

IDNR Division of Education
Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant
Project 06-LO6W *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM Series Revision

In July 2005, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education was awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund for the purpose of revising the three CD-ROMs in the *Biodiversity of Illinois* series: *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats*; *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume II: Woodland Habitats*; and *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume III: Prairie and Edge Habitats*. These supplemental educational resources are targeted to grades five through nine but have features that can be applied at all grade levels. They were outdated in regard to the endangered/threatened status of many of the species contained on the CD-ROMs and required updating in other aspects as well.

Text for the revisions was written by and new photographs were obtained by Valerie Keener of the IDNR Division of Education. Through a competitive bidding process, The Iona Group of Morton, Illinois, was selected as the vendor to update programming, sleeve design, functionality and other features of the three CD-ROMs. Following a separate competitive bidding process, eDoc Publishing of Tustin, California, was awarded the pressing and CD face-screening facets of the project. The State of Illinois' Central Management Services through competitive bidding awarded the printing of the CD-ROM sleeves to Production Press of Jacksonville, Illinois. The revised CD-ROMs were received at the IDNR Center on August 7, 2006. CD-ROMs will be assembled into their respective sleeves by the staff at the Developmental Services Center in Champaign.

The *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM series helps to supplement the Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois Learning Standards in Science (12A how living things function, adapt and change; 12B how living things interact with each other and with their environment). They may also be used to support Illinois Learning Standards in English Language Arts, Social Science and Fine Arts, depending upon how the instructor utilizes the CD-ROMs. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* depicts 399 species. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume II: Woodland Habitats* highlights 409 species, and *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume III: Prairie and Edge Habitats* contains descriptions of 505 species. Each of the CD-ROMs is designed in a field guide format that allows the user to search for species or groups of organisms in a variety of ways. Each species page contains classification, life history, Illinois range, associated habitats, endangered/threatened status, native/exotic status and, where applicable, sounds produced. Species are also represented by at least one photograph, and most have multiple photographs. Information for each section of the CD-ROMs is printable. These CD-ROMs are available by written teacher request on school letterhead and are distributed by the IDNR Division of Education. They are also distributed at teacher conferences, ENTICE workshops and other IDNR Division of Education events statewide. Ten thousand copies of each CD-ROM were pressed, an increase from the original plan of 6,000 copies of each volume.

Grant funds were used to help pay for the programming of the CD-ROMs. Total programming costs were \$12,750.00, with \$10,000.00 from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant and the remainder from the IDNR Division of Education's general revenue ENTICE funds. ENTICE funds were also used to pay for the pressing and screening of the CD-ROMs (\$9,189.11), printing of the CD-ROM sleeves (\$5,430.00) and assembly of the CD-ROMs into their sleeve (invoice not yet received). Personnel costs were paid by the IDNR.

The IDNR Division of Education is very grateful for the support of the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.