

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Purpose - To work with private landowners and other conservation partners to manage, protect, improve and restore wildlife habitat on private lands for Wyoming's species of greatest conservation need (SGCN).

Background - Funded by two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants totaling more than \$1.5 million, the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides financial assistance to landowners interested in improving and managing their lands to benefit at-risk species. It allows the WGFD to tailor conservation actions to the needs of both individual landowners and wildlife, thereby improving and/or conserving vulnerable habitats while sustaining agricultural vitality. The department has designated two hundred and seventy-nine species in Wyoming as SGCN, and more than eighty of these are currently at some risk of being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Implementing conservation actions now will both ensure that these plant and animal populations remain healthy, and help prevent future ESA listings. Although the LIP program focuses on only a few species and ecosystems, these ecosystems support the majority of Wyoming's at-risk species, many of which will benefit from the implementation of LIP conservation actions.

System	Focus Species	Goals
Grassland	Black-tailed prairie dog Swift fox Upland Sandpiper	Increase habitat heterogeneity Maintain or improve natural disturbance patterns Maintain or increase population numbers
Sagebrush	Greater Sage-Grouse Sage Sparrow Brewer's Sparrow	Control noxious and invasive plants Restore degraded habitats Establish conservation easements
Mountain, Basin, and Prairie streams/watersheds	All SGCN species	Conserve important habitats and species Restore aquatic habitat connectivity

Focal Areas - Areas identified as supporting multiple or dense populations of focus and SGCN species. The Shirley Basin and Thunder Basin are focal areas for both grassland and sagebrush systems. We will also give priority status to areas with dense remnants of native prairie, especially shortgrass prairie in southeastern Wyoming, and to sagebrush projects located in Strategic Habitat Plan priority areas. Priority prairie streams and watersheds include Horse Creek and the Niobrara, North Laramie, Laramie, and Little Powder rivers.

Cost-share - The LIP program is federally funded and requires a non-federal match of at least 50%, which can consist of cash or in-kind services provided by the landowner or other partners. See page two for a list of LIP management practices and approved total implementation costs. LIP grants are considered taxable income. LIP projects must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the ESA. The compliance process has been streamlined for many LIP management practices.

Application Process - Interested landowners must work with WGFD personnel to submit LIP project applications (available for download from the LIP website). Although the formal application period runs from October through December, the department will accept high-priority projects at any time. Successful applicants will receive technical and financial assistance to implement projects during the next fiscal year (which begin each July) after the application period. Actively grazed lands will also require the development of a customized 15-year grazing agreement that meets the needs of both the landowner and wildlife.

Prioritization - A review committee will prioritize submitted projects based on the following criteria.

- Benefit to focus species
- Project location
- Risk of habitat or species loss
- Wildlife benefit of the prescribed grazing plan
- Project readiness and support
- Model potential to neighboring landowners
- Proximity to lands managed for focus species
- Number of NSS1-4 species that will also benefit from the project
- Project size
- Cost-effectiveness
- Match availability
- Effectiveness of the monitoring plan

Monitoring - Appropriate species and habitat monitoring will be conducted pre- and post-treatment for the first year, and annually thereafter, or at other periods specified within the LIP Grant Agreement.

If you have questions, comments, or project ideas, please contact:

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<http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/nongame/LIP/index.asp>

Landowner Incentive Program Management Practices and Costs
(Up to 50% cost share is available through the LIP program)

Practice	Cost^a	Unit	Agreement Length^b	SHPO Concern^c
Prescribed burning	\$25/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	Y
Chemical treatment thinning	\$30/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Mechanical treatment thinning	\$45/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	Y
Inter-seeding introduced forbs and grasses	\$80/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Inter-seeding native forbs and grasses	\$280/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Seeding with no-till drill	\$115/acre	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Weed management	\$20/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Invasive tree/brush removal	\$800/treatment	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Planned grazing with rotation/deferment/rest system and monitoring	\$6/contract	Acre	5-15 yr	N
Fence installation (barbed wire)	\$2/foot	Foot	15 yr	N
Fence removal (barbed and woven)	\$0.50/foot	Foot	5-15 yr	P
Fence marking	\$0.04/foot	Foot	5-15 yr	P
Anti-raptor perching structures	\$16.00/structure	Structure	5-15 yr	P
Water development				
Shallow well development (< 100 ft)	\$2500	Well	15 yr	Y
Deep well development (> 100 ft)	\$30/foot	Foot	15 yr	Y
Stock tank	\$1600/tank	Tank	15 yr	N
Pipe (below frost black poly \geq 1.5")	\$2.50/foot	Foot	15 yr	Y
Storage tank (< 700 cu. ft.)	\$4.00/ cubic foot	Tank	15 yr	N
Storage tank (> 700 cu. ft.)	\$7.00/ cubic foot	Tank	15 yr	N
Solar pump station	\$8,500/pump	Pump	15 yr	P
Wildlife escape ramps	\$100.00/ramp	Ramp	15 yr	P
Spring development	\$3,000/spring	Spring	15 yr	Y
Stream restoration activities				
First order stream	\$25,000/mile	Mile	30 yr	Y
Second order stream	\$50,000/mile	Mile	30 yr	Y
Third order stream	\$75,000/mile	Mile	30 yr	Y
Fourth order stream	\$100,000/mile	Mile	30 yr	Y
Fifth order stream	\$150,000/mile	Mile	30 yr	Y
Conservation easements	\$250/easement	Acre	Permanent	Y
Incentive payment for conservation measures				
A.) Sagebrush conversion prevention	\$12/contract	Acre	30 yr	N
B.) Prairie dog incentive payment	\$6/year	Acre	1-5 yr	N
C.) Grassland conversion prevention	\$12/contract	Acre	30 yr	N
D.) Riparian/stream corridor	\$45/acre	Acre	30 yr	N
E.) Pasture Rotation Deferment	\$20/acre	Acre	10-15 yr	P
Forage reserve	\$20/year	A.U.M.	10-15 yr	N
Fish passage/screening structures	Up to \$350,000	Structure	30 yr	N
Water purchase for habitat conservation	\$200/acre foot	AF	15 yr	N

^aCost - Costs derived from NRCS Practice Costs and adjoining States Costs with some modifications for current fuel prices and inflation. Practices not included in the table but used to accomplish program objectives will be derived from standard NRCS state costs.

^bLength of Agreement - The time period that LIP contracts specifying management activities such as a grazing management plan in addition to habitat improvements will be binding.

^cSHPO Concern - Y = Management activities require consultation with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). N = Management activities are deemed "no adverse effect" and have been pre-approved by SHPO. P = Activity approval is pending.