



2011 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. 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 to states are provided online at www.wildlifearkansas.com.

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 totalling \$10,000 to \$300,000 will be considered for funding.

Who will evaluate preproposals and full proposals and make decisions on the grant awards? The 2011-12 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 has agreed to continue in his role as proposal reviewer.

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

- 1) is feasible and practical in a 2 year time period;
- 2) addresses the priority actions of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan as identified in Attachment A;
- 3) is within the scope of the funding priorities identified in this RFP;
- 4) makes every attempt to use funds as efficiently as possible; and
- 5) 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, 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? November 1, 2011 to October 31, 2013 .

Will my preproposal be kept confidential? No. We broadly solicit reviews from about all of the preproposals. Review comments are taken into consideration by the Implementation Team when funding decisions are made.

How does the grant proposal process work? AGFC is using a 3-step process:

- 1) a call for preproposals due in January;
- 2) a solicitation for comments on preproposals due in February; and
- 3) the Implementation Team will review the preproposals in February (along with associated comments) and request some applicants to submit full proposals. Sometimes additional information or changes will be requested by the Implementation Team.

What is the deadline for submission of preproposals? **January 18, 2011.**

When will award decisions be made? Full proposals must be approved by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission within our budgetary process (March - July) and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Division usually in the fall. Contracts must be negotiated

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between partners and AGFC for pass-through grants. If your project requires a contract, do not spend any grant funds prior to contract execution.

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? Updates are available at 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.

Can SWG funds be used to buy land or easements? Yes. The amount needed for purchasing land or easements can be estimated and we can reserve grant funds for this purpose.

How much match must applicants contribute? Applicants will be required to provide matching funds. However, the amount of match has not yet been decided by Congress. *As of November 18, 2010, we are hopeful that last year's 35% non-federal match requirement will be continued. Once we are certain, we will notify applicants directly and post it at www.wildlifearkansas.com.*

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 preproposal with information detailing the methodology for determining value.

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

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 18, 2011 to 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. Font size should be 11 point and margins should be 1 inch on all sides. Please do not use all caps.

3. Page 1 is a single cover page with contact/general information:

- a. Title of Project
- b. Project summary (no more than 6 lines long)
- c. Name of project leader and job title (only one project leader)
- 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)

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

The required elements of a project statement are

- a. Need - Which of the priorities in Attachment A does your preproposal address? Explain.
- b. Objective - What do you intend to do
- c. Expected Results and Benefits
- 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 total budget of your project? *Applicants will be required to provide matching funds. We will provide detailed information about match requirements when we have been notified of the Congressional decision.*

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

For further information:

Jane Anderson, Assistant Chief
Wildlife Management Division
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-223-6350
jeanderson@agfc.state.ar.us

Attachment A

Emerging Issues	Action	Comments	Page(s) in Plan
Fayetteville Shale	Evaluate, monitor and minimize the effects of natural gas development in the Fayetteville Shale natural gas region	Emerging issue added at the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference. Several projects are now underway.	Emerging Issue approved by FWS
White Nose Syndrome	Actions as proposed.	Emerging issue added at the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference. Several projects are now underway.	Emerging Issue approved by FWS
Climate Change	Assess species' vulnerability.	AGFC Commissioners may not approve budgets for projects addressing Climate Change. One project underway.	Emerging Issue approved by FWS
Bats Birds	Address vulnerability to wind energy development.	Emerging issue added at the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference. No currently approved projects.	Emerging Issue approved by FWS
Invasive Species	Identify and develop conservation actions.	Emerging Issue added at the 2010 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference. 2010 Steering Committee recommended approval of a task force to identify plant/animal native/exotic invasive species in Arkansas with special emphasis on impacts to Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) with recommendations for developing and prioritizing Conservation Actions to address impacts.	Emerging Issue recommended by Steering Committee - has not yet been approved by FWS
Birds			
Grassland birds: <i>Lanius ludovicianus migrans</i> , <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> , <i>Tympanuchus cupido</i> , <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , <i>Empidonax trailii</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>	Manage landscapes for native grasslands.	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 is suitable for grassland birds, this conservation action continues to be the Bird Taxa Team's highest priority. In order 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
Marshbirds: <i>Rallus elegans</i> , <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , <i>Porphyrio martinica</i> , <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> , <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> , <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> ,	Manage 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 are a habitat type which has 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 which 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. Therefore restoration and management of emergent wetlands continues to be the Bird Taxa Teams top priority conservation action in order to conserve and reverse declines in marshbirds of Greatest Conservation Need.	297, 223, 291, 238, 147, 289.
Fish			
Caddo madtom, Arkansas darter, least darter, paleback darter, and Strawberry River darter	Maintain, protect and restore habitat.	These species are sensitive to land use, and habitat conservation will be required to prevent further imperilment.	442, 445, 451, 457, 523
Stargazing darter	Determine factors affecting decline, including potential declines of snails.	Recent surveys indicate that this species has been extirpated from the Saline River and maybe declining in the Ouachita River drainage.	537
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.	416, 422, 490, 497, 543, 547, 554,
Arkansas darter, Alligator gar, least darter, Alabama shad, and other SGCN.	Identify and mitigate barriers to connectivity.	Migration barriers are likely impacting these species of greatest conservation need.	413, 422, 442, 451, 490, 551,
Mussels			
<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i> , <i>Quadrula cylindrica</i> , <i>Villosa lienosa</i> , <i>Toxolasma lividus</i> and <i>Venustaconcha ellipsiformis</i>	Restore stream banks and riparian corridors. Exclude cattle from streams.	Mussel community is rapidly declining and have been declining for 15+ years. <i>L. rafinesqueana</i> is a candidate for listing and listing priority number was recently elevated. Also, <i>Q. cylindrica</i> is candidate for listing.	935
<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>	Survey Saline River for catfish and correlate catfish populations locations with <i>Quadrula fragosa</i> populations	This species has a wide distribution within the Saline River but is clumped into regions even though habitat appears to be available at other localities. This study will help elucidate if the distribution is based on habitat or catfish distribution.	1004

Crayfish			
Orconectes eupunctus	Monitor populations of coldwater crayfish, Orconectes eupunctus, in South Fork Spring River. Monitor their response to spread of the invading gapped ringed crayfish, Orconectes neglectus chaenodactylus, and possible displacement mechanisms related to early life history and drying disturbance.	The Coldwater Crayfish has a limited range, being restricted presumably to large cool streams in the eastern Ozarks (specifically Spring, Strawberry, and Eleven Point rivers). We believe that its distribution is restricted by water temperature, which would make it susceptible to impact from global warming. It's range is already being reduced by the spread of an introduced crayfish species in the Spring River Basin. Recently the introduced species has also been discovered in the Eleven Point River Basin. It is critical that we have a better understanding of how the introduced species is able to displace coldwater crayfish, in hopes of slowing or stopping this displacement.	340
Amphibians and Reptiles			
Spea bombifrons, Gastrophryne olivacea, Scaphiophus hurterii, Pseudacris streckerii	Survey for distribution in the Arkansas Valley Ecoregion.	The limited number of known localities and sustained habitat loss due to agricultural conversion threaten survival in the AR River Valley.	
Hellbender conservation		Hellbender populations continue to decline precipitously in Arkansas. (added by Steering Committee).	
Insect s			
Arkansas's unique biogeography: status of disjunct and relict populations	Obtain baseline distribution and population status on multiple species	Very little is known about many of Arkansas' insect species. The 2010 Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	562-712
Influence of karst connectivity on subterranean and surface water populations	Obtain baseline distribution and population status on multiple species	Little is known about connectivity and subterranean and surface water species. The 2010 Steering Committee recommends distribution and population status surveys that will lead to conservation action recommendations.	1206
Habitats			
Woodlands (including sandhills, oak woodlands, and pine-oak flatwoods), Savannas, and Glades and Barrens	Conduct 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 mid-story 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.
Prairies and Native Grasslands	Conduct 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 exotic 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.
Karst Native Terrestrial Habitat	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.	Use page numbers from species accounts.
Wetlands	Restore, enhance and/or maintain wetland integrity.	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	Continue watershed planning process for high priority streams.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	422, 439, 448, 503
Streambank habitat	Measure regional bank erosion rates.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN. Projects will be evaluated on the degree of imperilment and number of imperiled species benefited.	416,442, 445, 532
Stream water quality	Implement road BMP projects/workshops.	Action must be for the benefit of SGCN.	469, 483,494
Adaptive Management Projects: Phase Two Conservation Actions			
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.			