

# HABITAT MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

## Request for Proposals

Funded by the Natural Resources License Plate Fund



### Program Description

The Iowa Wildlife Diversity Program has small grants available for habitat management projects directly related to wildlife diversity conservation in Iowa. Approved projects will be funded on a single- year basis but can be submitted for additional funding in subsequent years though it should be noted up front if a project will likely be multi-year. The maximum funding request per proposal is \$7,500.

**This funding will begin on or before May 15, 2026. Due date for proposals is November 1, 2025.**

### Request Procedures

Who Should Apply: All DNR Partners including County Conservation Boards, Sportsman's Groups, non- profit conservation organizations. Any organization involved in land management with wildlife conservation purposes.

Requests for funding should be concise and contain information according to the following numbered guidelines. Failure to include all of these elements will result in the proposal getting a lower score.

1. Title of the management project.
2. Primary contact's name and address, phone/e-mail.
3. Objectives - describe the immediate goals of the project. These goals should be synonymous with the goals of [Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan](#) (IWAP) and should benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
4. Project area - describe the area where the management project will take place including its benefit for wildlife diversity. You can upload multiple maps and/or photos but to submit to slideroom they will need to be combined into a single document.
5. Procedures - explain in detail how the management practices will accomplish project objectives. Focus on specific action that will be taken and highlight how long these actions can be expected to provide benefits for non-game wildlife.
6. Justification - What is this project's significance in supporting wildlife diversity in Iowa? How specifically does this project contribute to the goals of the Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan? Why should we fund this project?
7. Personnel - identify the personnel that will be primarily responsible for planning and conducting the management project and their qualifications. Others who will be involved with the project should also be identified (including a description of the tasks they will perform).
8. Budget - include an itemized budget and a complete breakdown of costs for the entire project. If the amount requested from this proposal is less than the total project cost, the specific request should be noted. Matching funds or other sources of funding for this project should also be listed.
9. Timeline - give expected initiation time, estimated dates for each task, and date of completion. Note whether the project will likely be resubmitted for future years funding.

### Proposal Submittal

Proposals must be submitted through the [Iowa DNR's Slideroom Portal](#). Under the **2026 Wildlife Diversity Habitat Management Grants**.

### Project Eligibility

1. Projects to be considered will have management for wildlife diversity as their primary focus, some examples of which are:
  - a. Reconstruction of non-game wildlife habitat.
  - b. Restoration of degraded non-game wildlife habitat.
  - c. Purchase of important habitat management equipment.

2. The money provided cannot be used for reimbursement on projects already completed before the grant money is available on or before May 15, 2026.
3. If the project will cost a great deal more than what is requested in the grant application, the source of additional funding must be listed and secured. Projects with other funding sources pending will not score as highly and would not be notified whether it had been accepted prior to the additional funding being secured.
4. Projects that have been funded for 3 or more years can continue to be submitted for funding but after three years of funding, they will automatically be docked points in scoring. This is to make sure a variety of projects are being supported.

## **Review Procedures**

All proposals received will be reviewed by an DNR technical review committee and will be scored based upon:

1. Relationship to the goals of the Wildlife Action Plan. In particular, the project should be shown to benefit Iowa's Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
2. Budget considerations.
3. Adherence to request procedures.
4. Number of years a project has been funded through this fund.

**DUE DATE:** Proposals must be received before midnight on November 1, 2025.

**NOTIFICATION:** Notice of proposals acceptance or decline will be sent to all applicants by March 1, 2026.

**FUNDING DISBURSEMENT:** Funding will be available by May 15, 2026.

**GRANT AGREEMENT:** If your grant proposal is awarded funding, your organization will be required to sign a Small Grant Agreement with the Iowa DNR. A generic copy of this agreement is available on the [Iowa DNR's website](#) for reference.

## **Questions?**

Questions can be submitted **by email** to Stephanie Shepherd, [stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov).