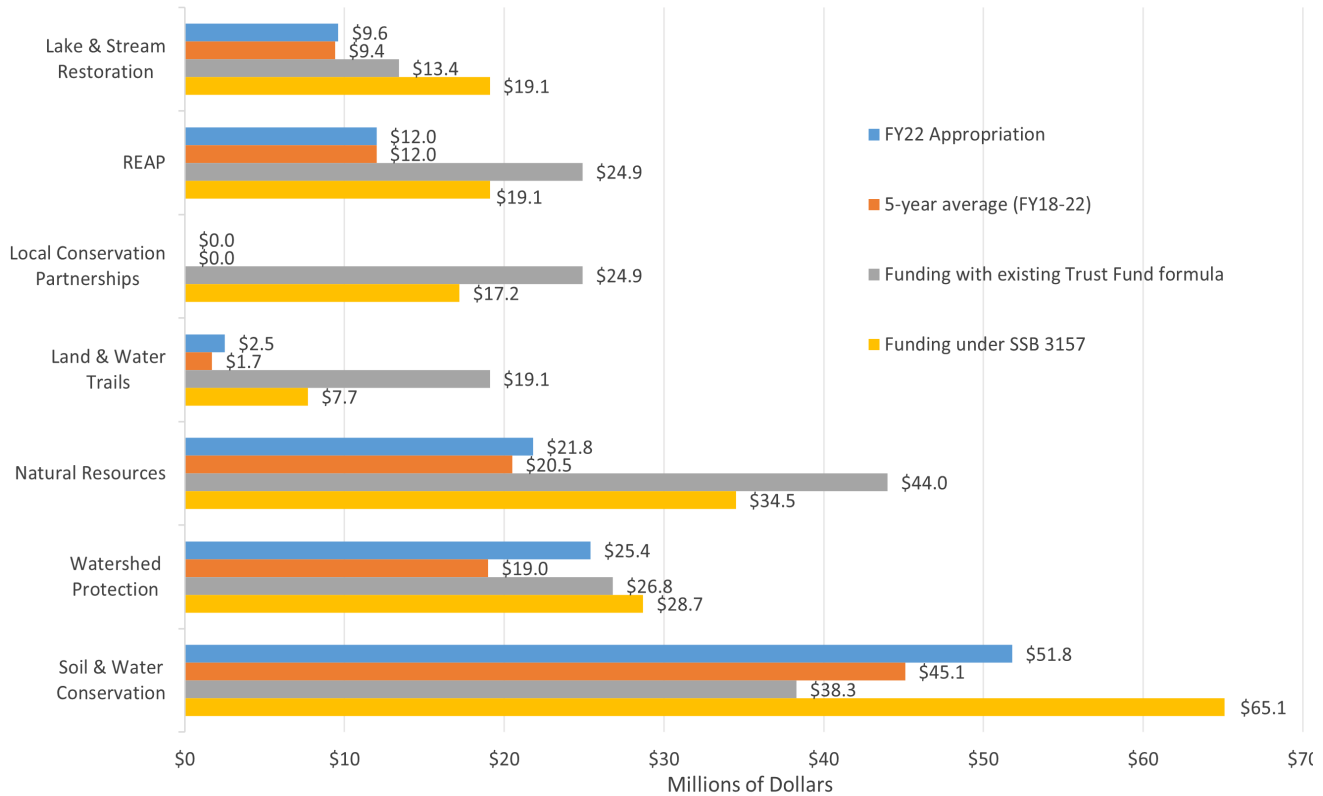


Why Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation supports Senate Study Bill 3157

Conservation Program Funding Comparisons



INHF supports SSB 3157 to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, which accomplishes the following priorities to further conservation in Iowa:

- Secures a constitutionally protected funding source for conservation in Iowa:** Once the Trust is funded, it will provide dedicated, sustainable funding for natural resource and outdoor recreation — an estimated \$191 million per year to start — and its revenue will continue to grow with inflation. Even though the Trust Fund allocation formula may be adjusted to meet the needs of our time, it is constitutionally protected for the purposes of protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in this state, including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving agricultural soils.

- Increases conservation and outdoor recreation funding:** Compared to FY22 appropriations, the proposal would significantly increase funding for conservation, which would have an immediate impact on Iowa’s natural resources. If the Trust had been funded at the time it was created, Iowa would have invested over \$2 billion in conservation and outdoor recreation. Our state cannot afford to wait any longer to Fund the Trust.

- Categorically increases program support:** Despite some of the proposed changes to the distribution formula, each program that is part of the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund will receive more funding through this legislation than what it is currently appropriated.

- Extends the Resource Enhancement and Protection program (REAP):** REAP has been Iowa’s most successful conservation program and without action from the legislature, it is set to end in June 2026. The bill extends REAP through 2051.

