



Conserving and enhancing Iowa's natural resources and outdoor recreation.

Honorary Campaign Committee

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Conservation Districts of Iowa
Mark Ackelson, Treasurer
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa's Water and Land Legacy
P.O. Box 93176
Des Moines, IA 50393-3176

Mark Langgin
Campaign Manager
marklanggin@gmail.com
515-707-0266

Rosalyn Lehman
Campaign Field Director
rlehman@tnc.org
515-202-7720

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FACT SHEET: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund will provide a permanent, dedicated and accountable funding mechanism for protection of water quality, conservation of agricultural soils and improvement of natural areas in Iowa, including fish and wildlife habitat.

THE NEED – Iowa must invest properly in natural resources

- Our water quality is poor. DNR data shows 53% of waters rate 'poor'; EPA data shows 439 'impaired' waters in 2008
- We must conserve our fertile soils. Iowa loses an average of 5 tons of soil per acre each year due to erosion
- Wildlife habitat is scarce. Iowa ranks 49th of U.S. states in public lands; hundreds of Iowa's animals and plants are threatened or endangered
- Iowa's current conservation spending ranks us near the bottom – 47 out of 50 states

THE PLAN – Establishing the trust fund provides a permanent, reliable and accountable method for protecting vital natural resources.

- The trust fund is dedicated to water quality, soil conservation and other conservation and enhancement programs (see allocations on reverse of this page)
- The trust fund is permanent – a constitutionally-protected mechanism dedicated exclusively to natural resources
- The trust fund is accountable to Iowans through a public oversight committee, annual audits and performance reviews for the legislature
- This plan is the result of three years of research and legislative work
- Voters must approve the trust fund on Nov. 2, 2010

THE MONEY – Establishing the trust fund does not raise taxes

- The amendment on the ballot creates a dedicated, reliable mechanism for funding natural resources; it does not include a tax increase
- Trust Fund revenue will come from allocating 3/8 of one cent from sales tax revenue the next time the Iowa Legislature approves a sales tax increase.
- The state will decide when the economy is healthy enough to invest sales tax revenue in the trust fund

CONSENSUS – Iowans support these goals

- 90% of Iowans say protecting land, water and recreational opportunities is critical to the state's economic vitality, and 75% support increased funding for those purposes
- More than 90% of Iowa's legislators voted "yes" twice to create the enabling legislation in 2008 and 2009
- Nationally, 75% of conservation measures have passed, most of which included new revenue; conservation funding measures passed recently in Minnesota, Missouri and Johnson County, Iowa

The measure will go to Iowans for a vote on Nov. 2, 2010.

MORE

Trust Fund Allocations

The Sustainable Natural Resources Advisory Committee reviewed and researched current budgets and funding streams and concluded that an additional \$150 million per year, strategically used at state and local levels, would go a long way toward meeting Iowa's natural resources and recreation needs.

The following categories were identified by the Advisory Committee and supported by the Interim Legislative Committee. These represent increases to baseline funding to meet current needs. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources estimates that at least two thirds of the funding will be available to farmers and other private landowners for voluntary conservation incentives for clean water and soil conservation.

- **Agriculture and Land Stewardship.** \$30 million additional to meet the identified demand for the soil conservation and watershed protection programs the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship administers. This money would provide additional technical assistance to soil and water conservation districts, develop a stream bank and buffer stabilization project, initiate a state-funded CRP-type program to keep lands in hay and grass, and start a tillage management incentives program to assure adequate crop residue levels in areas impacted by demand for cellulosic ethanol production. This new money would also be used to support environmental agricultural and livestock stewardship.
- **Natural Resources Management.** \$35 million for identified needs in state parks, state preserves, wildlife areas, state forests, wildlife habitats, wildlife diversity program, access for hunting and other recreational activities, technical assistance from forestry, fisheries and wildlife biologists through private landowner programs and incentives, water trails, river and streams programs, natural resources outreach including natural history interpretation in the parks and natural areas, angling opportunities, conservation law enforcement, recreational safety programs, etc. The Department of Natural Resources is the state agency charged with conserving and enhancing Iowa's natural resources and providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities.
- **REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection).** \$20 million additional funds to meet the demands on REAP. The committee also recommends full funding of REAP to the authorized level. This would provide a total of \$40 million from current and future sources. This program provides funds for projects that enhance our natural, cultural, and recreational resources across all of the state.
- **Local Conservation Partnership Program.** \$20 million for habitat protection and conservation, infrastructure needs, conservation education, and nature interpretation at the local level. Dedicating these funds is part of a strategic effort to best address conservation needs in local communities. Funds would be made available to county conservation boards (\$12 million), nongovernmental organizations (\$5 million), and cities (\$3 million).
- **Watershed Protection.** \$20 million to improve and encourage a watershed approach to solving water quality environmental problems. Watershed protection includes encouragement of watershed groups, targeted projects, wetland restoration, and runoff filtration management techniques.
- **Lakes Restoration.** \$10 million additional for lake restoration needs. Iowans value water quality and desire safe, healthy lakes that provide a full complement of aesthetic, ecological, and recreational benefits. Local involvement and watershed protection are essential components of all successful lake restoration projects.
- **Trails.** \$15 million for the addition of new hiking, walking, biking, and water trails, and maintenance of existing trails. At this time, Iowa's trails are owned and managed by various entities such as county conservation boards, the state, cities, and non-profit organizations. These state investments in trails will be able to leverage additional federal, local and private funds.



COALITION MEMBERS

1000 Friends of Iowa
American Fisheries Society, Iowa Chapter
Care of Creation Work Group-NE IA Synod, ELCA
Cedar Rapids B.A.S.S
Cedar Valley Association for Soft Trails
Central Iowa Trails Association
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
Conservation Districts of Iowa
Creating Great Places
Des Moines Founders Garden Club
Dubuque Audubon Society
Dubuque County Conservation Society
Ducks Unlimited
East Central Iowa Fur Takers of America
Environment Iowa
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Friends of Dubuque County Conservation Board
Friends of Off Road Cycling
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep,
Iowa Chapter
Great Outdoors Fund
Growing Green Communities
Huntmasters Club
International Mountain Biking Assoc., Iowa Affiliate
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
Iowa Audubon
Iowa B.A.S.S.
Iowa Bicycle Coalition
Iowa Bowhunters Association
Iowa Coalition of Off Road Riders
Iowa Conservation Alliance
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Farmer's Union
Iowa Native Plant Society
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association
Iowa Ornithologists Union
Iowa Parks Foundation
Iowa Rivers Revival
Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Tree Farm Committee
Izaak Walton League, Des Moines Chapter
Izaak Walton League, Iowa Chapter
Johnston Friends of the Trails
Keep Iowa Beautiful
Linn Area Mountain Bike Association
Metropolitan Waste Authority
National Wild Turkey Federation, Iowa Chapter
Pheasants Forever, Iowa Chapter
Quail Forever
Raccoon River Watershed Association
REAP Alliance
Rivertown Duck Club
Ruffed Grouse Society of America, Iowa Chapter
Safari Club International, Iowa Chapter
Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter
Sierra Club, Central Iowa Group
Sierra Club, Cedar Wapsie Group
The Nature Conservancy
Trails Have Our Respect
Trees Forever
Trout Unlimited, Iowa Driftless Chapter
Trust for Public Land
Upper Great Plains Chapter of Muskies, Inc.
Waterfowl Association of Iowa
Whiterock Conservancy
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Society, Iowa Chapter
Women, Food and Agriculture Network

COALITION ENDORSEMENT

American Rivers
Board of the Mines of Spain
Iowa Association of Naturalists
Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee
Iowa Whitewater Coalition
Resource and Enhancement Program (REAP) Congress
Skunk River Paddlers
Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition
Wallace House Foundation