

Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Missouri Department of Conservation in consultation with Missouri's State Technical Committee are partners in implementing a State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) project to enroll agricultural land in ten counties in Southeast Missouri. The purpose of the Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE is to restore sand prairie, sand woodland, sand savannas, and associated sand upland/wetland complexes in specific land type associations in Southeast Missouri with unique sandy soils.

Background

SAFE is part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with landowners and agricultural producers to establish and manage vegetative covers that control soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat.

SAFE is a unique type of CRP that offers organizations the opportunity to partner with the USDA to establish habitat for high-priority wildlife species on agricultural land. SAFE sponsors work with the USDA to identify the wildlife species, the vegetative cover that provides habitat for the target species, and the location in the state where the habitat is needed. A partnership is formed between the SAFE sponsor and the USDA, and federal funds are made available to allow for CRP enrollment on eligible land within the SAFE project location.

Target Wildlife Species

The goal of the Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE project is to provide habitat for Illinois Chorus Frogs and the Dusty Hog-nosed Snake. The Illinois Chorus Frogs and the Dusty Hog-nosed Snake are important to Missouri because the sandy areas of the Delta remain a high priority for habitat restoration for amphibians and reptiles.

Habitat

Landowners and agricultural producers participating in Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE are required to develop a conservation plan with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a technical service provider. The conservation plan will provide details on how to plant, establish, and manage habitat for Illinois Chorus Frogs and the Dusty Hog-nosed Snake. The habitat being established is focused on maintaining, creating, managing the native habitat communities of Missouri and thereby providing essential habitat components for species of greatest conservation need. After the habitat is established, it will need to be maintained and managed by inter-seeding, prescribed burning, or herbicide application. Proper habitat establishment, maintenance, and management will maximize the restoration of sand prairie, sand woodland, sand savannas, and sand upland/wetland complexes.



Project Location

The Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE project location is Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott, and Stoddard counties.

Eligible CRP Practices

This SAFE project uses the following CRP practices:

- ◆ CP38E-2, SAFE Establishment of Warm Season Grasses
- ◆ CP38E-4D, SAFE Wildlife Habitat Planting
- ◆ CP38E-12, SAFE Food Plots
- ◆ CP38B-23, SAFE Wetland Restoration on Floodplains
- ◆ CP38B-23A, SAFE Non-Floodplain Wetlands Initiative
- ◆ CP38E-25, SAFE Rare and Declining Habitat
- ◆ CP38A-33, SAFE Upland Bird Habitat Buffer Initiative
- ◆ CP38E-42, SAFE Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Haying and Grazing

Managed or emergency haying or grazing is not allowed.

Eligibility Requirements

Because SAFE is part of CRP, certain land and participant eligibility rules apply. To begin with, land must be in the project area and meet cropping history. CRP participant eligibility rules also apply to SAFE.

Payments and Incentives

In exchange for participation in CRP SAFE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual per acre rental payments, cost-share to assist with habitat establishment expenses, and in some cases additional monetary incentives.

For More Information



This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions or requirements may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information, contact your local service center and USDA Farm Service Agency office: farmers.gov/service-locator.



Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE Project Map



Legend

-  FSA County Boundary
-  Missouri Sand Ecosystem Restoration SAFE Project Area