

Project Portfolio



Illinois landowner Seed Subsidy and Timber Stand Improvements Grant Source: Illinois Habitat Fund

BACKGROUND

The Illinois Habitat Fund is one of three programs funded through the purchase of a State Habitat Stamp. The Habitat Endowment Act, enacted in 1992, provides long-term funding for the State Pheasant Fund, State Furbearer Fund and the Illinois Habitat Fund. The purpose of the Act is to provide a stable and supplemental source of money to support activities and programs undertaken by the Department and other managers of land to preserve, protect, acquire, and manage habitat for future generations. Habitat quality is measured by such parameters as type, native diversity, size, structure, scarcity, and location. Linkage with neighboring habitat, whether existing or potential, is another important consideration. The State Habitat Stamp replaced the existing Pheasant and Furbearer stamps, expanding funding opportunities for enhancement to all types of habitat. The Illinois Habitat Fund portion involved in the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program provides for enhancing game and non-game wildlife habitat. Organized groups of volunteers and governmental entities develop projects and submit applications to the Department to help fund their projects. The grants are competitive, and are evaluated for their merit. Eligible projects are limited to those seeking to preserve, protect, acquire or manage habitat (all wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands, natural or altered) in Illinois that have the potential to support populations of wildlife in any or all phases of their life cycles.

LOCATION

Illinois.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESS

The biggest threat to wildlife in Illinois is the loss of habitat. With over 90% of wildlife habitat in Illinois in private ownership, the way they manage their land impacts wildlife resources for all in the Illini state. Wildlife on private land belongs to everyone, but only the landowner can produce it. Whether wildlife becomes scarce or abundant in an area depends on the attitudes and practices of the landowner. Without the cooperation of the private sector, state Wildlife

Management Areas, wildlife refuges and other public wildlife areas are in jeopardy of becoming isolated ecosystem. Increased aid, both technical and monetary, is needed for the private landowner. Although these funds are used by the private sector, their impact will ultimately benefit the general public.

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) has participated in two separate grant programs over several years. One program has been a cost share incentive component that help landowners pay for assistance with timber stand improvements through the ILDNR Office of Natural Resources, and the other program is related to the distribution of seed mixes for supplemental wildlife forage and brood habitat enhancement. Annually the State Chapter of the NWTf offers cost share assistance to landowners throughout the state to purchase a variety of seed and seed mixes to be planted on private lands to provide high quality supplemental forage throughout the fall, spring, and summer and quality brood rearing habitat in the summer.

NWTF PROJECT STAFF

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TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT & TIMEFRAME

\$ 35,000	2005
\$ 35,000	2006
\$ 10,000	2007
\$ 8,809	2008