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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

July 15, 2019



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### NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING — JULY 2019

**Presentations.** The Natural Resource Commission met on July 11, 2019, at the Wildlife Research Center in Boone. The following presentations were given:

- Orrin Jones, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided an update on the Waterfowl Migration Survey, which studies the movement and survival of Canadian geese.
- Jeff Kopaska, DNR, provided preliminary information on the Angler Survey, which compares fishing data collected in 2007 to data collected in 2018.
- Andy Bartlett, DNR, provided background information on a documentary film called *The Ledges*, which provides historical information about Ledges State Park. The film was a project coordinated and completed by the volunteer group Friends of the Ledges.

**Tour.** The Commission toured the Wildlife Research Center and Ledges State Park. The group listened to a presentation about [Wildlife Camps](#), which are being held at State parks around Iowa. The Wildlife Camps day camp project is a cooperative effort between the University of Iowa and the DNR that allows 20 to 30 children per week to participate in activities throughout State parks. The project began in 2017, and there are currently 14 State parks sponsoring a wildlife camp. The cost for a child to attend a camp is approximately \$150 for the week, and the camps encourage teachers and other persons who specialize in natural resources to participate as a counselor or guest speaker.



Andy Bartlett, Ledges State Park Manager, explains the Wildlife Camps program.

**Meeting.** The Natural Resource Commission met after the tour. The first agenda item discussed was a request for a special deer hunt in Iowa City. The Commission did not approve the request.

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**Land Acquisitions.** The Commission approved two land acquisitions, which included:

- The purchase of 100 acres in Fremont County from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for \$96,000. The land is enrolled in the federal Wetlands Reserve Program and will be used for habitat development and public hunting.
- The purchase of 197 acres in Allamakee County from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for \$730,000. The land will be used for public hunting.

**Contract Amendment.** The Commission approved a contract amendment for \$175,000 with Quail Construction. The amendment will pay for replacement of soil that will support the foundation of a boat storage facility located at the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2019, in Des Moines.

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