

Special Department: 956SD Natural Resources Capital
Fund: 0295 Environment First Fund
Department: 543 Natural Resources Capital
Appropriation: 041H REAP
Offer: 543_ANR_001 Resource Enhancement & Protection Program
Buying Team: ANR Natural Resources

This offer is critical to the quality of life in communities, continued growth of Iowa's economy and to the health and safety of all our citizens.

REAP is a formula-based funding program, driven by citizen participation. Eighty-five REAP delegates representing all counties are elected from 16 regional biannual public meetings. Last year these meetings were attended by more than 1,000 Iowans. The delegates convene at the REAP Congress to guide the program with input from their constituents.

REAP participants identify local natural resource, outdoor recreation and cultural resource issues and goals, and submit grant requests to achieve their objectives.

REAP engages Iowans in determining program direction for improvements to city, county and state parks, water quality and habitat protection, roadside vegetation management, historical protection and conservation education.

Approximately 93% of REAP is capital investment in natural resource protection and outdoor recreation development. Ten percent of REAP dollars are expended on private lands for water quality enhancement, and the remainder targets public lands and waters, yielding both resource protection and public outdoor recreation benefits.

The formula allows 5% of the funds to go towards historical resource protection; 1% percent is spend on administration of the fund; and \$350,000 is dedicated each year for conservation education projects.

Description:

Of the total REAP allocation, 31% is through four competitive grant programs, helping to assure that the highest quality projects are supported. While these grants do not require local match, the competition for them is so intense that most of the successful grants leverage two and three times the grant request with other funding sources, mostly local.

REAP allows for sustainable funding for natural resource protection, cultural resource enhancement and protection and outdoor recreation enhancement at all levels of state government: state, county and city. Each year requests and needs outnumber available funding by three to five times.

Results will be achieved through:

1. Enhancing the availability of land and water for outdoor recreation.
2. Increasing the protection on acres of lands and waters and stream miles.

3. Decreasing the tons of soil that go into our waterways from soil erosion, which will improve water quality from Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico.
4. Building and enhancing public facilities, such as county conservation board nature centers and parks.
5. Continuing to improve and expand environmental education in Iowa.

Justification:

Iowa outdoor enthusiasts (anglers, hunters, wildlife watchers, park users) spend nearly \$1 billion annually on goods and services related to their outdoor activities. This supports 20,000 jobs and yields \$80 million annually in state sales and income tax receipts.

For most medium to small counties and cities, REAP is the only funding opportunity for natural and cultural resource enhancement. In more populated areas, REAP investments leverage major additional funding from local, federal and other state sources to expand the value of REAP.

REAP is a primary funding source (20% of total) for DNR parks and forestry capital investments in public facilities.

REAP directly contributes 23% of the DALS' Division of Soil Conservation effort in water quality protection through cost-share payments to landowners for conservation practices and funding support for larger water quality projects. Even more important, this REAP contribution also acts as a match for the state to receive an additional \$3 million for water quality investment from the EPA.

Requests for REAP grants in all program areas continue to come in at three to five times greater than the amount of money available. Citizen-led grant selection teams report that nearly all grant requests have strong funding merit.

County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and County Conservation Boards report water quality and other conservation needs far outstrip the available fund distribution.

Despite the entire funding history of REAP investments in state parks and open spaces activities, Iowa remains among the very lowest nationally (49th) in per capita spending on state parks, as well as protection of and access to public conservation lands.

Fragile habitats, vulnerable landscapes and lands more suited to recreation than production are available for public protection and access if the financial resources are provided. Acquisition of new public conservation lands and waters is a major part of REAP activities, and one of the most popularly supported by the majority of the state's outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Iowa is ranked 47th in the states in terms of numbers of publicly owned conservation acres.

Studies show that 40% of the employment force chooses where they want to live first, and their job second, and they base that choice on "population attractants" such as quality natural resources, clean water and diverse recreation opportunities. A recent ISU study documents that outdoor recreation amenities are responsible for local economic growth compared to areas without that investment.

Paybacks on REAP investments include quality of life enhancement, cleaner water, economic stimulation during construction, and employment base retention and recruitment.

Participants in the Offer: DNR; grant recipients in Iowa cities and county conservation boards; DOT's Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program; Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation (and county soil and water conservation districts); and Dept. of Cultural Affairs' Historical Resource Development Program.

Performance Measures: Increase acres of protected natural areas.

Target: A minimum of 1,000 acres

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| Object Class | Department Request FY 2007 | Governors Recommended FY 2007 |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| RESOURCES | | |
| Appropriations | | |
| 05A Appropriation | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| TOTAL Appropriations: | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| TOTAL RESOURCES: | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| DISPOSITION OF RESOURCES | | |
| Expenditures | | |
| 407 Intra-State Transfers | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| TOTAL Expenditures: | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| TOTAL DISPOSITION OF RESOURCES: | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |

| Federal Catalog | Department Request FY 2007 | Governors Recommended FY 2007 |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
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Total:

| Job Class | Department Request / FTE FY 2007 | Governors Recommended / FTE FY 2007 |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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Total:

Total FTE: