

Agenda

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Teleconference: 361-245-0121 PIN: 803 292 109#

Video Conference: meet.google.com/smw-cnju-drz

Thursday, February 12, 2026

9:30 AM – NRC Business Meeting-Virtual

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) *5. Donations *12. Land Management Projects (12.1-12.7)	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.	Donations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
6.	Chapter 15, "General License Regulations" – Notice of Intended Action"	Decision	Joe Larscheid
7.	Chapter 106, "Deer Hunting" – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting" – Final Rule	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.	Chapter 35 – Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant Recommendations	Decision	Joe Larscheid
10.	Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Todd Bishop
11.	Contract with The Xerces Society, Inc.	Decision	Todd Bishop
12.	Small Construction Projects-Boat Ramp and Parking Lot Replacement at Prairie Rose State Park; Storage Building Replacement at Manchester Fisheries Management Unit; Shingle Replacement and Gutter Installation at Pikes Peak Shelter and Restrooms; Boat Ramp Replacement and Sidewalk Installation at Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit	Information	Travis Baker
13.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	13.1 Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery, Shoreline Restoration – Dickinson County		
	13.2 Ledges State Park, Oak Woods Shelter Repairs – Boone County		
	13.3 Lewis and Clark State Park Visitors Center, HVAC System Replacement – Monona County		
*14.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	14.1 Management Agreement – McCausland Access – Clinton County Conservation Board		
	14.2 Management Agreement – Spring Run Shooting Range – Dickinson County Conservation Board		
	14.3 Management Agreement – Faulkner Fishing Access – Henry County Conservation Board		
	14.4 Easement Conveyance – Elkader Marsh – Clayton County Conservation Board		
	14.5 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — American River Transportation Company LLC – Dubuque County		
	14.6 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Leonard Verbeck – Clayton County		

14.7	Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Hans and Bernice Willadsen – Dickinson County		
15.	Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
15.1	Jana Rec WMA, Sac County – Justin and Stephanie Bellcock		
15.2	Whitetail Flats WMA, Franklin County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation		
16.	Contract with Solitude Lake Management-Alum Application	Decision	Travis Baker
17.	Contract with Armodus, LLC-Hazardous Tree Removal at Lewis and Clark State Park	Decision	Sherry Arntzen
18.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, March 12, Des Moines • April 8-April 9, Appanoose County 			

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.

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**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 8, 2026

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

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY	
File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
Sender's	<u>ap</u>
Initials	<u></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 Chairperson Tom Prickett at 9:30 am on January 8, 2026 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

KR Buck

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included:

- *5. Donations
- *10. Public Land Management Projects (10.1-10.4)
- *12. Contract Amendment with Siegel Lawn Care, LLC-Bark Beetle Monitoring Project
- *13. Contract Amendment with Foth Infrastructure & Environment- Spongy Moth Pheromone Traps

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the agenda and consent agenda with removal of items 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 due to the new, increased dollar threshold that requires Commission approval for construction projects. Seconded by Laura Kudej. Commissioner Moritz noted a few typos on the Donation brief to be updated for the record.

The 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 Uriah Hansen to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Collin Brecher.

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 provided an update of the First Day Hikes that took place at Iowa's State Parks, noting over 1000 participants at various parks throughout the state.
- Director Lyon noted that the Governor's Condition of the State will take place next Tuesday, January 13th.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth shared his experience attending the First Day Hike at Springbrook State Park.
- DA Hildreth shared his deer hunting experiences during the archery and second shotgun deer seasons.
- DA Hildreth gave an update on the deer seasons closing soon and the upcoming antlerless seasons available to hunters in Iowa.

CONTRACT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY-AMBIENT LAKE MONITORING

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with Iowa State University for ambient lake monitoring.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments – None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH BOLTON AND MENK

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with Bolton and Menk to finalize the assessment of the collapsed shorelines at Pillsbury Point as a result of the 2024 floods. Miss Balmer explained why FEMA funding was not used in the assessment project.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej 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

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: ROAD REPAIR AT SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK; SEPTIC TANK REPLACEMENT AT SUMMERSET STATE PARK

Travis Baker presented a pair of small construction projects for Springbrook State Park and Summerset State Park to the Commission.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- MCINTOSH WOODS STATE PARK, CAMPGROUND PROJECT – CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a campground construction project at McIntosh Woods State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher 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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-WAPSIPINICON STATE PARK, ROAD MAINTENANCE – JONES COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a road maintenance project at Wapsipinicon State Park.

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

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT- PALISADES KEPLER STATE PARK, LINN COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to acquire a 10-acre parcel adjacent to Palisades Kepler State Park.

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

Motion was made by Laura Kudej approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT- NORTH BEAR CREEK WMA, ALLAMAKEE COUNTY – IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to acquire a 21.1-acre parcel adjacent to the North Bear Creek Wildlife Management Area.

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

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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 BACHMAN AERO, INC.-CANADA GEESE AND WHITE-TAILED DEER AERIAL SURVEYS

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for a contract with Bachman Aero, Inc. for aerial wildlife surveys. Mr. Ensminger provided insight to both the history of the contract and use of wildlife aerial surveys.

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners shared about their Fall/Winter hunts, noting a good pheasant season.
- Commissioners shared family highlights and recent family additions.
- Commissioner Hansen noted his excitement for the positive things happening in the outdoor and conservation work, stating he is looking forward to what is to come in 2026.
- Chair Prickett shared that the 2025 NRC Report has been filed with the Governor's office, the Department, and Iowa legislators.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:05 am on January 8, 2026.

ADJOURNED

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

Decision Item

***Item #5** (**indicates proposed consent item*)

Donations

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by:
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Jim Mayhew.	Vicky Edwards
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$25.00	Donation to support the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Jim Mayhew.	Claire Patin
Wildlife Diversity	\$400.00	Donation to support the Wildlife Diversity Fund.	Martha Lisantii
Elk Rock State Park	\$1,500.00	Fire rings (5) for the campground at Elk Rock State Park.	Judd Keuning
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$50.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife trust Fund in memory of Stanley Ray Grote, son of Ely Grote.	Peter and Susan Jasan
Ledges State Park	\$6,840.00	Donation of 190 hours of Conservation Corps of Iowa & Minnesota resource management crew removing invasive species.	Friends of the Ledges, inc.
Ledges State Park	\$700.00	Donation of 2"x10" treated lumber for picnic table repair and construction.	Friends of the Ledges, inc.
Ledges State Park	\$1,500.00	Donation of 8 new charcoal picnic grills.	Friends of the Ledges, inc.
George Wyth State Park	\$5,931.61	Blower attachment for Gator to remove trail, road, and parking lot debris for George Wyth State Park.	Cedar Valley Trails Partnership
Parks, Forests, and Preserves	\$3,932.58	Round up donations through the Iowa State Parks Reservation System: October-December 2025.	Various Donors

Pete Hildreth, Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division.
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

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

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 15, “General License Regulations”

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: This proposed rulemaking seeks to increase hunting, fishing, and trapping resident and nonresident license fees by 5 percent, consistent with the statutory cap.

Joe Larscheid, Chief
Fisheries Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
2/6/2026

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.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, and general administration and a framework for license revocation and suspension. This proposed rulemaking seeks to increase hunting, fishing, and trapping resident and nonresident license fees by 5 percent, consistent with the statutory cap. These fees are only paid by persons who choose to participate in these recreational activities. License fees are deposited into the State Fish and Game Protection Fund (commonly known as the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund), which also receives certain federal funds generated by excise taxes on outdoor sporting equipment. The Trust Fund is dedicated to Iowa’s natural resources by and protected by the Iowa Constitution. The Department is charged by law to use Trust Fund dollars to fund its natural resource protection, management, research, and enhancement activities.

While funded by a specific user group, the Trust Fund pays significant dividends to all Iowans. The Department’s three Trust Fund-managing bureaus (Wildlife, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement) ensure the health and abundance of Iowa’s natural resources, which underpins substantial economic activity. Simply put, the fees paid by sportsmen and sportswomen support

the conservation infrastructure that benefits the State's economy, the environment, and Iowans' quality of life.

Fiscal Impact

Economic impacts of this proposed rulemaking are constrained by the Iowa Code to a five percent increase. This is a modest increase; for example, current resident fishing licenses will change from \$20 to \$21. However, every cent is important: license fees are a vital source of revenue for the Department's active promotion, management, research, and protection of Iowa's natural resources.

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 March 24, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Joe Larscheid
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321
Joe.Larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

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

March 24, 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:

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571—15.10(483A) as follows:

571—15.10(483A) Licenses—fees. Except as otherwise provided by law, a person shall not fish, trap, hunt, harvest, pursue, catch, kill, take in any manner, use, have possession of, sell, or transport all or a part of any wild animal, bird, game, turtle, or fish, the protection and regulation of which is desirable for the conservation of resources of the state, without first obtaining a license for that purpose and paying a fee as follows:

15.10(1) Residents.

a. Fishing license, annual — ~~\$20~~ \$21.

- b.* Fishing license, three-year — ~~\$60~~ \$63.
- c.* Fishing license, seven-day — ~~\$13.50~~ \$14.
- d.* Fishing license, one-day — ~~\$8.50~~ \$8.75.
- e.* Third-line fishing permit, annual — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
- f.* Fishing license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
- g.* Fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran or POW — \$5.
- h.* Paddlefish fishing license, annual — ~~\$23.50~~ \$24.50.
- i.* Trout fishing fee — ~~\$12.50~~ \$13.
- j.* Boundary waters sport trotline license, annual — ~~\$24~~ \$25.
- k.* Hunting license, annual — ~~\$20~~ \$21.
- l.* Hunting license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$33~~ \$34.50.
- m.* Hunting license, three-year, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$99~~ \$103.75.
- n.* Hunting license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
- o.* Combination hunting and fishing license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$53~~ \$55.50.
- p.* Combination hunting and fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran or POW — \$5.
- q.* Deer hunting license — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
- r.* First antlerless deer license — ~~\$25.50~~ \$26.75.
- s.* Additional antlerless deer license — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
- t.* Wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$13~~ \$13.50.
- u.* Migratory game bird fee — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
- v.* Wild turkey hunting license — ~~\$26.50~~ \$27.75.
- w.* Fur harvester license, annual — ~~\$24~~ \$25.

- x. Fur harvester license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$37~~ \$38.75.
- y. Fur harvester license, annual, under 16 years of age — ~~\$5.50~~ \$5.75.
- z. Fur harvester license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
- aa. Fur dealer license, annual — ~~\$264~~ \$277.
- bb. Aquaculture unit license, annual — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
- cc. Retail bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$36~~ \$37.75.
- dd. Wholesale bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.
- ee. Game breeder license, annual — ~~\$18~~ \$18.75.
- ff. Taxidermy license, annual — ~~\$18~~ \$18.75.
- gg. Trout fishing license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$63~~ \$66.
- hh. Trout fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran — ~~\$63~~ \$66.
- ii. Fishing license, annual, veteran — \$5.
- jj. Combination hunting and fishing license, annual, veteran — \$5.

15.10(2) *Nonresidents.*

- a. Fishing license, annual — ~~\$46~~ \$48.
- b. Fishing license, seven-day — ~~\$35.50~~ \$37.
- c. Fishing license, three-day — ~~\$18.50~~ \$19.
- d. Fishing license, one-day — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
- e. Third-line fishing permit, annual — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
- f. Paddlefish fishing license, annual — ~~\$47~~ \$49.
- g. Trout fishing fee — ~~\$15.50~~ \$16.
- h. Boundary waters sport trotline license, annual — ~~\$47.50~~ \$49.75.
- i. Hunting license, annual — ~~\$129~~ \$135.

- j.* Hunting license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$142~~ \$149.
- k.* Hunting license, annual, under 18 years of age — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
- l.* Hunting license, annual, under 18 years of age, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$43~~ \$45.
- m.* Hunting license, five-day (not applicable to deer or wild turkey seasons) — ~~\$75~~ \$78.50.
- n.* Hunting license, five-day, including the wildlife habitat fee (not applicable to deer or wild turkey seasons) — ~~\$88~~ \$92.
- o.* Deer hunting license, antlered or any-sex deer — ~~\$345.50~~ \$362.75.
- p.* Deer hunting license, antlerless-deer-only, required with the purchase of an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.
- q.* Deer hunting license, antlerless-deer-only — ~~\$263.50~~ \$276.50.
- r.* Preference point issued under Iowa Code section 483A.7(3) “*b*” or 483A.8(3) “*e*” — ~~\$58.50~~ \$61.
- s.* Holiday deer hunting license issued under Iowa Code section 483A.8(6), antlerless-deer-only — ~~\$88~~ \$92.
- t.* Wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$13~~ \$13.50.
- u.* Migratory game bird fee — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
- v.* Wild turkey hunting license, annual — ~~\$117~~ \$122.75.
- w.* Fur harvester license, annual — ~~\$232~~ \$243.50.
- x.* Fur harvester license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$245~~ \$257.
- y.* Fur dealer license, annual — ~~\$586.50~~ \$615.75.
- z.* Fur dealer license, one-day, one location — ~~\$292.50~~ \$307.
- aa.* Location permit for fur dealer — ~~\$66~~ \$69.
- bb.* Aquaculture unit license, annual — ~~\$66~~ \$69.

cc. Retail bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.

dd. Wholesale bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$292.50~~ \$307.

ee. Game breeder license, annual — ~~\$30.50~~ \$32.

ff. Taxidermy license, annual — ~~\$30.50~~ \$32.

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

Decision Item

7. Chapter 106, “Deer Hunting” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to adopt a Final rule to amend Chapter 106, “Deer Hunting.”

Basic Intent of Current Rule: Chapter 106 governs deer hunting in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates deer hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and methods of take, and transportation and reporting requirements.

NOIA Process: The Notice of Intended Action was approved by the NRC on September 11, 2025.

This rulemaking makes several amendments to Chapter 106. The majority of these amendments establish a new resident hunting zone, along with new licensing procedures and means and methods of take specific for that zone. Other amendments implement 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 423 and House File 885, which collectively create a new disabled veterans deer privilege; clarify that youth deer licenses are available to purchase throughout all deer seasons; and make a minor change to the deer depredation program. A correction is also included to add sentences that were inadvertently removed during the prior rulemaking under Executive Order 10.

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 15, 2025, as **ARC 9594C**. A public hearing was held on November 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearing.

Changes from NOIA: One change from the Notice has been made. The youth season license availability provision has been updated to fully align with the current language in Iowa Code section 483A.8(7). Youth licenses are, by law, available for purchase throughout all established deer seasons. The rule now matches this statutory requirement (see subparagraph 106.14(6)).

Effective Date of Final Rule: April 8, 2026

Todd Bishop, Chief, Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Attachment: Chapter 106, “Deer Hunting” - Final Rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby amends Chapter 106, “Deer Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)“a,” 481A.39, and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.38 and 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 106 governs deer hunting by residents and nonresidents in the State of Iowa. This chapter sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and methods of take, and transportation and reporting requirements. Chapter 106 also addresses landowner/tenant deer license application procedure, timing, and general eligibility as well as the State’s deer depredation program.

This rulemaking makes several amendments. The majority of these amendments establish a new resident hunting zone, along with new licensing procedures and means and methods of take specific for that zone. Other amendments implement 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 423 and House File 885, which collectively create a new disabled veterans deer privilege; clarify that youth deer licenses are available to purchase throughout all deer seasons; and make a minor change to the deer depredation program. A correction is also included to add sentences that were inadvertently removed during the prior rulemaking under 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 9594C**.

A public hearing was held on November 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearing.

One change from the Notice has been made. The youth season license availability provision has been updated to fully align with the current language in Iowa Code section 483A.8(7). Youth licenses are, by law, available for purchase throughout all established deer seasons. The rule now matches this statutory requirement (see subparagraph 106.14(6)).

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on February 12, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

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

Jobs Impact

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

Waivers

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

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special

meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on April 8, 2026.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571—106.1(481A), introductory paragraph, as follows:

571—106.1(481A) Licenses. When hunting deer, all hunters must have in their possession a valid deer hunting license and a valid resident or nonresident hunting license and must have paid the habitat fee (if normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). No person while hunting deer shall carry or have in possession any license or transportation tag issued to another person. No person who is issued a deer hunting license and transportation tag shall allow another person to possess that license or transportation tag while that person is deer hunting or tagging a deer. An “any-deer” license shall mean the same as an “any sex” license as referenced in Iowa Code chapter 483A.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **106.1(1)“a”** as follows:

a. General deer licenses. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer in one resident hunting zone per season selected at the time the license is purchased. General deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of one or either sex ~~except in counties designated by the natural resource commission (commission) during the first regular gun season when the general deer license will be valid for taking deer with at least one forked antler depending on the resident hunting zone selected at the time of purchase.~~ Paid general deer licenses shall be valid ~~statewide~~ zonewide except where prohibited in deer population management zones established under 571—Chapter

105. Free general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex only on the farm unit of an eligible landowner or tenant in the season or seasons selected at the time the license is obtained.

ITEM 3. Reletter paragraphs **106.1(1)“b”** to **106.1(1)“e”** as **106.1(1)“c”** to **106.1(1)“f”**.

ITEM 4. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **106.1(1)“b”**:

b. Any-deer licenses. Any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in the zone, county, and season selected by the hunter at the time of purchase.

ITEM 5. Renumber subrules **106.1(2)** and **106.1(3)** as **106.1(3)** and **106.1(4)**.

ITEM 6. Adopt the following **new** subrule 106.1(2):

106.1(2) *Resident hunting zones.*

a. Resident zone boundaries. Boundaries are as specified in the resident deer hunting zones map (dated October 2025) published on the department’s website (www.iowadnr.gov/deerhunting, “Resident Deer Hunting Zones.”)

b. Zone A. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex zonewide.

c. Zone B. Paid general deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer with at least one forked antler zonewide. Paid any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in only the county selected at the time of purchase. Hunters may obtain no more than one zone B any-deer license annually.

ITEM 7. Amend renumbered subrule 106.1(3) as follows:

106.1(3) *January antlerless-deer-only resident licenses.*

a. Population management season. Licenses for the population management January antlerless-deer-only season may be issued for counties designated by the commission following a 30-day public comment period. Population management January antlerless-deer-only licenses

shall be issued for a county only when a minimum of 100 antlerless-deer-only licenses, as described in 106.10(5), remain unsold in that county as of the third Monday in December. If 100 or more antlerless-deer-only licenses remain unsold for a given county as of the third Monday in December, those remaining antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be made available for the population management January antlerless-deer-only season in that county until the relevant antlerless-deer-only quota as described in 106.10(5) is met. Population management season licenses will be available for purchase starting at 9 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on the Tuesday morning following the third Monday in December.

b. Excess tag season. Licenses for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season may be issued in any county. Excess tag January antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be issued for a county only when a minimum of one antlerless-deer-only license, as described in 106.10(5), remains unsold for a given county through January 10. Remaining antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be made available starting at 9 a.m. CST on January 11 for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season in that county until the relevant antlerless-deer-only quota as described in 106.10(5) is met.

ITEM 8. Amend renumbered paragraph **106.1(4)“g”** as follows:

g. Excess tag January antlerless-deer-only license. Beginning at 9 a.m. CST on January 11, nonresident hunters may obtain antlerless-deer-only licenses for the excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season specified in 106.2(4). Licenses will be available only in those counties specified in 106.10(3) until the quota provided in 106.10(5) is filled. All regulations specified in ~~Chapter 106~~ this chapter for the January antlerless deer season for resident hunters including limits, shooting hours, method of take, tagging and reporting requirements will also apply to nonresident hunters during this season.

ITEM 9. Amend subrule 106.7(1) as follows:

106.7(1) *Zone license quotas.* Nonresident license quotas are as follows:

	Any-sex <u>Any-deer</u> licenses		Mandatory	Optional
	All Methods	Bow	Antlerless-deer- only	Antlerless-deer- only
Zone 1	90	31	90	
Zone 2	90	31	90	
Zone 3	560	196	560	
Zone 4	1280	448	1280	
Zone 5	1600	560	1600	
Zone 6	800	280	800	
Zone 7	360	126	360	
Zone 8	240	84	240	
Zone 9	880	308	880	
Zone 10	100	35	100	
Total	6000	2099	6000	3500

ITEM 10. Amend subrule 106.10(3) as follows:

106.10(3) *Population management and excess tag January antlerless-deer-only seasons.*

Only antlerless-deer-only licenses, paid or free, are available in counties pursuant to the conditions described in ~~106.1(2)~~ 106.1(3). A license must be used during the population management or excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season as described in 106.2(4) and in the county or deer population management area selected at the time the license is purchased. Free antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be available only in the portion of the farm unit located in a

county where paid antlerless-deer-only licenses are available during the population management or excess tag January antlerless-deer-only season.

ITEM 11. Amend subrule 106.10(5) as follows:

106.10(5) *Antlerless-deer-only licenses and zone B any-deer licenses.* Paid antlerless-deer-only licenses and zone B any-deer licenses shall be available by county as designated annually by the commission. Prior to the commission designating the quotas, the department shall publish on its website (~~www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting~~ www.iowadnr.gov/deerhunting) a proposed allocation and accept public comments for at least 30 days.

ITEM 12. Adopt the following **new** subrule 106.10(6):

106.10(6) *Disabled veteran any-deer licenses.* A paid any-deer license shall be available for a resident disabled veteran consistent with Iowa Code section 483A.8D as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 885. The fee for this license shall be the same as the general deer license set forth in 571—subrule 15.10(1). Resident disabled veteran any-deer licenses shall be valid during any established firearm season using the method of take authorized for that season. A person may obtain only one disabled veteran any-deer license but may also obtain any other paid or free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters.

ITEM 13. Amend subrule 106.12(1) as follows:

106.12(1) *Licenses with quotas.* All paid deer hunting licenses for which a quota is established may be obtained from the ELSI system on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 9 a.m. CST on August 15 until the quota fills, or through the last day of the hunting period for which the license is valid.

ITEM 14. Amend subrule 106.12(2) as follows:

106.12(2) *Licenses without quotas.* All deer hunting licenses that have no quota may be obtained from the ELSI system beginning at 9 a.m. CST on August 15 through the last day of the hunting period for which a license is valid.

ITEM 15. Amend paragraph **106.13(2)“a”** as follows:

a. Resident party hunting. During the first and second regular gun seasons and the January antlerless-deer-only seasons in resident zone A only, any resident hunter present in the hunting party may use their tag on a deer harvested by another resident. Party hunting is not allowed in resident zone B.

ITEM 16. Amend subrule 106.14(1) as follows:

106.14(1) *Licenses.*

a. Youth deer hunt. A youth deer license shall be valid for taking a deer of either sex zonewide. A youth deer license may be issued to any Iowa resident who is not over 15 years old on the day the youth obtains the license. The youth license may be paid or free to persons eligible for free licenses. If the youth obtains a free landowner/tenant license, it will count as the one free general deer license for which the youth's family is eligible.

Each participating youth must be accompanied by an adult who possesses a regular hunting license and has paid the habitat fee (if the adult is normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). Only one adult may participate for each youth hunter. The accompanying adult must not possess a long gun, bow, or crossbow and must be in the direct company of the youth at all times. Youth deer tags must be filled by the eligible youth hunter named on the youth license.

A person may obtain only one youth general deer license but may also obtain any other paid or free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters. Antlerless-

deer-only or any-deer licenses must be obtained in the same manner with which other hunters obtain them, as described in 106.10(2).

b. Severely disabled hunt. Any severely disabled Iowa resident meeting the requirements of Iowa Code section 321L.1(8) may be issued one general deer license to hunt deer during the youth season. A person applying for this license must either possess a disability parking permit or provide a completed form from the department of natural resources. The form must be signed by a physician verifying that the person's disability meets the criteria defined in Iowa Code section 321L.1(8). The attending physician shall be currently practicing medicine and shall be a medical doctor, a doctor of osteopathy, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner. Forms are available online at www.iowadnr.gov, by visiting the Department of Natural Resources office at ~~the Wallace State Office Building~~ 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, or any district office, or by calling 515.725.8200. A person between 16 and 65 years of age must also possess a regular hunting license and have paid the habitat fee to obtain a license (if normally required to have a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee to hunt). A severely disabled person obtaining this license may obtain any other paid and free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters. Antlerless-deer-only licenses must be obtained in the same manner by which other hunters obtain them, as described in 106.10(2).

ITEM 17. Amend subrule 106.14(6) as follows:

106.14(6) *Procedures for obtaining licenses.*

~~*a. Paid and free youth season licenses and licenses*~~ Licenses for severely disabled hunters may be obtained through ELSI beginning at 9 a.m. CST on August 15 through the last day of the ~~youth~~ severely disabled hunter season.

b. Paid and free youth licenses are available for purchase through ELSI beginning at 9 a.m. CST on August 15 through the last day of the last established deer season.

ITEM 18. Amend rule 571—106.16(481A), introductory paragraph, as follows:

571—106.16(481A) Deer depredation management. The deer depredation management program provides assistance to producers through technical advice and additional deer licenses and permits where the localized reduction of female deer is needed to reduce damage. Upon signing a depredation management agreement with the department, producers of agricultural or high-value horticultural crops ~~may~~shall be issued, consistent with this rule, deer depredation licenses and deer shooting permits to shoot deer causing excessive crop damage. If immediate action is necessary to forestall serious damage, depredation licenses or shooting permits may be issued before an agreement is signed. Further licenses or permits will not be authorized until an agreement is signed.

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

Decision Item

8. Chapter 108, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting” – Final Rule

The Commission is requested to adopt a Final rule to amend Chapter 108, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting.”

Basic Intent of Current Rule: Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers.

NOIA Process: The Notice of Intended Action was approved by the NRC on September 11, 2025.

This rulemaking makes two amendments. One corrects an error that was the result of a multispecies consolidation of several chapters under a prior rulemaking. The other ensures consistent style and formatting throughout the chapter.

The Notice of Intended Action for this rule making was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on October 15, 2025, as ARC 9595C.

A public hearing was held on November 4, 2025. No one attended the public hearing and no comments were received.

Changes from NOIA: No changes have been made from the published Notice.

Effective Date of Final Rule: April 8, 2026

Todd Bishop, Chief, Wildlife Bureau
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Attachment: Chapter 108, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting”- Final Rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby amends Chapter 108, “Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, 481A.90, and 481A.92.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, 481A.90, and 481A.92.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. This rulemaking makes two amendments. One corrects an error that was the result of a multispecies consolidation of several chapters under a prior rulemaking. The other ensures consistent style and formatting throughout the chapter.

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 9595C**.

A public hearing was held on November 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

No one attended the hearing and no public comment was received. No changes have been made from published Notice.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on February 12, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

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

Jobs Impact

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

Waivers

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

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on April 8, 2026.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571—108.1(481A), introductory paragraph, as follows:

571—108.1(481A) Badger, opossum, striped skunk, red fox, gray fox, mink, muskrat and weasel. Open season ~~for the taking of mink, muskrat and weasel~~ shall be from 8 a.m. on the first

Saturday in November through February 28 of the succeeding year. Entire state open. No daily bag or possession limit.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 571—108.4(481A) as follows:

571—108.4(481A) Beaver. Open season ~~for the taking of beaver~~ shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through April 15 of the succeeding year. No daily bag or possession limit.

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

Decision Item

9. Chapter 35 – Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to Chapter 35, Fish Habitat Promotion for County Conservation Board Grants.

Grant Purpose: All revenue derived from fish habitat fees, paid for as part of fishing licenses, is deposited in the state fish and game protection fund to be used for fish habitat development. At least fifty percent of all revenue from the sale of fish habitat fees is distributed equally among the six county conservation board districts. Each district is allowed to hold a two-year apportionment before money is redistributed equally among all districts. This program is open to all county conservation boards for habitat development and acquisition purposes. Counties must provide at least 10% cost share for their project.

Funding Source(s): Fish and Game Trust Fund

Grant Funding Available: Funding available for this grant cycle is \$130,106 for each of the six county districts plus any carry over from the previous year will come from the fish/game trust fund for eligible project proposals.

Summary of Selection Process: The Fish Habitat Grant Review Committees met in December 2025 and January 2026 to rank and score all of the county conservation board projects in their district.

Selection Committee Members: The review and selection committee for each district consisted of at least five County Conservation Board Directors and one DNR Fisheries Biologist advisor.

Recommendations: The district committees recommend funding the projects as follows:

District 1	\$154,138.00	
Marshall	\$40,000.00	Purchase and placement of rip rap for shoreline stabilization at Green Castle Lake.
Jasper	\$46,500.00	Uhlenhopp Arboretum Sunday Pond Renovation.
Polk	\$52,991.00	Alitz Pond (watershed sediment basin) renovation for protection of Yellow Banks Pond.
District II	\$130,106.00	
Howard	\$45,160.00	Turkey River shoreline stabilization and fish habitat construction.
Kossuth	\$37,665.00	Jetty construction at Siems Park.
Winneshiek	\$11,188.00	Walden Pond shoreline stabilization and fish habitat construction.
District III	\$244,842.00	
Cherokee	\$36,684.00	Little Sioux River bank stabilization project at Barnes Access, Cherokee County.
Lyon	\$26,000.00	Fish renovation of Lilylog Pond (Rotenone purchase and application).
O'Brien	\$23,250.00	Mill Creek Lake shoreline armoring and dam stabilization.
Palo Alto	\$37,530.00	Bank armoring of the East streambank of the West Fork of the Des Moines River at Basswood Recreation Area.

Sioux	\$30,000.00	Acquisition of 2.5 ac parcel adjacent to the Big Sioux River for construction of a boat ramp.
District IV	\$155,671.00	
Decatur	\$11,700.00	Slip Bluff Lake jetty stabilization and spawning habitat construction.
Harrison	\$14,580.00	Willow Lake Brittle Naiad aquatic invasive species control.
Taylor	\$63,591.00	Windmill Lake shoreline armoring.
District V	\$233,780.00	
Lee	\$100,000.00	Acquisition of 80 ac parcel with an 18 ac lake adjacent to Lee County's North Heron Bend Fishing Area.
Lee	\$97,112.00	Construction of Wilson Lake Pond within Wilson Lake Park.
Mahaska	\$26,927.00	Fish habitat construction at White Oak Conservation Area Lake and Pond 1 at Russell Wildlife Area.
District VI	\$130,106.00	
Clayton	\$50,000.00	Turkey River fish habitat construction.
Dubuque	\$40,252.00	Turkey River shoreline stabilization and fish habitat construction.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2026

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

10. Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations

The Commission is requested to approve the following grant recommendations pursuant to 571 IAC Chapter 23, Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grants.

Grant Purpose: In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. All revenue derived from the sale of habitat stamps are used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, leasing of land, obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats, and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas. Beginning in 2019, in accordance with Iowa Code 483A.3, a portion of the revenues resulting from the increase in wildlife stamp fees are restricted from use on land acquisition projects. Grant applicants must provide at least 25% cost share for all projects. By Iowa Code, grant applications are reviewed twice a year.

Funding Source(s): Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Grant Funding Available: \$518,000 (\$173,000 restricted)

Summary of Selection Process: As directed by criteria under 571 IAC Chapter 23, the grant review and selection committee met 6/26/2025 to evaluate and score applications and provide recommendations for the grant awards.

Selection Committee Members: The review and selection committee consists of five members:

- County Conservation Boards (4)
- DNR Staff (1)

Number of Applications Received: 13 (5 additions to new/existing Wildlife Areas and 8 Habitat Development projects)

Recommendations: The committee recommends offering full funding to the Cerro Gordo CCB – Zirbel Slough addition and Delaware CCB – Morris Wildlife Area with the remaining \$12,000 being offered to Story CCB – Cambridge Tract Acquisition. Additionally, the committee recommends offering full funding to the following development projects: Warren CCB – Woodland Mounds State Preserve, Jones CCB – Jones County Conservation Forest Resiliency Project, Chickasaw CCB – Chickasaw County Forest Resiliency Partnership, Des Moines CCB – Des Moines County Public Lands Habitat Enhancement Project, Clayton CCB – Clayton County Forest Fast Track, Mahaska CCB – The Mahaska County Forest Resiliency and Oak Regeneration Initiative, and Jefferson CCB – Round Prairie Park Habitat Restoration. The minimum score for eligible projects is 45. Any unused funds will carry forward for use in future projects.

Ranked by Score (*)	Percent Match	Grant Applicant (County)	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	Recommended Award
50.4	42%	Cerro Gordo	<i>Zirbel Slough Addition</i> – The acquisition will provide additional public hunting acres in Cerro Gordo County. This 89-acre addition will expand the adjacent Zirbel Slough property which is currently 330 acres. The added acres and wetland enhancements that will follow will also improve the size and functionality of the wetland complex as a whole.	\$64,000.00	\$64,000.00
49.8	50%	Delaware	<i>Morris Wildlife Area</i> – The Morris Wildlife Area contains 80 acres of diverse habitat providing excellent hunting opportunities for the public. It consists of 52 acres of upland timber with a variety of oak, hickory, walnut, maple and red cedar. The remainder consists of 21 acres of grassland and 4 acres of food plots. The South Fork of the Maquoketa River enters the northeast corner of the property	\$269,000.00	\$269,000.00

			before entering Backbone State Park (2,001 ac) approximately 500 yards to the east.		
48.4 (25.0*)	33%	Story	<i>The Cambridge Tract Acquisition</i> – This 247-acre acquisition contains 186 acres suitable for habitat reconstruction, diverse bottomland timber, and oxbows. This acquisition represents a significant step toward regional habitat connectivity and long-term public hunting opportunities in central Iowa along the South Skunk River.	\$300,000.00	\$12,000.00
48.4 (24.6*)	74%	Johnson	<i>Snyder Addition - Pechman Creek Delta</i> – This project will acquire 189.38 acres of timber, wetlands, and CRP fields adding 2.2 miles of public river frontage on the Iowa River and providing access to Pechman Creek. Located on a major interior river and a perennial stream, the property's contiguous forest, wetland, and grassland habitats will provide outstanding wildlife habitat and expand high-quality recreational opportunities for hunters, trappers, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.	\$275,500.00	-0-
46.2	47%	Lee	<i>North Heron Bend Wildlife Area Expansion Project</i> – This 58.95 acre CRP tract will link North Heron Bend Fishing Area with Heron Bend Wildlife Area, protecting prairie at risk of conversion. The project benefits SGCN wildlife, game species, and pollinators, while expanding public hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing.	\$261,000.00	-0-
46.4	46%	Warren	<i>Woodland Mounds State Preserve</i> - This project will conduct 62.5 acres of timber stand improvement to enhance wildlife habitat and promote native forest health. By reducing shade-tolerant and invasive species, the project will increase understory floral diversity and improve light conditions necessary for natural white oak regeneration. These actions will support diverse wildlife communities and sustain the long-term ecological integrity of the woodland.	\$14,025.00	\$14,025.00
46.2	25%	Jones	<i>Jones County Conservation Forest Resiliency Project</i> - The proposed project includes timber stand improvement, tree planting, and invasive removal on 353.8 acres. As a result, the project will develop a diversity of stand age structures that maximize the greatest individual tree growth and mast production, sunlight at the forest floor that allows for a diversity of native shrub and herbaceous vegetation growth, and a diversity of habitat types to provide for wildlife needs throughout the year.	\$21,750.00	\$21,750.00

45.8	25%	Chickasaw	<i>Chickasaw County Forest Resiliency Partnership</i> - This project will improve the structural diversity of Chickasaw County's forest and forest wildlife through species and structural diversity. Basal area thinning, 3 Tree plantings, weed tree removal, brush management, TSI post-harvest will be used to implement these objectives on 143 acres of timber on 5 areas in Chickasaw County.	\$15,240.00	\$15,240.00
45.6	25%	Des Moines	<i>Des Moines County Public Lands Habitat Enhancement Project</i> – This project will improve 111 acres of public woodland in Des Moines County. Work will remove invasive shrubs, support oak and hickory regeneration, and reopen timber so wildlife move freely and hunters gain better access.	\$16,705.50	\$16,705.50
45.2 (26.6*)	50%	Clayton	<i>Clayton County Forestry Fast Track</i> - The goal of this project is to conduct 88 acres of timber stand improvement on the Becker West Wildlife Area to promote regeneration of species several species including oak, hickory, and white pine through mid-story thinning and removal of undesirable species. Additional hand planting on 14.5 acres will also occur in this project.	\$20,075.00	\$20,075.00
45.2 (24.0*)	25%	Mahaska	<i>The Mahaska County Forest Resiliency and Oak Regeneration Initiative</i> - Spanning more than 275 acres, the project will control invasive species, promote oak regeneration, and enhance habitat diversity. Through silvicultural practices, prescribed fire, and monitoring, this effort will strengthen biodiversity, forest resiliency, and wildlife habitat in Mahaska County.	\$11,701.35	\$11,701.35
45.2 (23.6*)	25%	Jefferson	<i>Round Prairie Park Habitat Restoration</i> - This project will improve wildlife habitat and increase native species diversity across 94 acres in Jefferson County by removing invasive brush and conducting timber stand improvement. This effort will restore native plant regeneration, promote a balanced range of age classes in forest, savanna, and riparian areas and will enhance long-term habitat quality and resilience for a wide variety of native wildlife species.	\$26,096.00	\$26,096.00
43	25%	Page	<i>Ross Wildlife Area Grassland Restoration</i> – This project will restore 36 acres of habitat for grassland species that are amongst the most imperiled species in North America. This native prairie reconstruction has been heavily invested with invasive woody species which will be removed in this project.	\$9,525.00	-0-
Total				\$1,304,617.85	\$470,592.85

*Habitat Quality Score which is used during a tie breaker.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2026

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

Decision Item

11. Contract with The Xerces Society, Inc.

Commission approval is requested for a contract with The Xerces Society, Inc., **of** Portland, Oregon.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$122,000.00

Dates: 2/12/2026 to 12/31/2028

Funding Source(s): Federal USFWS Competitive State Wildlife Grant

Contract Purpose: This three-year agreement is part of a Federal grant in which Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and Minnesota are cooperating to complete a community science program referred to as the Midwest Bumble Bee Atlas. As pollinators, bumble bees are essential contributors to the health of ecosystems in Iowa and across the Midwest, but there is alarming evidence that bumble bee populations are declining. A previous grant established this program in Iowa and neighboring states. This regionally comprehensive bumble bee monitoring program is filling knowledge gaps in current distribution, site occupancy, and habitat associations of bumble bees. Outcomes of this project will be increased understanding of the status and habitat needs of these essential pollinators, greater awareness of the *Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)*, and evidence-based conservation recommendations. By engaging the public, this program has built a network of volunteers to help monitor bumble bees. Iowa has two years of data so far; a completed atlas would contain several more years of data. This project is expected to complete the Bumble Bee Atlas for Iowa, establishing a baseline that will allow us to then transition to a more targeted monitoring approach.

This subaward is for The Xerces Society to provide the services of project coordination, development of training materials and digital communications, and providing training workshops, bee identification for photo vouchers submitted to Bumble Bee Watch from Iowa, regional level summary reporting, and outreach presentations.

Selection Process Summary: The Xerces Society partnered with four states to develop a federal grant proposal which was selected for funding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a sub-recipient award for the portion of the project which The Xerces Society committed to completing for Iowa. Development of agreements is authorized under Iowa Code section 455A.4(6).

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Vendor	Vendor Location (city, state)	Score (100 pts total)	Rank	Cost
Rosin Preservation	Kansas City, MO	70	4	\$99,750

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: October 8, 2020

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

Information Item

12. 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
1/15/2026	25-04-83-04	PRAIRIE ROSE STATE PARK	SHELBY	This project includes the removal/replacement of most of a boat ramp, a 30'x50' parking lot, and a small portion sidewalk.	\$41,000	\$46,814.90 \$47,281.31 \$50,080.00 \$65,147.72 \$73,231.00
1/8/2026	26-03-28-01	MANCHESTER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT	DELAWARE	Work consists of demolishing the existing lean-to storage building and constructing a new storage building.	\$73,000	\$38,292.45 \$84,850.00
1/8/2026	26-03-22-04	PIKES PEAK	CLAYTON	Work consists of removing/replacing existing shingles on the shelter, restroom and kiosk. Gutters will be added to areas around the shelter access and restrooms.	\$35,000	\$24,900.00 \$38,400.00 \$40,000.00 \$42,145.86 \$43,400.00 \$44,000.00 \$44,000.00 \$44,600.00 \$71,435.00 \$96,160.00
1/8/2026	25-03-03-02	UPPER IOWA WILDLIFE UNIT	ALLAMAKEE	Remove existing north boat ramp and replace with new boat ramp and sidewalk. Install a new sidewalk adjacent to the southern boat ramp.	\$23,000	\$19,470.00 \$24,670.00 \$24,739.92 \$35,191.75 \$46,595.20 \$65,631.19 \$86,868.00 \$102,415.00

Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

Construction Item

13.1 Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery, Shoreline Restoration – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Due to heavy precipitation and flooding during the summer of 2024, the shorelines of the Iowa Great Lakes Region experienced significant erosion and collapse. The Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery and adjacent Isthmus Park, located on the north shore of East Okoboji Lake, were among the affected DNR areas, with approximately 2,500 feet of shoreline sustaining minor to severe damage.

Design Summary: To address this, the project design utilizes native fieldstone hard armoring for areas with severe erosion and biodegradable erosion control logs elsewhere. These logs will mitigate erosion while shoreline vegetation is re-established to ensure long-term stability. Furthermore, the removal of hazardous trees and overgrowth will improve public safety and allow for the planting of new trees and native grasses, an erosion resistance method that has proven successful at other regional lakes.



Engineering Project #: 22-01-30-04

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

Operating Bureau: Fisheries

Funding Source: Marine Fuel Tax

Bid Letting Date: 1/22/2026

Construction Completion Date: 6/26/2026

Number of Bids Received: 16



Bidders

Red Rock Construction	Sioux Falls, SD	\$139,719.50
Laubenthal Excavation	Bradgate, IA	\$154,394.00
Underwater Solutions, LLC	Spirit Lake, IA	\$183,993.00
Mega, Inc.	Ocheyedan, IA	\$185,775.50
Three Oaks Construction, Inc.	North Sioux City, SD	\$204,045.00
Ludovissy Enterprises	Guttenburg, IA	\$206,420.00
Diamond Concrete & Construction, Inc.	Spirit Lake, IA	\$221,045.60
Cory Juergens Construction, LLC	Estherville, IA	\$227,493.00
Beck Excavating, Inc.	Spirit Lake, IA	\$261,517.50
Holman Construction, LLC	Indianola, IA	\$263,975.00
Bedrock Gravel, Inc.	Schleswig, IA	\$273,130.00
Midwest Lake Services	Spirit Lake, IA	\$283,980.00
A1 Excavation & Drainage, Inc.	Joice, IA	\$294,900.00
BLAC Construction, LLC	Sherburn, MN	\$295,944.31
BD Construction Services, LLC	Spencer, IA	\$315,230.00
Marlin Concrete, LLC	Okoboji, IA	\$360,016.00

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

13.2 Ledges State Park, Oak Woods Shelter Repairs – Boone County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Ledges State Park is located just south of Boone, and was dedicated in 1924. Amenities within the park include a campground, numerous picnic areas, trails, and fishing and canoeing opportunities. It is also part of the 91-mile Central State Park Bike Route.

Design Summary:

Oak Woods Shelter

The shelter structure has shifted following a tree fall and requires significant repair. The following scope of work is proposed:

- The entire log structure will be disassembled. New column footings will be constructed, and new log columns will be set. The log structure will then be reassembled using original components wherever possible.
- The existing roof and roof framing will be demolished and removed. A new log framed roof will be constructed on the reassembled framing.
- Masonry work will include cleaning and repointing both the stone chimney and the fireplace brick. Additionally, the brick floor and concrete walkway will be cleaned and sealed.
- Electrical conduits and receptacles will be rerouted and painted to match the existing finish. Finally, an ADA-compliant concrete pad will be constructed to provide appropriate access to the shelter's grill.

Henning Shelter

The following repairs are scheduled for the shelter:

- Timber beams will be repaired at specific bearing locations.
- Flashing will be repaired at the intersection of the stone chimney and the roof.
- Log framing at the gable ends will be realigned.

Engineering Project #: 24-02-08-01

Cost Estimate: \$260,000

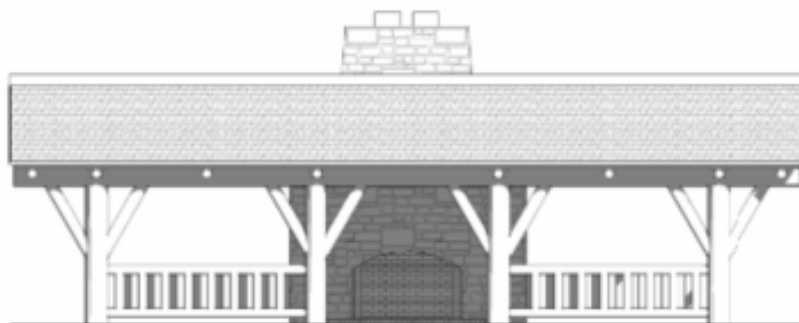
Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

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

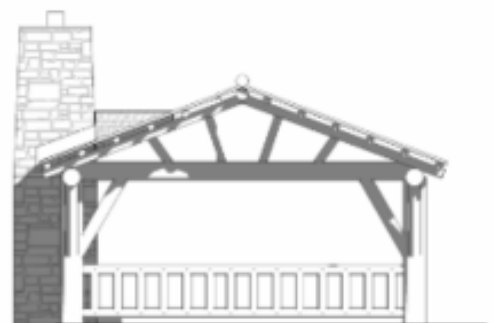
Bid Letting Date: 1/22/2026

Construction Completion Date: 07/31/2026

Number of Bids Received: 6



WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

Bidders

Holman Construction, LLC	Indianola, Iowa	\$205,965.00
Eick & Day Construction, LLC	Johnston, Iowa	\$239,369.00
R.H. Grabau Construction, Inc.	Boone, Iowa	\$258,400.00
Shyft Collective	Des Moines, Iowa	\$262,468.00
Woodruff Construction, Inc.	Ft. Dodge, Iowa	\$289,827.00
Home Boy Enterprises, LTD	Bondurant, Iowa	\$303,686.40

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

13.3 Lewis and Clark State Park Visitors Center, HVAC System Replacement – Monona County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Lewis and Clark State Park is located west of Onawa, IA and is approximately 426 acres in size, which includes a 250-acre oxbow lake. Existing facilities include a modern campground, beach, picnic shelter, and visitor's center.

Project Summary: The Lewis and Clark Visitors Center heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) System Replacement project will address the currently deficient HVAC system at the facility. This project includes installing new heat pumps, air exchange units, and associated ductwork, as well as performing necessary electrical upgrades.

Additionally, the geothermal system vault, valves, and glycol line will be replaced to ensure the geothermal system is fully functional upon completion. These improvements are essential to protecting the building and ensuring that all future restoration efforts remain viable in the long-term.

Engineering Project #: 26-01-67-01

Cost Estimate: \$450,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: Park Infrastructure

Bid Letting Date: 1/22/2026

Construction Completion Date: 06/30/2026

Number of Bids Received: 3



Bidders

TNM, LLC dba MTC Mechanical	Sioux City, Iowa	\$392,412.00
C.W. Suter & Son, Inc.	Sioux City, Iowa	\$403,869.00
Thompson Solutions Group	Sioux City, Iowa	\$448,364.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to TNM, LLC dba MTC Mechanical.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 12, 2026

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

Decision Item (* indicates proposed consent item)

Public Land Management Projects

***14.1 Management Agreement – McCausland Access – Clinton County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Clinton County Conservation Board for McCausland Access located in Clinton County.

Location: This property is located 1.5 miles northeast of McCausland in Section 1, Township 80 North, Range 4 West of the 5th P.M. in Clinton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 0.5-acre property is used as an access for fish and wildlife recreation in the same manner as state access areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Clinton County Conservation Board since 2000. The previous management agreement expired December 31, 2025.

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

This agreement was approved by the Clinton County Conservation Board on December 16, 2025.

***14.2 Management Agreement – Spring Run Shooting Range – Dickinson County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Dickinson County Conservation Board for Spring Run Shooting Range located in Dickinson County.

Location: This property is located less than 5 miles southeast of Spirit Lake in Section 13, Township 99 North, Range 36 West of the 5th P.M. in Dickinson County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This agreement is for the care and general maintenance of the Spring Run Shooting Range.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Dickinson County Conservation Board since 2000. The previous management agreement expired December 31, 2025.

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

This agreement is on the meeting agenda for approval by the Dickinson County Conservation Board on February 11, 2026.

***14.3 Management Agreement – Faulkner Fishing Access – Henry County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Henry County Conservation Board for Faulkner Fishing Access located in Henry County.

Location: This property is located less than 5 miles southwest of Mt. Pleasant in Section 30, Township 71 North, Range 6 West of the 5th P.M. in Henry County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 27.63-acre property is used as an access for fish and wildlife recreation in the same manner as state access areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Henry County Conservation Board since 1997. The previous management agreement expired December 31, 2022.

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

This agreement was approved by the Henry County Conservation Board on January 7, 2026.

***14.4 Easement Conveyance – Elkader Marsh – Clayton County Conservation Board**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for installation of a small portion of Pony Hallow Trail on Elkader Marsh in Elkader, Iowa.

Project Description: Clayton County Conservation Board is requesting an easement to install a small portion of Pony Hallow Trail in the southern corner of Elkader Marsh, a parcel along Highway 13 that was transferred from the Iowa Department of Transportation to the DNR in 1983. The easement will be .03 acres in size. Local Wildlife staff have reviewed the request and given approval.

Compensation: \$0.00

***14.5 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — American River Transportation Company LLC – Dubuque County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease (Barge Fleeting) Number 29-R with American River Transportation Company, LLC, of Decatur, IL.

Location: A portion of the bed of the Mississippi River, approximately 1,600 feet of frontage by 210 feet of depth, located at Mississippi River Mile 576.50 located in Section 5, Township 88 North, Range 3 East of the 5th P.M., Dubuque County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The fleet that is the subject of this application is used to provide barge fleeting services in support of area businesses that rely on waterway transportation for the bulk

products they handle. Both northbound and southbound freight are handled in this harbor. Northbound commodities include, but are not limited to, fertilizer, cottonseed, steel and salt. Southbound commodities loaded are primarily corn, soybeans and processed grains. Many of the barges that are unloaded from northbound cargoes are cleaned and then reloaded in this harbor.

Lease History: The location has been under lease since 1978.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is \$16,041.31. The term of the lease will be five years.

***14.6 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Leonard Verbeck – Clayton County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the new of Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 123-N with Leonard Verbeck.

Location: A portion of Lot 12 in Block 36 of James McGregor Jr's Addition with 50 feet of depth and 100 feet of Frontage in Section 27, Township 95 North, Range 3 West of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site will be used for the continued presence of a driveway, retaining wall, house, and deck.

Lease History: This location has been under lease since 1993. The previous lessee sold the property to Mr. Verbeck. No changes to the residence have been made.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee of the lease is \$327.00. The term of the lease will be five years.

***14.7 Chapter 17 Lease Renewal — Hans and Bernice Willadsen – Dickinson County**

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the renewal of Chapter 17 Lease (Lease for use of State Owned Land) Number 16-R with Hans and Bernice Willadsen.

Location: A parcel of land lying under a building approximately 80 feet x 54 feet in size located below the ordinary high-water line of East Okoboji Lake and adjacent to Lot #5, Block 4, Osborne's Addition to the town of Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The site will be used for the continued presence of a metal building.

Lease History: This location has been under lease since 1984.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee of the lease is \$282.53. The term of the lease will be five years.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

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

Decision Item

15. Public Land Acquisition Project

15.1 Jana Rec WMA, Sac County – Justin and Stephanie Bellcock

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Jana Rec WMA in Sac County.

Seller: Justin and Stephanie Bellcock

Acreage: 6.4 acres M/L

DNR Purchase Price: \$22,400 (\$3,500/ ac pending survey)

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 5.5 miles east of Lake View in eastern Sac County. The acquisition will border the Jana Recreation Area WMA on three sides and significantly increase the size of the existing WMA. The acres being offered are a mix of native grass, cottonwoods and willows and a 1-acre wetland located on the north side.

The Jana Recreation Area WMA was transferred from the Iowa DOT to the DNR through an intergovernmental agreement and transfer of jurisdiction in July 1979. The Jana Recreation Area WMA is 1.68 acres in size with a sand and gravel pit in the center.

Purpose:

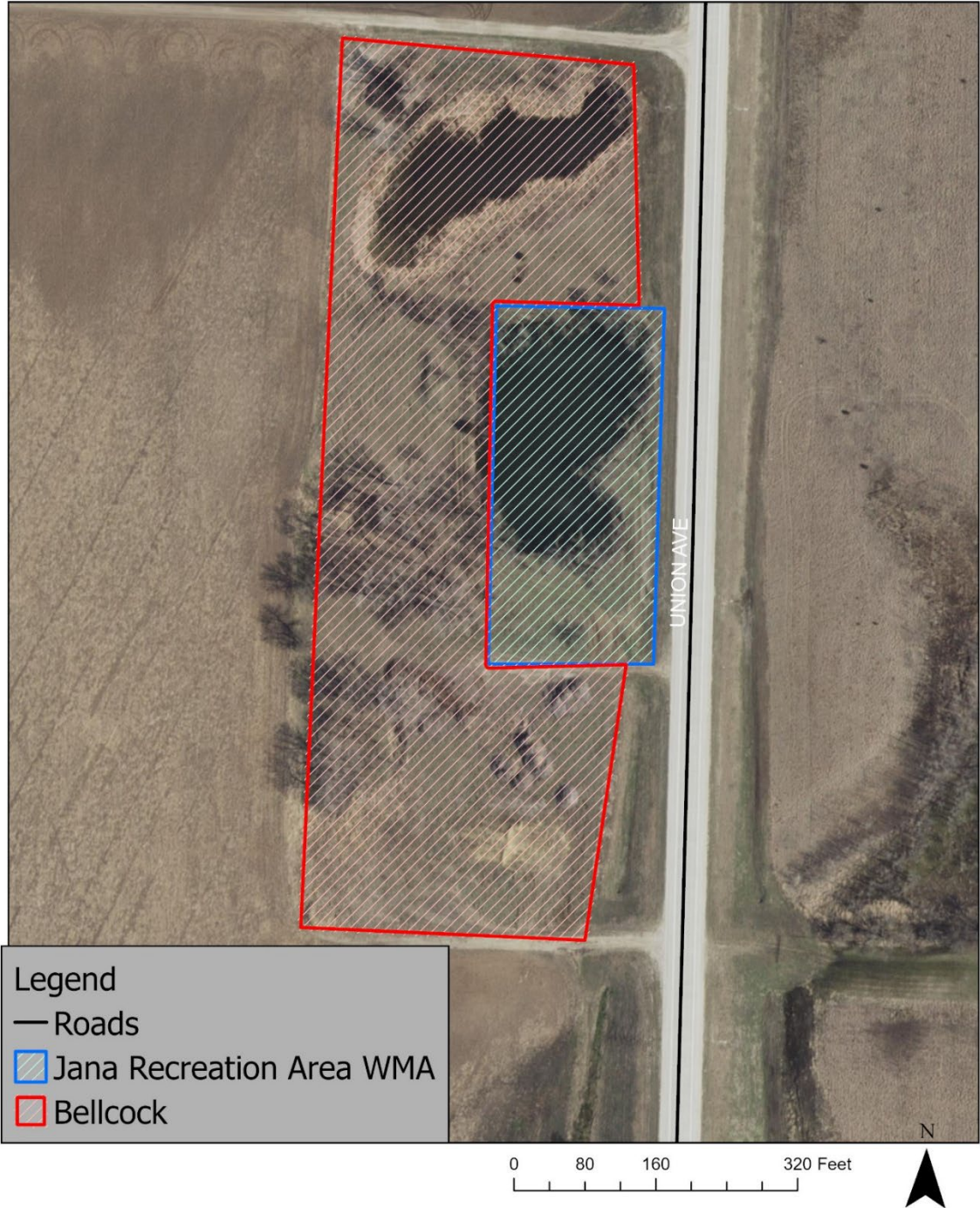
This acquisition will quadruple the size of the Jana Recreation Area WMA to almost 10 acres. This acquisition will grow the size of this very small WMA. Hunting will be permitted on this property. The parcel will remain on property tax rolls and access will be provided off Highway 71.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): \$11,200 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$11,200 Sac County Pheasants Forever

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

Realty Services / Jana Recreation Area WMA
Sac County/ Justin and Stephanie Bellcock



15.2 Whitetail Flats WMA, Franklin County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located adjacent to Whitetail Flats WMA in Franklin County.

Seller: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Acreage: 64.7 acres

DNR Purchase Price: Donation

Property Description:

This irregular shaped property is located approximately 4 miles south of Dows in southwest Franklin County. The acquisition is bordered on the north by Whitetail Flats WMA and the southwest corner of the parcel connects with Whitetail Flats as well. This property was enrolled in the WRP conservation easement program in 1997. This tract is a combination of emergent grassland and forest wetland as well as upland grassland. This tract is located within the Iowa River – Wheeler Creek Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative Emphasis Area, is directly adjacent to the Popejoy PPJV priority Area, as well as a Northern long-eared bat HCP priority Area.

Purpose:

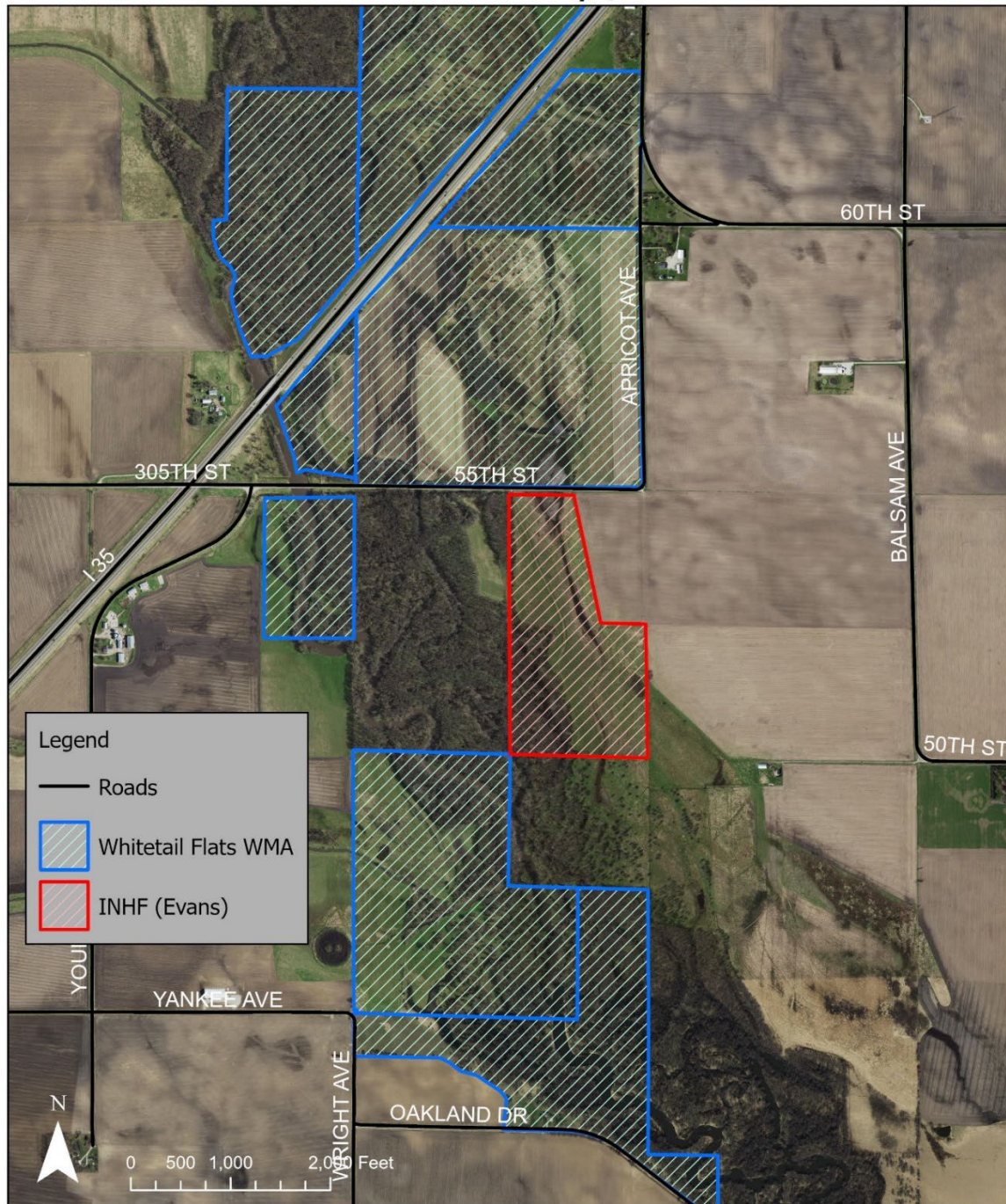
The adjacent Whitetail Flats WMA has had a MISM survey and a number SGCN have been found on the WMA including Northern Harrier, Sedge wren, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Eastern Kingbird, Northern leopard Frog and the Monarch butterfly. This acquisition will expand protected habitat for these species. This parcel will provide public access to hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Access will be provided off 55th Street, a county gravel road.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Donation

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

Realty Services / Whitetail Flats WMA Franklin County / INHF



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
2/12/2026

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

Decision Item

16. Contract with Solitude Lake Management

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Solitude Lake Management of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Contract Terms:

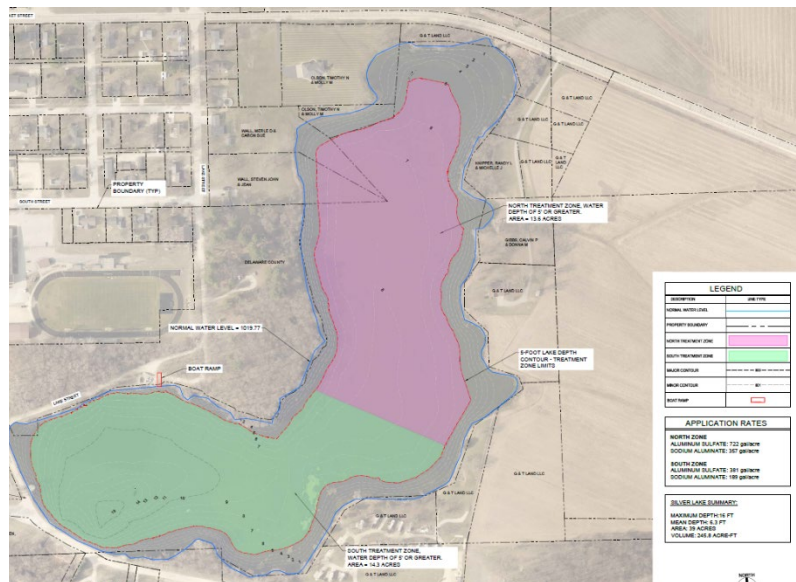
Amount: Not to exceed \$299,551.48

Dates: February 15, 2026, to December 31, 2027

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Contract Background: High nutrient loading in Iowa Lakes, particularly phosphorus, has accelerated eutrophication of lakes and consequently degraded their water quality, impacted their ecological health and diminished recreational opportunities. Frequent and pervasive algal blooms, low water transparency, noxious odors, depletion of oxygen, and fish kills have been observed and are even common in Iowa lake systems during the open water season. The Lake Restoration Program (LRP) has been working to develop new tools for managing phosphorus in lakes over the past five years, particularly those that are effective at treating internal phosphorus recycling and began utilizing alum to inactivate phosphorus in two Iowa lakes in 2025.

In 2020, the LRP hired Shive Hattery and Limnotech to investigate restoration alternatives at Silver Lake, a small natural lake located in Delaware County, including a dredging feasibility study and modelling effort to show how different restoration practices (including an alum application) would reduce phosphorus concentrations in the lake. As a part of this study, sediment cores were collected from the lake bottom to estimate the portion of the total phosphorus load that was attributed to internal loading. Additionally, a watershed model was utilized to determine the amount of phosphorus coming to the lake from the watershed. Silver Lake is a high priority for restoration, and the LRP has been working with the local community over 10 years to stabilize water levels in the lake and implement watershed best management practices to reduce phosphorus loads from the watershed. The study determined that an alum application program was the most cost effective and lowest risk restoration alternative for improving water quality. Silver Lake was re-cored in late 2025 to confirm alum and sodium aluminate quantities needed to develop an accurate dose for inactivating phosphorus being released from the sediments at Silver Lake.



Contract Purpose: The purpose of this project is to hire a qualified firm to complete two alum applications at Silver Lake. Applications will be completed both in the fall of 2026 and the spring of 2027 to inactivate sediment phosphorus and improve water quality.

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

Proposal Due Date: 2/4/2026

Scoring Criteria: Proposals were scored based on the criteria as described in the RFQ and costs.

Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Solitude Lake Management

Consultant's Estimate:	\$292,000.00
Solitude Lake Management	\$299,551.48

Travis Baker, Engineering, Land and Waters Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

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

Decision Item

17. Contract with Armodus, LLC

Commission approval is requested for a contract with Armodus, LLC of Mondamin, Iowa.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed \$1,762,500.00

Dates: March 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028

Funding Source(s): Executive Council

Contract Purpose:

On September 8, 2025, the DNR closed the campground at Lewis and Clark State Park due to increasing safety concerns regarding hazardous cottonwood trees. A subsequent examination of 137 representative trees revealed that 99% of the park's predominant species, Eastern Cottonwood, exhibit crown dieback, with 10% already standing dead. These trees range in diameter from 18" to over 48" at breast height. This mortality is attributed to over-maturity and prolonged drought. Due to these harsh conditions, any tree with one-fourth or more canopy loss is unlikely to survive and is classified as a hazard.

Detailed findings noted below:

10% of trees standing dead

31% of trees had 1/4 live canopy

42% of trees had 1/2 live canopy

16% of trees had 3/4 live canopy

1% Healthy/No Crown Dieback

These hazard trees are located in high-use areas and along trails with the potential to impact park visitors and infrastructure. This contract provides for the professional removal of these hazards, a task that exceeds the capacity of DNR personnel. The DNR requested and received an Executive Council Allocation to fund this large-scale removal. The project will be executed in two phases: Phase 1 involves felling approximately 610 mature trees in the campground and high-use areas. Phase 2 expands to clearing all hazardous timber within 150 feet of all hiking trails and roads, covering approximately 98.5 acres. The completion of this work is critical to ensuring the safety of visitors, staff, and park infrastructure.

The DNR will benefit from the specialized expertise of the successful respondent in restoring the park to a safe, operational state. Additionally, a substantial completion date has been set to ensure the campground can open before RAGBRAI arrives in Onawa, IA.

Task Summary:

- **Task 1 & 5:** Felling of marked hazard trees in Phase 1 (campground) and Phase 2 (trails/roads).
- **Task 2:** Grinding of all stumps in high-use areas to support future sod growth.
- **Task 3 & 6:** Transport and disposal/burning of all woody debris.
- **Task 4 & 7:** Restoration of original grade, filling of ruts/depressions, and seeding of impacted areas.

Selection Process Summary: The Department solicited proposals by publishing a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website.

Criteria Reviewed: Criteria reviewed for this work included the respondent's provided examples of work for similar clients, the capacity of the respondent's team to complete the responsibilities described in the Statement of Work, the respondent's specific work plan, and the proposed implementation timeline.

Proposal Due Date: January 30, 2026

of Proposals Received: 11

Recommendation: Armodus, LLC

As this was an RFP, the Department is subject to an NDA, and cannot share further information at this time.

Sherry L. Arntzen, State Parks, Forests, and Preserves Bureau Chief

Conservation and Recreation Division

NRC Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Lewis and Clark State Park Hazard Tree Removal Project Overview



Prepared By:
Jeff Seago
Iowa DNR
Area Forester
2023 Ortho Imagery

0 320 640 1,280 1,920 2,560 Feet

