

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**  
**CONSERVATION PLAN**  
*(Application for an Incidental Take Authorization)*  
Per 520 ILCS 10/5.5 and 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1080

**150-day minimum required for public review, biological and legal analysis, and permitting**

PROJECT APPLICANT:

PROJECT NAME:

COUNTY:

AREA OF IMPACT (acreage):

The incidental taking of endangered and threatened species shall be authorized by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) only if an applicant submits a Conservation Plan to the IDNR Incidental Take Coordinator that meets the following criteria:

1. A **description of the impact likely to result** from the proposed taking of the species that would be covered by the authorization, including but not limited to -

A) identification of the **area to be affected** by the proposed action, include a legal description and a detailed description including street address, map(s), and GIS shapefile. Include an indication of ownership or control of affected property. Attach photos of the project area.

B) **biological data** on the affected species including life history needs and habitat characteristics. Attach all biological survey reports.

C) **description of project activities** that will result in taking of an endangered or threatened species, including practices to be used, a timeline of proposed activities, and any permitting reviews, such as a USFWS biological opinion or USACE wetland review. Please consider all potential impacts such as noise, vibration, light, predator/prey alterations, habitat alterations, increased traffic, etc.

D) explanation of the anticipated **adverse effects on listed species**; how will the applicant's proposed actions impact each of the species' life cycle stages.

2) Measures the applicant will take to **minimize and mitigate** that impact and the **funding** that will be available to undertake those measures, including, but not limited to -

A) plans to **minimize the area affected** by the proposed action, the estimated **number of individuals** of each endangered or threatened species that will be taken, and the **amount of habitat** affected (please provide an estimate of area by habitat type for each species).

B) **plans for management of the area** affected by the proposed action that will **enable continued use** of the area by endangered or threatened species by maintaining/re-establishing suitable habitat (for example, native species planting, invasive species control, use of other best management practices, restored hydrology, etc.).

C) description of **all measures to be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate** the effects of the proposed action on endangered or threatened species.

- Avoidance measures include working outside the species' habitat.
- Minimization measures include timing work when species is less sensitive or reducing the project footprint.
- Mitigation is additional beneficial actions that will be taken for the species such as needed research, conservation easements, propagation, habitat work, or recovery planning.
- It is the **applicant's responsibility to propose mitigation measures**. IDNR expects applicants to provide species conservation benefits 5.5 times larger than their adverse impact.

D) plans for **monitoring** the effects of the proposed actions on endangered or threatened species, such as **species and habitat monitoring** before and after construction, include a plan for follow-up **reporting to IDNR**.

E) **adaptive management practices** that will be used to deal with changed or unforeseen circumstances that affect on endangered or threatened species. Consider environmental variables such as flooding, drought, and species dynamics as well as other catastrophes. Management practices should include contingencies and specific triggers. Note: Not foreseeing any changes does not qualify as an adaptive management plan.

F) **verification that adequate funding exists** to support and implement all mitigation activities described in the conservation plan. This may be in the form of bonds, certificates of insurance, escrow accounts, or other financial instruments adequate to carry out all aspects of the Conservation Plan.

3) A **description of alternative actions the applicant considered** that would reduce take, and the reasons that each of those alternatives was not selected. A **“no-action” alternative** shall be included in this description of alternatives. Please, describe the economic, social, and ecological tradeoffs of each action.

4) Data and information to indicate that the proposed taking **will not reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery** of the endangered or threatened species in the wild within the State of Illinois, the biotic community of which the species is a part, or the habitat essential to the species existence in Illinois.

5) An **implementing agreement**, which shall include, but not be limited to (on a separate piece of paper containing signatures):

- A) the names and signatures of all participants in the execution of the conservation plan;
- B) the obligations and responsibilities of each of the identified participants with schedules and deadlines for completion of activities included in the conservation plan and a schedule for preparation of progress reports to be provided to the IDNR;
- C) certification that each participant in the execution of the conservation plan has the legal authority to carry out their respective obligations and responsibilities under the conservation plan;
- D) assurance of compliance with all other federal, State and local regulations pertinent to the proposed action and to execution of the conservation plan;
- E) **copies of any final federal authorizations for a taking already issued to the applicant**, if any.

**PLEASE SUBMIT TO: Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation, Division of Natural Heritage, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL, 62702 OR [DNR.ITAcoordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.ITAcoordinator@illinois.gov)**

December 2016