

# Pay to Play

Study Units

[Wildlife Management](#); [People and Wildlife](#)

## Supplemental Information

Hunters and anglers pay for natural resources conservation through licenses, stamps, and excise taxes on equipment. They “pay to play.” Hikers, nature photographers, back yard bird feeders, and other non-consumptive users usually are not required to fund natural resource conservation projects they enjoy (although state / county park or trail passes and other fees help support these programs in some areas). These users may contribute through other avenues: private conservation group memberships, supporting local economies near natural areas as they visit, or volunteer work. The [Outdoor Foundation annually surveys individuals on their outdoor recreation activities](#) including bird watching, wildlife watching, hiking, and other outdoor recreation activities. (For a nice summary of the survey, read the topline reports and if you are looking for more detail read the participation report for the latest year.)

Agencies responsible for wildlife (and habitat) management in Iowa include the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and county conservation boards (CCB). Several private conservation groups are involved in land acquisition, habitat improvement, etc. See [People and Wildlife](#) for more information about funding for wildlife management and conservation groups in Iowa.

In Iowa, there is no state park user fee. The cost (2017) of a resident hunting license (and habitat fee) is \$30.00. A resident fishing license (and habitat fee) costs \$19.00. Additional fees are required for hunting deer, turkey, and waterfowl / migratory birds. Additional fees are charges for harvesting furs and fishing for trout.

- Visit the Iowa DNR website for the [current Iowa hunting license fees](#).
- Visit the Iowa DNR website for the [current Iowa fishing license fees](#).

## Teaching Suggestions

The game illustrates the need for diverse, reliable funding from all users for successful natural resources conservation. Have students research funding sources for wildlife (or habitat) management in Iowa. How is the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau funded? CCBs? USFWS? What private groups and organizations are involved in management or habitat acquisition? How are they funded? (See the [People and Wildlife](#) for links to this information.)

If your school takes a trip to the Iowa State Capitol, this activity offers students an opportunity to develop questions for their legislators about natural resource conservation funding and then to interview their legislators in person.



Survey the school parking lot for REAP license plates. Have students ask their parents if they are familiar with the Chickadee Checkoff.

### Evaluation

See the activity.

### Student Materials

None

### Teacher Aids

- Find [county areas / maps](#) from the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
- Search for [Iowa DNR forests, parks and recreation areas, preserves, trails, and more.](#)

### Additional Materials

- [Iowa Legislature; Iowa Laws & Rules](#)
- [Find your Iowa legislator](#)
- [Outdoor Foundation](#) outdoor recreation participation survey

