State Wildlife Grant
Final Report

PROJECT NUMBER: T-6-L
PROPOSAL TITLE: Shrubland Wildlife Habitat Restoration Through Land Acquisition
PROJECT OFFICER INFORMATION:
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OBJECTIVE: The objective of this grant is for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to purchase 313 acres of land within the project area in Montgomery County. This property will be managed primarily for successional species, particularly shrubland wildlife. Land acquisition will: provide a source of shrubland wildlife for colonizing suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape; improve connectivity between insular patches of shrubland habitat on private land; provide core wintering areas for winter resident species and larger blocks of habitat than can be accommodated on private land and provide opportunity for wildlife viewing and limited hunting for bobwhite and cottontail rabbit.

APPROACH: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources requests $250,000 to purchase 313 acres of land in Montgomery County. The land will be purchased by IDNR from willing sellers. Additional funds needed will be provided by the Clean Energy Community Foundation and the Illinois Habitat Fund. Local media (newspapers, radio, television, internet, real estate listings) will be reviewed by IDNR staff to local available suitable parcels. IDNR real estate agents will contact sellers and conduct appraisals. Appraisals will be forwarded to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for review and approval. Upon approval, a fair market value offer on the property will be made. The Land Summary Report will be completed by John Cole, Upland Wildlife Program Manager, Division of Wildlife Resources, Office of Resource Conservation.

ESTIMATED COST:

Income:	State Wildlife Grant, USFWS	$250,000	
	Habitat Fund, IDNR		$150,000
	Clean Energy Community Foundation		$400,000
	Total Income		$800,000

Expenses:

Land Acquisition	$800,000
313 acres @ $2,555.91 per acre	
Actual cost was established by an approved appraisal.	

RESULTS: This tract was purchased June 2, 2006. The State Wildlife Grant funds were used to purchase 195.5 acres. The balance of the acreage was purchased using funds from the above mentioned sources. The attached habitat restoration plan was prepared for the parcel.

The Shrubland Wildlife Habitat Restoration project was written prior to completion of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. The Wildlife Action Plan placed a higher priority on restoring habitats for grassland wildlife in landscapes formerly occupied by tall grass prairie. Land acquisitions involving the Illinois Habitat Fund subsequently have been directed toward restoring grassland habitats. Therefore, this is the final report for this project.