



Illinois DNR

2009 SWG Grant Application System

**Project Title:** Habitat Conservation Initiative for the Illinois Chorus Frog: Phase II

Applicant Information																							
<b>Applicant</b> (Grantee if awarded)																							
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Project Information																							
<b>Project Title:</b>	Habitat Conservation Initiative for the Illinois Chorus Frog: Phase II																						
<b>Project Description</b>	Amend an existing SWG project (T-62-D) to double the number of acres protected on private lands in the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area (from 150 acres to 300).																						
<b>Type of Project</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Planning																						
( Match Rates Implementation: 50% Federal : 50% Non-Federal   75% Federal : 25% Non-Federal )																							
<b>Dollars Requested</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Dollars Requested</th> <th>Total Federal</th> <th>Total Non-Federal</th> <th>Total Cost of Project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st Year Funding</td> <td>58,350.00</td> <td>58,350.00</td> <td>116,700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Year Funding</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Year Funding</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals:</td> <td>58,350.00</td> <td>58,350.00</td> <td>116,700.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Dollars Requested	Total Federal	Total Non-Federal	Total Cost of Project	1st Year Funding	58,350.00	58,350.00	116,700.00	2nd Year Funding				3rd Year Funding				Totals:	58,350.00	58,350.00	116,700.00
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**Need:** (3000 characters)

Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan sets a goal of de-listing the state threatened Illinois Chorus Frog by 2025 (p. 325). This goal can be met by enhancing, restoring and protecting critical habitats, most of which (>84%) occur on private lands currently used for agricultural production. Existing programs that compensate producers for retiring cropland and converting it to natural communities are available. However, they are underutilized and/or affect too few acres to achieve a goal of de-listing the Illinois Chorus Frog.

An existing SWG grant (T-62-D) addresses this need by offering sign-up incentives to private landowners who participate in the Conservation Reserve Program by enrolling parcels eligible for conservation practices CP23a (Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain ) or CP9 (Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife). The current budget includes sign-up incentives and administrative costs for 150 acres in Mason County. Due to the popularity of this program, we anticipate that demand for participation will soon exceed funds available for sign-up incentives under the current grant agreement. We are seeking to amend the current grant agreement to double the number of acres for which sign-up incentives are offered.

**Objectives:** (3000 characters)

Enhance and/or protect  $\geq 30$  farmed or prior converted wetlands (300 acres including upland buffers) on private lands in Mason County.

**Approach:** (3000 characters)

DNR has a current contract with the Mason County Soil & Water Conservation District to offer sign-up incentives to producers who enroll in CP23a (Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain) and CP9 (Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife). Acres enrolled in these practices will be rehabilitated in accordance with standards of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Farm Service Agency will conduct status reviews to ensure compliance during the life of the contract (typically 15 years).

**Relationship to the Plan** (3000 characters)

Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan sets a goal of de-listing the state threatened Illinois Chorus Frog by 2025 (p. 325). The Plan's Farm & Prairie Campaign sets a goal of restoring at least 6 areas (of 300-500 acres each) of ephemeral wetlands and accompanying upland sand prairie habitat in the inland sand areas (P. 75). Doubling the number of acres eligible for sign-up incentives in the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area will help to achieve these goals.

**Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits:**  
(3000 characters)

An additional 150 acres of ephemeral wetlands and sand prairie buffers will be improved and protected in the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area. This will provide secure habitat for the Illinois Chorus Frog and help achieve conservation targets for the Farm & Prairie Campaign of Illinois' Wildlife Action Plan.

**Signature of Applicant:**

Date:

**Signature of department or unit head (if required):**

Date: