

Final Report

SWG Project # T-65-L-001, Hill Prairie and Forested Lands Protection and Stewardship Through Lands Acquisition.

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Clifftop serves as the project leader; the SWIRC&D serves as the project fiscal agent.

Objectives: Acquire the tract and enroll it as a Nature Preserve with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC).

Activities: The 306-acre tract was purchased on 21 December 2010. On 28 December 2010, Clifftop and the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development requested that INPC register the tract. INPC Commissioners voted unanimously on 4 May 2011 in the first vote of a two-step process to accept enrollment and dedication of the tract as a Nature Preserve. INPC Commissioners voted unanimously on 20 September 2011 the second vote of a two-step process to accept enrollment and dedication of the tract as a Nature Preserve. The signed dedication documents were filed with the Monroe County Recorder's Office on 7 November 2011.

Related Grants and Activities: Acquisition of this property also was supported by grants from two private foundations, The Grand Victoria Foundation and The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The seller of this tract also sold an additional 168.6-acre tract to Clifftop and to the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development. That purchase was entirely supported by grant funding from the same two private foundations. **Separate closings were held on the two tracts of land and the above referenced SWG funding was applied only to the acquisition of the 306-acre South Tract.** We reference the purchase of the North Tract properties because supporting documents, such as the survey and other costs of acquisition, include both the South and North Tracts. The North Tract property has been enrolled with INPC / IDNR as a Land and Water Reserve.

Supporting Documents: Summary of Land Costs; Appraisal; Appraisal Review Approval Letter; Boundary Survey; Recorded Warranty Deed; Recorded Nature Preserve Dedication.