

Iowa Rivers Revival

2017 Legislative Priorities

Iowa Rivers Revival (IRR) is a statewide leader in river advocacy and education. IRR is committed to protecting some of our most precious natural resources – our rivers and streams. IRR is working to engage individuals, organizations, communities and our government leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment in an effort to improve and enhance the condition of Iowa's rivers and streams. Most life depends on the water provided by our rivers; therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to respect and protect Iowa's water quality for use by present and future generations.

IRR supports increased funding for state funded river-related natural resources programs.

- *Advocate increasing the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Appropriation for the Low-Head Dam Mitigation and Water Trails program to \$3 million – a level consistent with previous appropriations. The Legislature funded the program with \$1 million last year. The money will go towards many dam mitigation projects across the state that need cost share funding.*

Iowa policy leaders need to demonstrate a commitment to funding improvements for water quality and conserving our agricultural soils.

- *Preserve REAP, Environment First and other natural resources programs.*

~ IRR supports a \$25 million appropriation for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in 2017. REAP is authorized by the state legislature to be funded up to \$20M annually, but it has never been fully funded. REAP provides essential funding for soil and water conservation, habitat protection and recreation resources.

- *Raise the state sales tax by 3/8th of one cent to provide a reliable and consistent revenue stream for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Close to 60 percent of the funding generated by the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund would directly or indirectly support water quality improvements across the state. A majority of Iowans support the tax increase.*

Iowa Rivers Revival recognizes the need to protect Iowa's native turtle species.

- *During the 2016 legislative session, Governor Branstad signed a bill mandating the Natural Resources Commission set seasons and bag limits for Iowa four native turtle species. After multiple stakeholder meetings and an extended comment period, we still do not have official rules implemented.*



Helping Iowans restore, protect, and enjoy our rivers.

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