



MISSOURI BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Grant Program FY2024 Call for Proposals Proposals due September 23, 2022 Work Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

The Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) serves as a conduit in providing financial support from the Missouri Department of Conservation (other partners provide funding at times) to private and public organizations, or to individuals who have partnerships that carry out bird habitat conservation projects in Missouri. **MoBCI financial support is to be specifically spent on bird-habitat improvement projects that meet the needs of native birds that use native habitats in Missouri and must address bird conservation goals/objectives.** Eligible activities include projects that protect, enhance, or restore bird habitats in priority areas (defined below) in Missouri. All projects should be habitat-based and not strictly designed for monitoring; however, monitoring can be a component of the project (<10% of the MoBCI request); some component to monitor effectiveness is recommended. MoBCI grant funds cannot assist applicants with administrative overhead costs and cannot be used to purchase equipment. While MoBCI funds cannot be used to fund staff salaries to supervise volunteers or hourly crews, they can fund the training of volunteer or hourly crews who will be conducting the work. Applicants can include their administrative overhead as match, provided it is directly related to the bird habitat improvement project or monitoring of the project being proposed through this current Call for Proposals.

Strong priority in the review scoring is given to projects that make use of partnerships generated through MoBCI and address habitats found in MO's Natural Community/Habitat Management Tiers from the Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (Appendix A). Priority habitats are based on the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) identified in the 2020 State Wildlife Action Plan: <https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/2022-Missouri-CCS.pdf>. Habitat priority tiers can be found in an interactive online map at the following link: <https://mdcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6c7434bc026c469da59fe90889b37095>. Users can zoom into their location and determine whether it is within a priority tier and click on the location and find out what tier it is in and the name of the COA or other geographies that make up the priority tiers. Higher scores are given to

projects occurring within higher priority tiers. If your project is on land found in a priority tier (e.g., priority geography, natural area, other COA), please include the name of that geography within your proposal.

Projects should benefit an array of bird species (e.g., grassland, forest, wetland, or glade birds). An acceptable project may target one or more high priority bird species, but should include benefits to other bird species, involve habitat and ecosystem level planning and management, and engage partners with shared goals and objectives. Missouri's priority species are outlined in the Missouri Bird Conservation Plan's Technical Section (<https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/MOBirdConservationPlanTech.pdf>, page 16). A checklist of Missouri species and communities of conservation concern can be found at https://education.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/2021_SOCC.pdf. Bird species are listed on page 43. The 2020 State Wildlife Action Plan also has a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Appendix, H, starting on page 474). A list of the bird species in this table are on pages 516 – 521 of Appendix H. (<https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/2022-Missouri-CCS.pdf>).

Applicants need to establish partnerships to qualify for receipt of these funds. Partnerships can enable leveraging of funds as well as providing expertise of others. Partners often educate each other and result in increased conservation of wild bird populations and habitats needed to support them beyond the life of a funded project.

Grant awards

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Grantor) will consider all selected projects during its FY24 budget process. There is no set total minimum or maximum amount of funding provided to MoBCI. Individual grant awards are available for a minimum award of \$1,000 to a maximum award of \$25,000 annually. MoBCI grants require a one-to-one match of [local, state, or federal] funds that DO NOT originate from the Missouri Department of Conservation (including Wildlife Diversity Funds, Habitat Challenge match, or any other Department sources).

The match may include acquired realty, partner financial contributions, monitoring and evaluation costs, stewardship costs, volunteer time, etc. Projects which include a significant amount of overhead as match (i.e., indirect administrative expenses) are strongly discouraged. Donated or acquired property or easements may be included as part of the project match for a maximum of 5 years if the following conditions are met:

- A copy of the appraisal is included (not included in the page length limit) to document the valuation (must be provided from a non-recipient of the property or easement).
- A table documenting each year and value that the property/easement has been used as match toward MoBCI funding, the cumulative value already used as match toward MoBCI funding, and the current year's requested match provided by the property/easement to document the total use of the property/easement as match and relation to its total value (see example in Table 1).

- The property/easement may not be used as match if the cumulative value of the match claimed toward MoBCI projects exceeds the value of the property/easement.
- At least 50% of the match toward MoBCI funding should be from sources other than donated or acquired property or easements.

Match Plan Partner	Proposal I	Proposal II	Proposal III	Proposal IV	Proposal V	Total \$
XYZ Easement	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$62,500
Totals	\$62,500	\$50,000	\$37,500	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$0

Table 1. An example of a spend-down table for the “XYZ Easement” valued at \$62,500 used as match over five years.

Application and Review Process

Grant applications **must** follow the format listed in the *General Requirements* section below (see Appendix C for Sample Proposal). The MoBCI Grant Subcommittee will review, score (based on the ranking criteria below), and provide funding recommendations to the MoBCI Steering Committee. The MoBCI Steering Committee will make recommendations for final approval to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MoBCI grant administrator).

Proposals will be ranked by the MoBCI Grant Subcommittee based on

- Priority and non-priority bird species addressed (15 points)
- Priority tier & habitats conserved (e.g., Tier 1 or 2; Priority Geography/Natural Area, other COA, Quail Restoration Landscape; see interactive map link above) (20 points)
- Purpose of grant (detailing goals and objectives) and project description/narrative (15 points)
- Partnerships developed (20 points)
- Capacity of the organization(s)/individual to accomplish the project (10 points)
- Budget: detailed to include costs for individual tasks by each partner and overall cost/acre (15 points)
- Bonus for first-time MoBCI proposal from an organization (5 points).

General Requirements

(Failure to follow these requirements or failure to include any of these elements will result in your proposal being disqualified.)

- Maximum length is six pages for the entire proposal, excluding maps, etc., and at least an 11-point font.
- Grant Title

- Purpose of Grant (Clearly define goals, objectives, or activities to be achieved with applicable timelines.)
- Project Location (include map)
- Is this the first time you have submitted a MoBCI Grant Proposal? Yes or No
- Project Description including narrative and any pertinent tabular information.
- Habitat types, birds, and other wildlife benefited.
- Project Calendar (work period is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024)
- Measurable Outcomes (Identify specific and measurable outcomes that will be used for tracking progress.)
- Measurable Deliverables (Describe products or services that will be provided by the grantee. Note: Mandatory deliverables will include 3-5 good quality digital photographs of people conducting project actions and 1-2 photos clearly illustrating habitat improvements. Semi-annual and annual financial and progress reports are also mandatory deliverables.)
- Budget should include a table including Grant Request Amount and columns for funds requested from MoBCI and funds provided as matching dollars (see Table 2). Please include cost per acre in the budget table. A detailed narrative of how the funding will be used is also necessary.

Task	MoBCI Funds Requested	Match Source & Amount	Total Costs
Cut and remove cedar trees	\$7,500	\$3,500 (paid by landowner)	\$11,000
Burn crew		\$2,500 (from partnership volunteer hours)	\$2,500
Pre- and post-monitoring of birds		\$1,500 (from Missouri University)	\$1,500
Sum of Costs	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
		Summary cost per acre: \$200/acre	

Table 2. Sample budget table for restoring glade habitat.

- Reporting and monitoring plan (Describe process for monitoring and reporting progress and identify a point-of-contact with e-mail address.)
- Lead organization, point-of-contact, and their capacities (Provide names, titles, addresses, electronic addresses, and phone numbers of parties who can answer questions relating to the agreement; if applicable, include a list of NGO Board members and officers.)
- List of partners involved in the project and point-of-contact for those other partners (same as above for Lead Organization).
- Fiscal Responsibility/Management (Describe fiscal management and identify grantee fiscal agent.)

An example proposal that was funded under slightly different guidelines follows this Call for Proposals to assist you with preparation of your submission.

Deadlines

All grant proposals **must be received by Jean Favara at jpouf1@swbell.net no later than 5:00 p.m. September 23, 2021. Only electronic applications in pdf format will be accepted.** Please put “**MOBCI GRANT PROPOSAL (Your organization’s name)**” in the subject line of your submission email. The MoBCI Grants Subcommittee will notify applicants of their status within three months of due date and indicate recommendation for funding made to Missouri Department of Conservation or reasons for rejection and/or suggestions for making the proposal more competitive. Grantees will be required to complete a cooperative agreement with the funding agency (i.e., Missouri Department of Conservation).

To learn more about MOBCI go to **www.mobci.net**.

For Grant Assistance Contact:

Jean Favara, MOBCI Grants Committee Chair

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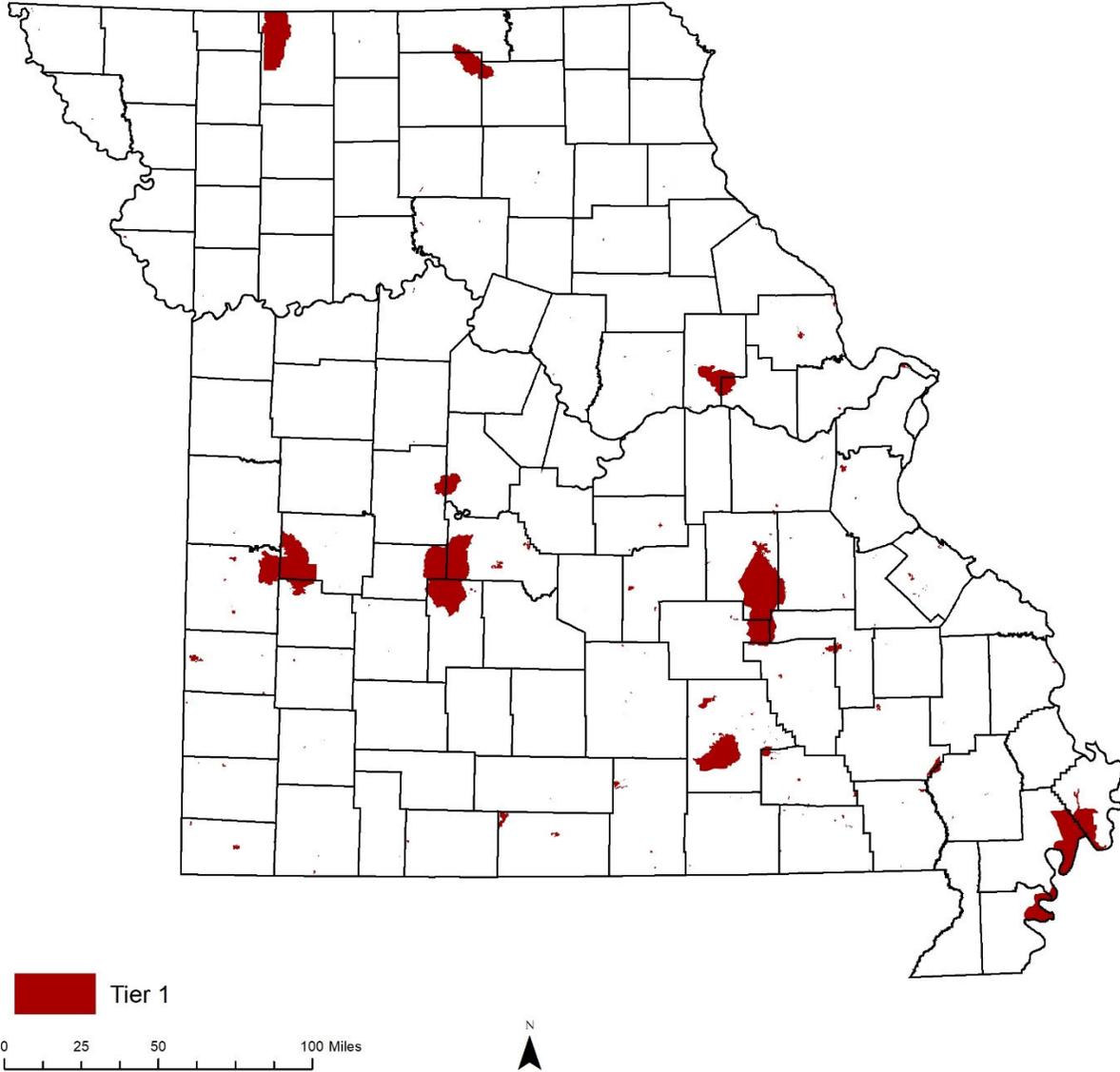
Fax: 660-885-5038

Appendix A: Natural Community/Habitat Management Tiers from the Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (revised 2020): <https://mdcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6c7434bc026c469da59fe90889b37095>

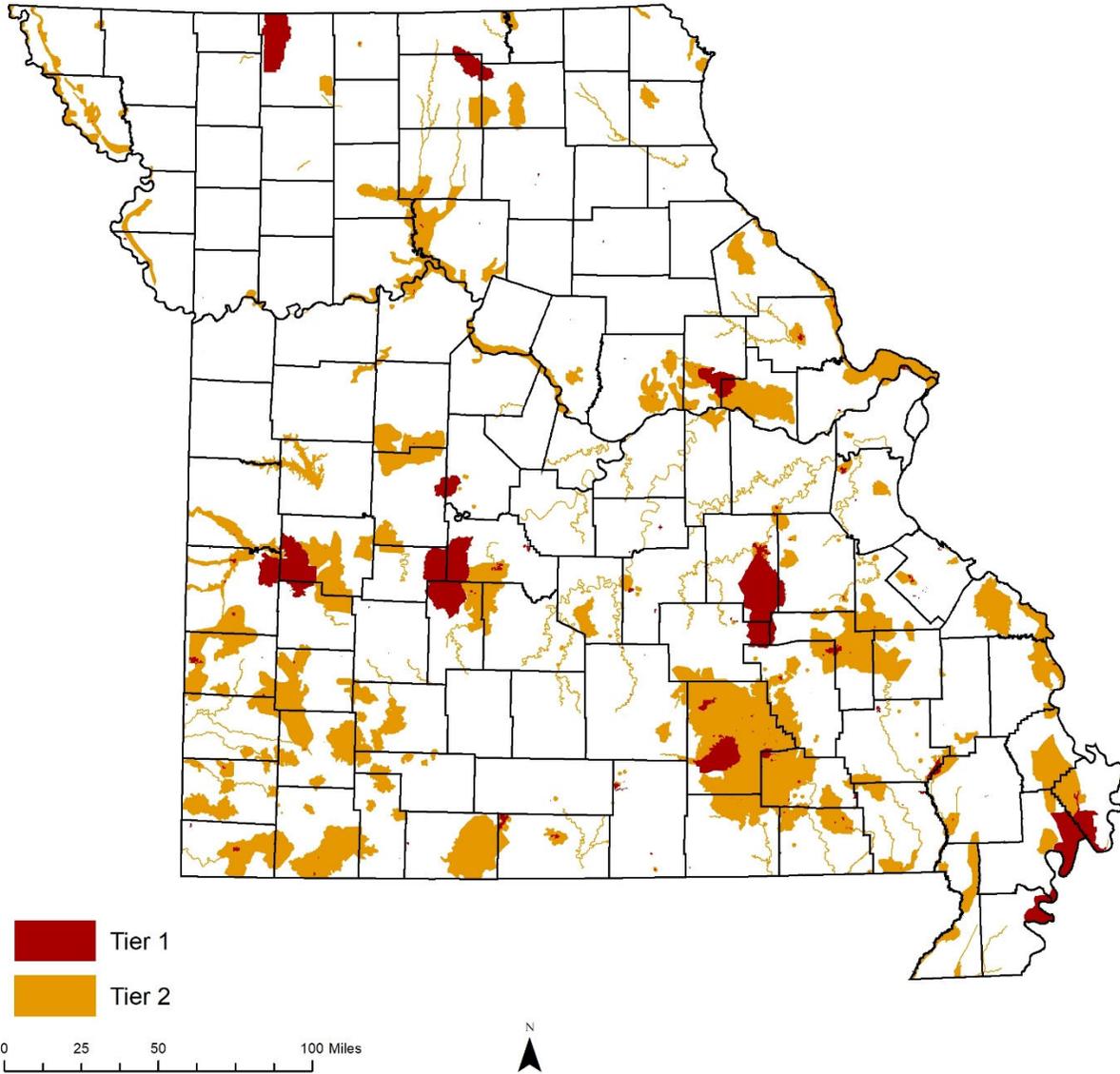
1. The Priority Geographies (PGs) ***and*** Natural Areas (NAs)
2. Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) not located within PGs or NAs
3. Priority Forest Landscapes (PFLs); Quail Restoration Landscapes (QRLs); Priority Watersheds (PWs) that overlap COA Stream Reach Watersheds for Reference; Comprehensive Conservation Wildlife Strategy (CWCS)/Aquatic GAP landscapes within PWs and COA Stream Reach Watersheds for Reference; MO and MS River Alluvium and Riparian (Bootheel); and Department lands adjacent to conservation landowner cooperatives not located within PGs, COAs, or NAs
(NOTE: Many, or a large portion of these focal landscapes are represented in PGs/COAs.)
and
Remaining Missouri communities of conservation concern with state rank = SH, S1, S2
(NOTE: Many, or a large portion of these communities of concern are represented in PGs/NAs/COAs)

and
Remaining natural communities harboring federally threatened and endangered (T&E) species, state endangered species, or select high priority species of conservation concern (typically those with state rank = S1 or S2) when the habitat management contributes to the recovery or persistence of the species
(NOTE: Many, or a large portion of these communities harboring T&E species are represented in PGs/NAs/COAs)
4. Remaining PWs and CWCS/Aquatic GAP landscapes not located in the above-listed priority landscapes
5. Maintenance of high-quality natural communities
6. Areas striving toward natural community restoration/management that have high restoration potential

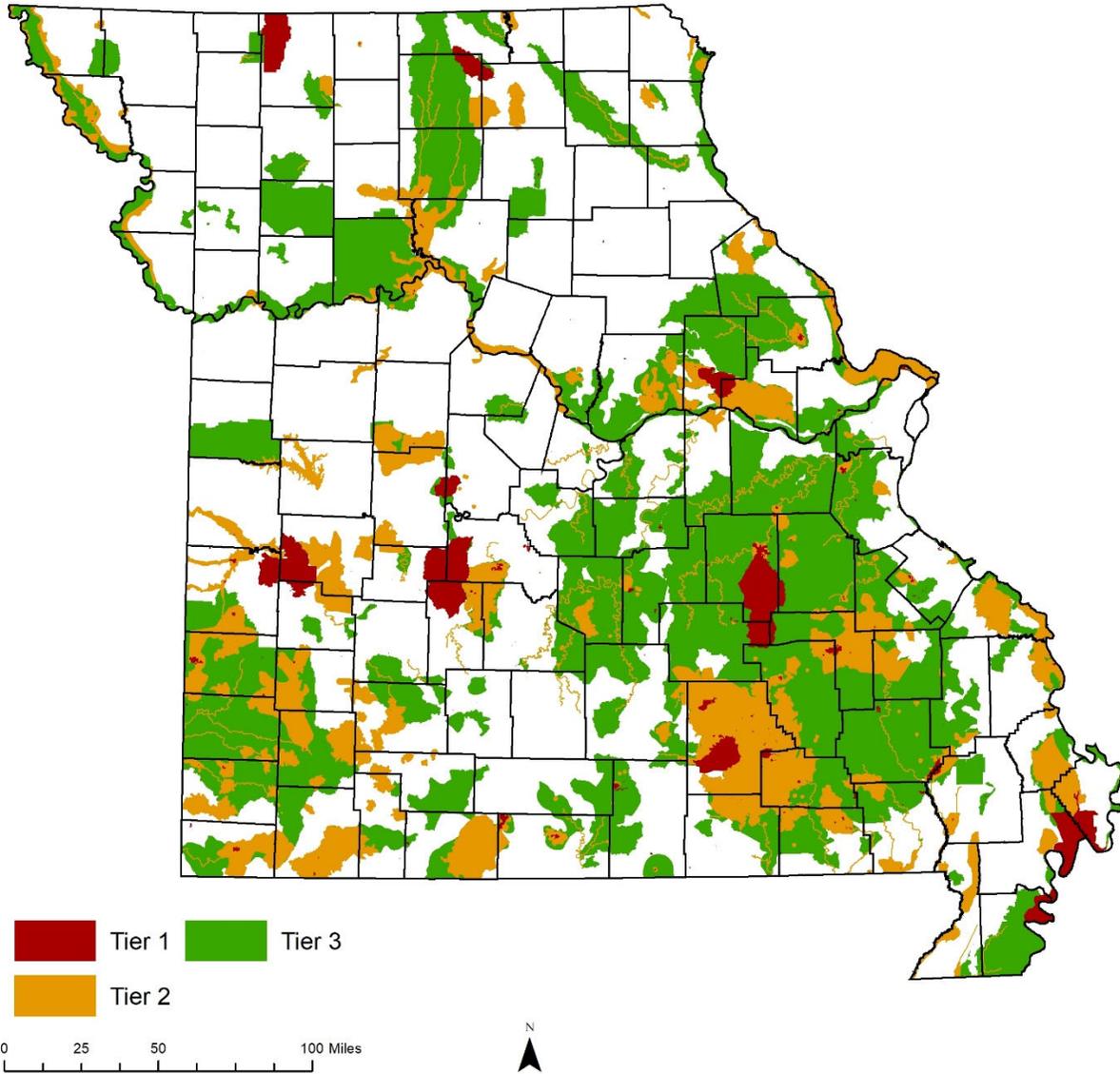
MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management



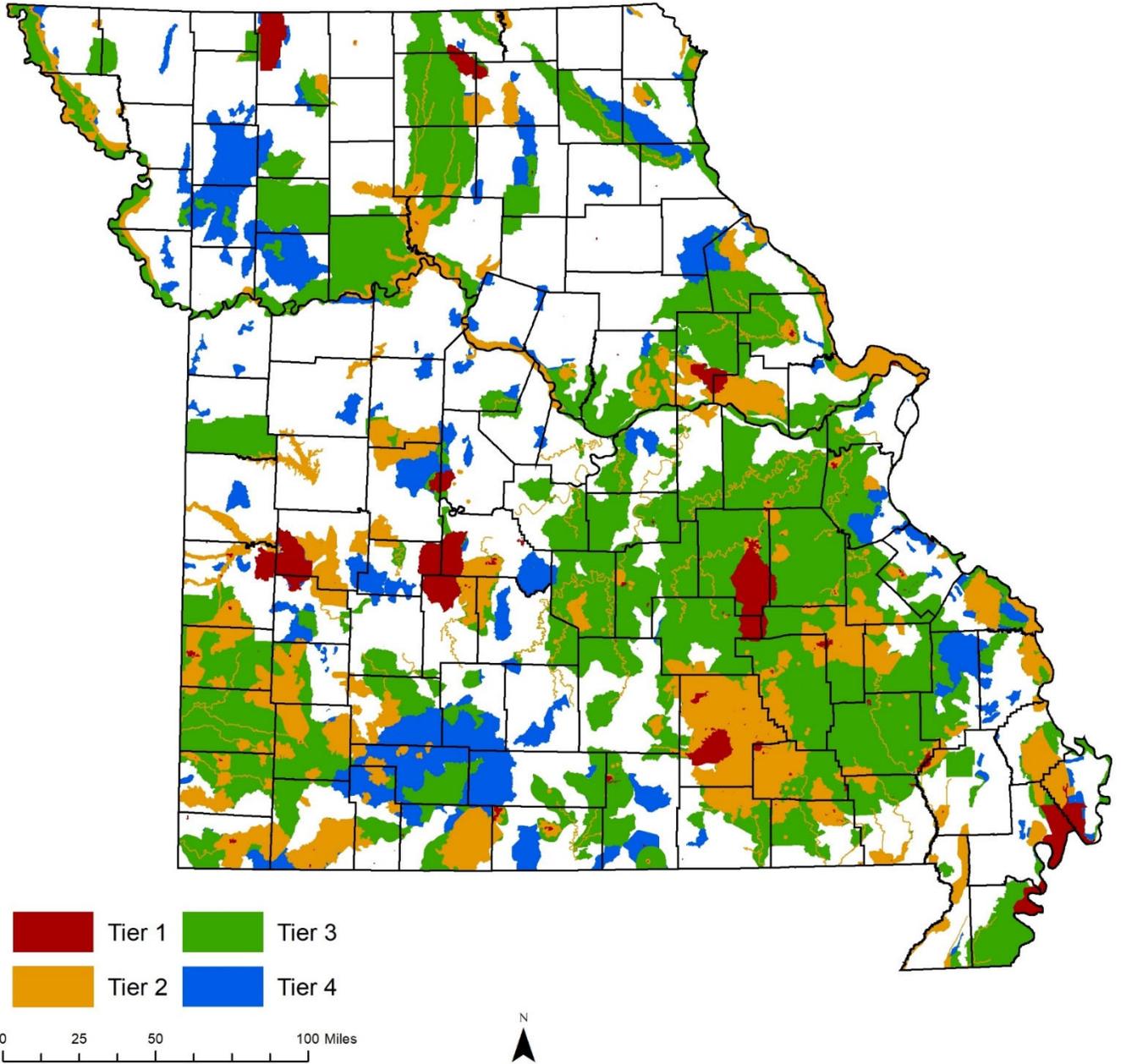
MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management



MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management



MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management



Appendix B: Missouri Bird Conservation Plan's priority bird species.

Natural Community	Common Name	MO Concern Score ¹	Population Trend, MO	Threats to Breeding, MO	Relative Density - Breeding, MO	Population Size, Global	Breeding Distribution, Global
GRASSLAND BIRDS	Eastern Kingbird	15	5	3	4	2	1
	Grasshopper Sparrow	15	5	4	3	2	1
	Henslow's Sparrow	17	2	4	5	4	2
	Bobolink	11	1	4	2	2	2
	Eastern Meadowlark	17	5	4	5	2	1
	Dickcissel	16	4	3	5	2	2
SAVANNA, WOODLAND, AND YOUNG-FOREST BIRDS	Northern Bobwhite	16	5	4	4	2	1
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16	5	3	5	2	1
	Chuck-will's-widow	16	5	3	4	2	2
	Eastern Whip-poor-will	18	5	3	5	3	2
	Chimney Swift	16	5	4	4	2	1
	Red-headed Woodpecker	17	5	3	5	3	1
	Eastern Wood-Pewee	14	3	3	5	2	1
	Bewick's Wren	17	5	5	3	2	2
	Brown Thrasher	15	4	3	5	2	1
	Eastern Towhee	15	4	3	4	2	2
	Field Sparrow	17	5	3	5	2	2
	Yellow-breasted Chat	13	3	3	4	2	1
	Orchard Oriole	13	2	3	5	2	1
	Blue-winged Warbler	15	3	3	4	3	2
	Prairie Warbler	18	5	3	5	3	2
FOREST BIRDS	Blue Jay	14	4	3	4	2	1
	Wood Thrush	14	3	3	4	2	2
	Worm-eating Warbler	15	2	3	5	3	2
	Prothonotary Warbler	13	3	3	2	3	2
	Kentucky Warbler	15	2	3	5	3	2
	Cerulean Warbler	18	5	4	4	3	2
WETLAND BIRDS	Green Heron	15	5	3	3	3	1
GENERALIST BIRDS	Common Grackle	16	5	4	5	1	1
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE BIRDS ²	Ruffed Grouse	-					
	Greater Prairie-Chicken	-					
	King Rail	-					
	Bachman's Sparrow	-					
	Brown-headed Nuthatch *extirpated	-					

¹ MO Concern Score = sum of other five scores: MO Population Trend, MO Threats to Breeding, MO Relative Density, Global Population Size, and Global Distribution.

² Special Circumstance Birds were not scored due to extremely low breeding populations caused by various circumstances. See SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE BIRDS section of the Missouri Conservation Bird Plan for more info.

Appendix C: SAMPLE MOBCI GRANT PROPOSAL

Title: Restoration of Heron Pond at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Purpose of Grant: Through this grant we are proposing to restore the natural vegetative diversity of the wetland at Heron Pond. MoBCI's support will fund the purchase of native containerized plants, herbicide, volunteer recruitment and volunteer training. This grant reflects the need by Audubon and the Corps to restore and enhance the previously diverse flora at one of the most highly visited wetlands habitats found on the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Riverlands). The restored native plant communities will be crucial to the residential and migratory shorebirds and waterbirds that utilize Heron Pond throughout the year, especially the overwintering Trumpeter Swan population. Our objectives are to continue active restoration by:

- Reducing the current monoculture extents of bulrush
- Enhance current acres of high diversity wetland vegetation at Riverlands
- Combat invasive and woody species encroachment, and
- Establish community science-based monitoring and education programs based around wetlands

Project Location: The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Riverlands) is in West Alton, MO on the Mississippi River approximately six miles away from the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers (Figure 1). Riverlands is mainly comprised of a mosaic of wet prairies and wetlands, covering approximately 1,200 acres. Since 1988, we have documented over 300 species of prairie/wetland plants and attracted over 300 species of birds. Riverlands is also a part of the globally significant Great Rivers Confluence Important Bird Area (Jensen and Forbes, 2006) and the state's Missouri/Mississippi River Confluence Conservation Opportunity Area (MDC, 2019).

There are approximately five different ponds and marshes within Riverlands that contain at least a few inches of water throughout the year. Most of which are managed using water control structures to ensure high and low water periods to coordinate with shorebird migration and waterfowl needs throughout the year.

In order to help expand the reach of diverse wetland habitats within Riverlands, and create more patches for birds to utilize, we aim to restore 29.6 acres in the central portion of Riverlands (Figure 2). This area is annually managed for shorebirds and waterbirds that inhabit and visit the site throughout the year.



Figure 1. Boundary of Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary outlined in red.

Our local wetland habitat is crucial for many breeding, migratory and overwintering waterbird species. Breeding birds such as Sora, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Killdeer utilize Riverlands and the surrounding area and are priority species identified by the Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Joint Venture (JV) waterbird, waterfowl and shorebird habitat conservation plans (Soulliere, et al., 2018; Soulliere et al., 2017; Potter et al., 2007, respectively). Other identified priority species such as Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Wilson’s Snipe, American Woodcock, American Golden-Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Sanderling utilize this area for stopover and overwintering habitat.



Figure 2. Proposed wetland restoration site outlined in white for 2022-23 season.

Is this the first time you have submitted a MoBCI Grant Proposal? No

Project Description: Missouri’s Upper Mississippi River (UMR) is associated with many habitat types including wet prairie, marshlands, and bottomland forests. All of which are of high concern, not only in Missouri, but throughout the country due to the rapid decline of these ecosystem types. Habitat loss due to development, conversion into agriculture, and encroachment of woody and invasive species are the main culprits to the decrease of Missouri’s prairies and wetlands. Riverlands is home to approximately 1,200 acres of wet prairies/marshlands, and 550 acres of bottomland forest habitats. While the Corps manages approximately 49,000 acres across Illinois and Missouri, most of this is predominately forested wetlands and swamp shrublands. Emergent wetlands, like what is found at Heron Pond, is one of the most limiting habitats within the St. Louis district. In order to help sustain and improve the bird populations that depend on this habitat type, we need to establish, expand, and restore the crucial areas we have left.

Prior to the construction of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, Riverlands was in crop production. After the construction of the dam, water elevations increased and the croplands were infested with invasive

plants such as Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*; USACE, 1993). The USACE researched historical vegetative cover near the confluence and developed a management plan that would help reduce and control invasive species while reestablishing a plant community similar to what would have occurred prior to settlement—a mosaic of bottomland marsh and prairie.

Restoration at Heron Pond was first initiated in July 2007 by the Corps and St. Louis Audubon Society. The goals of which were to enhance the habitat, construct trails and parking, and monitor the bird species that utilized the area. This work continued in 2008 with the construction of a water control structure to help regulate the water for shorebird and waterbird use throughout the year.

Management of the Heron Pond areas, since establishment, has consisted of water level fluctuation to promote shallow water and mudflats for shorebirds and dabbling ducks, mowing, and disking. These strategies alone worked well for a number of years, but the occurrence of three major floods in the past four years has created issues with mechanical disturbance such as these since the area is often too wet. In addition, increased sedimentation due to the 2019 flood has resulted in a subsequent response in vegetation due to shallowing of the marsh. This has resulted in the dominance of a few of species, one such being river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatillis*). While this species is desirable, it has become overabundant and outcompetes historically abundant species like annual grasses (millet; *Panicum spp.*), emergent (arrowhead; *Sagittaria spp.*), aquatic bed (coontail; *Ceratophyllum spp.*) and floating leaf species (pond weed; *Potamogeton spp.*).

Our objective for this project is to enhance this wetland by reducing monotypic stands in the short term, and over the long-term to develop sustainable vegetative diversity. Previous grants from MoBCI allowed us to control invasive species, begin a seed collecting and propagation program, and to purchase a high diversity seed mix for over seeding a total of ~ 81 acres of surrounding wet prairie. The wet prairie area that we seeded and planted as part of the FY 2015 proposal began blooming and attributed to one of the highest plant diversities of any of the eight managed marsh/wetlands in the sanctuary. This includes several species not found elsewhere. All previous restoration areas (FY2018, FY2019, FY2021, and current FY22) are wet prairie sites (~ 81 acres). With continued support from MoBCI, we would increase the native diversity of other surrounding wet prairie/wetland sites by targeting ~29.6 acres of wetland adjacent to Riverlands Way for restoration and enhancement utilizing purchased containerized plants.

The targeted restoration area undergoes annual management through the Corps to reduce monotypic stands, woody encroachment, and invasive species. However, in response to the high number of non-native species and monocultures of invasive species introduced during the 2019 flood, more intensive work is needed. Heron Pond will continue to go through the natural flooding and drawdown cycles implemented by the Corps for seasonal shorebirds and waterfowl. Restoration and enhancement methods will coincide with this schedule to allow supplemental plants the best opportunity for taking while ensuring the bird’s annual water to mudflat ratio is still met. We plan to treat the non-native/invasive species using Corps match and MoBCI funds, and then supplement this planting through MoBCI funds by conducting herbicide treatments to push back overpowering stands of bulrush and introducing more wetland specific species to the overall mix.

Project Calendar/Timeline:

Time Period	Tasks
July - October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Herbicide application ● Initiate IWMM bird surveys

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial drawdown of pond
October - December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter flooding of pond • Continue IWMM surveys • Recruit volunteers/students for supplemental planting
July 2023 – ongoing support of maintenance activities beyond June 2023 not requested in this proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water level drawdown • Supplemental planting • Continue management of large mats of bulrush and woody species

Measurable Outcomes: Progress of this project will be measured by the amount/percentage of invasive species returning to this site after enhancement. Progress will also be measured in the establishment of a diverse wetland that can yield seeds to be sustainable in efforts to increase the quality of the marshes and wet prairies throughout the sanctuary. We expect that the increased plant variety and reduced invasive and non-native plant species will result in a greater diversity of plant structure and resources for resident, migrating and overwintering wetland birds.

In collaboration with our Center’s Education Team, we would continue the development of our education program’s wetland curriculum and learning activities utilizing measures of plant diversity that would provide school groups the opportunity to act as citizen scientists and provide data on the diversity found in restored areas compared to unrestored areas over time. The restored wetland area provides a unique opportunity for students to experience conservation and management in action as well as gain confidence in their ability to practice science in the field.

Bird monitoring will be applied to examine both current utilization and track any potential changes due to increased plant diversity. We already have long-term waterbird monitoring datasets from the Corps Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) surveys and our summer grassland bird surveys. We anticipate that the wetland bird response to wetland restoration will follow a vegetation response of 3-10 years, the avian surveys will remain a long-term monitoring component of all restored areas. Management of the targeted wetland area will continue past the duration of this grant and include periodic drawdowns to stimulate annual plant production, periodic herbicide applications, mowing, disking, and burning to set back instances of perennial plant invasions and to maintain at least 25% mudflat habitat.

Grant Request Amount: The total of this grant is \$50,936.64, in which we are requesting \$24,952 in funding from MoBCI. Approximately 15% of this request goes towards labor (i.e., recruitment, training, and management of volunteers) by Audubon staff and the remaining 85% for purchase of a diversity of native plants and herbicide. The Audubon Center at Riverlands will provide matching funds for overhead costs and fringe benefits for Audubon staff. The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Rivers Project Office is providing match for site preparation and treatment through their lessee (\$19,772) and USACE staff management and monitoring (\$1,000).

Measurable Deliverables: The Audubon Center at Riverlands will submit semi-annual progress reports that include both financial and narrative summary and complete a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation. These reports will include a minimum of 3-5 good quality digital photographs of people conducting project actions and 1-2 photos illustrating habitat improvements. The Audubon Center at Riverlands will highlight the project’s results via a poster presentation at the annual MoBCI conference.

Budget:

Labor	Costs	Match	MoBCI Request
Volunteer recruitment, management, and training	Audubon staff allocate 5% (\$2,472) of time at 30% fringe rate (\$741.60)	\$741.60	\$2,472.00
Site preparation, planting, invasive species management, bird monitoring	Volunteers ~160hrs @ \$23/hr. (Missouri volunteer rate)	\$3,680	
Site preparation, Selective Type IV Herbicide Application USACE Contractor (\$19,772)	50hrs @ \$395.44/hr.	\$19,772	
USACE monitoring and management of invasive species, bird monitoring	USACE staff, ~ 40hrs @ \$25/hr.	\$1,000	
Supplies			
Diverse array of S3-3RPM containerized wetland species to be planted across 29.6 acres	930 Size S3-3RPM @ \$11/plant		\$10,230
Selective Herbicide (30 gal Clearcast Herbicide)	35gal @ \$350/gal		\$12,250
Administration			
Audubon overhead	SSA calculated @ 32% salary	\$791.04	
Totals		\$25,984.64	\$24,952
Project Total		\$50,936.64	

Reporting and Monitoring Plan: Audubon will provide MoBCI with progress reports as required. Any bird monitoring data will be entered into eBird database where it is accessible by Audubon staff, USACE RPO staff and the general public.

Lead Organization:

National Audubon Society
225 Varick St. 7th floor
New York, NY 10014-4304
Tax ID No: 13-1624102
DUNS No: 073135808
Cage Code: 6F163

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Conservation Science Associate: Tara Hohman,
Tara.hohman@audubon.org

Primary Partner:

Rivers Project Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
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Wildlife Biologist: Ryan Swearingin,
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Partner:

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Fiscal Responsibility/Management: The fiscal agent for this funding is the National Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society will oversee grant compliance and fiscal management.

Habitat types, birds, and other wildlife benefitted: The restoration efforts are expected to positively impact a number of priority species at RMBS, including American Bittern, King Rail (Missouri Bird Conservation Plan), Sora, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Tern, Common Loon, Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, and American Coot as indicated as focal species in the UMRGLJV Waterbird Strategy Plan; Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback and Lesser Scaup as indicated as focal species in the UMRGLJV Waterfowl Strategy Plan; Killdeer, Wilson’s Snipe, Piping Plover, Upland Sandpiper, American Woodcock, American Golden-Plover, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson’s Phalarope and Sanderling as indicated in the UMRGLJV Shorebird Strategy Plan; and Nelson’s Sparrow (PIF; Rosenberg et al., 2016). This mix of priority species can be supported by managing the wetland and surrounding prairie marsh areas for varying soil moisture levels, burn periods, and other strategies to support a diverse mosaic of habitat conditions. Management of units will be structured in a way that supports a suite of species while working to improve conditions for breeding, migrating, and overwintering birds.

References:

- Jensen, W.E. and A.R. Forbes. 2006. Important Bird Areas of Missouri. Audubon Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
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Addendum: Audubon Center at Riverlands

Restoration of Heron Pond at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

This addendum modifies and supplements the attached MOBCI FY23 Grant Proposal titled “Restoration of Heron Pond at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.” The purpose of which is to address questions and concerns brought up by the grant committee during review these include:

- The risk of flooding on the sanctuary
- Cost per acre for contracted work
- Volunteer cost per hour
- Updates to St. Louis Audubon Society contact
- Partner Contributions

Risk of flooding

Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located within the floodplain of two major rivers. Located just 8 miles away from the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri River it is prone to flooding during extreme events like those seen in 1993 and 2019. These extreme flood events, different from regular seasonal flooding that occurs every 2-3 years, occurs about every 10 years. Under standard flood conditions the restoration site addressed in the proposal does not flood since it is protected by surrounding levees and roads. While major flood events do inundate the proposed site and can introduce invasive species, the degree of the flooding does not allow us to create additional levee or hydrological changes to the area. Attempting to do so would further alter the hydrology of the river and its impact on other sites within the floodplain including local farming communities that surround the sanctuary. Coming out of a recent major flood event, we are hopeful that we have an extended period to conduct regular management on the site to keep it as pristine as possible.

Cost per acre for contracted work

The USACE utilizes contractors to manage a lot of their property. Currently, the USACE is under a final option year which means costs for contractors are at their highest. They also practice Fair Labor Standards which creates average costs for contractors to run higher. The estimates given in the budget include contractor time, personnel, and equipment which might change depending on their capability to get equipment into the wetland site. This cost does not include herbicide costs, which the USACE must provide.

Volunteer cost per hour

The volunteer rate under the Independent Sector’s value of volunteer time is currently \$28.54/hr. as of April 2021. Our included budget in our proposal has it as \$23/hr., an outdated value. We have updated our budget to include the new rate. The updated budget is located at the end of this addendum.

Updates to St. Louis Audubon Society contact

One fix to our grant proposal includes the contact information for the St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS). Mitch Leachman is no longer with the SLAS and should instead be replaced by Dan Pearson who coordinates their Bring Conservation Home (BCH) program. The updated contact information should go as follows:

St. Louis Audubon Society
 PO Box 220227
 St. Louis, MO 63122
 Dan Pearson, BCH Coordinator
 dan@stlouisaudubon.org

Partner Contributions

Our primary partner, the USACE, will lead in site preparation through staff and hired contractors, this includes managing water levels at the site, monitoring after herbicide applications to make sure unwanted don't return, and look for additional growth of native and invasive species. They will also supplement bird monitoring in this site through their annual Integrated Waterfowl Management and Monitoring (IWMM) surveys and begin Duck Energy Day counts in addition.

Listed partners under our proposal such as the SLAS, Great Rivers Master Naturalists, Illinois Master Naturalists and Confluence Chapter of Master Naturalists will assist in this project acting as volunteer recruits to help in planting, invasive management as able following planting, and bird monitoring as needed. We will also seek their expertise, especially SLAS, in selecting wetlands plants to include at the site. Their main role will begin once the site is prepped by USACE and their contractors.

Updated Budget

Labor	Costs	Match	MoBCI Request
Volunteer recruitment, management, and training	Audubon staff allocate 5% (\$2,472) of time at 30% fringe rate (\$741.60)	\$741.60	\$2,472.00
Site preparation, planting, invasive species management, bird monitoring	Volunteers ~160hrs @ \$28.54/hr. (Missouri volunteer rate)	\$4,566.40	
Site preparation, Selective Type IV Herbicide Application USACE Contractor (\$19,772)	50hrs @ \$395.44/hr.	\$19,772	
USACE monitoring and management of invasive species, bird monitoring	USACE staff, ~ 40hrs @ \$25/hr.	\$1,000	
Supplies			
Diverse array of S3-3RPM containerized wetland species to be planted across 29.6 acres	930 Size S3-3RPM @ \$11/plant		\$10,230
Selective Herbicide (30 gal Clearcast Herbicide)	35gal @ \$350/gal		\$12,250
Administration			
Audubon overhead	SSA calculated @ 32% salary	\$791.04	
Totals		\$26,871.04	\$24,952
Project Total		\$51,823.04	