## Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund Final Report

**Grant Agreement Number: 08-041W** 

Grantee: Why Not Now? Incorporated 9932 Grange Hall Road Princeville, Illinois 61559 (309) 258-6002

Time frame of report: July 12, 2007 to June 30, 2008

**Grantee representative:** Brad Guidi, Executive Director

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## **Project objectives:**

1. To educate participants (children and adults with disabilities) about the birds, mammals, and aquatic wildlife indigenous to our 102 acre camp located on former surface coal mine land.

- 2. To educate participants about the habitats of our camp's wildlife populations.
- 3. To educate participants on the importance of providing, maintaining, and improving diverse wildlife habitats.
- 4. To convey the important role that a diverse wildlife population plays in our environment.

## **Summary of the Project Accomplishments**

This project has become an important activity for the children and adults with disabilities who visit Camp Big Sky and is helping us to expand our mature education opportunities for our guests.

Education is taking place in a number of ways, mostly informal, at the camp. For example, we have mounted the Finch and Hummingbird feeders adjacent to our pavilion on Marj-El Lake. Birds are easily visible to our campers at the feeders and we take the opportunity to identify the birds for the campers. We also utilize the Bird Wand and identification book, allowing the campers to find the birds they see and hear the sounds that these birds make in the wild. Field guides provide additional information about the birds, as well as the fish that are caught and the turtles and frogs that are seen at the lake. This real time experience, seeing the actual animal and then learning about the animal, is very educational and helps to reinforce the learning experience.

The portable DVD player is being used to show nature-related movies which utilize numerous animal characters, all of which are common to our habitat. We are planning to begin nature hikes utilizing the animal guides and track charts as well as binoculars provided through a previous DNR grant.

We believe that campers are learning about nature by seeing it firsthand and having a real-time opportunity to learn more about the animals they see with the use of the educational materials purchased through this grant.

## **Itemized Budget of Expenditures**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Item/Quantity</u>                   | <u>Vendor</u>     | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------|--|-------------------|---------------|
| 3/22/08     | Hummingbird feeder (1)                 | Farm King         | 6.99          |
|             | Finch Feeder (1)                       | "                 | 12.98         |
|             | Bird seed (1)                          | "                 | 2.91          |
| 4/4/08      | Bird Wand Kit (1)                      | Wild Birds Unlim. | 84.96         |
|             | Nature education books (3)             | 66                | 22.83         |
|             | Nature education DVDs (3)              | <b>66</b>         | 50.88         |
|             | Portable DVD player (1)                | Best Buy          | 199.99*       |
|             | DVD Travel kit (1)                     | "                 | 7.50          |
|             | <b>Extended Warranty</b>               | "                 | 19.99         |
| 4/11/08     | Nature education DVDs (2)              | Wild Birds Unlim. | 33.98         |
|             | Nature education books/guides (4)      | "                 | 73.75         |
|             | DVD album (1)                          | Best Buy          | 19.99         |
| 6/24/08     | Bird Wand (1)                          | Wild Birds Unlim. | 84.96         |
|             | Finch Feeder (1)                       | <b>66</b>         | 25.49         |
| Total E     | xpenditures for the grant              | \$647.20          |               |
|             | ocal cost share for DVD player over 99 |                   |               |
|             | penditures in excess of grant          |                   |               |
|             | rsement Requested                      |                   |               |
|             |  |                   |               |













