

# Habitat Management and Public Access

## Disclaimer

This project statement is meant to be used as a training aid. While some of the information provided in the project statement is based upon factual data, the entire project statement is not meant to represent an actual project statement drafted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

## Arkansas Statewide Habitat Management and Public Access

### Need

*There is a need to maintain viable populations of wild birds and mammal species in order to provide wildlife dependent outdoor recreation opportunities and sustainable wildlife populations in Arkansas.* Maintaining adequate habitat to support forest, upland, and wetland dependent wildlife species is of great importance to those who hunt, trap, view, study and photograph wildlife throughout the State. Over 458,000 individuals spend nearly 11 million days pursuing wildlife dependent recreation in Arkansas annually. Wildlife habitat in Arkansas is becoming more fragmented from changes in urban and agricultural land use as the state's population increases. Habitat and cropland loss from urban sprawl occurs at an average rate of 12,500 acres/year. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission manages 62 state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) encompassing 2,863,294 acres and the WMAs are important resources where wildlife populations can be effectively managed and available for recreational and economic benefit. Arkansas' ability to sustain viable populations of wildlife species for wildlife dependent recreation will be significantly compromised unless habitat is managed, maintained, and restored.

### Purpose

The purpose of this grant is for the conservation of wildlife species and their associated habitats for maintaining viable populations and public enjoyment and use.

### Objectives

- Directly manage 162,746 acres by June 30, 2017. *(NOTE: TRACS strategy - Direct Habitat & Species Management)*

### Results and Benefits Expected

To the Resource: This project will result in habitat improvements and reduced risk of declining species of wild birds and mammals on state lands and adjoining private lands. It will result in improved plant diversity and restoration of habitat communities.

To the User: Improved hunting and other wildlife dependent outdoor opportunities.

To the Economy: Increased revenues from shooting ranges and hunting and fishing trips.

To Society: Outreach opportunities including public presentations about restoration work, field trips for stakeholder groups, and several field days to share information with private landowners

### Approach

*Objective 1 - Directly manage 162,746 acres by June 30, 2017*

Habitat management and restoration projects and activities that will be conducted to accomplish project objectives include (see [Table 1](#) for a list of activities by WMA):

#### Forest habitat management activities

- Annual maintenance of 662 miles of firebreaks in support of scheduled prescribed fire activities.
- Manipulation of vegetative communities on 8,628 acres of wildlife openings within the forest matrix to diversify habitat.
- Prescribing of herbicides, pre-commercial and commercial forest thinning, and the application of prescribed fire as wildlife stand improvement on 1,520 acres of forested habitat to promote and restore historical vegetative and forest structure.
- Reforestation (forest management, hard and soft mast production, etc) of selected sites which promotes the achievement of long-term management area habitat plans.

#### Upland habitat management activities

- Wildlife stand inventory of 21,041 acres to provide treatment guidance and follow-up by treatment audits to assess treatment effectiveness.
- Mowing, disking, fertilizing, liming and planting of 5,465 acres of food plots in planned mixtures of both warm season and cool season annuals and perennials to supplement native forage with small acreages of high quality cultivated forage.
- Chemical control of woody stems and the mechanical soil disturbance on 33,955 acres of old field habitat to provide early seral-stage vegetative communities.

#### Wetland habitat management activities

- Prescribed application of herbicides to control or eliminate noxious/invasive weed species, the timed application and removal of water to manipulate high quality moist-soil vegetative plant communities, the mechanical soil disturbance to enhance high quality moist-soil vegetative plant communities, and the periodic planting of cultivated crops on sites where natural moist-soil plants are lacking on 5,034

- acres of moist soil units.
- Seasonal flooding, manipulation and dewatering of 107,482 acres of green-tree impoundments.
- Maintenance of 270 constructed water holes.

**Administrative Activities**

Conducting related project administration, coordination and planning (to include development of WMA master plans and annual work plans), evaluation, program development (to include training all agency personnel involved in the habitat management program through continuing education and workshops and symposia as well as through close coordination with multi-agency regional efforts) and all other associated eligible activities.

*(NOTE: TRACS activity tags for reporting purposes).*

- TRACS Activity Tag 1: Fire management
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Prescribed burning
- TRACS Activity Tag 1: Water management
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Drainage
- TRACS Activity Tag 1: Planting/seeding
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Food plots
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Trees/shrubs
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Submerged aquatic vegetation
- TRACS Activity Tag 1: Vegetative management
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Chemical
- TRACS Activity Tag 2 (optional): Mechanical

**Useful Life**

No capital improvements over \$10,000 will be made with this project proposal.

**Geographic Location**

Statewide - See include table for specific activities by location.

**Principal Investigator**

Not applicable

**Program Income**

This grant will generate an estimated \$450,000 in program income through the sale of timber harvested on WMAs. Approval is requested to use the additive method for application of this program income. Program income will be applied solely towards the cost of habitat management, maintenance, and restoration activities as described herein.

**Budget Narrative**

Funding for this project shall be provided by the Wildlife Restoration Grant program of the Wildlife Restoration Act.

Total project cost is estimated at \$2,448,000

Federal Share shall be \$1,836,000 (75%)

State Share shall be \$612,000 (25%)

*NOTE: Applicants may provide the budget information using the SF 424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs), SF 424C (Budget Information for Construction Programs), or using the applicant's created budget displaying an equivalent or greater level of detail.*

<u>Budget Class Category</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Personnel (salaries)	\$950,000
Fringe Benefits	\$252,700
Travel	\$18,000
Equipment	\$0
Supplies	\$540,650

Contractual	\$441,850
Construction	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$2,203,200
Indirect Costs	\$244,800
TOTAL Direct/Indirect	\$2,448,000
Program Income (additive)	\$450,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,898,000</b>

Personnel - budget estimate comprised of staff (25-30) in the following classifications: (1) Regional Wildlife Coordinator; (2) Public Lands Wildlife Biologist; (3) Wildlife Foreman; (4) Wildlife Senior Technician; and (5) Wildlife Technician.

Fringe Benefits -consists of the required employer contribution of Social Security, Medicare, unemployment tax, retirement, and employee health insurance, and is estimated at 26.2% of salaries.

Travel - staff will attend in-state meetings related wildlife and habitat management issues/concerns. Staff may also attend regional/national meetings such as The Wildlife Society and Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (including the various committees and sections). Travel costs will include lodging, transportation, and per diem following state policies and procedures.

Supplies - budget estimate includes general office/lab supplies, field attire, tools, electrical items, herbicide, herbicide application items, and prescribed fire supplies/items.

Contractual - budget estimate includes contractual agreements with third party commercial timber harvesters to meet habitat and species management goals/objectives.

Indirect Costs - The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's approved NICRA is 20.35% applied to the base of salary and fringe. A copy of the NICRA is on file in the WSFR Region 4 Office.

In-Kind Match: \$0

Pre-Award Costs: \$0 No pre-award costs are requested for this grant.

Indirect Cost Statement: "We are (1) a U.S. state government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of 20.35%. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is attached."

Single Audit Reporting Statement: The State of Arkansas was required to submit a Statewide Single Audit report for its most recently closed fiscal year and that report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Single Audit Database website. The report is filed under the State of Arkansas' EIN (99-9999999).

Conflict of Interest Statement: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, at the time of this application, is not aware of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of this award which may affect the Commission, its employees, or its subrecipients. Should an actual or potential conflict of interest arise during the period of performance, then the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will notify the WSFR Regional Office.

#### **Multipurpose Projects**

Not applicable

#### **Relationship with Other Grants**

This grant will continue work conducted under the WMA Maintenance, Operations and Habitat Management grant AR-W-F13AF01229 (W-64-45).

#### **Timeline**

March – September: Planting/seeding native upland and wetland vegetation and implement prescribed grassland burns

March – June: Timber cutting and timber stand improvements

Year-round: Invasive plant control and other vegetative control activities; provide assistance to landowners

#### **General**

**NOTE: 50 CFR 80.82 (c) requires that a project statement must include information pertaining to 13 data elements. Element 13 (General) requires that information be included in the project statement that (a) shows that the proposed activities are eligible for funding and substantial in character and design and (b) enables the Service to comply with applicable requirements under NEPA, ESA, and NHPA, and other laws, regulations, and policies. If information is not provided in the project statement, please attach additional documentation regarding NEPA, ESA, and NHPA compliance.**

## Related Pages

[Wildlife Restoration- WSFR](#)

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## Resources

[Project Statement - Habitat Management and Public Access](#)

[WSFR\\_Quick Reference\\_WR](#)

[Wildlife Restoration Funding Diagram](#)

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## References

[§ 50 CFR 80.50 What activities are eligible for funding under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act?](#)

[§ 50 CFR 80.82 What must an agency submit when applying for a project-by-project grant?](#)

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