



# 2012 State Wildlife Grants Request for Proposals

---

## **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](http://www.wildlifearkansas.com).

---

**Eligibility.** State Wildlife Grants are available to state agencies, nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and universities. Projects totaling \$10,000 to \$300,000 will be considered for funding.

**Duration.** The duration period for projects will be approximately June 1, 2012– May 31, 2014.

**Project Evaluation Criteria.** Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- is feasible and practical in a 2 year time period
- addresses priority actions of the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan as outlined in Table 1
- is within the scope of funding priorities as identified in this RFP
- uses funds efficiently and effectively
- is within the qualifications and abilities of the organization(s) and individual(s) involved.

**Review Process.** Comments on proposed projects will be solicited from the scientific community and will be taken into consideration by the implementation team. The implementation team will review project proposals and request some applicants to submit full proposals.

**Deadline for Proposals.** Project proposals are due *February 3, 2012*.

**Match Requirement.** All applicants will be required to provide matching funds. Matching funds can NOT come from federal funds. In-kind contributions, such as staff time, facilities, equipment or supplies, are allowable as match. At this time, Congress has not yet decided the match requirement. We are hopeful that the previous year's non-federal match requirement of 35% will be continued. However, it is suggested that applicants prepare budgets providing for a 35% and a 50% match requirement. Once we receive a determination from Congress, we will contact applicants directly and post the information on the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan website.

**Proposal Instructions.** Project proposals should be submitted as Word or PDF files. Font size should be 12 point and margins should be 1 inch. Proposals should not exceed 5 pages and should adhere to the following layout:

1. Page 1 –single cover page that provides:
  - a. Project Title
  - b. Project Summary (short paragraph highlighting project goals and objectives)
  - c. Project Leader name, job title, affiliation, and contact information
  - d. Project Partners (name, affiliation, contact information)
  - e. Project Budget (include SWG amount requested, match amount provided, and total amount of project)
2. Pages 2-4 – Project Statement. This is the principal component of the proposal and should be written as clearly and concisely as possible. Tables, graphs, maps, and photos may be used. Required elements of the project statement are:
  - a. Need – List the priorities that your project is addressing.
  - b. Location – Describe where the project will take place (list ecoregion, county, habitats targeted). Provide a map.
  - c. Objective – State the goal(s) and objectives of the project.
  - d. Approach – Describe the methods that will be used to accomplish objectives.
  - e. Expected Results and Benefits – Describe the anticipated benefits to SGCN as a result of your project. Include a list of SGCN that will be affected.
  - f. Budget – Provide budget elements and sources. Please prepare 2 budgets to address 35% and 50% match scenarios.
3. Page 5 – Qualifications. Provide a short description of the qualifications/experience of the project leader and project partners involved.

**Proposal Submissions.** Proposals should be submitted via email to:

Allison Fowler, Biologist/AWAP Coordinator

Wildlife Management Division, AGFC

Email address: [atfowler@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:atfowler@agfc.state.ar.us)

Table 1. Conservation action priorities for the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan 2012. Green shaded priorities are those that have not yet been addressed.

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.	Emerging Issue - approved by FWS
White Nose Syndrome	Actions as proposed.	Emerging issue added at the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference.	Emerging Issue approved by FWS
Climate Change	Assess species' vulnerability.	AGFC Commissioners may not approve budgets for projects addressing Climate Change.	Emerging Issue - approved by FWS
Bats Birds	Address vulnerability to wind energy development.	Emerging issue added at the 2008 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan Conference.	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
<b>Birds</b>			
Grassland birds: Lanius ludovicianus migrans, Ammodramus henslowii, Tympanuchus cupido, Circus cyaneus, Empidonax traillii, Cistothorus platensis, Ammodramus savannarum, Asio flammeus, Tyto alba, Vireo bellii, Chondestes grammacus, Calcarious pictus, Ammodraumus leconteii, Tryngites subruficollis, Colinus virginianus, Bartramia longicauda	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: Rallus elegans, Gallinula chloropus, Porphyrio martinica, Ixobrychus exilis, Botaurus lentiginosus, Podilymbus podiceps,	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
<b>Fish</b>			
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,
<b>Mussels</b>			
Lampsilis rafinesqueana, Quadrula cylindrica, Villosa lienosa, Toxolasma lividus and Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	Restore stream banks and riparian corridors. Exclude cattle from streams.	Mussel community is rapidly declining and has been declining for 15+ years. L. rafinesqueana is a candidate for listing and listing priority number was recently elevated. Also, Q. cylindrica is candidate for listing.	935
Quadrula fragosa	Survey Saline River for catfish and correlate catfish populations locations with Quadrula fragosa 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, <i>Orconectes eupunctus</i> , in South Fork Spring River. Monitor their response to spread of the invading gapped ringed crayfish, <i>Orconectes neglectus chaenodactylus</i> , 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. Its 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			
<i>Spea bomifrons</i> , <i>Gastrophryne olivacea</i> , <i>Scaphiophus hurterii</i> , <i>Pseudacris streckerii</i>	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).	45-48
Insects			
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.			