



# THE TRUST FUND'S FORMULA

**“Natural resource management is complex, however, these funding vehicles are interrelated and, because of that, can provide assistance to meet the diverse needs of Iowa’s resources. For example, Iowa’s precious water resource can be positively affected by five to six of the funding vehicles allocating up to 60% of the new funding toward that resource in some way.”\***

## KEY POINTS ABOUT THE TRUST FUND FORMULA

- The formula was developed prior to the passing of the constitutional amendment. It was determined by a broad base of stakeholders including legislators, Farm Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), non-governmental organizations (NGO), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and promised to the people of Iowa.
- Funds are administered through existing infrastructure to reduce bureaucracy, provide clarity, yet allow flexibility.
- The formula requires an annual report to the legislature. The DNR, IDALS, and Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) already work within this structure to submit an annual report of recommendations.
- The Trust must only be used for voluntary practices and **cannot be used** for regulatory efforts, enforcement actions, eminent domain, condemnation or litigation.
- The Trust Fund and expenditures are subject to a yearly audit.

## EXAMPLE EXPENDITURES

### Natural Resources (DNR)

- Wetland and wildlife habitat restoration and protection
- Technical assistance & sound financial incentives to landowners for land & water conservation
- Improvement of rivers and streams to reduce runoff/restore habitat

### Soil Conservation and Water Protection (IDALS)

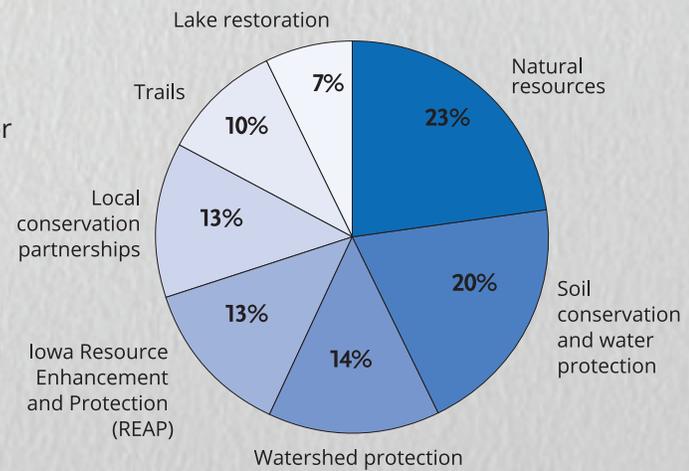
- Installing of conservation practices and watershed protection improvements
- Financial incentives and technical assistance to landowners
- CREP wetlands to enhance water quality

### Watershed Protection (shared by DNR and IDALS)

- Financial assistance for locally directed projects/best management practices (BMP)
- Wetland restoration to improve water quality
- Enhance runoff filtration
- Improve water supplies through BMP installation

### REAP (administered by the DNR, IDALS, DOT, and Department of Cultural Affairs)

- Buffer strips, wetlands, and roadside prairies to improve water quality
- Conserve critical habitat
- Establish conservation practices (BMPs) to improve water quality





**“These funding vehicles were carefully and diligently identified as those which would reduce additional levels of bureaucracy for funding distribution when applicable. They are also structured in a way to work independently and to complement each other.”\***

*\*Quoted directly from Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund report submitted by the Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.*

### **Local Conservation Partnerships** (allocated by the DNR to local communities)

- Promote programs for soil, water, wildlife and conservation
- Outreach to landowners on conservation practices
- Local partnerships

### **Trails** (allocated by DNR and DOT)

- Develop, maintain and promote trails and water trails enhancing economic development and solidifying Iowa's reputation as national leader in trails

### **Lake Restoration** (DNR)

- Leverage long-term water quality benefits through landowner cost share, federal farm programs and IDALS
- Investments to remove lakes from impaired waters list

## **IOWA VOTERS SUPPORT THE TRUST**

- **69 percent** of Iowa voters support a 3/8 cent sales tax increase to fund the Trust.
- **63 percent** of Iowa voters supported the creation of the Trust in 2010
- **83 percent** of Iowa voters continue to support the Trust today
- **88 percent** of Iowans describe pollution of rivers, lakes and streams as a serious problem in Iowa
- **73 percent** of Iowa women voters, **64 percent** of Iowa men voters, **75 percent** of voters age 18-35, and **71 percent** of voters age 65 and older support funding the Trust with a 3/8 cent sales tax increase
- **75 percent** of city dwellers, **83 percent** of suburbanites, **64 percent** of small town residents and **59 percent** of rural residents support funding the Trust with a 3/8 cent sales tax increase

**About the poll:** Public Opinion Strategies conducted live telephone interviews with 500 Iowa residents who are likely to vote in the 2018 general election. The interviews were conducted Nov. 12-16, 2017.



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