

Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization Grassland and Savanna Protocols

Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*)

This Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization (BITP/A) has been issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to allow landowners to conduct certain grassland and savanna management activities while remaining in compliance with the state's endangered species law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.). This BITP/A allows for the incidental taking (mortality) of the state endangered Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*) that may occur as a result of the grassland and savanna management activities listed below.

Background information/criteria on this BITP/A must also be reviewed and followed:

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP_Overview.pdf

Protocols for all other species covered under this BITP/A can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/ItGrasslands.html>

Note: If carrying out a given protocol is not feasible, or multiple listed species in a given management area pose conflicts, contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) at DNRERReview@wisconsin.gov. Staff in NHC will work with species experts and managers to establish an acceptable protocol for a given site that will allow for incidental take without further legal consultation or public notice.

I. Species Background Information

State Status: Endangered

Background information on the Blanchard's cricket frog can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' web page for the species:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=AAABC01040>

II. Management Protocol for Permitted/Authorized Incidental Take

If the management activity is for the purpose of recovering, maintaining, or improving the grassland, prairie, or savanna ecosystem that includes habitat for Blanchard's cricket frogs, then incidental take is allowed if the conditions listed below are followed.

A. Burning

1. If burning will occur further than 75 ft from any suitable wetland or waterbody, at any time of year, there are no restrictions.

2. If burning will occur further than 50 ft from any suitable wetland or waterbody, from December 1 – March 4, there are no restrictions.
3. If burning will occur within 75 ft of a suitable wetland or waterbody from March 5 – November 30, and temperatures are below 50°F, there are no restrictions.
4. If burning will occur within 75 ft of a suitable wetland or waterbody from March 5 – November 30, and temperatures are 50°F or above, only backing or flanking fires may be used (no head fires) within the 75 ft buffer of a suitable wetland or waterbody.

B. Mowing/Haying

1. If mowing/haying will occur 75 ft or more away from any suitable waterbody or wetland, at any time of year, there are no restrictions.
2. If mowing/haying will occur 50 ft or more away from any suitable waterbody or wetland, from December 1 – March 4, there are no restrictions.
3. If mowing/haying will occur within 75 ft of a suitable wetland or waterbody from March 5 – November 30 and temperatures are below 50°F, there are no restrictions.
4. If mowing/haying will occur within 75 ft of a suitable wetland or waterbody from March 5 – November 30 and temperatures are 50°F or above, a non-suction mower (flail mower, sickle bar mower, manual reel mower, electric/gas weed trimmer) must be used.

C. Selective Tree/Brush Cutting

Selective cutting on foot (e.g., chain saw), may be done without restriction.

D. Grazing

Grazing may occur without restriction, however intensive grazing is not recommended.

E. Herbicide Use

1. If herbiciding will occur 75 ft or more away from a suitable wetland or waterbody, at any time of year, there are no restrictions, as long as drift is considered and does not impact suitable cricket frog habitat.
2. If herbiciding will occur 50 ft or more away from a suitable wetland or waterbody, from December 1 – March 4, there are no restrictions, as long as drift is considered and does not impact suitable cricket frog habitat.

3. If herbiciding will occur within 75 ft of a suitable wetland or waterbody from March 5 – November 30, spot, basal-bark or cut-stump treatments on foot are allowed IF one of the following herbicides is used:
 - 2, 4-D salt (NOT 2, 4-D ester) at doses of 40 ppm or less
 - Diquat (dibromide) (e.g., Reward) at doses of 1.0 ppm or less
 - Glyphosate without a surfactant (e.g., Aquaneat)
 - Imazapyr (e.g., Arsenal, Chopper)
 - Triclopyr salt (NOT triclopyr ester) at doses of 2.0 ppm or less

Other herbicides may be approved on a case by case basis with approval from the Endangered Resources Review Program (DNREReview@wi.gov). *Note – these herbicide brand names are only provided for reference and are not an endorsement of any specific brand.*