

DNR Releases State of the Environment Report

A new report out this month shows more Iowans are using environmental resources for fishing and camping.

In the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) annual State of the Environment Report, Director Richard Leopold said, “The State of the Environment report allows us to gauge the health of our outdoors, looking specifically at eight areas that indicate the health of Iowa’s environment. Those areas are interconnected; for example, the number of acres in grasslands directly affects water quality and number of pheasants in the state. Clear water signals good water quality, which means better fishing, swimming and boating. The indicator areas, easily seen and accessible, affect Iowans every day.”

The report shows that Iowa’s environmental resources are increasingly being utilized. More Iowan’s are fishing and camping than in recent years. However, it also shows that hunting licenses have dropped consistently for the last several years as harsh winters and wet springs have made hunting more difficult.

Director Leopold concluded, “Challenges also exist, as the continuing loss of grassland habitat makes it difficult for pheasant, jackrabbits, prairie chickens, and other Iowa species to thrive. However, in 2009, Iowa saw one of its largest investments in environmental protection and natural resource development.”

The full report can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/files/2010report.pdf>.