

Kansas 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 Kansas' wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Grazing Cattle, Photo Courtesy of USDA

Management: Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People **Grazing Impacts on Wildlife**

Cattle production is big business in Kansas. How cattle graze can have varying impacts on wildlife. State Wildlife Grant funds are helping to determine how paddock or intensive rotational grazing compares to traditional patterns in terms of impacts on birds such as the lesser prairie chicken, a candidate for endangered species listing. Nearly completed, the project will benefit both people and wildlife by giving good guidance for how to optimize beef production while protecting sensitive species such as the lesser prairie chicken. This is a cost-effective way to conserve wildlife before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.



Biologists Study Box Turtles, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to take Action **Reptile and Amphibian Status**

Making informed decisions is the best way to cost-effectively conserve wildlife. Over the past two years, field work funded by the State Wildlife Grants Program has filled information gaps on sensitive reptiles and amphibians. This work has provided substantial information on these species and will supply a much needed basis for considering their management needs, potentially lessening the endangered or threatened status of some. Reptile and amphibian health is an indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. This is an instance of State Wildlife Grants allowing us to identify and prevent problems before they threaten wildlife and affect humans.



Western Meadowlark, Photo Courtesy of USDA

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Grassland Birds are in Decline**

Grassland birds are declining faster than any other bird type in North America. Prescribing best management practices towards their conservation relies on good data. This State Wildlife Grant funded project serves to provide the critically-needed baseline information on bird populations in the short-grass prairie region of Kansas. As our communities grow, State Wildlife Grant projects like this can help us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations by funding the research needed to make good pro-active and cost-effective decisions.

Congress has appropriated \$5.4 million in State Wildlife Grants to Kansas since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.5 million state and partner dollars.