Conservation Stewardship Program Application & Management Plan

Thank you for your interest in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Before you complete this application, we highly recommend that you contact your county assessor to verify that enrolling into the CSP will not have an adverse effect on your property tax obligations. Your county assessor's office may also be able to provide you with the aerial map, and property record card required with the submittal of your application. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recommends that a landowner consult with a wildlife or forestry professional to establish their management plan. There are a number of qualified consultants available throughout the state. If a management plan has already been established on the property, please indicate that when you get to the Plan Implementation section of this application. All applications must be completed and submitted before November 1st annually in order to have time for the property to be assessed in CSP for the following year.

County Assessor Contact Directory

Taxpayer Name: Enter the full name of the taxpayer as it appears on the annual property tax bill for the land covered by your conservation management plan.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial _____

Last Name: _____

Corporation/Trust: _____

Taxpayer Mailing Address: Enter the mailing address of the taxpayer as it appears on the annual property tax bill for the land covered by your conservation management plan.

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zipcode: _____

Taxpayer Daytime Phone Number: Enter a phone number (including area code) at which the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) can reach you during normal business hours.

Phone Number: _____

Taxpayer E-mail Address (optional): If you wish to allow IDNR to contact you by e-mail, enter your e-mail address.

Email: _____

Property Index Number: Enter the property index number or parcel number for the unimproved land as noted on your property tax bill or obtained from your County Assessor's office. You must also provide a property tax record card for each parcel having acreage being submitted for the CSP program. This information along with the required aerial maps are to be mailed to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Stewardship Program
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL. 62702

Tax PIN # _____

Tax PIN # _____

Tax PIN # _____

Tax PIN # _____

Tax PIN # _____

Prepared For:

Conservation Stewardship Program
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL. 62702

Start Date:

Expiration Date:

Property Location:

Location of Unimproved Land: If you are not familiar with the land survey system used to identify land parcels in your county, contact your county assessor's office for assistance in determining the description of your land. If the land covered by your conservation management plan is described under the French Land Grant system, enter your lot number below instead of a section number. The map that shows these parcels is the plat map you will be required to submit with this application.

Fill in the name of the county in which the unimproved land is located. If your acreage is located in adjoining counties, you must submit an application for each county.

County:

Township

Township #

Range:

Section #

If a property is contiguous and spans multiple townships, please indicate Township Name, Township Number, Range, and Section in the space provided below for additional townships. Please separate additional information with commas.

Additional Townships

The total acreage of the Property Tax Index Number(s) or PIN(s) that you are enrolling in CSP.

Total Parcel Acreage:

Total acreage developed or acreage associated with a structure (i.e. house, barn, shed, yard, etc.).

Developed Acreage Total:

Total acreage enrolled in CSP. Total acreage being submitted to the CSP can be calculated by subtracting any developed acreage and any ineligible acreage (such as acreage mowed/baled, farmed, or used for livestock) from the total acreage of all parcels involved.

CSP Application Acreage Total

Driving directions from nearest major town. Use a town that has visible identifiers (signs, etc)

Introduction to the Wildlife Management Plan:

This is a guide to inform the land owner of wildlife habitat needs in order to obtain the desired wildlife goals set for their property. The goal is to provide a diverse habitat capable of supporting increased numbers of wildlife and wildlife species. Management is an ongoing occurrence. Landowners enrolling in CSP need to be prepared to follow the guidelines of their management plan in order to stay in compliance with the Conservation Stewardship Program. Habitat maintenance of this enrolled property should be considered a long term commitment!

Please rank the objectives for your property. Rank your top 5 Objectives, with #1 being the highest priority.

- [ ] Create/improve habitat for wildlife such as bobwhite quail, rabbits, white-tail deer, eastern wild turkey, and other wildlife species
- [ ] Remove invasive species to promote native species
- [ ] Improve and maintain native species through use of prescribed fire and other management tools
- [ ] Manage timber for timber value (does not require any type of harvest unless landowner wishes)
- [ ] Manage area for recreational objectives (hunting, hiking, fishing, birding, mushroom collection)
- [ ] Re-vegetate area to prevent soil erosion problems
- [ ] Improve water quality for surrounding area
- [ ] For investment or personal/family legacy
- [ ] The opportunity to reduce current tax rate by completing management on your property
- [ ] Enhance and/or restore area to native plant and animal communities

Property Description: What is the CURRENT condition of the property? Is it primarily in timber acres, pasture, mowed areas, etc.? Have you actively been improving your property for conservation?

What do you primarily do on the property?

- [ ] Hunting
- [ ] Hiking
- [ ] Fishing
- [ ] Trapping
- [ ] Mushroom Collection
- [ ] Berry Collection
- [ ] Birding
- [ ] Firewood Collection
- [ ] Wildlife Watching
- [ ] ATV Use
- [ ] Camping
- [ ] No Current Use

Do you have food plots? (Optional) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you currently allow other people to hunt on your property? (Optional) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, for what species and how many people annually ? (Optional)

Introduction to the Wildlife Management Plan (continued):

Land Use/Management History: How was the property used in the past?

- ☐ Forest/Woodland
- ☐ Row Crop Production
- ☐ Cool Season Exotic (fescue/brome/orchard grass)
- ☐ Native Grass Planting
- ☐ Strip Mine
- ☐ Timber Harvest
- ☐ Unimproved (no structures associated)
- ☐ Fallow Field
- ☐ Other

Adjacent Land Use: What is the primary land use of the properties adjacent to the CSP property? Please select the one that most accurately describes surrounding properties:

North of Property	South of Property	East of Property	West of Property
☐ Developed	☐ Developed	☐ Developed	☐ Developed
☐ Fallow Field	☐ Fallow Field	☐ Fallow Field	☐ Fallow Field
☐ Native Grass Planting	☐ Native Grass Planting	☐ Native Grass Planting	☐ Native Grass Planting
☐ Other	☐ Other	☐ Other	☐ Other
☐ Row Crop Production	☐ Row Crop Production	☐ Row Crop Production	☐ Row Crop Production
☐ Timber	☐ Timber	☐ Timber	☐ Timber
☐ Wetlands	☐ Wetlands	☐ Wetlands	☐ Wetlands
☐ Pasture (fescue/brome/orchard grass)	☐ Pasture (fescue/brome/orchard grass)	☐ Pasture (fescue/brome/orchard grass)	☐ Pasture (fescue/brome/orchard grass)
☐ Agricultural with timber/grass areas	☐ Agricultural with timber/grass areas	☐ Agricultural with timber/grass areas	☐ Agricultural with timber/grass areas

Conservation Areas Distances: Please indicate, to the best of your knowledge, any other conservation areas within the vicinity of the property being enrolled. Please select an approximate distance to the conservation area from the selections in the check boxes below. This is to aid the IDNR in landscape management activities.

Wildlife:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
Nature Preserve:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
County Forest Preserve:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
National Forest:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
National Wildlife Refuge:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
IDNR Property:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles
Other Federal Land:	☐ n/a	☐ 1 mile	☐ 3 miles	☐ 5 miles

IDNR Conservation Programs: Examples - Conservation Stewardship Program, Forestry Development Act, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program...etc.

☐ n/a ☐ 1 mile ☐ 3 miles ☐ 5 miles

Do you have acreage enrolled in:

- ☐ Conservation Stewardship Program
- ☐ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- ☐ Forestry Development Act
- ☐ Conservation Reserve Program
- ☐ EQIP/WHIP
- ☐ Nature Preserve
- ☐ Land and Water Reserve
- ☐ Wetland Reserve
- ☐ Acres for Wildlife
- ☐ USFW Partners Program

Easements or Encumbrances: Are there utilities or railroad easements on the property? Does your neighbor or yourself have an easement to a road to access the property? Does it have a conservation easement already in place?

Maps:

Three maps are required to submit to CSP. All Aerial maps must be on an 8.5" x 11" or larger piece of paper. A direction arrow showing North must be on all Aerial maps. Please outline entire property boundary as well as the acreage that you would like to enroll into CSP. Write your name and Property Tax Index number(s) on any maps sent in to IDNR.

1. Assessors Map: This Aerial map will have property boundary identified by Property Tax Index number (PIN #s) of each of the parcels you would like to enroll into the CSP program. These maps can be obtained from your local county assessor's office or several county assessor's tax maps are available online. See List See An Example Tax Assessors Map here.

2. Aerial Stand Map: On your aerial photograph, identify areas in which you intend to manage for native species on your property. Distinguish forestry acreage from grassland acreage, pasture, etc. If you have large acreages of a single habitat type, use natural markers as stand boundaries (i.e. creek, ridge top, pond, etc.). On large properties, stands need to be distinguished and divided out. (Stand map may be drawn onto the aerial map thus having just a single map as long as the habitat types can be distinguished (i.e. don't fill in the stand with a colored pencil to show it, just outline it). These stands will be the management units you will be conducting management practices on. Aerial maps can be obtained from your county assessor's office and stands drawn onto the map. See An Example Aerial map here.

3. Plat Book Map: Include a plat map with your application. A plat map is not a plat of survey. You will need this map in order to fill out Township, Range, and Section from the beginning of the plan. See An Example Plat Map here.

Acreage of each habitat type submitted for enrollment into the program:

Forest:		Fescue/Brome/Old Pasture:		Pond/Lake:	
Native Grasses:		Wetland:		Developed:	

Plants on property – check all that apply:

Trees

☐ White Oak	☐ Red Oak	☐ Black Oak	☐ Other Oaks	☐ Shagbark Hickory
☐ Other Hickories	☐ Elm	☐ Ash	☐ Black Walnut	☐ Maple
☐ Cottonwood	☐ Locust (honey or black)	☐ Mulberry	☐ Tuliptree	☐ Black Cherry
☐ Bald Cypress	☐ Osage Orange (hedge)			

Shrubs

☐ Dogwood	☐ Plum	☐ Alder	☐ Lead Plant	☐ Chokeberry
☐ Button Bush	☐ Hazelnut	☐ Elderberry	☐ Redbud	☐ Sumac

Grasses and Forbs

☐ Native Grasses	☐ Fescue/Brome	☐ Ragweed	☐ Foxtail	☐ Turf Grass
☐ Partridge Pea	☐ Black Eyed Susan	☐ Prairie Clover	☐ Aster	☐ Coreopsis
☐ Wild Bergamot	☐ Illinois Bundleflower	☐ Coneflower	☐ Goldenrod	

Non Native Invasive Species

☐ Bush Honeysuckle	☐ Autumn/Russian Olive	☐ Japanese Honeysuckle	☐ Purple Loosestrife	☐ Kudzu
☐ Multiflora Rose	☐ Buckthorn	☐ Teasel	☐ Phragmites (reed)	☐ Sweet Clover
☐ Burning Bush	☐ Garlic Mustard	☐ Tree of Heaven	☐ Callery Pear	

CSP Restrictions: No bailing, no land use change, no development, no manicuring like a yard, no grazing (without prescribed grazing plan for goats or sheep for invasives removal and paddocks), no acreage associated with a building site, no destructive ATV use.

Protection Measures : Known diseases and infestations

☐ Injurious Insects Infestation	☐ Wildlife Diseases	☐ Wildfire Risk
☐ Plant Diseases	☐ Environmental Contamination	☐ Nearby Development

Please describe how you will mitigate these problems:

If you have an established management plan written on the property, it may be used as part of your plan implementation section. The plans can be from other IDNR programs or private consultants. The IDNR recommends landowners consult with a wildlife or forestry professional to establish their management plan. There are a number of qualified consultants available throughout the state.

A list of Consulting Foresters in Illinois is here- Consulting Foresters

If you currently have an established management plan for the property, please send it in

Plan Implementation:
What practices do you intend to complete in order to achieve management objectives?

◯ Tree Planting

- ☐ Tree Planting Preparation and Establishment
- ☐ Fire Break Establishment
- ☐ Tree Planting Maintenance

◯ Native Grass Planting

- ☐ Grass Planting Preparation and Establishment
- ☐ Fire Break Establishment
- ☐ Early Successional Habitat

◯ Forest Management

- ☐ Woody Invasive Brush Management
- ☐ Non-woody Invasive Management
- ☐ Firebreak Establishment/Prescribed Burning
- ☐ Timber Stand Improvement
- ☐ Wildlife Structures

◯ Grassland Management

- ☐ Woody Invasive Brush Management
- ☐ Non-woody Invasive Mangement
- ☐ Firebreak Establishment/Prescribed Burning
- ☐ Strip Disking/Conservation Mowing
- ☐ Wildlife Structures

◯ Invasive Species Removal

- ☐ Woody Invasive Brush Management
- ☐ Non-woody Invasive Mangement
- ☐ Firebreak Establishment/Prescribed Burning
- ☐ Conservation Mowing

◯ Wetland/Pond Management

- ☐ Shallow Water Wetland
- ☐ Vegetation Management
- ☐ Fish Habitat/Structures
- ☐ Fish Stocking

The following schedule has been developed in order to give you direction and help prioritize the recommended practices in your plan.

ID	Year	Practice	Stand	Acreage

Signatures and Approvals:

This Wildlife Management Plan was specifically crafted to meet the landowner's management goals and objectives for CSP. Success in achieving these goals requires implementation of the specific management objectives and practices outlined in the plan. The signed and approved plan makes the landowner eligible to voluntarily participate in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Stewardship Program.

By signing this application/management plan, the landowner agrees to conduct management on the property enrolled into the program and gives permission to IDNR personnel to access the property in order to evaluate ongoing management and future management needs. Actual compliance with the management plan is paramount in being eligible for the CSP.

The person who signs below is the owner or legal agent of the property for which this CSP management plan has been created. This plan has been prepared in accordance with the Conservation Stewardship Law (35 ILCS, 200/10-520) and meets the requirements. The landowner acknowledges that they have full legal access to the property in order to conduct management activities. If any change of ownership or condition of unimproved land occurs, the landowner will notify IDNR, the Office of Resource Conservation in writing within 30 days of occurance.

An approved and certified conservation management plan guarantees an equalized assessed valuation at 5% its fair cash value for the acres enrolled in the CSP. This certification is only sent to the Department of Revenue after the management plan has been agreed on by the landowner and IDNR. You will receive a certification letter to sign before you have been officially enrolled.

Date

Landowner Signature