

Wisconsin Landowner Incentive Program Preproposal Instructions

The purpose of a LIP pre-proposal is to allow staff to review your proposed project before you invest time in drafting a full project application. Based on this pre-proposal, LIP staff may offer suggestions to help your project application rank higher or suggest other conservation programs which may be better suited to your restoration goals.

Before filling out the pre-proposal, please review the application instructions below, and contact the LIP biologist or coordinator if you have questions or need clarification of any requirement.

Your completed pre-proposal, site map, and any attachments must be submitted to the Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator no later than the published deadlines. **Please remember to submit a map of the LIP project area.**

Landowner Eligibility

Landowners must meet all the following criteria to apply:

- 1) Land must be privately owned. The landowner must be a private individual, or an organization such as a land trust, applying to do work on a property that is not within government ownership.
- 2) Property must be located within the Driftless Area of Wisconsin.
- 3) Acres of land enrolled in CRP are not eligible for LIP. Land enrolled in other similar incentives (e.g. EQIP) may be eligible for LIP. However, LIP cannot pay for the same practices already covered by an agreement with another program.
- 4) Landowner must be willing to sign a 10-year agreement with the state that commits to keeping the LIP acreage in its restored state (e.g. landowner will not develop or use the project area for purposes other than conservation).
- 5) Projects must demonstrate a benefit to at-risk species, primarily [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#).

Project Information

Please provide a property location, such as a fire number, or directions to the site, for access purposes. Please also provide the location of the project including the county, civil township, town, range, section(s), and, if applicable, quarter section.

Specify how many acres you are looking to manage for this LIP project. This acreage may be different than your total property acreage, or even the total acreage that you eventually hope to restore. This acreage should refer only to the area where LIP funds will be directly applied.

Create a map of your property that clearly delineates the project area. Some potential sources for maps include individual county websites, Google, or DNR's Public Access Lands mapping application. The better the map detail, the more helpful it will be for reviewing your project pre-proposal. Please email or send the map via mail to the LIP coordinator.

Indicate if a management plan is already in place for the proposed project site, as well as the plan preparer. A management plan is not required when applying for LIP, but one will need to be developed prior to signing a grant agreement if your project is selected.

Habitat and land use

Indicate the types of native habitat and acreages on your property. Select all of the current land uses and acreage on the proposed project site. Additional options may be written in if needed.

Priority At-risk Species

Projects need to benefit priority at-risk species, specifically those targeted in the LIP Priority Species List. At-risk species include Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and those that are listed as endangered or threatened at the state and federal level, state special concern species.

Please list all the at-risk species that are on or within ½ mile of your project site. If you are unsure, use the NHI Township Tool (first link below) for a potential species list based on available habitat. Possible sources for this information include:

Natural Heritage Inventory County data - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI/Data.asp>

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas - <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wbba/specieslists.htm>

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/ActionPlan.html>

Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Landscapes/index.asp>

Site activities and protection

Describe any activities that currently occur on the project site. This could include hunting (include species), educational programs, farming, grazing, research, etc. This may also include ongoing restoration work funded by other programs.

Indicate if the proposed project site is currently enrolled in a conservation program such as CRP or MFL or protected through a conservation easement, or something like a TPE management agreement.

Indicate if any adjacent or nearby lands are enrolled in a conservation program such as CRP, EQIP, or MFL.

If you know of any public or private conservation lands adjacent (within ½ mile) to your property, please specify these in the space provided.

Project goals and objectives

Describe what you hope to accomplish with LIP funds and how your work will benefit at-risk species. These should be as specific as possible. Some examples include:

Project goal: Manage oak savanna and prairie remnant to increase habitat diversity for at-risk species

Objectives:

- Restore 10 acres of oak savanna by removing 90% of the honeysuckle and buckthorn
- Cut all trees and brush, treat stumps and pull/mow sweet clover on ten acres of prairie

Project goal: Restore degraded prairie and old field to enhance the effective habitat acres for prairie insects and herps

Objectives:

- Cut and treat invading brush on five-acre prairie remnant
- Conduct a spring prescribed burn
- Eliminate fencerow between remnant and old field

Project goal: Restore overgrown savanna to increase habitat for red-headed woodpeckers

Objectives:

- Thin canopy through removal of non-savanna trees including red maple, elm, and black cherry
- Girdle large overstory trees, including aspen, to create snags for woodpeckers and other cavity nesting species

More resources for establishing/writing project goals and objectives:

http://www.landscape.org/focus/plan_projects/goals_objectives/

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fia/documents/TERP_eco_rest_guidelines/defgoals/index.html