

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Habitat Management



Why is Management Necessary?

Management of any habitat is critical in conserving the integrity and connectivity of native habitat. While much of the remaining habitat available to wildlife continues to be subdivided into smaller parcels, it will become necessary for small landowners to aid in the overall conservation of certain native species. With over 95% of Illinois under private ownership, it is imperative for landowners to work together.

Infestations of Nonnative invasive species (NNIS) have covered thousands of acres of Illinois's remaining grassland and forested areas. Management of native species is crucial in securing the health and vigor of wildlife populations, which depend on those native species for survival.

Many NNIS will out compete native species by growing fast when new light becomes available and shading out native species. The exclusion of occasional disturbance (i.e. burning) has allowed the NNIS to explode across the landscape. These species not only deter the ability of native species to regenerate, they can also allow for increased soil erosion and the degradation of water quality. In order to preserve our wildlife, soil, and water supplies, we must manage our land to ensure native species into the future.

Why CSP?

By enrolling into the CSP, the landowner is agreeing to conduct management on their property for native species in return for a lower tax valuation on the acres enrolled in the program. The landowner is required to complete the management activities lined out in the plan in order to stay eligible for the program.

The CSP was developed for ground that may be classified as recreational land. If the valuation of the property is currently valued at farmland tax rate, it does not benefit you to enroll into the CSP. The valuation for recreational land is 33.3% of Fair Market Value (FMV). By obtaining a certified and approved CSP management plan, the valuation of the property is reduced to 5% of FMV. IDNR CSP personnel ensure that all management plans will meet the goals of the landowner and the goals of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

The taxes saved on the property are the basis for conducting the habitat management on your property. Landowners are required to work to complete their outlined management objectives for the property. Landowners are responsible for carrying out management regardless of any type of state or federal habitat management assistance available or lack thereof. CSP does not have habitat management funds available. Please see management techniques used on CSP properties to promote native species.