



Central Iowa Paddlers

May 11, 2005

To: Iowa Recreational Trails Grant Selection Committee
From: Central Iowa Paddlers
Re: Application for Boone/Des Moines water trail grant funding

Dear selection committee,

Central Iowa Paddlers is a regional club offering information and recreational opportunities through weekly paddling updates and a periodic newsletter. Our emphasis is primarily on accessible rivers and lakes in central Iowa and we're especially encouraging of new and beginning paddlers.

We're encouraged ourselves by the partnerships between various organizations that can help spread enthusiasm for our sport and for Iowa's waterways. And we work to promote an ethic of safety and care of our natural resources.

We strongly support the development of water trails throughout Iowa as they fulfill the two major thrusts of our mission -- recreation and, through it, care for our natural resources.

The sections of the Boone and Des Moines rivers through Webster, Hamilton and Boone counties that are a part of this grant proposal offer some of the most scenic and accessible water in Iowa. Increasing visibility will help bring even more Iowans to the rivers.

These rivers hold trouble spots, as well. Low head dams on these rivers are an obstruction to paddlers, and at many levels, a danger. Some day, Iowa may be able to eliminate or modify these dams for safe passage. Until then, increased warning is essential.

Iowa's rivers can hold the key for better stewardship, local economic development and personal health and well-being. We strongly support this grant application.

Sincerely,

David Kraemer
2005 Chairman
Central Iowa Paddlers