

Land Acquisition for Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

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 Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

STATEWIDE LAND ACQUISITIONS FOR WILDLIFE ORIENTED RECREATION IN OHIO

Need

There is a need to increase access and opportunity to wildlife oriented recreation in Ohio. Hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing are popular pastimes for Ohioans. Many of these activities occur on public wildlife areas. The demand for places to pursue wildlife-dependent recreation increases annually as Ohio's population grows and land is developed. A 2014 survey conducted by Grace State University revealed that Ohio ranked 47th in the United States in the amount of public lands available for recreation per capita. 95% of land in Ohio is privately owned and therefore inaccessible to the public. The deficit in public wildlife areas in Ohio results in overcrowded conditions and conflicts among user groups. It will become increasingly more difficult for the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW) to provide safe and enjoyable wildlife recreation experiences unless more land is secured for public use in Ohio.

Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to secure sufficient public wildlife acreage to meet the demand for wildlife oriented recreation in Ohio.

Objective

- Acquire real property interest in 8,000 acres by June 30, 2020. *(NOTE: TRACS strategy - Real Property Acquisition)*

Results and Benefits Expected

- Reduction in conflicts among user groups due to human population pressures.
- Increased access and opportunity to grassland, wetland and forest game recreation.
- Improved safety conditions on Ohio's public wildlife areas.
- Enjoyable wildlife oriented recreational experiences that exceed expectations

Approach

Objective 1 - Acquire real property interest in 8,000 acres by June 30, 2020

It is the intent of the Division of Wildlife (DOW) to acquire 8,000 acres in Ohio to increase access and opportunity to wildlife dependent recreation for species dependent on forestland, wetland and grassland habitat. Acquisitions will use Wildlife Restoration (WR) funds and the required non- federal match. The DOW will obligate funds through a WR land acquisition grant to enable the DOW to acquire tracts of real property as they become available from willing sellers. The DOW has established focus areas in the state where acquisitions will be within reasonable driving distance from Ohio's population centers. As parcels become available within the established focus areas the DOW will initiate acquisition procedures. A key strategy will be to acquire in-holdings at existing wildlife areas.

Acquisition priority will be given to tracts of land with a 250-acre minimum within the established focus areas. Acquisitions will be through fee title, conservation easements, cooperative agreements, leases or contracts. The DOW will follow state acquisition procedures and the federal acquisition procedures described in 49 CFR Part 24 of the UNIFORM RELOCATION ASSISTANCE AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR FEDERAL AND FEDERALLY-ASSISTED PROGRAMS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Real Estate and Land Management (REALM) will facilitate real property appraisals and review appraisals using USPAP or UASFLA standards as each acquisition dictates. REALM will procure the services of state certified general appraisers who have the established federal credentials. An appraisal will be submitted to the USFWS, WSFR grants specialist for approval prior to closing on properties. REALM will facilitate boundary surveys, title searches and recording of deeds.

At the time of settlement, a Notice of Federal Participation will be recorded on deeds or other legal recording documents. The appraisal, deed, title-vesting certificate, statement of just compensation, and land summary statement will be submitted with annual performance reports after the transaction is completed. Staff will add the newly acquired lands to the DOW Lands Inventory Database and TRACS.

The project leader will perform an Ohio Environmental Assessment Review (OEAR) so that the proper NEPA, SHPO and Section 7 recommendation can be made. Results of the OEAR will be forwarded to the USFWS grant administrator for concurrence.

Grants will be amended when a parcel of land is proposed for acquisition. These amendments will include the need for the purchase, the purposes for which the parcel will be used and all planned activities, the public benefits to be realized and expected costs for the entire project. The amendment will include maps identifying property boundaries and a physical description of the land.

*(NOTE: TRACS activity tags for reporting purposes).
TRACS Activity Tag 1: Land Acquisition (# of acres)*

Useful Life

If the acquisition will be via a lease or other temporary ownership agreement the term of the agreement will be recorded in the amended project.

Geographic Location

Statewide

Principal Investigator(s), for Research Projects

Not applicable

Program Income

None anticipated

Budget Narrative

Funding for this project shall be provided by the Wildlife Restoration Grant program (5222 subprogram).

Total project cost is estimated at **\$800,000**

Federal Share shall be **\$600,000** (75%)

State Share shall be **\$200,000** (25%). The State Share shall be provided by non-federal funds from the state wildlife diversity fund.

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.

Budget Category	Cost
Administrative & Legal Expenses	\$45,000
Land, Structures, ROW, Appraisals, etc.	\$745,000
Relocation Expenses & Payments	\$0
Architectural & Engineering Fees	\$0
Other Architectural & Engineering Fees	\$0
Project Inspection Fees	\$10,000
Site Work	\$0
Demolition & Removal	\$0
Construction	\$0
Equipment	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0
Subtotal	\$800,000
Contingencies	\$0
Subtotal	\$800,000
Program Income	\$0
TOTAL	\$800,000

Administrative & Legal Expenses - budget estimate for potential administrative or legal fees that may arise during the land acquisition process of this project.

Land, Structures, ROW, Appraisals, etc. - budget estimate for costs associated with title opinion, appraisals, appraisal reviews, closing costs, deed preparation, and title insurance.

Project Inspection Fees - budget estimate for costs associated with site inspection (environmental inspections, etc.) fees prior to closing.

In-Kind Match: No in-kind match will be utilized for this grant.

Pre-Award Costs: \$12,000 for appraisals, surveys, title and legal costs.

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 19.00%. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. A copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification is on file in the WSFR Region 3 Office.

Single Audit Reporting Statement: The state of Ohio 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 Ohio's EIN (99-9999999).

Conflict of Interest Statement: ODW, 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 ODW, its employees, or its subrecipients. Should an actual or potential conflict of interest arise during the period of performance, then ODW will notify the WSFR Regional Office.

Multipurpose Projects

Not applicable.

Relationship with Other Grants

Not applicable.

Timeline

Period of performance is July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2020.

- July 2017 - September 2017: Focus area boundaries established.
- September 2017 - November 2017: Desirable parcels identified.
- December 2017 - June 2020; Acquire real property parcels within focus areas as they become available from willing sellers.

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.

*As individual parcels are identified for acquisition, the compliance process for NEPA, Sec 7 of the ESA and NHPA will be required for each individual parcel to be acquired through this project.

Related Pages

[Wildlife Restoration- WSFR](#)

[Substantial in Character and Design](#)

[Real or Personal Property?](#)

Resources

[Project Statement - Land Acquisition for Outdoor Recreation \(Word file\)](#)

[Wildlife Restoration Funding Diagram](#)

[WSFR_Quick Reference_WR](#)

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?](#)