

Fiscal Year 2020

(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

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Performance Report



[PERFORMANCE RESULTS ACHIEVED]

This report reflects the progress made during fiscal year 2019 toward our goals and provides information regarding the condition of our state's natural resources and the effectiveness of our programs.

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Introduction

The core mission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is to lead the efforts of Iowans in conserving and enhancing our natural resources. This mission requires us to take a long-term, strategic planning approach that focuses on goals beyond fiscal and political cycles. This performance report outlines some of the results that have been achieved in the past fiscal year although many represent progress toward longer-term goals extending beyond just a year.

One of the unfortunate truths of working in conservation is that many of our efforts are not “instant gratification” ventures. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeing noteworthy accomplishments materialize from decades of work and continues to see that same progress year after year.

The DNR strives to meet the Governor’s recommendations to foster partnerships, both through the public and private sectors. There is probably nothing as valuable – or rewarding – as the partnerships we participate in with Iowans at all levels, every day, to protect our natural resources and make our state a better place to live and make a living.

The accomplishments and goals shared throughout this report are only a small glimpse at the grand picture and the expansive work our very talented employees are proactively working on each day to ensure a lasting legacy for multiple generations to come.

This report is a time to reflect on the past accomplishments, but definitely not a place to stop looking forward to the challenges of the future. I am confident that the DNR, in partnership with Iowa’s citizens, will be celebrating even more natural resource success stories decades from now.

Kayla Lyon, Director
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources

Agency Overview

Vision: The vision for the Department of Natural Resources is leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources.

Mission: The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to conserve and enhance our natural resources, in cooperation with individuals and organizations, to improve the quality of life in Iowa and ensure a legacy for future generations. The mission is outlined in the Code of Iowa 455A.2: “A department of natural resources is created, which has the primary responsibility for state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in this state.”

Four strategic goals focus DNR’s attention:

1. The DNR will assess and optimize organizational performance in order to serve Iowans and the environment.
2. Iowans will connect with nature and have a healthy and safe environment for work and play.

Major services and products of DNR:

The Department has a wide range of functional responsibilities. To meet them, the DNR core functions include:

- A. Resource protection and management including:
1. Fish and wildlife populations and their habitats on public and private lands
 2. Forest resources on public and private lands
 3. Air, groundwater, surface water, and land resources while simultaneously considering economic development needs.
- B. Recreation including:

1. Healthful, outdoor recreational opportunities for 900,000 hunters, anglers, and boaters, 1 million wildlife enthusiasts and over 15 million park visitors.
 2. Manage lands owned by the state-390,222 acres of public land and facilities, including 85 parks, 487 wildlife areas, 275 lakes, and 10 state forests.
 3. Technical assistance to landowners, local governments, business and industry and other state agencies for environmental and natural resource management.
- C. Regulation and enforcement including:
1. License, permit and regulate hunters, anglers, and boaters, confined animal waste facilities, underground storage tanks, leaking underground tanks, public water supplies, wastewater treatment facilities, air contaminant sources, solid waste facilities, and contaminated sites.
 2. Certification of drinking water operators, wastewater treatment operators, animal waste applicators, and well drillers.
 3. Compliance inspections at various regulated facilities.
- D. Information and general assistance including:
1. The DNR website has on average 850,000 pageviews per month with approximately 258,000 unique visitors.
 2. Webmaster answered approximately 15,900 emails in FY2020. Nearly 51,500 calls came in through the main line in FY2020.

3. Circulation of approximately 35,000 copies per issue of the Iowa Outdoors Magazine, with more than 45,000 readers and distribution to every school in Iowa.
 4. Provide weekly news packets and newsletters on environmental and natural resource issues.
 5. More than 780,000 subscribers to DNR email lists. This includes 52 active email lists within the DNR ranging from Wastewater Updates to Hunting News. Over 600 email blasts were sent out to subscribers in FY2020 with more than 16 million cumulative recipients.
 6. Additional communications includes more than 124,000 Facebook followers, more than 23,000 Twitter followers, more than 20,100 Pinterest followers, more than 18,000 Instagram followers, more than 2,600 LinkedIn followers and nearly 48,500 followers of the weekly fishing report.
 7. Responded to approximately 6,600 inquiries in FY2020 through social media.
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- E. Research, natural resource inventory, and data collection
 - F. Financial assistance, including loans and grants to individuals, businesses, industries, schools and other government entities.
 - G. Internal customer services to administer all DNR programs.
- The DNR has 826 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs).

In total there are 66 job classifications used within DNR. Professional positions comprise the largest group, especially those requiring education and training in scientific, engineering and conservation fields. Three labor unions represent DNR staff: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Iowa United Professionals, and the State Police Officers Council.

In FY2020, the DNR had an operational budget of \$134.3 million and an overall budget of \$231.2 million derived from various revenue sources. Of that budget, 6-percent is appropriated from state general funds with the remainder from federal sources, fees or other sources.

Agency Performance Plan Results

Core Function: Conservation, Preservation and Stewardship			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Number of Impaired Waters in Iowa	439	586	Data Source: DNR, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section
2. Percentage of Iowa's publicly owned lakes with water clarity (secchi depth) greater than 1 meter.	50%	28%	What Occurred: Water clarity is commonly utilized by the public to determine water quality. Data Source: DNR, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section
3. Percent of Iowa's Nongame Breeding Bird species with stable or increasing populations	66%	54.2%	What Occurred: From data collected for the National Breeding Bird Survey through 2015 (the most recent finalized data available to us), 8.4% of Iowa's nongame birds are increasing, 9.6% are decreasing, 45.8% are slightly increasing, and 36% are slightly decreasing. Data Source: Nongame Wildlife Program, DNR
4. Number of pheasants per route of the annual August roadside surveys.	35	21	Data Source: 2018 Iowa Roadside Survey, Wildlife Bureau, DNR. September 2018.
5. Number of communities identified by the U.S. Forest Service as developing or managed Urban Forestry communities.	240 (2014) 285 (2015) 285 (2016) 285 (2017) 285 (2018) 290 (2019)	327 335 332 244 244 298	Data Source: Forestry Section, DNR
6. Acres of Land in conservation easements or programs, state, county conservation board, or federal ownership, or NGOs.	3,500,000	2,967,537	What Happened: Total conservation/recreation lands in the state: 1,073,554; Total USDA conservation program/easement lands in the state: 1,893,993

Service, Product or Activity: Watershed Protection and Restoration			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percentage of Iowa waters meeting a minimum Index of Biotic Integrity score of TBD.	Data collection to begin in FY18	N/A	<p>What Occurred: Data collection to begin in FY 2020</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section</p>
2. Number of streams with sustainable trout reproduction.	40	61	<p>What Occurred: Recent efforts in the watersheds of coldwater streams combined with in-stream improvements have resulted in consistent, natural reproduction of trout in 61 streams covering over 80 stream miles. In addition, 22 streams exhibit recent but inconsistent reproductive success.</p> <p>Data Source: Fisheries Bureau, DNR</p>
3. Acres of forest land plus the acres enrolled in the USDA programs of CRP and WRP.	3,200,000	2,910,000	<p>What Occurred: After declining from 2.3 million acres in 1954 to a low of 1.6 million acres in 1970s, area of forest land has increased at a steady rate, reaching a peak of 3.1 million acres in 2011, then declining slightly to the current estimate of 2.97 million acres. Almost all (96 percent) of Iowa's forest land is timberland; 3 percent is reserved forest land, and 1 percent is other forest land.</p> <p>Data Source: 2020 USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis.</p>

Service, Product or Activity: Resource Efficiency			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Average Dollars Saved per Company from P2 Waste Reduction	\$50,000	N/A	<p>What Occurred: N/A – the program was suspended in 2020 due to Covid-19 precautions.</p> <p>Data Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Intern Program Case Summaries, 2018 & 2019</p>

Core Function: Enforcement and Investigation			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Rate of compliance with hunting regulations among hunters checked.	95%	95%	Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau
2. Number of Hunter Incidents including Fatalities	25	11	<p>What Occurred: Prevention of hunting accidents is a high priority for the Law Enforcement Bureau. Education and enforcement continue to make hunting safer for all participants. In CY2019, there were 10 personal injury/property damage incidents and one fatality.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau</p>
3. Number of Boating Incidents including Fatalities	40	22	<p>What Occurred: In FY20, there were 22 boating incidents, 14 with personal injuries, 6 property damages, and 6 fatalities.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Iowa Boating Education Program</p>

Service, Product or Activity: Safe Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Enforcement			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Average number of conservation officer contacts for compliance per week.	35	45	<p>What Occurred: Direct contact between conservation officers and the recreation public is vital to assuring compliance with laws and keeping activities safer. Such contact numbers with hunters, fishers, boaters and others were consistent throughout all portions of the state.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau</p>
2. Number of hunter safety students certified.	14,000	9,767	<p>Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau</p>
3. Number of boating safety students certified.	1,500	1,934	<p>What Occurred: Mandatory boating safety training for youthful boaters has increased the number of students certified. This will result in safer boating for all in future years. This number includes classroom, internet and home study courses.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Iowa Boating Education Program</p>

Core Function: Recreation			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Annual deer harvest that will promote a healthy population.	100,000 – 120,000	99,999	<p>What Occurred: Hunters reported harvesting 99,999 deer in Iowa during the 201-20 seasons. However, disease, social interactions, and hunter satisfaction variations require local population management which is accomplished through adjustments to county antlerless quotas and special hunting seasons.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Wildlife Bureau</p>
2. Number of counties within 10% of deer harvest target.	99	99	<p>What Occurred: The county based antlerless quota directs harvest to those counties where deer surveys and harvest indicate that deer numbers are higher than desired. These goals are based upon stakeholder attitude surveys and would represent a point where deer numbers are at a level that is acceptable to a majority of Iowa's citizens.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Wildlife Bureau</p>
3. Average park usage per capita per year.	5.0	4.7 (2015) 5.0 (2016) 4.8 (2017) 4.4 (2018) 4.8 (2019)	<p>The continued work during the Parks 2020 initiative continues to improve the facilities at our state parks and continues to increase the number of in-state and out-of-state visitors to our parks.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau</p>
4. Percent of State Parks with adequate Utility Infrastructure (fiscal year).	60%	50% (2015 – 2016) 55% (2017) 62% (2018) 66% (2019)	<p>What Occurred: An Environmental Audit documented sewer, water supply and electrical infrastructure for all parks. Bringing all parks up to code is a part of the Parks 2020 plan.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau</p>

Service, Product or Activity: Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Number of State Park camper nights.	750,000	837,612 (2015) 839,138 (2016) 870,916 (2017) 748,312 (2018) 790,078 (2019)	What Occurred: The trend of higher usage is in relation to ongoing campground upgrades, good weather, and awareness/access through the reservation system. In 2018, flooding forced several closures at state parks as well as five campgrounds were closed for renovations. Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau
2. Number of hours worked by DNR Volunteers.	75,000	71,396	DNR volunteers are an integral part of the Department. These volunteers assist with natural resource activities around the state.
3. Acres of state natural areas.	372,575	389,893	(State Owned Public Land plus Conservation Easements held) Data Source: DNR Realty Services

Core Function: Regulation and Compliance			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Violations of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).	0 (zero)	0	<p>There have been no violations of the national ambient air quality standards over the 2018-2020 averaging period.</p> <p>A portion of Muscatine is in nonattainment with the sulfur dioxide standard, and a portion of Council Bluffs is in nonattainment with the Lead standard. Both areas are successfully implementing emissions reductions that have resulted in clean air. No violations of the standards were monitored in either area during 2019.</p> <p>Data Source: EPA AQS Database *Data subject to final certification.</p>
2. Percent of population drinking water in compliance with all health-based standards in the Safe Drinking Water Act.	95%	95.2%	<p>What Occurred: Public water supplies continue to provide high quality water to their users. Of the 2.95 million people served by public water supplies, 2.89 million people received water meeting all health-based drinking water standards. In 2018 (the latest available data), of the 1,838 regulated public water supplies, 95.2% of the systems had no violations of a health-based drinking water standard.</p> <p>Data Source: State of Iowa Public Drinking Water 2019 Annual Compliance Report, June 2020</p>
3. Compliance Rate for USTs to Meet Environmental Guidelines	86%	59%	<p>What Occurred: Release prevention (spill, overfill, corrosion protection) = 82%; Release detection = 65% For both combined (release prevention and release detection) = 59%; Based on 1336 facility inspections conducted between 10/1/19 and 3/31/2020.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR, Land Quality Bureau</p>

Service, Product or Activity: Health and the Environment			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Average Lead Time for issuing air quality Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits.	180 days	124 days	What Occurred: The Air Quality Construction Permit Section issued 150 PSD permits in FY20. Data Source: DNR, Air Quality Bureau
2. Average Lead Time for issuing standard air quality construction permits.	30 days	35 days	What Occurred: The Air Quality Construction Permit Section issued 1207 standard construction permits in FY20. Data Source: DNR, Air Quality Bureau
3. Average Lead Time for issuing complex (non-PSD) air quality construction permits.	90 days	222 days	What Occurred: The Air Quality Construction Permit Section issued 591 complex (non-PSD) construction permits in FY20. Data Source: DNR, Air Quality Bureau
4. Average Lead Time for issuing major wastewater construction permits.	180 days	21 days	What Occurred: For FY20, 111 major wastewater construction permits were issued, with an average turnaround from the time a completed application was received to permit issued. Data Source: DNR, Wastewater Engineering Section
5. Average Lead Time for issuing minor wastewater construction permits	30 days	7 days	What Occurred: For FY20, 326 minor wastewater construction permits were issued, with an average turnaround from the time a completed application was received to permit issued. Data Source: DNR, Wastewater Engineering Section
6. Average Lead Time for NPDES permit issuance.	180 days	921 days	What Occurred: 260 individual industrial, municipal, municipal water treatment, semipublic, agricultural, storm water and MS4 permits were issued in FY20. Of these, 12 were new applications, and 248 were renewals of existing NPDES permits. Data Source: Iowa DNR NPDES Section
7. Average annual savings per company for waste reduction	\$50,000	\$26,766 (2019) **Program was suspended in 2020 due to Covid-19**	What Occurred: Savings per participating company varies with the types of environmental savings appropriate for the companies. Interns who identify the savings continue to function at a very professional level. Twelve Iowa companies saved \$137,879 through interns who served them in 2017/2018. In 2019/2020, eleven Iowa companies saved \$26,766 through the interns that served them in 2019. The greatest economic benefits came from reductions in energy use. Data Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Intern Program Case Summaries, 2018 & 2019 ***The intern program was not held during the summer of 2020 due to Covid-19.***
8. Average Lead Time for issuing open feedlot and confinement construction permits.	60 days	54 days	What Occurred: 126 open feedlot and confinement construction permits were issued in FY20, with an average lead time of 52 days. Data Source: DNR, Field Services and Compliance Bureau

Core Function: Resource Management			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Average Number of unique visitors who view DNR webpages	250,000	315,000	<p>What Occurred: DNR is marketing more services and information through the use of its online presence. The DNR website averages 1,000,000 page views per month with approximately 315,000 unique visitors. It is estimated that this use of the web, combined with the increased way users search for information, accounts for the continuing demand and website page views.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Web Data Report</p>
2. Number of LEAN activities	6	13	<p>What Occurred: Agency events contributed to streamlined processes that include technological solutions for the ease of outside customers using DNR services (Lab Certification), developed consistency between multiple work units (natural resource management, state park concessions, shooting range) and elimination of rework and repurposed staff time (wastewater land application). All events utilized customers some of which were not external to the department but external to the process.</p> <p>The Department has also moved towards a daily continuous improvement culture. In 2016 all Environmental Services Division supervisors were trained in the SIPOC tool and implemented that tool into their sections and bureaus. In 2017 the water quality bureau held a 1 week-mass mapping event to capture existing process with the intention in 2018 to initiate process improvement. The department also started the roll-out of trainings in lean tools, the first, The Art of Facilitation. From those trainings monthly gatherings are held with those who attended to continue providing mentoring assistance as well as to continue sharing new tools to help staff become better facilitators for our processes and communication with our customers.</p> <p>Data Source: DNR Director's Office</p>

Service, Product or Activity: Department Support Services

Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percentage of Telephone Inquiries Answered without Referral	75%	84%	What Occurred: DNR central office received over 51,500 telephone calls at its general number. Most customers received the information requested from our calling center without the need to transfer calls to other staff. Data Source: DNR Automated Call Distribution Data Reports

Resource Allocations

There were no significant resource reallocations made in FY2020.

Code Compliance

This report fulfills the requirements of Iowa Code Sections 7A.3, 7E.3, 8E.210, and 455A.4.

Agency Contacts

Copies of the FY2020 Department of Natural Resources Performance Report are available at

http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning_performance/plans_reports/reports.html.

Copies of the report can also be obtained by contacting Alex Murphy at 515-729-7533.

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