



# Wild Turkey Stamp Program FY18-19 Project Application Guidance Materials

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## I. Overview of the Wild Turkey Stamp Program

Wild Turkey Stamp funds have been providing opportunities for wild turkey management in Wisconsin since 1996. In accordance with Wisconsin Statutes s. 20.370(1)(ht), *Wild Turkey Restoration*, all moneys received under s. 29.164(a), *Wild Turkey Hunting Stamps*, shall be applied to “**developing, managing, preserving, restoring, and maintaining the wild turkey population in the state.**” Specific priorities for the Wild Turkey Stamp program were defined as part of the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Management Plan revision process and approved by the WDNR Turkey Advisory Committee and Wildlife Policy Team. Priorities are designed to maximize benefits for wild turkeys, turkey management, and turkey hunters across the state, and vary geographically given differences in habitat quality. Allocation of Turkey Stamp funds for FY18-19 will reflect these priorities, which are described in detail below.

Beginning in the FY18-19 biennium, Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service will receive automatic allocations of Habitat Development and Management funds, and will no longer be required to submit project proposals for habitat projects; however, both agencies are still eligible to apply for Information and Education and Research and Monitoring funds. All other units of government (excluding DNR and USFS) and non-profit conservation organizations are eligible to apply for Wild Turkey Stamp funding within the competitive pools (Cooperator Habitat Development and Management, Information and Education, and Research and Monitoring), and will be equally and fairly evaluated. Habitat projects on both public and private lands are eligible for funding, but individual landowners are not eligible to receive funds directly. Please note that lands that are closed to all turkey hunting are not eligible to receive Wild Turkey Stamp funds, and applications for projects taking place on such lands will not be evaluated.

Matching funds are not required, except for equipment purchases which require 1:1 match. However, projects that involve multiple government agencies, multiple partners, and/or leverage additional sources of funding will be given higher consideration during proposal review.

## II. Wild Turkey Stamp Funding Priorities and Project Eligibility

### Ineligible Projects for the Wild Turkey Stamp Program:

- Stand-alone invasive species management projects that have no clear link to wild turkey populations
- Food plots for wild turkeys
- Funding permanent or full-time project positions except funds may be used to support the Farm Bill Biologist partnership. Funds may also be used to cover time spent by short-term/temporary field staff on the project.
- Non-habitat management-related equipment (e.g., digital cameras)
- Stand-alone equipment repair projects
- Projects on land closed to all turkey hunting (projects on private land are acceptable as long as some level of turkey hunting is allowed, but individual private landowners are not eligible to receive funds)

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## Wild Turkey Stamp Program – Funding Pools

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The following details the priority funding pools for the use of Wild Turkey Stamp revenues. First priority shall be given to those projects outlined as annually-funded, and funds for these projects will be allocated automatically at the levels given in the table below. Three additional priority funding pools are allocated via a competitive application process: 1) Cooperator Habitat Development and Management, 2) Information and Education, and 3) Research and Monitoring. Applicants should clearly indicate which of these priorities their project addresses, and will compete only for funds allocated within that specific funding pool. If funds remain within any of the three competitive funding pools after allocations have been made to approved projects, the remaining funds will be reallocated to other priority funding pools. Annually funded projects and eligibility requirements for competitive projects within each funding pool are described in greater detail below.

Projected Wild Turkey Stamp revenue will be allocated to priority funding pools as follows:

Funding Pool	Allocation (% of total funds available)	Automatic/Competitive
Cooperator Habitat Development & Management	7% (\$95,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive (cooperator only)
Habitat Development & Management on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	2.5% (\$34,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic (USFS only)
Habitat Development & Management on DNR-Managed Lands	64.5% (\$877,000) in FY18-19	Automatic (DNR only)
Statewide Coordination of the Wild Turkey Management Program	15% (\$204,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic
Hunter Access to Private Lands (Turkey Hunter Access Program)	2% (\$27,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic
Information & Education	4% (\$54,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive
Research & Monitoring	5% (\$68,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive

*Approximate allocations for FY18-19 indicated above are based on estimated FY18-19 revenue of \$1.36 million. These dollar amounts are subject to change depending on final stamp sales and previous stamp project expenditures.*

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### Cooperator (non-DNR and non-USFS) Habitat Development and Management

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The successful restoration and management of wild turkeys in Wisconsin has benefitted greatly from the cooperative efforts of numerous federal, state, and county government agencies and non-governmental organizations. Work conducted by these organizations continues to provide lasting benefits for wild turkeys and turkey hunting in the state via focused habitat management, hunter recruitment, outreach and education, research, and hunter access efforts, and Wild Turkey Stamp funds have been instrumental in supporting this work. For the FY18-19 biennium, 7% of Turkey Stamp funds (approximately \$95,000) will be dedicated to funding cooperator (non-DNR and non-USFS) habitat projects. Cooperator proposals must address one of the Wild Turkey Stamp habitat development and management priorities described below, and will compete for this dedicated pool of funding only with other Cooperator proposals. See “Habitat Development and Management in Heavily-Forested Areas of Northern and Central Wisconsin” or “Habitat Development and Management in Agriculture-Dominated

Areas of Wisconsin” sections below for eligible practices. Please see Appendix A to determine whether the proposed project falls within a forested or agricultural county, or both (eligible for both forested and agricultural practices). Cooperators may also submit proposals for Information and Education or Research and Monitoring projects, but must identify which of these priorities their proposal addresses on the application. Additional details on Information and Education and Research and Monitoring projects can be found below.

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## Annually Funded Projects

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- Habitat Development and Management on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
  - Amount: 2.5% of projected FY18-19 Wild Turkey Stamp revenue.
  - These funds will provide support to the U.S. Forest Service for developing and managing turkey habitat on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. See “Habitat Development and Management in Heavily-Forested Areas of Northern and Central Wisconsin” section below for eligible practices.
  
- Habitat Development and Management on DNR-Managed Lands
  - Amount: 64.5% of projected FY18-19 Wild Turkey Stamp revenue.
  - These funds will provide support to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for developing and managing turkey habitat on DNR-managed lands. Habitat projects on County Forests where DNR assists in managing wildlife resources are also eligible. See “Habitat Development and Management in Heavily-Forested Areas of Northern and Central Wisconsin” and “Habitat Development and Management in Agriculture-Dominated Areas Wisconsin” sections below for eligible practices. To determine whether a habitat project will occur within the forested or agricultural areas, or both (eligible for both forested and agricultural practices), please see Appendix A.
  
- Statewide Coordination of the Wild Turkey Program
  - Amount: 15% of projected FY18-19 Wild Turkey Stamp revenue.
  - Limited-term Employee support: duties include management-related activities such as coordination of the Wild Turkey Stamp program, publication development, wildlife stamp art contest coordination, the development and updates of various factsheets and publications, summarizing harvest and other population information, and other duties as needed.
  - Statewide turkey registration: includes costs associated with the maintenance of phone-in and internet registration systems.
  - Statewide turkey hunter survey: includes the annual turkey hunter surveys coordinated by DNR Wildlife Management. Survey results assist in establishing harvest permit levels and provide important information regarding turkey hunter behavior and opinions regarding turkey season frameworks.
  
- Hunter Access to Private Lands
  - Amount: 2% of projected FY18-19 Wild Turkey Stamp revenue.
  - Expanding access to private land serves to increase hunter opportunity, maintains a high-quality hunting experience by minimizing interference and conflict among hunters in the field, and may improve hunter recruitment and retention. These funds will provide support for existing Wisconsin DNR private lands access efforts (Turkey Hunter Access Program, or THAP) in order to expand opportunities for turkey hunters in the state.

**See Appendix A to determine if a habitat project falls within the heavily-forested areas of northern and central Wisconsin.**

The abundance of turkeys in Wisconsin varies at the landscape scale, in response to local land use and the dispersion of general cover types. Specifically, abundance is greatest in areas with between 30% and 70% forest cover (with remaining areas being open cover types such as cropland or grass). While much of southern Wisconsin falls within this range, forest covers >70% of the landscape across broad areas of northern and central Wisconsin. The lack of brood-rearing cover and winter food availability are therefore believed to limit the distribution and abundance of wild turkeys in this landscape. Wild Turkey Stamp funds will address these limiting factors directly by supporting the maintenance of forest openings and trails, restoration and maintenance of grassland and barrens habitats, and establishment of wildlife shrubs. For barrens projects, only areas within ½-mile of a block of mature forest cover at least 5 acres in size are eligible for funding. Authors will therefore need to estimate the proportion of the barrens management project (e.g., prescribed burn) that fits this criterion, and use this estimate to prorate their funding request.

Project authors should consider how current and recent timber harvesting activities may provide cost-effective opportunities to manage or enhance openings created by these activities (e.g., skid trails, log landings) to provide improved habitat for turkeys. The goal should be to restore or maintain herbaceous cover in openings or on trails to provide nesting and brood-rearing habitat for turkeys. Seeding, disking, interseeding, burning, mowing, and herbicide application are all approved practices. Seed mixes used on trails, in openings, or for grassland establishment should be appropriate to the site, but should include at least a 50% forb component in order to facilitate insect production for poults. Funds may also be used to support planting shrubs in openings or along trails. The species of shrub planted should be native, appropriate to the site, and should typically retain fruits or catkins into late winter (examples: American highbush cranberry, American hazelnut, winterberry) to ensure these foods are available when the ground is snow-covered.

Equipment purchases are eligible for funding, but require 1:1 match, and allotments will not exceed 15% of the total funds available within this pool. Equipment purchased must directly support the habitat work described above. Equipment repairs are not eligible for funding.

**See Appendix A to determine if a habitat project falls within the agriculture-dominated area.**

The agricultural landscape of southern Wisconsin contains a fairly even dispersion of open and forested habitats that provides abundant food resources as well as an interwoven fabric of nesting, brood-rearing, and roosting habitat. This landscape is hence capable of supporting abundant turkey populations. Although, as a generalist species, turkeys can utilize many different forest and grassland/agricultural habitats throughout their life cycle, focused investment of Wild Turkey Stamp funds toward specific habitat goals in this landscape will maximize resulting benefits for turkeys. Eligible projects in southern Wisconsin will seek to 1) regenerate oak forests, 2) restore or enhance oak savannas, or 3) restore or enhance grassland communities available as nesting and brood-rearing habitat for wild turkeys (within ½-mile of a forest or savanna patch at least 5 acres in size).

Oak regeneration: Mast production by oak trees provides a seasonally valuable food source for wild turkeys and other wildlife. Acorns can comprise over half of the turkey diet during the autumn months, and may continue to

provide high-energy food during the critical winter months in the absence of significant snow cover. While oak/hickory forests are common across southern Wisconsin, regeneration of oaks is often poor, largely due to the lack of appropriate disturbance regimes. Many landowners also employ silvicultural practices that favor succession to a more mesic Northern Hardwoods forest community. Long-term, this trend could increase the structural and compositional homogeneity of forests in southern Wisconsin, lead to lower species diversity in the plant and animal communities, and impact granivorous wildlife species such as the wild turkey. The application of appropriate silvicultural techniques can improve oak regeneration within stands and help ensure the maintenance of this important forest community on our landscape.

The successional replacement of oak forests with later-successional communities is a landscape-level issue with implications for wild turkeys and other forest wildlife species. Stimulating oak regeneration and management on public and private lands across southern Wisconsin therefore provides the best opportunity to benefit turkeys and increase diversity of the forest community. While stand-alone oak habitat projects on public or private land will be considered for funding, priority will be given to those projects that utilize Wild Turkey Stamp funds to promote landscape-level adoption of oak silviculture. Projects that seek to directly apply oak management across significant acreage and/or on multiple sites, or that promote oak management through partnership building, cost-sharing for practices that benefit oak communities, networking, outreach, educational efforts, or social research aimed at identifying receptive landowners or improving marketing and communication strategies that promote oak silviculture on private lands will receive greater consideration than projects focused at smaller scales.

Applicants should clearly communicate how their project will lead to improved oak management within the focus region. Landscape-level project proposals must provide a realistic assessment of how funding is expected to increase oak prevalence on project acres and/or increase adoption of specific oak management practices by target landowners. Site-specific habitat project proposals must describe current stand conditions and relate how funded management actions (e.g., timber stand improvement, prescribed fire, thinning, scarification) would lead to increased importance of oak on the site. Reforestation (planting or direct seeding of oaks) projects are eligible for funding, but applicants are encouraged to consider how reforestation efforts relate to other land management goals in the area. For example, projects that would restore forest cover in areas where grassland restoration and management are explicit goals (e.g., CRP SAFE project areas) are not likely to receive funding.

**Oak Savanna Management:** Historically, wild turkeys were likely associated with the vast oak savanna ecosystem common to southern Wisconsin, and savannas still provide excellent habitat for turkeys. Healthy savanna communities include large oaks that provide excellent food and roosting habitat, and a native grassland understory that provide winter food as well as nesting and brood-rearing habitat. Projects that seek to restore or enhance oak savannas through the targeted use of disturbance (e.g., chemical or mechanical control of exotic or invasive species, prescribed fire, thinning, prescribed grazing, native grassland establishment) are all eligible for funding. Control of exotic species should be part of an overall management program to restore and maintain savanna conditions; stand-alone exotic species control is not eligible.

**Grassland Management:** Wild turkeys frequently nest in idle grasslands, especially in fields with residual dead vegetation that has not been flattened by snow cover or, later in the nesting season, emerging new growth. Diverse native grasslands can also provide quality brood-rearing habitat and a source of winter food. To be of use to turkeys, however, grasslands need to exist within close proximity of night-time roost sites. Eligible projects will therefore seek to restore, enhance, or manage native grassland habitat within ½-mile of an existing patch of forest at least 5 acres in size that contains trees large enough to provide roosting habitat for wild turkeys. General grassland management practices (e.g., prescribed fire, mowing, disking, interseeding, herbicide treatment, seeding, chemical or mechanical brush control, conservation grazing) are eligible for funding. Priority will be given to projects that seek to manage, enhance, or restore native grass and forb species in the ground layer.

Equipment purchases are eligible for funding, but 1:1 match is required, and allotments will not exceed 15% of the total funds available within this pool. Equipment purchased must directly support the habitat work described above. Equipment repair is not eligible for funding.

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## Information and Education

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This category is competitive and open to cooperators and DNR. Information and Education projects include workshops or seminars designed to promote the understanding and management of wild turkeys and their associated habitats, as well as educational events, publications, outreach pamphlets, and projects related to all aspects of wild turkey ecology and management. All project proposals for workshops, classes, conferences, etc. must include the total cost of the event and the fee charged for participants, if any.

The following are examples of potential Information and Education projects:

- Private landowner workshops geared toward managing wild turkeys and turkey habitat
- Efforts to promote recruitment and retention of hunters (examples include: coordination of Learn to Hunt events, development of curriculum and materials supporting coursework on social and cultural aspects of hunting, NWTJ Jakes events). Priority will be given to projects that would educate and/or recruit individuals with no previous exposure to hunting (e.g., from urban areas or families with no hunting tradition, adults with no hunting experience, etc.).
- Educational events or displays promoting an understanding of wild turkey ecology
- Curriculum development or materials for teachers that broaden student exposure to wildlife ecology, wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, or the cultural/social/conservation values of consumptive wildlife use, with a strong emphasis on wild turkeys

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## Research and Monitoring

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This category is competitive and open to both cooperators and DNR. The following are examples of current wild turkey research needs in the Upland Wildlife program:

- Impact of harvest on turkey population dynamics
- Defining and integrating density-dependence into turkey population modeling
- Development of a Wild Turkey Stamp habitat project evaluation process
- Risk assessment for disease impacts on Wisconsin's turkey population
- Monitoring techniques for turkey density or population size

Other research proposals on topics that are not listed here may be considered by the DNR Turkey Advisory Committee. Please contact Mark Witecha, WDNR Upland Wildlife Ecologist, at either (608) 267-7861 or [Mark.Witecha@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Mark.Witecha@Wisconsin.gov) prior to submitting a research proposal.

### **III. General Wild Turkey Stamp Funding Procedure**

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#### How to Submit Wild Turkey Stamp Project Requests

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The first step in applying for Wild Turkey Stamp funds is to make sure your proposed project meets all eligibility requirements. See Section II for more information on project types and eligibility.

All project requests must be submitted using the DNR Wild Turkey Stamp Project Application Form, available from the Bureau of Wildlife Management in electronic or paper format. The application form differs between the three stamp programs (Wild Turkey Stamp, Pheasant Stamp, and Waterfowl Stamp), so if you plan on submitting requests for more than one program, make sure to use the correct application form. You must email the Assistant Upland Wildlife Ecologist, Jaqi Christopher, at [Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov) in order to request a copy of the form. Complete detail on the project application form is critical to the fair evaluation of each project.

Completed project application forms should be returned to Jaqi at [Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov). Hard copies may also be mailed to the attention of Jaqi at the following address: Bureau of Wildlife Management (WM/6), P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Please note that the default application form is optimized for electronic completion; if you would like to fill out an application by hand, please send an email requesting a hard-copy version of the application. Projects will be reviewed, ranked, and recommended for funding by the WDNR Turkey Advisory Committee and must receive final approval from the Wildlife Policy Team.

Project requests must be received by April 12th, 2017, in order to be eligible for consideration.

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## Proposal Review

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After initial screening to ensure eligibility criteria are met, members of the Turkey Advisory Committee score the Cooperator Habitat Development and Management, Information and Education, and Research and Monitoring proposals based on evaluation criteria found at the end of this document. Projects are ranked within established funding pools. Projects receiving higher scores will receive first consideration during selection of projects for final funding recommendations. Applicants may be asked to appear before the Committee to make a presentation about their project proposal, particularly for large-scale projects. The Turkey Advisory Committee reserves the right to make partial funding recommendations.

The Wild Turkey Management Committee includes DNR Wildlife, Natural Heritage Conservation, Forestry, Law Enforcement, and Science Services Bureau staff, plus representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Conservation Congress Turkey and Upland Game Committee, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Fort McCoy.

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## Funded Stamp Projects

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All applicants will be notified of their funding status by June 2017. Applicants with approved projects will work with Upland Wildlife Program staff to finalize details of the project.

Funding for all approved Wild Turkey Stamp projects will be for the FY18-19 DNR budget cycle, beginning 1 July 2017 and ending 30 June 2019. Allotments will be awarded on an annual basis, to be used between the following time frames: Year 1 = 1 July 2017 through 30 June 2018, and Year 2 = 1 July 2018 through 30 June 2019.

**DNR Projects:** Funded projects will be assigned unique, individual budget codes, and funds will be made available by 1 July 2017. **Tracking the use of funds is the responsibility of the stamp project manager.**

**Non-DNR Projects:** **Funding for non-DNR Wild Turkey Stamp projects is awarded via reimbursement for approved work activities.** Before funding can be awarded to agencies and organizations outside of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, each party must agree to complete a cooperative agreement or

MOU with the DNR. The cooperative agreement is signed by both the Department and the recipient organization or individual. It outlines the approved project proposal, active project period, budget, and reporting requirements. Cooperative agreements will be sent to the successful applicant along with information on the financial management of the approved project and procedures for requesting changes or reimbursement of project expenditures.

The following is the procedure for receipt of payment, as outlined in the cooperative agreement signed by both parties: *“WDNR shall provide payment to the Sponsor upon completion of the following to satisfaction of WDNR: (a) payment request has been made by the Sponsor along with a report detailing expenditures and accomplishments; (b) the Sponsor has provided WDNR with copies of invoices, bills, canceled checks, and other documents which document the costs of and expenditures of the project; (c) verification by WDNR that project has been satisfactorily completed; and (d) evidence of contractor payment has been received if applicable. The Sponsor shall forfeit or repay funds where costs and expenditures have not been documented.”*

Habitat restoration or enhancement practices that take place on private land require that the landowner(s) sign an agreement ensuring that the habitat (e.g., grassland, wetland) will remain in place for at least 10 years following practice installation. Electronic copies of the required conservation agreement can be requested from Assistant Upland Wildlife Ecologist, Jaqi Christopher, at [Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Christopher@Wisconsin.gov). The agreement must be signed by the landowner(s) and returned before stamp funds will be disbursed to cover project expenses. If the habitat practice would already be protected under an existing agreement or contract with another agency or organization for a period of at least 10 years following practice installation, a copy of that agreement or contract can be submitted instead.

All successful applicants: The receipt of Wild Turkey Stamp funding must be acknowledged in any reports, publications, and presentations and be shown for habitat work and equipment acquisitions using available “Your Turkey Stamp Dollars at Work” signs and/or stickers (provided upon request).

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## Project Accomplishment Reporting

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A project accomplishment report is **required** for all funded projects at the end of each fiscal year in which funding was used. Accomplishment reports are due to the Bureau of Wildlife Management by **September 30<sup>th</sup>** each year. Project managers and BWM District Wildlife Supervisors are encouraged to complete and submit these reports as soon as each fiscal year’s work is complete. Accomplishment reports are vital to the Wild Turkey Stamp program, since staff use the information to show hunters, partner groups, and other constituents what types of projects are being approved and how the funds are being spent.

**Please note that failure to submit accomplishment reports will result in future funding ineligibility. For DNR and USFS staff, failure to submit accomplishment reports will result in discontinuance of automatic allocations for the following biennium.** Overdue accomplishment reports will need to be approved by DNR Upland Wildlife staff.



## IV. Stamp Application Instructions for FY18-19

*\*\* Application deadline is April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 \*\**

General Information: Before filling out the application, please thoroughly review all information provided in this document, including the following instructions. Please fill out the attached application completely. This information will be used to evaluate your project proposal. Include any additional documents, such as aerial photographs or maps. Please be succinct when describing and justifying your project. The form is designed so that applicants can only enter information in certain fields; these fields will automatically expand as you enter text.

Section 1, Project Title & Summary: Provide a project title that is accurate and concise, using no more than 10 words. Provide the total cost of the project and include a breakdown of requested and contributed funds. Be sure to provide the total anticipated cost-share contribution, including both secured and unsecured funds. You may be asked to provide proof of secured match dollars.

Section 2, Applicant Information: Be sure to fill in every field in this section. It is important to include a mailing address, phone number (with area code), and email address so that you can be contacted if additional information is needed. If a person other than the applicant is to be the project lead and contact for project coordination and correspondence, please include their information.

Section 3a, Project Type: Select the ONE project type that best fits your project. Make sure you select a project type appropriate to the program(s) from which you are requesting funds. A more thorough description of each project type can be found in Section II of this document. If you are unable to determine what your project's best fit is, please contact WDNR Upland Wildlife staff for assistance.

Section 3b, Project Area Location & Acreage: List all of the counties in which you plan to utilize Stamp dollars if your project is funded. If any State Wildlife, Fishery, or Natural Areas or State Parks will be affected by the work you do, please note them in the space provided. Provide the project acreage (the acreage that will be actively managed or developed); if you do not know the exact acreage amount, please estimate. If the project area is part of a larger property, please list that property's acreage. Also, indicate whether the project is impacting private land and/or public land and provide the associated acreage. Note: acreage requirements may not apply for Information and Education and Research proposals.

Section 3c, Description of Project Site: This background information provides reviewers with a better context by which to rank each project. Please describe the habitat type and current land use of the project area, as well as that of adjacent areas (within a few miles). Note any activities that currently occur in the project area. Next, select the option(s) which most closely applies to the legal status or level of protection of the project area.

Section 3d, Proximity to Established Focus Areas, Project Boundaries, and Conservation Opportunity Areas: Indicate whether the project area is part of an existing designated project boundary and indicate the project(s). Examples of designated project boundaries include DNR Habitat Restoration Areas (e.g. GHRA, WPHRA), USDA SAFE Project Areas, and Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan and Priority Conservation Opportunity Areas for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Indicate the proposed project area's proximity to a block of mature forest or savannah greater than 5 acres in size. Finally, indicate whether the project area is open or closed to turkey hunting.

Section 4, Project Description, Goals, and Objectives: Describe in some detail what the planned accomplishments of the project will be. What exactly is planned and how will it be accomplished? If you are purchasing equipment,

where possible, please list the vendor as well as the options that are available for the intended purchase. Also indicate whether the equipment will be rented or loaned to private citizens and what type of control or rental processes will be involved. Next, identify the project goals and objectives by identifying the expected outcome of the project. Justify the need for the project to be funded, why it is being undertaken, what problem(s) the project will address, and how it will benefit turkeys or their associated habitat types. Lastly, indicate if the project has any special considerations such as human safety, or if you wish to recognize unique partnerships.

Section 5, Project Timeline: Briefly describe the work schedule for the project, what is going to be done, and when it is anticipated to be completed.

Section 6, Evaluation & Monitoring: This information is collected to indicate a project's likelihood of success. Describe any planned follow-up or future required maintenance that will be conducted following project completion, or how the project will fit into larger established project area goals. Also describe if and how the project's success will be monitored and evaluated following project completion.

Section 7, Budget: All costs associated with the project should be described here, including details on cost-shared efforts. Keep in mind that projects leveraging a higher percentage of cost-share will be given higher consideration. The project budget should show reviewers how funds will be allocated and spent for each part of the project. Enter the projected itemized costs for each category, divided accordingly into (1) requested Stamp funds, (2) estimated cost-share contribution from applicant organization or individual, and (3) projected in-kind contributions from other partners or sources. NOTE: most projects will not have costs in all categories. For example, LTE (limited-term employment) costs should list the anticipated number of hours, the cost per hour, and associated fringe or benefits. *Please keep in mind that permanent staff time is not eligible for funding using Stamp dollars, and may not be used or considered as matching or cost-shared dollars (this includes DNR SEG-funded positions).* New this year, we ask that you calculate the cost per acre for just the requested stamp funds as well as including anticipated cost-share contributions. Organizations and partners may donate labor or work with volunteer time; the value of donated labor is \$12 / hour.

Contributing Partners & Amounts: indicate the other sources of funding that you have secured for the project, *not including* requests from other stamp programs. If you have sources that you expect will provide funding, but you have no commitment at this point, list the source and indicate that it is unsecured.

Partial Funding: be sure to indicate whether you are willing to accept a portion of the money requested. Willingness to accept a portion of the money may get you something rather than nothing when budgets are tight. Be sure to indicate how the project goals and objectives, as well as any anticipated match dollars, will change if partial funding is awarded.

# Wild Turkey Stamp Program

## FY18-19 Cooperator Habitat Development and Management, Research and Monitoring, and Information and Education Project Ranking and Review Criteria

Prepared by Mark Witecha and Jaqi Christopher, WDNR Upland Wildlife Program

Revised February 2017

The following assessment components will be used to evaluate proposals and determine which Wild Turkey Stamp projects receive funding within each competitive funding pool. Applicants should closely review these assessment components to ensure that their proposals clearly address all applicable criteria. In addition, applications will be evaluated to ensure that the expected benefits to wild turkeys are reasonable, and that the project is likely to succeed based on the project objectives, methods, budget, work plan, and monitoring plan, as well as the capacity of the grantee.

### Turkey Advisory Committee Evaluation

Taking the following criteria into consideration, please rank all proposals within each of the three competitive categories (Information and Education, Research and Monitoring, and Cooperator Habitat Development and Management), with #1 being the top project:

- Overall benefits to the wild turkey population and turkey hunters in Wisconsin
- Proposal is clear and complete, and demonstrates clearly defined objectives, achievable timeline and goals, and measures of success
- Long-term benefits (i.e. extend beyond the funded Stamp period)
- Stamp funds are necessary to complete the project
- Cost effectiveness
- Land is open to the public for hunting (at least some level of access is required, but full access is preferred)
- For INFORMATION & EDUCATION proposals: does the project provide for a measure or evaluation of success, such as attendance or response from the public?
- For RESEARCH & MONITORING proposals: does the project provide for analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of results relating directly to the project objectives?
- For AGRICULTURAL & FORESTED LANDSCAPE HABITAT proposals: does the project have evaluation and monitoring goals which apply directly to the project objectives, and does it provide a verifiable, objective measure of project success?

**Appendix A.** This table identifies whether a county falls within Heavily-Forested or Agriculture-Dominated areas. Counties that contain both forested and agricultural landscapes are eligible to conduct priority Habitat Development and Management practices for either area, but project managers should determine which practices are most appropriate given the landscape surrounding the project location(s).

County	Forested	Agricultural	Both
Adams			X
Ashland		X	
Barron			X
Bayfield	X		
Brown		X	
Buffalo		X	
Burnett			X
Calumet		X	
Chippewa		X	
Clark			X
Columbia		X	
Crawford		X	
Dane		X	
Dodge		X	
Door		X	
Douglas	X		
Dunn		X	
Eau Claire			X
Florence	X		
Fond du Lac		X	
Forest	X		
Grant		X	
Green		X	
Green Lake		X	
Iowa		X	
Iron	X		
Jackson			X
Jefferson		X	
Juneau			X
Kenosha		X	
Kewaunee		X	
La Crosse		X	
Lafayette		X	
Langlade	X		
Lincoln			X
Manitowoc		X	
Marathon		X	
Marinette			X
Marquette		X	
Menominee	X		
Milwaukee		X	
Monroe			X
Oconto			X
Oneida	X		
Outagamie		X	
Ozaukee		X	
Pepin		X	
Pierce		X	
Polk			X
Portage		X	
Price	X		
Racine		X	
Richland		X	
Rock		X	

<b>County</b>	<b>Forested</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Both</b>
Rusk			X
Saint Croix		X	
Sauk		X	
Sawyer	X		
Shawano		X	
Sheboygan		X	
Taylor			X
Trempealeau		X	
Vernon		X	
Vilas	X		
Walworth		X	
Washburn			X
Washington		X	
Waukesha		X	
Waupaca		X	
Waushara		X	
Winnebago		X	
Wood			X