

Answers to Questions submitted by Ag & NR Budget Subcommittee

- 1. How many new FTE positions have you added since 2007? Will you provide a listing of all the FTE positions complete with job titles, salary, and benefits for the position and whether the position is filled? If it is not filled, how long has the FTE position been opened?**

Since 2007 the department has added only 2 FTEs in the General Fund. These positions were added as “extra help” for the Invasive Species Program in the Parks Bureau for cost of \$39,422. There are two, three person teams that make up the Invasive Species Program. 1 FTE=3 seasonals.

All other FTE additions (27.5 FTE) were funded with federal funds or user fees. See Figure 1 below for full FTE details.

- 2. How have you implemented the Governor’s FY09 across the board cut?**

\$328,000 – General Fund DNR Operations
\$15,000 – General Fund Redemption Center Grant Program

Measure 1: Transfer staff from General Fund to Federal Funding where possible.

Measure 2: Hold Vacant Positions Open
Geologist 3 – Geological Survey Bureau
Environmental Specialist Senior – Geological Survey Bureau
Environmental Specialist Senior – Air Quality Bureau
District Forester – Forestry Bureau
Visitor Center Staffing - Forestry Bureau

Measure 3: Reducing Purchases of Equipment, Travel, Supplies, Postage, etc

Measure 4: Reducing Temporary Help (Seasonal Employees)
Resulting in reduced general maintenance such as mowing, painting, repairing, etc.

Measure 5: Delay IT Server Updates and other Computer Updates

Additional Reduction of \$15,000 from Redemption Center Grant Program

- 3. Provide us with the list of suggested cuts you provided the Governor in November or December of 2008.**

The Governor’s Office has asked that the department not share this information, citing executive privilege.

- 4. If you were forced to cut your budget by 10 percent, what suggestions would you have to reduce the budget and / or reduce the responsibilities of your department?**

See attached spreadsheet, entitled *Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Impact Summary*.

- 5. What assets does your department have that can be leased or sold?**

There has been a lot of discussion about selling or leasing public land under the DNR’s jurisdiction. Before the publicly-owned DNR areas can be sold, the Natural Resource Commission must determine that there is no conservation value or benefit to the people of Iowa in those areas.

DNR lands (state-owned lands) fall into three categories:

1. Lands purchased with fish and wildlife license fees or federal funding would all be restricted from sale by state or federal law. In some special cases, land could be sold if the sale is mitigated with a purchase of replacement lands, or the value of the land is reimbursed to the appropriate funds. In either case, this would effectively defeat the intended purpose of selling the land.
2. Lands acquired with State dollars are highly scenic, forested, prairie, or lands that have high potential for environmental benefits including watershed protection, habitat that supports threatened and endangered species, or unique, environmentally sensitive vegetation or slopes.
3. Donated land is land entrusted to the DNR, usually with stipulations, to protect sensitive habitat or provide watershed protection.

It is the department's view that selling publicly-owned DNR land does not make economic or conservation sense.

What services do you provide that could be privatized or outsourced?

The department looks for opportunities to privatize and outsource services. The Conservation and Recreation Division contracts privately for boat ramp and canoe access maintenance; garbage collection at parks; road maintenance; fencing; some building maintenance; and develops 28E agreements with other governmental agencies for road maintenance. The Environmental Protection Division outsources water quality monitoring and testing, air quality monitoring and testing, and develops 28E agreements with governmental agencies for local air quality programs.

Figure 1:

Positions FY 07	1142.43
Positions FY 09	1169.95
Increase	27.52

				Funding
1	PSE 4	Water coordination	\$ 123,809	Non GF
1	FACILITIES ENG INTERN	Engineering	\$ 65,845	Non GF
1	RIGHT WAY AGENT 1	Engineering	\$ 48,975	Non GF
1	ADMIN ASST 1	Volunteer	\$ 51,440	Non GF
1	ENV SPECIALIST	NPDES/Well Contractor	\$ 55,640	Non GF
1	ENV ENGINEER SENIOR	Wastewater SRF	\$ 100,000	Non GF
1	ENV SPECIALIST SENIOR	Climate change	\$ 87,800	Non GF
1	RECEPTIONIST	Air Quality	\$ 40,458	Non GF
1	GEO TECH	Water Plan	\$ 42,405	Non GF
1	GEOLOGIST 3	Water Plan	\$ 108,266	Non GF
1	ATTORNEY	LUST	\$ 63,214	Non GF
1	NATURAL RESOURCES BIOLOGIST	TMDL	\$ 57,750	Non GF
1	ENV SPECIALIST SENIOR			Non GF
1	CLERK SPECIALIST	SWAP	\$ 45,595	Non GF
1	FACILITIES ENGINEER 1	PPIS	\$ 64,988	Non GF
1	FACILITIES ENGINEER 2	PPIS	\$ 79,982	Non GF
1	CONSTRUCTION TECH 1	Boat funds	\$ 44,492	Non GF
1	PSE 2	Boat funds	\$ 85,000	Non GF
1	PROGRAM PLANNER 3	Shooting sports	\$ 79,511	Non GF
3.5	EXTRA HELP	Shooting sports	\$ 81,152	Non GF
1	PSE 2	Fisheries	\$ 93,144	Non GF
1	PSE 2	Wildlife	\$ 85,000	Non GF
1	EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2	Wildlife	\$ 73,153	Non GF
2.02	EXTRA HELP	Parks	\$ 39,422	
27.52			\$ 1,617,041	

FY 2009 DNR Approved Land Purchases

County	Area	REAP*	Wildlife Hab. Stamp	NAWCA	Fed. Other	State Other	Donation	Acres
CLAY	Little Sioux WMA	\$213,519						160
HANCOCK	Eagle Lake WMA			\$135,000				129
HANCOCK	Lake Edwards / 8 Mile Pits			\$232,000		\$100,000		174
BUTLER	Big Marsh WMA		\$22,500					15
HAMILTON	Boone Forks WMA	\$25,000	\$108,500	\$75,000				60
HAMILTON	Boone Forks WMA		\$26,250					10
WINNESHIEK	Bluffton Fir Stand	\$80,000	\$127,500		\$149,000		\$71,000	86
WOODBURY	Stone State Park						\$0	38
EMMET	Tuttle Lake Wetland Complex			\$170,712				155
WOODBURY	Table Marsh WMA			\$91,000		\$48,920		140
DICKINSON	Elinor Bedell St.Park						\$0	0
WINNESHIEK	Upper Iowa River Wildlife Area	\$95,000						27
ALLAMAKEE	Waterloo Creek				\$342,750	\$114,250		80
BREMER	Sweet Marsh WMA			\$41,000				41
RINGGOLD	Kellerton BCA	\$81,000			\$81,000			80
HARRISON	Loess Hills State Forest				\$124,800	\$31,200		80
WOODBURY	Stone State Park	\$48,750						24
TAMA	Otter Creek Marsh			\$175,200				146
JONES	Muskrat Slough WMA	\$70,375			\$211,125			78
RINGGOLD	Kellerton BCA	\$662,300						358
Monona	Loess Hill WMA	\$330,000						138
	TOTALS	\$1,605,944	\$284,750	\$919,912	\$908,675	\$294,370	\$71,000	2,018

REAP Allocation	
Open Spaces	\$0
Private / Public Grant (Partners: IA CCBs & Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)	\$687,269
Protected Waters	\$105,000
License Plate / Wildlife Diversity	\$813,675

Public Land Acquisition
Department of Natural Resources

- DNR Wildlife acquisition priority areas are federal Wetland Reserve Program encumbered lands
- DNR owns ~350,000 acres (includes public lakes)*
 - = 0.9% of surface area of Iowa
 - 43,610 acres (13%) are sovereign lands**
 - 121,016 acres (37%) are Highly Erodible Soils (HEL = 1)
 - 55,391 acres (17%) are Hydric Soils
 - The average CSR for publicly owned DNR lands is 32.1
 - 157,812 acres (40%) of publicly owned DNR lands are forested
 - 55,335 acres (14%) of publicly owned DNR lands are water
- DNR acquires 4,400 acres per year for the public's use (12 year average)
 - At the current acquisition rate: 1% of Iowa every 81 years
- DNR public lands acquisition program brings federal funds to Iowa
- Iowa has no national forests or major national parks
- Iowa spends less per person on parks than all but three other states
- Last year DNR paid \$588,000 in public lands property taxes
- For comparison purposes:
 - County roads = 713,969 Acres
 - Primary roads = 164,343 Acres
 - Interstate roads = 41,093 Acres

*The figure of about 400,000 acres has been used in conversations by DNR staff as "DNR managed lands"; this higher figure represents the 350,000 acres plus the acres of Army Corps of Engineers land the DNR manages in partnership with the Corps

**Sovereign lands are means land that was transferred to state ownership upon its admission into the union of the United States