

## **Iowa Environmental Council factsheet: PERMIT FEES ARE IMPORTANT TO IOWA**

A recent comment in the Des Moines Register tells the story: "They [Iowa Department of Natural Resources] have been hit, and it's hard for them to get all the things done that we ask them to do," said House Speaker Siegrist. "Overall, I'm sure they are underfunded and understaffed."

Legislators can do something constructive to change the situation at DNR.

- Iowa cannot afford to adequately fund and staff DNR, but we continue to give permits to agriculture, business and industry without charging user fees.
- Tax payer dollars from income and sales taxes cover about \$3,000,000 of administrative costs while permittees pay little or no user fees.
- Sportsmen and boaters pay \$26,000,000 per year in user fees. Why don't we ask as much from those who hold DNR permits for major water use, pollution discharge, flood plain development of confined animal feeding operations?
- There are those who call permit fees a tax increase when in reality the fees put an end to business subsidies.
- Support user fees in pending CAFO legislation.

Livestock Feeding Operation License	\$0
Water Pollution Discharge Permit	\$0
Flood Plain Development Permit	\$0
Water Use Permit	\$2.50
Fishing License	\$11 - \$33
Hunting License	\$13 - \$89
State Park Camping	\$6 - \$16
Boat License	\$3.50 - \$15