical/Electrical: Installation of a mini-split HVAC system and re-purposing existing lighting fixtures to function as LED type lighting fixtures; and, Exterior/Accessibility: Fireplace brick and chimney stone repairs, installation of a new concrete pad for ADA-compliant parking, and the removal and replacement of existing exterior concrete slabs.



Engineering Project #: 23-03-17-13

Cost Estimate: \$480,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 50% Parks Infrastructure / 50% Fed - Land and Water Conservation Fund

Bid Letting Date: 11/20/2025

Construction Completion Date: 06/24/2026

Number of Bids Received: 6

Bidders

Henkel Construction Company	Mason City, IA	\$454,001.25
Larson Contracting Central, LLC	Lake Mills, IA	\$460,433.10
Lejas Corporation	Tempe, AZ	\$466,086.00
Sadler Construction Inc	Eagle Grove, IA	\$466,139.00
The Joseph Company Inc	Austin, MN	\$625,706.35
Dean Snyder Construction Co	Clear Lake, IA	\$625,946.00

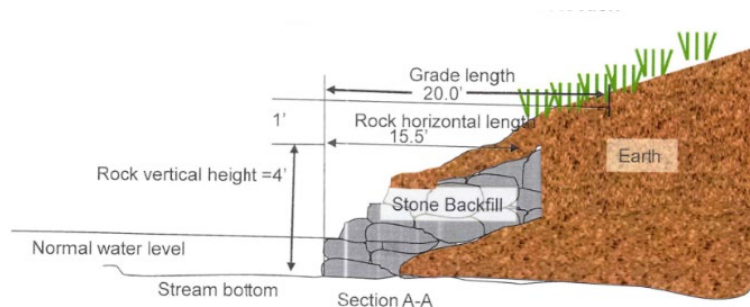
Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Henkel Construction Company.

12.7 Spring Branch 319 Restoration – Delaware County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Significant bank collapses occurred along Spring Branch in Delaware County, Iowa, due to repetitive flooding. The scale and number of collapses are the result of high water and heavy rainfall events, which saturated the stream shore soils and destabilized the toe (base) of the bank.

This project was initiated to address this issue by stabilizing the base of the slope at the water's edge. Our goal is to prevent future erosion, protect the stream bank, and reduce sediment input. Shoreline erosion and subsequent sedimentation diminish water quality and wildlife habitat. Sedimentation negatively alters the ecosystem by damaging essential plant life, impacting fish spawning and food sources, introducing soil-based pollutants, and reducing water clarity.



Design Summary: The primary goal of the project is to repair the toe of the slope located just above and below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). This will involve: Grading the slope of the eroded areas and installing rock revetment (armoring) to prevent future erosion.

Additional necessary tasks include: Clearing and grubbing the area to construct the streambank; Removing hazard trees near the spring structure; and, Grading the area to the west of the spring structure to reduce sediment runoff and deposits in the stream. In addition, an existing fence will need to be temporarily removed and reinstalled to perform the work.

Engineering Project #: 24-03-28-02

Cost Estimate: \$73,000

Operating Bureau: Fisheries

Funding Source: 75% DNR 319 State Land Water Quality Grant / 21% REAP Land Management / 4% Cash Donation

Bid Letting Date: 11/13/2025

Construction Completion Date: 4/30/2026

Number of Bids Received: 9

Bidders

Sommer Excavating, LLC	Waukon, IA	\$46,026.50
Offset Construction	Farley, IA	\$48,841.25
Connolly Construction, Inc	Peosta, IA	\$50,637.50
Connolly Excavating, Inc	Cascade, IA	\$52,629.91
Laubenthal Excavation	Bradgate, IA	\$56,051.40
Ludovissy Enterprises	Guttenberg, IA	\$63,125.00
Jones Contractors & Associates, LLC	Dyersville, IA	\$74,567.56
Steger Construction, Inc	Dyer, IA	\$76,935.00
Precisions Corporation	Port Byron, IL	\$149,205.30

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
December 11, 2025

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

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

***13. Contract with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC (Pammel State Park, Harmon Tunnel Repairs)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC of Johnston, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed \$62,875.00

Dates: January 1, 2026 to January 5, 2028

Funding Source(s): Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Contract Background: The DNR Seeks to Purchase: Architectural and Engineering services from a qualified architectural firm for the assessment of the Harmon Tunnel stone façade and retaining walls at Pammel State Park in Madison County, along with recommended repairs and engineering design.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to complete Phase 1 services. Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC will provide a detailed report addressing each of the items outlined below. Recommended repair solutions should maximize design service life and minimize future maintenance and repair work needed under normal environmental conditions. The DNR will submit the Phase 1 report to the State Historical Preservation Office for review prior to deciding on moving forward with services related to implementation of Phase 2.

- Architectural fascia stone veneer archways over tunnel entrances - Currently, stone is separating from the tunnel vault structure. Historical construction attached these stones to supporting structures using mortar. Assessment is needed by qualified engineer to determine whether stones can be re-anchored to structure behind, or if replacing the stones with similar new stones and modern anchoring system is a more practical and durable solution.
- Limestone pieces accumulating above tunnel entrances - Limestone accumulating in these areas appears to be falling from natural limestone bluff above. Assess the natural limestone bluff for safety concerns including the possibility of larger sections of bluff falling into the roadway.
- Entrance portal limestone 'wing' walls - Each of the wing walls presents different design challenges. Assess each wall individually for structural integrity and stability, damage caused by vegetation, risk of future damage from vegetation, and general extent of each wall's deterioration.
- Architectural limestone walls above archways - A small stacked limestone retaining wall above the archway on each side of the tunnel needs to be inspected and assessed for safety. Determine whether the structural integrity of the wall is weak or weakening and what level of risk there is for stones falling into roadway or walls toppling.
- Repair of cracks and resurfacing of tunnelway walls and overhead structure – Inspect and assess cracking occurring in tunnelway walls and overhead surface. Determine severity of cracks found, their effect on the structural integrity of the tunnel, and propose patching procedures or other remedies to improve the visual appearance and structural integrity of the tunnelway.
- Repairs of stone columns at each entrance - Assess condition of each tower paying attention to areas where walls, archways, or earth abut columns. Determine structural integrity of each column and propose repairs such as tuck pointing, crack and/or spalling patching, reinforcement or anchoring.
- Inspect concrete retaining walls on each side of west end tunnel entrance for any cracks or spalled areas needing repair. Inspect areas where joint sealants are needed or need repair.
- Inspect concrete walkway at the southeast wingwall for unevenness, cracking, and usability. State reasons for walkway deterioration and propose remedies for replacement or repairs.

At the sole discretion of the Department, the Department will decide on moving forward with services related to implementation of Phase 2. As part of Phase 2, Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC will prepare final design in accordance with Iowa Department of Transportation Standard Specifications, including drawings, specifications and cost estimates. The firm will be responsible for coordinating the process with DNR, obtain all permits, submit plans to the State Historical Preservation Office, perform needed survey, perform needed geotechnical services, prepare bid documents, answer pre-bid questions, conduct one onsite preconstruction meeting, conduct onsite construction inspection assistance at critical construction milestones, perform needed materials testing during construction, and will also be retained during construction for any clarifications from the DNR Field Engineer. The DNR will facilitate the bidding process and all the day-to-day construction inspection duties.

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: November 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: 4

Recommendation: Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC

Consultant	Location (City, State)	Total Score (100 pts)	Cost
Engineering Consulting Services (ECS) Midwest, LLC	Johnston, Iowa	89	\$62,875.00
StudioIntrigue Architects	Cedar Rapids, IA	78	\$93,854.50
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	Des Moines, IA	70	\$397,745.00
Martin Gardner Architecture P.C.	Marion, IA	64	\$75,738.00

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

Public Land Management Projects

***14.1 Management Agreement – Little Wapsi, Hart Tract – Howard CCB**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Management Agreement with the Howard County Conservation Board for the Little Wapsi – Hart Tract located in Howard County.

Location: This property is located in the southwest corner of Elm in Section 12, Township 97 North, Range 14 West of the 5th P.M. in Howard County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 80-acre property is used for public outdoor recreation and hunting in the same manner as state wildlife areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Howard County Conservation Board since 2005. The previous management agreement expires December 31, 2025.

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

This agreement was approved by the Howard County Conservation Board on November 05, 2025.

***14.2 Management Agreement – Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt – Polk County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Management Agreement with the Polk County Conservation Board for Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt located in Polk County.

Location: This property is located approximately 6 miles northeast of Bondurant in Townships 80 and 81 North, Range 22 West of the 5th P.M. in Polk County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This property is used for public outdoor recreation and hunting in the same manner as state owned wildlife management areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Polk County Conservation Board since 1998. The previous management agreement expires December 31, 2025.

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

This agreement was approved by the Polk County Conservation Board on November 12, 2025.

***14.3 Management Agreement – Fogle Lake Recreation Area – City of Diagonal**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the City of Diagonal for Fogle Lake Recreation Area located in Ringgold County.

Location: This property is located on the northside of the City of Diagonal in Section 31, Township 70 North, Range 30 West of the 5th P.M. in Ringgold County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 52-acre property is used for outdoor recreation, including a campground, in the same manner as state recreation areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of Diagonal since 1994 and encompassed 180 acres. The previous management agreement was set to expire on September 30, 2032.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the City of Diagonal for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Diagonal City Council on November 14, 2025.

***14.4 Management Agreement – Summit Lake Wildlife Management Area – City of Creston**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the City of Creston, acting through the Creston Waterworks Board of Trustees, for the Summit Lake Wildlife Management Area located in Union County.

Location: This property is located a half mile west of Creston in Sections 26 and 35, Township 73 North, Range 31 West and Sections 2 and 3, Township 72 North, Range 31 West of the 5th P.M. in Union County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 257-acre property is used as a public access area for outdoor recreation and hunting in the same manner as state owned wildlife areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the City of Creston since 1988. The previous management agreement expires December 31, 2025.

Management Agreement Term: This standard Management Agreement is with the City of Creston, acting through the Creston Waterworks Board of Trustees for 25 years.

This agreement was approved by the Creston Waterworks Board of Trustees on November 10, 2025.

***14.5 Management Agreement – Thayer Pond Recreation Area – Union CCB**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve a Management Agreement with the Union County Conservation Board for the Thayer Pond Recreation Area located in Union County.

Location: This property is located just over a mile southwest of Thayer in Section 22, Township 72 North, Range 28 West of the 5th P.M. in Union County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 47-acre property is used as public access for outdoor recreation in the same manner as state owned recreation areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Union County Conservation Board since 1975. The previous management agreement expires December 31, 2025.

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

This agreement was approved by the Union County Conservation Board on November 04, 2025.

***14.6 Management Agreement Amendment-#2 - Buena Vista County**

Commission approval is requested for an agreement amendment with Buena Vista County.

Amendment-2 Terms:

Amendment Dates: December 11, 2025 to December 31, 2026 or until upon completion of the transfer of portions of the included property from the DNR to the County, whichever occurs first.

Amendment Purpose: To extend the term of the Original Temporary Management Agreement and Amendment-1 related to state-owned real property, locally known as Storm Lake Marina. Additional time is needed to complete a proposed transfer of portions of the property from DNR to the County.

Original Contract Purpose: The property includes the marina concession building and shoreline, courtesy docks in front of the marina concession building, large parking lot, the land surrounding the large parking lot, the two marina entrance roads, gas storage tank, the boat ramps, the two fishing piers, the 84-slip docking system, the roadway and parking alongside the docking system, and the turnaround located close to the fisheries building.

Management History: This property was managed by the City of Storm Lake prior to the County's management. The Department is currently in the process of transferring the fee title ownership to the County.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Timeframe: March 14, 2024 to December 31, 2024 or upon transfer of the property to the County, whichever occurs first.

Amendment- 1 Terms: Timeframe: December 14, 2024 to December 31, 2025 or upon transfer of the property to the County, whichever occurs first; Purpose: extension of time

Amendment- 2 Terms: Timeframe: December 11, 2025 to December 31, 2026 or upon transfer of the property to the County, whichever occurs first; Purpose: extension of time

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

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

Decision Item

15. Public Land Acquisition Project

Copeland Bend WMA, Fremont County – Pheasants Forever

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Fremont County adjacent to Copeland Bend WMA.

Seller: Pheasants Forever

Acreage: 171.07 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$261,000

Appraised Value: \$350,000

Property Description:

This irregularly shaped tract lies approximately 11 miles northwest of Hamburg and directly across the Missouri River from Nebraska City, in southwest Fremont County. It serves as an addition to the Copeland Bend complex, which includes both State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) holdings and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land.

Following the 2019 floods, the property was enrolled in the Emergency Wetland Program – Floodplains Easement (EWP). Under this program, the existing cropland will be converted to a diverse native prairie. Located on the protected side of the Missouri River levee, the site provides ideal conditions for establishing and maintaining native vegetation. This parcel offers potential for creating up to 27 acres of restored wetland habitat through the installation of ditch plugs. Currently the property is open to public hunting through the Iowa Habitat Access Program.

Purpose:

Acquisition of this tract will enhance wetland management opportunities on adjacent state-owned lands and expand habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. Notably, a federally endangered least tern was documented foraging approximately 0.5 miles south of the site in 2014. A state-endangered short-eared owl nested nearby in 2009, and numerous state-endangered northern harriers have been observed within 0.5 miles of the property over the past decade.

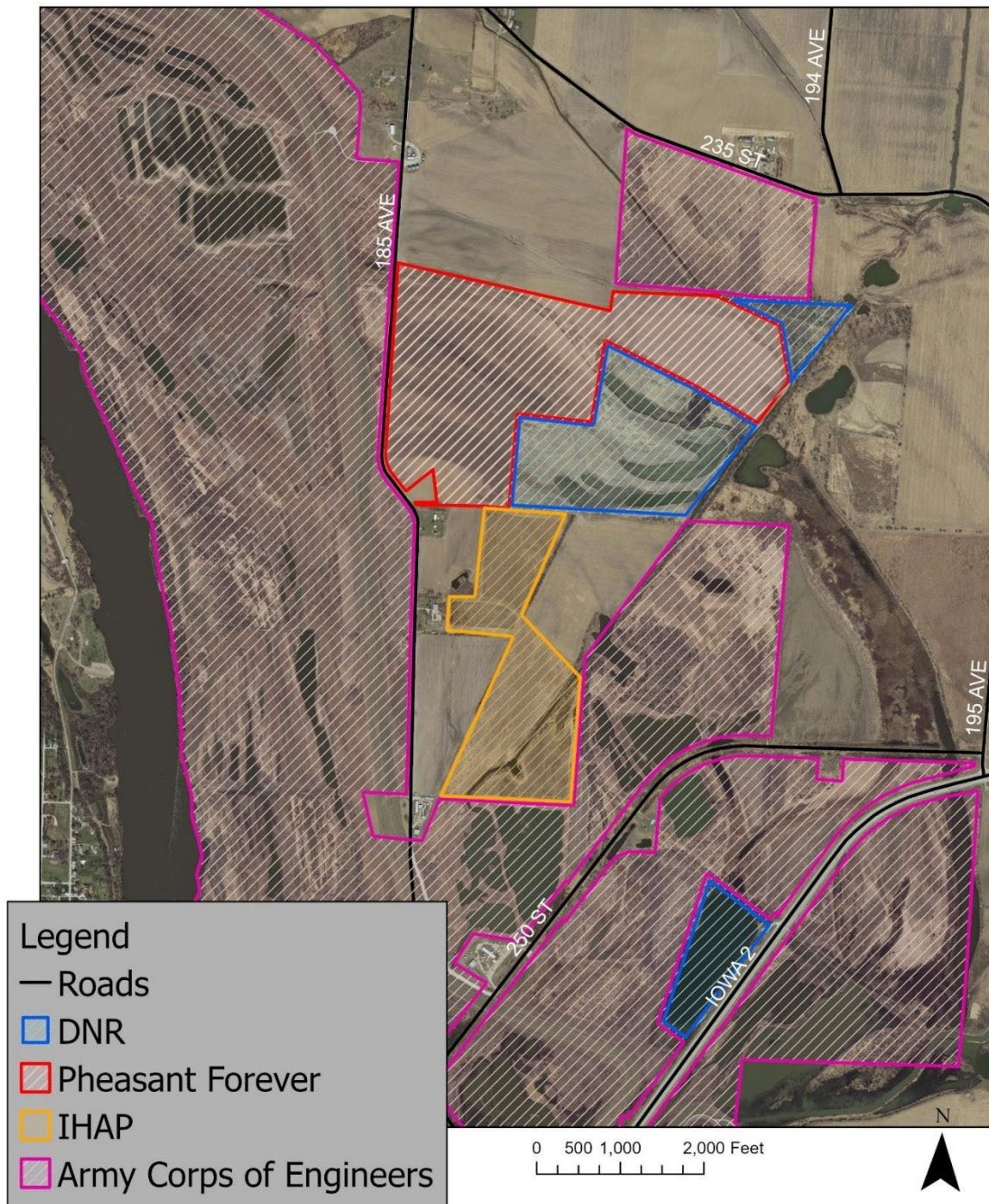
Additionally, this parcel will simplify existing property boundaries, improving overall management efficiency and enhancing public access to the WMA. Access will be provided via County Road 185th Avenue. Once acquired, the property will be open to outdoor recreation activities, including public hunting.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$261,000 Wildlife Restoration Land Grant (Pittman/Robertson Act)

Incidental Costs: Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Realty Services / Copeland Bend WMA
Fremont County / Pheasants Forever



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
12/11/2025

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

#16

Decision Item

Chapter 15, “General License Regulations” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 15.

Basic Intent of Current Rule: Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, general administration, and a framework for license revocation and suspension.

Proposed Rule Change: One amendment is proposed to implement 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 253, which creates a new lifetime fur harvester permit for disabled veterans. This rulemaking proposes to add this license and an associated fee.

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting date: Dec 11, 2025

Attachment: Chapter 15 – NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 15, “General License Regulations,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 483A.1.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part Iowa Code section 483A.1 and 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 253.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, general administration, and a framework for license revocation and suspension. One amendment is proposed to implement 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 253, which creates a new lifetime fur harvester permit for disabled veterans.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 28, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

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).

The following rulemaking action proposed:

Item1. Reletter paragraphs **15.10(1)“aa”** to **15.10(1)“jj”** as **15.10(1)“bb”** to **15.10(1)“kk”**.

Item2. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **15.10(1)“aa”**:

*aa.*Fur harvester license, lifetime, disabled veteran — \$59.50.

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

#17

Decision Item

Chapter 16, “Docks and Other Structures on Public Waters” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 16.

Basic Intent of Current Rule: Chapter 16 regulates docks on navigable waters. It classifies docks by ownership and use, provides a system of permits, and places restrictions and requirements on dock size, placement, and materials that balance the needs of dock owners and the general public.

Proposed Rule Change: The current chapter 16 prohibits roofs made of hard materials on docks and related structures. The Iowa Legislature recently created new dock provisions in the Iowa Code that allow for a person with a class I or III dock permit to construct a roof over a slip or hoist, subject to a number of requirements including material requirements, size limits, limits on what structures may be enclosed, a prohibition on habitation, and an insurance requirement. This rulemaking is required in order to resolve conflicts between current chapter 16 and the new Iowa Code provisions.

Craig Cutts, Chief
Law Enforcement
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting: December 11, 2025

Attachment: Chapter 16 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 16, “Docks and Other Structures on Public Waters,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 461A.4 and 462A.3.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 710, and Iowa Code sections 461A.4 and 461A.18.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 16 regulates docks on water bodies open to the public for boating and other recreational activities. It includes a permitting system and rules that seek to balance the needs of dock owners with those of the general public, and to reduce conflicts between neighboring dock owners. Among these rules are limitations on enclosing docks and hoists with sides and roofs as well as restrictions of what materials may be used for such purposes. 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 710, creates a new Iowa Code section that allows for a person with a class I or III dock permit to construct a roof over a slip or hoist, subject to a number of requirements including material requirements, size limits, limits on what structures may be enclosed, a prohibition on habitation, and an insurance requirement. These new provisions of the Iowa Code supersede existing Chapter 16 provisions. As such, this rulemaking is necessary in order to bring the relevant Chapter 16 provisions into harmony with the Iowa Code.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 3, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Greg Harson
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
122 252nd Avenue
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Email: gregory.harson@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at gregory.harson@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al gregory.harson@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026
10 a.m.

Virtual

February 3, 2026
10 a.m.

Virtual

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Greg Harson via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at gregory.harson@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 712-260-1040 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al gregory.harson@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 712-260-1040 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 16.3(7) as follows:

16.3(7) ~~No enclosure~~ Enclosure of private docks. ~~Private docks and docks in dock management areas shall not be enclosed by roofs or sides. Hoists may be enclosed by roofs and sides constructed of soft-sided natural fiber or synthetic fiber materials for the purpose of protecting watercraft.~~

a. Class I and Class III docks. Hoists may be enclosed by roofs and sides constructed of soft-sided natural fiber or synthetic fiber materials for the purpose of protecting watercraft, or by a roof constructed pursuant to Iowa Code section 462A.27B.

b. Class II, Class IV, and dock management area docks. Docks, hoists and slips shall not be enclosed unless authorized by the relevant dock or slip permit. Authorization may be restricted as needed to minimize adverse visual impact on owners of other property and the public or to ensure public safety, navigation, and access as appropriate.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve subrule **16.7(5)**.

ITEM 3. Renumber subrule **16.7(6)** as **16.7(5)**.

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

Decision Item

18. Chapter 76, “Unprotected Nongame” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 76. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 76 lists the nongame species allowed to be killed without a permit. Under Iowa Code section 481A.38, it is unlawful for any person to take, pursue, kill, trap, or conduct other listed activities against nongame animals except upon terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in the Iowa Code or by administrative rule. The Natural Resource Commission has authority under Iowa Code section 481A.42 to designate species of nongame that shall not be protected due to their abundance or habits. Chapter 76 was evaluated with the goals outlined in Executive Order 10.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 76 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 76, “Unprotected Nongame” and adopt a new Chapter 76 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.42.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.42.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 76 lists the nongame species allowed to be killed without a permit. Under Iowa Code section 481A.38, it is unlawful for any person to take, pursue, kill, trap, or conduct other listed activities against nongame animals except upon terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in the Iowa Code or by administrative rule. The Commission has authority under Iowa Code section 481A.42 to designate species of nongame that shall not be protected due to their abundance or habits.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

February 1-2, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515-250-6886 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515-250-6886 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 76 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

SEASONS, LIMITS, METHODS OF TAKE

TITLE VIII

CHAPTER 76

UNPROTECTED NONGAME

571—76.1(481A) Species. Certain species of nongame shall not be protected.

76.1(1) *Birds.* The European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) shall not be protected.

76.1(2) *Reptiles.*

- a.* Common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*).
- b.* Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) within 50 yards of houses actively occupied by humans.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.42.

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

Decision Item

19. Chapter 77, “Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animal Species” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 77. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Land & Waters Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 77 implements Iowa Code Chapter 481B, “Endangered and Threatened Plant and Animal Species.” The rule identifies plant and animal species that are protected due to being endangered or threatened in Iowa and provides for limited, regulated exceptions to those provisions. The intent of Chapter 77 is to conserve rare natural resources held in the public trust, provide predictable rules about which plant and wildlife species are protected, and clarify what actions are allowed or prohibited under state law.

The existing chapter is outdated and is inconsistent with Iowa Code Chapter 481B. It is being rescinded and replaced. The new rule updates the list of plant and animal species known to be endangered and threatened in Iowa and removes “special concern” species from the rule, ensuring the rule is consistent with Chapter 481B.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 77 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 77, “Endangered and Threatened Plant and Animal Species,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 481B.3.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code Chapter 481B.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 77 implements Iowa Code chapter 481B, “Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animal Species.” The rules identify those plant and animal species that are protected due to being endangered or threatened in Iowa and provides for limited, regulated exceptions to those provisions.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Kelly Poole
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Phone: 515-782-0358
Email: kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 10:00-11:00 a.m.	Via videoconference
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February 4, 2026 3:00-4:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Kelly Poole via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 77 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 77

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

571—77.1(481B) Definitions. As used in this rule:

“*Endangered species*” means any species of fish, plant life, or wildlife that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range.

“*Threatened species*” means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

571—77.2(481B) Endangered and threatened animals. The natural resource commission, in consultation with scientists with specialized knowledge and experience, has determined the following animal species to be endangered or threatened in Iowa:

77.2(1) Endangered animal species:

Common Name

Scientific Name

Mammals

Southern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>
Plains Spotted Skunk	<i>Spilogale interrupta</i>
Northern Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>
Indiana Myotis	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>

Birds

Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
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Fish

Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>
Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>
Western Silvery Minnow	<i>Hybognathus argyritis</i>
Sturgeon Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>
Sicklefin Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>
Northern Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i>
Pugnose Shiner	<i>Miniellus anogenus</i>
Ghost Shiner	<i>Paranotropis buchanani</i>
Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>
Starhead Topminnow	<i>Fundulus dispar</i>
Plains Topminnow	<i>Fundulus sciadicus</i>
Crystal Darter	<i>Crystallaria asprella</i>
Bluntnose Darter	<i>Etheostoma chlorosoma</i>
Least Darter	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i>

Reptiles

Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemis insculpta</i>
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Yellow Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon flavescens</i>
Great Plains Skink	<i>Plestiodon obsoletus</i>
Western Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>
Eastern Copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>
Prairie Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>
Eastern Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>
Western Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus tergeminus</i>

Amphibians

Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>
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Bumble Bees

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus affinis</i>
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Butterflies

Arogos Skipper	<i>Atrytone arogos</i>
Dusted Skipper	<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>
Mottled Duskywing	<i>Gesta martialis</i>
Ottoo Skipper	<i>Hesperia ottoe</i>
Dakota Skipper	<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>
Poweshiek Skipperling	<i>Oarisma poweshiek</i>
Mulberry Wing	<i>Poanes massasoit</i>

Damselflies and Dragonflies

Prairie Bluet	<i>Coenagrion angulatum</i>
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Land Snails

Iowa Pleistocene Snail	<i>Discus macclintocki</i>
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Bluff Vertigo

Vertigo meramecensis

Fresh Water Mussels

Spectaclecase

Cumberlandia monodonta

Purple Wartyback

Cyclonaias tuberculata

Spike

Elliptio dilatata

Sheepnose

Plethobasus cyphus

Round Pigtoe

Pleurobema sintoxia

Slippershell

Alasmidonta viridis

Salamander Mussel

Simpsonaias ambigua

77.2(2) Threatened animal species:

Common Name

Scientific Name

Mammals

Plains Pocket Mouse

Perognathus flavescens

Plains Pocket Gopher

Geomys bursarius

White-tailed Jackrabbit

Lepus townsendii

North American Least Shrew

Cryptotis parvus

Little Brown Myotis

Myotis lucifugus

Tricolored Bat

Perimyotis subflavus

Birds

Chuck's-will's-widow

Antrostomus carolinensis

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

Least Tern

Sternula antillarum

Forster's Tern

Sterna forsteri

King Rail

Rallus elegans

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Fish

American Eel

Anguilla rostrata

Pirate Perch

Aphredoderus sayanus

Skipjack Herring

Alosa chrysochloris

Mottled Sculpin

Cottus bairdii

Redfin Shiner

Lythrurus umbratilis

Topeka Shiner

Miniellus topeka

Pugnose Minnow

Opsopoeodus emiliae

Grass Pickerel

Esox americanus

Banded Killifish

Fundulus diaphanus

Freckled Madtom

Noturus nocturnus

Weed Shiner

Miniellus texanus

Burbot

Lota lota

Western Sand Darter

Ammocrypta clara

Trout-perch

Percopsis omiscomaycus

Chestnut Lamprey

Ichthyomyzon castaneus

Reptiles

Blanding's Turtle

Emydoidea blandingii

Ornate Box Turtle

Terrapene ornata

Eastern Musk Turtle

Sternotherus odoratus

Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>
Gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>
Plain-bellied Watersnake	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>
Diamond-backed Watersnake	<i>Nerodia rhombifer</i>
Graham's Crayfish Snake	<i>Regina grahami</i>
Speckled Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis holbrooki</i>
Western Wormsnake	<i>Carphophis vermis</i>

Amphibians

Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>
Eastern Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>

Butterflies

Two-spotted Skipper	<i>Euphyes bimacula</i>
Leonard's Skipper	<i>Hesperia leonardus</i>
Crossline Skipper	<i>Limochores origenes</i>
Regal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis idalia</i>
Baltimore Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>
Olympia Marble	<i>Euchloe olympia</i>

Damselflies and Dragonflies

Taiga Bluet	<i>Coenagrion resolutum</i>
Plains Emerald	<i>Somatochlora ensigera</i>
Sioux Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus smithi</i>
Westfall's Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus westfalli</i>

Land Snails

Midwest Pleistocene Vertigo

Vertigo arthuri

Fresh Water Mussels

Monkeyface

Theliderma metanevra

Pistolgrip

Tritogonia verrucosa

Higgin's-eye Pearly Mussel

Lampsilis higginsii

Yellow Sandshell

Lampsilis teres

Mucket

Ortmanniana ligamentina

Ellipse

Venustaconcha ellipsiformis

571—77.3(481B) Endangered and threatened plants. The natural resource commission, in consultation with scientists with special knowledge and experience, determined the following plant species to be endangered or threatened in Iowa.

77.3(1) Endangered plant species:

Common Name

Scientific Name

Pale false foxglove

Agalinis skinneriana

Roundleaf serviceberry

Amelanchier sanguinea

Raccoon grape

Ampelopsis cordata

Pearly everlasting

Anaphalis margaritacea

Sand bluestem

Andropogon hallii

Round-lobed hepatica

Anemone americana

Carolina anemone

Anemone caroliniana

Bearberry

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Virginia snakeroot

Aristolochia serpentaria

Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
Fringed sagewort	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>
Mead's milkweed	<i>Asclepias meadii</i>
Showy milkweed	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>
Green antelopehorn	<i>Asclepias viridis</i>
Wall-rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>
Field milkvetch	<i>Astragalus agrestis</i>
Prairie milkvetch	<i>Astragalus laxmannii</i>
Fern-leaved false foxglove	<i>Aureolaria pedicularia</i>
Water marigold	<i>Bidens beckii</i>
Matricary grape fern	<i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i>
Little grapefern	<i>Botrychium simplex</i>
Swamp moonwort	<i>Botrychium tenebrosum</i>
White-tinged sedge	<i>Carex albicans</i>
Back's sedge	<i>Carex backii</i>
Cordroot sedge	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>
Fringed sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>
Raven's-foot sedge	<i>Carex crus-corvi</i>
Star sedge	<i>Carex echinata</i>
Shoreline sedge	<i>Carex hyalenolepis</i>
Hoplike sedge	<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>
Intermediate sedge	<i>Carex media</i>
Plantain-leaved sedge	<i>Carex plantaginea</i>

Drooping sedge	<i>Carex prasina</i>
Cyperus-like sedge	<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>
Reflexed sedge	<i>Carex retroflexa</i>
Rocky Mountain sedge	<i>Carex saximontana</i>
Fireweed	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>
Pipsissewa	<i>Chimaphila umbellata</i>
Drooping woodreed	<i>Cinna latifolia</i>
Purple clematis	<i>Clematis occidentalis</i>
Blue-eyed mary	<i>Collinsia verna</i>
Spotted coralroot	<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>
Golden corydalis	<i>Corydalis aurea</i>
Large-bracted corydalis	<i>Corydalis curvisiliqua</i>
Pale corydalis	<i>Corydalis flavula</i>
Pink corydalis	<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>
Silky prairie-clover	<i>Dalea villosa</i>
Tree clubmoss	<i>Dendrolycopodium dendroideum</i>
Sessile-leaved tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium sessilifolium</i>
Roundleaved sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
Marginal shield fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Elliptic spikerush	<i>Eleocharis elliptica</i>
Few-flowered spikerush	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>

Wolf's spikerush	<i>Eleocharis wolfii</i>
Wiegand's wildrye	<i>Elymus wiegandii</i>
Downy willowherb	<i>Epilobium strictum</i>
Slender cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>
Tawny cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia commutata</i>
Forked aster	<i>Eurybia furcata</i>
Large-leaved aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>
Schreber's aster	<i>Eurybia schreberi</i>
Queen of the prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>
False mermaid	<i>Floerkea proserpinacoides</i>
Rough bedstraw	<i>Galium asprellum</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Hairy goldenaster	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
Povertygrass	<i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i>
Rock clubmoss	<i>Huperzia porophila</i>
Canadian St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum canadense</i>
Pineweed	<i>Hypericum gentianoides</i>
Flax-leaved aster	<i>Ionactis linariifolia</i>
White morning-glory	<i>Ipomoea lacunosa</i>
Black-based quillwort	<i>Isoetes melanopoda</i>
Alpine rush	<i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i>
Edged rush	<i>Juncus marginatus</i>

Vasey's rush	<i>Juncus vaseyi</i>
Creeping juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>
Intermediate pinweed	<i>Lechea intermedia</i>
Hairy pinweed	<i>Lechea mucronata</i>
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>
Bog clubmoss	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>
Hairy waterclover	<i>Marsilea vestita</i>
Millet grass	<i>Milium effusum</i>
Sensitive briar	<i>Mimosa nuttallii</i>
Partridge berry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>
Naked miterwort	<i>Mitella nuda</i>
Mat muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia richardsonis</i>
Small sundrops	<i>Oenothera perennis</i>
Fragile prickly-pear	<i>Opuntia fragilis</i>
Frenchgrass	<i>Orbexilum onobrychis</i>
Clustered broomrape	<i>Orobanche fasciculata</i>
One-sided shinleaf	<i>Orthilia secunda</i>
Rough-leaved ricegrass	<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>
Philadelphia panic grass	<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>
Arrow arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>
Cobaea beardtongue	<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>
Slender beardtongue	<i>Penstemon gracilis</i>

Tube beardtongue	<i>Penstemon tubaeiflorus</i>
Wild dill	<i>Perideridia americana</i>
Long beechfern	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>
Fameflower	<i>Phemeranthus parviflorus</i>
Rough-seeded fameflower	<i>Phemeranthus rugospermus</i>
Mountain ricegrass	<i>Piptatherum pungens</i>
Wood orchid	<i>Platanthera clavellata</i>
Hooker's orchid	<i>Platanthera hookeri</i>
Green fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera lacera</i>
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>
Woodland Bluegrass	<i>Poa saltuensis</i>
Clammyweed	<i>Polansia jamesii</i>
Crossleaf milkwort	<i>Polygala cruciata</i>
Pink milkwort	<i>Polygala incarnata</i>
Purple milkwort	<i>Polygala polygama</i>
Hairy Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>
Jointweed	<i>Polygonella articulata</i>
White-stemmed pondweed	<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Pennsylvania cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla pensylvanica</i>
Stem flower dewberry	<i>Rubus caulifloris</i>
Washington dewberry	<i>Rubus celer</i>

Swamp dewberry	<i>Rubus hispidus</i>
Recurved blackberry	<i>Rubus recurvans</i>
New England blackberry	<i>Rubus semisetosus</i>
Bottomland dewberry	<i>Rubus serratus</i>
Uniform bristleberry	<i>Rubus uniformis</i>
Shining willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>
Smith's bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectiella smithii</i>
Downy skullcap	<i>Scutellaria incana</i>
Veined skullcap	<i>Scutellaria nervosa</i>
Wild stonecrop	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>
Meadow spikemoss	<i>Selaginella eclipses</i>
Knotweed bristlegrass	<i>Setaria parviflora</i>
Annual skeletonweed	<i>Shinneroseris rostrata</i>
Three-toothed cinquefoil	<i>Sibbaldiopsis tridentata</i>
Needle-pointed blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium mucronatum</i>
Rough-leaved goldenrod	<i>Solidago patula</i>
Bog goldenrod	<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>
Yellow-lipped ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>
Hooded ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>
Little ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes tuberosa</i>
Spring ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>
Rough-leaved hedge-nettle	<i>Stachys aspera</i>
Pickering morning-glory	<i>Stylisma pickeringii</i>

Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Waxy meadowrue	<i>Thalictrum amphibolum</i>
Western spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>
Small bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>
Sessile-leaf bellwort	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>
Low sweet blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>
Velvetleaf blueberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>
American brookline	<i>Veronica americana</i>
Maple-leaved arrowwood	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Spurred violet	<i>Viola adunca</i>
Large-leaved violet	<i>Viola blanda</i>
Frost grape	<i>Vitis vulpina</i>
Rusty woodsia	<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>
Oregon woodsia	<i>Woodsia oregana</i>

77.3(2) Threatened plant species:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Slender three-seeded mercury	<i>Acalypha gracilens</i>
Northern wild monkshood	<i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>
Round-stemmed false foxglove	<i>Agalinis gattingeri</i>
Inland serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier interior</i>
Fragrant false indigo	<i>Amorpha nana</i>
Woolly milkweed	<i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i>

Oval-leaved milkweed	<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i>
Narrow-leaved milkweed	<i>Asclepias stenophylla</i>
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Water parsnip	<i>Berula erecta</i>
Watershield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>
Poppy mallow	<i>Callirhoe triangulata</i>
Water-starwort	<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i>
Low bindweed	<i>Calystegia spithamea</i>
Assiniboine sedge	<i>Carex assiniboinensis</i>
Carey's sedge	<i>Carex careyana</i>
Fibrous-root sedge	<i>Carex communis</i>
Spreading sedge	<i>Carex laxiculmis</i>
Delicate sedge	<i>Carex leptalea</i>
Yellow sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>
Sterile sedge	<i>Carex sterilis</i>
Quill sedge	<i>Carex tenera</i>
Shaved sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i>
Wood's sedge	<i>Carex woodii</i>
Pink turtlehead	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>
Marsh cinquefoil	<i>Comarum palustre</i>
Dayflower	<i>Commelina erecta</i>
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>

Fireberry hawthorn	<i>Crataegus chrysocarpa</i>
Waxy-fruited hawthorn	<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>
Showy lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>
Silvery spleenwort	<i>Deparia acrostichoides</i>
Northern panic-grass	<i>Dichanthelium boreale</i>
Slim-leaved panic-grass	<i>Dichanthelium linearifolium</i>
Narrow-leaved spleenwort	<i>Diplazium pynocarpon</i>
Glandular wood fern	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>
Oval spikerush	<i>Eleocharis ovata</i>
Woodland horsetail	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>
Yellow trout lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>
Upland boneset	<i>Eupatorium sessilifolium</i>
Slender fimbry	<i>Fimbristylis autumnalis</i>
Blue ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>
Bog bedstraw	<i>Galium labradoricum</i>
Oak fern	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>
Needle-and-thread grass	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>
Green violet	<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>
Twinleaf	<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>
Green rush	<i>Juncus greenii</i>
Dwarf dandelion	<i>Krigia virginica</i>

Prairie bush clover	<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>
Cleft conobea	<i>Leucospora multifida</i>
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>
Whiskbroom parsley	<i>Lomatium foeniculaceum</i>
Western parsley	<i>Lomatium orientale</i>
Running clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>
Bunchflower	<i>Melanthium virginicum</i>
Ten-petaled blazingstar	<i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>
Bog buckbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Northern lungwort	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>
Rock sandwort	<i>Minuartia michauxii</i>
Pinesap	<i>Monotropa hypopithys</i>
Southern adder's-tongue	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Purple cliffbrake	<i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i>
White beardtongue	<i>Penstemon albidus</i>
Broad beech fern	<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>
Northern bog orchid	<i>Platanthera aquilonis</i>
Western prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>
Purple fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera psycodes</i>
Bog bluegrass	<i>Poa paludigena</i>
Nodding rattlesnake-root	<i>Prenanthes crepidinea</i>

Canada plum	<i>Prunus nigra</i>
Sand cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>
Pink shinleaf	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>
Meadow beauty	<i>Rhexia virginica</i>
Northern currant	<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>
Wood's rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>
Garden dewberry	<i>Rubus aboriginum</i>
Short-stalked dewberry	<i>Rubus curtipes</i>
Southern dewberry	<i>Rubus enslenii</i>
Iron River dewberry	<i>Rubus ferrofluvi</i>
Common dewberry	<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>
Fuller's bristly dewberry	<i>Rubus fulleri</i>
Downy dewberry	<i>Rubus satis</i>
Widgeon grass	<i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i>
Bog willow	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>
Leathery grapefern	<i>Sceptridium multifidum</i>
Low nutrush	<i>Scleria verticillata</i>
Buffaloberry	<i>Sheperdia argentea</i>
Scarlet globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>
Rush aster	<i>Symphyotrichum boreale</i>
Large arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>
Small arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin palustris</i>
Black arrowwood	<i>Viburnum molle</i>

Lance-leaved violet	<i>Viola lanceolata</i>
Macloskey's violet	<i>Viola macloskeyi</i>
Kidney-leaved violet	<i>Viola renifolia</i>
Summer grape	<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>
Yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris torta</i>

571—77.4(481B) Exemptions. Notwithstanding the foregoing list and the prohibitions in Iowa Code chapter 481B, a person may import, export, possess, transport, purchase, barter, buy, sell, offer to sell, hold for processing or process a species of animal or plant that is listed as endangered or threatened on the state list or as listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, part 17, as amended to December 30, 1991, according to the following rules:

77.4(1) Trophies lawfully taken by persons licensed to hunt or fish (not including trapping or commercial harvest licenses) in another state, country or territory may be brought into this state and possessed, held for processing and processed but may not be sold or offered for sale.

77.4(2) Furs or skins of wildlife species appearing on the state list of endangered and threatened species that were lawfully taken or purchased in another state, country or territory may be imported, exported, purchased, possessed, bartered, offered for sale, sold, held for processing, or processed in this state if they are tagged or permanently marked by the state, country, or territory of origin.

77.4(3) Species of live animals appearing on the state list of endangered and threatened species may be imported, exported, possessed, purchased, bartered, offered for sale, or sold under the terms of a scientific collecting permit or educational project permit issued pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.6 and administrative rules adopted by the department.

77.4(4) Plants, seeds, roots, and other parts of plants that appear on the state list of endangered and threatened plants that were lawfully taken or purchased in another state,

country or territory may be imported, exported, purchased, possessed, offered for sale or sold in this state.

77.4(5) A part or product of a species of fish or wildlife appearing on the state list of endangered or threatened species that enters the state from another state or from a point outside the territorial limits of the United States may enter, be transported, exported, possessed, sold, offered for sale, held for processing or processed in accordance with the terms of a permit issued by the agency of jurisdiction in the state of origin or, if entering from outside the United States, a federal permit issued by the United States government. If proper documentation is available, a person may buy or offer to buy a part or product of a species of fish or wildlife appearing on the state or federal lists as long as it is imported from a legal source outside this state and proper documentation is provided.

77.4(6) If a person possesses a species of fish or wildlife or a part, product or offspring of such a species, proper documentation such as receipt of purchase and the permit from the state of origin or the U.S. government must be presented upon request of any conservation officer. Failure to produce such documentation is a violation of this chapter and will constitute grounds for forfeiture to the Iowa DNR.

77.4(7) A species of plant, fish or wildlife appearing on the state list of endangered and threatened species may be collected, held, salvaged and possessed under the terms of a scientific collecting permit issued pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.6 and administrative rules adopted by the department.

77.4(8) Drainage district repairs and improvements to existing open ditch facilities are excluded from the department's protection efforts for the Topeka shiner. This includes facilities of levee and drainage districts established and maintained under Iowa Code chapter 468. This exclusion does not apply to new channelization, deepening, or leveeing of existing

streams and rivers with permanent flow or existing streams with off-channel water areas capable of supporting fish.

77.4(9) The department may enter into an agreement with a private landowner for habitat improvements that benefit endangered and threatened species while limiting the potential impacts to the landowner arising when a covered species becomes more numerous due to the voluntary improvements to the habitat. If any covered species becomes more numerous as a result of the landowner's voluntary actions, a private landowner who commits to implement voluntary conservation measures for a listed species will not be required to implement additional measures, and additional land, water, or resource use restrictions will not be imposed.

a. The department will provide participating landowners with technical assistance to develop landowner habitat improvement agreements. Each agreement shall include the following:

- (1) Landowner's name.
- (2) Legal description of the property covered by the agreement.
- (3) Length of agreement period.
- (4) Species covered by the agreement.
- (5) Baseline conditions: the estimated number of listed species and the size and condition of habitat for each species covered.
- (6) Conservation measures to be implemented and implementation schedule.
- (7) Financial commitment of the department and the landowner.
- (8) Measures to determine if the agreement has been fulfilled.
- (9) Any property use restrictions.
- (10) Terms for the termination of the agreement prior to its scheduled expiration.

b. The landowner, through normal lawful activities, may return the property to the baseline or a mutually agreed-upon condition above the baseline at any time after expiration of the landowner habitat improvement agreement.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 481B.

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

Decision Item

20. Chapter 78, “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 78. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Customer and Employee Services Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Proposed Chapter 78 contains rules related to ginseng propagation, harvest, and the sale of the root. These rules are necessary to allow and maintain the lawful take of American Ginseng in the state. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 456A.24(11), the Department is charged with establishing rules to govern its ginseng program in a manner that is compliant with federal law. This is because American Ginseng is a federally regulated species subject to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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 defines, clarifies, and minimizes the redundancies found in the previous version.

Karmin Klingenberg, Administrative Assistant II
Customer and Employee Services Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 78, Ginseng Harvesting and Sale – NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 78, “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed 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 section 456A.24 and 50 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 13 and 23.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 78 contains rules related to ginseng propagation, harvest, and the sale of the root. These rules are necessary to allow and maintain the lawful take of American Ginseng in the state. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 456A.24(11), the Department is charged with establishing rules to govern its ginseng program in a manner that is compliant with federal law. This is because American Ginseng is a federally regulated species subject to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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 defines, clarifies, and minimizes the redundancies found in the previous version.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Karmin Klingenberg
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Phone: 515-326-0430
Email: Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access. If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

February 4, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

The hearings will also be available online. Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Karmin Klingenberg via email prior to the hearing to receive Google Meet and conference call information. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 78 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 78

GINSENG HARVESTING AND SALE

571—78.1(456A) Definitions. All words and phrases used in these rules shall have their ordinary and customary meaning, except that the following words and phrases shall be defined as follows:

“Controlled conditions” means an environment that is manipulated by human intervention for the purpose of plant production. Characteristics of controlled conditions include but are not limited to tillage, fertilization, weed and pest control, irrigation, or artificial shade or light or nursery operations such as potting, bedding, or protection from weather.

“Cultivated or artificially propagated ginseng” means ginseng that is nurtured, propagated or maintained under controlled conditions from a seed, cutting, division, callus tissue, root, rhizome, other plant tissue, spore, or other propagule that has been derived from cultivated parental stock.

“Cultivated parental stock” means plants grown under controlled conditions that are used for reproduction and must be maintained in sufficient quantities for propagation.

“Cutting” or *“division”* means a plant grown from the root, rhizome, stem, or leaf of another plant and is considered to be artificially propagated if the specimen comes from cultivated parental stock.

“Dealer” means any person who deals in ginseng, which includes without limitation buying, selling, purchasing, holding, brokering, billing for, bartering, trading or otherwise receiving payment for wild or cultivated ginseng in Iowa for the purpose of selling or otherwise transacting wild or cultivated ginseng. “Dealer” includes any person, including without limitation a harvester, who sells ginseng to any person other than a dealer licensed pursuant to these rules or lawfully licensed in another state.

“Dealer’s permit” means a permit issued to a dealer by the department under these rules.

“Department” means the Iowa department of natural resources.

“Director” means the director of the Iowa department of natural resources or a designee.

“Ginseng” means all parts of the American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) plant, including without limitation roots, rhizomes, leaves and seeds, which may be cultivated or wild. *“Ginseng,”* for purposes of these rules, does not mean those parts of the American Ginseng plant that have been processed.

“Green ginseng” means a root of ginseng from which the moisture has not been removed by drying. For the purposes of these rules, the amount of dried ginseng rhizome that can be derived from green ginseng rhizome shall be calculated using a ratio of three and three-tenths to one (3.3:1) by weight.

“Grower” means a person who grows cultivated ginseng for the purpose of selling the ginseng.

“Grower’s permit” means a permit issued under these rules to a grower.

“Harvester” means any person who harvests, possesses, transports, cuts, gathers, destroys, digs or uproots wild ginseng for the purpose of selling the ginseng or for personal use.

“Harvester’s permit” means a permit issued under these rules to a harvester.

“Nonresident” means a person other than a resident as defined by Iowa Code section 483A.1A.

“Permits” means dealer’s permits, grower’s permits and harvester’s permits issued under these rules.

“Resident” means a resident as defined by Iowa Code section 483A.1A.

“Root” means the ginseng rhizome and its roots.

“True leaves” or *“prongs”* means compound leaves that include five leaflets consisting of three large leaflets and two small leaflets.

“Wild ginseng” means an unprocessed plant, dry or green root, rhizome, seed or other part of ginseng, which is growing in or has been collected from its native habitat, including wild

ginseng plants that have arisen from a wild seed that is planted in the wild or that have been transplanted into native habitat. Wild ginseng is ginseng that has not been grown or nurtured by a person beyond planting of seeds or plant.

“Wild simulated” ginseng means an unprocessed plant, dry or green root, rhizome, seed or other part of ginseng that is propagated, planted or collected in an environment with some level of human intervention for the purpose of plant production. All “wild ginseng” rules shall apply to this classification.

571—78.2(456A) Season for legal harvest. The season for legally harvesting ginseng is September 1 through October 31.

571—78.3(456A) General prohibitions.

78.3(1) *Harvest.* From November 1 through the following August 31, no person shall harvest, dig, cut, uproot, gather, intentionally disturb, or destroy ginseng, whether the ginseng is wild, wild simulated, or cultivated ginseng. This prohibition shall not apply to the transplantation or intentional disturbance of cultivated ginseng when such activities are incidental to the cultivation and growing of cultivated ginseng in a nursery business.

78.3(2) *Sale.* A person, other than a dealer licensed pursuant to these rules, shall not sell ginseng from March 16 through August 31.

78.3(3) *Sale and possession of green ginseng.* A person shall not possess or transact business in green ginseng from November 21 through August 31 unless otherwise provided for by these rules.

78.3(4) *State-owned and state-managed lands.* In an effort to conserve and protect native stands of wild ginseng, the introduction of nonnative ginseng stock on state-owned or state-managed lands under the jurisdiction of the commission is prohibited, except in narrow circumstances as described in these rules. As such, a person shall not, at any time, possess, harvest, dig, cut, uproot, gather, plant, propagate, intentionally disturb or destroy ginseng or

ginseng seed on state-owned or state-managed lands under the jurisdiction of the commission. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the department from taking measures on state-owned or state-managed lands under the jurisdiction of the commission to conserve and protect native wild ginseng, which may include without limitation planting and possessing seeds, or from carrying out other land management practices in areas where ginseng may be present.

571—78.4(456A) Ginseng permits. The department shall issue a dealer's permit upon receipt of a signed and complete application. An application shall be submitted on the form provided by the department, and payment of the appropriate fee shall be included with the application. Grower's and harvester's permits are available for sale through the department's electronic licensing system. The department shall not issue a permit if the department determines that the permit will be detrimental to the survival of ginseng or will otherwise be in contravention of the laws of this state or applicable federal laws. A person shall not carry, possess or use any other person's permit issued pursuant to these rules, except as specifically provided by these rules.

78.4(1) *Duplicate permits.* A duplicate grower's permit, harvester's permit or dealer's permit may be issued upon application to the department and the payment of a \$4.50 fee plus any charges associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

78.4(2) *Grower's permits.*

a. A person must obtain a permit from the department to legally grow cultivated ginseng and make the permit available upon request by any peace officer. There is no fee for the permit, except for the charge associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

b. A grower's permit shall be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

78.4(3) *Harvester's permits.*

a. Any person who harvests wild ginseng must have a valid harvester's permit issued by the department and shall produce such permit upon request to any peace officer or the owner

or person in lawful control of the land upon which the permittee may be harvesting wild ginseng while the person is engaged in harvesting activities, including the person's moving to or from the harvest site, transporting ginseng and selling of the harvested ginseng.

b. A harvester's permit may be obtained through the department's electronic licensing system for a fee of \$35 for residents and \$65 for nonresidents plus any charges associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

c. A harvester's permit shall be valid from September 1 through March 15 of the following year.

d. A harvester who has a valid harvester's permit may sell wild ginseng from September 1 through March 15 of the following year.

e. A harvester with a valid harvester's permit may retain no more than four ounces of dry wild ginseng for personal consumption for one year beyond the expiration date of the permit. All wild or wild simulated ginseng possessed pursuant to this paragraph shall be for the harvester's personal use only and cannot be lawfully sold.

f. No person may sell, barter or otherwise offer for sale any ginseng that has been unlawfully collected, obtained or possessed in violation of this chapter, the Iowa Code, or the Code of Federal Regulations.

78.4(4) *Dealer's permits.*

a. A dealer in Iowa must have a valid dealer's permit issued by the department and make the permit available upon request by any peace officer. A dealer's paid employees and family members who work at a dealer's primary place of business as identified on the dealer's permit may operate legally under the dealer's permit. For purposes of this subrule, family members include a dealer's spouse, domestic partner, parents, siblings, and children.

b. In order to be considered, an application for a dealer's permit shall be made on the form provided by the department, be complete, and be executed by the person seeking the dealer's permit.

c. Dealer's permits shall be issued that authorize a person to deal in any amount of ginseng in a license year. The permit application shall be accompanied by a \$250 permit fee for Iowa residents and a \$500 permit fee for nonresidents plus any charges associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

d. A dealer's permit shall be valid for a license year, from April 1 until March 31 of the following year.

e. A dealer's permit must be shown to the department when the department is certifying ginseng and must be shown to harvesters or other dealers when the dealer is buying ginseng.

571—78.5(456A) Dealers—prohibitions. A dealer shall not buy, deal, purchase, sell, or otherwise transact business of ginseng, its seeds, or its parts:

1. If the dealer knows or should have known that the ginseng was harvested illegally.
2. Without inspecting the permit of the harvester or dealer.
3. If the dealer knows or should have known that the harvester or dealer has violated this chapter.

571—78.6(456A) Dealers—recordkeeping.

78.6(1) *Contents of records.* Each permitted ginseng dealer shall keep individual, accurate, legible and complete records of each ginseng transaction. The records shall be on forms prescribed by the department and completed in their entirety by the ginseng dealer or a representative of the department. The department will provide a reasonable number of these forms at no cost to the dealer. The dealer's record of each ginseng transaction shall include:

- a. The date of transaction;
- b. The name and address of the buyer or seller, whichever is applicable for the transaction;

c. The harvester's permit number or dealer's permit number if a dealer is buying ginseng in the transaction;

d. A description of the ginseng transacted, including the actual weight of the ginseng transacted and whether the ginseng is dried or green. If the ginseng is green ginseng, the weight shall also be converted to the dried weight of ginseng according to the ratio in 571—78.3(456A);

e. The name of the county or counties where the ginseng was harvested if the ginseng is purchased from a harvester;

f. A copy of the ginseng's certificate of origin, signed by the seller, if applicable;

g. The year of harvest for the ginseng bought or sold; and

h. Any additional information as requested by the department and included on the department's form.

78.6(2) *Monthly reporting.* Each dealer shall submit to the department copies of all records required by 78.7(1) on a monthly basis, no later than the fifteenth day of each month.

78.6(3) *Carryover report.* The dealer must complete an inventory of any roots remaining in the dealer's possession in Iowa as of April 1, including the roots' certified weight and designation as either wild, wild simulated, or cultivated ginseng, or a statement that the dealer has no roots remaining in the dealer's possession. Any certification regarding a root's weight as required by this subrule shall be completed through the department's agent upon appointment. Any roots carried over from one license year to the next shall be documented on the following license year's reports.

571—78.7(456A) Dealer locations.

78.7(1) *Transact business.* Ginseng dealers shall transact business only at the location specified on the dealer's permit or at the place of business specified on the permit of any other dealer who holds a dealer's permit in Iowa and is involved in the transaction.

78.7(2) *Location permits.*

a. A dealer who wishes to transact business at a location other than the locations provided for in 78.8(1) may obtain a location permit from the department. Each location permit shall be valid only for the location specified, on the dates and times listed on the location permit, and shall entitle the dealer to operate at that location in addition to the location specified on the corresponding dealer's permit.

b. The department shall, upon application and payment of the applicable location permit fee, furnish a location permit to the dealer. The location permit fee shall be \$5 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents plus any charge associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

78.7(3) *Duplicate location permits.* A duplicate location permit may be issued upon application to the department and the payment of a \$4.50 fee plus any charge associated with the department's electronic licensing system.

571—78.8(456A) Certificates of origin.

78.8(1) *Shipments.* Every shipment of ginseng to a location outside the state of Iowa by a grower, harvester or dealer shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin, or shipping certificate, that certifies that the ginseng was lawfully harvested.

a. The department will issue a certificate of origin for cultivated ginseng to a grower or dealer on a form provided by the department based upon the permit holder's compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

b. The department will issue a certificate of origin for wild or wild simulated ginseng to a harvester on a form provided by the department based upon the permit holder's compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

c. The certificate of origin for cultivated, wild simulated, and wild ginseng will be issued by the department's agent after the roots have been weighed and certified upon appointment.

78.8(2) *Wild ginseng originating in another state.*

a. No person may ship in or out of this state to or from another state or foreign country any ginseng that originates in another state or foreign country without a valid certificate of origin issued by that other state or foreign country.

b. If a resident dealer receives wild ginseng that originated in another state and if a certificate of origin issued by that state does not accompany the wild ginseng, the dealer shall return the wild ginseng to the sender immediately upon its receipt.

c. A dealer shall maintain a copy of the certificate of origin with the record of the transaction.

d. It shall be lawful for any person to have in possession any ginseng lawfully harvested or purchased outside Iowa and lawfully brought into the state so long as the person possesses a valid certificate of origin for the ginseng.

571—78.9(456A) Records retention. Any records required by this chapter to be maintained or submitted shall be produced for inspection upon request by the department, director, officer appointed by the department, or peace officer. All records under this chapter must be retained for a period of three years after the expiration of the grower's, harvester's, or dealer's permit. Failure to maintain records or to submit reports as required by these rules is a violation of these rules.

571—78.10(456A) Restrictions and prohibitions for harvesting wild ginseng.

78.10(1) No person shall harvest a plant unless the plant possesses three or more true leaves or prongs and a flowering or fruiting stalk with red berries. If, after a person removes a plant from the soil with the requisite leaves or prongs, it is determined the root has less than five stem scars, the person shall return the plant to the soil at the same location and make best efforts to return the plant and the surrounding area to their condition prior to harvest of the

plant. In no event shall a person harvest or possess a wild ginseng root unless the root has at least five stem scars.

78.10(2) When a person harvests ginseng, the entire plant, except the fruit and seeds, shall be retained until the plant is taken to the harvester's residence or place of business, as identified in the harvester's permit.

571—78.11(456A) Additional restrictions and prohibitions for ginseng.

78.11(1) All persons harvesting wild or wild simulated ginseng shall plant all seeds collected from such plants within 100 feet of the parent plant. Seeds collected for planting pursuant to this subrule should be collected from the fruit by gently pressing the fruit of the ginseng.

78.11(2) A person shall use no tool other than the person's finger to plant ginseng seeds and shall not push seeds to a depth greater than one inch into the soil.

78.11(3) A person shall not possess or transport seeds of wild or wild simulated ginseng more than 100 feet from the site of the parent plant.

571—78.12(456A) Compliance with laws. A person shall not violate any state, federal or local laws in harvesting, dealing or shipping ginseng.

571—78.13(456A) Violations of this chapter.

78.13(1) A person violating this chapter shall be subject to a scheduled fine pursuant to Iowa Code section 805.8B(4) and permit suspension, modification and revocation pursuant to 571—78.17(456A).

78.13(2) Each ginseng plant or part thereof, including any ginseng, unlawfully harvested, dealt, or shipped shall be a separate offense. More than one person per plant may be guilty of violating this chapter.

78.13(3) Materials determined by the department's law enforcement personnel to be contraband or to have been taken in violation of this chapter may be seized and disposed of in conformance with Iowa Code chapter 809.

571—78.14(456A) Possession.

78.14(1) When a person is in possession of ginseng, including the shipping or transporting of ginseng, if one or more parts of ginseng are deemed unlawful, the entire contents of possession shall be deemed unlawful.

78.14(2) Any person or dealer who has in possession any ginseng or parts thereof shall upon request by the department, director, any officer appointed by the department, or peace officer show the ginseng to the department, director, or officer; a refusal to do so is a violation of this chapter.

571—78.15(456A) Valuation. The value of seized ginseng that was harvested or possessed in violation of these rules shall be based on the current market value, as determined by the department.

571—78.16(456A) Revocation of permits. Any permit issued pursuant to this chapter may be revoked, in whole or in part, by written notice if the department determines that the permit holder has violated any provision of this chapter and determines that continuation of the permit is not in the public interest. Such revocation shall become effective upon a date specified in the notice. The notice shall state the extent of the revocation and the reasons for the action. Within 30 days following receipt of the notice of a revocation, the permit holder 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 reinstated.

571—78.17(456A) Reciprocity. Nonresident harvesters, growers and dealers from states that regulate American Ginseng by allowing the harvesting, cultivating and dealing in American

Ginseng but that prohibit Iowa harvesters, growers and dealers to lawfully operate in those states are not eligible for permits issued by the department.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 456A.24(11).

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

Decision Item

21. Chapter 79, “Fish Stocking Procedures and Fees for Private Waters” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 79. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter establishes procedures and fees for the stocking of fish into private waters. This chapter is being rescinded. The Department no longer produces nor provides fish for private waters. Discontinuation of Department-produced fish for stocking private waters was initiated by the Iowa legislature.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 79 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 79, “Fish Stocking Procedures and Fees for Private Waters,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 456A.24 and 481A.78.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.24 and 481A.78.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 79 contains procedures and fees for the stocking of fish into private waters. This chapter is antiquated and unnecessary. The Department no longer produces nor provides fish for private waters. Consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023), this chapter is proposed for rescission.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access. If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 79**.

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

Decision Item

22. Chapter 80, “Salvage of Fish and Game”– Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 80, “Salvage of Fish and Game.” This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Law Enforcement Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 80 provides rules for the lawful salvage, distribution, and possession of fish and game that are either accidentally killed by motor vehicles, confiscated by authorities, or found dead. The chapter is being rescinded and replaced to ensure that salvaged resources are used appropriately (primarily for human consumption or animal feed) and not exploited for commercial gain or illegal purposes. In addition, the chapter also clarifies procedures for collecting found-dead deer (“deadheads”) and shed antlers during different times of the year.

Matt Bruner, Captain
Law Enforcement Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 80 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 80, “Salvage of Fish and Game,” and adopt a new Chapter 80 with the same title

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.11, 481A.38, and 481A.39.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.11, 481A.38 and 481A.39.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 80 establishes rules for the lawful salvage, distribution, and possession of fish and game that are either accidentally killed by motor vehicles, confiscated by authorities, or found dead. The proposed chapter ensures that salvaged resources are used appropriately (primarily for human consumption or animal feed) and not exploited for commercial gain or illegal purposes. The chapter also outlines procedures for collecting shed antlers and found-dead deer (“deadheads”) during different times of the year. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10 (2023).

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has minimal fiscal impact to the State of Iowa. Updates to the chapter increase administrative efficiency for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts. Existing salvage tag protocols remain in place during the fall and are shifted to electronic reporting for deadheads during remaining parts of the year.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 11, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Captain Matt Bruner
Iowa DNR - Law Enforcement Bureau
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge, contact DNR at matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov. Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita, comuníquese con el DNR al matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held via conference call as follows. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Captain Bruner via email. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing.

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Captain Bruner prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

- January 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM via Google Meets
- February 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM via Google Meets

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.336.5456 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.336.5456 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

Item 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 80 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 80 SALVAGE OF FISH AND GAME

571—80.1(481A) Salvage. Salvage authorizes the possession of confiscated fish or game or game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle on a public highway for the purpose of human consumption or the feeding of domestic animals. Any other benefits derived from the possession of legally salvaged game (such as legal sale of hides, plumage, or antlers) is a secondary benefit

only. Peace officers are not to salvage game solely for the purpose of financial gain or commercial taxidermy.

80.1(1) The following game when accidentally killed by a motor vehicle shall not be considered salvageable: spotted fawn deer and hen pheasants.

80.1(2) All salvaged game or fish shall be accompanied with a salvage tag signed by the holder and a peace officer or designee of the director of the department of natural resources and shall be valid for the time period assigned on the tag. The salvage tag shall remain with the game or fish until the game or fish is consumed. All salvage tags referred to in this chapter are not transferable.

571—80.2(481A) Game killed by motor vehicle.

80.2(1) Any person wanting to possess game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle on a highway shall immediately contact the nearest conservation officer, Iowa state trooper, sheriff's department, or police department to request and receive a salvage tag prior to taking possession of said game. The whole carcass of the game animal must be removed from the scene.

80.2(2) When a request is made for game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle, the game shall, when salvageable, be disposed of in accordance with the following priorities:

- a. Individuals involved in the accident;
- b. Public institutions;
- c. Nonprofit organizations;
- d. Others.

571—80.3(481A) Confiscated fish or game.

80.3(1) The following conditions shall apply to a person being allowed to take possession of fish or game confiscated by the department of natural resources or a court.

80.3(2) Confiscated fish or game, when salvageable, shall be disposed of in accordance with the following priorities:

- a. Public institutions.
- b. Nonprofit organizations.
- c. Others.

571—80.4(481A) Deadheads and shed-antlers.

80.4(1) Naturally shed deer antlers may be collected and possessed at any time of year.

80.4(2) Found-dead deer heads with attached antlers, also known as deadheads, may be collected and possessed by individuals who possess a valid hunting license and have paid the habitat fee pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.1 unless exempt under Iowa Code section 483A.24(1) or 483A.24(8). Collection is permitted during the following time periods under the following conditions:

- a. February 1 through July 31: an individual must electronically complete and submit a deadhead report and possession authorization through the department's website prior to collecting and possessing each deadhead.
- b. August 1 through January 31: an individual must contact the local conservation officer and request a physical deadhead tag prior to taking possession. Verbal or electronic authorization from a conservation officer is sufficient for temporary possession until a physical tag can be issued and affixed by a conservation officer.

80.4(3) This rule does not apply to deer that have been shot or killed by unlawful methods or means.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.11, 481A.38, and 481A.39.

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

Decision Item

23. Chapter 81, "Fishing Regulations"– Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 81. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter establishes seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits for Iowa sport fishes. The regulation of fisheries ensures sustainable populations and recreational opportunities for Iowans into the future. This chapter is being rescinded and replaced consistent with the principles of EO10.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 81 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 81, “Fishing Regulations,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, and 481A.76.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, and 481A.76.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 81 establishes seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits for Iowa sport fishing. The regulation of fisheries ensures sustainable populations and recreational opportunities for Iowans into the future.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 81 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 81

FISHING REGULATIONS

571—81.1(481A) Seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits.

INLAND WATERS				
Lake Sturgeon	Closed	0	0	0

Shovelnose Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	None
Paddlefish*	Continuous	2	4	None
Yellow Perch	Continuous	25	50	None
Trout	Continuous	5	10	None*
Catfish*	Continuous	8 Lakes 15 Streams	30	None
Black Bass (Largemouth Bass) (Smallmouth Bass) (Spotted Bass)	Continuous	3	6	See below*
Combined Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye	Continuous*	5*	10*	None*
Northern Pike	Continuous*	3	6	None
Muskellunge or Hybrid Muskellunge	Continuous*	1	1	40"

Crappie	Continuous	25*	None	None
Bluegill	Continuous	25*	None	None
All other fish species*	Continuous	None	None	None
Frogs (except Bullfrogs)	Continuous	48	96	None
Bullfrogs (<i>Lithobates</i> <i>catesbeiana</i>)	Continuous	12	12	None

*Exceptions noted in 571—81.2(481A).

571—81.2(481A) Exceptions to seasons and limits, set in 571—81.1(481A).

81.2(1) Exception closed season. In lakes West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit, there shall be a closed season on walleye beginning February 15 each year through the first Saturday in May. Open season for muskellunge and tiger muskie shall be from May 21 through November 30.

81.2(2) Black bass. The department may post season, bag or possession limits, length limits, and catch and release regulations specific to a body of water at that body of water. For bodies of water without posted regulations, the following regulations apply to black bass:

- a. A 15-inch minimum length limit shall apply in all public lakes.
- b. A 12-inch minimum length limit shall apply in all interior streams, river impoundments, and the Missouri River including chutes and backwaters.
- c. A 14-inch minimum length limit shall apply to the Mississippi River including chutes and backwaters.

81.2(3) Walleye.

- a. *West Okoboji, East Okoboji, Spirit, Upper Gar, Minnewashta, and Lower Gar lakes in Dickinson County; Storm Lake in Buena Vista County; Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County;*

and Big Creek Lake in Polk County. The daily bag limit shall be three, with a possession limit of six.

b. Length limits. Length limits shall apply to walleye in public waters that have length limits posted or published.

81.2(4) Paddlefish snagging is permitted in waters of the state designated in 571—81.1(481A) except as follows:

a. There shall be no open season above the Interstate 29 bridge in the Big Sioux River, nor in any tributary of this stream within 200 yards immediately upstream of a tributary confluence.

b. Snagging for paddlefish on the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers is limited to Iowa waters only, beginning in the Big Sioux River below the Interstate 29 bridge to the Big Sioux River's confluence with the Missouri River and in the Missouri River, including all backwaters and sloughs and any tributary of the Missouri River, beginning at the Big Sioux River confluence and extending to the Hamburg Landing boat ramp.

(1) There shall be an open season from February 1 through April 30.

(2) Snagging hours are from sunrise to sunset.

(3) Bag limit is one paddlefish per paddlefish fishing license.

(4) Paddlefish fishing license quota is 950 for resident anglers and 50 for nonresident anglers. Anglers may purchase one paddlefish license from December 15 through December 31 and either a first or second license between January 1 and January 7.

(5) Each angler fishing for paddlefish and any species listed in 81.2(11) on the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers shall have a valid paddlefish license and unused tag.

(6) Immediately upon an angler's taking into possession a legal paddlefish, a valid transportation tag issued with the license shall be visibly attached to the fish's lower jaw. The transportation tag shall remain affixed to the paddlefish until the paddlefish is processed for

consumption. The transportation tag shall be proof of possession of the carcass by the above-mentioned licensee. During the closed season, the possession of paddlefish on the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers is prohibited unless the paddlefish are legally taken in Nebraska or South Dakota.

(7) A gaffe hook or other penetrating device cannot be used as an aid in the landing of a snagged fish.

c. Snagging for paddlefish on the Mississippi River is restricted to the area within 500 yards below the navigation dams and their spillways. The open season on the Mississippi River is the period from March 1 through April 15.

d. On the Mississippi River, a 33-inch maximum length limit shall apply; any paddlefish measuring 33 inches or more when measured from the front of the eye to the natural unaltered fork of the tail must immediately be released alive. On the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers and on each Missouri River tributary from its confluence and extending to below its Interstate 29 bridge, a 35-inch to 45-inch protected-slot limit shall apply; a paddlefish measuring 35 inches to 45 inches when measured from the front of the eye to the natural unaltered fork of the tail shall immediately be released alive. To measure a paddlefish, the angler shall use a flexible tape and measure along and over the center line contour of the fish while it is lying flat.

81.2(5) Trout regulations. The department may post season, bag or possession limits, length limits, catch and release regulations, and tackle restrictions specific to a body of water at that body of water. On bodies of water posted as artificial lure only, “artificial lure” means a lure that does not contain or have applied to it any natural or synthetic substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell. For bodies of water without posted regulations, the following regulations apply to trout:

a. Open season is continuous.

b. A five-fish daily bag limit and ten-fish possession limit shall apply to any combination of brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, and their hybrids.

c. A trout fee is required to fish for and possess trout.

81.2(6) Exception border lakes. In Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Iowa and Tuttle (Okamanpedan) lakes, Emmet County; Burt (Swag) Lake, Kossuth County; and Iowa Lake, Osceola County, the following species have a continuous open season and daily bag and possession limits as set forth below:

a. Walleye—daily bag and possession limit 3;

b. Northern pike—daily bag and possession limit 3;

c. Largemouth and smallmouth bass—daily bag and possession limit 3;

d. Channel catfish—daily bag and possession limit 8;

e. Yellow perch—daily bag and possession limit 25;

f. Crappie species—combined daily bag and possession limit 25;

g. Sunfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, orangespotted sunfish, longear sunfish, warmouth, and hybrids)—combined daily bag and possession limit 25;

h. Muskellunge—daily bag and possession limit one. Open season shall be May 21 through November 30. A 40-inch minimum length limit shall apply on all border lakes;

i. Spears and bow and arrow may be used to take carp, buffalo, bowfin, gar, freshwater drum, and quillback with a continuous open season;

j. All species not listed above are subject to the inland regulations of the state and have a continuous open season.

81.2(7) DeSoto Bend Lake. All fishers shall conform with federal refuge regulations as posted under the authority of 50 CFR Section 32.34(a) effective as of [effective date of this rulemaking]. The text of the rules will be contained on the signs as posted.

81.2(8) General restriction. Anglers must comply with the most restrictive set of regulations applicable to the water on which they are fishing. Where length limits apply, fish less than the legal length must be immediately released into the water from which they were caught.

81.2(9) Catfish. For the purpose of this rule, stream catfish bag and possession limits apply at the federal flood control impoundments of Rathbun Lake, Red Rock Lake, Saylorville Lake, and Coralville Lake.

81.2(10) Identification of catch. No person shall transport or possess on any waters of the state any fish unless (a) the species of any such fish can be readily identified and a portion of the skin (at least 1 square inch) including scales is left on all fish or fillets and (b) the length of fish can be determined when length limits apply. "On any waters of the state" includes from the bank or shoreline in addition to wading and by boat.

81.2(11) Method of take. Artificial light may be used in the taking of any fish. The following species of fish may be taken by snagging, spearing, and bow and arrow: common carp, bighead carp, grass carp, silver carp, black carp, bigmouth buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, black buffalo, quillback, highfin carpsucker, river carpsucker, spotted sucker, white sucker, shorthead redhorse, golden redhorse, silver redhorse, freshwater drum, shortnose gar, longnose gar, dogfish, gizzard shad, and goldfish. All other species of fish not hooked in the mouth, except paddlefish legally taken by snagging, must be returned to the water immediately with as little injury as possible. Snagging is defined as the practice of jerking any type of hook or lure, baited or unbaited, through the water with the intention of hooking fish in an area other than the mouth. No hook larger than a 5/0 treble hook or measuring more than 1¼ inches in length when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler are permitted when snagging. Exceptions to snagging as a method of take are as follows:

- a. No snagging is permitted in the following areas:

(1) Des Moines River from directly below Saylorville Dam to the Southeast 14th Street bridge in Des Moines.

(2) Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the 5 in 1 Dam under Interstate 380 to the 1st Avenue bridge.

(3) Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the “C” Street Roller Dam to 300 yards downstream.

(4) Iowa River from directly below the Coralville Dam to 300 yards downstream.

(5) Chariton River from directly below Lake Rathbun Dam to 300 yards downstream.

(6) Spillway area from directly below the Spirit Lake outlet to the confluence at East Okoboji Lake.

(7) Northeast bank of the Des Moines River from directly below the Ottumwa Dam, including the catwalk, to the Jefferson Street Bridge. Snagging from the South Market Street Bridge is also prohibited.

(8) Missouri River, any Missouri River tributary beginning at its confluence and extending below its Interstate 29 bridge and the Big Sioux River from the Interstate 29 bridge to the confluence with the Missouri River, with the exception of snagging paddlefish or any of the species listed in 81.2(11) during the paddlefish open season.

(9) Des Moines River from directly below the Hydroelectric Dam (Big Dam) to the Hawkeye Avenue Bridge in Fort Dodge.

(10) Des Moines River from directly below the Little Dam to the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge in Fort Dodge.

(11) Skunk River from directly below Oakland Mills Dam to the downstream end of the 253rd Street boat ramp.

b. No snagging, bow and arrow fishing, or spearing of fish is permitted in the following areas:

- (1) Clear Lake and Ventura Marsh from the Ventura Grade, Jetties and Bridge.
- (2) Lost Island Lake Inlet within 300 feet of the concrete culvert and metal fish barrier.
- (3) Lost Island Lake Outlet within 300 feet of the outlet structure and metal fish barrier.
- (4) Barringer Slough Outlet within 300 feet of the outlet and metal fish barrier.
- (5) The outlet area of Lower Gar Lake beginning at 230th Avenue and extending downstream to the signed Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District property line.

81.2(12) Panfish. The daily bag limit for crappie and bluegill applies only to public waters of the state. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied individually to crappie, yellow perch and rock bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied in the aggregate for bluegill and pumpkinseed and for white bass and yellow bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively.

81.2(13) Culling. It is prohibited to sort, cull, high-grade, or replace any fish already in possession. Participants in permitted black bass fishing tournaments are exempted, as are participants in catch and release catfish fishing tournaments if the participants are fishing from a boat with a functioning aerated or water-circulated live well. Any fish taken into possession by holding in a live well, on a stringer, or in other fish-holding devices is part of the daily bag limit. Once the daily bag limit of a particular species is reached, fishing for that species is permitted as long as all fish of that species caught are immediately released.

571—81.3(481A) Trotlines and throw lines.

81.3(1) *Where permitted.* It shall be lawful to use trotlines or throw lines in all rivers and streams of the state, except in Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson counties. Trotlines or throw lines may be used in the above nine counties in the following stream segments: Mississippi River; Maquoketa River, mouth to Backbone State Park Dam; North Fork Maquoketa River, mouth to Jones-Dubuque County

line; Turkey River, mouth to the Elkader Dam; and Upper Iowa River, mouth to the first dam upstream in Winneshiek County.

81.3(2) *Removal of lines.* All trotlines and parts thereof shall be removed from the shore when not being actively fished. A trotline shall be considered actively fished if at least once daily the trotline is left with at least one baited hook in the water.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67 and 481A.76.

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

Decision Item

24. Chapter 82, “Commercial Fishing” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 82. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter provides for the commercial harvest of fishes on public waters. DNR is directed to implement permits for such harvest by Iowa Code. The rules provide a transparent process for those who wish to bid on the limited commercial harvest opportunities on inland waters. The rules also contain regulations for commercial harvest from the border rivers, including designating those species that may be commercially harvested, size/length limits, open and closed seasons and locations, and gear and licensing requirements.

This chapter is being rescinded and replaced.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 82 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 82, “Commercial Fishing,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 482.1.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, 482.3, 482.5, and 482.14.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 82 allows for and regulates the commercial harvest of fishes from public waters. The Department of Natural Resources (Department) is directed to implement permits and regulate such harvest by the Iowa Code. The rules provide a transparent process for those who wish to bid on the limited commercial harvest opportunities on inland waters. The rules also contain regulations for commercial harvest from the border rivers, including designating those species that may be commercially harvested, size/length limits, open and closed seasons and locations, and gear and licensing requirements. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

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Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state

their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 82 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 82

COMMERCIAL FISHING

INLAND WATERS

571—82.1(482) Contract policy. All contracts for removal of fish from inland waters shall be awarded on a competitive basis to the maximum practical extent subject to the following provisions. Commercial fishers licensed with the state may enter into contract with owners of

private water bodies for the removal of injurious fish provided approval is received from the director or staff of the department prior to any sampling or removal operations. Owners of private water bodies need not comply with 82.1(1) through 82.1(5).

82.1(1) *Invitation for bids.* Sealed bids must be solicited for all fish removal operations under contract. Prospective bidders shall be informed by an advertisement via the state's public solicitation portal in sufficient time to enable prospective bidders to prepare and submit bids. Specifications of the contract shall be provided to all prospective bidders as provided in the invitation for bids.

82.1(2) *Contract award.* The contract shall be awarded to the firm or individual whose bid is believed to be the most advantageous to the state. Bids may be rejected if they do not appear to be reasonable or if there is reason to believe that the firm or individual is not sufficiently qualified to accomplish the desired work.

82.1(3) *Contract approval.* All contracts for fish removal operations shall be approved by the director.

82.1(4) *Failure to receive a bid.* In the event that no sealed bids are received, the fisheries bureau chief or staff at the direction of the fisheries bureau chief may negotiate a contract with a qualified contractor.

82.1(5) *Contract period.* Contracts shall have a maximum duration of 12 months. A contract may be extended, with the mutual consent of both parties, on an annual basis for a period up to and including three years from the time of the original contract. All terms and conditions existing in the original contract will apply during the extended contract period.

MISSISSIPPI AND MISSOURI RIVERS

571—82.2(482) Commercial taking. Fish may be taken for commercial purposes from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers subject to the following regulations.

82.2(1) *Permissive catch.* Except for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and shovelnose sturgeon, which cannot be taken from the Missouri River, it shall be lawful to take with licensed commercial fishing gear the following species: carp, smallmouth buffalo, largemouth buffalo, black buffalo, channel catfish, flathead catfish, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, brown bullhead, freshwater drum, northern redhorse, silver redhorse, spotted sucker, white sucker, river carpsucker, quillback, highfin carpsucker, grass carp, bighead carp, silver carp, shovelnose sturgeon, longnose gar, shortnose gar, bowfin, gizzard shad, goldeye, and mooneye.

82.2(2) *Size limits.* Fish shorter than a minimum length or longer than the maximum length shall be returned to the water unharmed. The minimum total length for all catfish is 15 inches. The minimum fork length for shovelnose sturgeon, measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail, is 27 inches. No shovelnose sturgeon longer than 34 inches fork length may be harvested from waters of the Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin. No shovelnose sturgeon less than 27 inches fork length may be possessed in Iowa waters.

82.2(3) *Permitted gear.* Hoop nets, trap nets (fyke nets), gill nets, trammel nets, slat nets (basket traps), seines, and trotlines (setlines) may be used by licensed commercial fishers.

82.2(4) *Mesh size restrictions.*

a. Hoop nets. An escape hole with a minimum diameter of 1½ inches all directions shall be provided within 12 inches beyond the last hoop to the tail-line.

b. Trap nets. An escape hole with a minimum diameter of 1½ inches all directions shall be provided within 12 inches beyond the last hoop to the tail-line.

c. Gill nets. The webbing shall have a mesh size not less than 3½ inches square measure.

d. Trammel nets. The webbing shall have a mesh size not less than 2 inches square measure.

e. Seines. There are no mesh size restrictions.

f. Slat nets. An escape hole with a minimum diameter of 1½ inches all directions shall be provided in the end opposite the throat.

82.2(5) *Gear attendance.* All commercial gear shall be lifted and emptied of catch at the following time intervals, except during periods of inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as that threatening to life, health, or safety.

a. Hoop nets shall be attended at least once every 96 hours and slat nets at least once every 48 hours during open water conditions. Hoop nets shall be attended at least once every 20 days during ice cover conditions.

b. Trap nets and trotlines shall be attended at least once every 24 hours.

c. Gill nets and trammel nets shall be attended at least once every 24 hours during open water conditions and at least once every 96 hours during ice cover conditions.

82.2(6) *Report of catch.* Licensed commercial fishers must comply with the reporting requirements as set forth in Iowa Code section 482.14.

82.2(7) *Duplicate operator's license.* An owner making a request for a duplicate operator's license will be issued one only after records show the owner has purchased a limit of five operator's licenses. The duplicate helper's license will be issued to one individual and is not transferable. The issuing fee is \$1.

82.2(8) *Seasons.* There is a continuous open season for commercial fishing of all species listed in 82.2(1), except there is a closed season for shovelnose sturgeon from May 16 through October 14. No shovelnose sturgeon may be harvested from gear set prior to midnight on October 15.

82.2(9) *Special shovelnose and bowfin regulations.* Shovelnose sturgeon and bowfin must remain intact until the fish reach the final processing facility or business. For the purposes of this subrule, a final processing facility does not include vessels or vehicles.

82.2(10) *Closed areas.* The use of entanglement gear, including gill and trammel nets, is prohibited from that area extending 600 feet downstream of the 900 foot existing closed areas (Iowa Code section 482.9(2)) located below each of the locks and dams on the Mississippi River. Shovelnose sturgeon caught in entanglement gear within 600 feet of the mouth of any stream or tributary shall be returned to the water unharmed.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, 482.3, 482.5, and 482.14.

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

Decision Item

25. Chapter 83, “Scuba and Skin Spearing of Rough Fish” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 83. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter provides for the scuba and skin spearing of rough fish on certain Iowa public waters. The chapter contains provisions designating off-limits areas, allowable and not-allowable gear, and requiring the use of a diver’s flag. These requirements are to ensure public and diver safety. The Iowa Code requires that these activities be authorized via rulemaking, so this chapter is necessary for these recreational activities to be lawful in Iowa. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 83 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 83, “Scuba and Skin Spearing of Rough Fish,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.67.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, 482.3, 482.5, and 482.14.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 83 authorizes the taking of rough fish by scuba and skin divers. The chapter contains provisions designating off-limits areas, allowable and not-allowable gear, and requiring the use of a diver’s flag. These requirements are to ensure public and diver safety. The Iowa Code requires that these activities be authorized via rulemaking, so this chapter is necessary for these recreational activities to be lawful in Iowa. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

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Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 83 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 83

SCUBA AND SKIN SPEARING OF ROUGH FISH

571—83.1(481A) When permitted. The spearing of rough fish by scuba and skin divers will be permitted in accordance with the following seasons and rules.

571—83.2(481A) Prohibited areas. Scuba and skin spearing for rough fish shall be lawful in all natural lakes and state-owned meandered streams in Iowa year-round.

83.2(1) Scuba and skin spearing shall be permitted in streams or impoundments on private land where access is permitted by owner or lessee.

83.2(2) Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited in all state-owned artificial lakes.

83.2(3) Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited in all state-owned strip mines, county conservation board areas and fish and game management areas where posted as such.

83.2(4) Scuba and skin spearing is prohibited within 100 feet of any swimming beach area.

83.2(5) A valid fishing license shall be required of all individuals engaged in scuba and skin spearing unless the individual is exempt under the provisions of Iowa Code section 483A.17.

571—83.3(481A) Permitted equipment. Permitted equipment to be used in scuba and skin spearing shall be:

1. Hand and pole spears.
2. Spear guns powered by rubber bands, springs, or pneumatically powered springs.
3. If used on powered spear guns, be attached to the gun by a cord lanyard or other device.

The overall length of spear gun and cord shall not exceed 20 feet.

571—83.4(481A) Prohibited equipment.

1. No power or exploding spear heads will be permitted.
2. No guns powered by gunpowder explosive or explosives or compressed gas will be permitted.

571—83.5(481A) Diver's flag. The "International Diver's Flag" shall be displayed by each diver or group of divers on a buoy, float or boat during any underwater spear fishing activity. The diver or group of divers must stay within a 100-foot circle of the flag.

571—83.6(481A) Employees exempt. Underwater scuba and skin spearing regulations shall not apply to authorized agents of the department of natural resources when engaged in research or management studies or enforcement.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.67

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

Decision Item

26. Chapter 84, “Promiscuous Fishing” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 84. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter provides for promiscuous fishing when there is imminent danger of fish loss through natural causes. This chapter allows the Commission to issue an order allowing the public to salvage these fish before they die and go to waste by authorizing more permissive methods of take than are generally allowed.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 84 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 84, “Promiscuous Fishing,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.76.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38 and 481A.76.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 84 regulates the taking of imperiled fish populations by licensed anglers. “Imperiled” refers to situations where there is an imminent danger of fish loss (die off) through natural causes. This chapter allows the Commission to issue an order allowing the public to salvage these fish before they die and go to waste by authorizing more permissive methods of take than are generally allowed. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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6200 Park Ave Ste 200
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Public Hearing

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January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 84 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 84

PROMISCUOUS FISHING

571—84.1(481A) General. The natural resource commission may, after an investigation, when it is found there is imminent danger of loss of fish through natural causes, authorize by public order the taking of fish from any area and by such means as the commission may deem advisable to salvage such imperiled fish populations.

84.1(1) Method of take. Fish may be taken by any means except by use of dynamite, poison, electric shocking devices or any stupefying substances.

84.1(2) *Commercial purposes.* This rule shall not authorize the taking of fish for commercial purposes.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 481A.

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

Decision Item

27. Chapter 86, "Turtles" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 86. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter provides regulations for the taking and possession of turtles from the public waters of the state. These regulations ensure a sustainable harvest, which protects turtle populations from overharvest. This is accomplished by providing daily catch and possession limits, providing gear and method of take provisions, and designating open season dates. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 86 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 86, “Turtles,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, 482.1, 482.5, and 482.11.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, 482.1, 482.4, 482.5, and 482.11.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 86 regulates the taking and possession of turtles from the waters of the State. These regulations ensure a sustainable harvest, which protects turtle populations from overharvest. This is accomplished by providing daily catch and possession limits, providing gear and method of take provisions, and designating open season dates. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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Public Hearing

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February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 86 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 86

TURTLES

571—86.1(481A,482) Harvesting. Turtles may be harvested from waters of the state subject to the following regulations.

86.1(1) *Species and season.* It shall be lawful to commercially and noncommercially (recreationally) harvest spiny softshell *Apalone spinifera*, smooth softshell *Apalone mutica*, and painted *Chrysemys picta* turtles from July 16 through May 14. Common snapping turtles *Chelydra serpentina* may be harvested commercially from July 16 through May 14 and

recreationally year-round. Harvesting turtle eggs from wild nests is prohibited. Turtles shall not be harvested from gear set prior to midnight on July 15.

86.1(2) *Methods.* Harvest of turtles shall only be by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap, licensed commercial fishing gear in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers only, and hook-and-line. Turtle traps shall be constructed with no more than one throat or funneling device. The last hoop to the tail-line of turtle traps shall have an unobstructed, functional escape hole with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7½ inches to allow passage of fish and small turtles. Barrel- and floating-type turtle traps must also meet the unobstructed, functional escape hole criterion.

86.1(3) *Daily catch and possession limits.*

a. The following daily catch limits apply to commercial and recreational harvesters, while the possession limits apply only to commercial harvesters:

Turtle Species	Daily Catch Limit
	(commercial and recreational)
Common snapping turtle	4
Spiny softshell and smooth softshell turtle, in aggregate	1
Painted turtle	1

b. The possession limit for recreational harvesters is a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.28. A recreational harvester's daily catch limit shall not exceed this possession limit.

86.1(4) *Culling.* It is unlawful to sort, cull, high-grade, or otherwise replace any turtle in possession.

86.1(5) *Tags.* All harvesters shall affix a weather-resistant gear tag above the waterline to each piece of gear. The gear tag must plainly show the name, address, and license number of the licensee.

86.1(6) *Gear attendance.* All turtle traps shall be set with the top of the trap visible above the waterline at all times and shall be checked and completely emptied of catch at least once every 72 hours. When a trap is checked, turtles shall either be taken into possession up to the daily catch limit or immediately released.

86.1(7) *Exclusions.* Iowa Code chapter 482 does not apply to turtles taken and imported from outside the state. The boundary waters are considered to be within the state.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, 482.1, 482.4, 482.5, and 482.11.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

28. Chapter 87, “Mussel Regulations” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 87. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This chapter provides regulations for the taking and possession of mussels from the public waters of the state. Methods of take, open and closed locations and hours, possession limits, and licensing requirements are provided to ensure use of the resource in a sustainable manner.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 87 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 87, “Mussel Regulations,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, and 482.3.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, 482.3, and 483A.28.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 87 regulates the taking and possession of mussels. Methods of take, open and closed locations and hours, possession limits, and licensing requirements are provided to ensure use of the resource in a sustainable manner. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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Public Hearing

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Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 87 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 87

MUSSEL REGULATIONS

571—87.1(481A) Seasons, areas, methods, species, limits. The taking and possession of mussels from the public waters of the state shall be limited to the following regulations.

87.1(1) Seasons. There shall be an open season for taking mussels throughout the year. The taking of mussels is restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset.

87.1(2) *Species.* Species other than those listed as threatened or endangered may be lawfully taken and possessed. Zebra mussels shall not be taken and possessed.

87.1(3) *Areas.* Live mussels may be harvested only from the Mississippi River and connected backwaters. Dead mussels may be harvested from all waters of the state.

87.1(4) *Limits.* The possession limit is 24 whole mussels or 48 shell halves. The sale of mussels or shells is not permitted. Licensed commercial fishers, licensed sport anglers, and children younger than 16 years of age may take and possess mussels.

87.1(5) *Methods.* Mussels may be taken by hand, pole and line, diving, and crowfoot bar not to exceed 20 feet in length.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 482.1, 482.3 and 482.12.

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

Decision Item

29. Chapter 89, "Aquaculture" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 89. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter pertains to approved aquaculture species. The rules include a list of species that are approved for use in aquaculture and a list of diseases that require monitoring and reporting. Additional provisions allow for the permitting of species not on the approved list, while prohibiting the possession and importation of certain species. These rules are intended to reduce the risk of invasive species introductions or the spread of disease from captive to wild populations.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 89 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 89, “Aquaculture,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.142 and 481A.143.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.142 and 481A.143.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 89 regulates the sale and propagation of fish, reptiles, and amphibians within the aquaculture industry. The rules include a list of species that are approved for use in aquaculture and a list of diseases that require monitoring and reporting. Additional provisions allow for the permitting of species not on the approved list, while prohibiting the possession and importation of certain species. These rules are intended to reduce the risk of invasive species introductions or the spread of disease from captive to wild populations. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Via videoconference

February 4, 2026
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Via videoconference

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

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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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 89 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 89

AQUACULTURE

571—89.1(481A) Approved aquaculture species. The following approved aquaculture species may be propagated and sold:

FISH

American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
Banded Darter	<i>Etheostoma zonale</i>
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>

Bigmouth Buffalo	<i>Ictiobus cyprinellus</i>
Bigmouth Shiner	<i>Ericymba dorsalis</i>
Black Buffalo	<i>Ictiobus niger</i>
Black Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i>
Black Crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
Blackchin Shiner	<i>Miniellus heterodon</i>
Blacknose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>
Blackside Darter	<i>Percina maculata</i>
Blackstripe Topminnow	<i>Fundulus notatus</i>
Blue Catfish	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>
Blue Sucker	<i>Cycleptus elongatus</i>
Bluegill and Hybrids	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>
Bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i>
Brassy Minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>
Brook Silverside	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>
Brook Stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>
Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Bullhead Minnow	<i>Pimephales vigilax</i>
Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>

Central Stoneroller	<i>Campostoma anomalum</i>
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Common Shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>
Creek Chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>
Crystal Darter	<i>Crystallaria asprella</i>
Emerald Shiner	<i>Notropis atherinoides</i>
Fantail Darter	<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i>
Fathead Minnow and Hybrids	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
Flathead Catfish	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>
Flathead Chub	<i>Platygobio gracilis</i>
Freshwater Drum	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i>
Ghost Shiner	<i>Paranotropis buchanani</i>
Gilt Darter	<i>Percina evides</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Golden Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Goldeye	<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
Grass Carp	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
Gravel Chub	<i>Erimystax x-punctatus</i>
Greater Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>

Highfin Carpsucker	<i>Carpiodes velifer</i>
Hornyhead Chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>
Iowa Darter	<i>Etheostoma exile</i>
Ironcolor Shiner	<i>Alburnops chalybaeus</i>
Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>
Lake Chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Largescale Stoneroller	<i>Campostoma oligolepis</i>
Longear Sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Longnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>
Mimic Shiner	<i>Paranotropis volucellus</i>
Mississippi Silvery Minnow	<i>Hybognathus nuchalis</i>
Mooneye	<i>Hiodon tergisus</i>
Western Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>
Mottled Sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdii</i>
Mud Darter	<i>Etheostoma asprigene</i>
Muskellunge and Hybrids	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>
Northern Hog Sucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>
Logperch	<i>Percina caprodes</i>
Northern Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>

Orangespotted Sunfish

Lepomis humilis

Ozark Minnow

Miniellus nubilus

Pallid Shiner

Hybopsis amnis

Pirate Perch

Aphredoderus sayanus

Plains Minnow

Hybognathus placitus

Plains Topminnow

Fundulus sciadicus

Pugnose Minnow

Opsopoeodus emiliae

Pumpkinseed

Lepomis gibbosus

Quillback

Carpionodes cyprinus

Rainbow Darter

Etheostoma caeruleum

Rainbow Smelt

Osmerus mordax

Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Red Shiner

Cyprinella lutrensis

Redear Sunfish and Hybrids

Lepomis microlophus

Redfin Shiner

Lythrurus umbratilis

Redside Dace

Clinostomus elongatus

River Carpsucker

Carpionodes carpio

River Darter

Percina shumardi

River Redhorse

Moxostoma carinatum

River Shiner

Alburnops blennius

Rosyface Shiner

Notropis rubellus

Sand Shiner

Miniellus stramineus

Sauger and Hybrids	<i>Sander canadensis</i>
Shorthead Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i>
Shortnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus platostomus</i>
Shovelnose Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i>
Sicklefin Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>
Silver Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis storeriana</i>
Silver Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon unicuspis</i>
Silver Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i>
Silverband Shiner	<i>Paranotropis shumardi</i>
Skipjack Herring	<i>Alosa chrysochloris</i>
Slender Madtom	<i>Noturus exilis</i>
Slenderhead Darter	<i>Percina phoxocephala</i>
Slimy Sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Smallmouth Buffalo	<i>Ictiobus bubalus</i>
Southern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus erythrogaster</i>
Speckled Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis aestivalis</i>
Spotfin Shiner	<i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i>
Spottail Shiner	<i>Hudsonius hudsonius</i>
Spotted Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>
Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Starhead Topminnow	<i>Fundulus dispar</i>
Stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>

Striped Bass and Hybrids

Morone saxatilis

Sturgeon Chub

Macrhybopsis gelida

Suckermouth Minnow

Phenacobius mirabilis

Tadpole Madtom

Noturus gyrinus

Topeka Shiner

Miniellus topeka

Trout-perch

Percopsis omiscomaycus

Walleye and Hybrids

Sander vitreus

Warmouth

Lepomis gulosus

Western Silvery Minnow

Hybognathus argyritis

White Bass and Hybrids

Morone chrysops

White Crappie

Pomoxis annularis

White Sucker

Catostomus commersonii

Yellow Bass

Morone mississippiensis

Yellow Bullhead

Ameiurus natalis

Yellow Perch

Perca flavescens

AMPHIBIANS

Bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus

Leopard Frog

Lithobates pipiens

REPTILES

Common Snapping Turtle

Chelydra serpentina serpentina

Painted Turtle

Chrysemys picta

Smooth Softshell

Apalone mutica

571—89.2(481A) Importation permit. An importation permit is required to receive, propagate or sell in the state any aquaculture species not listed in 89.1(1). In addition, aquaculture units shall not import live fish, viable eggs, or semen of any species of the salmonid family (trout, salmon or char) and ictalurid family (catfishes and bullheads) unless the owner or operator possesses a fish importation permit. Importation permits may be applied for on forms provided by the department.

571—89.3(481A) Disease-free certification. Importation permits will not be issued for live fish, viable eggs, or semen of any species of the salmonid family (trout, salmon or char) unless the owner or operator of an aquaculture unit provides a statement certifying the fish, eggs or semen to be free of the following diseases:

89.3(1) *Diseases detrimental to the state's fishery resources.*

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN)

Whirling Disease (*Myxosoma cerebralis*)

Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis (IHN)

Ceratomyxosis (*Ceratomyxa shasta*)

Bacterial Kidney Disease (*R. salmoninarium*)

Proliferative Kidney Disease (PKD)

Enteric Redmouth (*Yersinia ruckeri*)

Vibriosis (*vibrio sp.*)

89.3(2) *Reportable diseases.* Reportable diseases are detrimental to individual aquaculture units and may be detrimental to wild fish populations. Reportable diseases are Enteric Septicemia of Catfish (*Edwardsiella ictaluri*) (ESC), Channel Catfish Virus Disease (CCVD) and Furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*). Disease certification statements are required for the diseases prior to importation of any live fish, viable eggs, or semen of any

species of the Ictalurid (catfishes and bullheads) and Salmonid (trout, salmon and char) families. Importation permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis for fish with reportable diseases.

89.3(3) *Certified pathologists for inspection.* All disease certification statements must be issued by approved certified pathologists. A list of approved certified pathologists will be made available to the owner or operator of the aquaculture unit requesting a fish importation permit.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.142 and 481A.143.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

30. Chapter 90, “Aquatic Invasive Species” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 90. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

This rule chapter defines aquatic invasive species. The purpose of this chapter is to prevent introductions of invasive species and limit the spread of invasive species that have already been detected in Iowa. Aquatic invasive species can negatively impact native species; interfere with recreational activities, such as boating and fishing; and interfere with water supply infrastructure.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 90 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 90, “Aquatic Invasive Species,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 456A.37.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 456A.37.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 90 contains restrictions related to aquatic invasive species and provides a list of those species. The purpose of this chapter is to prevent introductions of invasive species and limit the spread of invasive species that have already been detected in Iowa. Aquatic invasive species can negatively impact native species; interfere with recreational activities, such as boating and fishing; and interfere with water supply infrastructure. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Via videoconference

February 4, 2026
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Via videoconference

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 90 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 90

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

571—90.1(456A) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“*Commission*” means the natural resource commission.

“*Department*” means the department of natural resources.

“*Director*” means the director of the department of natural resources.

“*Introduce*” means to release a species into waters of the state. “Introduce” does not include the immediate return of a nonnative species to waters of the state from which it was removed.

“*Transport*” means to move a species into or within the state and includes accepting or receiving the species for transportation or shipment. “Transport” does not include the unintentional transport of a species within a water of the state or to a connected water of the state where the species being transported is already present.

“*Watercraft*” means a device used or designed for navigation on water.

571—90.2(456A) Aquatic invasive species. For the purposes of this rule, the following species and any hybrids, cultivars, or varieties of the species are designated as aquatic invasive species.

90.2(1) *Aquatic invasive plants.*

Brittle naiad	<i>Najas minor</i>
Curlyleaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , <i>Lythrum virgatum</i>
Salt cedar	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>

90.2(2) *Aquatic invasive fish.*

Bighead carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i>
Black carp	<i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i>
Round goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>
Rudd	<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>
Ruffe	<i>Gymnocephalus cernuus</i>

Silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*

White perch *Morone americana*

90.2(3) *Aquatic invasive invertebrates.*

Fishhook waterflea *Cercopagis pengoi*

New Zealand mudsnail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*

Quagga mussel *Dreissena bugensis*

Rusty crayfish *Orconectes rusticus*

Spiny waterflea *Bythotrephes cederstroemi*

Zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*

90.2(4) *Federal noxious weed list.* For purposes of this rule, the aquatic plants listed in 7 CFR Section 360.200 as amended to [effective date of this rulemaking] are also designated as aquatic invasive species.

90.2(5) *Injurious wildlife species.* For purposes of this rule, aquatic species listed in 50 CFR Sections 16.11 through 16.15 as amended to [effective date of this rulemaking] are also designated as aquatic invasive species.

571—90.3(456A) Restrictions.

90.3(1) A person shall not possess, introduce, import, purchase, sell, barter, propagate, or transport aquatic invasive species in any form in this state, except:

- a.* By written permission of the director;
- b.* For disposal as part of a harvest or control activity;
- c.* When a species is being transported to the department, or to another destination as directed by the department, in a sealed container for purposes of identifying the species or reporting the presence of the species;
- d.* When the specimen has been lawfully acquired dead and, in the case of plant species, when all seeds are removed or are otherwise secured in a sealed container;

- e.* In the form of herbaria or other preserved specimens;
- f.* When a species is being removed from watercraft and equipment or when a species is caught by an angler and immediately returned to the water from which it came; or
- g.* When an individual angler possesses a species that has been caught and immediately killed.

90.3(2) A conservation officer, other licensed peace officer, or employee of the department may seize or dispose of all specimens of aquatic invasive species unlawfully possessed, introduced, imported, purchased, sold, bartered, propagated, or transported in the state.

571—90.4(456A) Infested waters.

90.4(1) *Designation of infested waters.* The department will designate infested waters of the state and publish the names of infested waters in the fishing regulations brochure and on the department webpage, www.iowadnr.gov/programs-services/aquatic-invasive-species, and will provide notice through other available means where practical. At any time, the department may designate additional waters or remove from designation those waters that are no longer infested.

90.4(2) *Restricted activities on infested waters.* The department may restrict boating, fishing, swimming, and trapping in infested waters of the state. When determining when to restrict activities in infested waters, the department will consider:

- a.* The extent of a species' distribution within the state;
- b.* The likely means of spread for a new species; and
- c.* Whether restrictions specific to infested waters containing a specific species will effectively reduce that species' spread.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 456A.37.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

31. Chapter 93, “Commercial Use of Captive-Reared Waterfowl” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 93. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 93 establishes the commercial use of captive-reared waterfowl and the regulations that apply.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 93 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 93, “Commercial Use of Captive-Reared Waterfowl,” and adopt a new Chapter 93 with the same name.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)“a,” 481A.55, 481A.126, and 484B.8.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.55, 481A.126, and 484B.8 and 50 CFR 21.63.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 93 establishes the commercial use of captive-reared waterfowl and the regulations that apply.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

February 2, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515-250-6886 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515-250-6886 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 93 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 93

COMMERCIAL USE OF CAPTIVE-REARED WATERFOWL

571—93.1(481A) General. Nothing in this chapter authorizes the taking of live waterfowl or their eggs from the wild.

571—93.2(481A) Required markings. All waterfowl released for shooting purposes or sold by a licensed taxidermist must be captive-reared and marked pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.22 and these rules.

571—93.3(481A) Definitions.

“Bred in captivity” or *“captive-reared”* means waterfowl, including eggs hatched in captivity from parents that mated or otherwise transferred gametes in captivity.

“Captivity” means that live waterfowl are held in a controlled environment that is intensively manipulated by man for the purpose of producing waterfowl of selected species, and that has boundaries designed to prevent waterfowl, eggs or gametes of the selected species from entering or leaving the controlled environment. General characteristics of captivity may include but are not limited to artificial housing, waste removal, health care, protection from predators, and artificially supplied food.

“Form 3-186” means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service form titled “Notice of Transfer or Sale of Migratory Waterfowl.”

“Waterfowl” means any goose, brant, or duck.

571—93.4(484B) Marked for shooting. All waterfowl released for shooting purposes shall be physically marked by removal of the hind toe from the right foot at not more than four weeks of age.

571—93.5(481A) Commercial sale of captive-reared waterfowl by a taxidermist.

93.5(1) Taxidermist permit required. No person may perform taxidermy services on migratory birds or their parts, nests, or eggs for any reason other than personal use without a taxidermist permit.

93.5(2) In addition to the records required by Iowa Code section 481A.126, the permittee must maintain files containing the original of federal Form 3-186 as required by 50 CFR 21.63 (as amended through May 6, 2025). Properly marked, captive-reared mallards are exempt from this requirement.

93.5(3) All captive-reared waterfowl being purchased or held by a taxidermist for mounting and resale shall have been physically marked by at least one of the following methods:

- a.* Removal of the hind toe from the right foot.
- b.* Pinioning of a wing by the removal of the metacarpal bones of one wing or a portion of the metacarpal bones, which renders the bird permanently incapable of flight.
- c.* Banding of one metatarsus with a seamless metal band.
- d.* Tattooing of a readily discernible number or letter or combination thereof on the web of one foot.

93.5(4) When any mounted captive-bred waterfowl (except captive-reared, properly marked mallards) are acquired from a taxidermist, the taxidermist shall furnish a copy of federal Form 3-186, indicating all information required by the form and the method or methods by which individual birds are marked as required in 93.5(3).

93.5(5) The buyer shall retain Form 3-186 on file for the duration of the buyer's possession of such mounted, captive-reared waterfowl.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.55, 481A.126, and 484B.8.

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

Decision Item

32. Chapter 95, “Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration”– Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 95. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Customer and Employee Services Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 95 establishes the harvest reporting process for deer and turkey hunters and the eligibility verification process for free landowner or tenant licenses. In accordance with Executive Order 10, the rules have been edited for length and clarity by removing outdated provisions. The proposed rules also include two additional methods for hunters to report harvests, bringing a total of five methods available to hunters to increase efficiency and convenience.

Denise Roberg, Specialty License Manager
Customer and Employee Services Bureau
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 95 – NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind and replace Chapter 95, “Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration,” and adopt a new Chapter 95 with the same name.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.24.

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.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.24.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 95 establishes the harvest reporting process for deer and turkey hunters and the eligibility verification process for free landowner or tenant licenses.

In accordance with Executive Order 10, the rules have been edited for length and clarity by removing outdated provisions. The proposed rules also include two new additional methods for hunters to report harvests, bringing a total of five methods available to hunters to increase efficiency and convenience.

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 Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 561-Chapter 10.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 14, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Denise Roberg
6200 Park Ave, Ste 200
Des Moines, IA 50321
Email: denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 13, 2026 from 1-2 PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

January 14, 2026 from 1-2 PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.350.8434 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recursos Naturales (Departamento) al denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.350.8434 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

Item 1. Rescind 571-Chapter 95 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 95
Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration

571—95.1(481A) Harvest reporting system. Deer and turkey hunters must report each deer and wild turkey harvested to the department of natural resources (DNR) harvest reporting system. The hunter whose name is on the transportation tag is responsible for making the report. Hunters who do not bag a deer or wild turkey do not report.

95.1(1) Reporting deadlines for deer and turkey. A harvest report must be made by midnight on the day after the animal is tagged or before the animal is taken to a locker or taxidermist, is processed for consumption, or is transported out of state, whichever occurs first.

95.1(2) Method of reporting. Hunters may report the harvest in one of five ways:

- a. Through the electronic licensing system for Iowa (ELSI) application
- b. By texting the registration number to 1.800.771.4692 and following the prompts.
- c. By calling the DNR toll-free harvest reporting telephone number at 1.800.771.4692.
- d. By reporting through the Internet using the DNR online harvest reporting system.
- e. By visiting an ELSI license agent during the license agent's normal business hours.

95.1(3) Report confirmation. The hunter will be given a confirmation number to write on the harvest report tag to verify that the hunter has reported the kill. The harvest report tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer or wild turkey until the deer or wild turkey is processed for consumption.

571—95.2(481A) Verifying eligibility for free landowner or tenant licenses. Eligibility for free and reduced-fee deer and wild turkey hunting licenses, hereafter referred to as free licenses, is defined in Iowa Code section 483A.24 and rules 571—98.6(483A) and 571—106.17(481A). The ELSI will not issue free licenses to persons who have not registered their eligibility with ELSI.

95.2(1) Farm unit. As provided in 571—subrule 106.17(6), all the land under the lawful control of the landowner or tenant is considered one farm unit no matter how it is subdivided for business purposes. No one may be registered as eligible for free licenses on more than one farm unit. Registering on one parcel of land within the farm unit will allow the landowner, tenant or family member to hunt on all land in the farm unit.

95.2(2) Who may obtain free licenses. One member of the landowner family (the landowner or an eligible family member) may obtain a free any-deer license. Members of the landowner family may divide the free antlerless-deer-only licenses for which the family is eligible among themselves in any way they choose. If there is a tenant on the same property, one member of the tenant family (the tenant or an eligible family member) may

also obtain a free any-deer license. Members of the tenant family may divide the free antlerless-deer-only licenses for which they may be eligible among themselves in any way they choose. One member of the landowner family and one member of the tenant family may each obtain one free spring turkey hunting license and one free fall turkey hunting license.

95.2(3) *Method of registration.* A landowner or tenant may register on the Internet through ELSI or by mailing an affidavit obtained from DNR. The online system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An online registrant may obtain a free license once the registration process is complete. A person who registers through the mail or by fax may have to wait up to ten business days after the form is received by DNR to obtain a free license.

95.2(4) *Information verifying eligibility.* In order to register, a landowner, tenant or qualifying family member must have a customer record in ELSI. When registering, landowners, tenants and family members will be required to provide their ELSI customer number or their Iowa driver's license number or social security number and their date of birth to identify their ELSI customer record.

a. *Landowners.* A landowner shall provide the parcel identification number (PIN) from the landowner's current property tax statement for one parcel of qualifying land owned by the landowner and the number of the county where the land is located. Qualifying family members shall be registered to the same parcel of qualifying land as the landowner.

b. *Partnerships, corporations or other forms of joint land ownership.* Each owner of a jointly owned farm unit and the owner's qualifying family members who wish to receive free licenses for that farm unit shall register with the same county number and PIN. Only one joint owner or family member may obtain the one any-deer license available for the farm unit. The other joint owner(s) and family members may divide any other free licenses to which they are entitled among themselves in any way they choose.

c. *Tenants.* A tenant shall provide an affidavit that contains the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the qualifying land rented by the tenant; the county number where the land is located; and the landowner's PIN from one parcel of that qualifying land. If a tenant rents land from more than one landowner, the tenant shall provide the required information about only one landowner. The tenant's qualifying family members shall be registered to the same parcel of qualifying land as the tenant.

d. *Signature required.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.24(2)"f," all affidavits submitted to register eligibility for free licenses shall bear the signature of the landowner, tenant, or family member attesting that the information contained therein is true.

95.2(5) *Forms.* Instructions and affidavits may be obtained online at www.iowadnr.gov, at DNR offices, or by calling 515.725.8200.

95.2(6) *Registration expiration and renewal.* A registered landowner, tenant, or eligible family member may obtain free licenses as allowed in subrule 95.2(2) provided the registration information and eligibility status remain valid. If the registration information or eligibility status of a registered landowner, tenant, or eligible family member changes, that individual must mail a DNR affidavit form or contact the DNR by telephone. The DNR will periodically review registration information to verify eligibility status and will inactivate registrations when the registration information fails to indicate eligibility.

95.2(7) *Penalties.* Free licenses will not be issued to an applicant until a legible and complete affidavit is received by DNR. An illegible or incomplete affidavit will be returned to the applicant for correction. A person who has made a false attestation in obtaining a license in violation of Iowa Code Supplement section 483A.24(2)"f" shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor and subject to license revocation, as provided in Iowa Code section 483A.21, Iowa Code supplement section 483A.24(2)"f" and 571—subrule 106.8(3).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7, 483A.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.2.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind and replace Chapter 95, “Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration,” and adopt a new Chapter 95 with the same name.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.24.

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.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.24.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 95 establishes the harvest reporting process for deer and turkey hunters and the eligibility verification process for free landowner or tenant licenses.

In accordance with Executive Order 10, the rules have been edited for length and clarity by removing outdated provisions. The proposed rules also include two new additional methods for hunters to report harvests, bringing a total of five methods available to hunters to increase efficiency and convenience.

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 13.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Denise Roberg
6200 Park Ave, Ste 200
Des Moines, IA 50321
Email: denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2 PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

February 2, 2026 from 1-2 PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.350.8434 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recursos Naturales (Departamento) al denise.roberg@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.350.8434 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

Item 1. Rescind 571-Chapter 95 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 95 GAME HARVEST REPORTING AND LANDOWNER-TENANT REGISTRATION

571—95.1(481A) Harvest reporting system. Deer and turkey hunters must report each deer and wild turkey harvested to the department of natural resources (DNR) harvest reporting system. The hunter whose name is on the transportation tag is responsible for making the report. Hunters who do not bag a deer or wild turkey do not report.

95.1(1) *Reporting deadlines for deer and turkey.* A harvest report must be made by midnight on the day after the animal is tagged or before the animal is taken to a locker or taxidermist, is processed for consumption, or is transported out of state, whichever occurs first.

95.1(2) *Method of reporting.* Hunters may report the harvest in one of five ways:

- a. Through the electronic licensing system for Iowa (ELSI) application
- b. By texting the registration number to 1.800.771.4692 and following the prompts.
- c. By calling the DNR toll-free harvest reporting telephone number at 1.800.771.4692.
- d. By reporting through the Internet using the DNR online harvest reporting system.
- e. By visiting an ELSI license agent during the license agent's normal business hours.

95.1(3) *Report confirmation.* The hunter will be given a confirmation number to write on the harvest report tag to verify that the hunter has reported the kill. The harvest report tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer or wild turkey until the deer or wild turkey is processed for consumption.

571—95.2(481A) *Verifying eligibility for free landowner or tenant licenses.* Eligibility for free and reduced-fee deer and wild turkey hunting licenses, hereafter referred to as free licenses, is defined in Iowa Code section 483A.24 and rules 571—98.6(483A) and 571—106.17(481A). The ELSI will not issue free licenses to persons who have not registered their eligibility with ELSI.

95.2(1) *Farm unit.* As provided in 571—subrule 106.17(6), all the land under the lawful control of the landowner or tenant is considered one farm unit no matter how it is subdivided for business purposes. No one may be registered as eligible for free licenses on more than one farm unit. Registering on one parcel of land within the farm unit will allow the landowner, tenant or family member to hunt on all land in the farm unit.

95.2(2) *Who may obtain free licenses.* One member of the landowner family (the landowner or an eligible family member) may obtain a free any-deer license. Members of the landowner family may divide the free antlerless-deer-only licenses for which the family is eligible among themselves in any way they choose. If there is a tenant on the same property, one member of the tenant family (the tenant or an eligible family member) may also obtain a free any-deer license. Members of the tenant family may divide the free antlerless-deer-only licenses for which they may be eligible among themselves in any way they choose. One member of the landowner family and one member of the tenant family may each obtain one free spring turkey hunting license and one free fall turkey hunting license.

95.2(3) *Method of registration.* A landowner or tenant may register on the Internet through ELSI or by mailing an affidavit obtained from DNR. The online system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An online registrant may obtain a free license once the registration process is complete. A person who registers through the mail or by fax may have to wait up to ten business days after the form is received by DNR to obtain a free license.

95.2(4) *Information verifying eligibility.* In order to register, a landowner, tenant or qualifying family member must have a customer record in ELSI. When registering, landowners, tenants and family members will be required to provide their ELSI customer number or their Iowa driver's license number or social security number and their date of birth to identify their ELSI customer record.

a. Landowners. A landowner shall provide the parcel identification number (PIN) from the landowner's current property tax statement for one parcel of qualifying land owned by the landowner and the number of the county where the land is located. Qualifying family members shall be registered to the same parcel of qualifying land as the landowner.

b. Partnerships, corporations or other forms of joint land ownership. Each owner of a jointly owned farm unit and the owner's qualifying family members who wish to receive free licenses for that farm unit shall register with the same county number and PIN. Only one joint owner or family member may obtain the one any-deer license available for the farm unit. The other joint owner(s) and family members may divide any other free licenses to which they are entitled among themselves in any way they choose.

c. Tenants. A tenant shall provide an affidavit that contains the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the qualifying land rented by the tenant; the county number where the land is located; and the landowner's PIN from one parcel of that qualifying land. If a tenant rents land from more than one landowner, the tenant shall provide the required information about only one landowner. The tenant's qualifying family members shall be registered to the same parcel of qualifying land as the tenant.

d. Signature required. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.24(2)"f," all affidavits submitted to register eligibility for free licenses shall bear the signature of the landowner, tenant, or family member attesting that the information contained therein is true.

95.2(5) Forms. Instructions and affidavits may be obtained online at www.iowadnr.gov, at DNR offices, or by calling 515.725.8200.

95.2(6) Registration expiration and renewal. A registered landowner, tenant, or eligible family member may obtain free licenses as allowed in subrule 95.2(2) provided the registration information and eligibility status remain valid. If the registration information or eligibility status of a registered landowner, tenant, or eligible family member changes, that individual must mail a DNR affidavit form or contact the DNR by telephone. The DNR will periodically review registration information to verify eligibility status and will inactivate registrations when the registration information fails to indicate eligibility.

95.2(7) Penalties. Free licenses will not be issued to an applicant until a legible and complete affidavit is received by DNR. An illegible or incomplete affidavit will be returned to the applicant for correction. A person who has made a false attestation in obtaining a license in violation of Iowa Code Supplement section 483A.24(2)"f" shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor and subject to license revocation, as provided in Iowa Code section 483A.21, Iowa Code supplement section 483A.24(2)"f" and 571—subrule 106.8(3).

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7, 483A.8, 483A.8A, and 483A.2.

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

#33

Decision Item

Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Hunting” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Hunting.”

Basic Intent of Current Rule: Chapter 98 governs spring and fall wild turkey hunting by residents and nonresidents in the State of Iowa.

Proposed Rule Change: Four amendments are proposed to enact 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 148, which removes the requirement that the owner or the tenant select a method of take, and instead makes resident turkey hunting licenses valid until filled.

Todd Bishop, Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting date: Dec 11, 2025

Attachment: Chapter 98 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 98, “Wild Turkey Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1, 483A.7, and 483A.24.

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

Chapter 98 governs spring and fall wild turkey hunting by residents and nonresidents. Four amendments are proposed to enact 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 148, which removed the requirement that a landowner or tenant, as defined by Iowa Code Chapter 483A, select a method of take and instead makes resident turkey hunting licenses valid until filled during the applicable time of year.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 28, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

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).

The following rulemaking action proposed:

Item1. Amend paragraph **98.1(1)“d”** as follows:

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.~~

Item2. Amend subrule 98.2(4) as follows:

98.2(4) Archery-only licenses. The total number of available fall archery-only licenses shall not be limited by zones or quotas.

Item3. Amend subrule 98.2(5) as follows:

98.2(5) Landowner/tenant licenses. The total number of available fall landowner/tenant licenses shall not be limited by zones or quotas.

Item4. Amend subrule 98.3(2) as follows:

98.3(2) Landowner/tenant licenses. An eligible resident landowner or tenant may obtain ~~a combination shotgun or archery license or a~~ one free archery-only spring turkey license or one free fall turkey license that is valid until filled using an appropriate method of take as defined for the season and only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant. One combination shotgun-or-archery license or one archery-only license may be obtained in addition to the free spring or fall license. Nonresident landowners are not eligible for resident or landowner 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.~~

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

Decision Item

34. Chapter 103, “Mobile Radio Transmitters”– Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 103, “Mobile Radio Transmitters.” This Notice of Intended Action are the result of the Law Enforcement Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Chapter 103 defines one-way and two-way mobile radio transmitters and outlines the legal use of these transmitters for falconry and hunting with dogs. This chapter is redundant to Iowa Code section 481A.24, and, consistent with Executive Order 10, the chapter is proposed to be rescinded.

Matt Bruner, Captain
Law Enforcement Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 103 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 103 “Mobile Radio Transmitters,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 481A.24.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 481A.24.

Purpose and Summary

This chapter defines one-way and two-way mobile radio transmitters and outlines the legal use of these transmitters for falconry and hunting with dogs. This chapter is redundant to Iowa Code section 481A.24, and, consistent with Executive Order 10, the chapter is proposed to be rescinded.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 28, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Captain Matt Bruner
Iowa DNR Law Enforcement Bureau
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge, contact DNR at matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov. Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita, comuníquese con el DNR al matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally will be held via conference call as follows. Persons who wish to attend the conference call should contact Captain Bruner via email. A conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the conference call public hearing must submit a request to Captain Bruner prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

- The public hearing will be held on January 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM via Google Meet

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.336.5456 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al matt.bruner@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.336.5456 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action proposed:

Item 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 103**.

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

Decision Item

35. Chapter 111, “Natural Resources Collector Permits: Research, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 111. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Customer and Employee Services Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Proposed Chapter 111 explains the process for members of the public to obtain permits to take, acquire, or possess wildlife or plants for educational projects, scientific collecting, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife salvage. The rules also formally adopt standards as identified by the National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10. Definitions and rules have been revised to align with state and federal law.

Karmin Klingenberg, Administrative Assistant II
Customer and Employee Services Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 111 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 111, “Scientific Collecting and Wildlife Rehabilitation” and adopt a new chapter 111, “Natural Resources Collector Permits: Research, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation.”

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65 and 50 CFR Parts 10, 20, and 21.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 111 explains the process for members of the public to obtain permits to take, acquire, or possess wildlife or plants for educational projects, scientific collecting, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife salvage. The rules clarify compliance with State and federal law and adopt standards as identified by the National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10. Definitions and rules have been revised to align with State and federal law. Specific publication titles have been added with dates certain to clarify the standards that apply to applicants and permittees.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 14, 2026.

Comments should be directed to:

Karmin Klingenberg
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Phone: 515-326-0430
Email: Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access. If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 14, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Ave; Des Moines, Iowa
and

January 14, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Ave; Des Moines, Iowa.

The hearings will also be available online. A Google Meet and conference call number will be provided prior to the hearings for those who make a request to take part in the hearings virtually. Persons who wish to make

oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 111 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 111

NATURAL RESOURCES COLLECTOR PERMITS: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATION **571—111.1(481A) Definitions.**

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section [481A.1](#).

“Educational project permit” means a permit to take, acquire and possess live wildlife for natural resource-based educational programs and displays.

“Permit” means a license for the purpose of this chapter.

“Permittee” means an organization or person that possesses a valid permit issued by the department under Iowa Code section [481A.65](#).

“Scientific collector’s permit” means a permit to take, for scientific purposes only, any birds, nests, eggs, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, plants or parts thereof that are protected by state regulations.

“Wildlife rehabilitation permit” means a permit to take and temporarily possess injured, sick or orphaned authorized wildlife species with the sole intent to return the animal to its natural habitat as soon as possible.

“Wildlife salvage permit” means a permit to possess, for natural resource education programs or scientific studies, authorized protected wildlife species that have died as the result of natural causes or accidents, were legally taken, or were donated specimens that have been legally obtained.

571—111.2(481A) General conditions for permits.

1. Applications will not be approved for private collections or for commercial use of protected species.
2. Any costs incurred by the permittee for the administration of any permit authorized by this chapter are the responsibility of the permittee.
3. Scientific collecting permits, wildlife salvage permits, and educational project permits unless for migratory birds are generally issued in the name of the institution or organization. The principal collector or permittee will be listed on the permit and be responsible for administering the permit. All persons collecting or working under the authority of the permit shall carry a copy of the permit and a letter of authorization from the principal permittee.
4. Educational project permits for migratory birds and wildlife rehabilitation permits may list an institution or organization but also must list the person or persons with the qualifications for that particular permit. These permits do not necessarily continue with the institution or organization if the person or persons listed on the permits leave. If replacement personnel with the proper qualifications for the permit or permits are found, then the permit or permits may stay in the institution’s or organization’s name.
5. Specimens collected or possessed under any permit authorized by this chapter remain the property of the state of Iowa. The department reserves the right to determine the disposition of all specimens collected under authority of these permits.
6. Records, facilities and inventories must be made available for inspection by the department’s agents during reasonable hours.
7. Records of collections and the manner in which specimens have been acquired and their disposition must be kept current at all times.
8. Authorization to collect or possess endangered or threatened species requires special permission and must comply with provisions established in Iowa Code chapter 481B.
9. A representative of the department must be notified within 72 hours of a permittee taking or holding threatened or endangered species that are found dead and within 24 hours for those that are injured or sick.
10. A permitted rehabilitator or veterinarian must determine if a migratory bird is permanently crippled before it may be held under an educational project permit.
11. Permit fees will be \$5 for one year, \$10 for two years, and \$15 for three years.
12. Applicants for scientific collectors, wildlife rehabilitation, and educational projects must be at least 18 years old or provide written permission from a parent or guardian.
13. No animals being rehabilitated may be used for educational programs.
14. Applicants for scientific collector, wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife salvage, and educational project permits that are requesting permission to collect, possess, or hold wildlife species as listed in 50 CFR Parts 10, 20, and 21 as amended through August 4, 2025, must follow provisions set forth and may be required to obtain a federal permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
15. Any native mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or fish that are not state-listed endangered or threatened species and are obtained from legal sources outside the state of Iowa are exempt from these permit requirements. Proof of origin of each animal is the responsibility of the owner.

571—111.3(481A) Scientific collector’s permit. A scientific collector’s permit may, after investigation, be issued to any business, organization, university, college or person engaged in a scientific project approved by the department.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

The application narrative shall include the reason for study, expected conservation benefit for Iowa, species, number of specimens to be collected, geographic location, time frame and collection methods subject to department approval.

571—111.4(481A) Wildlife salvage permit. A wildlife salvage permit may be issued to any business, university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education or research program approved by the department.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

Special approval is required for the salvage of migratory birds, including nests and eggs.

571—111.5(481A) Educational project permit. The following classes of educational project permits may be issued by the department:

111.5(1) A general educational project permit for protected animal species, other than migratory birds, may be issued to any university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education program approved by the department. The limitation on the number of animals in possession shall be established by the ability of the applicant to provide adequate facilities and care.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

111.5(2) A migratory bird apprentice educational project permit may be issued to a person interning to meet the requirements of the federal special purpose possession permit and being sponsored by a person possessing the following: a master wildlife rehabilitation permit and having two years' experience using migratory birds under a state or federal educational project permit, a master class falconry permit or a migratory bird general educational project permit for at least five years. An apprentice will be limited to the possession of one American kestrel and one screech owl that are permanently crippled or human imprinted. In the case where an apprentice will be in charge of an existing facility with additional birds, the sponsor and the conservation officer must approve the possession of the additional species and individuals.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

111.5(3) A migratory bird general educational project permit for migratory birds may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship and is recommended by the person's sponsor, has previously held an educational project permit for migratory birds issued by the department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or has held a master class state and federal falconry permit within the last five years.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

571—111.6(481A) Wildlife rehabilitation permit. The following classes of wildlife rehabilitation permits may be issued by the department:

111.6(1) An apprentice wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person serving a one-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a master wildlife rehabilitation permit or to a person serving a two-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a general wildlife rehabilitation permit.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

111.6(2) A general wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship; has graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine; or has previously held a rehabilitation permit issued by the department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other state natural resource agency.

A general wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to four apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

111.6(3) A master wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has completed five consecutive years of extensive rehabilitation work and has received a recommendation from the local state conservation officer assigned to the person's resident county or who is a licensed veterinarian with specific training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation. The department may issue a master wildlife rehabilitation permit to individuals who have demonstrated special ability, knowledge, training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation. A master wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to six apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

571—111.7(481A) Application qualifications. All applicants for any permit defined herein must possess adequate qualifications and experience and facilities to house and properly confine species held under the permit if applicable. Applicants are subject to the following standards:

Standards/Publications Association/Society Name	
Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, Fourth Edition 2012	International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA)
Migratory Bird Permit Memorandum, MBPM-12, December 31, 2024	Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Buhl G. Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals. Second. Buhl G, Schlieps J, Smith L, editors. Bloomington, MN: National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, 2018	NWRA
Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations Blue Book, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, July 2023	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Arent, Lori, "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," Hancock House, 2007	FWS

For scientific collectors permits, the applicant must certify to following the guidelines set forth by the organization's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or the organization overseeing the research.

For education and rehabilitation permits, the applicant and officer will be provided the appropriate Permit Inspection Sheet based on the guidelines set forth by the appropriate governing body and the appropriate governing body's permit resources.

If they are housing animals, wildlife rehabilitation and educational project applicants must provide a completed and signed Consulting Veterinarian Agreement on the form provided by the department from a licensed veterinarian that will provide professional counsel to the applicant. Applicants must list species or groups of species, such as but not limited to rabbits, squirrels, migratory birds, snakes or turtles, for which they will be providing rehabilitation services on the applicants' permit application narrative.

The application narrative for an educational project permit must list the species and number of each species that will be held. Facilities for migratory birds must meet the design and size criteria set forth by the standards listed above.

If an applicant has been found in court to have committed an act of animal cruelty or neglect, the applicant shall not be eligible for a license for at least five years from the date of the conviction or guilty plea.

571—111.8(481A) Evaluation committee. For the purpose of evaluating facilities, standards of care, study design, sample numbers, and impacts to wild populations from applications requested by applicants under this rule, the director may establish an ad hoc committee of persons with expertise in wildlife, rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, research or education. Upon request by the director, the committee shall inspect the facilities, procedures and educational programs and provide the department with appropriate recommendations. The recommendations may be used as a basis for placing certain conditions on a permit or modifying or terminating a permit.

571—111.9(481A) Disposition of animals, parts, eggs or nests. Injured or orphaned animals that cannot be returned to their natural environment shall be transferred to someone with an educational project permit or, after being euthanized by or under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian, handled as follows:

111.9(1) The animals will be transferred to someone with a scientific collector's permit or a wildlife salvage permit after obtaining permission from the department, or

111.9(2) Disposition of carcasses must be in accordance with local ordinances and according to Iowa Code chapter 167.

All threatened and endangered species that have died, that must be euthanized, or that cannot be released shall be referred to the department for further determination of proper disposition.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 111, “Scientific Collecting and Wildlife Rehabilitation” and adopt a new Chapter 111 titled, “Natural Resources Collector Permits: Research, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65, and 50 CFR Parts 10, 20, and 21.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 111 explains the process for members of the public to obtain permits to take, acquire, or possess wildlife or plants for educational projects, scientific collecting, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife salvage. The rules also formally adopt standards as identified by the National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10. Definitions and rules have been revised to align with state and federal law.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Karmin Klingenberg
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Phone: 515-326-0430
Email: Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access. If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Ave; Des Moines, Iowa
and

February 4, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Ave; Des Moines, Iowa.

The hearings will also be available online. A Google Meet and conference call number will be provided prior to the hearings for those who make a request to take part in the hearings virtually.

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al Karmin.Klingenberg@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 111 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 111
NATURAL RESOURCES COLLECTOR PERMITS: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION

571—111.1(481A) Definitions.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 481A.1.

“Educational project permit” means a permit to take, acquire and possess live wildlife for natural resource-based educational programs and displays.

“Permit” means a license for the purpose of this chapter.

“Permittee” means an organization or person that possesses a valid permit issued by the department under Iowa Code section 481A.65.

“Scientific collector’s permit” means a permit to take, for scientific purposes only, any birds, nests, eggs, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, plants or parts thereof that are protected by state regulations.

“Wildlife rehabilitation permit” means a permit to take and temporarily possess injured, sick or orphaned authorized wildlife species with the sole intent to return the animal to its natural habitat as soon as possible.

“Wildlife salvage permit” means a permit to possess, for natural resource education programs or scientific studies, authorized protected wildlife species that have died as the result of natural causes or accidents, were legally taken, or were donated specimens that have been legally obtained.

571—111.2(481A) General conditions for permits.

1. Applications will not be approved for private collections or for commercial use of protected species.

2. Any costs incurred by the permittee for the administration of any permit authorized by this chapter are the responsibility of the permittee.

3. Scientific collecting permits, wildlife salvage permits, and educational project permits unless for migratory birds are generally issued in the name of the institution or organization. The principal collector or permittee will be listed on the permit and be responsible for administering the permit. All persons collecting or working under the authority of the permit shall carry a copy of the permit and a letter of authorization from the principal permittee.

4. Educational project permits for migratory birds and wildlife rehabilitation permits may list an institution or organization but also must list the person or persons with the qualifications for that particular permit. These permits do not necessarily continue with the institution or organization if the person or persons listed on the permits leave. If replacement personnel with the proper qualifications for the permit or permits are found, then the permit or permits may stay in the institution’s or organization’s name.

5. Specimens collected or possessed under any permit authorized by this chapter remain the property of the state of Iowa. The department reserves the right to determine the disposition of all specimens collected under authority of these permits.

6. Records, facilities and inventories must be made available for inspection by the department’s agents during reasonable hours.

7. Records of collections and the manner in which specimens have been acquired and their disposition must be kept current at all times.

8. Authorization to collect or possess endangered or threatened species requires special permission and must comply with provisions established in Iowa Code chapter 481B.

9. A representative of the department must be notified within 72 hours of a permittee taking or holding threatened or endangered species that are found dead and within 24 hours for those that are injured or sick.

10. A permitted rehabilitator or veterinarian must determine if a migratory bird is permanently crippled before it may be held under an educational project permit.

11. Permit fees will be \$5 for one year, \$10 for two years, and \$15 for three years.

12. Applicants for scientific collectors, wildlife rehabilitation, and educational projects must be at least 18 years old or provide written permission from a parent or guardian.

13. No animals being rehabilitated may be used for educational programs.

14. Applicants for scientific collector, wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife salvage, and educational project permits that are requesting permission to collect, possess, or hold wildlife species as listed in 50 CFR Parts 10, 20, and 21 as amended through August 4, 2025, must follow provisions set forth and may be required to obtain a federal permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

15. Any native mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or fish that are not state-listed endangered or threatened species and are obtained from legal sources outside the state of Iowa are exempt from these permit requirements. Proof of origin of each animal is the responsibility of the owner.

571—111.3(481A) Scientific collector's permit. A scientific collector's permit may, after investigation, be issued to any business, organization, university, college or person engaged in a scientific project approved by the department.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

The application narrative shall include the reason for study, expected conservation benefit for Iowa, species, number of specimens to be collected, geographic location, time frame and collection methods subject to department approval.

571—111.4(481A) Wildlife salvage permit. A wildlife salvage permit may be issued to any business, university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education or research program approved by the department.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

Special approval is required for the salvage of migratory birds, including nests and eggs.

571—111.5(481A) Educational project permit. The following classes of educational project permits may be issued by the department:

111.5(1) A general educational project permit for protected animal species, other than migratory birds, may be issued to any university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education program approved by the department. The limitation on the number of animals in possession shall be established by the ability of the applicant to provide adequate facilities and care.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

111.5(2) A migratory bird apprentice educational project permit may be issued to a person interning to meet the requirements of the federal special purpose possession permit and being sponsored by a person possessing the following: a master wildlife rehabilitation permit and having two years' experience using migratory birds under a state or federal educational project permit, a master class falconry permit or a migratory bird general educational project permit for at least five years. Sponsorship information shall be submitted with the apprentice application on a form prescribed by the department. An apprentice will be limited to the possession of one American kestrel and one screech owl that are permanently crippled or human imprinted. In the case where an apprentice will be in charge of an existing facility with additional birds, the sponsor and the conservation officer must approve the possession of the additional species and individuals.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

111.5(3) A migratory bird general educational project permit for migratory birds may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship and is recommended by the person's sponsor, has previously held an educational project permit for migratory birds issued by the department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or has held a master class state and federal falconry permit within the last five years.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

571—111.6(481A) Wildlife rehabilitation permit. The following classes of wildlife rehabilitation permits may be issued by the department:

111.6(1) An apprentice wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person serving a one-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a master wildlife rehabilitation permit or to a person serving a two-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a general wildlife rehabilitation permit. Sponsorship information shall be submitted with the apprentice application on a form prescribed by the department.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

111.6(2) A general wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship; has graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine; or has previously held a rehabilitation permit issued by the department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other state natural resource agency.

A general wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to four apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

111.6(3) A master wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has completed five consecutive years of extensive rehabilitation work and has received a recommendation from the local state conservation officer assigned to the person's resident county or who is a licensed veterinarian with specific training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation. The department may issue a master wildlife rehabilitation permit to individuals who have demonstrated special ability, knowledge, training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

A master wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to six apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

571—111.7(481A) Application qualifications. All applicants for any permit defined herein must possess adequate qualifications and experience and facilities to house and properly confine species held under the permit if applicable. Applicants are subject to the following standards:

Standards/Publications	Association/Society Name
Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, Fourth Edition 2012	International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA)
Migratory Bird Permit Memorandum, MBPM-12, December 31, 2024	Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Buhl G. Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals. Second. Buhl G, Schlieps J, Smith L, editors. Bloomington, MN: National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, 2018	NWRA
Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations Blue Book, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, July 2023	
Arent, Lori, "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," Hancock House, 2007	FWS

For scientific collectors permits, the applicant must certify to following the guidelines set forth by the organization's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or the organization overseeing the research.

For education and rehabilitation permits, the applicant and officer will be provided the appropriate Permit Inspection Sheet based on the guidelines set forth by the appropriate governing body and the appropriate governing body's permit resources.

If they are housing animals, wildlife rehabilitation and educational project applicants must provide a completed and signed Consulting Veterinarian Agreement on the form provided by the department from a licensed veterinarian that will provide professional counsel to the applicant. Applicants must list species or groups of species, such as but not limited to rabbits, squirrels, migratory birds, snakes or turtles, for which they will be providing rehabilitation services on the applicants' permit application narrative.

The application narrative for an educational project permit must list the species and number of each species that will be held. Facilities for migratory birds must meet the design and size criteria set forth by the standards listed above.

If an applicant has been found in court to have committed an act of animal cruelty or neglect, the applicant shall not be eligible for a license for at least five years from the date of the conviction or guilty plea.

571—111.8(481A) Evaluation committee. For the purpose of evaluating facilities, standards of care, study design, sample numbers, and impacts to wild populations from applications requested by applicants under this rule, the director may establish an ad hoc committee of persons with expertise in wildlife, rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, research or education. Upon request by the director, the committee shall inspect the facilities, procedures and educational programs and provide the department with appropriate recommendations. The committee may also consider the National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Code of Ethics for its recommendations. The recommendations may be used as a basis for placing certain conditions on a permit or modifying or terminating a permit.

571—111.9(481A) Disposition of animals, parts, eggs or nests. Injured or orphaned animals that cannot be returned to their natural environment shall be transferred to someone with an educational project permit or, after being euthanized by or under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian, handled as follows:

111.9(1) The animals will be transferred to someone with a scientific collector's permit or a wildlife salvage permit after obtaining permission from the department, or

111.9(2) Disposition of carcasses must be in accordance with local ordinances and according to Iowa Code chapter 167.

All threatened and endangered species that have died, that must be euthanized, or that cannot be released shall be referred to the department for further determination of proper disposition. These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 461A.41, 481A.39, and 481A.65.

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

Decision Item

36. Chapter 112, "Hunting Preserves;" Chapter 104, "Wildlife Importation, Transportation and Disease Monitoring;" and Chapter 115, "Whitetail Hunting Preserves" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapters 104, 112, and 115. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Wildlife Bureau's Executive Order 10 rule review.

Proposed Chapter 112 consolidates two chapters related to private hunting preserves in the State of Iowa (112 and 115). Specifically, the Iowa Code authorizes private hunting preserves for game birds and whitetails and other ungulates. This proposed chapter sets forth general operation, registration, and fees for hunting preserves; signage and fencing; recordkeeping and reporting; tagging and transportation; and health and disease testing requirements, both generally and for whitetails specifically. The substance of these chapters has been revised to eliminate redundancies, improve efficiency, and align with the Iowa Code.

This proposed rulemaking also proposes to rescind Chapter 104, which contains antiquated provisions for farm deer, which are now under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapters 104, 112, and 115 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 104, “Wildlife Importation, Transportation and Disease Monitoring,” and Chapter 115, “Whitetail Hunting Preserves;” and to rescind and replace Chapter 112, “Hunting Preserves,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code Chapters 484B and 484C.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 481A.6 and Iowa Code Chapters 484B and 484C.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 112 consolidates two chapters related to private hunting preserves in the State of Iowa. Specifically, the Iowa Code authorizes private hunting preserves for game birds and whitetails and other ungulates. This proposed chapter sets forth general operation, registration, and fees for hunting preserves; signage and fencing; recordkeeping and reporting; tagging and transportation; and health and disease testing requirements, both generally and for whitetails specifically. The substance of these chapters has been revised to eliminate redundancies, improve efficiency, and align with the Iowa Code.

This rulemaking also proposes to rescind and rescind Chapter 104, which contains antiquated provisions related to farm deer, which are now under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

February 2, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515-250-6886 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515-250-6886 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 104.**

ITEM 2. Rescind 571—Chapter 112 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 112

HUNTING PRESERVES

571—112.1(484B,484C) Definitions. In addition to the definitions in Iowa Code sections 484B.1 and 484C.1, the following definitions apply:

“Accredited veterinarian” means a Category II-accredited veterinarian as authorized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state veterinarian in accordance with 9 CFR Part 161 as amended through February 25, 2020, to perform functions required by cooperative state/federal animal disease control and eradication programs.

“Annual activity report” means the Annual Report Form provided by the department.

“Approved laboratory” means an American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD)-accredited laboratory or the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

“Boundary sign” means a sign prescribed by the department that, when posted, designates the registered hunting preserve’s boundaries.

“Cervidae” or *“cervids”* means any member of the Cervidae family, whether free-ranging or captive, except those classified as farm deer by Iowa Code section 481A.1(21) *“h.”* “Farm deer” does not include any unmarked free-ranging elk, moose or mule deer.

“CWD” means chronic wasting disease, an infectious prion disease of cervids.

“Department” means the Iowa department of natural resources.

“Hunting preserve operator’s registration” means the authority of the holder to establish a hunting preserve for the purpose of holding, propagating, and releasing game birds or privately

owned whitetails or other ungulates for hunting purposes. “Registration” means both the license created in Iowa Code section 484B.4 and the registration created in Iowa Code section 484C.7.

“*Lease*” means a land-lease document for hunting preserve purposes.

“*Privately owned*” means the propagation and holding of whitetails whose origins are from privately owned populations.

“*Quarantine*” means an imposed restriction prohibiting movement of whitetails to any location without specific written permits.

“*Registrant*” means a person or organization that is registered to possess a hunting preserve operator’s registration issued by the department.

“*Transportation tag*” means a self-adhesive, numbered tag for marking individual game birds and whitetails and other ungulates prior to transportation.

“*Tissue sample*” refers to the medial retropharyngeal lymph node, which is the preferred tissue type for CWD testing in whitetail deer and mule deer, or the lymph node and obex (caudal brainstem) in other cervid species. When damaged or degraded, the obex can be substituted in deer, though individual deer in early disease can be missed.

DIVISION I

GENERAL HUNTING PRESERVE OPERATIONS

571—112.2(484B,484C) Hunting preserve registration. A hunting preserve operator’s registration may, following review and inspection, be issued to a person or organization that, upon application, complies with all requirements established in Iowa Code section 484B.4 or 484C.7, as applicable, and this chapter.

571—112.3(484B,484C) Land leases required. All hunting preserve applications that include leased tract(s) of land shall be accompanied by a legible copy of the land-lease document(s). The

lease document(s) shall include but not be limited to the following information: name/address of the lessee and lessor, term of the lease (not less than five years), purpose of the lease, description/location of the leased tract(s) (acreage—section—township—county), one copy of the plat map depicting the location of leased tract(s), and dated signatures by both parties.

571—112.4(484B,484C) Boundary signs required. All registered hunting preserves shall provide, post, and maintain boundary signs that meet the following minimum specifications: 160-square-inch surface area; sign material of wood, steel, aluminum or heavy poly-plastic; and white/red sign color combination with the message “Registered Hunting Preserve.” Boundary sign spacing shall be no more than 500 feet apart. Boundary signs shall be posted at each entrance and perimeter gate and at every boundary corner. If the facility operated prior to September 1, 2005, and was signed as a “Licensed Hunting Preserve,” those signs will satisfy the signing requirement. However, once existing sign supplies are depleted, new signs must read “Registered Hunting Preserve.”

571—112.5(484B,484C) Fencing required. All registered hunting preserves for whitetails or other ungulates shall construct and maintain a “deer-proof” boundary fence. Such fence shall be constructed and maintained with a minimum fence height of eight feet above ground level. Fencing shall be inspected and approved by officers of the department prior to registration. Follow-up fence inspections by the department shall be allowed at any reasonable time by appointment or by providing the landowner or preserve registrant with at least 48 hours’ notice. Boundary fence gates shall remain closed at all times except for preserve maintenance activity, at which time no open gate shall be left unattended.

571—112.6(484B,484C) Records and annual report. All registered hunting preserves shall submit to the department a completed annual activity report on forms provided by the department.

All registered hunting preserves shall retain sales/shipping receipts involving the purchase and delivery of any game birds or whitetails or other ungulates to the registrant. All registered hunting preserves shall record any transaction involving the sale of game birds or whitetails or other ungulates by the registrant. All original sales receipts for harvested game birds and whitetails and other ungulates shall remain with the registrant as a part of the permanent record and a copy shall be provided to the purchasing hunter. This record requirement shall also apply to any sale of live birds or whitetails or other ungulates for private or commercial use, and the sale must be recorded immediately following the event.

Any registered hunting preserve having a registration for ungulates shall maintain an inventory record of all ungulates released and being held on the property at any given time.

571—112.7(484B) Game bird transportation tags. Tags shall be placed on a leg of all birds harvested on a registered hunting preserve prior to the bird being transported from the registered area. The tag shall remain attached to the bird until the time it is processed for consumption. Tags are available from the department at a cost of \$5 per 100 tags.

571—112.8(484B,484C) Whitetail and other ungulate transportation tags. Tags shall be placed on a leg of each whitetail or other ungulate harvested on a registered hunting preserve prior to moving the carcass in any manner. The hunter shall, upon taking a whitetail or other ungulate, immediately validate the tag by including the following information in the space provided: species and sex of animal taken and the hunter's signature. The hunter shall also notch or punch a hole in the corresponding blocks on the tag designating the year, month and day the animal was taken. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until the animal is processed for consumption. Tags are available from the department at a cost of \$1 per tag.

571—112.9(484B) Processed game birds. Registered hunting preserves may prepare game birds for hunters by cleaning, dressing, preserving, and packaging whole birds or bird parts. Packaging material shall be a see-through plastic bag. The plastic bag shall be sealed and the tag placed around the opening of the bag or attached to the bag in such a manner so that the tag number(s) is completely legible. The number of game birds or combination of bird parts shall correspond to the number of tags affixed to the clear plastic bag.

571—112.10(484B,484C) Processed whitetails or other ungulates. Registered hunting preserves may prepare whitetails or other ungulates for hunters by cleaning, dressing, preserving, and packaging the meat. Packaging material shall bear the species name, date the animal was killed, and hunting preserve name in a legible fashion on the outside of the package. The tag shall remain with the meat during processing and shipment.

571—112.11(484B,484C) Health requirements. No game birds or whitetails or other ungulates shipped or transported into Iowa shall be affected with, or recently exposed to, any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, or originate from a quarantined area.

112.11(1) *Game birds.* All game birds and their hatching eggs shipped or transported into Iowa shall have proof of origination from flocks or hatcheries that have a pullorum-typhoid clean rating given by the official state agency of the National Poultry Improvement Plan or its equivalent and shall be in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Iowa department of agriculture and land stewardship.

112.11(2) *Whitetails.* All whitetails shipped or transported into or within Iowa for hunting preserve purposes must be in compliance with all movement requirements, including but not limited to health certificate requirements, as prescribed by the department and the department of

agriculture and land stewardship as established in 21—65.9(163) and 21—66.14(163). Whitetails are also subject to the rules in Division II of this chapter.

112.11(3) *Other ungulates.* All other ungulates shipped or transported into Iowa for hunting preserve purposes shall be accompanied by an approved Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. All veterinary inspection certificates shall be retained by the registrant for a period of no less than five years.

571—112.12(484B,484C) General conditions for registrants.

112.12(1) Records and facilities shall be available for inspection by officers of the department during reasonable hours. The department may conduct an annual site visit and visual inventory of whitetails or other ungulates observed.

112.12(2) All records and reports must be kept current and reflect a true and accurate account of the registrant's activities.

112.12(3) The department must be notified within 30 days in writing if the registrant ceases operation as a hunting preserve, at which time all unused transportation tags shall be returned to the department.

112.12(4) Whitetail or other ungulate hunting preserves that cease operation shall not remove boundary fencing without approval from the department. Whitetail or other ungulate hunting preserves shall be depopulated prior to any boundary fence removal.

112.12(5) Game bird and ungulates-other-than-whitetail hunting preserves.

a. Registrants must seek to renew their hunting preserve operator's registration within 30 days following the expiration date. Renewal requests received after this period may be considered a new application pursuant to 571—112.2(484B,484C) and 571—112.3(484B,484C).

b. All new hunting preserve operator's applications shall be considered on a first-come, first-served basis following April 30 of each year.

112.12(6) Whitetail preserves.

a. A registrant shall renew the hunting preserve operator's registration and recertify no later than June 30. Registration renewal and recertification requests received by the department after June 30 shall be considered delinquent.

b. The department shall not renew a hunting preserve operator's registration unless a completed annual report, including all documented events for the reporting period, has been received by the department prior to the reporting deadline.

c. For purposes of this chapter, there shall be a continuous open season on whitetails enclosed on registered preserves.

d. Individuals may use centerfire rifles, pistols, crossbows, modern or traditional archery equipment, muzzleloaders, or shotguns to hunt and harvest preserve whitetails.

DIVISION II

WHITETAIL DISEASE MONITORING

571—112.13(481A,484C) CWD in whitetails.

112.13(1) *Testing required.* A person who keeps preserve whitetails in this state shall have CWD tests performed on any preserve whitetail that dies or is killed on the premises. Whenever any person receives a laboratory test result for CWD, that person shall immediately report that result to the department. The person shall report by telephone, e-mail, fax or other rapid means within one day after receiving the test result and shall report in writing within ten days. The person shall provide a copy of the test result to the owner of the tested whitetail. This reporting requirement applies to any laboratory test result for CWD.

112.13(2) *Collecting tissue samples.* One of the following persons shall collect a tissue sample and submit it for testing:

- a.* An accredited veterinarian.
- b.* A trained employee of the department authorized by the department.

112.13(3) *Reporting disease findings.* Accredited veterinarians unaffiliated with the department shall share results of CWD or other disease testing by phone or email as soon as received. Accredited veterinarians unaffiliated with the department shall also provide a copy of the test result to the owner of the tested whitetail.

571—112.14(481A,484C) Official whitetail CWD tests. The following are recognized as official cervid tests for CWD:

1. Immunohistochemistry.
2. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.
3. Any other tests performed by an approved laboratory to confirm a diagnosis of CWD.

571—112.15(481A,484C) Duration of quarantine. A positive test result for CWD will result in a minimum of a five-year quarantine on the preserve and all remaining animals located within the infected preserve. No animal movement in or out of the preserve can occur during the quarantine period.

571—112.16(481A,484C) Herd plan. The registered hunting preserve owner, the owner's veterinarian, if requested, and a designated epidemiologist shall develop a plan for eradicating CWD in affected herds. The plan must be designed to reduce and then eliminate CWD from the herd and prevent spillover into wild cervids. The herd plan must be developed and signed within 60 days after the determination that the herd is affected. The plan must be formalized as a memorandum of agreement between the owner and program officials within the department.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 481A, 484B and 484C.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 115**.

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

Decision Item

37. Chapter 113, “Restitution for Pollution Causing Injury to Wild Animals” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 113. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of Fisheries Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

The Iowa Code requires the Department to obtain restitution for damages to natural resources caused by water pollution. This restitution serves as funding to remediate the damages and serves as a deterrent to future prohibited activities. Proposed Chapter 113 includes provisions identifying how investigations are to be conducted and how damages are to be assessed, designating restitution amounts for fish and other aquatic life, and providing procedures for how compensation for damages will be obtained.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 113 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 113, “Restitution for Pollution Causing Injury to Wild Animals,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 481A.151.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.23, 481A.2, and 481A.151.

Purpose and Summary

The Iowa Code requires the Department of Natural Resources (Department) to obtain restitution for damages to natural resources caused by water pollution. This restitution serves as funding to remediate the damages and serves as a deterrent to future prohibited activities. Proposed Chapter 113 includes provisions identifying how investigations are to be conducted and how damages are to be assessed, designating restitution amounts for fish and other aquatic life, and providing procedures for how compensation for damages will be obtained. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Randall Schultz
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference
February 4, 2026 Noon-1:00 p.m.	Via videoconference

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact Randall Schultz via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state

their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 113 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 113

RESTITUTION FOR POLLUTION CAUSING INJURY TO WILD ANIMALS

571—113.1(481A) Applicability. These rules apply to persons who cause, by water pollution, the destruction of or injury to wild animals held in trust by the state for the public. These rules relate to the compensation to the state and public for the natural resource damages

and are in addition to any other legal recourse for the event or action that caused the destruction or damage.

571—113.2(481A) Definitions.

“*AFS*” means the 2017 Special Publication 35, “Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mollusk Kills,” published by the American Fisheries Society.

“*Damages*” means the costs of restoration, rehabilitation, and replacement of resources or acquisition of equivalent resources as determined in accordance with this chapter; the reasonable and necessary costs of the assessment, to include the cost of performing the assessment and administrative costs and expenses necessary for, and incidental to, the assessment; lost services to the public; and, in the event the damages claim is not resolved within six months after the incident leading to the damages, interest at the current rate published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin by the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.7. The interest amount shall be computed from the date the amount of the claim is confirmed by a final ruling of the commission in a contested case decision.

“*Priority watershed*” means a watershed for which:

1. The department of natural resources, in partnership with other state or federal agencies, the agriculture community or nonprofit organizations, creates and implements plans, programs or projects to sustain and enhance watershed and stream functions; and
2. The principal objective is to manage wild animals and their habitats.

“*Surface water resources*” means the waters of the state, including the sediments suspended in water or lying on the bank, bed, or shoreline. This term does not include groundwater or water or sediments in ponds, lakes, or reservoirs designed for waste treatment under applicable laws regulating waste treatment.

“*Wild animals*” means fish, wildlife and other biota belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the state of Iowa, the United States, or local

government. Fish and wildlife include freshwater aquatic and terrestrial species; game, nongame, and commercial species; and threatened and endangered species. Other biota encompass shellfish and other living organisms not otherwise listed in this definition.

571—113.3(481A) Liability to the state. Persons who cause by water pollution the destruction of or injury to wild animals of the state shall be liable to the state as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.151. These rules establish the methodologies and criteria for evaluating the extent and value of the destruction or injury and establish the methods of compensation. If the person and the department cannot agree to the proper resolution of a particular case, the issues of liability, damage and compensation will be established through contested case proceedings as provided by 571—Chapter 7.

571—113.4(481A) Assessment. When wild animals are destroyed or injured by an identifiable source of water pollution, the degree and value of the losses shall be assessed by collecting, compiling, and analyzing relevant information, statistics, or data through prescribed methodologies to determine damages, as set forth in this rule.

113.4(1) General. For species other than fish, the professional judgment of fish and wildlife staff and available literature and guidance normally relied on in the fish and wildlife professions may be used to assess the injuries.

113.4(2) Fish loss. Assessment of damages for fish kills shall be in accordance with the following:

a. Normally investigators will follow the methods prescribed by AFS to determine, by species and size, numbers of fish killed.

b. During periods of ice cover, where local conditions prevent using the methods in 113.4(2)“a,” or in other appropriate circumstances; for example, when the resources are known to have been diminished by prior incidents, investigators will utilize the best information available to determine, by species and size, numbers of fish killed. Information

may include existing or prior data on population levels in the affected water body or a nearby water body with similar characteristics, including any historical fish kill data.

c. The monetary valuation of fish shall be the replacement values as published in AFS for all fish lost, except the following: channel catfish, flathead catfish, blue catfish, northern pike, muskellunge, northern pike/muskellunge hybrid, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, white bass, yellow bass, white bass/striped bass hybrid, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, crappie, rock bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, warmouth, pumpkinseed, freshwater drum, yellow perch, walleye, sauger and walleye/sauger hybrid. The value of these fish shall be \$15 each unless AFS establishes a higher value. Notwithstanding the above, the value of each fish classified by the department as an endangered or threatened species shall be \$1,000.

d. The value of lost services to the public shall be the number of fishing trips lost over the period of the resource loss as determined through local creel survey information or through interpolation from the most recent statewide creel survey. Each trip shall be valued at \$30.

e. The cost of the investigation shall include:

(1) Salaries plus overhead of staff, including support staff, involved in investigating the fish kill and performing the assessment.

(2) Any meals and lodging of staff while they are in the field conducting the assessment.

(3) Mileage valued at the current rate established pursuant to Iowa Code section 8A.363.

(4) Costs borne by the department associated with containment or cleanup operations.

(5) Any other costs directly associated with the investigation and assessment.

571—113.5(481A) Compensation. The department will extend to the responsible person the opportunity to reach voluntary agreement as to the amount of damages and the compensation method. The method of compensation shall be solely in the discretion of the department. If the person disputes liability or the damage amount, these issues will be resolved through contested case proceedings.

113.5(1) *Direct monetary payment.* Compensation shall normally be by direct monetary payment to the department for projects in priority watersheds selected by the department. To the extent reasonable and practical, the money received will be used to replace, restore or rehabilitate the lost or injured animals. Resource enhancement projects, support of educational programs relating to resource protection or enhancement, or resource acquisition of equal or greater value also may be funded. If practical, such alternatives should provide similar services to the public.

113.5(2) *Indirect monetary payment.* In cases where the destruction of or injury to wild animals is in a selected priority watershed, an equal or greater amount of compensation may be made by monetary payment to another government agency or private nonprofit group in the natural resource field for the same purposes as provided in 113.5(1).

113.5(3) *Direct funding of projects.* With the approval and oversight of the department, the person may be allowed to contract directly for the same purposes as provided in 113.5(1). These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.23, 481A.2 and 481A.151.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

38. Chapter 116, “Help Us Stop Hunger Program Administration” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 116. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Wildlife Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Proposed Chapter 116 establishes the procedures for the administration of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. The HUSH program is established under the Iowa Code to encourage hunters, especially during periods of excessive deer populations, to harvest more deer than needed for personal consumption so as to donate those deer to a program to feed lowans in need. Chapter 116 was evaluated with the goals outlined in Executive Order 10.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 116 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing to rescind and replace chapter

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 116, “Help Us Stop Hunger Program Administration” and adopt a new Chapter 116 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 483A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 483A.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 116 establishes the procedures for the administration of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. The HUSH program is established under the Iowa Code to encourage hunters, especially during periods of excessive deer populations, to harvest more deer than needed for personal consumption and to donate those deer to a program to feed Iowans in need.

Fiscal Impact

Deer hunters bear the costs of the HUSH program through the \$1 fee added to each deer hunting license purchased. The \$1 fee is authorized in the Iowa Code.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 14, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 13, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

January 14, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 116 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 116

HELP US STOP HUNGER PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

571—116.1(483A) Purpose. This chapter establishes the procedures for the administration of HUSH.

571—116.2(483A) Definitions.

“Deer” means any wild deer legally taken in Iowa and deer confiscated as legal evidence if the confiscated carcass is considered by a conservation officer to be in good condition for donation.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A.

“Distributor” means the Food Bank of Iowa or other venison distribution service provider as shall be designated by future contract with the department.

“Field-dressed” means that the deer has been properly bled and cleaned of its internal organs.

“Food Bank of Iowa” means the private, nonprofit charitable organization incorporated under that name, whose mission is to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste in Iowa.

“HUSH” means the help us stop hunger program.

“Meat processor” means any business that is licensed by the department of agriculture and land stewardship’s bureau of meat and poultry inspection, the USDA, or a neighboring state’s department that is similar to Iowa’s, to process meat for retail customers.

571—116.3(483A) Restrictions. Deer is the only species of wildlife that shall be covered by the HUSH program. The entire deer carcass must be donated, but the hunter may keep the antlers, head and cape.

571—116.4(483A) HUSH council. There is hereby created a HUSH council. Members shall serve without compensation.

116.4(1) Membership. The HUSH council shall include the following voting members:

- a. The HUSH coordinator, who shall serve as the chairperson;
- b. An additional department representative designated by the department’s wildlife bureau chief;
- c. A representative of the Food Bank of Iowa appointed by its executive director.

116.4(2) Duties.

a. To set a fair market price, the council shall consider prices for similar services paid by retail customers in Iowa and nearby states and shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer processing payment to be made to meat processors.

b. The council shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer administrative payment to be made to the Food Bank of Iowa. The Food Bank of Iowa shall provide information to assist in this determination but shall not participate in any vote of the council regarding the recommendation of the annual per-deer administrative payment to the Food Bank of Iowa.

c. The council shall make recommendations to the department to resolve conflicts or disputes in the operation of the HUSH program as brought to it by any person or entity.

d. The council shall adopt standards for participating lockers to meet in terms of their record of violations of rules of the bureau of meat and poultry inspection and the department of natural resources.

e. The council shall advise the department in the administration of HUSH.

116.4(3) Administration. The HUSH coordinator shall convene the council as needed to conduct business. A majority vote shall be required for action or decision by the council. The chief of the department's wildlife bureau shall have the right to overrule the council for cause and shall provide the council with justification for the reasons. A quorum to conduct business shall consist of three council members, one of whom shall be the HUSH coordinator.

571—116.5(483A) Duties of the department. During periods of excessive deer populations, the department shall promote the harvest of deer by hunters and the donation of deer at meat processors participating in HUSH. During periods of nonexcessive deer populations, HUSH may continue with less emphasis on promotion to hunters. The department shall enlist as many meat processors as available to participate in HUSH and shall enter into uniform agreements with them. The department shall contract with the Food Bank of Iowa and pay a per-deer rate for administrative services provided.

571—116.6(483A) Partnerships with other organizations. The department, at its own discretion, may enter into agreements with other organizations for the purpose of expanding the deer donation program. The department may include the offer of matching grants to pay for deer processing to organizations that acquire funding from sources other than the state of Iowa.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 483A.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 116, “Help Us Stop Hunger Program Administration” and adopt a new Chapter 116 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 483A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code Chapter 483A.

Purpose and Summary

Proposed Chapter 116 establishes the procedures for the administration of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. The HUSH program is established under the Iowa Code to encourage hunters, especially during periods of excessive deer populations, to harvest more deer than needed for personal consumption so as to donate those deer to a program to feed Iowans in need.

Fiscal Impact

Deer hunters bear the costs of the HUSH program through the \$1 fee added to each deer hunting license purchased. The \$1 fee is authorized in the Iowa Code.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Natural Resources (Department) no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 28, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Chris Ensminger
Wildlife Bureau
6200 Park Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

February 2, 2026 from 1-2PM, 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515-250-6886 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515-250-6886 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 116 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 116

HELP US STOP HUNGER PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

571—116.1(483A) Purpose. This chapter establishes the procedures for the administration of HUSH.

571—116.2(483A) Definitions.

“*Deer*” means any wild deer legally taken in Iowa and deer confiscated as legal evidence if the confiscated carcass is considered by a conservation officer to be in good condition for donation.

“*Department*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A.

“Distributor” means the Food Bank of Iowa or other venison distribution service provider as shall be designated by future contract with the department.

“Field-dressed” means that the deer has been properly bled and cleaned of its internal organs.

“Food Bank of Iowa” means the private, nonprofit charitable organization incorporated under that name, whose mission is to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste in Iowa.

“HUSH” means the help us stop hunger program.

“Meat processor” means any business that is licensed by the department of agriculture and land stewardship’s bureau of meat and poultry inspection, the USDA, or a neighboring state’s department that is similar to Iowa’s, to process meat for retail customers.

571—116.3(483A) Restrictions. Deer is the only species of wildlife that shall be covered by the HUSH program. The entire deer carcass must be donated, but the hunter may keep the antlers, head and cape.

571—116.4(483A) HUSH council. There is hereby created a HUSH council. Members shall serve without compensation.

116.4(1) Membership. The HUSH council shall include the following voting members:

- a. The HUSH coordinator, who shall serve as the chairperson;
- b. An additional department representative designated by the department’s wildlife bureau chief;
- c. A representative of the Food Bank of Iowa appointed by its executive director.

116.4(2) Duties.

- a. To set a fair market price, the council shall consider prices for similar services paid by retail customers in Iowa and nearby states and shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer processing payment to be made to meat processors.

b. The council shall recommend to the department an annual per-deer administrative payment to be made to the Food Bank of Iowa. The Food Bank of Iowa shall provide information to assist in this determination but shall not participate in any vote of the council regarding the recommendation of the annual per-deer administrative payment to the Food Bank of Iowa.

c. The council shall make recommendations to the department to resolve conflicts or disputes in the operation of the HUSH program as brought to it by any person or entity.

d. The council shall adopt standards for participating lockers to meet in terms of their record of violations of rules of the bureau of meat and poultry inspection and the department of natural resources.

e. The council shall advise the department in the administration of HUSH.

116.4(3) Administration. The HUSH coordinator shall convene the council as needed to conduct business. A majority vote shall be required for action or decision by the council. The chief of the department's wildlife bureau shall have the right to overrule the council for cause and shall provide the council with justification for the reasons. A quorum to conduct business shall consist of three council members, one of whom shall be the HUSH coordinator.

571—116.5(483A) Duties of the department. During periods of excessive deer populations, the department shall promote the harvest of deer by hunters and the donation of deer at meat processors participating in HUSH. During periods of nonexcessive deer populations, HUSH may continue with less emphasis on promotion to hunters. The department shall enlist as many meat processors as available to participate in HUSH and shall enter into uniform agreements with them. The department shall contract with the Food Bank of Iowa and pay a per-deer rate for administrative services provided.

571—116.6(483A) Partnerships with other organizations. The department, at its own discretion, may enter into agreements with other organizations for the purpose of expanding the deer donation program. The department may include the offer of matching grants to pay for deer processing to organizations that acquire funding from sources other than the state of Iowa. These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 483A.

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

Decision Item

39. Chapter 2, “Public Records and Fair Information Practices”; Chapter 3, “Submission of Information and Complaints - Investigations”; Chapter 4, “Agency Procedure for Rule Making”; Chapter 5, “Petition for Rulemaking”; and Chapter 6, “Declaratory Orders” - Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Department’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

561—Chapter 2 establishes the Department’s policies and procedures for the maintenance of records. This chapter facilitates public access to open records and provides the procedures for identifying and protecting confidential records. The chapter implements provisions of the Fair Information Practices Act.

561—Chapter 5 governs the Department’s process for receiving and reviewing rulemaking petitions. 561—Chapter 5 adopts the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedures contained in the first volume of the Iowa Administrative Code along with Department-specific provisions. The Commission proposes to adopt 561—Chapter 2 by reference.

561—Chapter 6 governs the Department’s process for receiving and reviewing declaratory orders. The proposed chapter adopts the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedures contained in the first volume of the Iowa Administrative Code along with Department-specific provisions.

571—Chapters 2, 5, and 6 adopt 561—Chapters 2, 5, and 6 by reference.

571—Chapter 3 adopts 561—Chapter 3 by reference. 561—Chapter 3 provides general guidance concerning the submission of information, supplies special telephone numbers for reporting certain types of information, and sets forth specific procedures for the submission and investigation of complaints. The statutory authority requiring 561—Chapter 3 was removed by 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2370 (striking Iowa Code section 17A.3(1)“a” and “b”), making 561—Chapter 3 unnecessary. Pursuant to Executive Order 10, that chapter was rescinded effective August 27, 2025 (ARC 9432C). With the statutory and rule authority removed for the adoption by reference, Chapter 3 is no longer authorized or necessary and is being rescinded.

The existing 561—Chapter 4 rules and adopted by reference 567—Chapter 4 provide the procedure for rulemaking; however, the rules are unnecessary and redundant to the provisions for rulemaking codified in Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 17A.4A, and 17A.4B. Because the rules simply duplicate the process provided by the Iowa Code, they can be rescinded by this proposed rulemaking consistent with Executive Order 10’s mandate to remove redundancy and unnecessary provisions. 561—Chapter 4 is being rescinded; therefore, 567—Chapter 4 is unnecessary and will be rescinded as well.

Kelli Book, Attorney
Legal Services Bureau
Director’s Office
Natural Resource Commission
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby: 1) proposes to rescind Chapter 2, “Public Records and Fair Information Practices,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new Chapter 2 with the same title; 2) proposes to rescind Chapter 3, “Submission of Information and Complaints - Investigations,” Iowa Administrative Code; 3) proposes to rescind Chapter 4, “Agency Procedure for Rule Making,” Iowa Administrative Code; 4) proposes to rescind Chapter 5, “Petition for Rulemaking,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new Chapter 5 with the same title; and 5) proposes to rescind Chapter 6, “Declaratory Orders,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new Chapter 6 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 17A, 17A.3, 17A.4, 17A.4A, 17A.4B, 17A.7, 17A.9, 22.11, and 455A.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code Chapter 17A and Executive Order 10 (2023).

Purpose and Summary

561—Chapter 2 establishes the Department’s policies and procedures for the maintenance of records. It facilitates public access to open records and provides the procedures for identifying and protecting confidential records. The chapter implements provisions of the Fair Information Practices Act. The Commission proposes to adopt 561—Chapter 2 by reference.

Chapter 3 adopts 561—Chapter 3 by reference. 561—Chapter 3 provides general guidance concerning the submission of information, supplies special telephone numbers for reporting certain types of information, and sets forth specific procedures for the submission and investigation of complaints.

The statutory authority requiring 561—Chapter 3 was removed by 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2370 (striking Iowa Code section 17A.3(1)“a” and “b”), making 561—Chapter 3 unnecessary. Pursuant to Executive Order 10, that chapter was rescinded effective August 27, 2025 (**ARC 9432C**). With the statutory and rule authority removed for the adoption by reference, Chapter 3 is no longer authorized or necessary. Accordingly, the Commission proposes to rescind Chapter 3.

The existing Chapter 4 rules provide the procedure for rulemaking; however, the rules are unnecessary and redundant to the provisions for rulemaking codified in Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 17A.4A, and 17A.4B. Because the rules simply duplicate the process provided by the Iowa Code, they can be rescinded by this proposed rulemaking consistent with Executive Order 10’s mandate to remove redundancy and unnecessary provisions. Accordingly, the Commission proposes to rescind Chapter 4.

The Iowa Administrative Procedure Act requires an agency to adopt rules describing how it will receive and review rulemaking petitions. 561—Chapter 5 governs the Department’s process for receiving and reviewing rulemaking petitions. 561—Chapter 5 adopts the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedures contained in the first volume of the Iowa Administrative Code along with Department-specific provisions. The Commission proposes to adopt 561—Chapter 5 by reference.

The Iowa Administrative Procedure Act requires an agency to adopt rules describing how it will receive and process declaratory orders. 561—Chapter 6 governs the Department’s process for receiving and reviewing declaratory orders. The proposed chapter adopts the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedures contained in the first volume of the Iowa Administrative Code along with Department-specific provisions. The Commission proposes to adopt 561—Chapter 6 by reference.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

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

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department or a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 561—Chapter 10.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Kelli Book

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200

Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Phone: 515.210.3408

kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department at kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.210.3408 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.210.3408 al menos siete días antes del evento.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm at Department of Natural Resources; 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200; Des Moines, Iowa 50321; Yellow River Conference Room.

Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:00 am - 11:00 am via Zoom.

A Zoom link and conference call number will be provided prior to the hearing to those who make a request to take part in the virtual hearing. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the virtual public hearing must submit a request to Ms. Book prior to the hearing to facilitate an orderly hearing.

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend a hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Free language access: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers you language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al kelli.book@dnr.iowa.gov.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making 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).

The following rule-making actions proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind **571—Chapter 2** and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

571—2.1(17A,22) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 2.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 22.11.

ITEM 2. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 3**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **571—Chapter 4**.

ITEM 4. Rescind **571—Chapter 5** and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 5

PETITIONS FOR RULEMAKING

571—5.1(17A) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 5.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.7.

ITEM 5. Rescind **571—Chapter 6** and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 6

DECLARATORY ORDERS

571—6.1(17A) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 6.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.9.

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

Decision Item

40. Chapter 7, “Rules of Practice in Contested Cases”; Chapter 8, “Contracts for Services and Public Improvements”; and Chapter 13, “Waivers from Administrative Rules” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to approve the Final rule for Chapters 7, 8, and 13. This rulemaking is the result of the Legal Services Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

Basic Intent of Chapters:

- New Chapter 7 adopts by reference the Department’s rules of practice in contested cases as contained in 561—Chapter 7 (**ARC 9433C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). This chapter is necessary to guarantee due process and ensure a consistent and transparent hearing process. 561—Chapter 7 is narrowly tailored to that end and was edited consistent with Executive Order 10.
- New Chapter 8 adopts by reference the Department’s process for soliciting and awarding contracts for services, contracts for public improvements, and contracts for sale of timber found in 561—Chapter 8 (**ARC 9434C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). 561—Chapter 8 was amended and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10.
- New Chapter 13 adopts by reference the process for a person to petition the Environmental Protection Commission for a waiver from the requirements of an administrative rule as contained in 561—Chapter 10 (**ARC 9436C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). 561—Chapter 10 was amended and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10.

NOIA: The Notice of Intended Action (NOIA) was approved by the Commission at its September 16, 2025, meeting. The NOIA was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 15, 2025, as ARC 9593C. Two public hearings were held on November 4 and 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: February 11, 2026

Tamara McIntosh, General Counsel
Legal Services Bureau
Meeting Date: December 9, 2025

Attached: Chapters 7, 8, 13 – Final Rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby rescinds Chapter 7, “Rules of Practice in Contested Cases,” and adopts a new Chapter 7 with the same title; rescinds Chapter 8, “Contracts for Public Improvements and Professional Services,” and adopts a new Chapter 8, “Contracts for Services and Public Improvements”; and rescinds Chapter 11, “Waivers or Variances from Administrative Rules,” and adopts a new Chapter 11, “Waivers from Administrative Rules,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 17A.9A, 17A.22, 455A.4 and 573.12(13).

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 17A.9A, 17A.22, 455A.4 and 573.12(13) and Executive Order 10.

Purpose and Summary

New Chapter 7 adopts by reference the Department’s rules of practice in contested cases as contained in 561—Chapter 7 (**ARC 9433C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). This chapter is necessary to guarantee due process and ensure a consistent and transparent hearing process. 561—Chapter 7 is narrowly tailored to that end and was edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

New Chapter 8 adopts by reference the Department’s process for soliciting and awarding contracts for services, contracts for public improvements, and contracts for sale of timber found

in 561—Chapter 8 (**ARC 9434C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). 561—Chapter 8 was amended and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10.

New Chapter 11 adopts by reference the process for a person to petition the Environmental Protection Commission for a waiver from the requirements of an administrative rule as contained in 561—Chapter 10 (**ARC 9436C**, IAB 7/23/25, effective 8/27/25). 561—Chapter 10 was amended and simplified consistent with Executive Order 10.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 15, 2025, as **ARC 9593C**.

Two public hearings were held. Both meetings were hosted virtually via Google Meets; one was on November 4, 2025, at Noon and the other was held on November 5, 2025, at Noon. No one attended either meeting. No comments were received.

No changes have been made from the Notice.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on December 11, 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 567-Chapter 13.

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 upon filing consistent with Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(1)(b), which creates an expedited effectiveness standard when a rule “confers a benefit or removes a restriction on the public or some segment thereof.” This rulemaking removes restrictions and confers a benefit on the Commission; on regulated entities, contractors, and vendors; and the general public. All three underlying chapters adopted by reference were reviewed and simplified by removing regulations and restrictive terms, as required by Executive Order 10.

In more detail, new Chapter 8 has incorporated higher contract approval thresholds, allowing the Commission to more quickly award contracts for services and public improvements, which will benefit the general public who will use the resulting projects and infrastructure, as well as associated industry, who seek business transactions with the state.

Likewise, new Chapter 11 contains streamlined waiver standards that ensure environmental, natural resources, and public health standards are met through an alternative compliance requirement.

Finally, New Chapter 7 has been updated to reflect modern electronic filing systems, eliminating antiquated paper and ink requirements. This will streamline contested case filings and proceedings, saving all parties both time and money.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 571—Chapter 7 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 7

RULES OF PRACTICE IN CONTESTED CASES

571—7.1(17A) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 7.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.22.

ITEM 2. Rescind 571—Chapter 8 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 8

CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

571—8.1(17A) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 8.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 455A.4, and 573.12(13).

ITEM 3. Rescind 571—Chapter 11 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 11

WAIVERS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

571—11.1(17A) Adoption by reference. The commission adopts by reference 561—Chapter 10.

571—11.2(17A) Report to commission. The director shall submit reports of decisions regarding requests for waivers to the commission at its regular meetings.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.9A.

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

Decision Item

41. 575 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapters 1-3, “Advisory Board for State Preserves”– Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for 575 IAC chapters 1-3. This Notice of Intended Action is the result of the Engineering, Land & Waters Bureau’s Executive Order 10 rule review.

The Iowa Legislature dissolved the State Preserves Advisory Board effective on July 1, 2024. Full responsibility for the State Preserves program now resides with the Department of Natural Resources. The Department proposes to consolidate the provisions of chapters 1-3 that are still relevant into a single chapter 1. That new chapter 1 would then be transferred and renamed as 571 IAC 60 “State Preserves” and the 575 chapters would be rescinded and reserved. This reflects dissolution of the State Preserves Advisory Board and simplifies the remaining content into a single chapter under the Natural Resource Commission.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Attached: Chapter 60 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind 575—Chapters 1 through 3, “State Preserves,” Iowa Administrative Code, adopt a new Chapter 1 with the same title, and transfer that chapter 1 as 571—Chapter 60.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 465C.8 and 455A.5(6)“a”.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 465C.

Purpose and Summary

Agency number [575] of the Iowa Administrative Code contains chapters regulating state preserves. Preserves are the highest classification of public land and exist to protect significant natural, geological, historical, archaeological, and scenic sites in Iowa. The rules also govern the State Preserves Advisory Board and include provisions for its membership, operation, reporting requirements, and recordkeeping procedures. Recent changes to the Iowa Code eliminated this Board and transferred its authority and duties to the Department of Natural Resources (Department) and the Natural Resource Commission (Commission). For this reason, many of the existing provisions in 575—Chapters 1 through 3 are now no longer relevant. This rulemaking proposes to remove those irrelevant provisions and then consolidate the remaining provisions into a single “State Preserves” chapter. This new chapter would then be transferred to the Commission’s jurisdiction under 571—Chapter 60. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

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.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

John Pearson
6200 Park Ave Ste 200
Des Moines IA 50321
Email: john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov

Free Language Access: If you speak a non-English language, we offer you language assistance services free of charge. Contact DNR at john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el DNR al john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov.

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally will be held as follows:

January 28, 2026
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Via videoconference

February 4, 2026

Via videoconference

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Persons who wish to attend a public hearing or make oral comments at a public hearing should contact John Pearson via email prior to the hearing to receive a conference call number. Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

Free Language Assistance: if you need assistance in a language other than English, contact DNR at john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; or by telephone at 515-326-0430 at least seven days before the event.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el DNR al john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov; o por teléfono a 515-326-0430 al menos siete días antes del evento.

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).

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 575—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1

STATE PRESERVES

575—1.1(465C) Duties as to state preserves. The natural resource commission is charged with the responsibility of locating, identifying, evaluating, and dedicating areas as state preserves.

575—1.2(465C) Types of preserves. There shall be five major classes of preserves.

1.2(1) *Natural preserves.* These areas contain natural communities; habitats; native flora and fauna; or endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.

1.2(2) *Archaeological preserves.* These areas contain significant deposits left by prehistoric or early historic peoples.

1.2(3) *Historical preserves.* These are sites that contain structures or places that are of significance in studying the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers.

1.2(4) *Geological preserves.* These are areas that contain rare or distinctive landforms, fossils, stratigraphic sections, mineral deposits or examples of mining history; type or reference sections; or other special features or deposits that represent the events and processes of Iowa's earth history.

1.2(5) *Scenic preserves.* These are areas that contain scenic features of aesthetic, scientific, or educational value.

575—1.3(465C) Management provisions.

1.3(1) *Administration and management.* The administrative and management authority for a preserve shall be agreed upon by the commission, the property owner, and the manager.

1.3(2) *Management plan.* For each preserve, an authorized representative of the owner shall prepare a management plan in consultation with department staff. The management plan shall be consistent with the articles of dedication and shall include identification of uses of the preserve that are compatible and incompatible with its dedication as a preserve. The management plan shall be amended periodically, as appropriate, in response to new

information. The management plan and amendments shall be submitted to the commission for approval. The department shall keep a copy of the current management plan. A management plan for a new preserve shall be submitted for approval by the commission in conjunction with approval of dedication of the preserve. Management plans for existing preserves shall be prepared and submitted for approval as resources are available.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 465C.8.

ITEM 2. Transfer **575—Chapter 1** as **571—Chapter 60**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **575—Chapter 2**.

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve **575—Chapter 3**.