



MEMORANDUM

to: Colleen Callahan, Director
from: Mike Wefer, Chairman, Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee
Susan Duke, Illinois Habitat Fund Grant Administrator
date: January 7, 2020

Michael
Wefer

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Michael Wefer
Date: 2021.01.08
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Susan J.
Duke

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J. Duke
Date: 2021.01.07
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subject: IL Habitat Fund Advisory Committee Action

The Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee held their annual meeting on December 17, 2020. The Committee's responsibility is to review and recommend the allocation of funds in the Illinois Habitat Fund.

Summary of Recommendations

The Committee recommends approval of \$250,000 for IDNR habitat projects on public lands, encumbering \$708,000 for governmental and not-for-profits grant projects. The Committee also voted to designate \$176,000 for IDNR future land acquisition. Committee actions are summarized as follows:

Habitat Committee Recommendations	Total Funds
DNR Program: "FY20 Habitat Projects on Public Lands"	\$250,000.00
Grants to governmental and not-for-profits for habitat projects	\$708,096.00
Designated for IDNR Land Acquisition	\$100,000.00
Total October FY2020 Committee Recommended Funding	\$1,058,096.00

Habitat Development on Public Lands - \$250,000

The Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) was recently awarded its fourth USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Voluntary Public Access Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grant in August 2020. This grant will continue and expand this popular hunting and fishing public access program that was created in 2011. One of the key components is the habitat work IRAP implements on private landowners' property they have leased for hunting and fishing access. However, funding for habitat projects was reduced considerably in this latest grant for IRAP. In order to meet demand and further benefit wildlife across Illinois, IRAP needs funding to implement key habitat projects across the state. Currently, IRAP has 24,000 acres under lease and plans to add another 10,000 acres in the next three years to meet public demand and deliverables of the VPA-HIP grant. IRAP will utilize this grant to contract for aerial spraying of bush honeysuckle and various habitat practices outside of the two Habitat Strike teams' boundaries. Practices, such as, non-native species removal, brush management, pollinator and tree prep and planting, timber stand improvement, and others will be implemented on IRAP leased properties.

IRAP currently has an intergovernmental agreement with the Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCSWCD) in which its two IRAP Coordinators are housed as well as habitat management contracts are coordinated and implemented. IRAP has a very good 9-year history with the SCSWCD for the coordination and implementation of IRAP since its inception.

Work Area: All habitat work will be on 3,000 IRAP leased acres. Most of this grant will be used for aerial spraying of bush honeysuckle and the remainder will be used to contract habitat work outside of Habitat Strike Team work area.

The Committee recommended funding seven grant proposals for FY2021

These were the highest scoring proposals that were recommended for funding:

ILLINOIS HABITAT FUND 2021 GRANT APPLICATIONS									
Grant Number	County	Grantee Name	Project Description	Total Funds Requested	Other State Funding	Matching Funds	%	Total Project Cost	Partner Organizations
21-001H	Will	Will County FP	Braidwood Dunes, Savanna NP, Sand Ridge Savanna NP and Kankakee Sands - control nonnative invasive species to create large blocks of contiguous prairie and remnant savanna	\$92,000.00		\$110,000.00	54%	\$202,000.00	IDNR, TNC, ComEd
21-003H	Statewide Southern Till Plan and Grand	Quail and Upland Game Alliance	BONUS PROGRAM - offers landowners bonus payments for completing wildlife friendly management work on both CRP and Non-CRP acreage	\$50,000.00		\$32,783.72	40%	\$82,783.72	Landowners
21-004H	Southern Illinois south of I-70	Quail and Upland Game Alliance	Habitat Specialist - works on public and private lands with the landowner to establish and improve habitat for all upland game on their properties, including invasives removal, strip disking, strip spraying, prairie plantings including pollinator plants, interseeding, controlled Rx Burns	\$44,000.00		\$95,340.00	68%	\$139,340.00	Landowners
21-009H	Marion, Clay, Jefferson, Hamilton, White, Wayne, Richland, Lawrence, Edwards, Wabash, Perry, Washington, Randolph, Jackson, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin	Pheasants Forever	Fund three positions - Southern Illinois Farm Bill Biologists to provide conservation technical assistance for the restoration of and improved Habitat on state owned and private lands.	\$102,096.00		\$306,288.00	75%	\$408,384.00	NRCS, Landowners
21-010H	West Central Illinois	Pheasants Forever	Fund four positions - Habitat Strike Team for IRAP	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$25,000.00	8%	\$325,000.00	IRAP, Landowners
21-011H	90 mile radius from East Alton, IL	Lewis and Clark Community College	Fund Three positions - Habitat Strike Team for six state sites, three NPs and IRAP	\$220,000.00	\$224,973.00	\$254,388.00	36%	\$699,361.00	NGRREC, Sangamon SWCD, Webster University, The Nature Institute, IRAP, Landowners
Total Funded				\$708,096.00	\$324,973.00	\$623,799.72		\$1,656,868.72	

There were seven grant proposals NOT recommended for funding

These seven grant proposals were scored lower, and there were insufficient funds to fund these after the highest scoring proposals were funded.

ILLINOIS HABITAT FUND 2021 GRANT APPLICATIONS									
Grant Number	County	Grantee Name	Project Description	Total Funds Requested	Other State Funding	Matching Funds	%	Total Project Cost	Partner Organizations
21-002H	Calhoun	Ducks Unlimited	Two Rivers NWR - restoring and enhancing 241 acres of floodplain wetlands by installing low berms, distribution lines, and groundwater wells and pumps for flooding during hunting season.	\$250,000.00		\$366,000.00	53%	\$616,000.00	IDNR, Bass Pro, NAWCA, Daniel and Ada Rice Foundation, Dr Schell's
21-005H	Logan and Menard	Quail and Upland Game Alliance	John Deere Side by Side Equipment for sprayers and controlled Rx Burn equipment	\$12,375.00		\$4,500.00	27%	\$16,875.00	Landowners
21-006H	Statewide Southern Till Plain and	Quail and Upland Game Alliance	SkidSteer for tree saw, tree puller and brush mower, 700-1000 hours	\$56,555.37		\$22,035.00	28%	\$78,590.37	Landowners
21-007H	Mermet, Henderson, Warren, Henry, Knox, Fulton, McDonough, Stark, Peoria, Sangamon, Ford	Quail and Upland Game Alliance	Incentive Payment of \$100 per acre offered to Illinois Landowners signing up for the USDA SAFE Program on existing and expanded SAFE areas in the Illinois continuous CRP acreage areas, see map	\$99,000.00		\$33,000.00	25%	\$132,000.00	Landowners
21-008H	Statewide	Pollinator Partnership	Project Wingspan Across Illinois: Native Plant Materials Development Plan - costs associated with plant production and grow-out materials and part time personnel and assist with support for the current fulltime staff at the State Nursery, greenhouse operations and the purchase of field production equipment to be used at the IDNR Mason State Tree Nursery to restore and enhance 5,400 acres with native seed collected statewide by trained volunteers	\$100,669.67		\$185,618.82	65%	\$286,288.49	IDNR, Mason State Tree Nursery, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, NFW Foundation, Cook County FP, The Wetlands Initiative, Midwestern
21-012H	McLean, Woodford	Parkland Foundation	John Deere 5115M Utility Tractor with a 540M Loader, Frontier AP12F fixed pallet forks, 15ft heavy duty Batwing mower to replace a smaller limited hp tractor with only a six ft mower that does not meet all of their needs and was being transported between counties. Having an additional tractor would eliminate a lot of the need to transport equipment and hire contractors to mow and will be used for maintenance activities at the sites like removal of invasive species, hiking trail and parking lot maintenance, fire pumps herbicide sprayers and trail maintenance. The landtrust sites are open for canoe, nature	\$64,971.63		\$26,183.23	29%	\$91,154.86	landtrust sites volunteers
21-013H	Statewide	Trees forever	Tree Forever Buffer Partnership Program	\$130,571.00		\$66,370.00	34%	\$196,941.00	IDNR, APHS, FS, Landowners, IDO A, C- BMP, USFWS
TOTALS				\$714,142.67	\$0.00	\$703,707.05	50%	\$1,417,849.72	

A sharepoint server file is available of all grant application materials is available at <https://dnr.portal.illinois.gov/teams/orc/SpecialFunds/HabitatFund/default.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fteams%2Forc%2FSpecialFunds%2FHabitatFund%2FShared%20Documents%2F2021%20Habitat%20Fund%20Grant%20Applications&FolderCTID=0x0120008B6439D2647EDB48B0FCD053124A12F6&View={8A48E09E-F393-4874-ACE9-7BEE6C0BE780}>

for any review of the materials considered by the Committee as well as the grant proposals themselves. Any questions about the meeting materials or the grant proposals should be directed to Mike Wefer, IDNR Chair. Any technical questions about grant processes should be directed to Susan J. Duke, IDNR Grant Administrator for the Illinois Habitat Fund.

Please indicate approval of the Office of Resource Conservation funding recommendations by signing below. Funds are currently available to award the recommended projects. Upon your decision staff of the Special Funds Section of the Office of Grant Management and Assistance will inform the Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee, grantees and IDNR staff of intent on use of FY2020 Habitat Funds.

OFFICE RECOMMENDATION

Christopher Young

Digitally signed by Christopher Young
Date: 2021.01.08 11:28:41 -06'00'

Chris Young, Director Date
Office of Resource Conservation

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



HABITAT CHAIR RECOMMENDATION

Michael Wefer

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Date: 2021.01.08 06:33:39 -06'00'

Mike Wefer Date
Office of Resource Conservation
Chair of the State Habitat Committee

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF

Colleen Callahan 1-11-21

Colleen Callahan, Director Date
Department of Natural Resources

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



Attachments