

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY05 STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

State Wildlife Grants (SWG) is a federal grant program for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). States must prepare a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) to qualify for SWG funds. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is the Arkansas agency designated to receive SWG funding and is leading development of the comprehensive strategy.

The comprehensive strategy requires information on the distribution, abundance, habitats, problems, and conservation actions for Arkansas species of greatest conservation need. The target date for approval of the CWCS is October 1, 2005. There are many gaps in the species and habitat information available, indicating a continuing need for targeted research. Education projects do not currently qualify for SWG funding.

The Arkansas SWG apportionment for FY05 is \$713,114. A list of Arkansas' species of greatest conservation need and a summary table of proposals received to date may be viewed at [www.WildlifeArkansas.com](http://www.WildlifeArkansas.com). Additional proposals will be accepted through September 6, 2005.

The CWCS steering committee will approve FY05 SWG proposals under the following guidelines:

- Research proposals must address species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and/or their habitats.
- Until CWCS is completed proposals with a term of more than 3 years will be discouraged.
- Projects currently underway will be funded to completion.
- While CWCS ranking/scoring is still subject to peer review and USFWS approval it will be used as a guide to SWG-05 research project evaluation.

Priority 1 for SWG 05 funding will be plan coordination, plan infrastructure (data acquisition and management, GIS applications, website development and management) and other projects that expedite the development and administration of CWCS. Both internal and external proposals will be considered. A minimum 25% cash or in-kind match is required to obtain 75% SWG funding.

Priority 2 will be species/habitat research projects that address species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and respond directly to CWCS elements of SGCN distribution and abundance, habitat location and condition, problems affecting SGCN, conservation and monitoring techniques. Both internal and external proposals will be considered. A minimum 25% cash or in-kind match is required to obtain 75% SWG funding.

Priority 3 will be projects that implement identified conservation actions or monitoring for SGCN or their habitats. Both internal and external proposals will be considered. A minimum 50% cash or in-kind match is required to obtain 50% SWG funding.

Proposals will be accepted through September 6, 2005, from individuals in other natural resources agencies, local governments, educational institutions, NGOs, associations or individuals. Proposals are to be submitted in the following format:

1. Project Title
2. Project Narrative – not more than 3 pages, including a budget page. Narrative section should include Need or Justification, Objectives, Results and Benefits, Approach and Methods, Location (CWCS Ecoregion or habitat), Estimated Cost (grant funds and non-federal match).
3. Proposals to be sent via email as MS Word, pdf or text files.

Although not required, those who have already submitted proposals may resubmit in the format above if they wish. Send proposals to John Sunderland, CWCS Coordinator - [jcsunderland@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:jcsunderland@agfc.state.ar.us). Direct any questions to John Sunderland at (501) 223-6441 or Kris Rutherford, Federal Grants Coordinator, at (501) 223-6398.

Additional information on State Wildlife Grants and development of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy may be found at [www.WildlifeArkansas.com](http://www.WildlifeArkansas.com).