Agenda

Natural Resource Commission
Thursday, November 12, 2026
Teleconference: 361-245-0121 PIN: 803 292 109#
Video Conference: meet.google.com/smw-cnju-drz
6200 Park Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50321
Walnut Woods Conf Rm

Thursday, November 12, 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 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 *11. Contract with PennyStreet Farms Inc (IHAP) *12. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grant Programs, Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grants (FY 2027) *13. Cooperative Agreement, Polk County Conservation Board-Forested Wetland Mitigation Credits *18. Public Land Management Projects (18.1-18.2)	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.		2027 NRC Meeting Recommendations	Decision	Pete Hildreth
7.		Chapter 15, "General License Regulations" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
8.		Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
9.		Chapter 106, "Deer Hunting" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
10.		Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting" – Notice of Intended Action	Decision	Todd Bishop
*11.		Contract with PennyStreet Farms Inc (IHAP)	Decision	Todd Bishop
*12.		Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grant Programs, Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grants (FY 2027)	Decision	George Scholten
*13.		Cooperative Agreement, Polk County Conservation Board-Forested Wetland Mitigation Credits	Decision	Travis Baker
14.		Contract Amendment 2 with the City of Grinnell (Arbor Lake & Lake Nyanza)	Decision	Travis Baker
15.		Small Constructions Projects; Shimek State Forest Bitternut Lake Boat Ramp and Lower Equestrian Campground Pit Latrine	Information	Travis Baker
16.		Large Construction Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	16.1	Lacey Keosauqua State Park, Wastewater Improvements – Van Buren County		
	16.2	Pikes Peak State Park, Lagoon Liner Replacement – Clayton County		
	16.3	Sedan Bottoms WMA, Building Improvements – Appanoose County		
17.		Public Land Acquisition Project: Deep Creek WMA, Jackson/ Clinton County – Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust	Decision	Travis Baker
*18.		Public Land Management Projects	Decision	Travis Baker
	18.1	Chapter 17 (Use of State-Owned Land) Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Scott County		

	18.2	Reciprocal Land Use and Access Agreement – Union Grove State Park – Lake and Park Holding Corporation – Tama County		
19.		CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(c) to "discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation." • Case No. EQCV034491 Update. • ACTION ITEM: State Patent No. 6057 alleged violation. Any action taken will be done in open session.	Decision	Eric Dirth
20.		General Discussion		

Upcoming NRC Meeting Dates

- Thursday, December 10, Des Moines
- Thursday, January 14, Des Moines

For details on the NRC meeting schedule, visit:
http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/NaturalResourceCommission.aspx

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
MEETING

October 8, 2026

Shenandoah Public Library
201 S Elm St, Shenandoah IA, 51601 and Teleconference

Approved by the Commission TBD

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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 9:30 am on October 8, 2026 via video/teleconference attendees.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tammi Kircher

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Phillips, Riverton, IA-Riverton Wildlife Area

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included:

*7. Contract Amendment-2 with Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC-Fishing Regulations
*11. Land Management Project – Chapter 17 lease – Tama County – Pamela Schulze -115-N
*12. Contract Amendment-1, TNT Tuckpointing & Building Restoration, LLC-Cedar Rock
*15. Contract with the Poweshiek County Conservation Board (Diamond Lake Park)
*16. Contract with the Benton County Conservation Board (Hannen Lake Park)

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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: SEPTEMBER 2026

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the above meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

- Director Lyon started off her remarks by thanking DNR staff for hosting a field tour for the Commission, highlighting features of Waubonsie State Park, and the work being done at the Riverton Wildlife Area for upland and migratory birds.
- Director Lyon announced the designation of the Maquoketa River water trail, bringing the total miles of designated water trails in Iowa to over 1200 miles.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

- Division Administrator (DA) Pete Hildreth also thanked the local DNR team for their work hosting a field tour for the Commission.
- DA Hildreth shared that IHEA applied for and has received their own industry recognized credential in agricultural education within Iowa's schools.
- DA Hildreth highlighted a few topics from the recent AFWA meeting he attended, including the announcement that DNR Biologist Todd Bogenschutz received a special recognition award for his career spent improving ecosystems and strengthening gamebird populations.
- DA Hildreth introduced George Scholten as the new Bureau Chief of Fisheries for the Iowa DNR.

FY 2028 BUDGET REQUEST

Jennifer Nelson shared the FY28 Budget Request for the Iowa DNR. Ms. Nelson responded to questions regarding the new water quality monitoring appropriation.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

CONTRACT WITH ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (AFWA)-OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

George Scholten requested Commission approval for a contract with AFWA to perform and Outdoor Recreation Survey.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT PRAIRIE LAKES WILDLIFE UNIT, WAPSIPINICON STATE PARK, AND LAKE DARLING STATE PARK

Travis Baker presented small construction projects at Prairie Lakes Wildlife Unit, Wapsipinicon State Park, and Lake Darling State Park.

Public Comments – None

Written Comments-None

INFORMATION

LARGE CONSTRUCTION- ROCK CREEK STATE PARK, BOAT RAMP PARKING IMPROVEMENTS - JASPER COUNTY

Travis Baker requested Commission approval for a construction project for boat ramp improvements at Rock Creek State Park.

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

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- BIG CREEK STATE PARK, BEACH STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS – POLK COUNTY
Travis Baker requested Commission approval for beach storm water improvements at Big Creek State Park.
Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Bill Moritz 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- LEDGES STATE PARK, BRIDGE RAILINGS AND WALKWAY – BOONE COUNTY
Travis Baker requested Commission approval for bridge railing and walkway improvements at Ledges State Park.
Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Laura Kudej to approve the item as presented. Seconded by KR Buck.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT- ATV STORAGE BUILDING – MARSHALL COUNTY
Travis Baker requested Commission approval for improvements on an ATV storage building in Marshall County. Mr. Baker clarified that the funding for the project was 87% ATV fund and 13% Recreation and Trails Grant funding.
Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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-STATE FOREST NURSERY, SEED BUILDING ADDITION – STORY COUNTY
Travis Baker requested Commission approval for an addition to the seed building at the State Forest Nursery.
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- SYRACUSE WMA, CLINTON COUNTY – MATTHEW AND ELIZABETH MCQUILLEN.
Travis Baker requested Commission approval to purchase 60 acres of land located in Clinton County adjacent to Syracuse WMA.
Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

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

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

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH THE BLACK HAWK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (CASEY LAKE, HICKORY HILLS PARK)-CASEY LAKE ALUM APPLICATION

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board as part of an alum application project at Casey Lake.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. Laura Kudej-nay.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT WITH SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, LLC. -CASEY LAKE ALUM APPLICATION

Michelle Balmer requested Commission approval for a contract with SOLitude Lake Management for alum application at Casey Lake.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Bill Moritz.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. Laura Kudej-nay.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CHAPTER 96, "SMALL GAME HUNTING" – ADOPTED AND FILED

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for the final adopted and filed rule for Chapter 96. Commissioners noted their appreciation for the approach that was taken throughout the rulemaking process and encouraged the Department to provide robust communication with stakeholders regarding the rule change.

Public Comments – None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

SUBRECIPIENT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE-URBAN CWD READINESS

Tyler Harms requested Commission approval for a contract with Wildlife Management Institute to hire an urban CWD specialist.

Public Comments– None
Written Comments-None

Motion was made by KR Buck to approve the item as presented. Seconded by Uriah Hansen.
The Chairperson asked for the Commissioners to approve the agenda item by saying aye. Commissioner Bill Moritz abstained from voting due to his employment with the Wildlife Management Institute. There were no nay votes.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

CONTRACT AMENDMENT- 2 WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.-CONTRACT EXTENSION

Kelly Smith requested Commission approval for a contract amendment with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to extend the existing contract.

Public Comments– None

Written Comments-None

Motion was made by Collin Brecher 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 WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY-CWD SAMPLE TESTING

Chris Ensminger requested Commission approval for a contract with Iowa State University for CWD Sample Testing.

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Commissioners thanked staff for the tour of Waubonsie State Park and Riverton Wildlife Area.
- Commissioners shared about their recent outdoor activities and their plans for the Fall.
- Commissioner Moritz reported that he recently visited Lake Keomah State Park and the rainfall has been helping fill the lake after the lake restoration project.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Tom Prickett adjourned the Natural Resources Commission meeting at 10:44 am on October 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	$25.00	Donation to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund in memory of Dr. Arnold Sherman	Royce and Peg Johnson
Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau	$4,000.00	Donation of gently used fishing poles, lures and miscellaneous fishing supplies for fishing education and outreach.	Donald Swan
Communications, Outreach, and Marketing Bureau	$500.00	Donation of gently used fishing poles, lures and miscellaneous fishing supplies for fishing education and outreach.	Mike Ploeger
Lake Darling State Park	$64,562.78	Donation of product and labor for the ADA kayak launch at Lake Darling State Park.	Friends of Lake Darling State Park
Wildlife Diversity Fund	$4,000.00	Donation to the Wildlife Diversity Fund in honor of Robert Hoehle	Ann Detlefsen-Hoehle
Springbrook State Park Centennial Celebration	$1,230.00	Donation of craft supplies as well as plates, napkins, condiments, hot dogs, brats and buns for the Springbrook State Park Centennial Celebration.	Barb Gigar
Ledges State Park	$1,000.00	Twelve gourd nesting structures for purple martins at Ledges State Park.	Friends of the Ledges, Inc.
Mines of Spain	$120.00	Two Sycamore trees planted in honor of Charley Winterwood, Mines of Spain Board Member.	Friends of the Mines of Spain
Iowa's State Parks	$6,508.66	Round up donations through the Iowa State Parks Reservation System: July 2026	Various Donors
Rock Creek State Park	$792.00	Donation for lumber used at Rock Creek State Park	Rock Creek Lake Alliance
Lake Macbride State Park	$500.00	Grill for covered picnic area at Lake Macbride State Park.	Dan Ochs
Iowa's State Parks	$5,780.84	Round up donations through the Iowa State Parks Reservation System: August 2026	Various Donors
Prairie Rose State Park	$200.00	Miscellaneous tools, tool boxes, and organizers for Prairie Rose State Park.	Kent Ingerslev
Bellevue State Park	$200.00	Water fountain for butterfly garden pond at Bellevue State Park.	Mary Hurley
Iowa's State Parks	$9,659.61	12' steel livestock panels and gates for the south campground horse corrals at Brushy Creek Recreation Area.	Jerry Cable

Lake Darling State Park	$14,495.00	Donation for Lake Darling State Park's entrance portals.	Dr. Faye Vittetoe
Lake Darling State Park	$14,400.00	Donation for Lake Darling State Park's entrance portals.	Mary Alice Anson
Rock Creek State Park	$950.40	Donation for picnic tables at Rock Creek State Park.	Rock Creek Lake Alliance
Lake Darling State Park	$2,184.14	Bike Repair Station & Air Pump for Lake Darling State Park.	Shelly Franckowiak
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	$150.00	Donation to the Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of William Joseph Kinney.	Lorie & Jeff Schuster
Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	$25.00	Donation to the Fish & Wildlife Trust Fund in honor of William Joe Keller.	Bonnie Cook
Iowa's State Parks	$4066.06	Round up donations through the Iowa State Parks Reservation System: September 2026	Various Donors

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

6. 2027 NRC Meeting Recommendations

Month	**Meeting Date / Day / Time**			**Meeting Location** (County)
January	**01/14/27**	Thu	**9:30am** NRC Business Meeting	Polk
February	**02/11/27**	Thu	**9:30am** NRC Business Meeting	Polk
March	**03/11/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
April	**04/8/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
May	**05/13/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
June	**06/9/27**	Wed	**12:00pm** Field Tour	Webster
	06/10/27	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Webster
July	**07/8/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
August	**08/12/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
September	**09/9/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting **1:00pm** Field Tour	Dallas
October	**10/13/27**	Wed	**12:00pm** Field Tour	Clayton
	10/14/27	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Clayton
November	**11/10/27**	Wed	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk
December	**12/9/27**	Thu	**9:30am** Business Meeting	Polk

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

7. Chapter 15, "General License Regulations" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 15, "General License Regulations."

Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, general administration, and a framework for license revocation and suspension. This proposed rulemaking will align Chapter 15 with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 654 and 2471, which collectively change certain fur dealer fees. Specifically, all fur dealer license fees will be set at $50, and the disabled veteran lifetime fur harvester licenses will be set at $5.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Attached: 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(1)

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections Iowa Code section 483A.1 and 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 654 and 2471

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, general administration, and a framework for license revocation and suspension. This proposed rulemaking will align Chapter 15 with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 654 and 2471, which collectively change certain fur dealer fees. Specifically, all fur dealer license fees will be set at $50, and the disabled veteran lifetime fur harvester licenses will be set at $5.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no significant fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. The proposed changes are all reductions in license fees for a small number of individuals. Savings will be realized by disabled veteran fur harvesters and all fur dealers.

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.

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 November 17, 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:

November 17, 2026 from 1-2 p.m., 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.

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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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

The following rulemaking action proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **15.10(1)"aa"** as follows:

aa. Fur harvester license, lifetime, disabled veteran — ~~$59.50~~ $5.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **15.10(1)"bb"** as follows:

bb. Fur dealer license, annual — ~~$277~~ $50.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **15.10(2)"y"** as follows:

y. Fur dealer license, annual — ~~$615.75~~ $50.

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve paragraph **15.10(2)"z"**.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

8. Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas."

Chapter 51 designates the State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) as game management areas (GMAs). This designation helps effect sound wildlife management and preserve biological balance, both of which are required by law. To that end, Chapter 51 contains the allowable uses of GMAs. These use restrictions are established to protect the primary purpose of GMAs, which is to create and protect fish and wildlife habitat and to promote fish- and wildlife-based recreation.

The proposed rulemaking defines labeling requirements for tree stands used for deer hunting on GMAs as required by 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Attached: Chapter 51 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]
Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed 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 Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2)"a," 481A.6 and 481A.39 and 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 51 designates the State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) as game management areas (GMAs). This designation helps effect sound wildlife management and preserve biological balance, both of which are required by law. To that end, Chapter 51 contains the allowable uses of GMAs. These use restrictions are established to protect the primary purpose of GMAs, which is to create and protect fish and wildlife habitat and to promote fish- and wildlife-based recreation.

The proposed rulemaking defines labeling requirements for tree stands used for deer hunting on GMAs as required by 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no significant 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 7-Chapter 2504.

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 November 17, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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

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

Free Language Assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at chris.ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.250.6886 at least seven days before the event.

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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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

The following rulemaking action proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **51.6(2)"c"** as follows:

c. Exception—tree ~~blinds~~ stands. ~~Portable blinds~~ Tree stands with a metal tag displaying the owner's DNR customer identification number affixed to it and visible from the ground may be placed in trees and used for ~~purposes other than~~ deer hunting ~~waterfowl~~. Tree stands may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer ~~or turkey~~ and ending seven days after the final day of that open season. ~~Portable blinds~~ Unlabeled tree stands or stands left after the permissible period will be removed from the game management area by department staff. Tree stands left on game management areas during the deer season do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the ~~blind~~ stand when unattended, or exclusive use of the site where the stand is placed.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

9. Chapter 106, "Deer Hunting" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 106, "Deer Hunting."

Chapter 106 governs deer hunting by residents and nonresidents 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.

This rulemaking proposes two amendments to comply with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2318, passed during the 2026 Legislative Session. That legislation amends Iowa Code section 483A.8, which previously required a nonresident who purchased an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license to also purchase an antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license at the same time. Senate File 2318 changes this requirement to add in the following caveat: the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) can designate certain zones as "not required" for the mandatory antlerless-deer-only license. This rulemaking aligns Chapter 106 with this statutory change and specifies the process for the Commission to make the "not required" designation.

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Attached: Chapter 106 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]
Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 106, "Deer Hunting," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 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 Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48 and 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2318

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 106 governs deer hunting by residents and nonresidents 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.

This rulemaking proposes two amendments to comply with 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2318, passed during the 2026 Legislative Session. That legislation amends Iowa Code section 483A.8, which previously required a nonresident who purchased an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license to also purchase an antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license at the same time. Senate File 2318 changes this requirement to add in the following caveat: the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) can designate certain zones as "not required" for the mandatory antlerless-deer-only license. This rulemaking aligns Chapter 106 with this statutory change and specifies the process for the Commission to make the "not required" designation.

Fiscal Impact

It is difficult to accurately predict what the actual revenue loss of this rulemaking will be for the Department. There will be lost revenues from the reduction in mandatory license sales. However, this will be in low deer population

zones where nonresident hunter demand is also low. It is also not clear at this time whether the Commission will determine that any zones should be designated as "not required."

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.

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 November 17, 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.

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Public Hearing

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

November 17, 2026 from 1-2 p.m., 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.

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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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The following rulemaking action proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **106.1(4)"b"** as follows:

b. Mandatory antlerless-deer-only licenses. Each hunter who is successful in drawing an any-deer license must also purchase an antlerless-deer-only license for the same zone and season as the any-deer license unless the zone in which the nonresident is purchasing the any-deer hunting license is designated by the commission as not required. If the hunter is unsuccessful in drawing an any-deer license, neither the any-deer nor antlerless-deer-only license will be issued. Antlerless-deer-only licenses shall be valid for taking deer that have no forked antler.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 106.10(5) as follows:

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

10. Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting" – Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting."

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. Three categories of changes are proposed, but only the first two amount to substantive changes to the existing rules.

First, this proposed rulemaking expands bobcat harvest to be statewide. Bobcat population data gathered annually since 2007 indicates that Iowa's bobcat population continues to grow and expand its distribution into more counties across central and north Iowa. Bobcat data is compiled from a variety of sources, such as hunter surveys, harvest information, field reports, and sightings. This proposed change is biologically responsible, as required by State law, and will also increase recreational opportunities for Iowa fur harvesters while helping to minimize social issues associated with high bobcat densities.

Second, this proposed rulemaking partly implements 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654. Under that legislation, trappers are allowed to identify traps with their name and address or Department-issued customer identification number. This provision is being incorporated into the chapter's trap tag requirements.

Finally, this proposed rulemaking restates the existing river otter bag limit in clearer terms but does not change the number of otters allowed to be taken. The phrase "seasonal daily bag limit" is being simplified to "seasonal bag limit."

Todd Bishop, Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation
Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Attached: Chapter 108 - NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]
Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 108, "Wild Furbearer Trapping and Hunting," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed 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 and 481A.92 and 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. Three categories of changes are proposed, but only the first two amount to substantive changes to the existing rules.

First, this proposed rulemaking expands bobcat harvest to be statewide. Bobcat population data gathered annually since 2007 indicates that Iowa's bobcat population continues to grow and expand its distribution into more counties across central and north Iowa. Bobcat data is compiled from a variety of sources, such as hunter surveys, harvest information, field reports, and sightings. This proposed change is biologically responsible, as required by State law, and will also increase recreational opportunities for Iowa fur harvesters while helping to minimize social issues associated with high bobcat densities.

Second, this proposed rulemaking partly implements 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 654. Under that legislation, trappers are allowed to identify traps with their name and address or Department-issued customer identification number. This provision is being incorporated into the chapter's trap tag requirements.

Finally, this proposed rulemaking restates the existing river otter bag limit in clearer terms but does not change the number of otters allowed to be taken. The phrase "seasonal daily bag limit" is being simplified to "seasonal bag limit."

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no significant fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. Existing hunters or trappers may choose to pursue bobcats in the expanded areas but we do not expect the recruitment of new license buyers as a result of this rulemaking.

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.

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 November 17, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

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

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Public Hearing

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Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

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The following rulemaking action proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 108.7(2) as follows:

108.7(2) *Open area.* River otters and bobcats may be taken statewide. ~~Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Cherokee, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and Woodbury.~~

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 108.7(3) as follows:

108.7(3) *Seasonal ~~daily~~ bag limit and bobcat zones.*

a. The seasonal ~~daily~~ bag limit for river otters is 3 river otters per person.

b. The seasonal ~~daily~~ bag limit for bobcats is ~~1 bobcat~~ 3 bobcats per person ~~in the following counties: Audubon, Boone, Cedar, Cherokee, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Guthrie, Harrison, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lyon, Monona, Muscatine, Plymouth, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Webster, and Woodbury~~.

c. No more than 3 bobcats and 3 river otters total can be legally harvested by a fur harvester in a season. River otters or bobcats trapped in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the fur harvester shall not be penalized.

~~*c.*~~ *d.* ~~The seasonal daily bag limit for bobcats is 3 bobcats per person in~~ Of the 3 total bobcats that can be legally harvested in a season, up to 3 may be taken from any single county within Zone A. Zone A is comprised of the following counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Cass, Clarke, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Guthrie, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, and Wayne. For Zone B, comprised of all Iowa counties not included in Zone A, 1 bobcat per person per county may be taken up to the total of 3 allowed per season.

~~*d.* No more than 3 bobcats total can be legally harvested by a fur harvester in a season. River otters or bobcats trapped in excess of the seasonal daily bag limit or in a closed area must be turned over to the department; the fur harvester shall not be penalized.~~

ITEM 3. Amend rule 571—108.15(481A) as follows:

571—108.15(481A) Trap tag requirements. All traps and snares, whether set or not, possessed by a person who can reasonably be presumed to be trapping shall have a metal tag attached plainly labeled with the user's name and address or the user's department-issued customer identification number.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent)

***11. Contract with PennyStreet Farms Inc (IHAP)**

Commission approval is requested for a contract with PennyStreet Farms Inc of Missouri Valley, IA.

Contract Terms

Amount: Not to exceed $51,650.00
Dates: November 13, 2026 to December 1, 2034
Funding Source(s): Voluntary Public Access Grant – Iowa Habitat Access Program

Contract Purpose: This ten-year contract with PennyStreet Farms Inc will allow for the completion of the land management activities described in the Wildlife Management Plan.

Property Description: PennyStreet Farms Inc owns a 140-acre property in Harrison County, Iowa. The property is under an Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP) agreement and will be open to public access for hunting from 9/1/2026-5/31/2036.

Land Management Tasks: The Wildlife Management Plan outlines the land management tasks, which include prescribed fire and undesirable tree control. The DNR will assist the contractor with land management planning, provide technical assistance, and evaluate the completion of the land management tasks.

Selection Process Summary: IHAP contracting authorized under 483A.3B(3)c(1).

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item *(*indicates proposed consent item)*

*12. Chapter 30 - Waters Cost-Share and Grant Programs, Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grants (FY 2027)

The Commission is requested to approve funding for the recommended Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grant applications pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code Chapters 571-30.

Grant Purpose: The Water Recreation Access Grants are awarded annually to assist governmental entities in providing or improving water access for recreation purposes. State cost-share funding is provided at 75% with the local 25% contribution coming from in-kind or monetary match if the project is not under a management agreement with the State of Iowa. Grantees can receive cost-share funding at 100% if they are managing the property under an agreement on behalf of the State of Iowa.

Funding Source: Marine Fuel Tax
Grant Funding Available: $400,000

Summary of Selection Process: Grant applications are scored through a two-part process. Initially, grants are reviewed by district staff and are given a general overall rank. The grants are then submitted to the central scoring committee who review each grant and make final selections based on eligibility, justification, work plan and district ranking. Grant applications were reviewed and scored by a committee who met on October 22, 2026, according to rules provided for in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 571-30.

Selection Committee Members: The review committee consists of 7 members:
Fisheries Bureau (6)
Land & Waters Bureau (1)

Number of Applications Received: 14.

Recommendations: The committee recommends funding to the top ranked projects in the table. If an awardee declines their award the Department returns those funds to the Marine Fuel Tax Fund.

Project Rank	Applicant	Title	Project Summary	Total Cost	MFT Request	Recommended Grant Award
1	Kossuth County Conservation Board	Smith Lake Boat Ramp Renovation	This project involves removal and replacement of boat ramp and the addition of an improved parking lot at Smith Lake.	$149,213	$111,910	$111,910
2	Poweshiek County Conservation Board	Diamond Lake Boat Ramp and Parking Lot	This project would expand and improve the boat ramp and parking lot at Diamond Lake in conjunction with a lake restoration project.	$155,883	$116,913	$116,913
3	City of Grinnell	Arbor Lake Boat Access Improvements	The project will construct a boat ramp, parking for vehicles and boat trailers, a two-stall ADA-accessible restroom, and associated accessible pedestrian routes at Arbor Lake.	$1,031,963	$250,000	$171,177 (accepted partial funding)
4	Calhoun County Conservation Board	Rainbow Bend, Raccoon River Access	This grant funding will construct a new boat ramp at Rainbow Bend Park, boosting public access to the Raccoon River. Grant funds will support essential park updates, including the renovation of a pit latrine, a picnic shelter, and the removal of an old boat ramp and pit latrine.	$342,000	$342,000	$0

5	Webster County Conservation Board	Moorland Pond Access Improvements	This project would improve access at the Moorland Pond through the construction of a new boat ramp and dock.	$53,250	$33,250	$0
6	City of Iowa City	Waterworks Prairie Park Boat Ramp	This funding is to construct a full access point on the Iowa River at Waterworks Prairie Park including a public boat launch and parking improvements.	$240,000	$180,000	$0
7	Monona County Conservation Board	Oldham's Lake Boat Ramp Improvement	This project replaces the existing access point with a new dock to improve safe, reliable access for anglers and recreational users enhancing the visitor experience at Oldham's Lake.	$14,600	$10,950	$0
8	City of Montrose	Montrose Marina	This project would improve the 240 ft. sea wall with bumpers, cleats, and concrete and expand public access to the Mississippi River.	$85,000	$85,000	$0
9	O'Brien County Conservation Board	Mill Creek Dock	Installation of a 49' dock to replace existing dock at boat ramp within Mill Creek Park. Existing kayak launch will be added to the new dock.	$14,650	$14,650	$0
10	City of Storm Lake	Lakeside Drive Boat Dock	Addition of a disability accessible floating public dock. Project is located between two popular beach locations, to improve lake accessibility for boating, swimming, and fishing on Storm Lake.	$29,500	$22,125	$0
11	Palo Alto County Conservation Board	Huston Park Floating Dock	Replace current floating dock to a dock that is designed for this specific location. The proposed dock will improve safety of uses and installers while allowing staff an easier install and removal on Lost Island Lake.	$24,935	$18,701	$0
12	Taylor County Conservation Board	Wilson Lake Dock Renovation	This project will improve access through a dock replacement at Wilson Lake.	$10,794	$8,096	$0
13	Union County Conservation Board	Thayer Lake Kayak / Boat Dock	This project would add a kayak / boat dock at the ramp on Thayer Lake.	$14,920	$14,920	$0
14	Hancock County Conservation Board	Crystal Lake Park Boat Ramp Bathroom Upgrade	The purpose of this grant is to replace the outdated boat ramp restroom at Crystal Lake Park with a new Huffcutt Juniper line restroom.	$270,000	$270,000	$0
	Totals			$2,436,709	$1,478,515	$400,000

George Scholten, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
NRC Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item (*indicates proposed consent item)

*13. Cooperative Agreement, Polk County Conservation Board - forested wetland mitigation credits

Commission approval is requested for a Cooperative Agreement (28E) with Polk County Conservation Board.

Contract Terms:

Amount: Not to exceed $53,000.00
Contract Amendment Dates: November 12, 2026 to June 30, 2027
Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program

Background: Three Mile Lake is an 880-acre reservoir in Southern Iowa that serves as a popular recreation destination and drinking water source for the Southern Iowa Rural Water Association. Impounded in 1995, the lake has nearly 24 miles of shoreline that draws over 77,000 estimated annual visits for a variety of different types of recreation, including: fishing, boating, wildlife watching, and public hunting. While the lake has good water quality relative to many other Iowa lakes, the Lake Restoration Program began meeting with project partners in 2015 to discuss ways to preserve its water quality and make needed infrastructure improvements to the lake, as well as continue watershed improvements to minimize sediment and nutrients being delivered to the lake.

The first phase of construction on the project was completed in 2022 to renovate and enhance to existing silt basins on park property and construct two additional BMPs. Additionally, a section of stream bank was stabilized to mitigate for future stream impacts that were incurred as a part of the larger project. The second phase of the project began in 2023 and was completed in 2025, which included targeted shoreline deepening, several additional BMPs and in-lake forebays, fish habitat and improve access, and extensive work on the primary inlet's in-lake silt basin.

Like many large lake restoration projects, mitigation is required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for any impacts to streams and wetlands. DNR works to reduce or eliminate all impacts as a part of the engineering design process; however, sometimes wetland/stream impacts are unavoidable or cost prohibitive. The USACE is the permitting authority for the waters of the United States and requires that sections of stream and wetlands that are impacted by construction are mitigated for, typically through the purchase of credits from mitigation banks. When sufficient credits are not available in the prescribed service area, the USACE also allows permittee responsible mitigation on site.

Contract Purpose: The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to purchase 0.88 acres of forested wetland mitigation credits from the Trails End Mitigation Bank, owned and developed by the Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB). These credits are needed to satisfy our permit requirements for the USACE as a part of the larger restoration project at Three Mile Lake, located within Union County. PCCB has established the Trails End Mitigation Bank, which includes the necessary amount of forested wetland credits needed for DNR's permit.

Selection Process Summary: 28E Agreement between Government Entities
Trails End Mitigation Bank (owned by Polk County Conservation) is the only mitigation bank in the required service area with the total number of credits available for purchase. The Department of Administrative Services directed DNR to procure the credits through a 28E agreement, since they are being purchased from another government entity.

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

14. Contract Amendment 2 with the City of Grinnell (Arbor Lake & Lake Nyanza)

Commission approval is requested for a service contract amendment with the City of Grinnell, Iowa (Poweshiek County).

Amendment 2 Terms:

Amount: Total DNR contract value not to exceed $840,690.75, Amendment 2 value not to exceed $104,145.75
Dates: November 12, 2026 to March 31, 2028
Funding Source(s): Lake Restoration Program.

Amendment Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to continue partnering with the City of Grinnell and hire HEI to complete additional engineering services associated with the Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza restoration project. Preliminary spillway and geotechnical analyses by HEI indicate the need for a more extensive analysis of the spillway foundation and geostability analysis to support construction of a new concrete-reinforced spillway and dam for Arbor Lake, and to meet Iowa DNR Dam Safety requirements. The firm will also provide additional partner and landowner coordination, a third bid package, and grant writing support for this comprehensive watershed and lake restoration project.

Original Contract Purpose: Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza complex (totaling 27 acres) are two linked impoundments that anchor popular city parks in Grinnell, Iowa. Arbor Lake is currently on the State of Iowa's impaired waters list for algae (high chlorophyll-a concentrations), which has been attributed to high phosphorus levels in the lake and sedimentation. The Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Section produced a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report in 2003 to identify sources of pollution to Arbor Lake and suggested ways of improving water quality with the goal of removing the impairment at the Lake. The TMDL cited that phosphorus being transported to the lake from the watershed needed to be reduced by 56% to reach water quality goals. Additionally, sedimentation in the last 20 years alone has resulted in the max depth of the lake going from 20 feet in 2003 to 16.5 feet in 2022 and losing a foot of mean depth (going from 7 feet in 2003 to 5.9 feet in 2022.

DNR and other project partners began meeting with the City to address water quality concerns and recreational opportunities at both lakes in 2021, forming a small working group to address concerns and start formulating a plan to improve one or both lakes. In 2022, the City hired FYRA Engineering (now HEI) to complete a water quality monitoring study at Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza. Using the preliminary information collected, the City and DNR hired HEI to complete a full diagnostic and feasibility study for both lakes ($122,800: City $61,400, LRP $61,400). Recommended best management practices (BMPs) and preliminary costs estimates were provided in the final report. The purpose of the original DNR and the City contract was to hire a qualified consultant to provide planning, engineering, permitting, cost estimation, and easement acquisition services associated with meeting the restoration goals and recreational opportunities for Arbor Lake and Lake Nyanza ($800,400: City $200,100, LRP $600,300). The contract was amended for additional design services for dam reconstruction, additional amenities including a jetty and ADA access, parking lot and boat ramp design, and changes to several watershed BMPs ($223,840.00: City $136,245.00, LRP $91,365.00).

Budget for Amendment 2:

DNR Contribution	$ 104,145.75
City of Grinnell	$ 34,715.25
Total budget	$ 138,861.00

Total Contract Value (includes both DNR (72%) and City (28%) Contributions): Not to exceed $ $1,166,871.00

Selection Process Summary: Intergovernmental contracting with the City of Grinnell is authorized under 11 IAC 118.4.

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Information Item

15. Construction - Small Projects

The following Engineering managed projects:

Bid Date	Project No.	Location	County	Summary	Cost Estimate	Bids
10/8/2026	22-06-89-03	SHIMEK STATE FOREST	VAN BUREN	BITTERNUT LAKE BOAT RAMP This project includes replacing a gravel boat ramp with a concrete ramp and new ADA parking stall, and improving the existing parking lot.	$70,000	**66,083.00** 69,664.00 92,137.00 94,928.00 172,049.10
10/8/2026	27-06-56-01	SHIMEK STATE FOREST	LEE	LOWER EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND PIT LATRINE This project includes the demolition of existing facilities, installation of a new prefabricated pit vault restroom building, new paved ADA parking stall, minor grading, and seeding.	$75,000	**$90,000.00** $99,110.00 $107,083.00 $135,250.26

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

16. Large Construction Items

16.1 Lacey Keosauqua State Park, Wastewater Improvements – Van Buren County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Dedicated in 1920 as Iowa's second state park, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park spans 1,662 acres of hills, bluffs, and valleys along the Des Moines River. Park facilities include a campground with modern restrooms and showers, six seasonal modern cabins, two picnic shelters, two lodges, and a 30-acre lake.

Design Summary: Facilities at the park are currently served by two clay-lined, controlled discharge lagoons. The system needs upgrading to comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits.



To address these issues, the proposed project includes:

- Lagoon expansion
- Aeration upgrades
- Piping modifications
- Installation of chlorination / de-chlorination treatment systems
- Installation of a flume and sampling manholes

Engineering Project #: 27-06-89-01
Cost Estimate: $592,000
Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests and Preserves
Funding Source: Parks Infrastructure
Bid Letting Date: 10/22/2026
Construction Completion Date: 6/30/2027
Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Joiner Construction Co Inc	Plano, IA	$604,172.50
MZ Construction, Inc	Livingston, WI	$607,460.00

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

16.2 Pikes Peak State Park, Lagoon Liner Replacement – Clayton County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background: Famed for its majestic views of the Mississippi River, Pikes Peak State Park is one of Iowa's premier nature destinations. Located on a national scenic byway, the park features 11 miles of trails through scenic bluffs and valleys. During your visit, you can walk the half-mile trail to Bridal Veil Falls, hike to Point Ann—a 500-foot bluff overlooking the town of McGregor—or see where the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers meet. A hiker's delight and one of the most picturesque regions in the state, Pikes Peak is a must-see for anyone wanting to experience the breathtaking views of Iowa.





Design Summary: The campground and office are served by dual wastewater lagoons with impervious heavy-duty plastic liners. Installed in 1989, these liners are now showing deterioration and must be replaced to maintain compliance. The scope of work includes replacing the liners in both lagoons.

Engineering Project #: 26-03-22-05
Cost Estimate: $190,000
Operating Bureau: Parks, Forests, and Preserves
Funding Source: Parks Infrastructure
Bid Letting Date: 10/22/2026
Construction Completion Date: 5/14/2027
Number of Bids Received: 8

Bidders

Steger Const, Inc	Dyersville, IA	$176,584.10
Jones Contractors & Associates LLC	Dyersville, IA	$186,073.44
Connolly Construction Inc	Peosta, IA	$198,450.35
Blazek Corporation	Lawler, IA	$217,319.00
Connolly Excavating, Inc	Cascade, IA	$241,126.50
JB Holland Construction, Inc	Decorah, IA	$245,862.35
MZ Construction, Inc	Livingston, WI	$258,630.00
Boomerang Corp	Anamosa, IA	$267,077.50

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

16.3 Sedan Bottoms WMA, Building Improvements – Appanoose County

The Department requests Commission approval of the following construction project:

Project Background:

Sedan Bottoms Wildlife Management Area is located about four miles west of Moulton and encompasses 7,433 acres of upland, timber, and marsh habitat. Key game species for the area include deer, turkey, pheasant, waterfowl, and dove. Previous work included creating an interior heated work/storage space.

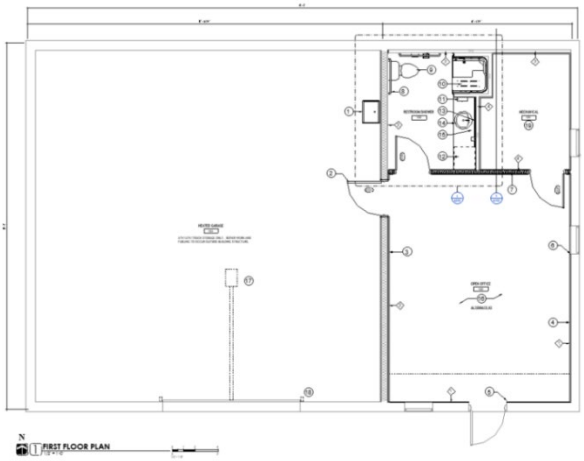


Design Summary:

This phase of the project will complete the interior office portion of the building. The scope of work includes:

- Installing an ADA-compliant restroom with a shower
- Providing central heating and cooling for office spaces
- Adding wall and ceiling finishes to exposed wood framing throughout
- Installing lighting and electrical systems for the spaces





Engineering Project #: 27-05-04-06
Cost Estimate: $102,000
Operating Bureau: Wildlife
Funding Source: Fish &Wildlife Trust Fund
Bid Letting Date: 10/22/2026
Construction Completion Date: 3/31/2027
Number of Bids Received: 2

Bidders

Hartland Bobcat Services LLC	Centerville, IA	$120,998.00
Christner Contracting Inc	Ottumwa, IA	$173,837.00

Upon Engineering's review of bids, DNR recommends awarding the contract to Hartland Bobcat Services LLC.

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

17. Public Land Acquisition Project

Deep Creek WMA, Jackson/ Clinton County – Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust
Pursuant to Iowa Code section 461A.32(1), the Natural Resource Commission is requested to find the DNR parcel listed below is in its judgment undesirable for conservation purposes and approve the proposed land exchange in Jackson and Clinton Counties.

Owner: Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust
Acreage: 5.0 Acres to DNR
5.0 Acres to Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust
Exchange Price: $0

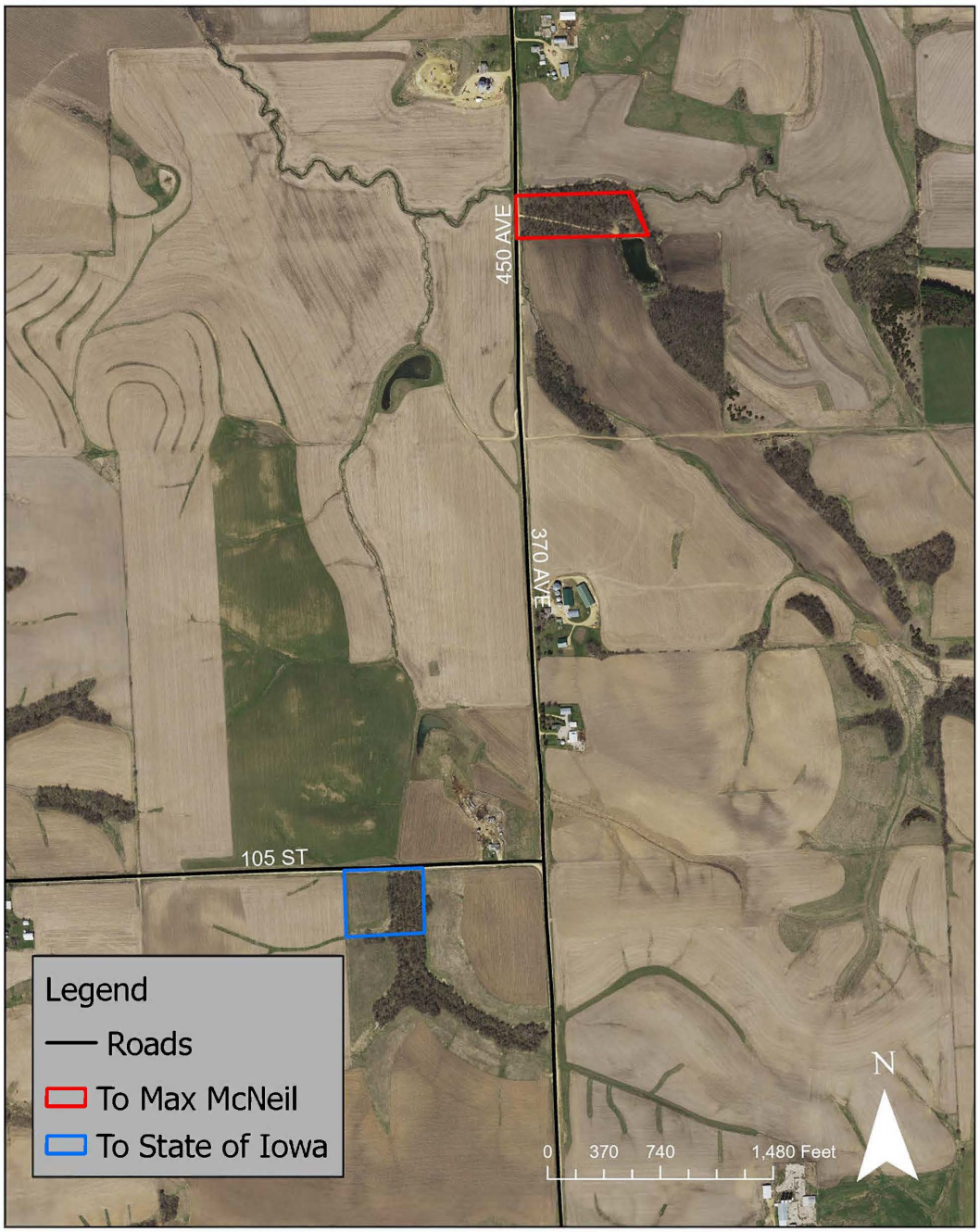
Property Description:
DNR Parcel (Jackson County) – The intended purpose of this parcel was to provide public access to an area known as the Dalton Pond Lease area. The State's lease, to the Dalton Pond area, is expiring and will not be renewed. This access utilizes a bridge which is no longer useable. As a result, the public have been parking on the road and hiking in which has caused issues with local traffic.

McNeil Parcel (Clinton County) – This property is split 50/50 with CRP grassland and timber along a creek bottom. Access is provided off 105th Street and lays well for a parking lot off the road. The CRP contract is set to expire in 2033.

Purpose:
In 1927 the DNR (then the Iowa Conservation Commission) entered into a 99-year lease to provide public fishing access to Dalton Pond, which is spring fed pond. Initially, access to the pond was by foot only and in 1937 the 5-acre Dalton Pond Access parcel ("DNR Parcel") was purchased in order to provide improved access for the public. The public access lease at Dalton Pond is set to expire and will not be renewed. Therefore, there is no longer a need for the DNR Parcel as its sole purpose of being purchased was to access the pond, and the DNR Parcel is thus considered undesirable for conservation purposes. Dalton Pond is privately owned by the Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust. The Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust has offered 5 acres located about 1 mile south of the Dalton Pond access in exchange ("McNeil Parcel"). An analysis of the DNR Parcel and the McNeil Parcel indicates that the valuation of each parcel is relatively equal.

DNR Property Manager: Wildlife Bureau
Incidental Costs: Survey costs will be split and the Max and Vicky McNeil Joint Revocable Trust will be responsible for recording the patent and supporting documents. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Realty Services/ Jackson-Clinton County
Dalton Pond Access/ McNeil Land Exchange



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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item *(* indicates proposed consent item)*

*18 Public Land Management Projects

*18.1 Chapter 17 (Use of State-Owned Land) Lease Reassignment - Mississippi River, Scott County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve an Assignment of Chapter 17 Lease 90-R with Magellan Pipeline Terminals, L.P. to Legacy Marine, LLC.

Location: The leased area is described as a portion of the Mississippi Riverbed approximately 300 feet of frontage by 40 feet in depth located at River Mile 488.5, Section 26, Township 78 North, Range 4 East of the 5th P.M. in Scott County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: Magellan Pipeline Terminals, L.P. is selling structures in Scott County with an associated Chapter 17 lease to Legacy Marine, LLC. This site will continue to be used as a commercial barge loading and unloading terminal.

Location History: This area has been under lease since 1992.

Lease Fee and Term: The annual fee is $300.00. The term of the lease is five years.

*18.2 Reciprocal Land Use and Access Agreement – Union Grove State Park – Lake and Park Holding Corporation – Tama County

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the Reciprocal Land Use and Access Agreement with Lake and Park Holding Corporation at Union Grove State Park located in Tama County.

Location: This property is located in Section 32, Township 82 North, Range 16 West of the 5th P.M. in Tama County, Iowa.

Site Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is for Lake and Park Holding Corporation to maintain a portion of an existing access road and for DNR and the public to have access across portions of private streets for the purpose of maintaining existing areas of Union Grove Lake, existing jetties, and providing pedestrian public access to the lake shore and said fishing jetties.

Agreement History: This agreement was first established in 2011. The previous agreement expired August 16, 2016.

Agreement Term: This Reciprocal Land Use and Access Agreement is with Lake and Park Holding Corporation for 10 years.

This agreement was approved by Lake and Park Holding Corporation on October 20, 2026.

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

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

Decision Item

19. Closed Session

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(c) to "discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation."

- Case No. EQCV034491 Update.
- ACTION ITEM: State Patent No. 6057 alleged violation. Any action taken will be done in open session.

Eric Dirth, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Environmental Division
NRC Meeting Date: 11/12/26