

Project Portfolio



Illinois Wildlife Habitat Education

Grant Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

Phase #1 of this project will educate 600 Illinois landowners statewide about techniques and opportunities to improve wildlife habitat on private lands and provide wildlife-specific habitat management recommendations for 60 landowners in a 10-county area in central Illinois. Phase #2 of this project will provide 109 landowners in a new 10-county area of Illinois wildlife-specific written plans. In addition, four “working farms” will be selected as demonstration farms and long-term educational tools to educate interested landowners. Phase #3 will provide an additional 105 wildlife-specific written plans to assist landowners in meeting their wildlife goals for their property.

LOCATION

Illinois.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESS

Over 70 % (1.5 billion acres) of the Untied States is privately owned. Almost 90 % of these acres are cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and private non-industrial forestland (*NRCS: Importance of Conservation Technical Assistance*). Decisions made by America’s private landowners, therefore, directly affect the land’s plant life, soil, water and wildlife. Public funds and policy have had a large influence on the choices available to landowners in the management of their lands.

The State of Illinois faces challenges in its effort to manage its natural resources and preserve and enhance biological resources in a landscape that is 90 % privately owned with more than 75 % of the state in farmland. These private lands hold tremendous societal benefits including protection of watersheds and water quality, enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife, provision of timber supply, preservation of important cultural and historical sites, and promotion of recreational opportunities. However, a 1994 national survey found that only 5% of private forestland owners possessed some kind of written management plan for their land.

OBJECTIVES

To educate Illinois landowners about techniques and opportunities to improve wildlife habitat on private lands and provide wildlife-specific habitat recommendations.

PARTNERS

NWTF
Natural Resources Conservation Service
(Illinois)

TIMEFRAME

Project Start Date: August 2004
Project End Date: Summer 2010

NWTF PROJECT STAFF

Project Manager: Jay Jordan
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TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 646,670