

# 2008 State Wildlife Grants

## A request for preproposals 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. 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.

The State Wildlife Grants are distributed specifically for the protection and management of nongame species in greatest need of conservation identified in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. Federal guidelines for grants are provided online at [www.wildlifearkansas.com/materials/2007%20SWG%20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.wildlifearkansas.com/materials/2007%20SWG%20Guidelines.pdf)

To help ensure that monies are applied to projects that most effectively address the needs identified by the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its partners have developed a competitive grant process for the State Wildlife Grants.

### Funding Priorities

Proposed projects must address the priority implementation actions identified by the Taxa Association Teams/Habitat Teams and Steering Committee in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. For 2008, these are

1. Acquire suitable habitat for the protection of *Pseudacris illinoensis*, Illinois Chorus Frog. (Contact Kelly Irwin, AGFC herpetologist, [kirwin@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kirwin@agfc.state.ar.us))
2. Restore and/or maintain prairies and native grasslands for grassland bird habitat.
3. Restore and improve riparian buffers for *Etheostoma moorei*, Yellowcheek Darter.
4. Acquire land or easements to protect *Etheostoma cragini* and *E. microperca*, Arkansas and least darters. (Contact Brian Wagner, AGFC [bkwagner@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:bkwagner@agfc.state.ar.us))
5. Conduct instream and streambank stabilization and restoration to protect *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*, Ozark Hellbender. (Contact Kelly Irwin, AGFC herpetologist, [kirwin@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kirwin@agfc.state.ar.us))
6. Manage watersheds, addressing physical, chemical, biological and landuse components, to restore or sustain

aquatic life with emphasis in the forks of the Little Red River and Big Creek.

7. In the Arkansas River Valley, increase size and connectivity of prairies and woodlands.
8. Restore native warm season grasses and forbs for the protection of *Reithrodontomys montanus*, Plains Harvest Mouse. (Contact Blake Sasse, AGFC mammalogist, [bdsasse@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:bdsasse@agfc.state.ar.us))
9. Provide mudflat and shallow water habitat for shorebirds during migration. (Provide list of species of concern).
10. Restore fire to fire-suppressed habitats to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need. (Provide list of species of concern).
11. Manage forests to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

In addition, we encourage projects with these attributes:

- 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 (e.g., land trusts), 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.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the range of project funding?** Projects will be considered for funding from \$500 to \$300,000. Applicants will be required to provide 50 percent matching funds (ie., for a \$20,000 project, the applicant provides \$10,000 in cash or in-kind contribution).

**What are in-kind contributions?** In-kind contributions include facilities, equipment and supplies or staff time. These should be included in the preproposal.

**Who will evaluate preproposals and full proposals and make decisions on the grant awards?** The 2007-08 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Implementation Team is composed of David Goad, Assistant Director for Conservation, AGFC; Doyle Shook, Wildlife Division Chief, AGFC; Mike Armstrong, Fisheries Division Chief, AGFC; Karen Smith, Director, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Ken Smith, Director, Audubon Arkansas.

**What are the evaluation criteria?** Preproposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) is feasible and practical in 1-2 year time period;
- 2) is closely aligned with the priority actions and strategies of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan;
- 3) is within the scope of the funding priorities identified in this RFP; 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, may leverage additional conservation results beyond the individual project, or may serve as models for conservation that can be replicated elsewhere are encouraged.

**What is the duration of funding for projects?** August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2010. (In some cases, an extension may be granted).

**How does the grant proposal process work?** AGFC is using a 3-step process: 1) an open call for preproposals, and 2) comments on preproposals will be solicited, and 3) following review of the preproposals and associated comments by the Implementation Team, a number of applicants will be asked to submit full proposals. Final approval and announcement of grant awards will follow AGFC Commission budget approval prior to July 1, 2008.

**What is the deadline for submission of preproposals?** January 9, 2008.

**When will award decisions be made?** Full proposals will be requested of prospective grantees on February 1, 2008. Full proposals are due to AGFC on February 29,

2008 and we expect to notify grantees of awards by July 1, 2008.

**Can a single organization submit multiple preproposals for different projects?** Yes

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

**How can I find out information about Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan?** Updated information is available at [www.WildlifeArkansas.com](http://www.WildlifeArkansas.com)

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

**Who can apply?** State Wildlife Grants are available to state agencies, non-profit organizations, citizen groups, Joint Ventures and citizens of Arkansas.

### Instructions for Submission of Preproposals

Please read these instructions carefully.

1. Submit preproposals as email attachments in MS Word or Acrobat pdf format no later than January 9, 2008 to [jeanderson@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:jeanderson@agfc.state.ar.us)
2. Material submitted that does not conform to this format will not be considered. The length of the preproposal is limited to 5 pages:
  - a. Page 1 is a single cover page with contact/general information (see details in section 3 below)
  - b. Pages 2-4 are three pages of text about the proposed project, including budget (see details in section 4 below.
  - c. Page 5 is a single page outlining the qualifications of the individuals and organization involved.
  - d. Font size should be 11 point and margins should be 1 inch on all sides.
3. The cover page should provide the following information:
  - a. Title of Project
  - b. Concise 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 and Fax Numbers
  - 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)

4. Three pages of explanatory text (may include tables, graphs, and photos) are the principal component of the preproposal and should be written as clearly and concisely as possible. These pages address the following questions and provide the following information.

- a. Which of the funding priorities does your preproposal address?
- b. In what ecoregion, ecobasin, terrestrial habitat or area will your project be conducted? A map is helpful.
- c. What are the methods (briefly) by which you propose to carry out your work?
- d. What measurable products or outcomes will result from your project?
- e. To what extent will your proposed project be able to take advantage of existing resources (e.g., funding, teams, conservation areas, partnerships)?
- f. How do you foresee handling longterm maintenance for your project?
- f. What is the proposed total budget of your project? Divide your budget into three categories – salary/benefits, operating expenses, capital expenses. Overhead or indirect costs may be included in your budget, but are limited to 10% of of total project costs. Anything in excess of 10% must be justified in your proposal.

**For further information:**

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**Schedule for Grant Applicants**

Request for pre-proposals announced	November 9, 2007
Preproposals due to AGFC	January 9, 2008
Comment period ends	January 23, 2008
Implementation Committee reviews preproposals	February 1, 2008
Full proposals will be requested of prospective grantees	February 5, 2008
Full proposals due	February 29, 2008
Notification of Grant Awards	July 1, 2008