



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

## Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 28, 2020

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## DNR to recap hunting seasons, discuss possible rule changes at public meetings across the state

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff will provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

“We want people to come out to these meetings, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff,” said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR’s Wildlife Bureau. “Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process.”

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

These meetings replace the one-night listening session held in late winter over the past 15 years. Additional meeting dates and locations will likely be added.

### Meeting date, time and location

Sioux City, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road

Chariton, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Pin Oak Lodge, 45996 Hwy. 14

Okoboji, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Dickinson County Nature Center, 22785 Nature Center Road

Burlington, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Starr's Cave Nature Center, 11627 Starr's Cave Road

Iowa City, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Johnson County ISU extension building, 3109 Old Highway 218 South (search “Johnson County Fairgrounds”)

Algona, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Water’s Edge Nature Center, 1010 250th Street

Bloomfield, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, 1339 Hwy. 63

Creston, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room adjacent to the YMCA, Southwestern Community College, 1201 West Townline Street

Decorah, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Decorah City Hall, 400 Clairborne Drive

Dubuque, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta

Jefferson, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., The Jefferson Depot, 509 East Lincoln Way

Ventura, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Clear Lake Wildlife Unit headquarters, 15326 Balsam Ave.

Waverly, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Ave.

Des Moines, March 3, 7 p.m., Izaak Walton League, 4343 George Flagg Parkway

DeWitt, March 5, 7 p.m., DeWitt Community Center, 512 10th Street

Sac City, March 5, 7 p.m., Sac County Conservation Center at Hagge Park, 2970 280th Street

Toledo, March 5, 7 p.m., Tama CCB Nature Center at Otter Creek Lake Park, 2283 Park Road

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or [Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov), and advise of specific needs.

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## Trout stocking at Ada Hayden Heritage Park postponed

Ames, Iowa – The trout stocking and family trout fishing event scheduled for this Saturday, Feb. 1, at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, has been postponed due to unsafe ice conditions for the expected large crowd.

The trout stocking and family fishing event has been rescheduled for Feb. 8 at noon.

**Media Contact:** Andy Otting, Fisheries Technician, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-204-5885.

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## Opportunity to help DNR track frog and toad populations



*Gray treefrog hides in a common milkweed in Nettleman Island Wildlife Area in Mills County. Amphibians have been of concern to scientists all over the globe as these vulnerable species appear to be declining. Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.*

It's 10 o'clock on a summer night along a gravel road anywhere in Iowa. In the farm pond next to the road, a raucous chorus of male frogs are making themselves heard as they vie for mates. A volunteer stands clipboard in hand, ear cocked, mentally sorting out each of the calling species which are using this seemingly ordinary pond.

All across Iowa, citizen scientists are contributing to wildlife conservation. The volunteer described above was trained through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program.

"With more than 1,000 wildlife species in the state, we just don't have enough staff to adequately monitor all the vulnerable species that we need to. This is where citizen scientists play a crucial role," said Stephanie Shepherd, coordinator of the Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program for the Iowa DNR.

Every March and April, Shepherd travels around the state to lead training workshops that ready folks to collect data on some of Iowa's critical wildlife.

So, what are these critical wildlife species?

Amphibians have been of concern to scientists all over the globe as these vulnerable species appear to be declining. In Iowa's frog and toad call survey, volunteers are trained to listen to and recognize the 16 species of frogs and toads in Iowa based on their breeding calls. In 2019, volunteers surveyed 74 survey routes which translate into a little over 500 wetland sites monitored for frog and toad activity.

"The frog and toad surveyors are particularly special because, to perform the surveys, volunteers have to drive back country roads at night along a specified route with only their ears to collect the data," Shepherd said. "I think most feel that exploring the Iowa wilds at night is a unique experience."

Interested volunteers must register for and attend a training workshop, geared for adults. Frog and Toad Survey workshops will be held in Ringgold County on March 30, Des Moines County on April 10, and Palo Alto County on April 14. All workshops will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

For more information visit: <http://www.iowadnr.com/vwmp/> or e-mail [vwmp@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:vwmp@dnr.iowa.gov)

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## **DNR assistance available for landowners interested in CRP**

Landowner interested in enrolling a portion of their land into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup have until Feb. 28 to write an offer. The general signup came out of the 2018 Farm Bill that increased the cap of acres enrolled from 22 million acres to 27 million.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has information on the latest CRP signup and local contacts available to help landowners navigate the process online at [www.iowadnr.gov/crp](http://www.iowadnr.gov/crp).

By enrolling in CRP, producers are improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and restoring habitat for wildlife. This in turn spurs hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic development across rural Iowa.