

AGENDA

Natural Resource Commission

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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

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

6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, 50321

Lake Darling Conference Room

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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 Jenny Miller at Jenny.Miller@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 the Agenda Consent Agenda: *14. Public Land Management Projects (14.1-14.3)	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.	Chapter 23 – Wildlife Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Recommendations	Decision	Todd Bishop
6.	Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas" – Adopted and Filed	Decision	Todd Bishop
7.	Chapter 96, "Small Game Hunting" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.	Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
9.	Contract with the Story County Conservation Board (Hickory Grove Park)	Decision	Travis Baker
10.	Contract Amendment with ECS Midwest, LLC (Pammel - Harmon Tunnel Repair)	Decision	Travis Baker
11.	Small Construction Projects - Low Water Crossings and Bridge Demo at Maquoketa Caves State Park - Nepple WMA Wetland Restoration at Great Lakes Wildlife Unit - Skunk River Riprap at Sugema Wildlife Unit - Road Maintenance at Cedar Rock State Park	Information	Travis Baker
12.	Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
12.1	Diamond Lake, Drawdown and Structure Installation – Poweshiek County		
12.2	Pillsbury Point, Shoreline Stabilization – Dickinson County		
12.3	Loess Hills State Forest, Fireproof Fencing – Monona County		
13.	Public Land Acquisition Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
13.1	Lake Rathbun WMA, Appanoose County – Pheasants Forever		
13.2	North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Taggart Brothers LLC		
13.3	North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Dennis Taggart and Patrick Taggart		

*14.	Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
*14.1	Management Agreement – Nestor Stiles Prairie – Cherokee County Conservation Board – Cherokee County		
*14.2	Management Agreement – Fogle Lake Recreation Area – the City of Diagonal - Ringgold County		
*14.3	Easement Conveyance – Clarke County – ITC Midwest LLC		
15.	Contract Amendment with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota (CCI)	Decision	Chad Kelchen
16.	General Discussion		
Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates			
● September 10, Des Moines ● October 7-8, NRC Tour in Fremont 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.

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**

July 9, 2026

**DNR Headquarters
6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50321 and
Teleconference**

Approved by the Commission **TBD**

RECORD COPY

File Name	<u>Admin 01-05</u>
Sender's	<u>JM</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 July 9, 2026.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Laura Kudej (Virtual)
Bill Moritz
Tammi Kircher (virtual)
Collin Brecher (virtual)
Uriah Hansen
KR Buck
Tom Prickett

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the agenda and consent agenda 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Kudej.

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 summarized the Governor's recent camping tour throughout the state, highlighting visits to locations such as Green Valley, Prairie Rose, Loess Hills, Ambrose A. Call, Yellow River, Pikes Peak and Maquoketa Caves State Park. The tour showcased diverse departmental initiatives, encompassing lake restoration, fire management protocols, enhanced accessibility in campgrounds, and water quality projects at Yellow River. The tour ended at the Honey Creek Resort.
- The Director expressed her appreciation for the professionalism exhibited by staff members and the effectiveness of collaborations with local entities. It was a really great way to showcase the department.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth echoed Director Lyon's appreciation for our staff during the Governor's camping tour and the busy holiday season.

- DA Pete Hildreth summarized the 92nd annual Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference, which took place at the Iowa Great Lakes from June 18-21. The Administrator recognized Sergeant Steve Griebel, Alan Johnson, and Megan Wisecup for receiving regional accolades.
- Regarding REAP assemblies, it was reported that eleven out of nineteen sessions are now finished.
- The Administrator introduced the Department's new Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau Chief, Mike Cox. Mike shared a little bit about himself.

ORAL ARGUMENTS AND FINAL SUBMISSION, APPEAL OF PROPOSED DECISION, CUSTOM TREE CARE, LLC. V. IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This matter comes before the Iowa Natural Resource Commission [NRC] on the Notice of Appeal filed by Appellant Custom Tree Care, LLC, on May 2, 2026, seeking further review of the Proposed Decision entered in this docket on April 17, 2026. The NRC entered a scheduling order on June 15, 2026, governing the conduct of these appeal proceedings. At today's meeting, the NRC provided the parties with an opportunity to present oral arguments. Upon the conclusion of oral arguments, the Commission entered closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(f) to conduct deliberations on the Appellant's appeal.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Uriah Hansen to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Mortiz. Commissioner KR Buck recused himself from the closed session discussion and vote.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

PROPOSED COUNTY ANTLERLESS QUOTA CHANGES FOR THE 2026-27 SEASONS

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the proposed county antlerless quota changes for the 2026-27 seasons.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck 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: PAINT CREEK STREAMBANK IMPROVEMENTS AT YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT SPRINGBROOK STATE PARK, WETLAND RESTORATION AT HODGE WPA, SHEET PILE WCS REPLACEMENT AT DUNBAR SLOUGH WMA, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT: LAKE OF THREE FIRES, PRAIRIE ROSE, VIKING LAKE AND LAKE ANITA.

Travis Baker presented eight small construction projects to the Commission as information items.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-LAKE ANITA STATE PARK, SEWER IMPROVEMENTS-CASS COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project to improve the park's sewer system.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Mortiz.

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-LAKE WAPELLO STATE PARK, WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS-DAVIS COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project at Lake Wapello State Park to improve the current Wastewater treatment system.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck 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-GREEN ISLAND AND PRINCETON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, FLOOR REPAIR-JACKSON & SCOTT COUNTIES

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project to repair over six miles of dikes and infrastructure, including culverts and water control structures damaged by flooding. Additionally, FEMA has approved mitigation measures to armor nearly a mile of the main levee in Green Island WMA with a grid-tied concrete block mat. These improvements are designed to protect against future flooding and breaches.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Bill Mortiz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

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-SPRINGBROOK, EDUCATION CENTER DEMOLITION-GUTHRIE COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project to remove public hazards and return the site to its natural state. Work will include demolishing the Education Center buildings, as well as four auxiliary dilapidated/functionally obsolete sheds.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

<i>Motion was made by Tammi Kircher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Mortiz.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. Commissioner KR Buck voted nay.</i>
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APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-VARIOUS STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE AREAS-DICKINSON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project: Locations are the Iowa Great Lakes region, including Pikes Point, Emerson Bay, Lower Gar, Templar, Trappers Bay, and Gull Point, as well as the Lower Gar and Silver Lake Wildlife Management Areas. While these locations remain vital for public recreation, the existing roadways have significantly deteriorated and need maintenance. Current asphalt conditions include pavement oxidation (reaction in asphalt over time that makes it stiffer, more brittle, and less flexible), rutting, and thermal cracking of surfaces. Additionally, rock roadways have rutting.

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

<i>Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Mortiz.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT-PAMMEL STATE PARK, HARMON TUNNEL-MADISON COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for the following construction project: Harmon Tunnel is a main feature of the Pammel State Park. The tunnel goes through the base of a limestone ridge and provides access to the park's facilities. Harmon Tunnel has been closed since February 26, 2026, due to safety concerns regarding falling rocks and large boulders at both ends of the tunnel. We are initiating a project to stabilize and clean up the rockface. The goal of this work is to mitigate these hazards and ensure the tunnel can be safely reopened.

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

<i>Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Tammi Kircher.</i>
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<i>The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.</i>

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE ACQUISITION PROJECT-WEST SALT CREEK WMA, TAMA COUNTY-JAMES WAUTERS TRUST

Travis Baker requested Commission approval to accept the donation of a tract of land located adjacent to West Salt Creek WMA in Tama County.

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

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR INC—LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU-BODY CAMERAS

Craig Cutts requested Commission approval for a contract with Insight Public Sector Inc for body cameras.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Mortiz.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH AQUATIC CONTROL, INC. – FLOATING AND EMERGENT AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT, ELKHART, IOWA.

Jason Euchner requested Commission approval for a contract with Aquatic Control, Inc. for applying herbicides targeting floating and emergent aquatic vegetation across 20 key lake systems, totaling approximately 480 acres.

Written Comments-None

Public Comments-None

Motion was made by Bill Mortiz to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Each commissioner thanked the DNR staff for their work at the parks especially during the busy holiday season.
- It has been a busy and fun summer so far, with commissioners actively enjoying the outdoors through family camping trips, purchasing a kayak to do more fishing, and participating in county fairs.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 11:30 am on July 9, 2026.

ADJOURNED

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item

5. 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 6/16/2026 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: 4 (3 additions to new/existing Wildlife Areas and 1 Habitat Development project)

Recommendations: The committee recommends offering full funding to the Story CCB – *Cambridge Tract Acquisition Area* with the remaining \$120,000.00 being offered to the Jones CCB – *Hale Wildlife Area North Addition*. Additionally, the committee recommends offering full funding to the *Cambridge Tract – Wildlife Habitat Improvement* development project. 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
50.0	87%	Story	<i>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.	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00
49.8	84%	Jones	<i>Hale Wildlife Area North Addition</i> – This addition would add 180 acres to the existing 420-acre Hale Wildlife Area for a total of 600 acres. The property is bordered on two sides by existing public land, increasing its profile as a critically important addition. This diverse wetland, prairie, and savanna complex provides high-quality habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species, including both upland and wetland-dependent species.	\$245,500.00	\$120,000.00
48.4	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	\$275,500.00	-0-

			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.		
46.0	25%	Story	<i>Cambridge Tract - Wildlife Habitat Improvement</i> – This project would perform timber stand improvement and weed tree removal at the Cambridge Tract, a 247-acre area adjacent to the South Skunk River (SSR). The habitat work would improve wildlife habitat diversity and support a wide range of game and non-game wildlife species in the SSR corridor which will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities – especially hunting.	\$11,325.00	\$11,325.00
Total				\$757,325.00	\$356,325.00

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: August 13, 2026

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

Decision Item

6. Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Adopted and Filed

The Commission is requested to approve the Adopted and Filed rule to implement Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas.”

Chapter 51 designates State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) as game management areas (GMAs). The proposed rulemaking defines “trail camera” and prohibits the use of trail cameras on GMAs, except when specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the Department or its designated agents. The proliferation of trail cameras has generated numerous concerns and complaints from the public. This measure will protect the recreational experience of sportsmen and sportswomen and other visitors to these wild areas. Additionally, this prohibition is consistent with the ethical hunting principle of fair chase, ensuring that a hunter does not gain an improper or unfair technological advantage over game.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

Attached: Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas” – Final rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby amends Chapter 51, “Game Management Areas,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)“a” and 481A.6.
State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2)“a,” 481A.6 and 481A.39.
Purpose and Summary

The adopted rulemaking defines “trail camera” and prohibits the use of trail cameras on game management areas, except when specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the Department or its designated agents. The proliferation of trail cameras has generated numerous concerns and complaints from the public. This measure will protect the recreational experience of sportsmen and sportswomen and other visitors to these wild areas. Additionally, this prohibition is consistent with the ethical hunting principle of fair chase, ensuring that a hunter does not gain an improper or unfair technological advantage over game.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on July 8, 2026 as **ARC 0409D**.

A public hearing was held on July 28, 2026, from 1 to 2 p.m. at 6200 Park Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. No one attended the public hearing and 102 public comments were received. Of the comments received, 59 supported the adopted changes, 35 opposed, and 8 asked for a modified ban on trail cameras. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on August 13, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa. There are no associated compliance costs since the amendments only restrict the use of a particular piece of equipment. The only costs are related to education and enforcement, and those costs will be borne by the Department.

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 7—Chapter 2504.

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 February 1, 2027.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** definition of “Trail camera” in rule **571—51.1(481A)**:

“Trail camera” or “game camera” means any remote motion-activated or infrared camera in which the shutter is activated by sound triggers, proximity sensation, radio transmitters, or a self-timer built into the trail or game camera.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 571—51.6(481A), catchwords, as follows:

571—51.6(481A) Use of blinds, ~~and~~ decoys, and trail cameras on game management areas.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** subrule 51.6(5):

51.6(5) Trail cameras. Trail cameras are prohibited on game management areas unless specifically authorized by permit or when used directly by the department or its designated agents.

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

Decision Item

7. Chapter 96, “Small Game Hunting” – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 96, “Small Game Hunting.”

Chapter 96 governs small game hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates small game hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, and transportation requirements. The proposed rule defines annual nonresident small game hunting license parameters and designates resident only hunting periods on public lands.

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

Attachment: Chapter 96 “Small Game Hunting” - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 96 “Small Game Hunting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 96 governs small game hunting by residents and nonresidents in the state of Iowa. This chapter regulates small game hunting and sets forth season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, and transportation requirements. The proposed rule defines annual nonresident small game hunting license parameters and designates resident only hunting periods on public lands.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. The proposed rule does not change the fees for small game hunting licenses. The proposed rule will more evenly distribute small game hunting pressure on public land providing for a safer and more enjoyable experience for resident and nonresident hunters. Additionally, a typical nonresident hunter spends 5 days or less hunting small game in Iowa annually. The proposed rule provides for up to 14 days of hunting on an annual license with the option to purchase multiple annual licenses.

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 September 22, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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

Free Language Assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (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.

Public Hearing

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

September 22, 2026 from 1-2 p.m., 6200 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor

Free Language Assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (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.

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. Add rule 571-96.10(481A) as follows:

571-96.10(481A) Small game hunting by nonresidents.

96.10(1) Small game species for nonresident hunting include pheasant, quail, partridge, grouse, dove, rabbit, and squirrel.

96.10(2) Nonresident small game hunters purchasing a nonresident annual hunting license shall be limited to two, seven-day periods totaling not more than fourteen days per annual license purchased. Multiple nonresident annual hunting licenses may be purchased.

96.10(3) The two, seven-day periods must be designated at the time the annual license is purchased and may be consecutive. The seven-day periods must fall within the season dates defined in 571-96.1 through 571-96.4 and 571-91.10 except:

a. Small game hunting by nonresidents is not allowed on public land during the first seven days of the pheasant season as defined in 571-96.1(1).

b. Rabbit, squirrel and grouse hunting by nonresidents is not allowed on public land from the third Saturday in October through the third Saturday in November.

96.10(4) A designated period may be changed prior to the beginning date of the period by contacting the department.

96.10(5) The nonresident five-day hunting license may be purchased independently or in conjunction with a nonresident annual hunting license.

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

Decision Item

8. 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 \$702,888.63

Dates: September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

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 and serves as the primary drinking water source for the City of Montezuma. 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.

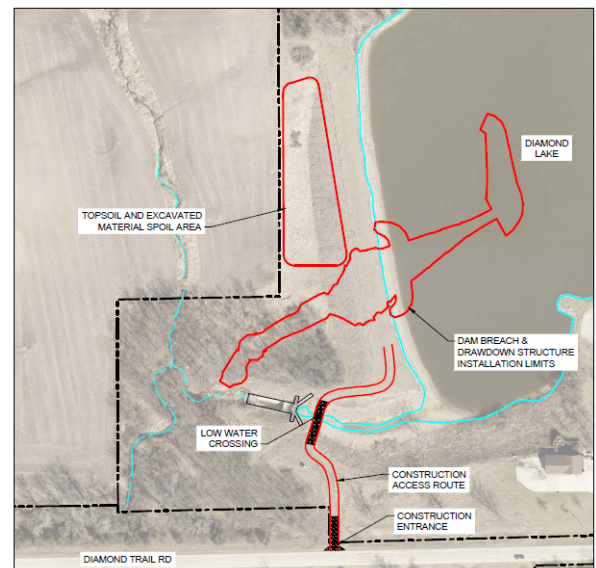
Both landowners within the watershed and the park staff have worked to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs to the lake by installing a variety of best management practices on the landscape. DNR and PCCB completed an assessment of the watershed in 2022 and began construction on several watershed practices within the park 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 will help protect the lake. Construction was completed in 2025 (\$454k; \$341k LRP, \$113k PCCB) and project partners shifted focus to address sedimentation in the lake and large campground marsh.

DNR previously worked with the PCCB in 2015 to repair and modify the spillway at the lake outlet. The spillway needed repair, and upgrading the lakes infrastructure allowed project partners to modify the outlet structure and 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 and was able to be completed with the lake at full pool. The spillway modification was completed in 2015 for a total cost of \$160k, with the PCCB contributing \$32k to the project.

A critical step needed to move forward with a larger restoration project in the lake was to construct an alternative drinking water supply for the City, as Diamond Lake was their only water source. The local community also contributed over \$5 Million developing and installing an alternative water source (Jordan aquifer well) for the City of Montezuma that was installed in 2025. This contribution represents a significant investment in the project by the community and is their primary cost share for the overall restoration project, as this project could not move forward without an alternative water supply.

PCCB and DNR began developing a larger in-lake restoration project in 2025 with the goal completing some targeting dredging, shoreline stabilization, jetty construction, fish habitat improvements, and a new boat ramp in 2027-2029. Diamond Lake lacks the infrastructure necessary to drain the lake to execute planned in-lake restoration work or perform future maintenance at lowered lake levels. This project will consist of notching the dam and draining the lake in a controlled manner. Then, a drawdown pipe and valve will be installed.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to work with PCCB to draw down Diamond Lake and install necessary infrastructure to facilitate the remaining in-lake restoration work, as well as provide the CCB with long-term water level control via a drawdown pipe. This infrastructure upgrade will also allow the lake to remain empty during the planned in-lake construction project.



Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$ 702,888.63
<u>Poweshiek County Conservation Board Contribution (Cash Match)</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
Total budget	\$ 752,888.63

Anticipated Future Work: Future work will include targeted dredging, shoreline restoration, fish habitat improvements, and new recreational opportunities to be completed starting in 2027. The current cost estimate for remaining work is \$3.2 Million.

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: August 13, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

9. **Contract with the Story County Conservation Board (Hickory Grove Park)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with the Story County Conservation Board, of Ames, Iowa.

Contract Terms:

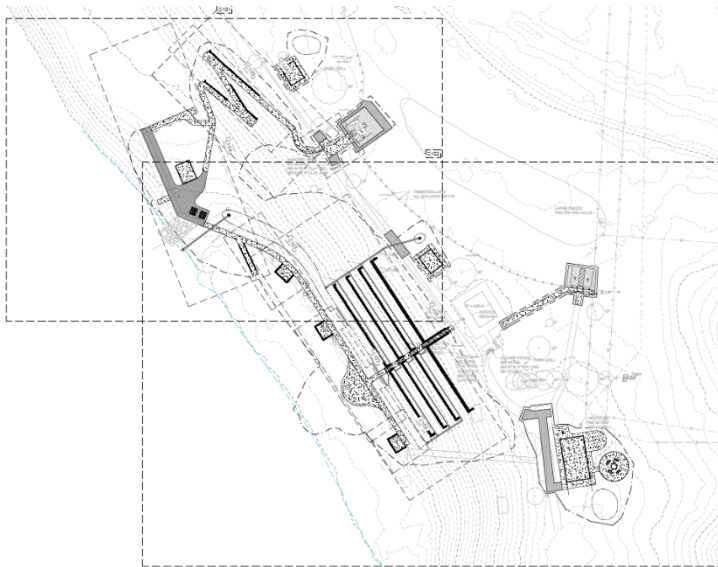
Amount: Not to exceed \$463,255.88

Dates: August 13, 2026 – January 31, 2028

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

Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program (LRP) and the Story County Conservation Board (SCCB)

Background: Hickory Grove Lake is a 100-acre constructed lake in Story County with a lake to watershed ratio of 40:1. According to the 2024 Lake Visitation Survey, the lake has and estimated 40,000 visitors annually and serves as a regionally important resource. The park is popular camping and fishing destination within the county, and sees many visitors from within a 60-mile radius. Popular activities include fishing, camping, relaxing, and wildlife watching. Prior to the lake restoration project, completed in 2021, the lake had relatively healthy fishery, however, carp limited the establishment of aquatic vegetation. Stormwater run-off led to gully erosion in watershed tributaries, debris (e.g. corn stalks) in the lake, and nitrogen spikes in samples collected from the watershed. Additionally, the beach at the lake has been listed as impaired due to high concentrations of indicator bacteria, principally from water pooling at the beach area after heavy rains associated with runoff from the parking lot and area above the beach.



A technical advisory team was first formed in 2008 to plan and implement water quality improvement efforts at the park. This team of partners implemented watershed improvement practices on private and public land to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the lake. In-lake practices, such as shoreline stabilization, targeted sediment removal, and a fishery renovation were targeted at reducing internal nutrient loading. These practices included a livestock exclusion project, cost-share program to upgrade watershed septic systems, and goose population control at the beach. Lastly, dam infrastructure, shoreline access, and outdoor recreational opportunities were enhanced as part of this comprehensive restoration project. The total lake restoration project cost was approximately \$4 Million, which was shared between the Iowa DNR's Lake Restoration Program (70%) and the County (30%). Project partners held a grand re-opening celebration in 2021 to showcase the project to the

community.

Despite the aforementioned restoration efforts, the lake is still impaired due to elevated levels of indicator bacteria at the beach. As with many parks around the state, the beach at Hickory Grove Lake is impacted by drainage around the beach area, which contributes to elevated bacteria levels. Research completed over the past 10 years shows indicates that where sand remains wet following rain events, especially in places where there is a lot of runoff, the lake is more likely to show elevated levels of bacteria at the beach. Thus, channeling drainage away from the beach, when coupled with other stormwater management practices, should yield fewer violations to the state's beach bacteria water quality criteria.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to improve for stormwater management infrastructure around the beach area. Practices will include beach and hillside terracing and grading, native plantings, and ADA accessibility improvements (see figure 1: overview of construction plan). These improvements are expected to reduce indicator bacteria at the beach and potentially remove the lake from Iowa's Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List and improve access for all to the lake. DNR is a cost

share partner on the stormwater practices associated with this project. Additionally, SCCB is fully funding a number of access and amenity improvements to enhance users' park experience as a part of this project.

Budget:

DNR Contribution	\$ 463,255.88
<u>Story County Conservation Board Contribution</u>	<u>\$ 955,890.47</u>
Total budget	\$ 1,419,146.35

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

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

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

Decision Item

10. Contract Amendment with ECS Midwest, LLC (Pammel - Harmon Tunnel Repair)

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with ECS Midwest, LLC of Johnston, IA.

Amendment Number 1 to Contract 25CRDLWBMALDR-0002

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$191,250.00

Amendment Dates: August 14, 2026 to November 30, 2027

Funding Source(s): Parks and Institutional Roads Fund

Amendment Purpose:

In April of 2026, the Department received the report from ECS MIDWEST, LLC that was required under Phase 1 of the contract. The report addressed recommended repair solutions for Harmon Tunnel. Upon review, the Department is recommending to proceed with Phase 2 services outlined in the Request for Proposals and contract to develop construction bid packages that efficiently address repair needs. Hourly rates provided by the Contractor will be used as a basis for contracting any additional design and oversight work to be completed as a part of Phase 2 of the tunnel repair project.

Original Contract Purpose:

ECS Midwest, LLC was to assess each of the following tunnel features in need of repair, and provide recommendations for improvement, removal, or replacement in a Phase 1 Analysis Report:

1. Architectural fascia stone veneer archways over tunnel.
2. Limestone pieces accumulating at entrance pilasters and at ledges above tunnel.
3. Entrance portal limestone 'wing' walls each side of tunnel (4 total).
4. Architectural limestone walls above archways.
5. Repair of cracks and resurfacing of tunnelway walls and overhead.
6. Repairs of stone pilasters at each entrance (4 total).
7. Inspect concrete retaining wall each side of west end tunnel entrance for any cracks or spalled areas needing repair.
8. Inspect concrete walkway at Southeast wingwall for unevenness, cracking, and usability.

The intent for this project is to provide the state with tunnel repair plans that will extend the expected service life of the tunnel 40 years with minimal maintenance and minor repair work needed under normal environmental conditions. The DNR will facilitate the construction bidding process and all the day-to-day construction inspection duties.

Original Selection Process: The Department solicited proposals from targeted small businesses and published a request of proposals (RFP) on the Department of Administrative Services website. Commission approved contracting with ECS Midwest, LLC on December 11, 2025.

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$62,875; Timeframe: February 2, 2025 to November 5, 2027

Amendment-1 Terms: Amount \$191,250; Timeframe: August 14, 2026 to November 30, 2027;

Purpose: Proceed with Phase 2 and contract to develop construction bid packages that efficiently repair the damage.

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

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

Information Item

11. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
7/23/2026	25-06-49-02	MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK	JACKSON	LOW WATER CROSSINGS AND BRIDGE DEMOLITION This project includes removal of a deteriorated wooden bridge and stairs, placement of low water crossings in two locations, and minor grading.	\$30,000	\$14,640.00 \$18,244.00 \$18,760.00 \$23,900.00 \$24,340.00 \$24,594.06 \$98,800.00
7/23/2026	23-01-30-04	GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT	DICKINSON	NEPPLE WMA WETLAND RESTORATION This project is designed to create a wetland pool area. Work includes dike construction, excavation, tile investigation, tile breaks, and a water control structure.	\$24,500	\$22,642.00 \$28,015.00 \$29,243.00 \$32,600.00 \$36,170.44 \$38,935.60 \$55,890.50 \$62,940.00
6/25/2026	26-05-54-01	SUGEMA WILDLIFE UNIT	KEOKUK	SKUNK RIVER RIPRAP This project consists of placing class "B" riprap, totaling 970 tons to stabilize two locations on the Skunk River.	\$75,000	\$67,094.30 \$73,526.00 \$75,454.40 \$77,132.50 \$78,023.00 \$80,053.00 \$83,274.50 \$83,438.00 \$83,792.00 \$90,326.80 \$93,210.30 \$99,723.00 \$133,793.95 \$149,952.00 \$196,707.80

6/25/2026	23-03-10-02	CEDAR ROCK STATE PARK	BUCHANAN	ROAD MAINTENANCE The project consists of blading/shaping the roadway, shoulder work, pothole repair, minor ditch cleaning, and the replacement of one culvert.	\$36,000	\$25,986.80 \$27,560.55 \$27,879.00 \$33,854.70 \$33,983.80
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Travis Baker, Land and Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

12. Construction Item

12.1 Diamond Lake, Drawdown and Structure Installation - Poweshiek County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Diamond Lake is a 98 acre reservoir built in 1953 by the City of Montezuma as a water source. In 1958, the City signed an agreement with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board allowing the County to develop and manage the land around the lake as a public park. The park is 660 acres and draws 45,000 visitors annually. It features 120 campsites, a boat ramp, and a nature center. In 2025, the DNR and Poweshiek CCB implemented a project to clean out approximately 32,000 cubic yards of deposited sediment from two existing sediment ponds, construct a new sediment pond, and stabilize approximately 600 feet of stream bed. A future planned phase will include dredging of the lake basin, shoreline protection, and a boat ramp.

Design Summary: Diamond Lake lacks the infrastructure necessary to drain the lake to execute planned in-lake restoration work or perform future maintenance at lowered lake levels. This project will consist of notching the dam and draining the lake in a controlled manner. Then, a drawdown pipe and valve will be installed.

Engineering Project #: 27-05-79-01

Cost Estimate: \$810,000

Operating Bureau: Land and Waters

Funding Source: 100% Lake Restoration

Bid Letting Date: 07/23/2026

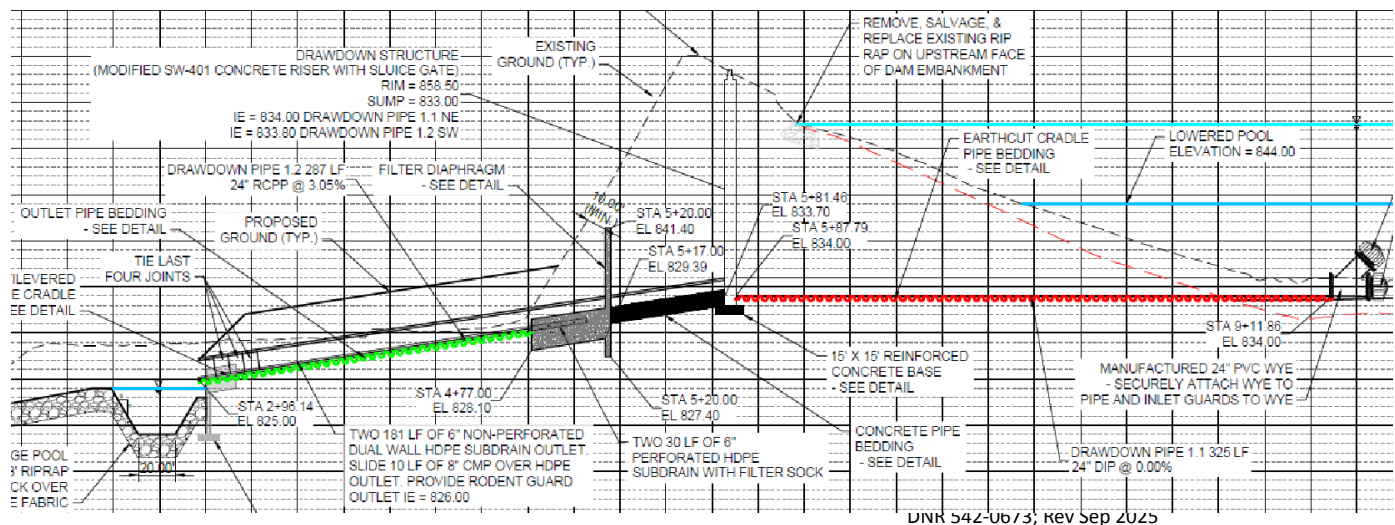
Construction Completion Date: 03/31/2027

Number of Bids Received: 6

Bidders

RW Excavating Solutions LLC	Prairie City IA	\$752,888.63
Aaron Crane Construction LLC	Manchester IA	\$775,576.00
DeLong Construction, Inc	Washington IA	\$804,770.00
Midwest Augers, Inc	Adel IA	\$823,456.00
JB Holland Construction, Inc	Decorah IA	\$880,689.75
Three Oaks Construction, Inc	North Sioux City SD	\$1,080,410.20

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



12.2 Pillsbury Point, Shoreline Stabilization – Dickinson County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Summary: Due to historic flooding during June of 2024, a number of bank collapses occurred along lake shorelines in Dickinson County, Iowa. Specifically, extensive shoreline erosion occurred at West Okoboji Lake, East Okoboji Lake, Big Spirit Lake and Silver Lake. The number of collapses and scale of this event was significant and was the result of a combination of high water and heavy rainfall events that saturated soils on the lakeshore, which destabilized the bank.

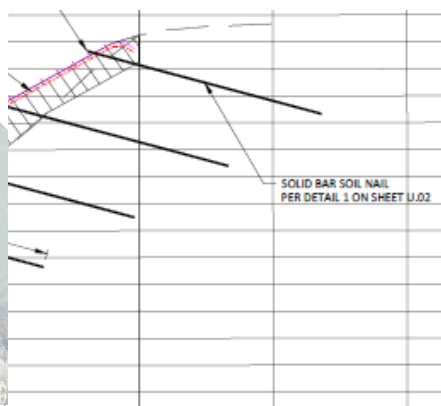
Most areas have been repaired under a previous contract from the fall of 2025 to the spring of 2026. However, multiple collapse areas along Pillsbury Point were not addressed as part of that contract due to the larger scope, complexity of work, and differing construction methods needed to make the repair. Specifically, very tall banks and the need for specialized slope stabilization made Pillsbury Point more complicated to both design and construct.

Bolton and Menk Engineering, the DNR contracted consultant, provided engineering design to stabilize the entire slope along the full length of Pillsbury Point. This project aims to address stabilizing the slope from the base (water's edge) to top of slope to prevent future erosion. Shoreline erosion can result in diminished water quality and habitat for wildlife. Sedimentation alters the ecosystem by removing or damaging plants that the fish need for food and spawning, bringing pollutants from the soil eroded into the water from the shore, and causing the water to lose clarity. Shoreline erosion also creates other issues, aside from impacting the lake environment. For example, there is potential damage to near- shore buildings and other infrastructure and safety concerns.



This project is designed to stabilize slopes on approximately 1,200 feet of shoreline. Repair methods from simple tree clearing to establish prairie plants that stabilize soils, to steel meshes and soil nailing geotechnical solutions will be used on this project. The work will have to occur from a barge since there is no reasonable access at the top of the slope (e.g. private ownership very close to the top of the bank). The slopes will have rock protection on the lower part of the slope to help with wave and ice pressure, while the rest of the slope will be seeded over the geotechnical repairs to give it a more natural look to the top of the slope.

Example Repair



Engineering Project #: 24-01-30-03

Cost Estimate: \$2,350,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 90% Lake Restoration, 10% Marine Fuel Tax

Bid Letting Date: 7/23/26

Construction Completion Date: 9/1/27

Number of Bids Received: 5

Bidders

Midwest Lake Service	Spirit Lake, IA	\$3,269,824.48
Schoelerman Contracting	Royal, IA	\$3,646,636.46
Groundworx Hydrovac LLC	Grantsville, UT	\$3,981,381.61
Three Oaks Construction, Inc	N Sioux City, SD	\$4,015,284.00
Central Seeding LLC	Gretna, NE	\$4,703,775.64

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Midwest Lake Service.

12.3 Loess Hills State Forest, Fireproof Fencing - Monona County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: This fencing project is in the Preparation Canyon Unit of the Loess Hills State Forest, near Pisgah, Iowa. Much of the original fencing in this area was constructed entirely of wood. In 2023, these older/combustible fences were destroyed by a wildfire, necessitating a complete replacement of the boundary and interior lines.

Design Summary: This project replaces 12.4 miles of wildfire-destroyed fencing with a 100% fireproof, high-tension system designed for maximum long-term value and resilience. Because forest management requires routine prescribed burning, the design strictly eliminates vulnerable components. Instead, all posts and gates will be constructed from high-strength pipe and standard T-posts. This heavy-duty fence has lasting durability, ensuring the investment will last for decades. Additionally, the fence features a 4-strand wildlife-friendly design with smooth top and bottom wires to allow for safe wildlife passage, resulting in a highly functional, low-maintenance, and sustainable asset for the State Forest.

Engineering Project #: 24-01-67-03

Cost Estimate: \$700,000

Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves

Funding Source: 100% Executive Council

Bid Letting Date: 07/23/2026

Construction Completion Date: 05/14/2027

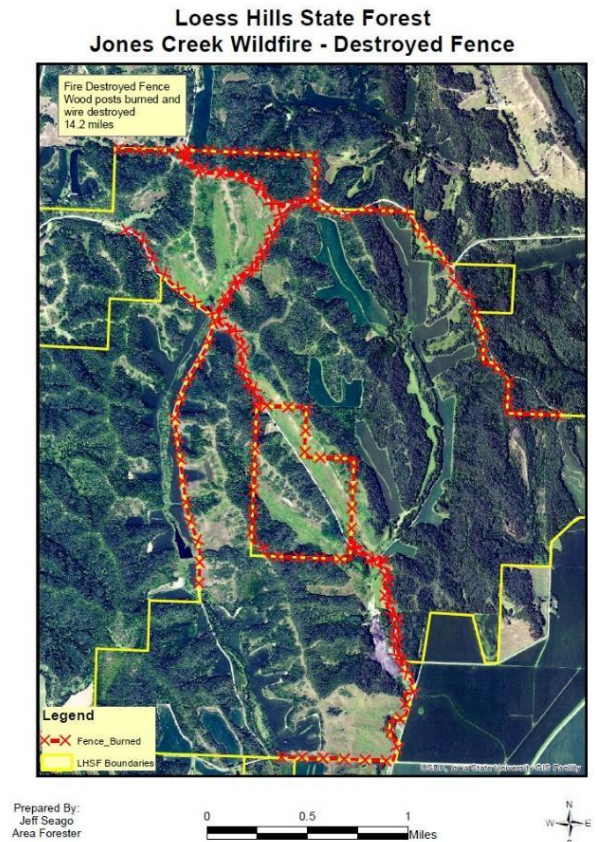
Number of Bids Received: 7

Bidders

River Bluff Landscaping, LLC	Rochester, MN	\$639,426.20
Mauer Company LLC	Little Canada, MN	\$645,822.10
Armodus LLC	Mondamin, IA	\$688,512.00
Cardis Fence & Iron Co	Sioux City, IA	\$768,083.86
Nelson & Rock Contracting Inc.	Pleasantville, IA	\$789,002.01
R&R Fencing and Supply	Onawa, IA	\$899,186.00
American Fence Co of Sioux City	Sioux City, IA	\$928,851.99

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to River Bluff Landscaping, LLC

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: August 13, 2026



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

Decision Item

13. Public Land Acquisition Projects

13.1 Lake Rathbun WMA, Appanoose County – Pheasants Forever

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Appanoose County adjacent to Lake Rathbun WMA.

Seller: Pheasants Forever

Acreage: 82.36 Acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$370,500

Appraised Value: \$494,000

Property Description:

This irregularly shaped tract lies approximately 9 miles northwest of Centerville in northwest Appanoose County. Situated less than a quarter-mile from the shoreline of Lake Rathbun, it serves as a highly strategic addition to the Lake Rathbun WMA Complex, which encompasses both State- managed holdings and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land.

The property features sloping topography ranging from 2% to 14%. The western timbered ravine dips into both the 100-year and 500-year FEMA floodplains and is subject to a flowage easement held by the federal government for Lake Rathbun. The parcel boasts a strong history of conservation, having been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) since 1996. It currently features 65 acres of established CRP prairie, which provides excellent nesting cover and habitat for both game and non-game species.

While this property is currently open to public hunting through a temporary Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) lease, this acquisition will secure the land for permanent public use.

Purpose:

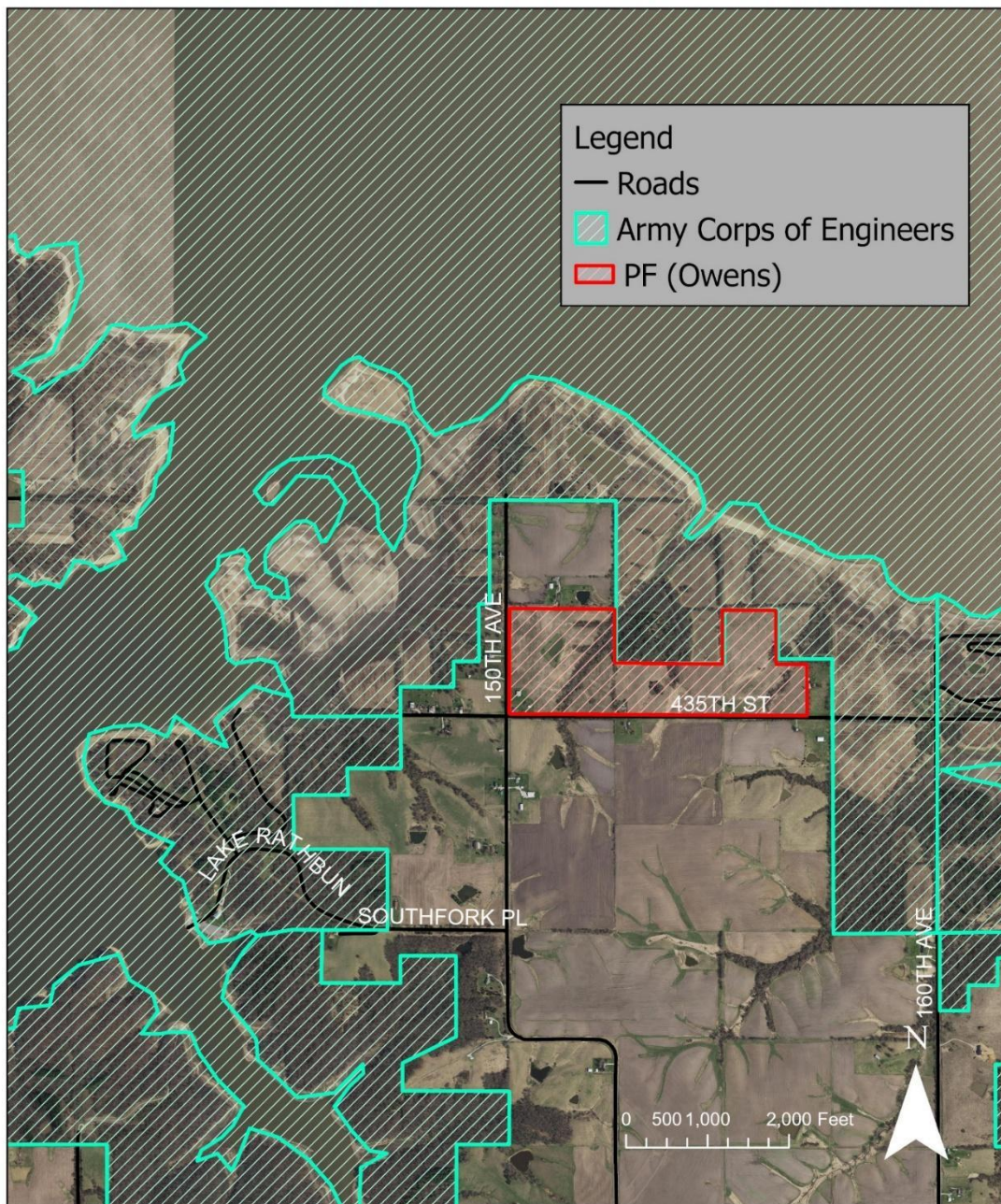
Acquiring this property will permanently protect established grassland habitat directly adjacent to existing public lands. Furthermore, this parcel will straighten existing public property lines, thereby improving the DNR's overall management efficiency, boundary posting, and law enforcement capabilities. Once acquired, the property will remain open to the public for outdoor recreation, including hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. Direct public access will be provided via the adjacent county roads (150th Avenue and 435th Street).

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Restoration Land Grant (Pittman/Robertson Act)

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

Realty Services / Lake Rathbun Appanoose County/ Pheasants Forever



13.2 North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Taggart Brothers LLC

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

Seller: Taggart Brothers LLC

Acreage: 4.5 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$13,500.00 (\$3,000/ac pending surveyed)

Property Description: This property is located in west-central Greene County, approximately 6 miles west of Jefferson, directly adjacent to the North Raccoon River WMA. This tract has its highest point along the east fence and falls ~100 feet steeply to the west where it meets the floodplain on the Raccoon River. The vegetation is primarily mixed hardwood timber. The property is bounded on the north and west by state-owned land. It is bounded to the South by the Right-of-Way for State Highway 30. Access to this parcel is through North Raccoon River WMA.

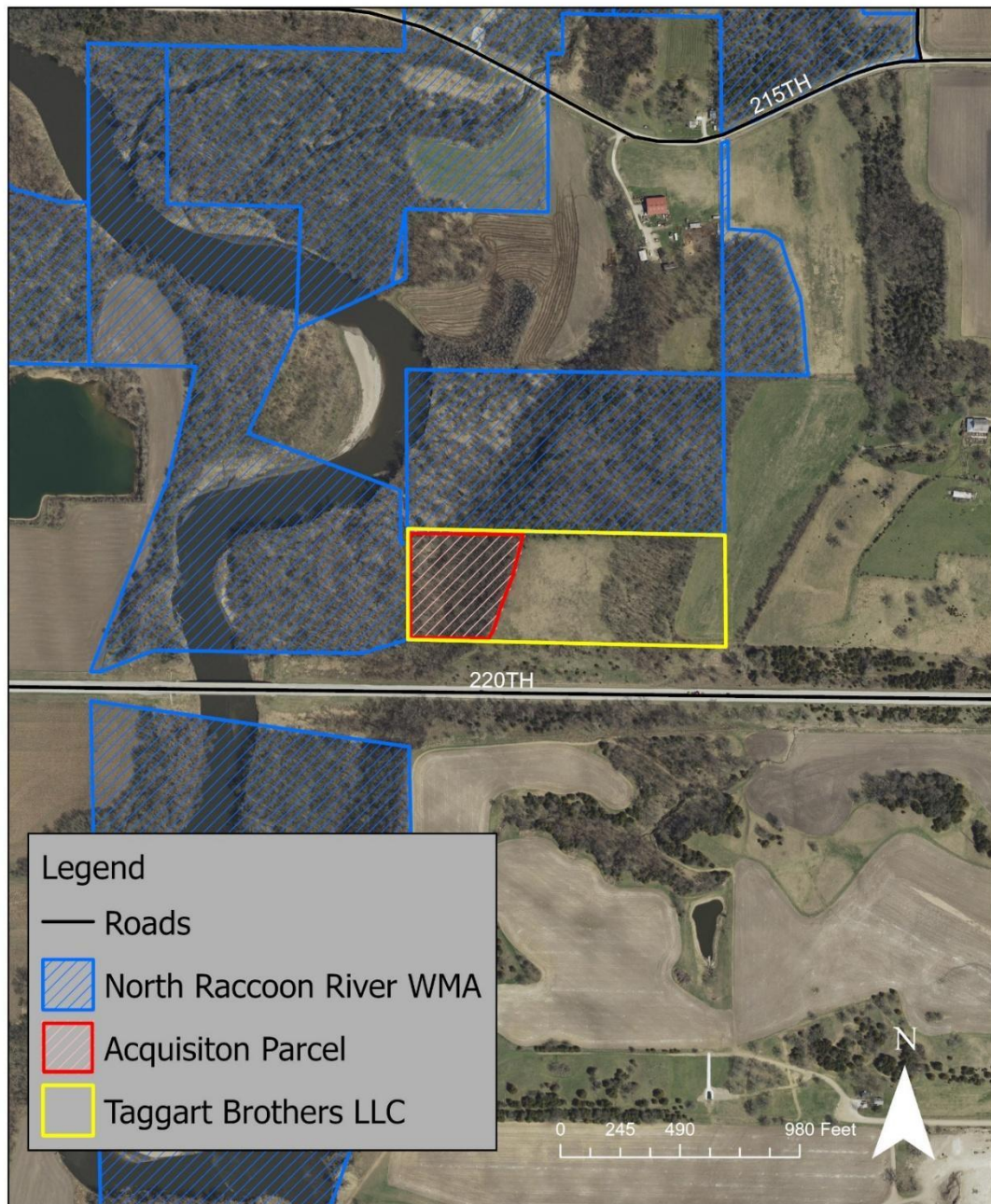
Purpose: This acquisition strategically connects two separate parcels of the North Raccoon River WMA, allowing recreationists continuous access to all public lands between 215th Street and 220th Street (State Highway 30). It will also facilitate more efficient habitat management and boundary enforcement by creating a more obvious boundary. The tract drains into the North Raccoon River, a designated priority watershed under Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Ultimately, this purchase will permanently protect a vital forest buffer from land conversion and expand outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities. This parcel would remain on the Greene County property tax rolls.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp

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

Realty Services / North Raccoon River WMA Greene County/ Taggart Brothers LLC



13.3 North Raccoon River WMA, Greene County – Dennis Taggart and Patrick Taggart

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

Seller: Dennis Taggart and Patrick Taggart

Acreage: 10 acres

DNR Purchase Price: \$20,000.00 (\$2,000/ac pending surveyed)

Property Description: This property is located in west-central Greene County, approximately 6 miles west of Jefferson, directly adjacent to the North Raccoon River WMA. The tract is bisected by a ravine and has steep slopes with over 100 ft of elevation change. The vegetation is primarily mixed hardwood timber. The property is bounded on the north by 230th Street.

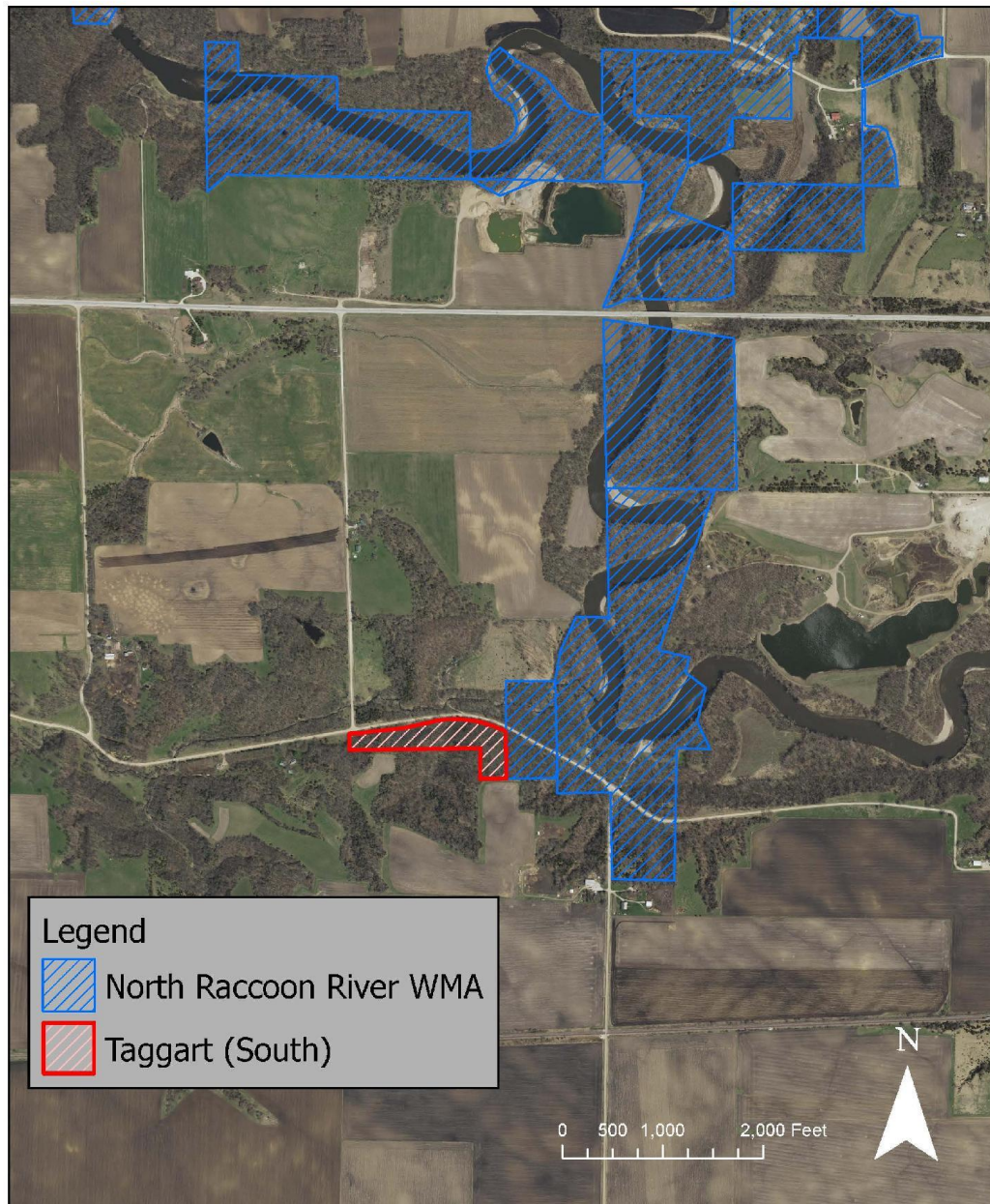
Purpose: This tract drains to the North Raccoon River, a designated a priority watershed under the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. In addition to creating additional outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting, this acquisition will permanently protect a vital forest buffer from being converted to other land uses. This parcel will remain on the Greene County property tax rolls.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau

Funding Source(s): Wildlife Habitat Stamp

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

Realty Services / North Raccoon River WMA Greene County/ Dennis and Patrick Taggart



Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting: August 13, 2026

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

Decision Item (** indicates proposed consent item*)

***14. Public Land Management Projects**

14.1 Management Agreement – Nestor Stiles Prairie – Cherokee County Conservation Board – Cherokee County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Management Agreement with the Cherokee County Conservation Board for the Nestor Stiles Prairie area located in Cherokee County.

Location: This area is located approximately a mile and a half southwest of Aurelia in Section 16 Township 91 North, Range 39 West of the 5th P.M., Cherokee County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: This 9.55-acre property is used for public access for outdoor recreation in the same manner as state owned preserve areas.

Management History: This property has been under a management agreement with the Cherokee County Conservation Board since 1989. The previous management agreement has expired.

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

This agreement was approved by the Cherokee County Conservation Board on July 13, 2026.

14.2 Management Agreement – Fogle Lake Recreation Area – the City of Diagonal - Ringgold County

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 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. The previous management agreement has expired.

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 May 12, 2026.

14.3 Easement Conveyance – Clarke County – ITC Midwest LLC

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an easement for installation of electrical line infrastructure at West Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Clarke County, Iowa.

Project Description: ITC Midwest, LLC is requesting an easement to upgrade existing transmission infrastructure across the center of West Lake WMA. This project sees to replace and upgrade current transmission infrastructure from a 69-kV line to a 161/69 kV Structure. The requested easement will measure approximately 50 feet by 1,000 feet on the west side of 195th Avenue, and 100 feet by 2,640 feet on the east side of 195th Avenue. Local DNR wildlife staff have reviewed the proposal and approved the request.

Acreage: 7.21 acres

Compensation: \$66,923.22

Travis Baker, Land & Waters Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 13, 2026

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

Decision Item

15. Contract Amendment with Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota (CCI)

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

Amendment--#001

Terms:

Amendment Amount: \$ 103,000.00

Amendment Dates: 8/13/26 to 4/10/28

Funding Source(s): G84P

Amendment Purpose: This amendment is a result of a cost increase in labor rate. Conservation Corps is a non profit organization who utilized Americorps grants as a part of their fee structure to reduce costs to entities. Those grants were eliminated by the federal government after the original contract bidding process. The overnight stay rate is being increased from \$120 to \$160 to meet the state rate of \$80/per night for 2 rooms (one for males and one for female crew members). This is only used when weather conditions are unsafe for spike camping.

Original Contract Purpose: The purpose in entering into this Contract is for DNR to provide funding to CCI to provide up to 76 weeks of up to 5-person crews to perform a variety of natural resource work for a period of up to three years. This will bring the total contract amount up to \$547,200.00 (\$471,200 original contract amount +\$103,000 amendment) Contract expires 4/10/2028.

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

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

The DNR will:

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

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

Criteria Reviewed: Only one bid submitted

Proposal Due Date: 03/07/2025

of Proposals Received: 1

Recommendation: Conservation Corps of Iowa/Minnesota

Contract History:

Original Contract Terms: Amount \$ \$471,200; Timeframe: 4/11/25 to 4/10/28

Amendment- 25CRDPBPPAYT-0106_001 Terms: Amount: \$103,000; Timeframe: 8/13/26 to 4/10/28; Purpose: labor rate increase

Chad Kelchen, Parks, forests and Preserves, District 4 Supervisor
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: August 13, 2026