



Endangered and Threatened Species, Noxious Weeds: Judging Exhibits with Wildlife and Plant Laws and Ethics in Mind

As Stated in the 4-H Premium Book:

Endangered and threatened plants and animals (includes insects) should not be used in any exhibit. Wildflowers taken from parks should not be used. It is illegal to possess songbird feathers or nests. Game animals "legally taken" such as pheasant, goose, duck or quail are acceptable. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a plant that should not be planted in gardens. It has the potential of becoming noxious in Iowa. Other dried established noxious weeds are acceptable to use in exhibits.

Next year this will be added:

A person shall not sell, offer for sale, or distribute teasel (*Dipsacus sp.*) biennial, the multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), or seeds of them in any form in this state.

Other than teasel, multiflora rose and purple loosestrife, it is the decision not to put youth in the position of having to worry about the list of noxious weeds when including them in static exhibits. Many of the weeds are collected, dried and made into flower arrangements or included in plant collections. We encourage youth not to plant any noxious weed. Please check the list of noxious weeds at the ISU Extension web site:

<http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/Default.htm>, or U.S. government web site:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/index.html>

Protected non-game

Protected nongame species include wild fish, birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians or their eggs or nests, their dead body or dead body parts or a product made from their parts. Any bat, with the exception of the Indiana bat, that is found within a building occupied by humans is not protected.

Unprotected non-game

The European starling, the house sparrow, the common garter snake and the timber rattlesnake are not protected species.

Iowa's Endangered and Threatened Species

website: <http://www.state.ia.us/parks/discus.htm#Definitions>

Introduction

Iowa has changed greatly since becoming a state in 1846. The prairies that helped develop the highly productive soils have been reduced by more than 99 percent. About 95 percent of the state's prairie pothole wetlands have been drained. Over half the original forest has been lost. These changes and other factors such as channelization of streams and rivers, soil erosion, development and urban expansion, and intensive row crop agriculture have contributed to the loss or degradation of suitable habitat for numerous plant and animal species.

Individual species of plants and animals may contribute to the survival of other species within a community. The loss of what appears to be an unimportant species may result in the decline or loss of species that we consider being very important. If we ignore species that are in danger of being extirpated from Iowa, we may be making decisions that cannot be reversed in the future. Conserving these species for future generations requires the coordinated effort by public agencies, private organizations, and property owners.

Iowa's endangered and threatened species law was enacted in 1975. The current law, entitled Endangered Plants and Wildlife is Chapter 481B of the Code of Iowa. The Natural Resource Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources are responsible for administration of Chapter 481B.

History of Iowa's Threatened & Endangered Species List

Iowa's first list of endangered and threatened plants and animals became effective in 1977. Since 1977, there have been four revisions of the list, with the most recent being completed in 1994 (Iowa Administrative Code [571] Chapter 77). The state list includes all federally listed endangered and threatened species that occur in Iowa. The federal status as well as the state status of each species is included in the List of Iowa's Threatened & Endangered Species.

Definitions

Endangered Species means any species of fish, plant life, or wildlife, which is in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant part of its range.

Threatened Species means any species, which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its range. Penalties for Unlawful Taking

Violations of the provisions of Chapter 481B are misdemeanors punishable by a fine of up to \$100.00. In addition to the misdemeanor penalty, a person convicted of unlawfully selling, taking, catching, killing, injuring, destroying, or having in possession any animal listed as threatened or endangered is required to reimburse the state \$1,000 per listed animal. (Section 481A.130 of the Code of Iowa.)

The general DNR webpage is: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/index.htm>.

The Iowa List of Threatened and Endangered Species is:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/ppd/species.htm>.

An electronic copy of the Guide to State Preserves is:
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/ppd/preslist.htm>.

Paul Anderson's page describing research to map the historic vegetation of Iowa from GLO records is: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~fridolph/dnrglo.html>.

The DNR's GIS database, with instructions to download files:
<http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgis/gishome.html>.