



Photo courtesy of Chris Ferguson

Landowner Eligibility

Department of Conservation technical and financial assistance to help protect fish, forest and wildlife is available upon request, first come, first served, to any Missouri landowner, regardless of legal residence with few exceptions. Any MDC cost-share practice may be implemented by itself or combined with any other practice(s) to meet identified conservation priorities as determined by the conservation planner.

Department of Conservation technical and financial assistance is available for city and county units of government, other political subdivisions, e.g. St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District, and NGOs interested in completing conservation practice implementation. In situations where an agency or NGO hold an easement on a tract and the landowner wishes to implement a conservation practice on that ground, as long as the easement does not prohibit the activity, cost-share for the practice may be utilized. The entity holding the easement will be informed of the pending project before implementation. Existing standards, specifications, and practice maintenance requirements remain in effect.



For more information,
visit mdc.mo.gov

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) “Working With You and for You to Help Pollinators” Missouri Department of Conservation



Photo courtesy of Joshua Mayer

Why are monarchs and pollinators important to everyone?

Pollinators are responsible for one in every three bites of food and drink that people consume, yet several important pollinator species have dwindled in population by as much as 90% over the last twenty years. These pollinators are critical to our food supply as 75% of agricultural crops depend on some sort of pollination services and the economic benefits of pollinators have been estimated to be between \$235 – \$577 billion worldwide each year.

While positive momentum can be made by adjusting management tactics on public owned property; farmers and landowners will play a critical role in successfully reversing this downward spiral for pollinator species. Missouri is 93% privately owned and many of those acres are in some sort of agricultural production that produces food/fiber and provides income for our citizens. In order to be successful, MDC recognizes that we must support our landowners and operators with technical and financial assistance where practical to help maintain profitability while maximizing conservation efforts in marginal areas to help ensure clean water and to provide quality habitat for wildlife such as small game and pollinators.



Photo courtesy of Irina Hynes - USFWS



Photo courtesy of Joshua Mayer

Payment Caps and In Kind Contributions

The Missouri Department of Conservation's LAP program policy cap can be increased upon special approval.

Landowners may count in-kind contributions, e.g. machinery use, farm-raised seed or mulch, and labor toward their total required match.

MDC LAP cost-share funds may not be applied to acreage enrolled in another conservation program which provides financial assistance. Two exceptions to this rule include situations when MDC staff has identified high priority practices that are administered by other agencies in which LAP funds may be considered for companion incentives and those incentives must be allowed by that partner's program policy.

LAP Cost Share Opportunities

- MDC's LAP program offers 75% cost share for grass/forb establishment plus flat rate payments for site preparations that are needed to establish pollinator habitat on a variety of ecological sites including upland and wetland habitats where practical.
- MDC also offers assistance to agricultural producers who want to increase diversity and sustainability on the farm by offering flat rate payments on alternative watering systems, fencing and deferment payments when incorporating native warm season grass/forb mixtures into their conservation plan.
- LAP offers flat rate payments to manage existing habitat through burning, disking or herbicide treatments and to establish pollinator friendly trees/shrubs.
- Incentives are provided through MDC LAP program for producers interested in the following
 - using Missouri Source Seed which has proven to be more effective for attracting native pollinators than seed originating in other states or climates.
 - utilizing a monarch friendly seed mix for practices requiring cover establishment. These mixes contain multiple species of milkweed and several nectaring plants that bloom throughout the growing season.
 - adopting a diverse cover crop mix that provides habitat for pollinators and improves soil health on cropland or pasture.
 - MDC sometimes offers CRP sign up incentives in addition to those offered by FSA along with flat rate cost share on mid contract management practices in certain priority geographies pending annual funding.

Habitat Challenge Grants (HCG)

MDC annually offers a Habitat Challenge Grant Program in which conservation partners pledge funds that are matched by MDC dollar to dollar for installation of habitat practices in the LAP docket that further the mission of both MDC and that partner organization. These funds are usually intended for specific areas or regions as identified by the Conservation Partner. HCG is a fantastic opportunity for conservation groups, agricultural groups and other partners to immediately leverage dollars in priority geographies that will offer sustainable practices to landowners trying to maximize both profit and stewardship for future generations.