
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

December 17, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Hungry Canyons Account of Loess Hills Fund

Purpose and History

The 1993 General Assembly established the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority to protect natural resources in the deep loess soil region of western Iowa. The Authority, composed of 23 western Iowa counties, originally used all funding to support infrastructure projects intended to mitigate stream channel erosion. In 1998, the General Assembly added an additional mission by creating the Loess Hills Alliance (LHA) within the Authority. The charge of the Loess Hills Alliance is to “create a common vision for Iowa’s Loess Hills, protecting special natural and cultural resources while ensuring economic viability and private property rights of the region.” Concurrently, the Legislature created the Hungry Canyons Alliance (HCA) to continue the coordination of infrastructure projects. The Authority’s board meets annually to oversee the LHA and HCA boards.

Hungry Canyons Alliance

The Hungry Canyons Alliance allocates resources to streambed stabilization projects approved by the HCA Board. Western Iowa streams were straightened in the early 1900s, increasing stream flow, deepening stream channels, and increasing stream width. Accelerated erosion has swept away farmland; damaged bridges, roads, and utility lines; and caused soil erosion along stream banks. The HCA partners with local governments to install grade control structures such as culverts, riprap, and weirs in vulnerable streams and rivers. Capital projects are funded through a combination of State, federal, and local moneys. Counties must contribute a minimum of 20.0% to each grade control structure. The HCA also provides support for landowners to stabilize areas of gully erosion.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [161D](#)

Funding

Appropriations to the Hungry Canyons Account varies by year.

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More Information

Hungry Canyons Alliance:

www.goldenhillsrccd.org/hungry-canyons-alliance.html

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