

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

REVIEW OF IMPACT FROM STATEWIDE DISASTERS Use of Supplemental Appropriation Conservation and Recreation Division

State Parks Bureau

- 32 state parks have been impacted to varying degrees by floods, heavy rainfalls, and strong winds. (There are 85 state parks.) Major impacts include completely damaged electrical transformers, electrical pedestals in campgrounds, and lift stations for waste water, erosion of roads and trails, undermining of parking lots, wash-outs around buildings foundations, downed trees and limbs, displaced and damaged picnic tables and docks, water damage in park buildings, delayed construction, revenue producing recreation areas under water, and sediment left behind after floods receded.
- In addition, the bureau has seen a decrease in camping receipts and refunds for reserved camping, lodge, shelter and cabin rentals.
- Parks staff has found it necessary to close some portions of the trail systems in individual parks, and it is expected that citizens will be expecting these trails to be repaired and reopened quickly.
- Parks projects involving some new or renovated structures may have to be put on hold, pending more immediate repairs. This will cause some pushback from groups that will view this delay as unacceptable.

Starting in October, the Parks Bureau reduced its current year budget as a result of the extraordinary impacts. The Parks Bureau will use the supplemental appropriation to repair the infrastructure and equipment damage to the 32 parks, including buildings which are not covered by FEMA. The Parks Bureau usually hires between 250-300 seasonal staff to maintain the small cities the state parks become during the summer. Currently the bureau is planning on hiring 140, many with reduced hours, so there will be seasonal staff where needed but the reduced hours will accommodate the budget reductions. With the supplemental, the bureau would be able to tentatively commit to an additional 50 seasonals, depending on the FY 10 appropriations. (The supplemental appropriation would fund these seasonals through July 1; the bureau would not want to be in the position to let these people go if the level couldn't be sustained after the new fiscal year appropriation, hence the tentative commitment.)

Wildlife Bureau and Fisheries Bureau

- A district by district assessment was taken of structures such as dikes, levees, water control structures, parking lots, boat ramps, docks, culverts, signage, roads, buildings, etc.
- This bureau manages croplands as well as natural habitat lands within the public land boundaries.
- Two trout hatcheries (Big Spring/Elkader and Manchester) sustained damage to buildings and loss of fish.
- Damage to fishing related infrastructure at lakes and streams is statewide. Impacts include shoreline erosion, lost or damaged fishing jetties, constructed in-stream trout habitat lost, trout stocking access roads impaired, universally accessible fishing access sites destroyed, informational signs gone, boat ramps undercut, etc.
- Recreational angling and boating opportunities have been diminished by the damage to public access sites and boat ramps and closure of some lakes and streams to boating.
- Iowa will be dealing with flood impacts to streams and rivers for the next several years as attempts are made to repair "damage", which may better be described as "change" in many cases.

Both of these bureaus will use the supplemental appropriation to repair the infrastructure damage across the state, replace signage and accesses, replace lost or damaged equipment, and make sure there is adequate seasonal staff to perform the labor. Wildlife usually hires around 30 seasonals, and Fisheries about 60. At this point in time, Fisheries is planning on 30 seasonals if the supplemental appropriation is approved. For these bureaus as well as the Parks bureau, areas are staffed 7 days a week. Unlike Parks, the Fish and Game Trust Fund bureaus will not receive additional general funds for FY 10 and is expecting a flat to reduced budget for the next two years.

Please note that all three bureaus have significantly reduced current fiscal year budgets, as outlined.