

PRESERVES, STATE ADVISORY BOARD FOR[575]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to agency realignment

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 1, “Organization and Operation”; to adopt a new Chapter 1, “State Preserves,” and transfer Chapter 1 as 571—Chapter 60; and to rescind Chapter 2, “Management of State Preserves,” and Chapter 3, “Public Records and Fair Information Practices,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)“a” and 465C.8.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 465C.

Purpose and Summary

Agency [575] of the Iowa Administrative Code contains chapters regulating State preserves. Preserves are the highest classification of public land and exist to protect significant natural, geological, historical, archaeological, and scenic sites in Iowa. The rules also govern the State Preserves Advisory Board and include provisions for its membership, operation, reporting requirements, and recordkeeping procedures. Recent changes to the Iowa Code eliminated this Board and transferred its authority and duties to the Commission. For this reason, many of the existing provisions in Chapters 1 through 3 are now no longer relevant. This rulemaking removes those irrelevant provisions and then consolidates the remaining provisions into a single “State Preserves” chapter. This new chapter is transferred to the Commission’s jurisdiction under 571—Chapter 60. This chapter has been reviewed and edited consistent with Executive Order 10.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 7, 2026, as **ARC 9890C**. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- January 28, 2026
- February 4, 2026

These hearings were held as joint hearings, also covering Chapter 77, “Endangered and Threatened Plant and Animal Species” (**ARC 9910C**, IAB 1/7/26). Three individuals attended the January 28 hearing, and two individuals attended the February 4 hearing. None of the individuals present commented on this rulemaking, and no written comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Commission on April 9, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

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

Jobs Impact

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

Waivers

This rulemaking is subject to the waiver provisions of 571—Chapter 11. 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.

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 June 17, 2026.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 575—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
STATE PRESERVES

575—1.1(465C) Duties as to state preserves. The natural resource commission is charged with the responsibility of locating, identifying, evaluating, and dedicating areas as state preserves.

575—1.2(465C) Types of preserves. There shall be five major classes of preserves.

1.2(1) Natural preserves. These areas contain natural communities; habitats; native flora and fauna; or endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.

1.2(2) Archaeological preserves. These areas contain significant deposits left by prehistoric or early historic peoples.

1.2(3) Historical preserves. These are sites that contain structures or places that are of significance in studying the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers.

1.2(4) Geological preserves. These are areas that contain rare or distinctive landforms, fossils, stratigraphic sections, mineral deposits or examples of mining history; type or reference sections; or other special features or deposits that represent the events and processes of Iowa's earth history.

1.2(5) Scenic preserves. These are areas that contain scenic features of aesthetic, scientific, or educational value.

575—1.3(465C) Management provisions.

1.3(1) Administration and management. The administrative and management authority for a preserve shall be agreed upon by the commission, the property owner, and the manager.

1.3(2) Management plan. For each preserve, an authorized representative of the owner shall prepare a management plan in consultation with department staff. The management plan shall be consistent with the articles of dedication and shall include identification of uses of the preserve that are compatible and incompatible with its dedication as a preserve. The management plan shall be amended periodically, as appropriate, in response to new information. The management plan and amendments shall be submitted to the commission for approval. The department shall keep a copy of the current management plan. A management plan for a new preserve shall be submitted for approval by the commission in conjunction with approval of dedication of the preserve. Management plans for existing preserves shall be prepared and submitted for approval as resources are available.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 465C.8.

ITEM 2. Transfer **575—Chapter 1** as **571—Chapter 60**.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve **575—Chapter 2.**

ITEM 4. Rescind and reserve **575—Chapter 3.**

[Filed 4/17/26, effective 6/17/26]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 5/13/26.