



2010 State Wildlife Grants

A request for pre-proposals to implement priorities identified in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan

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, federal agencies and other conservation partners to fit together individual and coordinated roles in conservation efforts across the state. 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 identified in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan.

The most recent federal guidelines (2007) for grants are provided online at www.wildlifearkansas.com/materials/2007%20SWG%20Guidelines.pdf

Applying for a State Wildlife Grant

Who can apply? State Wildlife Grants are available to state agencies, nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, academic programs, universities and citizens of Arkansas.

What is the range of project funding? Projects will be considered for funding from \$10,000 to \$300,000 (total).

How much match must applicants contribute? Applicants will be required to provide matching funds at a rate of \$35 provided by the applicant in cash or in-kind contributions to \$65 provided by grant funds. This is a change from previous years when the match requirements were \$50 match to \$50 grant funds.

What are in-kind contributions? In-kind contributions include facilities, equipment, supplies or staff time and can be used as match. These should be included in the pre-proposal with information detailing the methodology for determining value.

What are the evaluation criteria? Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) is feasible and practical in a two year time period;
- 2) addresses the priority actions of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan as identified in Attachment A;
- 3) makes every attempt to use funds as efficiently as possible; and
- 4) is within qualifications and abilities of organization/individuals involved in project.

In addition to these criteria, projects that propose to have direct matching funds, involve multiple organizations, that may leverage additional conservation results beyond the individual project, or that may serve as models for conservation that can be replicated elsewhere are encouraged.

How does the grant proposal process work? AGFC is using a 3-step process: 1) a call for pre-proposals due in January; and 2) a solicitation for comments on pre-proposals due in February; and 3) the Implementation Team will review the pre-proposals in February (along with and associated comments) and request some applicants to submit full proposals. Sometimes additional information or changes will be requested by the reviewers.

What is the deadline for submission of pre-proposals? January 18, 2010.

When will award decisions be made? Full proposals must be approved by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission budgetary process (July) and by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Division in the fall. In cases where contracts are required, projects can begin once contracts are completed.

What is the project duration? Projects should be designed for November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2012.

Are partnerships encouraged? Yes. Partnerships between conservation organizations, academic entities, citizen groups, federal and state agencies are encouraged.

Can federal funds, ie., Wildlife Habitat Incentives Programs (WHIP), be used as matching funds? No. Federal money cannot be used to match SWG funds.

Can SWG funds be used to buy land or easements? Yes.

Will my pre-proposal be kept confidential? No. We broadly solicit reviews from any interested parties about all of the pre-proposals. Review comments are taken into consideration by the Implementation Team when funding decisions are made.

Who will evaluate pre-proposals and full proposals and make decisions on the grant awards? The 2010 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Team is composed of Mike Armstrong, Assistant Director for Field Services, AGFC; David Goad, Wildlife Division Chief, AGFC; Mark Oliver, Fisheries Division Chief, Scott Simon, Director of the Arkansas Field Office of The Nature Conservancy, and Mark Sattelberg, Field Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conway, Arkansas office. Ken Smith, Director, Audubon Arkansas, has agreed to continue to serve as a pre-proposal reviewer.

What project attributes are encouraged?

Projects that integrate Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan priorities with other land-use or natural resource efforts at the local, state or federal level.

Projects that address the needs of species of greatest conservation need while also benefiting other fish and wildlife.

Projects that publicize and raise the profile of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan with elected officials, decision and policy makers, interested parties, and the general public.

On-the-ground stewardship or restoration projects that both implement the priorities of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan and can serve as demonstration projects that may be replicated in other places.

Citizen science projects that engage the public in implementation of one or more high priority actions of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan.

How can I find out information about Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan? Updates are posted on the website: www.WildlifeArkansas.com.

Can I use institutional overhead as part of my match requirement? Yes, although proposals that use actual project related expenses as match will be valued more highly.

How can I get on the mailing list for future grant opportunities? Email jeanderson@agfc.state.ar.us

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Instructions for Submission of Pre-proposals

Please read these instructions carefully.

Material submitted that does not conform to this format will not be considered. The length of the pre-proposal is limited to 5 pages. Font size should be 11 point and margins should be 1 inch on all sides. Please do not use all caps.

Page 1 is a single cover page with contact/summary information:

- a. Title of Project
- b. Project summary (no more than 6 lines long)
- c. Name of project leader and job title
- d. Affiliation
- e. Email address
- f. Physical mailing address
- g. Telephone
- h. Project partners: other principal individuals involved (name, title, affiliation, email, phone)
- i. Total amount of project cost
- j. Total amount of SWG money requested
- k. Amount and source of matching funds or in-kind services (that applicant provides)

Pages 2-4: **The Project Statement** is the principal component of the pre-proposal and should be written as clearly and concisely as possible. It may include tables, graphs, and photos. These pages provide the following information:

- a. Need - Which of the priorities in Attachment A does your pre-proposal address? Explain.
- b. Objective - What do you intend to do
- c. Expected Results and Benefits to Species of Concern. Monitoring methodology.
- d. Approach
- e. Location of Work - in which ecoregion, ecobasin, terrestrial habitat or area will your project be conducted? A map is helpful.
- f. Budget - What is the proposed budget of your project? Applicants will be required to provide matching funds. at a rate of \$35 provided by the applicant in cash or in-kind contributions to \$65 provided by grant funds.

Page 5 is a single page outlining the qualifications of the individual(s) and organization(s) involved.

Submit pre-proposals as email attachments in MS Word or Acrobat pdf format no later than January 18, 2010 to jeanderson@agfc.state.ar.us



Attachment A - page 1					
Species to benefit from conservation action	Common Name(s)	Action		Comments	Projects Funded in 2009
All SGCN		Determine the effects of Climate Change on Species of Greatest Conservation concern in Arkansas. Recommend courses of action.		Global Climate Change was added as an emerging issue in the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference.	
Bats Birds		Minimize adverse impacts of wind energy on flying mammals and birds.		Emerging Issue added at the 2009 Steering Committee Meeting	
Certain SGCN: birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles.		Reduce or eliminate feral hog populations in riparian areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain and the South Central Plains.		Emerging Issue added in 2009 by Steering Committee consensus.	
Bats		Address white nose syndrome in Arkansas bats.	Mammal	Emerging Issue added at the 2009 Steering Committee Meeting	
Geomys bursarius ozarkensis	Ozark pocket gopher	Purchase land or conservation easements on pasture land used by Ozark pocket gophers to maintain them in grasses and to reduce mortality due to nuisance wildlife control efforts	Mammal	New conservation action developed as result of previous AWAP-funded research project. Page 823.	
Lampsilis rafinesqueana	Neosho mucket	Manage watershed, addressing physical, chemical, biological and land use components, to restore or sustain aquatic life.	Mussels	The Illinois River was once the best remaining population but has declined to a very low population.	
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis	Ozark Hellbender	Stabilize and restore stream banks.	Amphibian	Reducing major sediment sources i.e., sheer cut banks and cattle access sites, would prevent the loss of critical microhabitat i.e., cover rocks and rocky talus via sedimentation. Page 47	
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis	Ozark Hellbender	Create and test artificial shelters for habitat enhancement	Amphibian	Creation and testing of artificial shelters and their use by hellbenders could be applied in the future to supplement existing habitat. Page 47	
Crotaphytus collaris	Collared Lizard	Survey for distribution and abundance	Reptile	Basic distribution data is lacking and is needed for conservation status assessment. Page 1056.	
Large river fishes	24 species	Improve understanding of the distribution and abundance of 24 large-river oriented Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Arkansas River shiner, Red River shiner, plains minnow, spotfin shiner, lake sturgeon, shovelnose sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, stonecat, alligator gar, alabama shad, sicklefin chub, flathead chub, western sand darter, sabine shiner, goldeye, lake chubsucker, crystal darter, striped mullet, shorthead redhorse, stargazing darter, blue sucker, paddlefish, highfin carpsucker, and American eel	Fish	Large rivers fisheries have not been well sampled and there are ~24 species of greatest conservation need that use primarily large river habitats. Pages 412, 413, 415, 419, 422, 427, 464, 465, 478, 481, 499, 545, 546, 547, 553	T31-02
All aquatic species	All aquatic species	Environmental Flow Needs for Aquatic Communities; pages 412, 415, 416, 422, 427, 453, 471, 497	Fish	Global Climate Change was added as an emerging issue in the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference. Assuring adequate instream flow was one recommendation AGFC provided to address GCC.	T30-11
Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Oak Woodlands (including sandhills and flatwoods), Savannas, and Glades and Barrens	Habitat Management to maintain or increase habitat quality - including forest management for species of greatest conservation need. For example - overstory and mid-story manipulation, cedar removal, prescribed fire, shrub control, invasive species eradication etc. (LMRJV Managing Bottomland Forest Guidelines).	Terrestrial Habitat	Page numbers: 1197, 1239, 1248, 1271, 1272, 1281, 1291, 1300, 1309, 1318, 1327, 1342, 1348, 1358, 1367, 1376, 1377, 1385, 1386, 1426, 1447, 1457, 1469, 1487, 1496, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1523, 1541, 1559	T30-05 T30-02

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Small Stream-river Riparian Forest, Seeps,	Habitat Management to maintain or increase habitat quality - including forest management for species of greatest conservation need. For example - overstory and mid-story manipulation, cedar removal, prescribed fire, shrub control, invasive species eradication etc. (LMRJV Managing Bottomland Forest Guidelines).	Terrestrial Habitat	Page numbers: 1197, 1239, 1248, 1271, 1272, 1281, 1291, 1300, 1309, 1318, 1327, 1342, 1348, 1358, 1367, 1376, 1377, 1385, 1386, 1426, 1447, 1457, 1469, 1487, 1496, 1505, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1523, 1541, 1559	T30-10
Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Wetlands	Restore, enhance and/or maintain wetland integrity	Aquatic Habitats	364, 490	T32-02 T32-03
Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Headwaters	Survey headwater aquatic biodiversity. Reduce anthropogenic impacts to headwater streams and cave recharge areas.	Aquatic Habitats	pages 435, 441, 442, 450, 453, 454, 456, 459, 468, 490, 523, 555, 343, 349, 361, 365, 368, 371	T31-04
Rallus elegans, Botaurus lentiginosus, Gallinula chloropus, Ixobrychus exilis, Podilymbus podiceps, Porphyrion martinica	King Rail, American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, and Purple Gallinule	Protect, re-establish and restore emergent wetlands	Bird	Pages 297, 147, 223, 238, 289, 292	T30-07 T32-04
Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need	NW Arkansas	Implement conservation actions and monitoring in the Fayetteville Shale area	Aquatic Habitats	Added as an emerging issue in the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference.	T31-03
Crotalus atrox	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	Survey for distribution and abundance	Reptile	Basic distribution data is lacking and is needed for conservation status assessment. Page 1053	T30-03
Pyrgulopsis ozarkensis – p. 716; Somatogyrus amnicoloides – new tracked endemic aquatic snail; Somatogyrus crassilabris – p. 718; Somatogyrus wheeleri – p. 720;	Endemic aquatic snails	Survey for distribution and abundance	Invertebrates	Basic distribution data is lacking and is needed for conservation status assessment. Pages 716, 718, 720	T32-02
Quadrula cylindrica	Rabbitsfoot	Conduct status survey in Little River basin	Mussels	The range for the rabbitsfoot mussel has been declining for the last 50 years. The species' status has been documented in the Saline, Ouachita, Spring, Black and Little rivers but not in tributaries to the Little River.	T30-09
Corynorhinus rafinesquii/Myotis austroriparius	Rafinesque's big-eared bat and Southeastern bat	Preserve potential artificial roosts	Mammal	Pages 817, 835	T32-01
These are the priorities selected for 2009 - 2010. The priorities with a white background are those that have not yet been addressed with a funded proposal. The yellow background priorities have projects funded but additional projects will be considered. The green background projects have on-going funded projects for which additional projects are probably unnecessary.					