

DNR 2007 Ag and Natural Resources Appropriations Joint Subcommittee - Budget Offer Summary

| | OFFER TITLE | PURPOSE | FTE | RESULTS | GOV Rec | DEPT Request | OTHER FUNDS | Notes |
|---------------------------------|---|---|------------|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| FULL FUNDING RECOMMENDED | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation | This offer improves habitat in forests, parks, preserves, wildlife management areas, rivers and lakes; adds acres annually in publicly owned land and waters to increase public access for outdoor recreation; maintains adequate contingent of officer positions to provide a high level of compliance, resource protection, quality programs and ability to adequately respond to emergency calls for service; increases students certified in recreational safety programs to decrease accidents and prevent violations; targets user groups to educate them about rules and regulations, in order to reduce fish and wildlife law violations and build support for Department programs; and encourages and facilitates public/private partnerships. | 638.28 | Parks, preserves, lakes, rivers, forests and wildlife areas contribute to the health and well-being of Iowa's families and ecosystem. These public lands and resources are economic anchors to communities across Iowa. Iowa's 430,000 acres of wildlife areas, parks and forests protect soil from erosion, serve as water filters during rain events and provide much needed habitat for both game and non-game species. Nearly 1,000 animal species and over 1,500 plant species are native to Iowa and are in need of protection, including 90 species of plants and animals on the threatened and endangered species list. Over 14,000,000 annual visitors to parks, 250,000 hunters, 325,000 anglers and 230,000 registered boaters use Iowa's natural resources, and the department is charged with helping assure their safety. Iowa has 85 state parks which provide facilities for camping, cabins, picnicking, trails, swimming, boating and fishing. This offer provides for the preservation, restoration and best management of Iowa's natural resources, and provides quality outdoor recreation opportunities. | \$8,800,611 | \$8,800,611 | \$42,134,959 | Other funds include Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and a little over \$800,000 in federal support. |
| 2 | Watershed Protection and Restoration | This offer supports a comprehensive state-wide watershed management approach, which facilitates active engagement of local organizations and private landowners to address complex water quality and natural resource issues. This maintains our ability to: gathering, assessing & distributing water quality and natural resource data, and information; providing assistance to communities and local groups to support the development of watershed, conservation, and infrastructure improvement projects; building local capacity to develop and implement local ordinances and programs; and regulating various activities that can potential adversely impact the quality of Iowa's waters, and the safety of our citizens. | 204.1 | Iowa has abundant and diversified water resources. We have almost 72,000 miles of rivers and streams, over 182,000 acres of lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands. Watersheds are the land that feed this most critical resource, and affects water flow, levels, and quality as well as natural diversity. Our watersheds also provide critical habitat for nearly 1,000 animal species and over 1,500 plant species native to Iowa. Yet human activity has changed the landscape, we have over 1,500 domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, roughly 700 rural communities and developments and 100,000 rural homes with inadequate wastewater treatment, nearly 3,000 animal confinements, over 40,000 sq. miles in row crops, and countless new developments. These potential contaminant sources reside in a wide range of settings providing an equally wide range of impacts to our waters and habitats. This offer supports efforts to protect and restore aquatic, forest and wildlife habitats, ensure waters are fishable and swimmable, protect threatened and endangered species, reduce the risk of floods, and insure groundwater resource sustainability. | \$5,199,533 | \$5,199,533 | \$16,697,695 | Other funds primarily include federal support - roughly \$11.2 million, and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. |
| 3 | Health and the Environment | This offer helps the Department to maintain our ability to ensure compliance with drinking water standards and protective air quality health standards; reduce potential impacts to drinking water supplies and vulnerable groundwater; reduce illegal dumping and open burning of waste; ensure quick emergency response to spills of materials with a potential to create a hazardous condition; reduce children's access to and proper disposal of household hazardous waste; promote wise use of resources to minimize environmental contamination and improve economic conditions in Iowa. It minimizes exposure to toxins and unsanitary conditions, provides safe water to drink, and maintains clean air to breath. | 260.25 | Exposure to environmental contaminants can lead to wide range of health problems including: lowering resistance to respiratory and heart diseases, exacerbating allergies, triggering gastrointestinal illnesses and fevers, and causing cancer and adverse neurological, reproductive and developmental effects. Other hazards can increase potential health risk from disease transmission. Some segments of the population are also more vulnerable: children, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems. The activities supported by this offer are prevention-focused, geared to prevent such health problems from occurring. Minimizing potential human exposure to contamination and hazards protects our citizens' health, and enhances communities' quality of life. | \$3,792,435 | \$3,792,435 | \$25,438,884 | Other funds include roughly \$10.5 Million in federal support, and \$14.7 Million from state funds - groundwater protection fund, and Air Title V fees. |

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| 4 | Energy Program Continuation | This offer supports the Department's ability to continue providing outreach to the rural communities, including our state's agricultural producers, in the form of expanded information about methane digesters and combined heat and power applications, both of which compliment efforts of other IDNR programs that regulate air emissions and manage waste. Methane digestion is an alternative and effective manure- and nutrient-management tool, keeping biosolids out of waterways and in contained facilities while generating electricity for the operator. This offer also supports providing assistance in joining federal assistance programs related to energy conservation and generation. | 1 (existing) | Without additional funding, IDNR will not be able to continue its Rural Outreach Program, which targets rural communities and agricultural producers and provides information and resources about compatible environmental management and energy management systems. Last year, IDNR helped spear-head an effort that brought more than \$5.4 million to the state's rural small businesses and agricultural producers to install energy conservation and generation technologies. | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$0 | Replace existing federal funds that are not going to be replenished. The Department has been using Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE), aka oil overcharge funds, which are settlement funds from price-gouging actions of the 1980's to pay for energy programs. These funds are nearly depleted. In addition, additional federal granting sources are providing less and less money to deliver outreach, deployment, and demonstration programs each year. In the DOE base grant alone, we are facing a 20% reduction. |
| 5 | Air Quality Livestock Monitoring | This offer supports the department's comprehensive field study to monitor the level of airborne pollutants emitted from animal feeding operations and manure applications. It intends to document baseline pollutant concentrations, and improve our understanding of the airborne pollutants originating from such activities and the resulting health effects. The focus of the study is on odor and ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emissions. | 0 | In recent years, livestock production in Iowa has involved fewer farms with more animals produced at each. As the number of animals at a given farm has increased, so have the air emissions from these farms, including odor, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. Until the initiation of this comprehensive study, little was known about air quality related to animal feeding operation - because there are relatively few monitoring programs for large-scale livestock production compared to other industries. Air emissions from animal feeding operations include a wide array of toxicants. Common health effects from such toxicants include sinusitis, chronic bronchitis, irritation of the nose and throat, headaches, muscle aches and pains, asthma and acute declines in lung function. Most of the documented health consequences are have been associated with the employees of animal feeding operations, which are a relatively healthy group. This impairs the Department's ability to extrapolate occupational health risks observed among workers to community health risks due to uncertainties regarding the pollutant's impact to sensitive populations. | \$275,000 | \$0 | \$0 | Offer originally submitted under Environmental First funding. The Governor's recommendation is equal to the Department's request. This is intended to restore state funding provided in SFY 05. In SFY 06, the Department was directed to utilize storm water fees. |
| PARTIAL FUNDING RECOMMENDED | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | State Parks Operations and Safety | This offer enhances the Department's ability to ensure safe recreation in state parks and recreation areas with the addition of a Park Ranger in Waubonsie State Park (with new expansion). | 1 | Parks and recreation areas contribute to the health and well-being of Iowa's families and ecosystem. They serve as economic anchors to communities across Iowa. Ensuring the safety of outdoor recreation participants and the protection of the natural resources is critical. This provides safe, quality outdoor recreation opportunities in new and expanded state parks. | \$75,000 | \$500,000 | | The Department request would have added an additional 4 staff above the Governor's recommendation. This would have provided new staff for the new Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, Honey Creek Destination Park, Brushy Creek Recreation Area, and Lake of Three Fires. In addition to the positions, it also addressed the sharp increase in gasoline costs. A budget increase was based on an analysis of usage and percent of projected increase. After taking into account gas conservation measures, an increase of \$100,000 to cover rocketing gas prices was included. |

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| 7 | Pollution Prevention Intern Program Enhancement | The Department is requesting start-up funds to expand the pollution prevention intern program in order to increase the number of student internships from 20 to 25. This builds upon a nationally recognized program that has won 2003 Regional and National Council of State Governments Most Innovative Program Awards, as well as the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Program. | 0 | Due to insufficient funding, the program has been forced to turn away 84% of the students and 67% of the companies that apply. Dollar savings to companies that have participated average approximately \$150,000 per intern per business. Commulative savings to participating companies is over \$18 Million. 2005 annual results include conserving 75 million gallons of water, reducing over 29,000 tons of solid and special waste, reducing 3.4 million kilowatt hours in energy use, and over 1,000 tons of air emissions. The expansion of the program would allow us to increase these results by at least 10%. | \$50,000 | \$100,000 | | The Department request would have provided funding for 29 internships, with a 20% increase in the noted results. |
| NOT RECOMMENDED | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Local Watershed Improvement | This enhances the Department's comprehensive state-wide watershed management approach by increasing and formalizing technical assistance, training and support of local organizations in addressing complex water quality and natural resource issues. Secondly, it improves our ability to work cooperatively with municipalities, counties, and private industry in managing storm water runoff from construction sites and increasing compliance with storm water quality requirements. This enhancement will improve our ability to protect and restore aquatic habitats, ensure priority waters are fishable and swimmable, and reduce the risk of floods by assisting local watershed groups and local political subdivisions of government. Conditions: Require additional state support is provided for flood plain and TMDL activities, allowing DNR to utilize storm water fees to expand its efforts in reducing water quality impacts of storm water. | 7 | Iowa has abundant and diversified water resources. We have almost 72,000 miles of rivers and streams, and over 161,000 acres of lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Watersheds are the land that feed this most critical resource, and affects water flow, levels, and quality as well as natural diversity. Yet human activity has changed the landscape, we have over 1,500 municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, roughly 700 rural communities and developments and 100,000 rural homes with inadequate wastewater treatment, nearly 3,000 animal confinements, over 40,000 sq. miles in row crops, and countless new developments – including over 2000 active construction sites throughout the state. These potential contaminant sources reside in a wide range of settings providing an equally wide range of impacts to our waters. This offer provides a necessary element to success – helping local officials and groups better understand their watersheds, and supporting the work that they do. | \$0 | \$800,000 | \$0 | |
| 9 | Healthy Iowa Lakes and Wetlands Demonstration Project | The Department is requesting start-up funds for a water quality improvement demonstration program in selected shallow lakes and wetlands. This offer improves water quality, fish and wildlife diversity, recreational usage, local economies, and community awareness in 3 lake/wetland demonstration projects in targeted watersheds. Ongoing watershed work will be enhanced with water quality improvement projects in and around the bodies of water. | 0 | This offer compliments watershed work by cleaning up targeted lakes and wetlands. Shallow lakes and wetlands are extremely productive systems, providing fish, wildlife and recreation as well as natural pollution controls. The quality of these habitats and quality of recreation they support is often impaired due to poorly protected watersheds that deliver sediment and pollutants to these bodies of water. Water quality impairment is also caused by abundant populations of common carp. Carp decimate the natural aquatic vegetation that indicates a healthy body of water. Their churning causes sediment and nutrients to be suspended, causing unhealthy, cloudy water. The goal of this offer is to establish a Healthy Iowa Lakes and Wetlands Demonstration Program. Under this program, three to four projects will be established across the state. Lakes/wetlands such as West Swan Lake (Emmet County), Diamond Lake (Dickenson County), Ventura Marsh (Cerro Gordo County), Lake Darling (Washington County) and Rock Creek Lake (Jasper County) are examples that would benefit from this | \$0 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | Other funds reflect private-federal match. |
| General Fund Total | | | | | \$18,292,579 | \$19,542,579 | | SFY 06 General Fund Appropriation was \$17,792,578. The Governor's recommendation represents a \$500,000 increase over SFY 06. |

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| NON GENERAL FUND | | | | | | | |
| Fish and Wildlife Operations plus Enhancements | This offer maintains the status quo budget for the Fisheries, Wildlife and Law Enforcement Bureaus--(described in items 1 and 2). Additional funds beyond FY06 are being appropriated for the following: 1. Increased boat registration fees--\$1 million. The legislature passed an increase in boat registration fees last year, and mandated that half the increase would be used to improve navigation safety and the other half would go to aquatic invasive species control. 2. Urban Outdoor Recreation--\$240,000. Creates a team of DNR staff to provide assistance to urban areas and communities for natural resource based recreation--includes Shooting Sports Coord.; Boating Safety Coord. 3. Missouri River Fisheries Biologist Team--The Army Corps of Engineers is providing funding to manage mitigation projects on the Missouri River and address additional management issues that arise. 4. Increased gas costs budget--\$375,000 from license and stamp sales. | 4FTE (12 seasonal WPO); 4FTE (12 seasonal AIS aides) and 1 FTE NR2; 2 EO1; 1 AA1 | Fisheries, lakes, rivers, and wildlife areas contribute to the health and well-being of Iowa's families and ecosystem. These public lands and resources are economic anchors to communities across Iowa. Ensuring the safety of outdoor recreation participants and the protection of the natural resources is critical. This offer provides for the preservation, restoration and best management of Iowa's natural resources, and provides quality outdoor recreation opportunities. | \$34,322,525 | \$34,322,525 | | \$1,845,000 increase funded through Army Corps of Engineers; boat registration fees increase; increased revenue from hunting and fishing license sales. |
| Groundwater Protection Fund | Supports operational expenses covered in "Health and the Environment" | | | \$12,323,000 | \$12,323,000 | | |
| UST Administration Match | Supports operational expenses covered in "Health and the Environment" | | | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | | |