



31 January 2022

Rebecca Krogman

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

24570 US Highway 34

Chariton, Iowa 50049

Dear Mr. Boxrucker and partnership representatives:

I am writing in support of the Red Rock Lake Association's application for a large fish habitat grant to provide structural fish habitat in Red Rock Reservoir. As Iowa's largest reservoir, Red Rock draws a significant number of anglers annually and has a massive recreational economic impact locally and for the state. Unfortunately, the fishery quality suffers from sedimentation, incoming nutrients, limited aquatic macrophyte growth, and substantial water level fluctuations that are not always conducive to fish reproduction.

Notably, the crappie fishery would benefit from provision of better spawning habitat and nursery habitat, as well as aggregating structures for anglers to target when fishing. The tributary targeted by the current grant application (Campetine Creek) is one less impacted by sedimentation, allowing structure additions to last longer, and is already the most popular area targeted by crappie anglers. Specific placement will align with expected water levels to ensure availability to fish during spawning and larval stages, as well as to ensure safe boating. *The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports structural additions in this area as part of larger long-term efforts to address the issues of sediment and nutrient mitigation, mudflat remediation, and water level management changes.* This project should garner greater public support of fish habitat improvements in Red Rock Reservoir and spur greater efforts in the future to address the serious habitat challenges in the reservoir.

The Iowa DNR is willing to provide at least one day of labor (three permanent fisheries staff) and a work boat to assist with structure placement, and will assist with any necessary mapping of the area. Aggregating structures will be marked using GPS and shared via the online Fishing Atlas, available at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/maps/fishingatlas/default.html>. In addition, the Iowa DNR will continue developing a fish habitat plan for Red Rock Reservoir in collaboration with the Red Rock Lake Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and members of the public. Fish habitat additions must align with angler and boat needs, as well as account for typical water fluctuations in this flood control reservoir.

Please contact me at the Iowa DNR's Chariton Fisheries Research Station (phone: 641-774-2958) or via email ([rebecca.krogman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:rebecca.krogman@dnr.iowa.gov)) if you have any questions regarding the DNR's support and role in this fish habitat effort.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Krogman

*Reservoir Fisheries Research and Representative for Iowa  
Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Bureau*