



2015 State Wildlife Grants

Request for Proposals

Program Overview

As part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). Arkansas' CWCS (now referred to as the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan) provides an essential foundation for the future of wildlife conservation and an opportunity for state and federal agencies and other conservation partners to fit together individual and coordinated roles in conservation efforts across the state. As a part of this, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is responsible for requesting and administering State Wildlife Grants to support the implementation of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. State Wildlife Grants are distributed specifically for the protection and management of species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) identified in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. The Action Plan and the most recent federal guidelines (2007) for grants to states are provided online at www.wildlifearkansas.com.

Eligibility. State Wildlife Grants are available to state agencies, nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and universities. Projects totaling \$10,000 to \$200,000 will be considered for funding.

Duration. The duration period for projects will be approximately October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2017.

Project Evaluation Criteria. Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- is feasible and practical in a 2 year time period
- addresses priority actions of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan as outlined in Table 1
- is within the scope of funding priorities as identified in this RFP
- uses funds efficiently and effectively
- is within the qualifications and abilities of the organization(s) and individual(s) involved.

Review Process. Comments on proposed projects will be solicited from the scientific community and will be taken into consideration by the implementation team. The implementation team will review project proposals and request full proposals from selected applicants.

Match Requirement. All applicants will be required to provide matching funds. Matching funds can NOT come from federal funds. Cash match contributions, such as staff time, facilities, equipment or supplies and in-kind contributions, such as volunteer hours, are allowable as match. This year's non-federal match requirement is 35%.

Proposal Instructions. Project proposals should be submitted as Word or PDF files. Font size should be 12 point and margins should be 1 inch. Proposals should not exceed 5 pages and should adhere to the following layout:

1. Page 1 –single cover page that provides:
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Project Summary (short paragraph highlighting project goals and objectives)
 - c. Project Leader (name, job title, affiliation, and contact information)
 - d. Project Partners (name, affiliation, contact information)
 - e. Project Budget (include SWG amount requested, match amount provided, and total amount of project).
2. Pages 2-4 – Project Statement. This is the principal component of the proposal and should be written as clearly and concisely as possible. Tables, graphs, maps, and photos may be used. Required elements of the project statement are:
 - a. Need – Explain why the project is necessary and list the priorities that your project is addressing.
 - b. Purpose and Objectives - State the purpose and objectives, and base them on the need. The purpose states the desired outcome of the proposed project in general or abstract terms. The objectives state the desired outcome of the proposed project in terms that are specific and quantified.
 - c. Location – Describe where the project will take place (list ecoregion, county, habitats targeted). Provide a map.
 - d. Approach – Describe the methods that will be used to accomplish objectives. Include an expected timeline for accomplishments.
 - e. Expected Results and Benefits – Describe the anticipated benefits to SGCN as a result of your project. Include a list of SGCN that will be affected, indicating which SGCN are known from the project location(s). Proposals that include habitat and/or capital improvements should include a commitment to maintain improvements for a proposed number of years (identify useful life of capital improvements/continued maintenance of habitat).
 - f. Budget – Provide budget elements (salary, equipment, travel, etc.) and sources. Overhead or indirect costs may be included in your budget, but are limited to 10% of total project costs. Anything in excess of 10% must be justified in your proposal. Student tuition is an allowable cost, but the amount applied should be commensurate with the amount of time devoted to the project.
3. Page 5 – Qualifications. Provide a short description of the qualifications/experience of the project leader and project partners involved.

Deadline for Proposals. Project proposals are due *February 13, 2015*.

Proposal Submissions. Proposals should be submitted via email to:

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Wildlife Management Division, AGFC
Email address: allison.fowler@agfc.ar.gov

Table 1. 2015 State Wildlife Grant Funding Priorities.

Emerging Issues	Action	Comments	Page(s) in Plan
White Nose Syndrome	Conduct population surveys for <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> , <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> , and <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i> . Search for buildings used as roost sites for these species.	This project will help us gather baseline data on summer populations of these now common species that may be more easily surveyed in buildings than in the natural environment. <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> has been proposed to be made a SGCN. White Nose Syndrome is expected to impact populations of <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> and <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> and this may show up first in loss of building colonies. <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i> is only known to utilize man-made structures in Arkansas but uses caves in other parts of their range and the potential impact of WNS on them here is difficult to estimate.	Emerging issue approved by USFWS.
Newly Described Species	Determine status and distribution of newly described species.	Several new species have recently been described in the state. Determining distribution and assessing population status of these species is necessary to determine their need, if any, to be added to the AWAP as SGCN.	Emerging issue pending approval by USFWS.
Mammals			
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Determine habitat use and home range in the Ozarks.	The only high quality research on the ecology of this species has been conducted in part of the Ouachita National Forest being restored for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, which is not typical of habitat through most of the core of its range in the Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks. This project will determine whether restoration projects undertaken in the Ozarks are beneficial to this species.	858
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> , <i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Study fall and winter roosting ecology.	There is very limited information available about the roosting ecology of these species in bottomland hardwood forests during the fall and winter months.	815, 834
Birds			
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> , <i>Tympanuchus cupido</i> , <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , <i>Empidonax traillii</i> , <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> , <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> , <i>Asio flammeus</i> , <i>Tyto alba</i> , <i>Vireo bellii</i> , <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> , <i>Calcarius pictus</i> , <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i> , <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> , <i>Colinus virginianus</i> , <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> , <i>Empidonax traillii</i> , <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> , <i>Aimophila ruficeps</i> , <i>Vermivora pinus</i> , <i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i> , <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> , <i>Dendroica discolor</i> , <i>Passerina ciris</i>	Implementation and/or evaluation of habitat restoration and management for native grasslands and their associated shrublands.	Over 95% of the state's native grasslands have been converted to other habitat types and uses. Restoration of native grasslands continues to be a high priority for bird conservation because grassland-dependent bird populations continue to decline sharply. Because grassland restoration is labor intensive, seed sources are limited and restoration actions take 4-6 years to reach a stage where it has the habitat structure suitable for grassland birds, this conservation action continues to be the Bird Taxa Team's highest priority. To reverse declines of grassland bird species, grassland restoration and associated management in Arkansas must continue to remain a high priority.	241, 121, 326, 183, 218, 186, 127, 138, 328, 335, 179, 150, 123, 322, 195, 141
<i>Rallus elegans</i> , <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , <i>Porphyrio martinica</i> , <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> , <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> , <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Implementation and/or evaluation of habitat restoration and management for emergent wetlands.	Emergent wetlands are a high priority habitat upon which some of the rarest birds in the state depend, especially the King Rail, which is listed by the USFWS as an "imperiled species." Emergent wetlands have declined sharply in Arkansas due to drainage, conversion and succession. Robust emergent wetlands were identified by AWAP research and monitoring as a critical habitat, and the species that depend on emergent wetlands were found by the AWAP research to be some of the rarest in the state. Emergent wetlands must be managed every 4-5 years to prevent their succession into shrubby or early bottomland hardwood swamp habitat.	297, 223, 291, 238, 147, 289
<i>Picoides borealis</i> , <i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> , <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> , <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> , <i>Sitta pusilla</i> , <i>Passerina ciris</i> , <i>Dendroica discolor</i> , <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> , <i>Colinus virginianus</i> , <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Implementation and/or evaluation of habitat restoration and management of pine woodland and savanna.	Pine woodlands and savannas are a conservation priority because of the many bird SGCN supported in these habitats. These habitats are threatened by conversion to pine plantations, the lack of prescribed burning and the suppression of naturally caused fires.	279, 113, 119, 282, 305, 271, 202, 252, 192, 188
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> , <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> , <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> , <i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i> , <i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i> , <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> , <i>Colinus virginianus</i> , <i>Dendroica discolor</i> , <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> , <i>Passerina ciris</i> , <i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> , <i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Implementation and/or evaluation of habitat restoration and management for woodlands and savanna, glades, and upland hardwood forest grasslands.	Woodlands, savannas, glades and upland hardwood forest grasslands are a conservation priority because of the many bird SGCN supported in these habitats. These habitats are threatened the lack of prescribed burning and the suppression of naturally caused fires.	113, 119, 125, 167, 171, 188, 192, 202, 252, 271, 311, 330
Reptiles and Amphibians			
<i>Regina septemvittata</i>	Complete distribution and presence/absence survey.	Standardized surveys are needed to establish the current distribution and identify required habitat characteristics. Determine species status of isolated AR population based on genetic and morphological data.	1047
<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	Habitat improvement/restoration, fire management.	Populations have been lost or declined significantly due to glade habitat loss. Specifically target restoration of habitat in remnant and/or historic population localities and monitor population response.	1055

Fish			
All aquatic SGCN	Determine environmental flow needs for aquatic communities.	Environmental flow needs affect all Arkansas aquatic species, and water shortages are becoming more frequent with climate changes and population growth. This is an emerging issue in the State Water Plan.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Noturus taylori, Pteronotropis hubbsi, Etheostoma pallidiorsum	Distribution and abundance surveys; life history studies for Caddo Madtom and Paleback Darter.	These species are mega-petition species that require updated status surveys.	521, 549, 455
Noturus taylori, Etheostoma cragini, Etheostoma microperca, Etheostoma pallidiorsum, Noturus lachneri, Crystallaria asprella, Ammocrypta clara, Etheostoma fragi	Maintain, protect, and restore habitat, with monitoring requirement.	These species are sensitive to land use, and habitat conservation will be required to prevent further imperilment.	521, 440, 449, 455, 515, 423, 417, 443
All aquatic SGCN	Distribution and status surveys of aquatic biota in the Ouachita, Little River, Strawberry River, and middle White River Basins.	Numerous SGCN occur in the Ouachita, Little, Middle White, and Strawberry River basins. These basins are biodiversity centers.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Mussels			
Lampsilis rafinesqueana, Quadrula cylindrica, Villosa lienosa, Toxolasma lividum, Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	Streambank/riparian corridor restoration, and/or cattle exclusion. Priority will be given to projects adjacent to the mainstem of the Illinois River.	The mussel community is rapidly declining and has been declining for 15 + years. L. rafinesqueana is a candidate for listing (listing priority number was recently elevated). Q. cylindrica is a candidate for listing.	933, 998, 1044, 1016, 1032
Alasmidonta marginata, Cyprogenia aberti, Lampsilis siliquoidea, Lampsilis streckeri, Ligumia recta, Ptychobrancus occidentalis, Quadrula cylindrica, Strophitus undulatus and Toxolasma lividens	Streambank/riparian corridor restoration on the Middle Fork of the Little Red River.	Middle Fork Little Red River has multiple failing stream banks.	870, 895, 940, 950, 962, 991, 998, 1012, 1016
Cyprogenia aberti, Lampsilis sp. A	Complete population status assessments in Cadron, Point Remove, and Big Piney Creeks. Survey for additional populations.	Monitoring is necessary to determine impacts from gas exploration/extraction.	895, 944
Lampsilis powellii, Strophitus undulatus, Toxolasma lividum and Villosa lienosa	Complete roads inventory within the South Fork Ouachita River watershed.	Mussel communities are rapidly declining. Roads are thought to be a major contributor to sedimentation.	929, 1012, 1016, 1044
Crayfish			
Cambarus causeyi	Assess persistence of previously reported populations, determine habitat constraints, and identify threats posed to the species from natural gas exploration and other land use activities.	The Boston Mountains Crayfish is the only Arkansas Ozark endemic primary burrowing crayfish. It is found along upland spring branches in the Boston Mountains, where it is very difficult to collect. A recent status survey by Robison et al. (2009) found specimens at only 4 of 39 sites examined. It appears that this species has declined and deserves urgent attention, especially since natural gas exploration is causing landscape alteration in portions of its range.	371
Orconectes neglectus chaenodactylus	Complete morphological and additional genetic examination of Gapped Ringed Crayfish, Orconectes neglectus chaenodactylus, and other Orconectes neglectus forms, to establish taxonomy of this species/group.	The Gapped Ringed Crayfish is an Ozark endemic species with a moderately limited distribution that also has introduced populations that are proving to be invasive. Genetic studies completed under a previous AWAP project indicate that there are likely several cryptic species erroneously lumped into the Ringed Crayfish. To have a defensible case in recognizing these species, which is necessary before we can recognize them as conservation targets, we must have stronger genetic and morphological evidence to support the genetic results.	358
Cambarus setosus	Determine distribution, abundance, landscape-level habitat, and genetic status of Bristly Cave Crayfish, Cambarus setosus, in Arkansas.	The Bristly Cave Crayfish is very poorly known in Arkansas, having been confirmed from only 2 locations on opposite sides of the state. Nothing is known of the true taxonomy of these crayfish populations in the state or why they are so separated, with the ranges of two federally listed species in between.	374
Procambarus regalis	Monitor status and determine habitat constraints of Regal Burrowing Crayfish, Procambarus regalis.	Burrowing crayfish are our most poorly understood species. Robison and Crandall (2007) found this species at only 14 sites in southwest Arkansas. This part of the state has several burrowing Procambarus species, making it highly beneficial to understand the habitat characteristics that drive their distributions.	404

Insects			
Amblyscirtes linda	Obtain baseline distribution and population status for this species.	Linda's Roadside-Skipper is currently petitioned for federal listing. The Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	632
Tiger beetles and other riparian species	Obtain baseline distribution and population status for multiple species.	Very little is known about many of Arkansas's insect species. The Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Winter specialists (winter stoneflies and selected moths)	Obtain baseline distribution and population status for multiple species.	Very little is known about many of Arkansas's insect species. The Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Dragonfly species of concern	Obtain baseline distribution and population status for multiple species.	Very little is known about many of Arkansas's insect species. The Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Karst			
Caecidotea ancyla, Caecidotea macropropoda, Caecidotea simulator, Caecidotea steevesi, Caecidotea stiladactyla, Cambarus setosus, Crosbyella roeweri, Dendrocoelopsis americana, Eurycea spelaea, Hesperochernes occidentalis, Pseudosinella testa, Pygmarrhopalites clarus, Stygobromus ozarkensis, and Trigenotyia parca	Address data gap needs for species in order to develop conservation actions.	These species occur in karst habitats in rapidly urbanizing northwest Arkansas. Land use changes will have deleterious impacts on these species. Conservation actions should focus on addressing data gaps (continued existence of populations, recharge area assessments) that will provide baseline information that can be used to develop karst BMPs, which cities and counties can adopt to minimize impacts. A significant proportion of efforts should be focused on working with cities and counties to ensure BMPs are implemented. A series of BMP demonstration sites will be used as examples of techniques.	734, 740, 749, 752, 755, 758, 803, 801, 779, 767, 811
Habitats			
Prairies and Native Grasslands	Habitat management to maintain or increase habitat quality or increase patch size - including management for species of greatest conservation need. Management examples - structure manipulation, prescribed fire, cedar removal, shrub control, invasive species eradication, conversion of cool season grasses, etc.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Woodlands (to include sandhills, calcareous woodlands, oak woodlands, and pine-oak flatwoods), Savannas, Glades and Barrens, Karst Native Terrestrial Habitat	Habitat management to maintain or increase habitat quality or increase patch size - including forest management for species of greatest conservation need. For example - overstory and midstory manipulation, cedar removal, prescribed fire, shrub control, invasive species eradication, etc. Restore and maintain native terrestrial habitats in karst recharge zones.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited. Glade restoration projects in areas with known or historic Collared Lizard populations will be given preference.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Wetlands	Restore, enhance and/or maintain wetland integrity. For example - composition, structure, function.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Small Stream- River Riparian Forest, Seeps, Fens, Cane	Habitat management to maintain or increase habitat quality - including forest management for species of greatest conservation need. For example - overstory and midstory manipulation, cedar removal, prescribed fire, shrub control, invasive species eradication etc.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Aquatic Habitat	Determine and validate environmental flows for one or more of the water regions within Arkansas.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Aquatic Habitat	Restore, enhance and/or maintain the integrity of aquatic habitats (including wetlands). For example - composition, structure, function.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited. Projects in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain ecoregion are preferred.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
With the completion of some SWG-supported projects, information gathered leads to Phase Two conservation actions which build upon knowledge gained. An example: Dye-trace mapping defined the recharge of Foushee Cave and identified specific threats to endemic species. A Phase Two Conservation Action might request funding to protect vulnerable species and areas using acquisition or easements. To propose a project under this category, reference to a completed project's results is necessary.			