

# Fiscal Year 2023

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

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# Performance Report



## [ PERFORMANCE RESULTS ACHIEVED ]

*This report reflects the progress made during fiscal year 2023 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*

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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

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**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.”

Two 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-395,305 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 868,000 pageviews per month with approximately 296,000 unique visitors.
2. 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.
3. Provide weekly news packets and newsletters on environmental and natural resource issues.
4. More than 600,000 subscribers to DNR email lists. This includes more than

50 active email lists within the DNR ranging from Wastewater Updates to Hunting News. Nearly 650 email blasts were sent out to subscribers in FY2023 with more than 26 million cumulative recipients.

5. Additional communications include more than 154,000 Facebook followers, nearly 27,000 Twitter followers, more than 25,000 Pinterest followers, more than 33,000 Instagram followers, nearly 4,600 LinkedIn followers and nearly 89,600 followers of the weekly fishing report.

6. Responded to approximately 7,600 inquiries in FY2023 through social media.

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.

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The DNR has 1039.95 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs).

In total there are 73 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 FY2023, the DNR had an operational budget of \$140.7 million and an overall budget of \$251 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

<b>Core Function: Conservation, Preservation and Stewardship</b>			
<b>Performance Measure (Outcome)</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. <b>Number of Impaired Waters in Iowa</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>597</b>	2022 Integrated Report identified 597 impaired waterbodies with a total of 786 impairments.  Data Source: DNR, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section
2. <b>Percentage of Iowa's publicly owned lakes with water clarity (secchi depth) greater than 1 meter.</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>46%</b>	What Occurred: Water clarity is commonly utilized by the public to determine water quality. OF the 152 lakes sampled, 70 had an average secchi disk depth of greater than 1 meter.  Data Source: DNR, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section
3. <b>Percent of Iowa's Nongame Breeding Bird species with stable or increasing populations</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	What Occurred: Due to COVID, no data were collected in 2020. Data collection resumed in 2021, but the predictive models have not been updated by the USGS. From data collected for the National Breeding Bird Survey through 2019 (the most recent finalized data available to us), 9.4% of Iowa's nongame birds are increasing, 17.6% are decreasing, 28.2% are slightly increasing, and 44.7% are slightly decreasing.  Data Source: Nongame Wildlife Program, DNR
4. <b>Number of pheasants per route of the annual August roadside surveys.</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19.6</b>	What Occurred: The number of pheasants observed in the 2022 Roadside Survey has remained consistent to that of 2021.  Data Source: 2022 Iowa Roadside Survey, Wildlife Bureau, DNR.
5. <b>Number of communities identified by the U.S. Forest Service as developing or managed Urban Forestry communities.</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>285</b>	In 2022 there were 17 Managing and 268 developing urban forestry communities in Iowa. Data Source: Forestry Section, DNR
6. <b>Acres of Land in conservation easements or programs, state, county conservation board, or federal ownership, or NGOs.</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>2,768,866</b>	What Happened: CCB Acres: 193,624 acres. Federal ownership: 248,570 acres. DNR Easements: 5,853 acres. DNR Owned: 395,305. CRP acres: 1,689,931. WRP Acres: 199,167. NGO/City: 235,583 acres

## Service, Product or Activity: Watershed Protection and Restoration

Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Number of streams with sustainable trout reproduction.	75	80	<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 80 streams. In addition, 22 streams exhibit recent but inconsistent reproductive success.</p> <p>Data Source: Fisheries Bureau, DNR Data through December 2022</p>
2. Acres of forest land.	3,200,000	2,851,077	<p>What Occurred: Iowa has 2,851,077 acres of Forest land.</p> <p>Data Source: USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis.</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%	96%	What Occurred: In FY23, Conservation Officers recorded 172,436 contacts, and issued 7,397 warnings or citations.  Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau
2. Number of Hunter Incidents including Fatalities	25	9	What Occurred: Prevention of hunting accidents is a high priority for the department. Education and enforcement continue to make hunting safer for all participants. In CY2022, the lowest number of incidents on record was recorded, with 8 personal injuries, 1 property damage incidents and zero fatalities.  Data Source: DNR, Communication, Outreach and Marketing Bureau
3. Number of Boating Incidents including Fatalities	20	28	What Occurred: In CY2022, there were 28 boating incidents, 7 with personal injuries, 17 property damages, and 4 fatalities.  Data Source: DNR, Iowa Boating Education Program

## 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.	50	42.5	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.  Data Source: DNR, Law Enforcement Bureau
2. Number of hunter safety students certified.	10,000	9,367	In FY2023, we certified 9,367 students in Hunter Education. Of those students, 1,946 (20%) completed the Online/Field Day Course, 2,862 (31%) completed the Traditional Classroom Course, 4,058 (44%) completed the Adult (18+) Online Only Course, and 501 (5%) completed the Dual Online Only (21+/Residents only) Hunter Education and Handgun Safety Course. We held 215 Hunter Education Classes across the state in 81 of the 99 counties.  Data Source: DNR, Communication, Outreach and Marketing Bureau
3. Number of boating safety students certified.	3,000	1,601	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.  Data Source: DNR, Iowa Boating Education Program



<b>Core Function: Recreation</b>			
<b>Performance Measure (Outcome)</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Annual deer harvest that will promote a healthy population.	120,000	109,613	What Occurred: Hunters reported harvesting 109,613 deer in Iowa during the 2022-23 seasons, up 7,000 from the previous hunting season.  Data Source: DNR Wildlife Bureau
2. Number of counties within 10% of deer harvest target.	99	65	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.  Data Source: DNR Wildlife Bureau
3. Average park usage per capita per year.	5.5	4.6	In CY22, 14,670,129 people visited Iowa's State Parks. 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.  Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau
4. Percent of State Parks with adequate Utility Infrastructure (fiscal year).	100%	70%	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 infrastructure plan. Two major campground renovations were completed in 2022.  Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau

<b>Service, Product or Activity: Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Number of State Park camper nights.	1,000,000	815,294	What Occurred: The trend of higher usage is in relation to ongoing campground upgrades, good weather, and awareness/access through the reservation system. In CY22, people are continuing to get outside more, as boosted in 2020 by COVID and social distancing requirements. Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau
2. Number of hours worked by DNR Volunteers.	100,000	67,286	DNR volunteers are an integral part of the Department. These volunteers assist with natural resource activities around the state. Data Source: DNR Parks Bureau

<b>Core Function: Regulation and Compliance</b>			
<b>Performance Measure (Outcome)</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. <b>Violations of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).</b>	<b>0 (zero)</b>	<b>0</b>	<p>There have been no violations of the national ambient air quality standards over the FY23 averaging period.</p> <p><b>Data Source: EPA AQS Database</b></p>
2. <b>Percent of population drinking water in compliance with all health-based standards in the Safe Drinking Water Act.</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<p><b>What Occurred: Public water supplies continue to provide high-quality water to their users. Of the 3.06 million people served by public water supplies, 3.03 million people received water meeting all health-based drinking water standards. In 2022 (the latest available data), of the 1,838 regulated public water supplies, 96.2% of the systems had no violations of a health-based drinking water standard.</b></p> <p><b>Data Source: State of Iowa Public Drinking Water 2022 Annual Compliance Report, June 2023</b></p>
3. <b>Compliance Rate for USTs to Meet Environmental Guidelines</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<p><b>What Occurred: Release prevention (spill, overfill, corrosion protection) = 85%; Release detection = 69%</b>  <b>For both combined (release prevention and release detection) = 61%;</b>  <b>Based on 1408 facility inspections conducted.</b></p> <p><b>Data Source: DNR, Land Quality Bureau</b></p>

<b>Service, Product or Activity: Health and the Environment</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. <b>Average Lead Time for issuing air quality Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits.</b>	180 days	144 days	Data Source: DNR, Air Quality Bureau
2. <b>Average Lead Time for issuing air quality construction permits.</b>	30 days	53 days	Data Source: DNR, Air Quality Bureau
3. <b>Average Lead Time for issuing major wastewater construction permits.</b>	180 days	32 days	What Occurred: For FY23, 88 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
4. <b>Average Lead Time for issuing minor wastewater construction permits</b>	30 days	5 days	What Occurred: For FY23, 308 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
5. <b>Average Lead Time for NPDES permit issuance.</b>	180 days	633 days	Data Source: Iowa DNR NPDES Section
6. <b>Average annual savings per company for waste reduction</b>	\$50,000	\$34,429	What Occurred: In 2023, 11 interns were placed in Iowa businesses, and developed recommendations for improvements that could save the companies more than \$1.2 million annually. While on site, they helped their host companies implement changes resulting in \$378,716 in environmental savings.  Data Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Intern Program Case Summaries, 2023
7. <b>Average Lead Time for issuing open feedlot and confinement construction permits.</b>	60 days	54 days	What Occurred: 68 open feedlot and confinement construction permits were issued in FY23, with an average lead time of 54 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	325,000	296,000	<p>What Occurred: DNR is marketing more services and information through the use of its online presence. The DNR website averages 868,000 page views per month with approximately 296,000 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	20	7	<p>What Occurred: The Department continues to improve upon business processes through improvement projects. This involves the use of strategy tools during more complex improvements such as Kaizen, VSM, Design or 5S, as well as problem solving tools, process mapping, hoshin kanri tools for smaller focused improvement projects.</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	90%		This measure is being deleted in FY23 due to the inability to accurately track the phone logs and subsequent transfers within the department.

## *Resource Allocations*

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There were no significant resource reallocations made in FY2023.

## *Code Compliance*

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

## *Agency Contacts*

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Copies of the FY2022 Department of Natural Resources Performance Report are available at

[http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning\\_performance/plans\\_reports/reports.html](http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning_performance/plans_reports/reports.html).

Copies of the report can also be obtained by contacting Tammie Krausman at 515-402-8763.

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