

Arkansas State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Arkansas' wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Prescribed Burn, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Understanding Prescribed Burns**

Fire is a natural part of many ecosystems. However, it poses risks to human communities and is often suppressed. Prescribed burning is a way to safely control fire to benefit wildlife while keeping our communities safe. State Wildlife Grant funding is being used to evaluate the impacts of prescribed fire on native bird species in order to determine the most natural fire regime. This will help managers effectively implement fire restoration, which has a range of important ecosystem and wildlife benefits. By proactively managing land with prescribed burning, we can help prevent wildlife from becoming more rare and costly to protect.



Trumpeter Swans, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water and Wildlife **Trumpeter Swans in Magness Lake**

Magness Lake, in north-central Arkansas, is a rare and unique wintering area for trumpeter swans. The swans returned to the lake several years ago—after being absent from Arkansas for more than a century—and their numbers have been gradually growing, attracting visitors and national attention. State Wildlife Grants funding is supporting efforts to improve forage and roosting habitat at Magness Lake and reduce threats, including people and lead poisoning. By investing in the swans now, State Wildlife Grants are helping conserve the trumpeter swans for future generations to enjoy.



Swamp Rabbit, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Protecting the Swamp Rabbit**

It may not have the most glamorous name but the likeable swamp rabbit is disappearing fast. The once common rabbit has been declining across the South as its preferred habitat has been cleared and fragmented by development. The species is rare in Missouri, and has been identified as in need of conservation in several other states. Thankfully, the State Wildlife Grant Program is helping biologists learn more about the disappearance of the swamp rabbit in Arkansas. This research will improve our understanding of the rabbit's habitat needs and provide information on how many swamp rabbits are left, helping us make the best conservation decisions that will prevent this species from becoming endangered, in Arkansas and other states.

Congress has appropriated \$4.3 million in State Wildlife Grants to Arkansas since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$830 thousand state and partner dollars.