

SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING STUDY

PRELIMINARY REPORT
JANUARY, 2007



SUBMITTED BY
THE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Iowa is blessed with many natural resources and some of the richest, most productive soils in the world. The benefits Iowa has to offer have encouraged advancements and growth in agriculture, economic, and population, which have resulted in the conversion of most areas of native vegetation to agricultural lands and urban landscapes. This has caused environmental stresses, problems for wildlife, and a loss of natural areas.

In 2006, in order to provide a proactive approach to addressing Iowa's needs, the Iowa Legislature mandated, through HF 2797, that an advisory committee identify and evaluate sustainable natural resource funding to support Iowa's needs. The committee consists of diverse individuals representing 18 conservation agencies and organizations, which include members of the Iowa Legislature. The mandate required this committee submit a report on its findings to the General Assembly by January 10, 2007. It was directed that the report is to contain, but is not limited to, the following four components:

1. Information on what surrounding states have done to provide sustainable funding for natural resource conservation.
2. Outline of a conservation funding initiative agreed upon by the advisory committee.
3. Outline of the amount of revenue needed and what would be accomplished if the conservation funding initiative is implemented.
4. Analysis of Iowa's citizens' willingness to pay for identified conservation funding initiative.

After in-depth discussion and research, the committee met their mandated charge, which is detailed in this report. To summarize the findings of the components:

1. Surrounding states have used a variety of methods to fund conservation actions ranging from relying primarily on user fees to using a dedicated portion of their general sales tax.
2. For this report, the committee defined "natural resources" into three categories: (1) Fish, Wildlife and Natural Areas, (2) Soil and Water, and (3) Parks and Trails. To support these categories, the committee identified five funding sources, aka mechanisms, at this time, to poll the public and focus on viability: **(a)** dedicating expanded gaming and gambling revenues from new and expanded casinos and retiring revenue bonds, **(b)** dedicating revenues from a fractional percentage increase in the state sales tax, **(c)** dedicating a portion of the state lottery to conservation, **(d)** creating tax incentives and credits for conservation actions, and **(e)** use bonding to ensure long term funding stability.
3. The committee has estimated that an additional sustainable total of \$150.0 million per year is needed to begin to address Iowa's natural resource needs and is outlined in this report, as well as providing suggested distribution of these funds.
4. A "Willingness to Pay" survey of Iowans was conducted and an analysis of their comments was completed. The committee also held a public forum to receive comments on the concept of sustainable funding.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Iowa has one of the most changed landscapes in the nation. Prior to European settlement (approximately 1833), Iowa was covered by a mixture of tall grass prairie, savannas, deciduous forest, and wetland-associated vegetation. Today, 99.9% of the prairie, 99.0% of the savannas, 95.0% of the wetlands, and 57.0% of the woodlands have been converted to other uses. This has caused environmental stresses, problems for wildlife, and a loss of natural areas.

A number of worthwhile attempts have been made to provide funding for natural resource protection and enhancement including the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund (REAP) and the Environment First Fund. Unfortunately, these and other funding sources have always been inadequate to sustain and protect natural resources and to increase natural open space in Iowa. Funding for natural resources has averaged less than one percent of the State's General Fund. Even this funding fluctuates from year to year and has no long-term guarantee of future availability.

As discussed later in this report, increased efforts toward Iowa's natural resources will provide multiple benefits. Soil conservation efforts will improve both surface water and groundwater quality in this state, and, additionally, improved natural areas (including parks, wildlife areas, and trails) will provide open spaces for young and old alike to enjoy the Iowa outdoors. Improved quality of life and additional outdoor recreational opportunities is anticipated to help slow the exodus of young Iowans to other states and should aspire to make Iowa more successful in attracting new residents. To quote a Des Moines Register editorial from November 6, 2006: "Failing to commit to funding of natural resources hurts Iowa. It degrades the quality of life for those of us who live and boat and bike and hunt here. And it undermines attempts to attract people to vacation here and move here. A sustainable investment in the outdoors is a commitment to the future of Iowa."

In order to look at long-term funding for Iowa's natural resources, the Iowa Legislature requested that a report be prepared researching sustainable funding sources to address the current inadequate funding. This report has been prepared as directed in HF 2797; (Standing Appropriations Act); Div. IV; Sec. 43 passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in 2006 (see Appendix 1). This Act requires the formation of an advisory committee to look at options that may be used to provide sustainable funding for Iowa's natural resources. The following report will identify potential sustainable natural resource funding sources, aka mechanisms, and actions that can be accomplished if sustainable funding is available.

REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN HF 2797

Division IV; Section 43 of House File 2797 outlines the required make-up of the advisory committee and lists four required components of the final report.

Advisory Committee

The Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee is made up of 18 individuals representing 18 different conservation agencies, organizations, and the Iowa Legislature identified by the Governor. The committee is chaired by the Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR was also directed to provide support staffing for the advisory committee. The committee is made up of representatives from the following legislatively mandated agencies and organizations:

Conservation Districts of Iowa	Iowa Farm Bureau	Iowa Senate - Republican
Ducks Unlimited	Iowa House of Representatives - Democrat	Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Farmers Union	Iowa House of Representatives - Republican	Pheasants Forever
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Secretary of Agriculture
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	Sierra Club - Iowa Chapter
Iowa Environmental Council	Iowa Senate - Democrat	The Nature Conservancy

Report Components

House File 2797 requires that the appointed Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 10, 2007. It was directed that the report is to contain, but is not limited to, the following four components:

1. Information on what surrounding states have done to provide sustainable funding for natural resource conservation;
2. Outline of a conservation funding initiative agreed upon by the advisory committee;
3. Outline of the amount of revenue needed and what would be accomplished if the conservation funding initiative is implemented; and
4. Analysis of Iowa citizens' willingness to pay for the identified conservation funding initiative.

RESEARCH RESULTS ON REQUIRED REPORT COMPONENTS

The following is a summary of the report components mandated in HF2797:

#1: Research and submit “information on what surrounding states have done to provide sustainable funding for natural resource conservation.”

ILLINOIS

*Dedicated 35.0% of Real Estate Transfer Tax to open space lands acquisition and development. Statutorily enacted in 1989. Raised \$38.0 million in FY 2005.

* Dedicated 15.0% of Real Estate Transfer Tax to natural areas acquisition. Statutorily enacted in 1989. Raised \$16.3 million in FY 2005.

MINNESOTA

*Nongame wildlife check-off on State tax forms. Statutorily enacted in 1980. Raises approximately \$1.0 million annually.

*Lottery proceeds for environmental and natural resource protection. Constitutionally protected funding enacted in 1988 and then renewed in 1998 through 2024. Raised \$28.0 million in FY 2005.

*Imposed 6.5% in-lieu-of sales tax on lottery tickets. Approximately one third to the Game and Fish Fund, one third to parks and trails and the remainder to the General Fund. Raised approximately \$24.0 million in FY 2004.

MISSOURI

*A 1/8th percent sales tax for the Department of Conservation. Passed in 1976 and constitutionally protected. Reauthorized by a vote of the people in 2005. Missouri Constitution, Article IV, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Section 43(a). Raised \$93.0 million in FY 2004.

* A 1/10th percent sales tax to support soil and water conservation and for state parks. A constitutional amendment first passed in 1984. It has been reauthorized by the people of Missouri twice since then, most recently in 2006 with a 70% approval. Missouri Constitution, Article IV, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Section 47(a). Raised \$75.0 million in FY 2004.

NEBRASKA

*Nebraska Resources Development Fund was created in 1974 to assist with the development and wise use of water and land resources. General Fund appropriation of \$3.6 million in 2004.

* Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund created in 1992. Allocated 44.5% of lottery proceeds to conserving, enhancing and restoring the natural and physical biological environment of Nebraska. Raised \$10.0 million in FY 2005.

*User fees accounted for nearly 50.0% or \$28.0 million of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission budget.

SOUTH DAKOTA

*Natural resource protection is funded primarily from user fees (hunting and fishing licenses), and federal aid with a relatively small amount coming from the state's General Fund.

WISCONSIN

*Fish and wildlife funding is primarily user fee based (hunting and fishing licenses). Of the \$120.0 million FY 2004-05 total, 57.0% was license fees, 17.0% was federal aid, 15.0% was from bonds issued to acquire hunting and fishing land, 7.0% was from the State's General Fund and the remaining 4.0% from miscellaneous funding sources. In addition to this funding source, Wisconsin has the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund that provides outdoor recreation opportunities and helps protect critical natural areas. This Fund also provides matching grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to acquire conservation land. The Stewardship Fund is currently funded at \$60.0 million annually and will expire in 2010 if not reauthorized by the Legislature.

ARKANSAS

*A 1/8% sales tax split four ways; 45.0% to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 45.0% to Department of Parks & Tourism, 9.0% to Department of Arkansas Heritage and 1.0% to Keep Arkansas Beautiful. Constitutional amendment passed in 1996. Raised approximately \$24.0 million in FY 2004.

* Real estate transfer tax. Approximately 80.0% of the funds go to the Natural and Cultural Resources Council for acquisition and preservation of state owned lands and historic sites. Raises approximately \$12.0 million annually.

#2: Provide an “outline of a conservation funding initiative agreed upon by the advisory committee.”

First, to help provide focus to the possible sustainable funding sources, aka mechanisms, the committee determined the need to identify how "natural resources" would be defined for this report. To address Iowa’s wide-ranging needs, the result consisted of three categories:

- (1) Fish, Wildlife and Natural Areas
- (2) Soil and Water
- (3) Parks and Trails.

Second, the committee identified parameters that sustainable funding mechanisms would need to meet for consideration. This set of common sense guidelines include:

1. All Iowans will benefit from sustainable funding for natural resources and the burden of funding should be a responsibility of all Iowans. (This parameter is also supported by responses in the Willingness to Pay survey.)
2. The funding source should have statewide appeal and be politically viable.
3. The source of funds should be easy to administer without the need to establish significant additional administrative staff.
4. New funds, when possible, should have the ability to be leveraged to increase their effectiveness.
5. Each new revenue source must raise over \$5 million annually to be considered by the committee.
6. The new funding source must conform to all state and federal commerce regulations.
7. The funding source should be "new money" and not a replacement of existing resources.
8. The funding source should be stable, protected, and identified as dedicated.
9. The new funding must unite, rather than divide, conservation agencies and organizations.

Third, after in-depth discussion and research, the committee evaluated a broad range of sustainable funding mechanisms that Iowa has yet to pursue but may already be working revenue streams in other states supporting their natural resources. As the committee identified if the funding mechanism met the criteria in the parameters above, they narrowed down the list to the five most viable options to survey Iowans on and recommend Governor and General Assembly for consideration.

It should be noted that a number of the funding mechanisms may need to be combined to reach the recommended \$150.0 million per year above and beyond current spending (discussed in component #3). The committee also recognizes that the dedicated funding mechanisms have the possibility of not being guaranteed as being sustainable; therefore, a variety of funding mechanisms may need to be initiated in order to help maintain an adequate funding level for natural resources.

The priority funding mechanisms being recommended by the committee, at this time, are:

1	Gaming/Gambling Revenues
2	Fractional Sales Tax Increase, that is constitutionally protected
3	Lottery (A dedicated portion of the state lottery profits)
4	Tax Incentives/Credits for Conservation
5	Bonding

For better understanding of the five recommended sustainable natural resource funding mechanisms, the following are explanations of each:

1	<p>Gaming/Gambling Revenues</p> <p>This proposal would capture revenue generated by additional casino capacities and retiring bonds. It is anticipated that additional revenues will become available as casinos expand and new casinos are opened. As existing obligation bonds are paid off, or additional bonds are approved, these funds could be dedicated to support natural resources.</p>
2	<p>Fractional Sales Tax Increase that is constitutionally protected</p> <p>A viable and sustainable funding mechanism would be through a fractional percentage sales tax increase with the funds being dedicated to natural resources. For example, a 3/8% increase would fully fund the \$150.0 million annual need identified by the committee. A fractional sales tax increase would require a constitutional amendment to truly protect the funds.</p>
3	<p>Lottery (A dedicated portion of the state lottery profits)</p> <p>Dedicating a portion of state lottery profits would help ensure partial funding for conservation efforts. (\$336.0 million revenue in FY 2006 reported by Iowa Lottery).</p>
4	<p>Tax Incentives/Credits for Conservation</p> <p>Although this funding mechanism would not be a direct revenue source, it would provide conservation benefits by allowing private landowners to apply for tax credits when implementing conservation practices on their land for wildlife, soil and water conservation, and public access, when taking out conservation easements or when selling their land at below market value to public or private conservation agencies and organizations for public benefits. These "conservation benefits" would be stable and sustainable since they would not require annual appropriations by the legislature. These incentives could provide \$38.0 million annually in indirect revenue. This funding option would support many conservation needs, but other funding mechanisms would be required to ensure that all natural resource needs are fully funded.</p>
5	<p>Bonding</p> <p>Bonding is a means of making an initial investment stable over a long period of time. In addition, bonding would make more funds available immediately taking advantage of current federal cost-share dollars for which there is presently inadequate state matching funds. The increased dollars could also be used now for a variety of purposes supporting our natural resources, including public land acquisitions or easements to get ahead of the double-digit rate of inflation currently being exhibited by land sales. There are also immediate needs for trails and park improvements, and for other delayed maintenance items that will be more expensive in the future. Funding sources for these bonds could include the General Fund through general obligation bonds, from gambling revenues, or from the \$20.0 million in Iowa Communications Network (ICN) bonds that will be freed up in 2007.</p>

After identifying and evaluating numerous funding mechanism possibilities, the committee focused on the five recommended in this report. Although the committee believes other possibilities have value, after deliberation, these possibilities did not make the top five for a variety of reasons. One reason is that some of these funding mechanisms require further study before being determined as a viable option. These are noted in the table below:

Other Funding Mechanisms Requiring Further Exploration

1	Dedication of a portion of the existing sales tax.
2	Reallocation of existing infrastructure funds.
3	Establishing a dedicated real estate transfer tax.
4	Establishing a bio-fuels severance tax.
5	Placing a tax on large volume water users.
6	Expanded use of underground storage tank remediation funds.
7	Additional gasoline tax.
8	Placing a state excise tax on outdoor recreation equipment.
9	Park user fee.
10	Expanding the bottle bill to include bottled water and other containers.
11	Reallocation of the drinking water tax.
12	Various taxes on those who adversely affect the environment.
13	Placing a tax on out-of-state water users.
14	Placing a severance tax on products exported from Iowa that require extensive water use for production.
15	Severance tax on all energy producers.
16	Importation fee of fossil fuels.
17	Taxing storm water run-off sources that adversely impact the environment.
18	Reallocation of recreational vehicle registration fees.

During the committee’s evaluation of current funding, additional recommendations were determined.

The committee also recommends that:

1. The Environment First Fund be moved to a higher priority location in the wagering tax allocation formula. The Environment First Fund should be doubled to \$70.0 million annually.
2. Newly generated funds should be dedicated to ensure that the funds are used for their intended natural resource purpose, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of these funds.
3. Emphasis must be placed on raising public awareness of natural resource funding needs.

#3: Provide an “outline of the amount of revenue needed and what would be accomplished if the conservation funding initiative is implemented.”

After researching and reviewing current streams of funding and budgets, the committee has, conservatively, estimated that an additional sustainable total of \$150.0 million per year is needed to begin to address the needs of Iowa’s natural resources. The committee also identified, as noted in their parameters, logical and established methods to distribute the revenue to the natural resource, aka funding vehicle. Discussion points, funding vehicles, and recommended funding amounts to meet the needs are presented in the table below:

FUNDING VEHICLE	DISCUSSION POINTS	ADDITIONAL FUNDING AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection)	* REAP funds are lacking. County applications not funded 5:1 ratio and city applications are not funded at a 3:1 ratio. * REAP’s current \$11.0 million per year is not secure and not sustainable.	Fully fund at authorized level of \$20.0 million.
LCPP (Local Conservation Partnership Program)	* Funding should go towards county conservation boards, cities and non-government organizations (NGOs). NGOs should be included at a \$5.0 million level. * Fund local conservation education and outreach, infrastructure and land management.	Fund at \$20.0 million.
WP (Watershed Protection)	* Watershed funding is shown under three different vehicles in the table: WP, Lake Restoration, and IDALS. Although there may be similar categories to fund (i.e. watersheds) under different vehicles, the programs issued by the vehicles or the results intended by the programs are not necessarily the same.	Fund at \$20.0 million.
LR (Lake Restoration)	* Lake Restoration identifies needs in the lake. The watershed is taken care of outside of the Lake Restoration vehicle/funds.	Fund at \$10.0 million.
IA DNR (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)	* More funds than currently available are needed for state preserves, the wildlife diversity program, state parks, public access, and trail improvements within state parks.	Fund at \$35.0 million.
IDALS (Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship)	* IDALS funding total includes \$5.0 million to improve livestock agriculture.	Fund at \$30.0 million.
Trails	* Additional trails funding will permit the leveraging of additional dollars from federal resources. * Trails funding should be directed at both maintenance of existing trails and the addition of new trails, marketing and trail linkages.	Fund at \$15.0 million.
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS		\$150.0 million annually

To detail further the concepts that directed the committee toward the recommended figures, accomplishments (aka actions) were determined that the new dedicated sustainable funds would provide to lowans. These actions are identified by their connection to the natural resource category and to which funding vehicle may possibly support them.

Natural Resource Category	Action	Possible Funding Vehicles
PARKS AND TRAILS		
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * improve state, county, city park infrastructure * create a grade-A system of state and local parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * shelter houses * trails * campgrounds * shelters * beaches * water access * destination sites to draw people from other states 	REAP LCPP LR IA DNR Trails
Trails	* create a trail system that will serve the recreational diversity of lowans and attract visitors and tourists.	REAP LCPP IA DNR Trails
SOIL AND WATER		
Soil (conservation practices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * educate and improve terrace practices * encourage and support waterway buffers * protect and restore wetland areas * plan and provide grade stabilization structures (ie ponds) * advocate sustainable farming practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conservation tillage - demonstrate innovative methods (soil saving techniques, nutrient management) 	WP LR IDALS REAP LCPP IA DNR
Water (quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * apply strategies to targeted watershed efforts * reduce sediment * create/build federal, state, and local partnerships * help communities problem solve water issues * provide incentives to implement quality improvement programs and efforts 	REAP WP LR IDALS IA DNR LCPP
FISH, WILDLIFE, NATURAL AREAS		
Fish, Wildlife, Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * protect and improve the status of Iowa's wildlife diversity * provide safe habitat for endangered species in Iowa * make Iowa's lakes and streams great places to recreate * provide places for people to see wildlife (i.e. improve wildlife viewing opportunities) * increase opportunities to enjoy Iowa's outdoors * preserve and protect Iowa's high quality natural heritage * ensure that all lowans will have access to natural areas – rural and urban * create and protect access to natural areas * improve hunting and fishing opportunities and access in Iowa – rural and urban * protect, restore and manage prairies, forests, savannas, wetlands, and preserves * provide assistance to landowners to establish/manage the prairie and forestry base * provide adequate monitoring and management of Iowa's natural resources * provide proactive options and quality management against invasive species 	REAP LCPP WP LR IA DNR IDALS Trails

ALL 3 CATEGORIES: PARKS/TRAILS, SOIL/WATER, FISH/WILDLIFE/NATURAL AREAS		
Parks/Trails Soil/Water Fish/Wildlife/ Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide quality, engaging, and significant environmental and conservation education opportunities for the public, private landowners, and community leaders * establish, strengthen, and maintain nature centers and naturalist programs * educate and encourage private landowners toward productive and innovative land and water management techniques * train developers and community leaders on conservation and environmentally friendly principles toward Iowa's resources * initiate proactive outreach and interpretive programs 	REAP LCPP IA DNR IDALS

#4: Provide an “analysis of Iowa's citizens' willingness to pay for identified conservation funding initiative.”

The committee expressed the value of public participation and input during this process of exploring sustainable funding and provided a number of ways to incorporate the public's interest into the process. Along with a formal survey to identify Iowans' willingness to pay for funding initiatives, the committee encouraged public participation through open meetings, a sustainable funding website, and a statewide ICN (Iowa Communications Network) meeting. The committee weighed the responses from the public and placed value on its input and perceptions in helping to formulate its recommendations.

1. Committee deliberations open to the public:

The committee opened up its meetings and encouraged the public to hear its deliberations. Press releases were issued to promote attendance. Meeting summaries can be located at the Sustainable Funding website: www.iowadnr.gov/sustainablefunding/meeting.html

2. Website created

The committee proposed creating a website to provide information to the public. After the logistics and authorized locations were explored, the website was created and is accessible at www.iowadnr.gov/sustainablefunding/index.html. This site was also used as a tool to receive public comments.

3. ICN public information and input meeting

The committee requested a venue that would allow a general presentation to the public about the sustainable funding mandate and the work the sustainable funding advisory committee had accomplished so far so an interactive ICN (Iowa Communications Network) meeting was held on 11/09/06 at 14 sites across Iowa. A press release was issued which also generated media interviews promoting and informing the public about sustainable funding efforts. There were 270 individuals who signed in as attending the 11/09/06 meeting. The public was also encouraged to submit their comments (written or through online submission) which carried a general tone of support of Iowa's natural resources and the concept of sustainable funding (see Appendix 2).

Specific information was gleaned from the comments regarding general support of sustainable funding and tax support. Also, the committee was interested in the commitment of individuals and included a question on the public comments form asking: Is sustainable funding for natural resources a concept you would volunteer to support and/or promote?

To summarize the written comments received, of the 213 comments:

General Support of Sustainable Natural Resource Funding 195 – general support 14 – support not mentioned
Support for Tax to Provide Funding for Natural Resources 65 – support 4 – opposed 144 – tax not mentioned
Volunteer to Support / Promote the Concept of Sustainable Funding 162 – Yes 5 – No 29 – Possibly – Need to research more information 17 – No Response

4. Telephone survey of lowans' willingness to pay

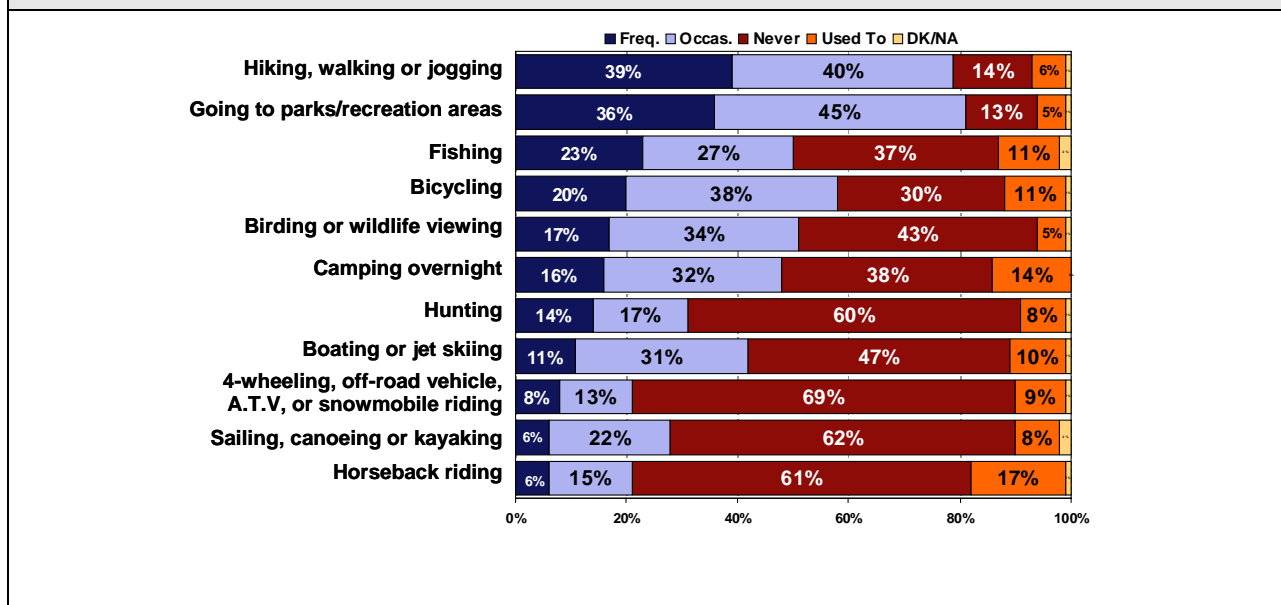
To meet the specific requirement of the fourth sustainable funding charge, the committee contracted with the firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin and Associates (FMMA) to conduct a telephone survey to assess Iowa citizens' willingness to pay. FMMA surveyed 800 adult Iowa residents from 11/27/06-11/30/06. This survey asked questions that provide an insight into lowans' environmental and recreational concerns and interests. Provided in this report is the actual telephone survey questions and percentage breakdown of the responses received (Appendix 3). The analysis of the telephone survey results provides a comprehensive explanation of responses, which, also, include information for such topics as the public's approval/disapproval on management of taxpayer dollars by party.

The following is an analysis of a few of the responses lowans gave:

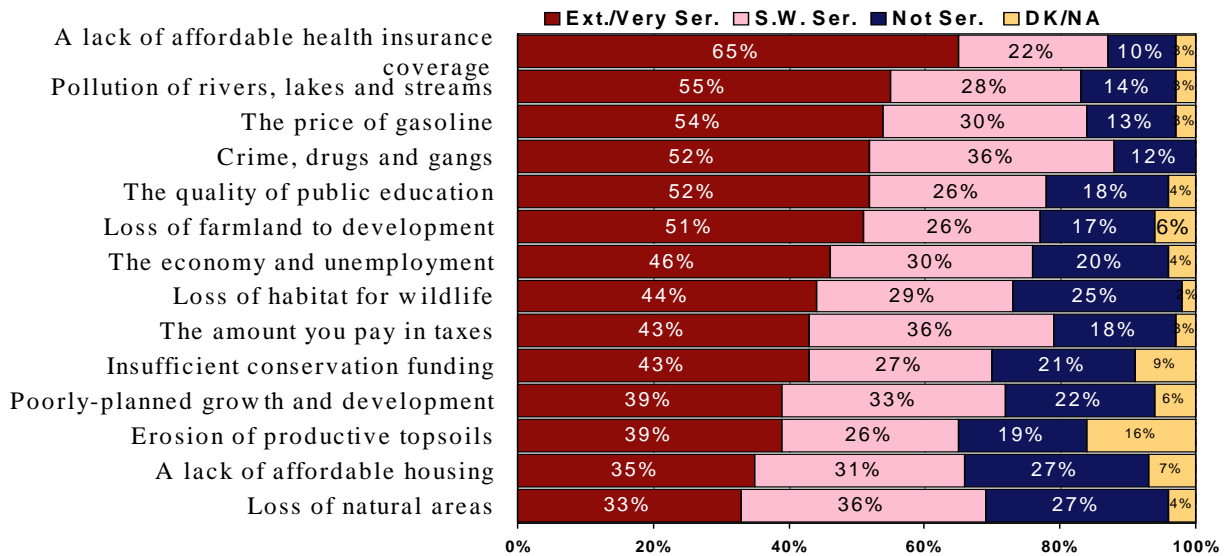
- * Issues related to water quality, including agricultural runoff, are among lowans' top environmental concerns.
- * lowans share strong beliefs that protecting the environment is a shared responsibility and benefits the economy.
- * A total of 77% of Iowa residents support dedicating additional public funds to protect Iowa's land, water, and wildlife, and most are willing to pay \$10 - \$25 in additional taxes each year for that purpose.

Multiple methods were used in surveying the public. For example, in some instances, the public was asked open ended questions and some questions provided them with choices to select from. To expand further on the public's responses to specific questions, the following are excerpts from the survey.

As noted in the table below, lowans are engaged in a number of different recreational activities:



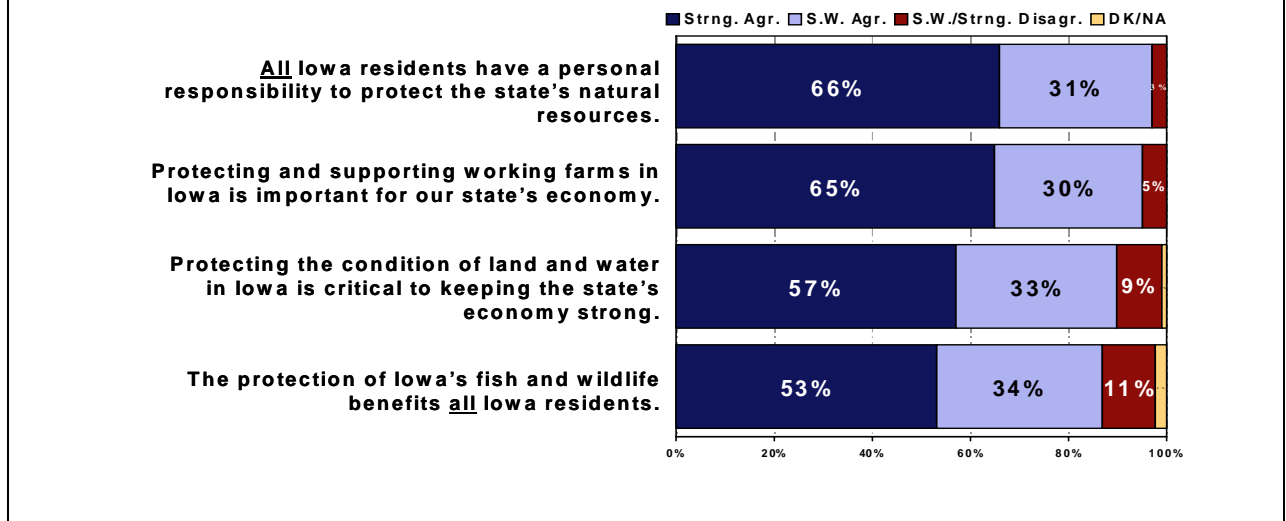
When respondents were read a list of issues, they were asked to rate what the seriousness of certain issues facing Iowa. The following is a summary of their responses. Voters rated pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams among their top concerns:



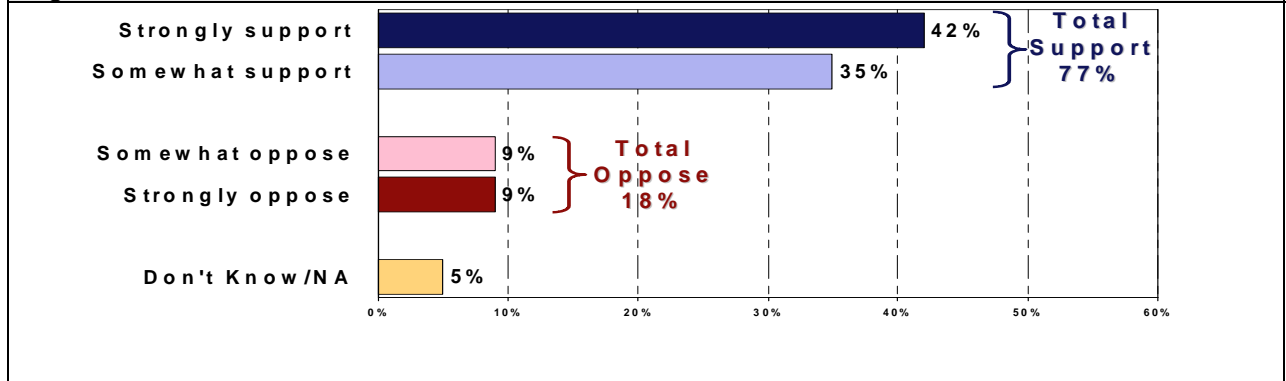
When read a list of projects that might be carried out if additional funding was available for natural resources in Iowa, respondents were asked how important each project was to them. Responses were rated "extremely important, very important, somewhat important, and not important."

Project	TOTAL EXT./VERY	Ext. Imp.	Very Imp.	SW Imp.	Not Imp.
Protecting water quality in rivers and streams	82%	46%	36%	15%	2%
Protecting sources of drinking water	81%	47%	33%	14%	4%
Protecting Iowa's soils	76%	36%	40%	19%	4%
Preserving natural areas	71%	30%	41%	24%	3%
Managing and protecting endangered and threatened species	66%	31%	35%	26%	8%
Preserving working farmland	64%	31%	33%	24%	7%
Protecting fish and wildlife habitat	63%	30%	33%	27%	6%
Protecting forests	60%	28%	33%	32%	6%
Providing quality environmental and conservation education opportunities for the public	58%	22%	36%	34%	7%
Repairing, improving and/or expanding state and county parks	55%	18%	36%	33%	10%
Conserving and/or restoring prairies and grasslands	50%	21%	29%	33%	14%
Improving access for hunting and fishing	45%	20%	26%	35%	19%
Providing grants to local governments and non-profits to preserve natural areas	45%	19%	26%	43%	9%
Improving and expanding trails for hiking, biking, walking and horseback riding	43%	17%	26%	39%	17%
Adding new public lands for outdoor recreation, fishing, and hunting	41%	14%	27%	34%	21%
Improving and expanding off road vehicle trails	24%	6%	18%	25%	46%

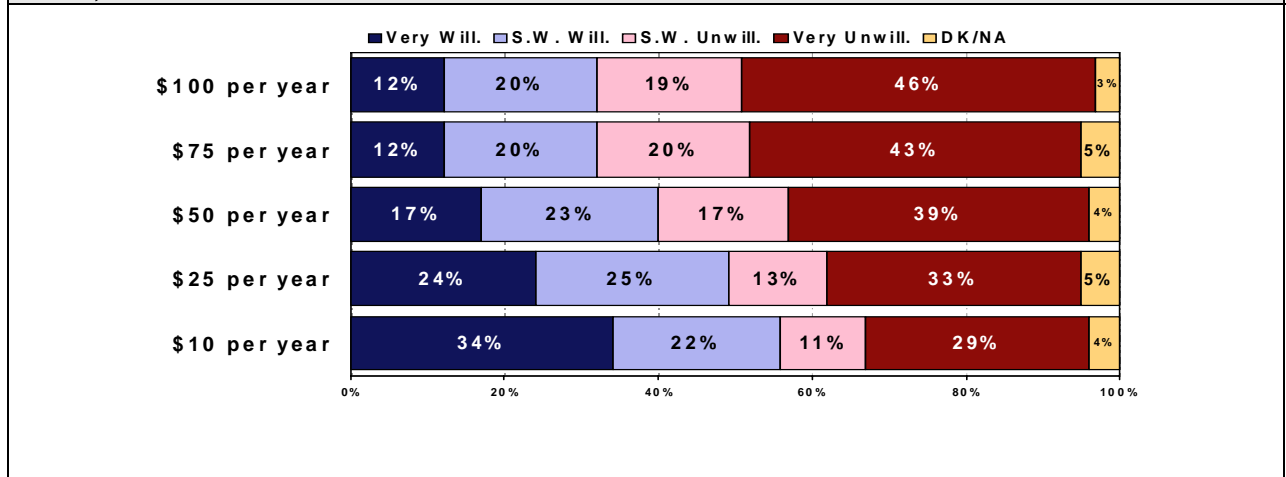
When respondents were read statements about Iowa and conservation values, they were asked if they generally agreed or disagreed with each. There were notable demographic differences in agreement with these statements which are identified in the survey analysis.



The public was asked about their support for dedicating additional public funding to programs to protect Iowa's land, water, and wildlife. The received broad-based support, including at least seven out of ten respondents regardless of party affiliation, education, age, income, employment or farm economy dependence, gender, Congressional district, media market, or region.

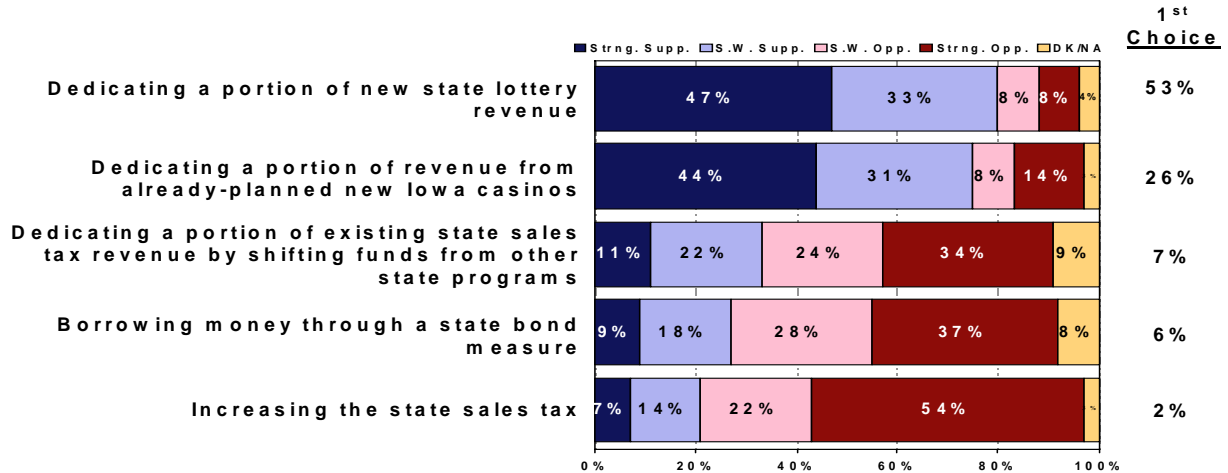


The public was surveyed in their willingness to pay additional taxes for programs to protect land, water, and wildlife in Iowa.



When read a list of possible funding sources for programs to protect land, water and wildlife, respondents were asked if they support or oppose each. It should be noted that the term “dedicated” was not used in the statement about increasing the state sales tax and these responses are based on the public’s current understanding of the state’s financial process.

Opinions On Funding Sources



The telephone survey, and the other venues that investigated public opinion, provided the committee with supporting information to help guide them in formulating responses and recommendations to help meet the needs of Iowa’s natural resources through the concept of sustainable funding. The analysis of the survey questions and answers is a beneficial tool in understanding the raw data noted in the percentages listed in Appendix 3.

5. Other Resources Evaluated

SCORP 2001 and 2006

The 2001 Iowa Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by the Iowa DNR provides some helpful information on outdoor recreational use in Iowa. A Recreational Activities and Environmental Opinions Telephone Survey completed by 1,202 Iowans showed that over 21% of those surveyed reported that their outdoor recreational activities were inhibited by limited or unsuitable recreational areas or facilities in Iowa. Natural areas were very important to quality of life according to 67% of the respondents. Increased state and local government funding for the purpose of buying privately held natural areas was supported by a majority of the respondents. It is very important according to 75% of the respondents to spend more money to protect and manage Iowa's rivers and streams, lakes and shores and wildlife habitats. There was overwhelming support (92.5%) for applying more lottery money to manage and protect Iowa's natural resources.

As part of SCORP, a survey of Clear Lake residents and visitors indicated that residents and visitors alike were highly concerned with Clear Lake water quality, particularly bacterial contamination and water clarity. They indicated a high willingness to pay to avoid further lake deterioration including improvements for a significant quality improvement to the conditions of the lake.

THE NEXT STEPS

The Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee believes that their work has just begun. This report is being submitted by the required date listed in HF 2797 but it is considered a preliminary report and is only the first step in insuring truly sustainable and adequate funding for natural resources in Iowa. It is felt that any recommendations put forth by this committee need to receive input from the current legislature and newly elected governor, as well as other organizations and individuals involving natural resources.

This additional input needs to be considered in any final recommendations and should take the form of a *final report* from the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee. In order for further committee work to be sanctioned by both the Legislature and by the agencies and organizations represented on the committee, the committee is asking that committee's work be reauthorized through a joint House Senate resolution. A final report could then be compiled and submitted by March 1, 2007.

Committee members and organizations have invested considerable time and expense in the preparation of this report. A number of organizations have also been able to provide financial support for this important effort, but there were unbudgeted financial costs to the DNR for this work. The committee requests that report preparation costs for the willingness to pay survey, contract work, and meeting expenses in the amount of \$40,000 be reimbursed to the DNR.

The Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Committee remains dedicated to this effort and offer their assistance in refining these recommendations and in assisting in future actions to accomplish the conservation and funding goals set forth in this report, as well as members of the public who have expressed interest in also doing so.

Educating the citizens of Iowa on environmental needs and funding options will be a necessary next step following the final report submission. Public understanding and support is critical if any significant gains are to be made in the sustainable funding of natural resources in this state. Additional actions will be needed by the Governor and General Assembly in order to further the implementation of recommended actions contained within this report.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
DIRECTLY RELATING TO HF 2797:

The advisory committee supports and presents the following recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. The advisory committee recommends that:

The burden of funding should be a responsibility of all Iowans, since all Iowans will benefit from sustainable funding for natural resources. This value is also supported by responses in the Willingness to Pay survey.

The funding source, aka mechanism, should have statewide appeal and be politically viable.

The source of funds should be easy to administer without the need to establish significant additional administrative staff.

New funds, when possible, should have the ability to be leveraged to increase their effectiveness.

The new funding mechanism must conform to all state and federal commerce regulations.

The funding mechanism should be "new money" and not a replacement of existing resources.

The funding mechanism should be stable, protected, and identified as dedicated. Newly generated funds should be dedicated to help ensure that the funds are used for their intended natural resource purpose, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of these funds.

The new funding must unite, rather than divide, conservation agencies and organizations.

The specific funding mechanisms to be considered, at this time, to bring in new revenue for natural resources are:

- a. Game / gambling revenue
- b. Fractional sales tax increase that is constitutionally protected
- c. A portion of the lottery
- d. Tax incentives / credits for conservation practices
- e. Bonding

This report be considered a preliminary report and the first step in investigating and ensuring sustainable and adequate funding for natural resources in Iowa.

The General Assembly allow the committee to continue its work to pursue input from the current legislature and newly elected Governor, as well as other organizations and individuals involved in natural resource issues.

The committee's work be reauthorized by a joint House Senate resolution with the understanding that a final report on recommendations for sustainable natural resource funding would be presented to the Governor and General Assembly by March 1, 2007.

Report preparation costs for the Willingness to Pay survey, contract work, and meeting expenses in the amount of \$40,000 be reimbursed to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN ADDITION TO RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO HF 2797:

The Environment First Funding should be moved to a higher priority location in the wagering tax allocation formula. The Environment First Fund should be doubled to \$70.0 million annually.

Emphasis must be placed on raising public awareness of conservation funding needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING

Mark Ackelson
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Mary Lundby
Iowa Senate - Republican

Jane Clark
Sierra Club - Iowa Chapter

Pauline Novotny
Izaak Walton League of Iowa

Dan Cohen
**Iowa Association of County
Conservation Boards**

Henry Rayhons
**IA House of Representatives –
Republican**

Dick Dearden
Iowa Senate – Democrat

Deb Ryun
Conservation Districts of Iowa

Barbara Finch
Iowa Farm Bureau

Marvin Shirley
Farmers Union

Tammi Kircher
Ducks Unlimited

Owen Shunkwiler
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Richard Leopold, Director
Iowa Environmental Council

Ken Tow
Secretary of Agriculture

Lola Lopes
The Nature Conservancy

Dave Van Waus
Pheasants Forever

John Whitaker
IA House of Representatives - Democrat

Along with the support that committee members have received from their respective organizations and staff, we would also like to acknowledge the support during this process provided by the following individuals:

Ken Herring, DNR
Diane Ford-Shivvers, DNR
Doug Harr, DNR
Kim Rasler, DNR
Peter Fritzell, DNR

Sharon Tahtinen, DNR
Duane Sand, INHF
Angela Grover, TNC
Matt Hare, TNC
Anthony Phillips, INHF

APPENDIX 1. HF 2797

House File 2797 Division IV; Section 43 SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE FUNDING STUDY

1 There is established a sustainable natural resource funding advisory committee for the purpose of studying how to provide a sustainable source or sources of funding for natural resources needs in Iowa. The department of natural resources shall provide staffing for the advisory committee. The following shall be members of the advisory committee:

a. One representative from the following organizations or entities to be appointed by the governor:

- (1) Secretary of agriculture.
- (2) Iowa natural heritage foundation.
- (3) Ducks unlimited.
- (4) Pheasants forever.
- (5) Iowa association of county conservation boards.
- (6) Iowa farm bureau.
- (7) Farmers union.
- (8) The nature conservancy.
- (9) Iowa environmental council.
- (10) Iowa renewable fuels association.
- (11) Sierra club of Iowa. [Amended addition in last bill of session]
- (12) Izaak Walton league of Iowa. [Amended addition in last bill of session]
- (13) State conservation districts of Iowa.[Amended addition in last bill of session]

b. The director of the department of natural resources, who shall be the chairperson of the advisory committee.

c. Two members of the senate, one of which is appointed by the majority leader and one of which is appointed by the minority leader.

d. Two members of the house of representatives, one of which is appointed by the majority leader and one of which is appointed by the minority leader.

2. The advisory committee shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly by January 10, 2007. The report shall contain but is not limited to the following:

a. Information on what surrounding states have done to provide sustainable funding for natural resource conservation.

b. Outline of a conservation funding initiative agreed upon by the advisory committee.

c. Outline of the amount of revenue needed and what would be accomplished if the conservation funding initiative is implemented.

d. Analysis of Iowa's citizens' willingness to pay for identified conservation funding initiative.

APPENDIX 2 Public Comments Received

online	Bruce	Ehresman	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: Iowa's current budget that spends only ~1% on Natural Resources Conservation is an embarrassment. I agree with the funding committee's finding that there needs to be at least \$150 million/year spent on Natural Resources funding - only I think it should be at least a 15 year commitment to do so, rather than 10 years. * Suggest that current conservation funding programs are maintained and that this \$150 million be new, additional \$. * Since Iowa is lacking in inventory information for a majority of wildlife species and almost all insects, I suggest a high priority should be to provide funding, at least, for inventorying Iowa's Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as defined by Iowa * I am most supportive of adding 1/8 of 1% sales tax as a funding source, but I believe several funding sources are needed to secure \$150 million/year. * If Iowans truly believe that our Natural Resources are important and since everyone alive benefits from these resources, then there should be additional \$ available from Iowa's General Fund. * With 1/3 of Iowa's species currently listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, it is especially important to restore habitats and habitat quality to enable these species to recover. More funding is needed to restore high priority public habitats * More \$ are needed to promote environmental education, to reconnect people to the land, and to help promote a "real" environmental conscience in Iowa. There appears to be a strong need to increase people's awareness of the value of Wildness.</p>							
mail	Bruce	Ehresman	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>This is exciting and hopeful to see such great effort toward sustainable funding for our Natural Resources, and I am thankful to the NR Funding Committee for their efforts so far. 1% of the current budget committed to natural resources is not enough; in fact this miniscule amount is an embarrassment. I agree with the NR Funding Committee that \$150 million/year for at least 15 years. Make sure we continue to maintain current cons. funding sources and add new funding sources to those to (unreadable word) or additional \$150 million/yr. Since Iowa is lacking in inventory information for the majority of wildlife species and almost all insects, a high priority should be to provide funding for inventory of, at least, Iowa wildlife action plans "species of greatest conservation need" (as required by this plan). I am most supportive of adding 1/8 of 1% sales tax as a future NR funding mechanism, but I believe several new funding sources are needed to attain \$150 Million/yr. If Iowans truly believe our Natural Resources (NR) are important and because everyone benefits from a healthy environment, additional \$ for NR should come directly from Iowa's General Fund. With 1/3 of Iowa vertebrate listed as species of greatest conservation need (in IA will Action Plan), it is especially important to provide funding to restore habitats and habitat quality to enable these species to recover. More funding is needed to restore and manage high priority habitats like most state preserves and many of the largest state parks, state forests, and state and county wildlife management areas. As high priority habitats are identified on private lands, funding to improve and/or enhance these areas should be made available, too. More \$ are needed for environmental conscience and truly understand the value of wildness.</p>							
online	Marlene	Ehresman	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: Conservation: do it better, do it more, do it right! Reliable conservation funding is critical for Iowa's future. I would whole-heartedly support a constitutional amendment to increase Iowa's sales tax, such as Missouri's one-eighth of one percent, to be used for acquisition of real property or conservation easements, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of our natural resources. When I lived in Missouri in the mid-1970s, making MUCH less money than I do now, I supported and volunteered to help pass that state's initiative. Alternatively, I would be willing to pay a "user fee" (aka tax) on items I purchase for my enjoyment and use of the outdoors. These items may include camping supplies, binoculars, or any other item identified by the committee. It's time to pay our share for our future and our children's future!</p>							
online	MJ	Hatfield	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: Yes, Iowa's native floral and faunal communities need more funds, more volunteer workers, more paid workers, more research, more interest, more protection and more land area. I believe this problem has been addressed numerous times and yet nothing much ever comes of it. The fear of more taxes or more fees that look like taxes has repeatedly shut it down. But Iowa is behind the times. Times call for quality natural areas, larger areas, more of them, and better managed. Hunters and fishers continue to pay for this for all of us. The downside of that is hunter and fisher folks are declining and most all native areas are open to hunting and fishing. Photographers, hikers, birders, entomologists, must stay out of state natural areas (except for parks) during hunting season or dress themselves in flame orange. And who can argue, they don't pay the bills. Also, hunted species get most of the attention whereas 99% of native species in Iowa are non-huntable species. Please,! the future quality of the lives of Iowans and future Iowan's involves natural areas and their associated species.</p>							

online	Cindy	Hildebrand	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: To the committee members: Thank you very much for your work on this vital issue. As an Iowa taxpayer, I am willing to support whatever funding sources would best succeed in terms of adequate revenue, political and public acceptance, and long-term sustainability. I also want to express strong support for an inclusive definition of public land management needs. I have read a lot in the media about crumbling shelters and deteriorating water and sewage systems. Those are very serious problems that must be addressed. However, I've read almost nothing about the serious deterioration of our public lands due to a combination of invasive brush and exotics and fire suppression. Park staff are making heroic efforts to manage the problems, and volunteers are working to help, but they can't keep up. Land management takes money. We are losing the natural resources that these lands were set aside to protect. Future Iowans won't thank us if we hand down degraded public lands that used to be woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. Please include this important priority in your list. And thank you again for your time and energy on behalf of Iowa's future.</p>							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Karen	Kinkead	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Be sure to emphasize the number of new jobs that would be needed/created to fix trails/buildings; naturalists/educators, encourage landowners, educate developers, manage/restore/protect natural areas, & inventory wildlife. Any mechanism to fund would be great. Sales tax probably the most stable choice, but this could still be combined with others (ie. water use tax).</p>							
online	Steve	Lekwa	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: This is long overdue! There's no excuse for a state that's economy is so natural-resources dependant to be funded among the lowest in the nation.</p>							
online	Deborah	Lewis	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: I am glad to see that the state of Iowa is seriously looking at providing sustainable funding for natural resources. We have hoped for too long that the federal government would provide sufficient funding (through programs like Teaming With Wildlife), but federal budget issues (like support for the war) have kept such programs from being funded. It is also disappointing that state programs like REAP continue to be greatly underfunded. A primary interest of mine is in the protection and management (when needed) of natural areas. Of course this interest cuts across several areas that are in need of greater support: the DNR, the system of county conservation boards, private lands, etc. for acquisition, management, inventory, and other needs. Special concerns of mine that, in my opinion, should be given much stronger funding: * natural areas inventory (we're losing far too many natural areas because we don't even know they exist or what they contain); for this to happen, funding should be reinstated for lost positions in the DNR * buffer areas to our state preserves and parks that are increasingly becoming small "islands in a sea" of land that has been converted to other uses * stronger environmental education for all - K-12 and adult opportunities are needed * stronger support for maintaining high quality natural areas on private lands (again, inventory is needed to select the best that should receive support); this may include a number of kinds of support, from help with management to possibly even subsidiz I would be willing to pay higher sales tax, as has apparently been successful in Missouri, to achieve stronger support for natural resources. I would also be open to the careful consideration of other sources of revenue. Thank you for hearing and considering my concerns.</p>							
online	David	Otis	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: The State of Iowa desperately needs a sustainable source of funding to devoted to improved conservation stewardship of our natural resources. As a native Iowan I am dismayed and embarrassed by the fact the we rank nearly last in the nation in the percent of our state funds devoted to wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and restoration of native habitats. I urge you to find innovative funding strategies to accomplish these goals.</p>							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Stephanie	Shepherd	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>I think the 2 most important elements are 1) longevity/sustainability. 2) A source that asks all Iowans to support their environment. An increase in the sales tax seems to be the best possibility and would not be an overt burden on the citizens. Whatever is put forth should be protected in perpetuity and should not be touched by the legislature.</p>							

online	Robert	Summerfelt	Ames	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Iowa parks need ungrading, shelters are rundown, rails are in great need of repair, basic amenities at campgrounds are often lacking. At many parks, the RV sites are not level, they are provided with only electricity, but not water or sewer. . Moreover, many parks (e.g., Clear Lake, Lake Okoboji) are overcrowded in the summer, there is a need for more lake construction and new parks.							
ICN - Cedar Rapids	Robert	Roman	Anamosa	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Transportation funds can be used to improve our natural resources. In the new transportation bill, using native species, and aesthetic enhancement, abatement of storm water runoff and soil stabilization are mentioned as eligible for use of federal-aid highway funds, existing programs need to be funded to the maximum level. The sales tax is a good way to generate revenue. Funding must be consistent from year to year and it must be protected. Protection of natural resources must be incorporated into all development, land use changes and improvements. We also need to tax or penalize those who do damage our environment. Example: Ethanol production.							
email	Steve	Ballenger	Ankeny	IA	unknown	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>From: s.ballenger@mchsi.com [mailto:s.ballenger@mchsi.com] Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 2:14 PM To: jimo@dwx.com Cc: jeff.vonk@dnr.state.ia.us; tammikircher@yahoo.com; jmshirley@netins.net; bccbdan@iowatelecom.net; Rich Leopold; finch5@qwest.net; jwhitaker@netins.net; mackelson@inhf.org; oshunkwiler@tallcornethanol.com; mary.lundby@legis.state.ia.us; joejpn128@aol.com; davwpf@netins.net; ken.tow@idals.state.ia.us; jrclark@radiks.net; lola-lobes@uiowa.edu Subject: Sustainable Funding Iowa Natural Resources -Please accept this comment reg. sustainable funding for IA natural resources. The electronic submission form at the IA DNR website was not working on the date that I composed this. Steve Ballenger, Ankeny, IA. Comment received 11/28/06 via email (sent to all SFC): 11/07/06 Members of the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee; RE: House File 2797; Ladies and Gentlemen of the Advisory Committee,; I am writing to comment on future sustainable funding for natural resources in Iowa. Committee members, Iowa is a national and world leader in agriculture. We are on the threshold of becoming a national and world leader in resources for alternative and renewable energy. The world admires Iowa because of it's innovation and leadership in consumer products developed virtually from our rich soil. Along with these successes, we have developed a very serious problem. During the past 150 years, agriculture has altered nearly 99% of Iowa's landscape - more so than any other state in the union. It is true, we have taken steps to reduce soil erosion, however, Iowa continues to be in gross non-compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. I have seen the problems with our waterways, firsthand, in my trips afield. Everywhere across this state, naturalists, environmentalists, conservationists and farmers are devoting their time and energy to reversing the degradation of our natural landscape. These caring people love Iowa and will hold their proverbial "thumb in the dike" while the rest of us slumber without a care. They, like me, understand that Iowa has one of the lowest percentages of public lands and natural landscapes in the nation. They understand too that, "What is not protected will soon be bulldozed or plowed!" In addressing the needs for sustainable funding, I have committed myself to research and found that SUSTAINABLE FUNDING must be meaningful and reliable. Sustainable funding must weather changing political climates. It will take discipline to set a course and stay that course so that we may tell our children that we helped correct the mistakes made by us, our parents, our grandparents and our great-grandparents. I have studied the stop-gap measures that other States have taken to fund natural resources. I have read about Real Estate Transfer Taxes, Lottery Proceeds and Outdoor Equipment Taxes which are piecemeal and provide far less than what is needed. I have read about increases in hunting & fishing licenses, which along with fewer places to hunt and fish frustrate sportsmen and women into hanging up their equipment never to go hunting or fishing again. These fathers and mothers, stewards of the land, are the ones who are supposed to teach our younger generations about respect for wildlife and the environment. If there are no sportsmen in the future then there will be no conservationists. If there are no conservationists in the future then our greed and lust to extract everything possible from our natural environment will drown out any remaining voices of reason. Please hear this for it speaks wisely. "If we do not set aside more lands where Iowans can reacquaint themselves with nature, if we do not restore our rivers, streams and wetlands then our future generations will pay dearly!" I am dismayed when Iowa REAP is funded at only half it's intended level. I hold my breath when I read that the 2007 Conservation Reserve Program is facing the ax and the national Conservation and Reinvestment Act(CARA) may never be funded. Iowa must reduce it's reliance on federal conservation measures that often face the chopping block. We must become self-reliant when it comes to protecting our most treasured resources because only Iowans have to LIVE in Iowa. To attract new business and faces, Iowa must balance the practice of agriculture and land stewardship as opposed to the fragmented landscape we now see. Of</p>							

course, agriculture is the life-blood of Iowa, but more places than exist now must be set aside for human souls to rejuvenate, for the life cycle of wild things to carry-on unhindered and for the land, itself, to return to a more natural state. After walking and paddling hundreds of miles across Iowa, my conclusion is that we must follow the lead of Missouri and Arkansas in providing sustainable funding for our natural resources. In 1976, Missouri laid the groundwork for the nation's first State Conservation Sales Tax. Arkansas took this concept and improved it in 1996. These two States have demonstrated that investing 1/8th of every penny, spent on all purchased goods, invested toward its public lands, parks, soils, water and heritage landmarks generates many millions of dollars more in economic activity and outdoor related tax revenue. In fact, since its inception, the Conservation Sales Tax in Missouri has generated nearly 1.5 billion tax dollars that go toward public lands, fish and wildlife. When most States have experienced a drop in the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, Missouri has seen an increase. Proceeds from the Conservation Sales Tax in Missouri are not only invested into soil and water conservation but into Missouri youth as well. Hunting, fishing and outdoor education programs for youth in Missouri are the envy of the nation. "Tell me what kid can justify getting high on drugs when he or she is already high on nature!" Hunting and fishing is big business in Iowa.. Hunting and fishing alone was a 1.1 billion dollar industry in Iowa in 2002. It is a huge return on something that lacks any organized effort of investment. If hunting and fishing were a stock, we would buy-buy-buy! Nationally, if hunting and fishing were a corporation, it would be 11th on the Fortune 500 List. These numbers do not even reflect the huge economic impact of bird and wildlife watching and other outdoor pursuits. If we could make Iowa's outdoor recreational tourism a multi-billion dollar industry and protect our soil and water at the same time— why would we not do it? Both Conservation Sales Tax measures in Missouri and Arkansas passed the public vote narrowly. But now, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission receive unparalleled support and approval from their residents. Most people would look at this on the surface and say, "but Missouri and Arkansas are sportsmen's paradises, this would never work in Iowa". Others would say, "this is just another tax we have to pay to support hunters, fishermen and outdoorsy types". This is FURTHER from the truth. A Conservation Sales Tax in Iowa would protect soil and water for ALL OF US. It would enhance State parks and trails for ALL OF US. A Conservation Sales Tax will protect Game and Non-game species alike which are true bio-indicators of how responsibly ALL OF US as humans are living. This is not a tax but an investment in Iowa for ALL OF US to have a better life - including our children and grandchildren. The IA DNR is going to require millions, maybe hundreds of millions, of dollars to restore and stabilize our watersheds, waterways, lakes and aquifers. The procurement of more public lands and the backlog of maintenance to our public parks will suffer as a result of this. It is time for Iowans to stop having to "rally a new cry" every time we identify a problem with our natural resources. Why not institute one fundraising source that everyone understands, can point to and be proud of. It is easier for citizens to support one measure than many. It is easier to educate them and maintain unwavering support especially when they see that a Conservation Sales Tax is a "Giant Force" that enriches their daily lives with reports of successes and new projects everywhere. How many separate piecemeal fundraising efforts will the public in Iowa tolerate before becoming confused, indifferent and apathetic. Grassroots organizers should initiate a ballot measure which closely resembles the Conservation Sales Tax of Arkansas: 1/8th of 1 percent of the State's general sales tax with the proceeds going to the IA DNR for fish & wildlife, parks & trails, soil & water conservation, heritage preservation and anti-litter programs. Iowa has the necessary core group of conservationists to initiate and sustain a public drive for a ballot measure on the Conservation Sales Tax. I believe it will pass someday because Iowans will see the POWER OF PENNIES AT WORK! It is not necessary to worry that a measure will not pass the first time. It is only important that we, as concerned citizens, believe it is right and to keep sight of something positive that will take place on a grand scale". I believe that someday, Iowans will relinquish an eighth of a penny on everything they purchase to go toward the future of Iowa. They will do this with no more thought than they would now to dropping three cents in the "need a penny – take a penny" cup at the local Casey's General Store. They will provide 1/8th of one penny because some counties in Iowa have no public recreation areas. They will provide 1/8th of one penny because some small town needs to upgrade their water treatment facility. (Yes, we all live downstream from somebody else!) They will do it because Iowan's love the outdoors. They are tired of feeling helpless about polluted streams, loss of habitat and urbanization. Iowan's want the opportunity to take responsibility, to take control of this blight on our reputation and turn it around. A Conservation Sales Tax gives Iowan's that very opportunity. It grows from a fraction of a penny to millions and eventually billions of dollars. The average Iowan has little voice in how their general tax money is spent. I believe they will take enormous pride in the Conservation Sales Tax when knowing that every time they make a purchase, they invested in a park or trail or protected some land for wildlife or some water where they can enjoy boating, fishing and swimming. People admire Iowans for being honest, caring and sincere. If Iowans are anything like what others describe us as being then Iowans will see the common sense in re-investing money back into our natural resources. They will vote for something that is good for Iowa. When that day comes, others will look at Iowa and say, "they lead the world in agriculture, they lead the nation in renewable energy resources and oh, by the way, have you visited there lately!" Committee members, please come to the conclusion that I and others have come to. An amendment to the State constitution which declares that a Conservation Sales Tax be implemented to generate sustainable funding for our natural resources. Please seek a

ballot measure, in the near future, which will make Iowa a conservation model for the rest of the nation. Sincerely, Steve Ballenger, member: PF, DU, INHF, IWLA Grassroots volunteer; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; 3126 SW Woodfield Ln., Ankeny, IA 50023-8911, (h) 515-289-4036, © 515-681-2758, s.ballenger@mchsi.com							
online	Richard	Baker	Atalissa	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Iowa ranks at the bottom in the US for DNR funding. This is unacceptable. A reliable funding source must be found.							
ICN - Iowa City	Jed	Eichhorn	Belle Plaine	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
I applaud your efforts and support finding new monies as well as preserving the monies we presently have. I agree with finding a solution through ethanol and bottle tax. Gambling monies would be great, but I would take another look at sales tax before going further before chasing this solution.							
online	Patrick	Rea	Bernard	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I think that sustainable funding for Iowa's natural resources should be made available. I would especially like to see more funding available for Iowa biking trails. Iowa is way behind !!!!!!!							
ICN - Bettendorf	Greg	Gackle	Bettendorf	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
I would favor a combination of a sales tax increase along with increasing taxes on those industries and businesses (including farms) which are (and abuse) water.							
ICN - Bettendorf	Steve	Grimes	Bettendorf	IA	unknown	Support - general	Support - tax
I fully support the committee's efforts to develop sustainable funding for natural resource funding. I would also recommend consideration of a sales tax percentage option. Full funding of the REAP program with a dedicated source of funding is very important. I also agree that we need to be sure to demonstrate the economic impact of the funds that would be appropriated. I would also endorse the funding of a recreational trails program.							
ICN - Bettendorf	Mitch	White	Bettendorf	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Sourcing funds from gambling and lottery increases will benefit this while not taking away from other programs. Would like to see REAP fully funded or increased. Bring in mechanized equipment trails: snowmobile, off-road vehicles, and 4-wheelers. Look at a cost us return for additional investment vs. additional tourism or visitor \$ brought in. Get the money. Do the job.							
ICN - Waterloo	Ryan	Christianson	Cedar Falls	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I'm not against the farmers in any way, but more places in Iowa along rivers and streams shouldn't be farmed to the edge of the waterway. One step to improving Iowa's water quality is stressing the fact of how important filter strips are. It has come along ways in the past 10 years. I saw filter strips put in everywhere, but places that don't have them still exist all over the state. A filter strip not only stops eroding soils, but also filters out some chemicals and other pollutants going into our waterways. If every waterway had filter strips on it's banks, Iowa's goal to improve water quality would take a huge leap forward.							
ICN - Waterloo	Ed	Gruenwald	Cedar Falls	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Please fully fund REAP. It may also be important that some of the funded projects have multiple objectives. Instead of only restoration, also include outdoor education with some sort of measurable outcomes.							
online	Greg	Houseal	Cedar Falls	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I support sustainabl funding for Iowa's natural resources.							
email	Susan	Salterberg	Cedar Falls	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned -

							tax
Mark (Leoschke - DNR)-- Will you add me to your e-mail list (done)? I plan to go to the ICN event in Iowa City.							
ICN - Waterloo	Daryl	Smith	Cedar Falls	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Need to support funds for managing our state preserves system.							
online	Christine	Kirpes	Cedar Rapids	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Sustainable funding for natural resources is a very good and practical idea. I agree with the committee's work so far, especially that a logical place to start is getting full REAP funding. Getting more money for NR without taking away from other worthy areas is definitely a challenge, but worth it!							
online	Franklin	Olsen	Cedar Rapids	IA	No	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Count me among those who are entirely committed to increasing funding for natural resources. Iowa ranks among the bottom of the states in such funding -- a situation that needs to be reversed.							
online	Rose	Weigel	Charles City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Absolutely, we need to be doing more than we have been to protect Iowa's natural resources.							
online	Fred	Kinkaid	CHARLOTTE	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Please advise me as to all and current information available about dedicated funding for the State of Iowa. I need to research more information. Thank							
ICN - Mason City	Ron	Andrews	Clear Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Sustainable funding process seems to be progressing well. We need to keep the pressure on and move forth as diligently and quickly as possible. Don't let up on the pace. Focus in on Water Quality in every aspect of this effort. Marketing & Promotion & Conservation Education all critical components.							
online	Alan	Hancock	Clear Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: The report requested by the legislature covers how money would be obtained, how much money is needed, how it would be spent, and how much Iowans are willing to pay as well as examples from surrounding states. What is sorely lacking is the benefits that will be received from such a program. There are so many aspects from improved quality of life to economic windfalls to rural communities and businesses to keeping our youth from leaving the state. If this program is going to be sold to the legislators then this information is imperative. More importantly this needs to be sold to the people of the State of Iowa. Their support is needed to convince the legislature in the short term and to give the program constitutional protection in the long term. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.							
ICN - Mason City	Alan (AI)	Hancock	Clear Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
The report covers where to get the money, how much to get, whether Iowans want to pay for it and what other states have done. We need to sell the program to the people of Iowa & the legislature. What is missing from the report is the resulting impacts that the program will have. Improved quality of life; small community & rural economic development; retention of our youth; attraction of business & jobs; plus many more. Conservation doesn't cost it pays!!!							
ICN - Mason City	Pat	Hansen	Clear Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
The Missouri plan is so successful. A tiny sales tax yields a huge return. Thank you for this effort.							
ICN - Mason City	William (Bill)	Hansen	Clear Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
(no written comment)							

online	Hal	Frank	Clive	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: Need a count of the various licenses or permits issued per year, include all types of 1) hunting and fishing, 2) boat, 3) atv, and whatever. This is a measure of the level of participation in these activities in the state. What percent of the States' population directly participate in these activities? How much of a program should licenses or permits fund? This is a hard question. Even though I don't fish, I enjoy the sight of fishing boats on a lake. It does relate to quality of life. I do use bike trails and wouldn't mind providing some level of more direct funding. On State tax form, you can contribute to fund the political process. How much funding does this generate? How many people participate in voting (actually do vote) vs. how many people check the contribution box? Is there an analogy here for other activities? Like the recently passed federal law, have a state web site that will list ALL funding per year. Let the tax payers easily see where their tax dollars go. Try and cut the earmarks out of the budget. Transparency in government will allow smaller general use programs to exist.</p>							
ICN - Des Moines	Paul	Wiedemeier	Clive	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>I was at a Polk County SWCD Commissioner and Associates Comm. In 1990-2000. REAP was severely underfunded. The statewide SWCD request was always underfunded by millions. Trips to DNR state office revealed crowded offices, torn carpets w/ duct tape and unfunded requests. The Polk SWCD - Urban Program for urban erosion control and water quality especially around construction sites was tedious to form, cumbersome to implement, and difficult to obtain long-term staffing. Due to the short life span of funding turned off good quality employee's looking @ this as a long term career. We need long-term funding !!! We need great advertising and marketing of this program to ensure passing this program. Educating the public must be a priority. We need to promote this as a great tool for increasing tourism. The State of Iowa NRCS is voiceless in protecting soil and water resources. We have lost over 1/2 of our top soil to date and continue soil loss above regeneration levels and yet we hear no alarm calls as our soil washes down to New Orleans and we foul our lakes and streams. Our matching farm programs were always underfunded limiting farmers and property owners from investing money on their land and within communities to help keep main street Iowa financially vibrant. Urban conservation needs funding for staff and expand programs, storm water management, etc. Develop programs for urban sprawl and sustainable communities.</p>							
online	Bradley	Freidhof	Coralville	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: It is long-over due that the State of Iowa takes a closer look at the funding and protection of their natural resources. The resources have provided great economic benefits for our State and it is now the responsibility of all Iowan's to care for these precious resources. The Advisory Committee has done an outstanding job of summarizing and outlining the needs of Iowa's natural resources. They have emphasized existing partnerships and programs that have proven successful in the past and have suggested strengthening these successes. They have also added components that have had little emphasis in the past but are vital to successful protection and wise management of Iowa's natural resources. It is extremely important that the citizens of Iowa have a knowledge and understanding of their natural resources. As a member of a generation that has been part of a rural to urban shift in Iowa, I see many of my peers, losing their connectivity to the land and answers ! and assistance on natural resource care and management is hard and difficult for them to access. With these difficulties and changes is it any wonder that Iowan's feel powerless in protecting their natural resources. Even if citizens do share my love for natural resources there are fewer places in Iowa to explore than can be found in other states. Iowan's need an education on natural resources (talk to counties on the success of their year-round programs), Iowan's need more natural areas for their recreational use and lastly Iowa's natural resources need more managers and funds to take care of them and keep them in their natural states (we need to stop invasive species!!)</p>							
online	Harry	Graves	Coralville	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: I just wrote my comments on another entry, but was unable to get a response when I hit the submit button. I certainly want to "weigh in" on this important issue. Did you receive those comments? Comments submitted under separate email: Sustainable Funding Comments; From: Harry Graves, 2293 Holiday Road, Coralville, IA 52241, hgraves@co.johnson.ia.us: First of all, I want to commend the committee members for all of their efforts and due diligence in carrying out the legislative mandate to identify sources of sustainable funding for Iowa's natural resources. A sales tax increase devoted specifically to the environment is my number one pick. One need only look to the State of Missouri, to see firsthand, the tremendous benefits that a fractional sales tax provides and the resounding public support that it has engendered. To those detractors who whine that a sales tax is a regressive tax, I submit the following: In light of the fact that all food purchases are sales tax</p>							

exempt and that there is an annual sales tax amnesty weekend on clothing purchases their argument is without merit. The tremendous changes in the makeup of the legislature that were wrought by the recent election, made it possible to "update" the Bottle Bill. The deposit fee should be expanded to include a deposit on all of the bottled and canned beverages, including bottled drinking water that did not exist at the time of the original legislation. The handling fee that redemption centers receive should be increased from one penny to two cents. I firmly believe that the barriers to the expansion of the bottle bill no longer exist and this is my number two choice as source for natural resource funding. The proliferation of ethanol plants that have the potential to extract huge quantities of water from our precious aquifers does not bode well for the future of Iowa. A tax on the industrial use of water must be considered as a third source of revenue for natural resource funding. I have a personal aversion to financing state government through gambling receipts but, it has nonetheless; become a "dependency." Therefore, a tax on Lotto tickets should be included in the funding mechanism list. Finally, I admonish the Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee to require that, whatever single or combination sources of revenue that are decided upon be permanently protected by an amendment to the State Constitution of Iowa. Had such a safeguard been in place at the time of the passage of the REAP Law, we would not have spent the last seventeen years begging for a fraction of the funding that was originally mandated. I am committed to do anything that I can to assist in the effort to make sustainable funding for natural resources in Iowa a reality. Yours in conservation, Harry L. Graves

online	Benjamin	Ross	Coralville	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Good to see some progress.							
online	Chuck	Dusing	Council Bluffs	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I personally support a sales tax increase, funding based on water usage, and also a state park user fee as possible income streams for sustainable natural resource funding. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.							
ICN - Bettendorf	James	Resnick	Davenport	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Can put IWPOCH and Corps of Engineers on mailing list. Thanks.							
ICN - Bettendorf	Joan	Resnick	Davenport	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Can put IWPOCH and Corps of Engineers on mailing list. Thanks.							
ICN - Bettendorf	Thomas	Tandeski	Davenport	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
I applaud the effort of this committee. I feel all lowans should help support our natural resource. I think a sales tax would cover this. This funding should be a constitutional amendment protected by law. This needs to be protected for our future. This money also needs to be protected and used from what our DNR see fit our (word illegible) should not ruin our natural resources. Keep this in the hands of the pros. I also feel this needs to be new money. Do not rob Peter to pay Paul.							
online	Marty	Temple	Defiance	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I feel it is extremely important for Iowa to maintain and improve it's natural resources any way possible. Providing areas for families to enjoy nature while being together. Also to preserve the environment around us. I am particularly interested in the camping and trail preservation, but feel the entire state conservation is necessary.							
ICN - Waterloo	Keith	Krause	Delhi	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
I feel this is a great idea and long overdue. I do favor the proposed sales tax option. I am tired of paying for clean water and recreational opportunities through my hunting, fishing, and REAP license. It is time that all people in Iowa start paying for clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. It is working in other states and it is time for all lowans and people using Iowa's resources to pay the way. We have the REAP program that could use these funds.							
ICN - Des Moines	David	Dahlquist	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax

Suggest adding & apparently missing points: 1. "Sustainability" suggests that there is demand. Promotion, public education, and market development is needed to support "sustainability." Nationally the rates of increase in demand for outdoor recreation are dropping. 2. Where's the connection with public health? Consider the off setting cost promoting outdoor recreation as health care. 3. Please consider taking a "benefits-based" approach . . . See Canadian approach. The table of "Natural Resource" categories is "supply-based." Finally, this sounds like a "pay me now or pay me later" situation. The problem is we are probably at the pay me later stage.

ICN - Des Moines	Marian	Gelb	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Oppose - Tax
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Great effort. The time is now to address Iowa's natural resources. I believe citizens are ready to pay for it. Unfortunately, gaming/gambling is an excellent revenue source. Sales tax is too regressive. Look at R/E transfer tax and incentives. Must be protected by constitutional amendment and must be new \$. Also have to set aside a % for public education and awareness.

online	Brent	Hoover	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Comments: I think this should be a high priority for Iowa.

mail (standard form not used) duplicate - also rec'd as em	Pamela	Mackey-Taylor	Des Moines	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter, supports the effort to secure sustainable funding for protection of Iowa's natural resources. We believe it is necessary in order to protect Iowa's natural areas, Iowa's natural diversity, special landscapes, species of concern, and to improve the quality of Iowa's waters. We note that in the table that was handed out during the ICN meetings there is a line stating that sustainable funding will "protect Iowa's natural heritage." We believe that there should also be a goal to protect Iowa's threatened and special places and places of preserve quality added to the funding table handed out at the ICN meeting. Among those places that need to be protected are Iowa's rare and endangered remaining native prairies and savannas. The Loess Hills landform and the Mississippi River bluff lands also need to have particular and special emphasis in any plan to protect natural areas. As Iowa cities sprawl outward and as pressure increases for development and other uses, there is an increased risk of losing natural areas. We believe that funds need to be available to purchase those natural areas and to protect them. The Mississippi River bluff lands and the Loess Hills are both under extreme development pressures. The National Park Service has developed materials related to the high quality areas that need to be preserved in the Loess Hills. There are a number of willing sellers in the area, if funds were available. Since this is a special landscape area of state and national significance, where most of Iowa's remaining native prairies are found, it is highly desirable to protect as much of this area as possible. The Loess Hills are highly threatened due to encroachment near urban areas, mining of soil, and loss of soil due to erosion. The Loess Hills landscape is the most erodible region of the state. Invasive species are also making significant encroachments into the native prairies. Since the creation of the Loess Hills Alliance by the Iowa Legislature, expertise has been developed in western Iowa through the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee. Funding to increase the number of trained landowners and volunteers, and refined operations for management would enable the Stewardship Committee to enhance their efforts to meet the needs of the Loess Hills region. Sustainable funding from the state could build upon these stewardship skills developed in recent years. As Iowa cities sprawl outward and as the pressure increases for development or other uses, there is an increased risk of losing our few remaining natural areas all across Iowa. There are too many use demands for our too-few parks and wildlife areas. We believe that funds need to be available to purchase additional natural areas (from willing sellers) and to protect them for the use of the public. In the ICN handout, there appeared to be more focus on "management" and "access," rather than on protection and preservation. We believe that protection and preservation of public lands must be accomplished before either management or access can take place. Therefore, we recommend a greater ofcus in this proposal on protection and preservation, either through direct acquisition from willing sellers, or through permanent easement. For a number of natural areas already in public ownership, there have been no surveys or inventories of the plant and animal species present on the land. In other areas the surveys may have been focused on a subset of species, and these areas would benefit from additional species surveys. When we do not know what is living on a public land, we do not know how to adequately protect the area. Regarding the status of Iowa's wildlife, we believe the focus should be on protecting and improving the status of Iowa's

threatened and endangered species, and on the status of Iowa's species of population concern. The State's Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan, now called the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan and recently approved by the Department of the Interior needs to be included and given priority in the sustainable funding proposal. There are references here and there in the proposed table to "improving water quality" and "reducing soil erosion," and there appears to be an emphasis on watershed improvement efforts in the proposed table. At this stage of the process, we still do not know how effective any of those efforts are or will be. We encourage a smaller amount of funding for the watershed improvements until the effectiveness has been determined. However, we do not believe the Environmental Services side of DNR has been mentioned for funding. The ability of DNR to enforce the rules on the books could improve with funding to provide sufficient staff for enforcement and adequate pollution control. A portion of the watershed improvement funds could be designated for staff and enforcement to address water quality problems. We believe that the sustainable funds should be available to support staffing needs to care for state-owned parks, preserves and wildlife areas. Staff is not able to address threats to our public lands, including invasive species. We believe that this need should be spelled out in the funding table presented at the ICN meeting. We believe that sustainable funding will help acquire public lands for the public, will protect natural areas that are in short supply in Iowa, will support protection of species of concern and threatened and endangered species, and will assist in improving Iowa's water quality.

ICN - Des Moines	Lawrence	Malmin	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
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See attached sheet. Also bring groups together to lobby more effectively! Partner with private sector to create a new continuing revenue source! Attached sheet: PARK POINTS 1. Live within State Budget. 2. Lobby for more from current budget. 3. Lobby for User Fees. 4. Close some parks temporarily. 5. Lobby for selective tax on Sporting Goods, boats, camping equipment, use fee. 6. earn it with Fund Raisers. Sponsor Lake and River Events. "Take a Walk in the Park" Bike Rides on State Trails. Line up merchants. Hot air balloon rides over lakes, Hovercraft on Lakes, flotillas of canoes, kayaks etc. on rivers. 7. Create a New Revenue Stream. As an advocacy group, Line up businesses that donate a portion of sales in return for publicity as a good corporate partner. Suggest moving bottle returns out of supermarkets to recycling trailers at the furthest end of parking lots for drive-by bottle return and refund operated by recyclers. A few cents on products would be the least painful way to create a new funding stream for economic development and the environment plus great public relations. This would be an agreed to contribution...not a tax! (Corporate donations have been used for years to raise money for worthy causes) (more jobs = more shoppers). 8. Extending the deposit of other products like juice and sport drinks would make even more money available for research, the environment and jobs. A larger deposit would get most bottles returned and recycled. It works in Michigan. This is a voluntary way to earn what you want, create new products, new jobs, park income. A team of personable people could start the ball rolling. Get HyVee, Casey's, and Quik Trip on board and others will follow.

online	James	Nedtwig	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Comments: Iowa needed this initiative 30 years ago. Iowa needs this initiative now more than ever. Do it. Do it now! In order to move this initiative forward, Iowa must implement a moratorium on animal confinement facilities. Start funding parks. Stop facilitating CAFO's. Thank you, Jim

mail	Mary	Neubauer	Des Moines	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Thank you for the work you are doing as part of the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee. We at the Iowa Lottery believe that natural resources is an area fully deserved of support, and in fact, lottery profits in this state were dedicated to environmental programs for a time before being directed into the State General Fund, where they go today. We have concerns about a concept that we believe is being discussed by the Advisory Committee and we want to share some background about it with you. We believe the committee has discussed the idea of instituting a sales tax on lottery tickets and dedicating the revenue that would be raised to natural resources programs. It has been represented that Minnesota has instituted a sales tax on lottery tickets and dedicates the funding that is raised to natural resources. In reality, Minnesota lottery sales are not subjected to a true sales tax that raises the cost of a ticket from \$1 to for example, \$1.06. Instead, a percentage of lottery revenues are simply dedicated to specific environmental causes, but it is not through a sales tax that raises the price of a ticket. There has only been one jurisdiction that instituted a sales tax on lottery tickets that increased the cost of those tickets - and it met with disastrous results. In Saskatchewan in 1989, a 10 percent tax was imposed on all lottery sales to benefit hospital construction and subsidize medical costs. The initial drop in lottery sales was 35 percent and the entire experiment was so disastrous it was ended after four months, when the government rescinded the tax in November 1989. It took another six months for lottery sales to recover to the levels they saw before the tax was imposed. In Iowa, a 34 percent drop would mean a \$76.8 million loss in

annual lottery sales (based on FY 2006 sales figures for instant-scratch, pull-tab and lotto tickets) and an income loss to the state of nearly \$23.2 million. The effects of a sales tax that increased the cost of lottery tickets would be wide ranging beyond that: 1) Lottery instant-ticket vending machines and pull-tab ticket vending machines would have to be shut down because there is no way to tax sales at the machines and they don't give change. 2) Many Iowa Lottery players, particularly those that play the Powerball and Hot Lotto multi-state games, likely would simply decide to buy their tickets in non-taxed states. Iowa Lottery profits have helped the state in a variety of ways through the years. When legislation authorizing the Iowa Lottery was signed into law in 1985, lottery profits were earmarked for the Iowa Plan, a long-term economic development program. In 1991, lottery profits were designed for environmental and cultural programs. But after one year, all lottery proceeds were directed to the State General Fund. Most lottery revenues have continued to go to the General Fund since that time. The Lottery also provides a portion of its profits to the State Gambling Treatment Program, which administers the 1-800-BETSOFF helpline for those concerned about program gambling. In addition, lottery proceeds were used to secure financing for the Vision Iowa program. Vision Iowa was created in 2000 to provide funding for tourism attractions and school repairs in the state. Bonds for the program were issued with direct funding provided by state revenues from racetracks and casinos, with lottery revenues used as a backup over the 20 year payback period of the bonds. The Lottery is fully supportive of natural resources programs in Iowa and stands ready to discuss the possibility of dedicating a portion of lottery profits to environmental causes. It is simply the sales tax idea that is problematic and we wanted to share background about that issue with the committee. Thank you again for the important work you are doing.

ICN - Des Moines	Stacey	Olson	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Has anyone tried to tie in conservation funding with other issues such as the poor health epidemic? The more funding we have for parks/rec areas, the more opportunities to get out and be healthy and stay active. Also, money for conservation and trails will help to keep the youth engaged through conservation education and staying out of trouble. Also, a connection with Iowa's resources (natural) and heritage helps economically by getting people, especially young adults, to stay in Iowa.

online	William	Trout	Des Moines	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Oppose - Tax
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Comments: Providing public lands has been an important purpose of government in America since before the US was a country. That said funding should be adequately provided from general public revenues. NO NEW OR SPECIAL TAXES SHOULD BE LEVIED FOR PUBLIC LANDS! Legislature should be convinced that public lands and state parks are more of a priority than many other non essential programs we spend vast sums of money on.

ICN - Des Moines	John	Walkowiak	Des Moines	IA	No	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Would like to categorize natural resources fish, wildlife, natural areas changed and more clearly defined to read fish, wildlife, "forests, prairies, and wetlands." In fish, wildlife, "forests and prairies" areas needs to support funding incentives to fund community tree planting and maintenance.

ICN - Des Moines	John	Wenck	Des Moines	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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We have more than 200 low-head dams in Iowa. Most of these serve no useful purpose. Most have no signage or lack adequate signage. Dams trap sediment that creates a toxic environment for aquatic life for miles above dams. Fish migration is impeded which leads to reduced fish populations. Endangered mussel species are affected as they rely on fish migration to inhabit new areas upstream. Our rivers are gorgeous places to recreate and achieve peace of mind. It's sad that these man-made structures negatively impact our environment as well as threaten the lives of those who recreate on or near our rivers.

mail	Franchesca	Zenitsky	Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
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I agree that legislation would be key in keeping funding no matter what the source. I'd like to see the following options on the table for evaluation: 1) Sales tax increase; 2) gambling revenues; 3) imposing fees/taxes on those industries most responsible for degrading Iowa's environment, such as ethanol plants and livestock production; 4) Increasing license plate fees for all plates, not only natural resource plates that are already supporting conservation efforts.

online	Tauke	Paul	Desoto	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Comments: All Iowans, present and future, reap the benefits of wise conservation and utilization of our natural resources; all Iowans must also shoulder the responsibility for their care, maintenance, and stewardship. For to

<p>long we have mined our natural resources. We have reaped what we did sow and we have gathered where we did not plant. Now is the time for all lowans to rise up to the to challenge of our Creator to be stewards of our natural resources, now is the time for all lowans to be sowers of a seed that will ensure a bounty of natural resources that can be utilized and enjoyed for many many generations to come. Now is the the time for all lowans to invest in brighter natural resource future. Now is the time for all lowans to invest in soil conservation, quality water, healthy forests, expanded prairies and increased recreational opportunities. Now is the time to support and protect a dedicated source of funding to address natural resource management in the State of Iowa.</p>							
online	Jeff	Prier	Dickens	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I think it is imperative for Iowa to develop a sustainable funding source for the development and protection of the states natural resources. During a recent pheasant outing there was 12 different individuals (4 groups) on DU Marsh, which is 1/2 wetland 1/2 upland. The state acquired more land for this public area, but it isn't developed yet. In this part of the state there is a "good" amount of public land, but it gets trampled with hunters. Out of state hunters comprise the most of the persons on the land. Sustainable funding to purchase more land and improve habitat on current lands will help draw more out of states to Iowa. The parks in Iowa are in need of major repair. I worked in parks for several years and the laundry list of repairs and improves exceeded what was able to be repaired. I also worked at the Fairport Fish Hatchery. The infrastructure at this facility is crumbling around the fish. It becomes a bigger struggle ever year. A new facility in the central part of the state would be a tremendous improvement to the promotion of fishing in Iowa. It is tough and "dangerous" to be shipping zebra mussle water to other inland waters of the state!!</p>							
ICN - Dubuque	Bob	O'Connell	Dubuque	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Find some way to assess the bio-diesel and ethanol plants for a consistent and continuing source of money.</p>							
online	Christie	Trifone	Dubuque	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: If lowans were informed about the amount they are currently contributing, the reasons why more is needed and how they can help, I think you would be surprised by the reaction. If given the option, lowans would contribute more to the cause.</p>							
online	Charles	Winterwood	Dubuque	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: Of the 4 suggested funding options I feel only a dedicated sales tax could provide \$150 million/year alone. The other 3 would have to be used in combination to come up with \$150 million/year</p>							
ICN - Waterloo	Al	Schafbuch	Dysart	IA	No	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>REAP is spending to much money on buying land. Need to use more for parks. Other areas, city's parks, historical and conservation need a bigger share of REAP fund. REAP could fund more projects working with landowners and not buying land that is taken off tax rolls of county. Need to change REAP formula to achieve this. Change the residential roll back so the homeowner pays his share and not bigger amount on business.</p>							
online	Mike	Griggs	Early	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I think it is a tragedy that Iowa's natural resources have been allowed to enter a period of little or no financial funding. We as citizens should do everything in our power to maintain our natural resources for future generations. Let's give these resources the support they require. From the Loss Hills to the Mississippi River Valley our resources have been allowed to deteriorate. It's a disgrace to be known has the largest polluter of the Gulf. We are more than willing to take our tourist income in the millions but then fail to reinvest it in what brought our visitors here in the first place. REAP monies should go to our natural resources 100%.</p>							
ICN - Bettendorf	John	Miller	Eldridge	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>(no written comment)</p>							
online	Larry	Stone	Elkader	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: I strongly support some sort of sustainable funding, and I believe lowans would be willing to tax themselves to support natural resources if the options and benefits are presented clearly. A desginated portion of the sales tax - such as has been so successful in Missouri - seems most attractive. But we should be willing to</p>							

consider a number of alternatives. It is important to work with the business and farm communities to get their support to promote sustainable funding. I think these groups WOULD support it, if we make the strong case for the benefits to our people and our economy from natural resources, and if we show farmers how resource protection is to their long-term advantage. We need to continue the push for sustainable funding and not delay. We have momentum from the study, and from fresh people and ideas in the new legislature. Let's do it SOON!							
online	Maureen	Reeves - Horsley	Emmetsburg	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: Dear Committee: I applaud the committee and staff for their work to identify mechanisms to assist in provide stable funding sources to support and sustain natural resource funding. I am a health care provider, extremely interested in outdoors (all categories - of fish, wildlife, natural areas, soil and water and parks and trails). I suggest we investigate and designate a portion of CIGARETTE and ALCOHOL taxes toward conservation. In my opinion, a fraction of one percentage of state taxes would also be a very viable funding source. Another possible option would be large livestock operations (CORPORATE FARMS) should have additional CHARGE or taxes designated toward water conservation efforts. (IN ADDITION to paying a fine and CLEAN UP Expenses for spills, errors in applications, etc.etc.) THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND EFFORTS to keep our out of doors and soil, water and natural resources CLEAN and perserved for future generations! Sincerely, Maureen Reeves Horsley RN/MS/Iowa Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lost Island Nature Center Foundation Board Member							
online	Paul	Dill	Encinitas	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Please, find funding for developing a park on Missouri River Frontage on our farm in Mills County. We are interested in forming a conservation easement of IDNR.							
ICN - Waterloo	Susan	West	Fairbank	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Support - tax
We mustn't give up our natural resources for economic development. Funding for development, restoration, maintenance, and enforcement of protection of our natural resources is desperately needed; Iowa has the dirtiest water in the nation. Sustainability by whatever means be it tax dollars, constitutional amendment, or other means is the only way Iowa is going to attract people and families instead of foreign investors. The idea of taxing those entities .i.e. ethanol plants, CAFO/AFDs which are major users/abusers of our natural resources is good; it would provide \$\$ and discourage their activities. Natural resources are our right, not just a privilege.							
online	Todd	Farland	Forest City	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I am in support of sustainable funding. Iowa is toward the bottom of the list for public recreation areas. We need the funds to improve the areas we have to make them more attractive and increase use.							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Doug	Janke	Fort Dodge	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
\$150 million is meager. I recommend starting higher assuming too that this figure increases annually or every 5 years due to inflationary increases reflected in growth of sales (sales tax). I agree we need to reconnect people with the environment- facilities and open spaces need to be coupled with outdoor programs that draw kids and family out into the environment.							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Katie	Jones	Fort Dodge	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Would want to ensure that funding is evenly & adequately dispensed across the state through competitive grant processes. Also, we need to include municipalities, namely parks and rec organizations, as recipients of these monies.							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Karen	Roosa Hansen	Fort Dodge	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Accountability from ALL citizens seems to make the most sense since ALL of us use the resources. Sales Tax. Education is key to making this work. Will the committee have promotional media like DVD and brochures when the need comes up?							
online	Brett	Van Waus	Fort Dodge	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: A couple different people mentioned this at the forum, but I agree that we need to aggressively							

promote whatever action the committee and legislature decides to take. While most of us attending last night are concerned and know the value of Iowa's natural resources, there are many citizens in the state who do not give these things more than a passing thought. We need to saturate radio, magazines, and possibly television to let the people of Iowa know that natural resources affect EVERYONE'S quality of life here. I work for two outdoor magazines in Fort Dodge, and I can say that I will do everything in my power to get the word out about supporting funding for Iowa's natural resources. One suggestion I would give is to give some kind of tax break or some incentive for any magazine, radio station, TV station, newspaper, etc. who helps promote whichever method the committee and the legislature decide to take. The media is a powerful tool that Iowa's natural resources have yet to fully tap. When promoting, I would also advise that we promote the wide diversity of outdoor activities available in the state, from the Loess Hills unique area to our many navigable rivers and streams to our world-class hunting and fishing to our great trail systems (and I realize I have not even scratched the surface of all the great things we have here). These are the types of things that can unite all of us both profit and nonprofit, even competing businesses, who are concerned no matter how we use the natural resources.

ICN - Mason City	Tim	Ackerman	Garner	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
1. Good Work. 2. I support increasing the allotment of gambling revenue to the Environment First Fund. 3. I agreed with the comment that we should seek legislation to tap into a share of existing sales taxes while ultimately striving for a constitutional amendment. 4. I agree with multiple comments on the need to promote and market this program. 5. I would like more information regarding how tax incentives and credits can be used to generate additional revenue.							
online	John	Sells	Granville	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I believe that sustainable funding for our natural resources is long overdue and support the committee's work totally.							
ICN - Waterloo	Mike	Schmitz	Greeley	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Now is the time to move the State of Iowa up from the bottom of the barrel. When it comes to outdoor access for hunting, fishing, etc. being the Iowa doesn't have BLM, walk-in access, Federal lands, etc. we need a program like this to open the state up for these opportunities. We need to work in a united force among the many gov. and wildlife organizations to see this through. The best way I personally see is through a sales tax funding method. Iowa State Pheasant Forever President and an Iowan							
online	Bill	Menner	Grinnell	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: As chairman of the Iowa Great Places citizen advisory board, I have had the opportunity during the past two years to visit dozens of Iowa communities with a vision for their future. In a vast majority of those communities, there is a trail component to their future. For these communities, the funding options for these trail projects are limited. The state's recreational trail fund is too small to handle all of the requests it receives, and federal enhancement dollars are also insufficient. It will take a major commitment by the state to assist these communities with this next, great transportation infrastructure. A \$1.5 billion source for parks, projects and trails would be a great start.							
online	Larissa	Mottl	Grinnell	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Thanks for providing the information to date through the committee meeting minutes.							
online	Jean	Perri	Grinnell	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: If we do indeed value unpolluted air and water, we must increase funding by 20%. we need millions of dollars and good programs and incentives to realize a cleaner and healthier Iowa.							
online	Russell	Tabbert	Grinnell	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Yes, a steady, dependable source for supporting Iowa's natural resources is a high priority. It should be targeted not just to infrastructure but also to actually managing the resources.							
online	Whitney	Worley	Grinnell	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned -

							tax
Comments: I would happily work in the Grinnell area to organize various Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Trees Forever Members, Grinnell College Students, etc. to volunteer.							
ICN - Mason City	Dennis	Carlson	Hampton	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
The key to all of these priorities is education. Adults and youth. A resource is only important if it is valued by the people. We need to get the people into the out of doors.							
online	Charlene	Elyea	Hartley	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Natural resources are the basis for all that we have in Iowa. They are the building blocks for what we eat, wear, and use daily. They also improve our quality of life by providing areas to recreate, exercise, relax and enjoy. "Hit and miss" funding will not insure that we will have these resources in the future. By taking part in educational and recreational experiences in the outdoors people learn to care about our natural resources and make better choices in the future to protect them. I encourage support of a sustainable fund which will allow people to enjoy and protect the natural resources in this state!							
online	Miriam	Patton	Hartley	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: The process so far seems to be well thought out and inclusive of many interest groups. I was disappointed at the lack of resource professionals attending the ICN meetings- DNR, NRCS and CCB, etc. The usual people were there. I am embarrassed for those not present and only hope that they are providing written input. Future funding will affect what our agencies can/cannot accomplish down the road. How do we get more people who are in the field involved? If they don't care, how can we expect legislators and the public to care? Those who were present made some great comments. The funding must be constitutionally protected. How it is used must be decided by professionals in the field, not by legislators. These funds must be new money, not replacement of other existing programs. My first inclination is to go for a small percentage of the sales tax, but several other ideas shared look interesting...I think it is important to earmark some of the funds for publicity and marketing of Iowa's natural resources. Other states around us do this well, and we need to step it up. We need to "sell" the benefits of our natural resources to the public, both in and out of state. This includes printed material, TV, radio and educational programming. Other priorities should be park infrastructure, trails, water quality issues, inventory and research. I also liked the idea of more enforcement money regarding soil and water conservation practices. Thanks to the committee for all of your hard work! Keep us up to date, and let us know how we can promote, educate on this funding proposal.							
online	Abbie	Meyer	Hastings	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: Absolutely - Missouri seems to have a good system of funding natural resources, perhaps we could follow their lead. I would be in favor of a gas tax to simultaneously provide funding for conservation while providing a disincentive for fuel usage.							
ICN - Council Bluffs	Abbie	Meyer	Hastings	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
REAP needs to be more selective about projects approved, lots of dollars seem to go towards projects only slightly related to resource conservation. Incentives for good conservation a great idea. All conservation practices cost \$, it is a sad world that private landowners have to be at least slightly and independently wealthy to afford to be good conservationists. Disincentives and penalties as preventive measures for bad conservation, manure spills, air pollution, soil erosion from development, etc.							
online	Tina	Popson	Honey Creek	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I am the Program Manager for Pottawattamie County Conservation. Kudos to the committee for all of their hard work to date. I attended the meeting on the 9th in Council Bluffs and, inspired by the comments and support I witnessed, I wanted to offer my thoughts as well. While I see educational programming aspects listed as belonging to all three main categories, I would emphasize that this component not be overlooked nor forgotten. I would argue that education is the most important variable in our natural resources future. As an environmental educator, it is my responsibility to in essence "grow" future generations so they are literate about the natural world in which they live. The kids we teach today will be the voting citizens of tomorrow and the more they know about natural resources, the better off the entire environment will be. I realize education isn't as sexy as recreational aspects might be to some, but without quality and committed environmental education in Iowa, we are contributing to Nature-Deficit Disorder and its many health detriments such as higher rates of obesity and ADHD.							

Research has shown that positive interactions with the natural environment are an important part of healthy child development and can enhance learning and the quality of life over the span of one's lifetime. I applaud your efforts thus far and look forward to positive progress in the future. Thanks for your time.

ICN - Waterloo	James W.	Weissenfluh	Hudson	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Education.

mail (standard form not used)	Charli Jean	Adams	Humboldt	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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This is on your proposal for \$1.5 billion for your DNR proposal. The DNR is already buying too much land as it is, and it is not good to be "keeping up with the Joneses" in being like the other states who have in many instances, up to 90% and more of public land ownership. This is really a proposal that would be detrimental to individual creation and initiatives and opportunities in the environmental and nature area. It not good for the state to own most or all the natural lands, for there are ones like me, for one, that would really like to have her own area to plant and create in nature on. Many say that the state already owns too much land is it as, for there are parts of the state they own tons of land. I would like to see where the people own the land, maybe with an easement to the state for keeping it natural, but somehow they don't like to work with individuals, other that the individuals would be limited merely to giving the state so they can "do it for us." And if we would go there and work and create there ourselves, their agents would arrest us and fine us, for to be able to manage it "as our own" they wouldn't like that, for they just want to control it, as they have said in the past, and if it is like a ball game, they want the ball and all the player positions to themselves on more and more area, and we people can only just watch them do it for us. We are limited to passive presences, for we can't "arrange and rearrange the furniture" there. There should be a moratorium on state land purchases, for now, they have "money coming out their ears" as other would say to me on this land purchasing subject. As long as there is private land, the state will be wanting to acquire land, until there is no more (at least rural land, anyway, for some environmentalists, conservationists would want the people to be cities on a small lot and just go passive presence to the rural areas) private land for the state to acquire. I like to have areas of my own to start prairie or woodland or other natural areas, and when the state is in the land market so much, then there is nothing for me to buy for my interests, so my interests have to die. I can only "work" for the state, or "give to the state" and that not interesting to me, and to work for anyone, the autism in me means that my inabilities to socially interact, I cannot work for them, and just like a renter, not many would be inclined to plant or improve or create or make anything there, and it not good for the state to own it all, every tree, every flower, etc. anyway. Nothing feels good like someone being able to really own or be part of it, and in many states, there is no much of the land publicly owned, I couldn't even move there, unless i'm just a vegetable in some apartment in some city there, and that wouldn't be good, and a lack of place to "be myself" and create naturally, I just couldn't pursue any interests at all. With some easement that the state would manage, instead of outright public ownership, like some "adoptapark or adoptanaturearea" where the people withing that area would own it and manage it subject to the natural preservation easement, then the individual would be able to really be a part of it, as opposed to the State just outright owning it themselves and they have all the player positions in the game and they play the game themselves, including us. As it is with their current desires to own more and more of the land, thus driving up prices of land and excluding many of us from having any, and they want to own more and more, without being a limit on how much they acquire, and they want to "keep up with the Joneses" and be like the adjacent States and other States where there is up to 90% public land ownership (and most of the people have to be crowded into cities).....Iowa shouldn't be going that way, and with billion \$ they will go into a land acquisition frenzy at the expense of the private sector. And the little perks that they do now give to individuals, like property tax exemption on forest lands and private lands, those will vanish as then the State will own so much of the land and they will play all the parts of the game, so no more need for any private individuals playing any of the game, like now where there is forest tax exemption...it will all be a state-run ballgame. There are individuals like me who would preserve and create, not every private one is who would destroy it. As it reads, "preservation" means the public ownership of it, "preservation" is not for the private sector. And then this big land buyout...the state gets greedy for more land...that puts those individuals who would like to preserve and plant and create nature at a disadvantage where they no longer can play the game, for the state plays all the game themselves. The state "plays the game for us" as it goes really, for they like to exclude us, except that we just "give to them to do it for us." Somehow, the state officials feel individuals can't preserve, or create or "play the game fairly or good" so they want to get control of the land to themselves, so they can "play the game for us." I would be in favor of some kind of easement on the forests, praries and other nature lands that would preserve it and still keep it natural, like some "adoptanaturearea" and it would also teach the ones who own it the ways of nature, for there may be many of us who would preserve and not destroy, and not

<p>farm it or develop it or whatever. If the state owns it all and plays the game for themselves and limits us to merely passive presence, then we just don't learn or care how nature goes, for they own it, and we don't get to play it at all. So hopefully there are others who would comment on this this way, or they didn't write in or comment, but the state already is acquiring too much land, land that should be owned and managed (it is good nature education for a person to be a real or active part of it, anyway, as opposed to merely a passive and really not part of it).....by people themselves, not by some officials or bureaucracy. Hunting, fishing, etc. since there are now so many costs and regulations, etc. and more etc. on that, I just let the state do all that for me, that is safer for me, for I couldn't keep track of all the laws and regs and etc. I would just get fined and in trouble and etc. so it easier to let them do it for me, and I don't want the planting and creating and other outdoor nature to go that way like it would when they acquire the land . Charli Jean Adams, Humboldt, Iowa (additional comments after close of letter): The land would be owned by people and easement would be open to public use at some which would be allowing best win/win situation and people could (word illegible) have opportunity to own and be a part of it.</p>							
online	Sondra	Cabell	Independence	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I think the committee has done some great work, is representative of diverse groups and will not be just a committee whose work is disregarded. Iowa needs to invest more in protecting its natural resources and a reliable source of funding would go a long way to endure that this happens. In addition, I think that providing some of this funding to education is vital - we cannot hope to have a supportive public if they have not learned about and experienced the importance of their natural resources.</p>							
ICN - Des Moines	Randy	Edwards	Indianola	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Also consider: funding water trails (paddlesports) and signage; funding construction and development of public shooting ranges; funding for purchase of more land by Iowa DNR and County Conservation Boards; funding for professional caliber marketing and promotion of our natural resources and recreational opportunities. Congratulations and thank you to the committee!</p>							
mail	Daryl	Howell	Indianola	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Good progress; continue contacting groups for additional public input. A portion of the funding should be used for: Inventories of plant and animal species and communities, public and private lands. This will help determine the status of species to determine listing and delisting priorities. Improved natural resource management of public lands, both staff and equipment are needed. Increase work with private landowners to provide guidance and cost-share for natural resource management. Expand monitoring programs to determine the which management systems are producing the desired conditions. Funding Source: Either from Lottery Funds or a portion of state sales tax.</p>							
online	Richard	Trieff	Indianola	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I whole-heartedly agree with this effort. I have qualms about REAP. A permanent source of funding would be more acceptable if REAP were to be phased out. I will not argue that the monies utilized have done some good. But REAP has been underfunded and there are two many diverse groups with their fingers in the pot, Some of these groups are just too much of a reach to be considered relevant as resources that need to be enhanced and protected. This dilutes funding of real conservation focused objectives.</p>							
online	Richard	Trieff	Indianola	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: The most successful conservation funding policy in place are all of the taxes on natural resource users - hunters, fishers, trappers. These sportsmen seem to embrace the taxes placed on them for the purposes of protecting the resource that they love. I believe that it is a mistake to discard the concept of placing taxes on other "users" of our natural resources. Sportsmen provide diligent and active interest (and oversight) for how their tax dollars are spent. It would be nice if "non game users" could also be thus enfranchised. That would create a constituency that would have an incentive to make sure that their tax dollars are being utilized wisely. I am a bird wathcer and believe that it would be apropos to tax my activites and goods to protect and enhance and expand wetlands and prairies. I get a thrill out of seeing an osprey, but come on now! This is not a native species and the monies and other resources allocated to this kind of effort are not well utilized!</p>							
mail (standard form not used)	Richard	Trieff	Indianola	IA	unknown	Support - general	Support - tax

I am a resident of Indianola, Iowa and am currently a member of the National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, American Bird Conservancy, and other conservation organizations as well. I am employed at Des Moines Area Community College where I have taught Principles of Economics classes for the last 21 years. For what it is worth I am also a Certified Financial Planner CFP for over ten years. None of this is of any consequence except to identify myself as a conservation-minded citizen as well as one who is sensitive to business and financial considerations. Please count me as a supporter of the initiative for developing a sustainable source of funding for 1) wildlife and nature areas; 2) soil and water; and 3) parks and trails. Please note that fish in 1) is noticeably absent. The state already has a source of funding for fishing resources via fishing licenses. I believe that natural areas would include rivers and wetlands, which should be supported by this initiative. If fishing is an ancillary beneficiary of funding for wetlands and rivers then so be it. However "fish" does not belong as a focal point for this initiative. The appropriate model for supporting such an effort is provided by the fees and taxes placed on the activities of sportsmen including hunters, fishers, and trappers. Conservation and natural resource protection in Iowa has largely been the result of the financial support from sportsmen. This is the model that should be the basis for sustainable funding for the three pronged initiative as well. Having those who benefit from resources pay the price for their protection creates a strong consistency that will provide oversight and reign in potential bureaucratic excess of the DNR. I am not denigrating the DNR. However anyone who has ever been exposed to a bureaucratic structure, either public sector or private sector, recognizes the nature and impetus of bureaucracies that are not kept in check. An excellent illustration of this is REAP. It has been continuously under funded and the cash outlays are so widely disbursed I doubt that anyone has a good fix on what portion of the funds actually support resource protection and enhancement. If the sustainable funding initiative is successful it should coincide with the elimination of REAP! The new look of the state legislature promises to address minimum wage and teachers pay in Iowa. This conservation initiative shall just be one of many worthwhile spending programs that shall be queued up with hands out. On that basis I have serious concerns about any funding source that is not based upon non sportsmen users as the source of funding. Sportsmen continuously show a willingness to pay fees to protect the resources they cherish. Groups who are willing to tax themselves to support a program may be more able to garner legislative support for it. I have doubts that an increase in the general sales tax to fund this program has much chance of success. Also during difficult economic times it would be too easy of a target as a source of revenue for meeting budgetary requirements. Targeting the recreational goods and services purchased by non sportsmen such as birders, bicyclists, campers, boaters, kayakers, photographers, bird feeders, hikers, et al for a specific tax seems reasonable to me. However, the committee seems to have rejected this course of action out of hand. My review of the meeting transcripts did not provide me any sort of practical or philosophical reason for this. There may be good reasons why such excise taxes are not a good idea. But I do not know what they are. Another source of funding maybe a surcharge on all transportation registrations: automobiles, trucks, watercraft of all sorts, bicycles, and motorcycles. My favorite is requiring all users of public land in Iowa to purchase the habitat stamp that sportsmen in the state are required to buy. Perhaps stamps could be segregated between sportsmen and non sportsmen natural resource users. It would be appropriate if funds thus raised were earmarked, along with "Chickadee Check-off" funds and the funds from Iowa's conservation license plates, for non hunting, non fishing, and non trapping resource enhancement and protection. A very appropriate sources for taxation may not be at present efficacious. Agricultural industry and homeowners spend a substantial amount of money on chemicals to kill some plants and insects and to feed others. This is an important source for the sad State of Iowa's waters today. A stiff tax on these commodities would serve to raise funds as well as encourage more appropriate usage. A tax on internet sales, while not in the spirit of benefits-received taxation, is long overdue and would be an important source of revenue for government programs.

online	Ryan	Asman	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I agree with Iowa's need for greater funding towards conservation efforts, as well as the need for a sustainable funding mechanism. I look forward to seeing what the committee comes up with as mechanisms.							
mail (standard form not used)	Terry	Dahms	Iowa City	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax

I am pleased to see this recommendation for sustainable funding for our natural resources. I attended the ICN video conferencing forum on November 9 here in Iowa City. I noticed on one of Rich Leopold's slides that the REAP program was being included in this new funding. I've been involved with the REAP program for many years, and very disappointed that REAP has never been funded at its authorized limit. It seems to me this new program is really a 'super REAP.' Funding for recreational trails has been incredibly under-funded since the inception of the State Recreational Trail Fund. I just learned today that the \$2mm dollar allocation has already

been used. Although I agree with your goals, I have very serious concerns about your four 'mechanisms' for viable funding. I don't believe they are viable! Your first source, gaming/gambling revenue, is on everyone's list. You will have to stand in line behind your own state government, which has become addicted to this revenue stream, and increasingly local/county governments, who are looking at the casinos to pay a fair share of the societal costs the casinos have created. I will say that of all of the mechanisms, this one has the most chance of being implemented. Casinos look like an easy target, but I would expect very strong opposition. A sales tax increase is not going to happen. First of all, most communities have already opted a local option tax to pay for our schools because of inadequate state funding and unfunded mandates, such as No Child Left Behind. The sales tax, already a regressive tax, is not going to be raised above ^% nor are new options for its distribution going to be considered. The Missouri sales tax is a successful model. However, it was approved before Iowa municipalities started adding local option sales taxes. I suggest you look at completely new sources of funding that do not involve new taxes. My first suggestion would be to seek an increase in the so-called bottle bill to 10 cents. The bottle bill has not changed since its inception over 25 years ago. It is due for an overhaul. In the last 5 years we've seen a huge increase in all sort of bottled beverages, while the increase in sales of sodas is virtually flat. For example, sales of energy drinks have soared about 65%. Other bottled teas and coffees have all increased about 15%. Bottled water is increasing at least 6% every year. None of these drinks pay even 5 cents. It's time to bring the bottle bill into alignment with the current proliferation of bottled drinks. It's the water, coffee, juice, and even plastic milk containers that now litter our streets and parks. Give the vendors more to invest in automatic redemption machines, as HyVee has done here in Iowa City. And take 1 to 2 cents for super REAP! This is a win/win/win because it also benefits those who pick up the discarded bottles and cans. I also suggest you look at some sort of extraction fee or royalty for extraction of large amounts of water from our aquifers. The current status does not make sense nor is it probably sustainable for the long term. Why should anyone be able to sink a well on their property and extract large amounts of water for no cost? The only cost is the initial cost of the well and the electricity to run the pumps. If the well extracted oil or natural gas, it would not be free! I think we should not think of our water supply as being infinite. We should have learned this lesson from the long list of resources, such as timber, prairie, our soil, that we have already depleted or are depleting at alarming rates. The amount of water used by industries such as packing plants, some manufacturers, and ethanol plants, would alarm us if we knew the scope of their usage. Much of this water is contaminated and then discharged still containing some level of pollutants into our streams. I understand the devil is in the details, but you could do a great service to our state if you began to address this issue of free use of our water resources. I might add that there are alternatives for most energy sources. I don't know of an alternative for clean water. I look forward to hearing how you proceed.

online	Caroline	Dieterle	Iowa City	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Support - tax
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Comments: I was unable to attend the meeting in Iowa City and hope that someone has made the suggestion to adopt the Missouri method - earmarking a fraction of a penny of the state sales tax for Sustainable Funding for environmental efforts

online	Fred	Meyer	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Comments: Please consider using the numerous Iowa grassroots environmental groups as an inexpensive method to spread the word about the value of funding our natural areas. As you know, education of the public is a major part of ensuring funding stays consistent and strong. Hundreds of small grassroots environmental organizations and campaigns exist across the state. These were created from pure will and a passion to protect and enhance our natural areas. Leverage that passion by reaching out to all these groups and ask them to help educate the public about the value of natural areas. At a minimum, give them brochures to hand out at their events; at a maximum, start a public awareness campaign and ask them to join it. This summer I started the Backyard Abundance campaign (<http://www.BackyardAbundance.org>) in Iowa City to help educate the public about the value of land. Its first event—a tour of six ecologically-friendly yards—was extremely successful with over 400 residents attending and coverage by two television stations and three newspapers. I plan to expand the campaign next year and would sincerely like to show each attendee the value provided by funding our natural areas. I am certain other environmental groups would do the same. Thank you for all that you do. Sincerely, Fred Meyer, Backyard Abundance Campaign Director Environmental Advocates Board Member Johnson County Master Gardener Board Member, Certified Permaculturalist, Master Conservationist

ICN - Iowa City	Kelley	Putman	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
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A healthy environment is imperative for a healthy populace. I support both a water-use tax and a water extraction tax. We are quickly losing our biodiversity which if lost may not be recoverable. A balanced and healthy ecosystem depends on diversity not the monocultures which are often implemented in the name of restoration. A

budget of \$150 million is really not enough considering all the areas this group is considering.							
mail (standard form not used) duplicate - also rec'd as em	Susan	Salterberg	Iowa City	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Tax incentives/credits for conservation and all other funding possibilities: agree. How about adding air to "soil and water" on the NR table? Keep people in Iowa. Does solid and hazardous waste fit into this group? Polluter pays: I like that (hog confinement was an example if not too volatile). For incentives/disincentives. Sales tax makes sense too. I agree that enforcement needs to receive \$ and education to ensure citizens understand reasons for enforcement. Proactive. Remember climbing as a recreation opportunity. Ck into the extra money from unreturned bottles. Distributors collect it - and it's not lots of money, but maybe 2M...							
online	Jill	Tompkins	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: Please look at the state park system in Iowa. When compared to Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota the state parks in Iowa are at the bottom. Please research Missouri in particular. I believe their funding comes from a percentage of their sales tax. The people of Iowa deserve better.							
mail	Terry	Trueblood	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I commend the committee for the progress to date. My request is that you keep in mind the important role played by local parks and recreations departments. I know they are part of the proposed program; I just want to emphasize that they need to stay in a prominent position as you progress. In Iowa City, for example, in recent years there has been much emphasis on natural areas and trails. We now have over 1700 acres of city-owned parkland, and over 700 acres of this has been designated as "natural." We also now own/maintain over 30 miles of trails. We also work with neighboring communities (Coralville, North Liberty, Tiffin, and Johnson County) to work towards connecting trails. I think you will find this to be a trend throughout the state . . . cities working with other cities, counties, and the state to protect, preserve and develop facilities and together, especially with regard to conservation and trail efforts. On another note, I have had the privilege of serving on the National Gold Medal Awards Committee the past three years. Every other year there is a state category; I have reviewed applications of outstanding DNR/State Parks Departments. I hope that Iowa will one day be in a position to compete for one of these awards.							
online	James	Urban	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: The "Chickadee Checkoff" could be greatly enhanced with a name change, as well as, a request for a greater \$ amount. Example that would work is "Cents for Conservation" requesting a "cent a day", that is, \$3.65 per year from each contributor. A name change would hopefully attract more donors and the increase in donation amount would immediately provide generate more funds, even if, no more contributors are gained.							
ICN - Iowa City	Jim	Urban	Iowa City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Raise or allow chickadee checkoff to be more than \$1 say maximum perhaps \$5 or better yet, \$3.65, a cent-a-day.							
online	Chuck	Offenburger	Jefferson	IA	Yes	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: An impressive network of recreational trails has been developed in Iowa over the past 20 years, thanks mainly to the work of non-profits and the county conservation boards. The State of Iowa did not get much involved in trail development until recent years. But state government needs to play a larger role in the years ahead, in two key areas: 1) assisting financially with resurfacing and maintenance of the trails network, as the costs of major maintenance are so substantial that they are beyond the capacity of most county conservation boards, 2) developing connections between the major trails, where such connections make good sense for enhancement of tourism and economic development. There is special urgency now in resurfacing many of the asphalt and concrete trails, as many are now 12 to 15 years old, and that exceeds the life expectancy of most of the surfaces. An example of that in need of major assistance immediately is the Guthrie county portion of our							

beautiful Raccoon River Valley Trail in west central Iowa. But Iowa now needs to make substantial reinvestment statewide in this trail system, which in turn will have a very positive impact on public health, recreation and tourism. Thanks for considering!							
online	Virginia	Soelberg	Johnston	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Sustainable Funding for the Natural Resources of Iowa is long overdue. I fully support the committee's efforts to secure this support. Iowa's landscape has been drastically altered, and we need to protect and effectively manage the natural areas that remain. The prairie remnants in the Loess Hills are there, but quickly disappearing. River corridors support much of the remaining wildlife in Iowa in the wild riparian areas, and they provide unique outdoor recreation. However, the water quality needs serious attention and a concerted effort (this means money) to improve. Sustainable funding (and many feel this will require a constitutional amendment) is essential to reduce the political pressure from monied corporate lobbyists to undermine environmental efforts.							
ICN - Des Moines	Virginia	Soelberg	Johnston	IA	yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I fully support sustainable funding for natural resources. Much of Iowa's landscape is altered, but there are remnants of prairie, river corridor, and other precious natural areas that will disappear soon if they are not acquired and protected. Management is another key to restoration. Water quality is one of the most important areas to focus on.							
ICN - Waterloo	Mark	Bohner	LeMars	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Support - tax
Funding source, best 1/4 of 1% tax similar to Missouri (legislator proof). For soil and water conservation \$ target them to specific sites that will get most bang for your buck. Buffers in flat areas don't do much good. Also, protect highly erodible land on farms, not putting entire farms in programs. Need more hands-on outreach to educate farms and cities on what they can do to improve water quality. Another small funding program should be special tax on purchase of items related to outdoors like bird seed, cameras similar to tax on hunting related items (duck stamps). Double bottle tax to help promote conservation and keep business that will process cans and bottles.							
ICN - Sioux City	Greg	Marek	LeMars	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I support the increase in funding for all conservation and environmental programs. I especially support the increase in conservation funds for soil and water conservation practices on private lands. In order to have the biggest impact on water quality in the state, we must provide better incentives for private citizens to adopt the practices that result in improved water quality.							
ICN - Sioux City	Victoria	Shamblen	LeMars	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Education is vital. Water trails need representation. We need to sell this to citizens. Get people involved and in touch with the land. Give citizens ownership and they will be less likely to destroy and more likely to support.							
ICN - Sioux City	Nicky	Williams	LeMars	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Good work so far. Check into organizations that have data to support your efforts. NW Iowa is doing an NRCS sanctioned/funded Rapid Watershed Assessment on the Lower Big Sioux - possible location of future 319 funds. I'm sure that are more projects out there.							
ICN - Bettendorf	K J	Rebarcak	Long Grove	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
*Please fund the removal of low-head dams, and signage to warn of existing ones! *Water trails are very important. Iowa has many miles of beautiful rivers: good for tourism, good for raising public awareness of natural resources. *Bottle bill needs revision to include energy drinks, water, juice, tea, etc. *Sales tax is a bad idea, regressive, and puts burden on low-income people disproportionately. *Creation of jobs in Iowa for college students is very important? We care, and we want to work here and help Iowa's environment! *Continue to work on improving water quality.							
online	Mark	Edwards	Madrid	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned -

							tax
Comments: A job well done by committee members. Good investigative research of other states and programs.							
ICN - Des Moines	Mark	Edwards	Madrid	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Our livelihood and future is directly dependent on our natural resources; therefore, funding for our natural resources should come directly off the top from General Funds before anything else. We don't need a piece of the pie, the pie is the natural resources.							
ICN - Waterloo	Brent	Miller	Manchester	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Please fully fund REAP. We shouldn't have to fight for money to protect an environment that supports us. Also please don't forget about education because most people don't really support something they don't understand or realize the problems facing us in the future if something isn't done.							
ICN - Waterloo	Joel	Reinert	Manchester	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
We need more funding!!							
ICN - Waterloo	Chuck	Ungs	Manchester	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Well organized process and presentation. Need to let us know what we can do to facilitate the whole process out here at the grass-roots level. Push for permanent solutions and also for more than a 10-year process.							
online	Arabella	Tubbs	Maquoketa	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Pleased to see editorial on Nov.6th. We started Pleased to see editorial on Nov. 6th. Our Friends Group at Maquoketa Caves State park (started two years ago) certainly identify the need for sustainable funding. Not enough for staffing, maintenance and improvements, and we are doing what we can to generate income to put back into the Park.							
mail	Roger	Anderson	Marengo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I think another statewide public meeting should be held so the public would have another chance to see what comments from the Nov. 9 meetings will be incorporated into the final report.							
mail	Dennis	Goemaat	Marion	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
The committee has done great work to date and I fully support their efforts. I believe that a water extraction fee/surcharge is a viable funding source for natural resources. The fee could easily be assessed by municipal and rural water systems on a per-gallon basis. The per-gallon fee could be very small and still collect a significant amount of money. This mechanism also meets the committee's "user pays" requirement. Everyone needs clean water and the more you use the more you would pay. A little creativity may be needed for private wells, but licensed well drillers drill most of these, so they could be tracked. An estimated annual rate could be attached to them. Private wells could be billed as part of filing income taxes or included in property tax payments. This funding mechanism would highlight the importance of clean water and give everyone a stake in helping keep it pure. This funding mechanism could also promote water conservation in a small way.							
ICN - Mason City	John	Groninga	Mason City	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Support - tax
1. Gambling revenues-"Many mouths to feed" not enough money. 2. Tax on lottery tickets unworkable. Pay \$1.01?? Not likely. Contain tax within the dollar? Reduces lottery revenue. 3. Incentives/credit for conservation-How would this work? 4. Only truly viable source large enough is sales tax. \$150M/yr = what? 1/2 cent? To make reasonable decisions we all need to know how much money these varied sources would generate. How much are we losing out on from the federal gov't because we can't make enough match money available? If the intent of the program is to maintain current programs to use the money more efficiently, those programs as well as their purposes must be part of the "goals".							
online	Joyce	Hanes	Mason City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax

Comments: I favor a funding source from a percentage of the sales tax to provide a consistent amount reflective of the economy of the state and consisting of monies from all sales of the citizens, not just a certain subset. The state's natural resources are a gift to all and also a responsibility of all citizens to maintain and to develop.							
online	Fred	Heinz	Mason City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I strongly support any and all attempts to find sustainable funding sources for natural resource conservation & development. I am however disappointed at the lack of public relations present in notifying the general public about the ability to attend and provide information at the ICN meetings and via the internet. Other than my professional channels I have seen nothing except a short release in the the Des Moines Register.							
mail	Mary Ellen	Miller	Mason City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Need more trails; parks are in poor shape, need better care. Here in MC we are paying for new water treatment plant which has doubled our water bills, so don't feel there would be support for increased water fee as resource. Would be good if REAP could be fully funded; not sure it ever has been. I could support dedicating a part of the state sales tax as funding source. Ditto fee on recreational vehicles as they do the most damage to our recreation areas. It is my understanding that Iowa has the least amount of land (percentagewise) dedicated to public use of any state in the union. We should be embarrassed; no wonder people prefer to live elsewhere!							
online	Darryl	Halling	Milford	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Some sort of line item funding for the environmental needs of Iowa is obviously necessary. Iowa ranks near or at the bottom of dollars/capita of the 50 States. This is unacceptable. As the president of the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation with some 200+ members, I can tell you that this topic has frequently come before the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee votes to advocate a Sustainable Funding process to be designed in cooperation with the IDNR.							
mail	Don	Lamb	Milford	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
This is a good plan. It needs to have a funding guarantee so that it doesn't end up like REAP. I would also like to see the park user fees placed into effect again.							
online	Larry T.	Wilson	Minburn	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I am a member of the North Raccoon Watershed Association, and a IOWATER volunteer water tester. Last night I attended the NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE FUNDING meeting in West Des Moines. One of the ideas brought up by an attendee, was for a tax on the Biofuels industry as a source for sustained funding for our Natural Resources. Since these new and developing industries are supposed to eventually produce close to 2 billion gallons of ethanol and 250 million gallons of biodiesel per year, (DM Register 11-10-06) think what a 4 cent or 5 cent tax per gallon could generate in income for this purpose. From the information I received at the meeting this was not one of the sources of funding being considered by the advisory committee, and I think it could be another mechanism to consider. These industries will be consuming vast amounts of our states resources i.e., water, corn that needs large amounts of nitrogen that currently pollutes our streams and rivers and some will use coal to generate the energy needed for conversion and that will endanger our quality of air. It seems to me to be a common sense solution, but perhaps I am missing the political reality of such a course of action. Thank you for this opportunity, Larry T Wilson							
ICN - Des Moines	Larry T.	Wilson	Minburn	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Will send comments on line!							
ICN - Cedar Rapids	Lisa	Nagle	Mt Vernon	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Although there is a focus on the "cost" of these initiatives, the financial return via tourism, reduced water treatment costs and an enhanced quality of life should also be included in the "balance sheet." Sell the benefits to the public.							
mail (standard form not used)	Joan U.	Axel	Muscatine	IA	unknown	Support - general	Support - tax

Dear Sustainable Funding For Iowa's Natural Resources Committee: I applaud the efforts of the DNR, the Governor, the Legislature and your Committee. Iowa, the Beautiful Land, has precious, but limited natural treasures. Probably every Iowan of any age is a biker, hiker, fisher, hunter, farmer, gardener, bird watcher, trail blazer, boater, four-wheeler, livestock raiser, pet raiser, picnic lover, or camper. We all need to do our share to sustain the quality and quantity of our natural resources. Iowa is also a problem solver state. The solutions may involve a multi-faceted state wide plan with a small general sales tax, an earmarked gambling tax, user fees, license fees, recycling taxes, the General Fund, and others. It is time to build it into our statewide budget. The DNR needs resources to protect natural resources and enforce inspections and fining for infractions. The Committee, the Legislature, and the citizens of Iowa must keep working on solutions to the challenges.							
online	Lynne	Brookes	Nevada	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Securing sustainable funding for the conservation of Iowa's endangered natural resources is absolutely critical. The on-going process is a good one and the outcome will be extremely important. Lynne Brookes, President Big Bluestem Audubon Society and Board Member, V.P. Iowa Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association							
ICN - Des Moines	Steve	Lekwa	Nevada	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
It would have been useful for a longer lead-in of PR on this. The last month there's been plenty, but the committee has been meeting since August. This effort is long overdue. It is my hope that this effort will trickle down to county conservation programs, as well. Many county programs have seen dramatic cuts in their funding in recent years.							
ICN - Des Moines	Mike	Meetz	Nevada	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
One program we have in place that would help us reach a sustainable funding source is the REAP Program - needs to be fully funded at original levels. Increase incentives to put more private held properties into conservation programs. Might get additional public private buyin (non partison interests). User fees to go back into maintenance of area. Conservation sales tax like some states like Missouri. Taxes collected on packaging of goods go back into water protection, habitat protection. The more you pay or use the more you pay so if you conserve you save. Incentive for conserving land, water, power (energy). New money. Identify, inventory, reward conservation (word illegible) with incentives. Good quality habitat. Polluter pays. Clean water and air. Full funding sustainable (word illegible) protection to the program. Pursue a constitutional amendment, priviledge but a right. not only should (4 words illegible).							
ICN - Creston	Norm	Lust	New Virginia	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Longevity, money has to be there every year (forever). Not another "REAP." A tax, permanent, (indefinite) like Missouri.							
email - to Ross Harrison	Jim	Kersten	none	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
First, the links don't allow me to gain access [Ross fixed link-based on orig em he sent]. Second, I would love to help out. Just let me know how I can be of assistance. Best wishes. Jim Kersten							
email	Pam	Mackey-Taylor	none	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Iowa DNR – Sustainable Funding, Attention: Kim Rasler, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034, Dear Sustainable Funding Task Force Members: Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter supports the effort to secure sustainable funding for protection of Iowa's natural resources. We believe it is necessary in order to protect Iowa's natural areas, Iowa's natural diversity, special landscapes, species of concern, and to improve the quality of Iowa's waters. We note that in the table that was handed out during the ICN meetings there is a line stating that sustainable funding will "protect Iowa's natural heritage". We believe that there should also be a goal to protect Iowa's threatened and special places and places of preserve quality added to the funding table handed out at the ICN meeting. Among those places that need to be protected are Iowa's rare and endangered remaining native prairies and savannas. The Loess Hills landform and the Mississippi River bluff lands also need to have particular and special emphasis in any plan to protect natural areas. As Iowa cities sprawl outward and as pressure increases for development and other uses, there is an increased risk of losing natural areas. We believe that funds need to be available to purchase those natural areas and to protect them. The Mississippi River bluff lands							

and the Loess Hills are both under extreme development pressures. The National Park Service has developed materials related to the high quality areas that need to be preserved in the Loess Hills. There are a number of willing sellers in the area, if funds were available. Since this is a special landscape area of state and national significance, where most of Iowa's remaining native prairies are found, it is highly desirable to protect as much of this area as possible as soon as possible. The Loess Hills are highly threatened due to encroachment near urban areas, mining of soil, and loss of soil due to erosion. The Loess Hills landscape is the most erodible region of the state. Invasive species are also making significant encroachments into the native prairies. Since the creation of the Loess Hills Alliance by the Iowa Legislature, expertise has been developed in western Iowa through the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee. Funding to increase the number of trained landowners and volunteers, and refined operations for management would enable the Stewardship Committee to enhance their efforts to meet the needs of the Loess Hills region. Sustainable funding from the state could build upon these stewardship skills developed in recent years. As Iowa cities sprawl outward and as the pressure increases for development or other uses, there is an increased risk of losing our few remaining natural areas all across Iowa. There are too many use demands for our too-few parks and wildlife areas. We believe that funds need to be available to purchase additional natural areas (from willing sellers) and to protect them for the use of the public. In the ICN handout, there appeared to be more focus on "management" and "access", rather than on protection and preservation. We believe that protection and preservation of public lands must be accomplished before either management or access can take place. Therefore, we recommend a greater focus in this proposal on protection and preservation, either through direct acquisition from willing sellers, or through permanent easement. For a number of natural areas already in public ownership, there have been no surveys or inventories of the plant and animal species present on the land. In other areas the surveys may have been focused on a subset of species, and these areas would benefit from additional species surveys. When we do not know what is living on a public land, we do not know how to adequately protect the area. Regarding the status of Iowa's wildlife, we believe the focus should be on protecting and improving the status of Iowa's threatened and endangered species, and on the status of Iowa's species of population concern. The State's Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan, now called the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan and recently approved by the Department of the Interior needs to be included and given priority in the sustainable funding proposal. There are references here and there in the proposed table to "improving water quality" and "reducing soil erosion", and there appears to be an emphasis on watershed improvement efforts in the proposed table. At this stage of the process, we still do not know how effective any of those efforts are or will be. We encourage a smaller amount of funding for the watershed improvements until the effectiveness has been determined. However, we do not believe the Environmental Services side of DNR has been mentioned for funding. The ability of DNR to enforce the rules on the books could improve with funding to provide sufficient staff for enforcement and adequate pollution control. A portion of the watershed improvement funds could be designated for staff and enforcement to address water quality problems. We believe that the sustainable funds should be available to support staffing needs to care for state-owned parks, preserves and wildlife areas. Staff is not able to address threats to our public lands, including invasive species. We believe that this need should be spelled out in the funding table presented at the ICN meeting. We believe that sustainable funding will help acquire public lands for the public, will protect natural areas that are in short supply in Iowa, will support protection of species of concern and threatened and endangered species, and will assist in improving Iowa's water quality. Sincerely, Pam Mackey-Taylor Chair, Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club

ICN - Cedar Rapids	Andrea	Evelsizer	North Liberty	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
As a citizen of Iowa, we are very excited about this effort to get sustainable funding. If this goes through it will provide numerous benefits for our future generations which will in turn yield numerous investments for our whole state because more of our youth will choose to stay in Iowa.							
ICN - Cedar Rapids	Vince	Evelsizer	North Liberty	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
As a citizen of Iowa, we are very excited about this effort to get sustainable funding. If this goes through it will provide numerous benefits for our future generations which will in turn yield numerous investments for our whole state because more of our youth will choose to stay in Iowa.							
online	Rick	Hollis	North Liberty	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I regret not being at last night's meeting. I and many other birders have long support ways of providing sustainable funds to habitat and non-game birds, as hunters and fisherman do. I would happily support a Bird Stamp or something else.							
online	Chuck	Lenze	Norwalk	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Support - tax

<p>Comments: I would like to see funding set up so it comes from as many funding streams as possible. Right now the license money is the primary source, that needs to be greatly increased. I would like to see the Missouri plan of using a percentage of the sales tax go into funding the DNR. It would be nice if the gambling money that is coming to DNR is still another source of money. The funding needs to go to the county conservation boards as well. The bike trails that have been built need to be repair and that is a large expense for the counties to pick up. Hopefully, REAP will be funded to the maximum for once and develop better outdoor areas in the state.</p>							
ICN - Des Moines	Jon	Bahrenfus	Ogden	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
(no written comment)							
ICN - Fort Dodge	Bill	Johnson	Ogden	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>I would like to see sustainable \$ to support Natural Resources. 1. \$ should grow with the cost of living. 2. \$ should be protected from legislative action-stable (constitutional protected). 3. Gambling revenue may not be stable and might disappear.</p>							
online	Orville	Berg	Okoboji	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I live within site of one of the best lakes in the world, West Lake Okoboji. I say within site of because I live on the cheep side of the street and my view is between cottages that I can not afford. For the last 28 years I have had the honor to serve as a Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner. Form the beginning of the Clean Water Alliance I had the honor to serve as it's chairman for 15 years. Okoboji, The Iowa Great Lakes is a very unique area with many talented people willing to be volunteers. I believe that the locally lead, watershed based approach is the best. This approach best uses available volunteers that have great knowledge of the area and it's resources. They also have a stake in the success of the project. The protection of the Iowa Great Lakes moves forward as best we can with or without the State of Iowa. The Water Protection Fund, part of REAP, is a real small drop-in-the-bucket. We need State of Iowa funds to add to our local tax and private dollars to match federal dollars. We have been doing Pilot Projects for 17 or 18 years. We need the funding to move into a real project and really address our water quality concerns. Please move forward with Sustainable Funding for these and all other environmental programs. Orville Berg Okoboji, Iowa 712 332 2380</p>							
online	Orville	Berg	Okoboji	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: If Iowa is ever going to really protect our water quality, we have to address the 94% of the state that is privately owned. We have cost-share for water-ways, terraces and filter-strips, but what we a getting done isn't even a drop-in-the-bucket. Iowa has a Soil Loss Law passed around 25 years ago when the Governor was Robert Ray. He was a true conservationist. He understood that Iowa's greatest water quality problem is keeping the soil in the field and on the construction site. Enforcement of this law was side-tracked by the 85 farm bill which promised to do the same thing, but was weakened before it ever got started and weakened again. It helped but fell very short of it's goal. It's easy to pass a low, but enforcement is the test. Iowa's Soil Loss Law requires that Iowa Cost-share be available to help the land owner to meet the "T" soil loss standard. I'm sure that someone at the Division of Soil Conservation, Ken Tow Director, can give you an estimate of the amount of money needed over a number of years to finally follow trough on the vision Governor Ray started 25 years ago. Orville Berg Okoboji, Iowa 712 332 2380</p>							
mail	Paul	Johnson	Okoboji	IA	Yes/Possibly	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>I am a Board of Supervisor in Dickinson County. During my professional career I had the unique privilege of working with Cousteau. I learned much from him and his philosophy of protecting our natural resources. Our God giving natural resources here in Iowa are under attack. Pollution is coming in many forms ... air, water, and land. Raising monies to correct the damage IS NOT the solution. We must address the sources. One of the primary sources of our pollution can be traced back to our liberal laws regarding Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOS). Under existing laws authored by the Farm Bureau the County Supervisors are powerless to regulate placement and operation of these factory livestock operations. Their citings and their manure management plans are doing irreparable damage. Under current legislative laws we cannot stop them...but we can impose a Natural IResource Protection Fee (NRPF) upon BOTH the factories and the manure management operations. A fee attached to new application as a condition of approval backed up by an annual renewal fee will provide positive cash support. A similar NRPF fee attached to new manure management plans backed up by an annual renewal fee is the first step the state can take making ALL livestock operators share in the cost of the</p>							

damage they are inflicting. A progressive fee can be established e.g. \$X for under 2500 head, \$Y for under 4000 head, and \$Z for over 4000 head. These operators and their out-of-state lobbyists profess to be environmentally sensitive. This a first step towards putting their money where their mouth is!							
online	Hank	Miguel	Okoboji	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: As president of the Okoboji Protective Assoc., a one hundred year old organization, whose mission statement is to protect and enhance the Iowa Great Lakes watershed supports sustainable funding for the Dept. of Natural Resources Keepup the good work Hank Miguel							
online	Bill	Benson, Jr.	Oskaloosa	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: We need a guaranteed source of funding. I would prefer something along the lines of what they have in Mo. We would need a constitutional amendment so it could not be changed at the legislatures whim.							
ICN - Des Moines	Rocky	Hizer	Oskaloosa	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
I am a member of Pheasants Forever, Izaak Walton League, and National Wild Turkey Federation. I would support a sales tax increase to support this. I already pay 6% that I have no idea where it goes. I would at least know where this money goes. These funds need to be kept from our legislative bodies. Why is Iowa investing money in a rain forest nobody wants? Create a tax for out-of-state land owners.							
online	Dan	Campbell	Oxford	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I believe now is the time to propose the sales tax option many states now have. When I read Iowa has the poorest quality of water in the nation it's time to do something as a resident of this state to combat this embarrassment and show support for conservation. This and other important issues will continue to degrade while the public spends too much money on non-quality of life projects that destroy our environment. You have my support. Dan Campbell							
online	Chris	Henze	Oxford	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: One only need go across our border to the South to see what a state with at least a little conservation funding can do with its parks, wildlife, etc. I would gladly pay an additional tax, etc. to help our natural resource management poor state. The folks who are trying to limp parks, etc. along on a shoe string budget should get an award.							
mail	Raymond J.	Harden	Perry	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
1. REAP needs full funding. 2. Have a set amount or percent of sales tax to to parks, trails, and conservation programs like NRCSA programs. 3. The State of Missouri has a good tax funding program. Theirs could be an example. 4. Increase the deposit on all beverage cans with a set portion to DNR & Conservation projects. 5. Increase the fines on manure and chemical spills with a portion to DNR conservation programs.							
ICN - Des Moines	Loren	Lown	Pleasant Hill	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
An excellent start - please make certain that there is money allocated to staff. Management is essential for quality natural areas. Labor to accomplish restoration, removal of invasive species and the expertise to direct the effort must be adequately funded. Protection of additional areas is important but maintaining our current parks and preserves is essential. Nothing is more important than boots on the ground. Sales tax is a base funding but I am a believer that in addition to "user" pays an "abuser" pays approach is needed. Every county conservation board is understaffed. Additional need for open space is driven by factors such as population concentrations in a few counties. Less populous counties are impacted by out of county users that do not contribute tax dollars to manage the resources. In both cases the resources are managed by the same number of staff or less staff than 20 years ago. There is a need for additional monies to fund volunteer coordinators. If there were no volunteers working for free and supporting conservation we would be in an even more desperate situation. Most counties cannot fund a volunteer coordinator and a valuable resource is being underutilized.							
ICN - Bettendorf	Gerald	Neff	Pleasant Valley	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Use a constitutional amendment to take part of the Iowa sales tax to guarantee permanent funding for natural resources. Also it is shameful that Iowa spends less than one percent of the budget on natural resources. The environment does not belong at the bottom of the list. Tax water extraction for ethanol plants.							

online	Chris	Fleming	Polk City	IA	No	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: The use of financial resources should be prioritized. There should not be a trust fund or dedicated funding, but our elected officials should determine our state's priorities. Water quality assessment and improvement should be prioritized and provided with additional state funding. With all of the demands on taxpayer revenues, I am not willing to pay for a pie in the sky proposal. Education is a very strong competing priority for the state's revenues. For those resources dedicated to natural resources, we should focus on improving water quality, including watershed assessments to learn where actual problems are and research to learn of appropriate technologies and practices to reduce water quality impacts. We should focus our efforts on these bread and butter issues rather than on developing and acquiring parks and luxury recreational areas. The demand for implementing water quality protection practices outstrips the available funds. Iowa should prioritize water quality over new recreational venues.</p>							
ICN - Des Moines	Denise	Franck	Polk City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Oppose - Tax
<p>Think advertising for support. Glad to hear you have this planned. Room for business - tying Bread & Breakfast in trails, birding trips, etc. Emphasis on where money will go. We have 1% more than the rest of the state sales tax in Polk City already. At this point I would not support renewing the school tax because I don't know that the \$ went where they were supposed to: Your comments on accountability are very important to this issue.</p>							
email	Inger	Lamb	Polk City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>I am very much in favor of finding more funding for Iowa conservation interests, and ensuring that such funding is reliable on an annual basis. If not, salaries and long term projects are constantly under threat of losing their funding. This not only reduces accomplishments, it reduces planning activities and leads to an overall sense of futility. I attended the Nov. 9 listening session and agreed w/most of the comments offered. I would suggest a couple more: funding for conservation education in the k-12 schools is needed. I do a lot of work with younger kids and have repeatedly been absolutely shocked at the lack of knowledge, and the general attitude that nature is out to get you, sting you, make you sick and should be treated w/great caution. Many kids won't even sit on mowed grass let alone feel comfortable walking in a natural area. Second, I'd suggest compiling a list of ridiculously poorly funded conservation sites, for use when doing publicity about this overall project. Things like the IDNR Big Creek St Pk has basically one employee to manage all 4000+ acres and keep 800,000 visitors a year from drowning themselves or destroying the property. There is some summer support, but that's largely for mowing. There used to be 8 or more employees (these stats need verification!), back when fewer people visited. The State Preserves Board, charged w/management of our nicest natural areas, has 2 employees, which have many other responsibilities, and a tiny budget. They are forced to rely on the good will of other agencies for management of these areas, and many are degrading to the point of destruction. I'm sure there are many other examples that could be compiled and tossed out when skeptics are listening. And would add some counterpoint to the press that says "they want 1.5 billion".... Good luck, you have done great so far! Inger (Lamb) 9188 NW Polk City Dr., Polk City, IA 50226, 515.963.7681 cell/messages: 515.250.1693 [Willing to Volunteer: I'd be willing to do some publicity or something (actually, I've already spread the word quite a bit and prompted folks to get their comments in by today)]</p>							
ICN - Bettendorf	Molly	Regan	Princeton	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Keep up the good work! Also we could encourage relatives and friends to leave their farm or land to their county conservation board, in perpetuity. As one of the soil and water commissioners in Scott County, I am very familiar with the need for resource preservation. There is an aesthetic importance connected to the beautiful outdoors of Iowa. It refreshes the soul!</p>							
online	Doug	Schroeder	Rockford	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: I would support a (dedicated) increase in the state sales tax along with full funding of REAP from gambling revenues to provide sustainable funding... I was disappointed in seeing that state park user fees option was dropped. If the dollars generated there stay there, I see little reason for an educated user to complain!</p>							
online	Stephen	Pitt	Ruthven	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: The funding source needs to be constitutionally protected, so it can't be raided by the legislature when times get tough. I would prefer a % of additional sales tax.</p>							
online	Georjette	Korthals	Sibley	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not

							Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: You need to bring the park sticker fee back. Charge in state people \$30.00 a year for it and out of state \$40.00 also charge a daily park fee of \$8.00. We travel alot and we have to pay the fees everywhere. The best thing is it reduces TRAFFIC in our state parks. When we camp in Iowa more lookers just drive thru. From Michigan to Minnesota we have to pay the fee Look at Indiana they have some awesome parks and 1 night cost us around 30.00 a night if you are a true camper and love the parks you will be willing to pay the money. Look at the Lakes in Northwest Iowa we need interpretive programs and trails so people want to come here. We hardly ever camp in Iowa but we have in 15 other states this year because Iowa lacks the interest of campers. Some of the county parks in Iowa are alot better than the state parks. Look at Pajoha it is a county park and they charge a sticker fee and 18.00 a night but the money goes back into the park. The park is located in Lyon county.! We need to help our parks before they are gone. SAVE OUR PARKS AND START A GREAT PROGRAM I WOULD LOVE TO HELP</p>							
online	Dianne	Blankenship	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: I attended the ICN site in Sioux City for the presentation. I am a retired kindergarten teacher who has had a passion for prairies and native plants for the past quarter century. I have written two REAP grants, both of which were funded. One purchased prairie in the Loess Hills and another provided major funding for an event in the Loess Hills. These grants were very important in their protection of a natural resource and in their educating people about our natural resources, so they'll want to protect them. We need more of these purchases and activites without taking funding opportunities away from others. The committee has done what appears to be an excellent job so far. We probably need a combinaton of funding sources for our natural resources while we still have some to add to protection, and while the "protected" ones are still viable enough to rehabilitate and manage. We need this funding to begin quickly in large enough amounts to add DNR staff that themselves will have the resources of people and money to take on the challenge of management and acquisition and very importantly, educating the children and all others in this state about our natural resources. I recently attended the World Forum on Children and Nature (25 countires and 300 particpants) and it is imperative that we get children, starting at a young age, connected with our natural world. I will send a link about the results of this forum to Mr. Leopold. The funding sources need to provide a direct flow to this cause without the threat of diverting them to other needs in the state. If some sources would take a while to "come on", it would be OK to use temporary ones to get started more quickly. I do see some problem with the sales tax, but, in small enough percentages it would still reap great amounts. The needs are so great and urgent. Just staffing our State Parks and getting them into better management programs, along with the infrastructural work needed to accommodate the users of the parks, and initiating a program of summer interns (similar to INHF and TNC) to care for the State Preserves, and also providing dedicated educators to implement educational programs at these, would be a wonderful start! In summary, let us tackle this as soon as possible, with my major areas of concern: diversity of native plants and wildlife protection of additional land that has natural value managemnt of existing and added State Parks and State Preserves addition of staff to State Parks and State Preserves for management and educational purposes needed infrastructure fix-ups and improvements more education beginning with our youngest citizens about Iowa's natural world additional work with landowners to help them be good stewards of their land dedicated funding that will provide the above. Respectfully submitted, Dianne Blankenship Sioux City, IA</p>							
email	William	Blankenship	Sioux City	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I attempted to send my comments on Nov. 17 and was unsuccessful at every attempt. I therefore copied my comments and am mailing them on Nov. 18, after the dealine. Please accept them. Comments rec'd by mail: I attended the meeting for the advisory committee at the NW AEA in Sioux City on Nov 9th. I commend the efforts made thsu far. I would suggest some other gropus that should be consulted in this matter. It may be too cumbersome to include them in the committee, but I think that the DNR should see their input as important stake holdres in this process. These groups include: Iowa Prairie Network, Iowa Native Plan Society, Iowa State Preserves Board, Iowa Academy of Science, Audubon Society, Iowa Association of Naturalists, Iowa Conservation Education Council, and the Area Education Agencies. I am sure there are others I have not included. Your list of supporting organizations for the Advisory committee seems overburdened with hunting, fishing, and farming interests. Natural areas should have been given a more prominent status in your categoriztion of Natural Resource Categories. To regulate Natural Areas to an also - ran category or after-thought to hunting and fishing is placing the emphasis in a backwards fashion. The Natural Areas should be the focus, and then a possible byproduct of Natural Area preservation, restoration, and reconstruction can be enhanced hunting and fishing. If any of the suggested categories are to be funded in a sustainable fashion, a concerted general citizenry educational program needs to be mounted to broaden the interest and support for such actions. One idea from the private sector that youl should consider is the establishment of management</p>							

<p>endowments for natural resource maintenance in the future. It may be best to apply this concept to newly acquired natural resource assets. This would assure maintenance of such assets long into the future. The problem of invasive species is mentioned in your table of actions. I would like to emphasize this problem as one that is of critical importance to natural areas, and one that has a time sensitive aspect. If we do not act to limit importation and sale of invasive species, combat the existing invasives problem, we are not going to have natural areas to worry about. Thank you for hearing my concerns, Wm. Blankenship, MD</p>							
online	Brian	Hazlett	Sioux City	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: The Iowa Native Plant Society enthusiastically endorses Sustainable Funding for Iowa's Natural Resources. Such funding assists our goals to 1) to promote conservation and ethical use of Iowa's plants, 2) to promote education about Iowa's plants, and 3) to appreciate and enjoy Iowa's native flora. Sincerely, Dr. Brian T. Hazlett President, Iowa Native Plant Society</p>							
online	Beverly	Hinds	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I will plan to attend the meeting in Sioux City on 11-9</p>							
ICN - Sioux City	Terry	Hoffman	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Municipalities are not represented on the committee. The Iowa Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) should be part of the committee membership. I am the legislative chairperson of IPRA and would be more than happy to be involved.</p>							
ICN - Sioux City	Chuck	Johnson	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>To obtain public support for funding for natural resources Educate, Educate, Educate all ages. Interest in natural resources begins in youth.</p>							
ICN - Sioux City	Bob	Moritz	Sioux City	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>(text written in indecipherable notes, except "public lands 49th place - I'm ashamed of that.")</p>							
ICN - Sioux City	Jim	Redmond	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>in stating needs, the committee should refer to the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan which states our goals for acquiring habitat. Roads, plows, and real estate development on the greatest threats to the environment. Taxes on these three industries should be taxed. give native prairies PRIORITY. Fund Human Resources for Natural Resources. Natural Area Management should provide good jobs.</p>							
email	William (Bill)	Smith	Sioux City	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Hello my name is Bill Smith, I am from Sioux City Iowa. I have followed the Sustainable Funding issue from the start and it has morphed into a feeding frenzy of estimated dollars to this and that. At times I may be critical of how the committee conducts itself with issues that involve Iowa's Natural resources and Conservation appropriated funds. Most of all, I will tell everyone on this committee that my number one concern is to see this committee award an increase into the IDNR Fish & Game Trust fund. I also wish to see this fund or a portion of the Sustainable funding specifically directed to as earmark funds to SUPPORT IOWA's NAWCA Fund & Iowa's CREP contribution. To date there is no other funds or programs that take constituent dollars and has them matched dollar for dollar by a federal program dollars. Further under the NAWCA PROGRAM is the potential to receive other matching funds from conservation Organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, Iowa Heritage Foundation, Pheasants Forever and a list of other potential private entities. By the time the funds have been compiled, the constituents 1 dollar contribution is easily tripled. This is obviously maximizing revenues that result in 3 times the return. I have compiled a great mass of sportsmen support on this issue that generates a greater return to there conservational investment into the resources under NAWCA rules and guidelines. Another issue I presently have with Sustainable funding legislation is the true lack off focus on Iowa's water Quality Concerns. This means our water tables, our lakes, streams, rivers, creeks, wetlands and isolated wetlands and upland habitat status. Under the sustainable funding concerns associated with Iowa water quality, not a single mention of Iowa's contribution level to the USDA run CREP program. Here this committee sits and we talk about WIRB. I ask the committee to compare WIRB to CREP and decide what program has the best</p>							

potential at addressing Iowa's water quality concerns on a larger scale. There is No contest. CREP would provide and address Iowa's water quality concerns on a greater scale PERIOD. This comparison should be viewed by looking at other states CREP program around Iowa and the amount of acres those states target with there CREP program. To further my discontent with present funding suggestions for water quality concerns of Iowa, not a single member of this committee has suggested or recommended allocating a sustainable revenues source that supports Iowa's ability to further increase it's CREP contribution to Support the USDA on a sustainable level that enhances Iowa CREP program and delivery. If there has been such a recommendation I have missed it and apologize, but I have not seen it. I am not pleased thus far with the water initiatives under the suggested Bill and further lend my opinion to you. You should not try to appease all the groups at the table on this issue. These groups are not the ones going to foot the Bill on this but some may be responsible for it's implementation. Support CREP and Iowa will greatly improve it's water quality, include CREP sustained funding in the Bill and you will put the best foot forward for the people of Iowa and the resources. I am not saying not support WIRB but more emphasis should be put into a program that best serves the people of Iowa and addresses the water quality concerns on a greater scale. Here we all sit trying to figure out how to maximize our constituents generated tax revenues that best delivers the best bang for the buck and addresses our states poor water quality. Water treatment plants are not addressing the issue at all but yet are a quick fix to a growing problem. Our water quality issues start not at the water treatment plant but out on the ground and so much of the water quality initiative under Sustainable funding does not and will not address the problem. It has become a dog and pony show issue as you all underline a little for this and a little for that under the water quality initiatives in the sustainable Bill. You want to best serve the people of Iowa and insure cleaner waters in Iowa, stop trying to defeat your true purpose by bogging this portion of the bill down with so many hands to feed or programs to support. FOCUS Supporting increased sustainable funding for Iowa's CREP program is the best way to serve the people of Iowa at the same time maximizing those revenues to deliver truly the best results. Short term and Long Term. I seriously ask all on the committee to publicly state other wise if they disagree with my statement. Another issue that would greatly enhance Iowa's ability to address water quality issues and natural resources concerns is that presently the IDNR has if I recall about 7 field agents that are tasked with representing and promoting CRP & WRP programs in Iowa. Seven people for the whole state and it's 99 county area. That is an awful burden to place on this small Staff of good people not to mention it greatly impacts the ability to best deliver two key programs that enhance and improves our states resources. Water and all wildlife. As a constituent of Iowa with a good number of supporters it is in my opinion an issue that must be addressed. A larger staff is an absolute PRIORITY to go out and deliver these programs to the Iowa farming community. This means increased sustained funding that supports this staff of New people specifically. In reality each county should have an IDNR agent for these programs. Each county is different and so are the needs out on the landscape. Having an agent from the IDNR specifically tasked with that counties needs is the best way to address environmental concerns that contribute to Iowa's poor water quality. In truth this may not be possible but there is no doubt that this is a major problem in Iowa. A county that isn't best served by an agent is a contributor to Iowa's poor water quality and state of it's natural resources. This is a compounding problem by other counties who also may be lacking strong agent support. Presently I suspect that Iowa's agents are focussed on key counties and the rest are left high and dry. This is the problem and the work load can only be lightened if we have sustained support for this New Staff. As a state we may not be able to accomplish this objective right off the get go but it should be put into the sustainable funding Bill that permits this issue to be solved by progressively adding New agents to the IDNR staff every year after, until each county has an IDNR CRP/WRP agent. As the population of Iowa grows so shall the generated revenues for sustainable funding. This would permit said New agents to be hired within the IDNR. Last but not least I object to Mr. Herrings statements about a Park User Fee. These resources and state facilities are NOT Free, if they where we would have them all over Iowa and Iowa wouldn't be ranked almost dead last when it comes down to public recreational opportunity. The fact is the IOWA SPORTSMEN PAY THE BILL with No Support from other recreational user groups of Iowa or Funding. NONE. In opinion I think Gas should be Free so I could get to work to support the economy of our state and our country but that isn't how it works now is it? PS. To the Iowa Outdoor Writers and Radio talk show Host of Iowa. Below is information on the upcoming public meetings about sustained funding for our states conservational issues. I however hope that you all in your own way Educate your readers and listeners to it's content. Most of all I ask that you take a very strong interest in this Bill and pick a conservation subject that you wish to see Supported by this BILL. Promote your issue to your readers and your listeners. Ask that they to join the fight to improve our states natural resources by supporting the issue you feel most strongly about. Be it fishing, Turkey hunting, deer hunting or waterfowling. Be it upland habitat or wetland habitat lets all make sure our resources are fully supported by this Bill. Below are the addresses of the ICN site locations for the 11/09/06 Sustainable Funding public input/comment session. (addresses/data from info prior to 11/03/06. 11/07/06 DNR sent Bill updated site listing.)

email	William J.	Smith	Sioux City	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
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Mr. Dearden after reviewing the last report on sustainable funding I have come to these thoughts. 1. NAWCA Funding at a Sustainable level is not mentioned in the planning at all. This is something that needs to be mentioned and put in place as a permanent fixture with in the bills frame work. It is a great opportunity to capitalize on state revenues that maximize returns in conservation by matching federal funds. This is very appealing to the people when they see such a great return on there generated revenues. 2. WIRB Funding - Even though Iowa lakes are funded by three other potential sources this still isn't the sole answer to solving Iowa's water quality concerns or Issues, not even for lake improvements. The investment made by the people are matched with other funding sources no doubt but those other potential funding sources offer limited support when compared to the USDA / CREP program. State investment dollars into this program yield 3 to 4 times the return by matching dollars by the USDA and implement along watersheds. I have made my reference to what other states have done with there CREP program. I ask you to review other states CREP contributions and USDA tripple matching funds and the implementation of those funds that equate to larger acres targeted. 2. WIRB Funding - Even though Iowa lakes are funded by three other potential sources this still isn't the sole answer to solving Iowa's water quality concerns or Issues, not even for lake improvements. The investment made by the people are matched with other funding sources no doubt but those other potential funding sources offer limited support when compared to the USDA / CREP program. State investment dollars into this program yield 3 to 4 times the return by matching dollars by the USDA and implement along watersheds. I have made my reference to what other states have done with there CREP program. I ask you to review other states CREP contributions and USDA tripple matching funds and the implementation of those funds that equate to larger acres targeted. If you notice those state limited dollars and USDA contributed dollars truly effect a larger portion of the water quality problem in those states. Now compare those states CREP program funds by state contribution, Iowa 'S CREP program and state funding contributions don't even come close. Review even the acres targeted and you will see Iowa is not applying revenues needed that could greatly improve Iowa's water systems. Sustainable Funding or increased state funding for the Iowa CREP program is a nasessity and CREP should be included into the future planning of HF2797, If these TWO programs are not duely part of HF2797 Sustainable funding and conservation funding in Iowa will again fall short of addressing the REAL issues. This also means missing great opportunities to maximize the states constituents dollars and seeing to it that those revenues are fully maximized and also provide the people of Iowa a solid return on there hard earned money. NAWCA & CREP funding should be Key components fixed into the sustainable funding Bill. Look at NB crep funding, Mo,IL,MN,WIS,SD. 3. Mr. Herrings comments on Park user fee. In one of his last meetings he stated the this program was reviewed and compared to other states and other states objections to the suggested program. 1st Iowa cannot be compared to other states and how other states feel state facilities should be funded. Reason being, Iowa IDNR is strictly supported by the sporting community of Iowa where as other states DNR or Fish & Game receive other sources of revenues that are added to it's management budget. The comparison is like apples and oranges. 2 the public or in Mr. Herrings words view that state facilities should be free of charge and cost the public nothing to use. What Mr. Herring fails to fully understand is that our state facilities and the management of said facilities are funded by limited sportsmen dollars. The term Free is exactly why we are having discussions and meetings about HF2797 today. The Iowa sporting community, small in comparison to the greater population of Iowa is not and has not been capable of supporting the publics needs for recreational opportunities. Because of this, conservation in Iowa has suffered great blows and the sportsmen of Iowa have seen frankly opportunities missed because they just don't have the funds available to provide greater and more expanded sporting opportunities. Our state ranking on this is proof positive to what I am saying to be TRUE. It is clear that Mr. Herring does not see it this way and his opinion of park users fees are clouded by things that are not relevant in Iowa. 4. HF2797 in opinion started out to increase the IDNR'S conservation budget so that it provides greater conservation management of our states resources. After reviewing that last report, I did not and have read it three times, see the actual contribution the IDNR would get from HF2797. By what amount would this Bill increase the IDNR budget to Fish & Game Trust Fund? 5. Survey choices to see where the public wants to focus it's revenues. I personally do not like the choices for a host of reasons. I will state them. 1. Feed Lots? What is this? The phrase would be better served if listed as Community Pasture Land and most likely receive better support. 2. Trails. Trails and the funding for them in counties or cities should be the strict responsibility of the county and based on the communities use of said trails. These things are not cheap for what use they get. Some are used and a vast majority of them are not utilized. This results is a huge waste of revenues that could have been better applied into New county parks or improvements to existing areas to enhance them. The only Trails that should be supported by state revenues are those on state facilities. The problem I see with this funding is that some cities will get more than others and maybe some will get next to nothing. Again a problem the state will have to contend with when in fact it should stay out of the business of funding county trails and city trails. I strongly suggest that this funding be supported by county CCB's and based off of the areas generated tax support. I further point to the key subject of this. Look at the suggested funding level for Trails and then look at the current IDNR budget. Put the two numbers side by side and you will get my point. A huge cost for such a low use. Said funds would provide the public of Iowa better opportunities if they went into CREP, REAP,WRP,CRP,WIRB OR NAWCA that is just the simple reality. 3. state

parks? The wording of this should be right. Multi Recreational State Parks. In closing I say this about HF2797 - Everyone is out for a part of the Pie but lets do the right thing for the right reason and lets apply that reason to good management of our states resources. CREP/NAWCA/CRP/WRP/WIRB/REAP Sincerely William J. Smith Sioux City Iowa 5309 hwy 75 n lot 44 712-253-0362 fhd101@AOL.COM							
online	Jerry	Von Ehwegen	Sioux City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: The natural resources in Iowa have been severely underfunded for many years. They should be receiving much more to protect Iowa's natural resources!							
mail (standard form not used) duplicate - also rec'd as em	William (Bill)	Zales	Sioux City	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
It is obvious that the Sustainable Funding Committee has studied the inadequate status of the Department of Natural Resources funding and is proposing positive solutions modeled after other successful state's programs. The Loess Hills Alliance would like to commend their efforts and support their actions. We would strongly commend that money targeted for the D.N.R. whether new sources or already existing budgets be dedicated so that future legislatures can not renege or rob funds originally promised. The time to act is critical. Suitable wildlife habitat and recreational land is quickly disappearing and the demand for open space usage is growing. The Loess Hills Alliance strongly supports sustainable funding for the D.N.R., especially natural area acquisitions.							
online	Jean	Krewson	Slater	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I would be concerned that any funding sources need to be balanced between the general public (in which the poorest might be taxed disproportionately to income) and industry which tends to be the largest user of resources, but whom we can ill afford to overly offend due to the potential impact on Iowa's economic development.							
ICN - Iowa City	Connie	Mutel	Solon	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Yes we badly need this funding! Iowans led the nation in fully developing our prairies - lets now lead in restoring the nature that remains. We need an emphasis on managing plus restoring native prairies plus woodlands. This includes hands-on field work, but also inventories of natural features/native species, and research on restoration techniques. Be sure to include restoration of our state preserves -- badly needed! as well as native communities on all publicly owned lands. Also, programs to aid private landowners who are attempting to restore native communities. Glad you included invasives control on your list!							
ICN - Bettendorf	Joe	Wilkinson	Solon	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Great work. Prospect of a percentage of sales tax appears promising BUT a constitutional Amendment is needed to protect it. What about EXTRACTION feel tax on large water users?? This should not be ever looked for fear of appearing to be 'anti ethanol'! Encourage ethanol from switch grass with a tax break.							
online	Donna	Buell	Spirit Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: I support sustainable funding for natural resources. A constitutional amendment is needed.							
ICN - Spirit Lake	Donna	Buell	Spirit Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I fully support sustainable funding for natural resources. A constitutional amendment is needed to secure and protect future funding streams. Thanks to the DNR and committee members for their work! I support a sales tax increase rather than fighting over existing revenues with all the other interest groups. Watershed approach - NPDES permits, nonpoint source pollution, resource enhancements, locally lead with technical support from environmental agencies - all at the watershed level.							
online	Pam	Jordan	Spirit Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not

							Mentioned - tax
Comments: Fund REAP at 100M and not create new bureaucracies. The percentage of watershed monies is now capped at 2M. Raise that to 20M. Raise tax on truck licenses and surtax SUV gas hogs Promote Low Impact Development @ individual homeowner level I favor a constitutional amendment dedicating a specific revenue source for natural resources. We need personnel in our parks and forests and state preserves.							
ICN - Spirit Lake	Bill	Maas	Spirit Lake	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
*Efforts on this issue are long overdue. *A permanent sustainable source may take a lot of the politics out of the funding. One should not have to "beg" to the Iowa legislature each year. *LA portion of sales tax is the most equitable source.							
mail	Shirley	Rasmussen	Spirit Lake	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
The Conservation Foundation of Dickinson Co. has 2 concerns: #1) who will do all these activities and who has jurisdiction over the process and #2) where are the dollars coming from for personnel? This is a laudable project, hope it flies.							
online	Barbara	Tagami	Spirit Lake	IA	Yes	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: to promote the status of Iowa's wildlife by establishing connected wildlife habitat throughout Iowa							
online	Bob	Etzel	Toledo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Sustainable funding for natural resource efforts is critical to quality of life in our great state. A sustainable, and substantial level of public investment in the lakes, streams, parks, wildlife, and natural areas of our state will reap rewards well into the future. People will want to live here, businesses will wish to locate here. A population more environmentally attuned will strive to protect the quality of our natural resources... more environmental education is needed. At this time funding is woefully inadequate to address the current and future needs. Funding of natural resource efforts should not wax and wane with the economic and political times. A consistent, sustainable and adequate level of funding to ensure a quality environment in which to live and recreate should become a reality.							
ICN - Sioux City	David	Zahrt	Turin	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
1). Let's do what it takes to honor the original commitment to REAP. Let's start by funding it in total! 2). Publicize the amount of match money that can be raised by raising a dollar of money from taxes. And in reverse, the amount of match money revenue, we are sacrificing (giving up) by not raising that amount of money for a match. 3) Establish a transfer tax to be collected every time a piece of real estate is sold The tax being retained by Natural Resources. Consider the amount of capital that is changing hands each year in the transfer of real estate from one owner to another the trend in the direction land use is headed - at the expense of our natural resources. It seems that a logical source of revenue is a real-estate transfer tax links.							
online	David	Zahrt	Turin	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Its time to get Iowa up to speed on funding natural resources. One good start would be to fulfill the obligation to REAP that was originally proposed with no hedging or qualifying.							
ICN - Des Moines	Pat	Boddy	Urbandale	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Excellent effort. Thank you! Some comments: 1) Would like to see any reference to trails include maintenance, not just trails creation. Maintenance is significant issue. 2) And this is really ranked #1 for me. It's implied but not stated, \$ must be devoted to land acquisition and protection/restoration. This must be a major effort today or particularly those of us in urban areas - we'll lose our chance. 3) Concerned about emphasizing the more regressive approaches of sales taxes, particularly on the specific lottery ticket tax (this seems judgmental at least a broader vice tax might be a better fit). 4. Particularly at the county conservation board level, legislation will need to address how to ensure this is new money (you've referenced this). This might be best accomplished with these \$ working like REAP, in that they would come to the county as its own distinct funding stream, landing in its own separate pot. I would assume this is only logical, but just checking. Might need to add these \$ working like							

<p>REAP, in that they would come to the county as its own distinct funding stream, landing in its own separate pot. I would assume this is only logical, but just checking. Might need to add these \$ to CCB system budget minimums. 5) Surprised you don't like the transfer tax better. If you think of this/these as a mix of mechanisms, with no one system the end all, be all, perhaps the transfer tax will work up your list. 6) Does Missouri sales tax have protection of a constitutional amendment. 7) Also liked CAFO registration/renewal fee idea, but recognize that might be very challenging politically. [Willing to volunteer: Yes!!!! To the extent it's appropriate for me to do so in my current position.]</p>							
online	Jim	Riggs	Urbandale	IA	Maybe	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: How about a healthy tax on any property built on agriculture or natural land? It would be earmarked for purchase of wild land for parks or preserves. I also like the idea of .25 cents sales tax to be put toward natural resource. Some part of our income tax would be even better. I love having no park fees. Everyone should be able to use our parks free.</p>							
online	Emily	Sloan	Urbandale	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I have been born and raised in Iowa and until about a month ago I had not walked through a large area of prairie. I have to imagine what Iowa used to look like, and if we want to sustain our farm land, we need to bring some of our native habitat back for the sake of our soil, water and also wildlife. We are one of the greatest farming areas in the world, we can't waste the gift that was given to us. If we keep taking and not giving back, we will waste it.</p>							
online	Ty	Smedes	Urbandale	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>Comments: This is very much needed.. I like what the State of Missouri has done, with a tax percentage being targeted for sustainable natural resources each year.. Would be happy to endorse this initiative, and would put a supporting statement on my website at www.smedesphoto.com .</p>							
ICN - Waterloo	Milford	Schulze	Van Horne	IA	No	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
(no written comment)							
online	Ann	Johnson	Wahpeton	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: Need more sustainable funding spent on recreational trails in Iowa.</p>							
online	Dan	Mays	Walcott	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
<p>Comments: I just hope that your actions finally result in getting the deer populations under control. As I understand it, there are five times as many deer killed by vehicles as are killed by hunters. In Clinton County, according to Sheriff's Department records, 80% of the highway accidents (not including fender-benders in town) involve a deer. Eighty per cent!!! This is serious malfeasance on the part of the current DNR operations. As it currently stands, a disproportionate amount of regulatory protection is devoted to a single species that is in the process of driving many native woodland plant species toward extirpation while protecting a single species (deer) that has populations far beyond what our settlers found. In some parks, there has been no new, replacement undergrowth for twenty years. I know that there are many reasons for the about situation to have developed. However, unless the DNR starts immediately addressing this issue and extends effective, active protection to plant species as well through deer populations control measures, they are robbing our grandchildren of natural resources they deserve.</p>							
ICN - Bettendorf	Brent	Puck	Walcott	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>As a representative of a small town that recently applied for a REAP grant, I would like to communicate my town's desire for full REAP funding. Our REAP grant was reviewed favorably, and selected for funding. However, because REAP has not been fully funded to 20M, funding was not available. Therefore, our community supports any mechanism that provides a minimum of 20M for REAP. Personally, I would favor a sales tax increase as the preferred funding mechanism, and would like to avoid any reliance on gambling revenues. As was mentioned during the public comments, I do not understand how the tax incentives/credit mechanism will be used for revenue generation.</p>							
ICN - Waterloo	Jessica	Balk	Waterloo	IA	unknown	Support - general	Not Mentioned -

o							tax
Keep up work. We need to improve our environment.							
ICN - Waterloo o	Kirk	Henderson	Waterloo	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
According to the Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa led the nation in the decade of the 90's in dollars worth of damage due to flooding. This is because of how we use the land and what stands in the way of all that water: towns, crops, and our vast system of country roads and bridges. It costs millions to repair each year. So this is not just an issue in terms of water quality due to the sediment and other kinds of pollution this water carries into our streams. Restoring native vegetation is the best way to slow down this water and allow it to soak in and recharge our groundwater instead of rushing into our rivers. We are going a great job in Iowa putting native vegetation in roadside. We need to look for as many places as possible to plant natives. We have a lot of erodible farmland in conservation programs that is currently planted to natives. We need to prevent this land from going back into corn production as ethanol demand makes corn growing more profitable. We could probably pay for this whole program with money saved in reduced flood damage.							
ICN - Waterloo o	Willard	Jenkins	Waterloo	IA	unknown	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
With the large amount of land that will change hands, suggest trying an incentive program to encourage giving part of their land. One way is to negate a part of any inheritance. Thanks.							
online	William	Kohls	Waterloo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I have worked as a conservation aid in the Wildlife Bureau. I am also a hunter and fisherman. I am well aware of how important funding is to continue with the management of hunting and fishing resources of our state. I would like to see a portion of our sales tax dedicated to the the DNR funding. It's obvious that the hunting community has supported these programs. Some of the people who enjoy our wildlife such as birdwatchers, bird-feeders for instance, do not pay a "use tax" such as hunters, fishermen, etc. I don't want to start a war between the folks who enjoy Iowa's wildlife and natural areas, but more users can share in the cost. I feed birds in my backyard, I would'nt mind a small tax such as the Pittman/Robertson fund on bird food and birding supplies. Thanks. William Kohls - Waterloo							
ICN - Waterloo o	Terri	Rogers	Waterloo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Please fully fund REAP. Pursue gaming revenue, esp. from new casinos. Great idea to have tax on lottery tickets!! Include money for education...without education the public will not understand the necessity plus urgency of what is happening.							
ICN - Waterloo o	William (Bill)	Seibert	Waterloo	IA	Yes	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
(no written comment)							
ICN - Waterloo o	Kenneth	Thoma	Waterloo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
May I suggest legislation - such as is in place in Minnesota and Montana: More/easy access to Iowa rivers/lakes and hunting lands by perhaps use of hunting/fishing fee allocation, by making payments/buying easements for persons to gain access. RE leveraging of \$\$ etc.: Some construction c/b done w/ good contractor supervision and accomplished with volunteers such as retirees, students, and interested citizens and perhaps, some c/b done w/ county and state prisoners and no offense, plus those collecting unemployment!							
ICN - Waterloo o	Tyler	Wallican-Green	Waterloo	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
I have never attended a meeting like this. I appreciate the opportunity to attend something like this. I learned lots of things I did not know about my state. I am slightly worried about the future of my state. I know that only one person can effect this state but hopefully as a whole we can change this state into something this state has not seen in a while. As the youth of Iowa I hope that we can keep progressing this state in a positive way so in the future my children can live in a state that I have dreams about. Thank you.							
online	Jean	Eells	Webster City	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax

Comments: I would like to encourage the committee to consider using tax credits as one of the tools for funding the programs that receive your attention.							
online	Mary	Amerman	West Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I think the Missouri model could be one source of funding. Funding REAP to a fuller extent is important.							
online	Sue	Caley	West Des Moines	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: The state should be doing everything within it's power to fund these programs - funding, staff time, whatever it takes.							
online	Ryan	Hanser	West Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Thank you for your attention to this vital issue... I'd like mention that VOLUNTEERS are, in my experience, an underutilized resource for the DNR. Transforming users into stewards can pay great dividends for Iowa.							
mail	Brandi	Muller	West Des Moines	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
<p>My name is Brandi Muller. I am writing today in response to a segment I recently heard on National Public Radio regarding the Sustainable Funding Committee. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the public meeting on November 9th, but would nonetheless like to contribute my input on the topic. As suggested by the DNR's website, I have reviewed the October 11, meeting summary and found some points of personal interest. I asked myself the proposed public survey questions in item two of the summary and came to these conclusions: First, I rent from a property that provides water, so I am not truly at liberty to comment on the prospect of an increase in the bill. However, I am familiar with the fact that water is often the least expensive of the utilities. This may mean that suggesting a minimal increase to those even slightly supportive of natural resources could be a promising source of funding. If I did pay for my water, I would be willing to expend an additional two dollars per month. Second, I do support trails. I do so with stipulations, however. While I am an active user of Iowa's trails, I feel there are many people who are not. I do feel that using additional tax money from the general public for trail development and maintenance is necessarily fair, especially if the money would be used for something that is inherently recreational as opposed to essential. Instead, I think an increase in the cost of hunting and fishing licenses, and as mentioned in the summary, recreational vehicle registration, would be more appropriate. This way, those who are choosing to extensively use natural areas for enjoyment would be contributing the most to its upkeep. More sweeping, all-encompassing revenue sources such as sales tax and resource shifting could be directed toward soil and water, which in my opinion affect a greater scope of people. I do not want to be mistaken as understating the importance of our trail systems. They are an integral facet of Iowa's natural beauty and educational experiences. I assure you my aforementioned stipulations are born from my hesitation to create additional 'footprints' in our reserves, and increase human traffic where it may be ultimately damaging to their eco systems. Doubtless manicured pathways (flanked with railroad ties and built with stairs) attract novel supporters of the outdoors and increase awareness, but they also create unnecessary alteration of that much more indigenous material. Sadly, an increase in trails and users may also increase the amount of litter in and misuse of the surrounding areas. In my opinion, new trails developed from sustainable funding should be limited to unobtrusive, unadorned footpaths. Trash control and land supervision for new and existing trails should receive half of the finances gained. Third, I do support parks and would even like to see a mandatory amount of additional acreage set aside in each of our counties to become wildlife and nature reserves. Parks that are created from previously developed land would be perfect places for the manicured trails spoken of previously. Fourth, I do not know enough about feedlots to make a sound judgment on that topic. I am quite sure, though that I am not willing to financially support them. In that respect, I would support any movement to impose sanctions against pollution they may produce. I am particularly enthusiastic about the funding mechanisms listed in the summary. I think taxes for those who adversely affect the environment, and incentives and credits for those who work to conserve it, and long overdue in Iowa. Those who do adversely affect the environment are doing a disservice not only to their own habitat, but also to the whole humanity. Since we are a society that encourages personal responsibility, holding people financially liable for restorative services rendered is a good way of making sure whoever 'breaks it, buys it.' Conservation is a practice that runs a gamut in its feasibility. Unlike eating sustainably, which unfortunately for the time being seems to be limited to higher-income individuals, conservation can be accomplished inexpensively simply through shifts in one's daily routine. This being said, every individual and business, I feel, should participate in some sort of conservation. Corresponding reward incentives and financial penalties simply make sense as a way of enforcing what is otherwise virtually unenforceable. Overall, I am thrilled to learn that the Sustainable Funding Committee exists and I feel optimistic that much needed</p>							

changes are in motion. I look forward to following the progress, and making contributions whenever possible. Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.							
online	Nancy	Sinnwell	West Des Moines	IA	Maybe	Not Mentioned - general	Oppose - Tax
Comments: Take the same approach as state Fair funding. The Blue Ribbon Foundation has been very successful at raising funds. A Checkoff on State Income taxes, putting a families name on a shelter or other park structure for certain amount of funds, bricks with names for a certain amount of funds. I disagree with raising any taxes, I think funding can be accomplished without raising taxes.							
ICN - Waterloo	Sheryl	Struthers	West Union	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
For trails, let's get the most use of a trail when put in with equines contributing \$862.5 million (2006 survey) a multi-use trail makes more sense than options that exclude horses. For parks, let's work on some of the long range plans already in place. Funding coming from the new gambling establishment, restaurants, hotels, and entertainment should be looked at.							
ICN - Sioux City	William (Bill)	Zales	Westfield	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Many of the parks, F&W, and natural areas actions require land acquisition; however, all I see is REAP \$ available \$20 million statewide is not enough. You could spend that much on willing land owners in the Loess Hills alone. (Will County Illinois spent \$100 million on land acquisition by passing a bond referendum and payed with county taxes! attached: Letter prepared by William M. Zales, Ph.D., Loess Hills LAudubon Society, Conservation Chairman: At our November meeting we discussed the state's inadequate funding of the Department of Natural Resources, and unanimously agreed that any means of increasing the D.N.R.'s budget in a sustainable manner would be desirable. Please advise your committee that the Loess Hills Audubon Society encourages increased funding for the Department of Natural Resources -- especially for land acquisition and easement purchases.							
online	William M.	Zales, PhD	Westfield	IA	Yes	Support - general	Not Mentioned - tax
Comments: Funding sources (new or old) must be dedicated to prevent the legislature from diverting revenues to other budgets							
online	Dave	Wehde	Wilton	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: Missouri model would be best. More funds for Natural Resources/Less for Recreation. Invasive species control, Land Acquisition, Wildlife Management, Prairie Restoration, Forestry Restoration.							
online	Doug	Chafa	Winthrop	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Comments: I support sustainable natural resources funding and would be willing to pay for it. If the funding goes to tangible, real improvements in the state's natural resources, I would be willing to pay up to 1/2% on sales tax or 1% on income tax. I want clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife, quality fishing, and access to recreation and the opportunity to see rare plants and animals. As an Iowan, I am ready to pay my share to improve the natural resources of the State of Iowa. I however would object to paying for programs that only pass funding along (subsidy -style) to current landowners for more of the status quo: erosion, nitrogen and manure storage.							
ICN - Dubuque	Greg	Schmitt	Winthrop	IA	Yes	Support - general	Support - tax
Gaming/Gambling: Not everybody gambles, not everybody will carry equal burden to protect our natural resources. Sales tax on lottery ticket: See above. Tax Incentives/Credit Conservation: CSP should do this. Sales Tax Increase: Best idea because everybody helps protect Iowa's natural resources which everyone uses even though they don't realize it yet.							

APPENDIX 3 Questions Used For Polling Iowa's Citizens' Willingness To Pay With Results

FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN & ASSOCIATES

NOVEMBER 27-30, 2006

Time Began _____ Time Finished _____ Total Time _____

**IOWA STATEWIDE CONSERVATION SURVEY
JOB # 220-2238 WT
N=800**

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from FMMA, a public opinion research firm. We're conducting a public opinion survey about issues which concern citizens of Iowa. We are not selling anything, and we will not ask for a donation or contribution of any kind. May I please speak with the adult member of your household who celebrated a birthday most recently? **(IF NOT AVAILABLE, ASK:)** May I speak to another adult in your household who is 18 years old or older?

1. First, do you think things in the State of Iowa are headed in the right direction, or do you feel that they are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right direction-----64%
Wrong track-----24%
(DON'T READ) Don't Know/NA -----12%

(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)

2. Next, what do you think is the most serious problem facing Iowa today that you would like to see state government do something about? **(OPEN-END, DO NOT READ CHOICES, RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE AND THEN CODE)**

Education quality ----- 11%
Taxes----- 9%
Health Care/Prescription Drug Prices ----- 7%
Education/teacher funding ----- 7%
Drugs----- 7%
Jobs----- 6%
Minimum wage rate/substandard wages ----- 6%
Immigration/illegal aliens ----- 3%
Economy/cost of living ----- 3%
Young people leaving Iowa ----- 3%
Gasoline/oil/fuel prices/energy ----- 2%
Senior/elderly care/social security ----- 2%
Political/government leadership ----- 2%

Environmental pollution	2%
Child care/youth issues	2%
Loss of agriculture/farmland	2%
Transportation/roads/highways	2%
Homeless	2%
National security/terrorism control	1%
Court/Sentencing reform	1%
Water supply	1%
Welfare/disability abuse	1%
Crime	1%
Budget/government spending	1%
Business/industry development/retention	1%
Moral/corruption	1%
Campaign reform	0%
Family breakdown	0%
Abortion	0%
Housing	0%
Global warming	0%
Wildlife/habitat/wetlands protection	0%
Factory/corporate farms	0%
Everything	1%
Nothing	2%
Other (SPECIFY)	3%
(DON'T KNOW/NA)	8%

(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)

3. Next, in a few words of your own, what do you think is the most important environmental problem facing Iowa today? **(OPEN-END)**

Water Pollution/quality (general)	14%
Hog lots/Livestock confinement pollution	10%
Pollution (general/unspecified)	9%
Farm/agriculture pollution/fertilizer runoff	7%
Global warming	4%
Air Pollution/quality (general)	3%
River/stream/lake pollution	3%
Land development/lack of conservation	3%
Industrial/factory pollution/runoff	2%
Farmland/agriculture loss	2%
Road development needed/ dusty roads	2%
Water supply/conservation	2%

Wildlife loss/protection -----	1%
Waste management/garbage dumps-----	1%
Erosion-----	1%
Coal usage-----	1%
DNR/ Department of Natural Resources -----	1%
Fossil fuels usage -----	1%
Ethanol production -----	1%
Corporate/big farms -----	1%
Natural resources protection -----	1%
Renewable/alternative energy development/usage needed-----	1%
Deer population increase-----	1%
Vehicle/car emissions -----	1%
Cigarette/second hand smoke -----	0%
Construction/builder pollution -----	0%
Open land maintenance -----	0%
Everything-----	0%
Nothing-----	4%
Other (SPECIFY)-----	2%
(DON'T KNOW/NA) -----	21%

(RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS)

4. Now I'm going to read you a list of issues, and I'd like you to tell me how serious a problem you think each one is in Iowa. Please tell me whether you think each is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a serious problem in Iowa. **(ROTATE)**

	<u>EXT</u> <u>SER</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>SER</u>	<u>SMWT</u> <u>SER</u>	<u>NOT</u> <u>SER</u>	<u>(DK/</u> <u>NA)</u>
(SPLIT SAMPLE A)					
[]a. Loss of natural areas -----	10%	23%	36%	27%	4%
[]b. The quality of public education-----	23%	29%	26%	18%	3%
[]c. The economy and unemployment-----	18%	28%	30%	20%	3%
[]d. Loss of farmland to development-----	25%	26%	26%	17%	6%
[]e. The amount you pay in taxes-----	24%	19%	36%	18%	3%
[]f. A lack of affordable health insurance coverage-----	35%	30%	22%	10%	3%
[]g. Erosion of productive topsoil's -----	12%	27%	26%	19%	16%

(SPLIT SAMPLE B)

[]h. Crime, drugs and gangs -----	19%	33%	36%	11%	0%
[]i. Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams -----	26%	29%	28%	14%	2%
[]j. A lack of affordable housing -----	13%	22%	31%	27%	7%

- []k. Poorly-planned growth and development ----- 16%----- 23%-----33% ----- 22%----7%
- []l. The price of gasoline ----- 28%----- 26%-----30% ----- 13%----3%
- []m. Loss of habitat for wildlife----- 18%----- 26%-----29% ----- 25%----3%
- []n. Insufficient funding for the conservation of natural resources ----- 20%----- 23%-----27% ----- 21%----10%

(RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS)

5. Next, I'm going to read you a list of statements about Iowa. After I read each one, I'd like you to tell me whether you generally agree or disagree. **(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK: "Is that strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or just somewhat?") (ROTATE)**

	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>STR AGREE</u>	<u>SMWT DISAG</u>	<u>SMWT DISAG</u>	<u>STR NA</u>	(DK/ NA)
--	--------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-------------------	-------------

(SPLIT SAMPLE A)

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----------|
| []a. Protecting and supporting working farms in Iowa is important for our state's economy.-- | 65% | ----- | 30% | ----- | 4% | 1% | 1% |
| []b. <u>All</u> Iowa residents have a personal responsibility to protect the state's natural resources.----- | 66% | ----- | 31% | ----- | 3% | ----- | 0%-----0% |

(SPLIT SAMPLE B)

- | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----------|
| []c. Protecting the condition of land and water in Iowa is critical to keeping the state's economy strong.----- | 57% | ----- | 33% | ----- | 7% | ----- | 2%-----1% |
| []d. The protection of Iowa's fish and wildlife benefits <u>all</u> Iowa residents.----- | 53% | ----- | 34% | ----- | 8% | ----- | 3% |

(RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS)

NOW LET ME ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATE OF IOWA'S PERFORMANCE MAINTAINING STATE PARKS AND FORESTS, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CONSERVING FISH, WILDLIFE, LAND, AND WATER RESOURCES IN IOWA.

6. Please tell me if you generally approve or disapprove of the job the State of Iowa is doing in the following areas **(READ LIST). (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK: "Is that strongly (APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) or just somewhat?") (ROTATE)**

	<u>APPR</u>	<u>STR APPR</u>	<u>SMWT DISAPP</u>	<u>SMWT DISAPP</u>	<u>STR NA</u>	(DK/ NA)
--	-------------	---------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-------------

(SPLIT SAMPLE A)

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------------|
| []a. Providing outdoor recreational opportunities ----- | 35% | ----- | 48% | ----- | 9% | ----- | 4%-----4% |
| []b. Conserving fish and wildlife----- | 33% | ----- | 46% | ----- | 11% | ----- | 3%-----7% |
| []c. Maintaining state parks and forests----- | 37% | ----- | 48% | ----- | 9% | ----- | 3%-----3% |
| []d. Managing taxpayer dollars efficiently----- | 18% | ----- | 28% | ----- | 22% | ----- | 24%-----7% |

(SPLIT SAMPLE B)

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------------|
| []e. Conserving farmland ----- | 27% | ----- | 36% | ----- | 16% | ----- | 13%-----8% |
| []f. Providing clean waters for drinking and recreation----- | 33% | ----- | 41% | ----- | 15% | ----- | 7%-----4% |

- []g. Conserving wildlife habitat -----26% -----42% ----- 19% -----8%-----5%
- []h. Helping landowners conserve soil, water, and natural areas----24% -----45% ----- 14% -----9%-----8%

(RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS)

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT A DIFFERENT ISSUE.

7. Would you support or oppose dedicating additional public funding to programs to protect Iowa’s land, water, and wildlife? **IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK:** Is that strongly **SUPPORT/ OPPOSE** or just somewhat?

Strongly support -----42%
 Somewhat support-----35%
 Somewhat oppose----- 9%
 Strongly oppose ----- 9%
(DON’T READ) Don't Know/NA ----- 4%

8. There are many ways the State of Iowa could generate additional funding for programs to protect land, water, and wildlife. I am going to read you a list of several potential sources of additional funding that would be solely dedicated to protecting Iowa’s land, water and wildlife. Please tell me whether each sounds like something you would support or oppose. **(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Is that strongly (SUPPORT/OPPOSE) or just somewhat?”)**

<u>STR</u>	<u>SMWT</u>	<u>SMWT</u>	<u>STR</u>	<u>(DK/</u>
<u>SUPPT</u>	<u>SUPPT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>NA)</u>

(ROTATE)

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| []a. | Dedicating a portion of new state lottery revenue ----- | 47% | ----- | 33% | ----- | 8% | ----- | 8% | ----- | 4% |
| []b. | Borrowing money through a state bond measure ----- | 9% | ----- | 18% | ----- | 28% | ----- | 37% | ----- | 9% |
| []c. | Dedicating a portion of revenue from already-planned new Iowa casinos -- | 44% | ----- | 31% | ----- | 8% | ----- | 14% | ----- | 3% |
| []d. | Increasing the state sales tax ----- | 7% | ----- | 14% | ----- | 22% | ----- | 54% | ----- | 3% |
| []e. | Dedicating a portion of existing state sales tax revenue by shifting funds from other
state programs ----- | 11% | ----- | 22% | ----- | 24% | ----- | 34% | ----- | 10% |

9. And which of these potential sources of additional funding for programs to conserve land, water, and wildlife would you be most likely to support? **(RANDOMIZE)** And which would you be next-most likely to support?

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>CHOICE</u>	<u>CHOICE</u>

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| [] Dedicating a portion of new state lottery revenue ----- | 53% | ----- | 23% |
| [] Borrowing money through a state bond measure----- | 6% | ----- | 12% |

- [] Dedicating a portion of revenue from already-planned new Iowa casinos-----26%-----37%
- [] Increasing the state sales tax-----2%----- 7%
- [] Dedicating a portion of existing state sales tax revenue by shifting funds from other state programs -----7%-----10%
- (DON'T READ) Other (SPECIFY) _____ 0%----- 0%
- (DON'T READ) All -----0%----- 0%
- (DON'T READ) None -----4%----- 7%
- (DON'T READ) DK/NA -----2%----- 4%

10. Now let me ask you some more about one of these options for raising funds for conservation: increasing the state sales tax. Would you support or oppose increasing the sales tax by _____, (READ OPTION, RECORD ANSWER, DO NOT ROTATE) if the money were dedicated to protecting Iowa's land, water, and wildlife? (IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: Is that strongly SUPPORT/OPPOSE or just somewhat?)

**STR SMWT SMWT STR (DK/
SUPPT SUPPT OPP OPP NA)**

- a. One-half of one cent, an additional 50 cents on a hundred dollar purchase --- 12%----- 20%----- 21%-----42% 6%
- b. One-quarter of one cent, an additional 25 cents on a hundred dollar purchase 12%----- 24%----- 20%-----38% 6%
- c. One-eighth of one cent, an additional twelve and a half cents on a hundred dollar purchase----- 18%----- 23%----- 17%----- 35%-----6%

11. More generally, would you be willing to pay _____ in additional taxes if it were dedicated to programs to protect land, water and wildlife in Iowa? (IF WILLING/ UNWILLING, ASK: Would you be very WILLING/UNWILLING to pay that amount, or just somewhat?)

**VERY SMWT SMWT VERY (DK/
WILL WILL UNWILL UNWILL NA)**

(DO NOT ROTATE)

- a. 100 dollars per year-----12%-----20% ----- 19% -----46% ----- 5%
- b. 75 dollars per year-----12%-----20% ----- 20% -----43% ----- 5%
- c. 50 dollars per year-----17%-----23% ----- 17% -----39% ----- 5%
- d. 25 dollars per year-----24%-----25% ----- 13% -----33% ----- 5%
- e. 10 dollars per year-----34%-----22% ----- 11% -----29% ----- 5%

12. Next, suppose that you knew that every additional dollar Iowans paid in taxes specifically to protect land, water, and wildlife would be matched on at least a one-to-one basis with funding from the federal government. In that case, would you be more willing or less willing to pay additional taxes to protect land, water, and wildlife in Iowa? **(IF MORE/LESS WILLING, ASK: Is that much MORE/LESS WILLING or just somewhat?)**

Much more willing-----31%
 Somewhat more willing-----29%
 Somewhat less willing----- 8%
 Much less willing -----21%
(DON'T READ) Makes no difference----- 8%
(DON'T READ) Don't Know/NA ----- 3%

13. Now let me ask you about a different proposal. Would you support or oppose offering state tax credits to private landowners who permanently set aside lands to prevent erosion and protect Iowa streams, lakes, and wildlife? **(IF SUPPORT/OPOSE ASK: Is that strongly SUPPORT/ OPOSE or just somewhat?)**

Strongly support-----42%
 Somewhat support-----32%
 Somewhat oppose----- 8%
 Strongly oppose -----12%
(DON'T READ) Don't Know/NA ----- 6%

14. And would you support or oppose offering state tax credits to private landowners who allow members of the public access to their land for non-motorized recreational activities? **(IF SUPPORT/OPOSE ASK: Is that strongly SUPPORT/ OPOSE or just somewhat?)**

Strongly support-----30%
 Somewhat support-----28%
 Somewhat oppose-----15%
 Strongly oppose -----20%
(DON'T READ) Don't Know/NA ----- 7%

15. Next, I am going to read you a list of some types of projects that might be carried out if additional funding were available for conservation in Iowa. Recognizing that there may not be enough funding for all such projects, please tell me how important it would be to you that each project be funded: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not at all important: **(ROTATE)**

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>SMWT</u>	<u>NOT</u>	<u>(DON'T</u>
<u>EXT</u>	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>READ)</u>
(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>IMPT</u>	<u>DK/NA</u>
[]a. Protecting forests-----	28%-----	33%-----	32%	
-----	6%-----	1%		

[]b.	Improving and expanding trails for hiking, biking, walking, and horseback riding	17% --- 26%
	-----	39%-----17% ----- 1%
[]c.	Protecting water quality in rivers and streams	46%-----36% ----- 15%
	-----	2%----- 1%
[]d.	Preserving natural areas	30%-----41% ----- 24%
	-----	3%----- 2%
[]e.	Managing and protecting endangered and threatened species	31%-----35% ----- 26%
	-----	8%----- 1%
[]f.	Providing quality environmental and conservation education opportunities for the public	
	-----	22%-----36% ----- 34%
	-----	7%----- 1%
[]g.	Improving access for hunting and fishing	20%-----26% ----- 35%
	-----	19%----- 1%
[]h.	Protecting Iowa's soils	36%-----40% ----- 19%
	-----	4%----- 1%

	EXT IMPT	VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT IMPT	(DON'T READ) DK/NA
(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)					
[]i.	Providing grants to local governments and non-profits to preserve natural areas	19%---	26%		
	-----	43%-----	9% -----	3%	
[]j.	Improving and expanding off-road vehicle trails	6%-----	18% -----	25%	
	-----	46%-----	5%		
[]k.	Protecting fish and wildlife habitat	30%-----	33% -----	27%	
	-----	6%-----	4%		
[]l.	Preserving working farmland	31%-----	33% -----	24%	
	-----	7%-----	4%		
[]m.	Adding new public lands for outdoor recreation, fishing, and hunting	14% -----	27% -----	34% -----	21%-----4%
[]n.	Repairing, improving, and/or expanding state and county parks	18% -----	36% -----	33% -----	10%-----2%
[]o.	Conserving and/or restoring prairies and grasslands	21% -----	29% -----	33% -----	14%-----3%
[]p.	Protecting sources of drinking water	47% -----	33% -----	14% -----	4%-----2%

(RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS)

16. Next, I'm going to read you a list of statements people have made about the idea of dedicating additional public funding to programs to protect Iowa's land, water, and wildlife. After I read each statement, I'd like you to tell me whether you generally agree or disagree. **(IF AGREE/ DISAGREE, ASK: "Is that strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or just somewhat?")**

	STR	SMWT	SMWT	STR (DK/
<u>AGREE</u>	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>DISAG</u>	<u>DISAG</u>	<u>NA)</u>

(ROTATE)

- []a. We need to do more to protect lakes, rivers and natural areas that lowans use for fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and recreation. --- 44% ----- 42% ----- 8% ----- 3% ----- 2%
- []b. Iowa already has plenty of open space, and we do not need to spend more money protecting it. ----- 13% ----- 24% ----- 31% ----- 29% ----- 3%
- []c. Protecting Iowa's land, water and wildlife will keep our economy strong by attracting high-quality employers and keeping our children in Iowa ---- 34% ----- 43% ----- 14% ----- 6% ----- 4%
- []d. We should not spend more money on the environment when we have more important needs like health care, schools, and public safety. ----- 21% ----- 33% ----- 28% ----- 13% ----- 4%
- []e. We need to invest more in protecting Iowa's valuable soils and family farms. ----- 39% ----- 41% ----- 12% 3% 3%
- []f. More spending on the environment will inevitably lead to more taxes, and lowans are over-taxed already. ----- 28% ----- 35% ----- 23% ----- 9% ----- 4%
- []g. Protecting Iowa's rivers, lakes and natural areas will improve our health by helping keep drinking water clean and pollution-free. ----- 53% ----- 36% ----- 6% ----- 2% ----- 3%

17. Sometimes over the course of a survey like this, people change their minds. Now that you have heard more about the idea, let me ask you again: would you support or oppose dedicating additional public funding to programs to protect Iowa's land, water, and wildlife? **IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE ASK:** Is that strongly **SUPPORT/ OPPOSE** or just somewhat?

Strongly support ----- 36%
Somewhat support ----- 36%
Somewhat oppose ----- 11%
Strongly oppose ----- 11%
(DON'T READ) Don't Know/NA ----- 6%

HERE ARE MY FINAL QUESTIONS, AND THEY ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

18. How often do you participate in the following recreational activities: frequently, occasionally, or never? **(IF NEVER, ASK:** Did you participate in this activity regularly at some point in the past?)

	<u>FREQ</u>	<u>OCCAS</u>	<u>NEVER</u>	<u>USED TO</u>	<u>(DK/NA)</u>
(ROTATE)					
[]a. 4-wheeling, off-road vehicle, A.T.V, or snowmobile riding -----	8%	13%	69%	9%	1%
[]b. Sailing, canoeing or kayaking -----	6%	22%	62%		
-----	8%	1%			
[]c. Boating or jet skiing -----	11%	31%	47%		
-----	10%	1%			

[]d.	Bicycling -----	20%	-----	38%	-----	30%
	-----	11%	-----	1%		
[]e.	Hiking, walking or jogging -----	39%	-----	40%	-----	14%
	-----	6%	-----	2%		
[]f.	Going to parks or recreation areas -----	36%	-----	45%	-----	13%
	-----	5%	-----	1%		
[]g.	Fishing -----	23%	-----	27%	-----	37%
	-----	11%	-----	1%		
[]h.	Hunting -----	14%	-----	17%	-----	60%
	-----	8%	-----	1%		
[]i.	Camping overnight -----	16%	-----	32%	-----	38%
	-----	14%	-----	1%		
[]j.	Birding or wildlife viewing -----	17%	-----	34%	-----	43%
	-----	5%	-----	1%		
[]k.	Horseback riding -----	6%	-----	15%	-----	61%
	-----	17%	-----	1%		

19. Are you registered to vote at this address? **(IF YES, ASK:)** Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or a member of another party?

Yes, Democrat -----	27%
Yes, Republican -----	27%
Yes, Independent/Another party -----	33%
No, not registered to vote -----	6%
(DON'T KNOW/NA) -----	7%

20. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living at home?

Yes -----	31%
No -----	66%
(DON'T READ) REFUSED/NA -----	2%

21. What was the last level of school you completed?

Not a high school graduate -----	8%
High school graduate or equivalent -----	30%
Some college or trade school, no degree -----	24%
Associates degree or trade school degree -----	10%
Bachelors or four-year college degree -----	18%
Masters degree -----	8%

Professional or doctoral degree----- 3%
(DON'T KNOW)----- 1%

22. In what year were you born?

1988-1982 (18-24)----- 8%
 1981-1977 (25-29)----- 8%
 1976-1972 (30-34)----- 8%
 1971-1967 (35-39)----- 7%
 1966-1962 (40-44)----- 8%
 1961-1957 (45-49)----- 11%
 1956-1952 (50-54)----- 8%
 1951-1947 (55-59)----- 9%
 1946-1942 (60-64)----- 7%
 1941-1932 (65-74)----- 12%
 1931 or earlier (75 & over)----- 12%
(REFUSED/ DK/NA) ----- 2%

23. I don't need to know the exact amount, but please stop me when I read the category that includes the total income for your household before taxes in the year 2005. Was it:

\$20,000 and under-----10%
 \$20,001 - \$40,000 -----18%
 \$40,001 - \$60,000 -----16%
 \$60,001 - \$80,000 -----14%
 \$80,001 - \$100,000----- 7%
 \$100,001 \$120,000----- 4%
 \$120,001 or more----- 3%
(DON'T READ) Refused/NA -----28%

24. Are you currently employed? **(IF YES, ASK: Are you employed as a farmer or grower, or do you work in the agricultural business?)**

Farmer or grower----- 6%
 Work in the agricultural business----- 4%
 Other employment -----50%
 No, not employed -----37%
(DON'T READ) Refused/Don't know----- 3%

25. How dependent is your household income on the farm economy?

Very dependent-----18%
Somewhat dependent-----22%
Not really dependent -----12%
Not dependent at all -----42%
(DON'T READ) Refused/Don't know----- 6%

THANK AND TERMINATE

SEX (BY OBSERVATION):

Male -----49%
Female-----51%

REPLICATE # _____

Interviewer _____

PHONE _____

Verified by: _____

ZIP CODE_ _____

FIPS CODE _____

COUNTY _____

COUNTY

Black Hawk -----4%
Johnson -----3%
Linn -----7%
Polk ----- 14%
Scott -----4%
Woodbury -----2%
Other ----- 67%

MEDIA MARKET

Sioux City -----9%
Cedar Rapids-Wtrlo.-Ia. City-Dublin ----- 29%
Des Moines - Ames----- 36%
Davenport-R. Island-Moline ----- 11%
Other ----- 15%

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 ----- 20%
2 ----- 19%
3 ----- 20%
4 ----- 21%
5 ----- 20%

TYPE OF AREA (FROM SAMPLE)

Urban----- 35%
Rural----- 43%
Suburban----- 21%
Blank ----- 1%

APPENDIX 4 References Cited

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