

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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April 29, 2008

Dr. Elisabeth Brennan  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, AR 72801

Dear Dr. Brennan:

Congratulations! Academic Affairs is pleased to announce that your application for the Faculty Professional Development Grant has been recommended by the Professional Development Committee. Based on this recommendation, Academic Affairs has approved the \$1543.80 for your proposal. Requisitions regarding the grant will be processed through your departmental budget and should be expended by June 30, 2008.

We wish you success with this endeavor.

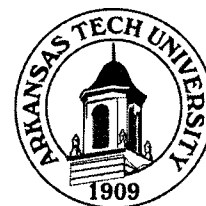
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jack Hamm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jack R. Hamm  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

JRH:sr

cc: Cohoon  
Gagen  
File

**REQUIRED COVER PAGE****APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

\*\*All questions must be completed to be considered for grant award.

<b>Choose one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Research Activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Enhancement Activity	<b>Application Deadline Date:</b> April 15 (i.e. October 1, February 1, or April 15) <b>Date of Last PDG Award</b> (Semester and Year awarded): Spring 2007 <b>Date of ATU Faculty Appointment</b> (Semester and Year): Summer 2006
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1. Project Title: Participation in the International Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists
2. Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director: Elisabeth Brennan
3. School (abbrev): PLS    4. Department: Biological Science    5. Campus Mail Address: 39 McEver
6. PI/PD Campus Phone: 356-2018    7. Amount Requested: \$1,543.80    8. Total Cost of Project: \$1,543.80
9. Will total funds awarded be expended by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current fiscal year: Yes
10. If not, what is the total to be expended this fiscal year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the total to be carried over to the next fiscal year: \$0 (if approved by the VPAA)
12. Project Completion Date: 30 May 2008    13. Travel Dates: 27-30 May 2008  
(if applicable)
14. Does this project involve:  
 Yes No  
☐ ☒ human subjects?  
☐ ☒ animals/animal care facility?  
☐ ☒ radioactive materials?  
☐ ☒ hazardous materials?  
☐ ☒ biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?  
☐ ☒ copyright or patent potential?  
☐ ☒ utilization of space **not** currently available to the PI/PD?  
☐ ☒ the purchase of equipment/instrumentation/software currently **available** to the PI/PD?

**NOTE:** If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, the investigator must attach appropriate documentation of approval or justification for use/purchase.

**SIGNATURES**

Department Contribution (if applicable): \$ 0

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Charlie Hagen 4/7/08  
Chairperson Date

School Contribution (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

McPherson 4-8-08  
Dean Date

**This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs**

Previous PDG Award final report received: Yes ☒ No ☐

PDC Committee Award Recommendation: Yes ☐ No ☐

PDC Committee Proposal Rank:  of  Total Proposals.

Recommendation of VPAA: Yes ☐ No ☐ Recommendation of President: Yes ☐ No ☐

Award Date:

## B. ABSTRACT

I am requesting travel funding so that I may attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists in Washington, D.C. this May. I will be giving an oral presentation at this meeting entitled "Moist Soil Seed Abundance on Wetland Reserve Program Sites in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas." I have also been nominated as a member of Executive Board for the South-Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. The Executive Board has their annual meeting in conjunction with the National Meeting so in order to be present at the Board meeting, I am requesting funds to attend the national Society of Wetland Scientists meeting. Requested funds will be used for air fare, hotel, meals, and registration. The estimated total cost of this travel is \$1,543.80.

## C. PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

My objective is to attend the annual meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) from May 27-30, 2008 in Washington, D.C. The 2008 SWS International Conference will bring together researchers, students, government scientists, private sector consultants, and wetland practitioners who make decisions about wetland use, protection, and conservation. One of the main objectives of the SWS annual meeting is to foster scientific exchanges between diverse groups of professionals involved in wetland stewardship around the world. I will be presenting original research on moist-soil seed production at Wetland Reserve sites in Arkansas at this meeting (see abstract below). Although I have presented these data at state and regional meetings, this is my first opportunity to present the results of this research at an international meeting. Over 800 scientists and wetland professionals usually attend the annual wetlands meeting and giving a presentation at a meeting of this caliber and to this diverse an audience is an incredible opportunity.

Another goal I have for attending the annual SWS meeting is to participate in the Executive Board meeting of the South-Central Chapter of SWS. I have recently been nominated to the Executive Board which deals with Chapter business for the 8 states included in the South-Central Chapter. The annual meeting of the Executive Board will occur in conjunction with the International meeting this year and as a new board member I feel it is very important that I participate in this meeting.

*Abstract* The Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) provides important habitat for migrant and wintering waterfowl in North America. Since human settlement, over 70% of the original MAV habitat for waterfowl has been destroyed or altered. Wetland managers are now using moist-soil management to increase waterfowl foraging habitat in the MAV. Several studies have examined moist-soil seed abundance on managed public wetlands and the resulting contribution of energy availability for waterfowl foraging habitat. However, little is known about moist-soil seed abundance on private wetlands enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). To estimate moist-soil seed abundance on private WRP lands in Arkansas, I conducted a stratified survey on WRP sites in Arkansas during autumns 2006 and 2007. I collected 10 soil core samples in each of 19 WRP sites in five counties in the MAV of Arkansas. Mean moist-soil seed mass on WRP wetlands was 476.65 kg/ha (dry mass; SE=31.82), which was 20.3 kg/ha less than mean seed abundance on managed public wetlands throughout the MAV in autumns 2002-2004 (Kross 2006:50). Time since entry into the WRP program had a positive effect on seed abundance ( $R^2 = 0.31$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). There are approximately 77,000 ha currently enrolled in the WRP program in Arkansas, approximately 20% of which are moist-soil habitat. Based on my estimate of moist-soil

seed abundance, these moist-soil WRP sites may provide over 55 million duck-use days for wintering waterfowl in Arkansas.

#### **D. SIGNIFICANCE / NEED**

Presentation of this research will enhance the reputation of Arkansas Tech's research program. I am working on establishing a waterfowl and wetlands research lab at Arkansas Tech and representing Arkansas Tech by presenting at an international meeting will increase program and school recognition among professional wildlife scientists and help establish Arkansas Tech as the premiere institution within Arkansas for fisheries and wildlife. Finally, presentation of this research will contribute to my development as a productive faculty member at Arkansas Tech. One of the three categories on which faculty members are annually evaluated is scholarly activity; of which presentation of original research at national meetings is considered an essential component.

#### **E. PROCESS FOR ATTAINMENT OF OBJECTIVES / GOALS**

I will prepare a 15 minute presentation to give at the 2008 Society of Wetland Scientists Meeting. I will also participate in an Executive Board meeting for the South-Central Chapter of the SWS.

#### **F. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS**

Abstracts of all presentations will be made available to all meeting participants on cd and in a meeting program. Attending the meeting will also allow me learn about current research in wetland ecology and management which I will incorporate into several classes I teach. If I attend the meeting, I will also have the opportunity to participate in a workshop entitled "**Techniques and Tips for Communicating Your Science to the Media**" which I will present to the ATU Chapter of the Fisheries and Wildlife Club.

#### **G. REPEATED REQUESTS**

This proposal is not a repeat request.

**H. BUDGET**

PROPOSED BUDGET  
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT  
(include budget categories as appropriate)

1.	Non-work study stipend	0.00
	Fringe benefits @ .4% (4/10 percent) of non-work study stipend	<u>          </u>
2.	Supplies (please list items to be purchased and estimated price per item including taxes and shipping, if appropriate):	
	Conference Registration	390.00
	<b>Total estimated supplies \$</b>	<b><u>390.00</u></b>
3.	Travel (please list travel expenditures by date and estimated costs):	
	Roundtrip flight from Little Rock to Washington, D.C.	400.00
	Lodging (3 nights @ \$175/night)	525.00
	Transportation (bus, personal vehicle, etc)	100.00
	Meals (4 days @ \$32.20/day)	128.80
	<b>Total estimated travel \$</b>	<b><u>1,153.80</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET \$</b>	<b><u>1,543.80</u></b>

**I. BIBLIOGRAPHY:** None

**J. APPLICATION VITA** (maximum: 3 pages)

**ELISABETH BRENNAN**

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Russellville, AR 72802

ebrennan@atu.edu

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Office Ph.:(479) 356-2018  
Fax: (479) 964-0837

**EDUCATION**

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Ph.D. Wildlife Science (Wetland Ecology)

Lubbock, TX  
August 2006

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY - CARBONDALE  
M. S. Zoology (Wildlife)

Carbondale, IL  
May 2002

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
B. A. Biology

Lexington, VA  
May 1999

**EXPERIENCE**

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology

Arkansas Tech University, Department of Biological Science, Russellville, AR, 7/2006 – present, Department Head: Professor Charlie Gagen

*Teaching Activities*

- Upper division courses taught: Wetland Ecology and Management, Wildlife Management, Principles of Ecology, Waterfowl Ecology and Management, Senior Seminar
- Graduate level courses taught: Research Methods II, Wetland Ecology and Management
- Averaged 4.43 out of 5.00 from 2006 on all course student evaluations compared to the department average of 4.34 over the same year.

*Research Activities*

**Publications**

- Brennan, E.K., L.M. Smith, M.R. Vrtiska, and T.G. LaGrange. (In review) **Community Structure of Migratory Wetland Birds in the Rainwater Basin.** Journal of Wildlife Management.
- Brennan, E.K., L.M. Smith, D.A. Haukos, and T.G. LaGrange. 2005. **Short-term Response of Wetland Birds to Prescribed Burning in Rainwater Basin Wetlands.** Wetlands 25:667-674.

Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology continued

Grants and Awards

- Awarded \$1,600 from Arkansas Tech University Professional Development Grant for "Wetland Delineation Certification Training" (2007)
- Principal Investigator on funded Arkansas Tech University Undergraduate Research Council proposal title, "Evaluation of Moist-Soil Seed Production on Wetland Reserve Program Wetlands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas" worth \$2,600 (2006). This project includes funding to support one undergraduate student.
- 2004 Environmental Protection Agency – State, Tribal, and Local Government Wetland Protection Grant Program
- Nebraska Chapter of the Nature Conservancy J.E. Weaver Competitive Grant
- American Ornithologists' Union Student Membership Award

Presentations at Professional Meetings

- Gann, B\*. and E.K. Brennan. 2007. **Moist-soil Seed Production on WRP Wetlands in Arkansas**. Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting. Fort Smith, Arkansas.
- Gann, B\*. and E.K. Brennan. 2007. **Moist-soil Seed Production on WRP Wetlands in Arkansas**. Arkansas Academy of Science Meeting. Russellville, Arkansas.
- Brennan, E.K., L.M. Smith, M. Vrtiska, and T.G. LaGrange. **Local and Landscape Variables Influencing Migratory Bird Habitat Use and Behavior in Rainwater Basin Wetlands**. Presented at the Annual Mid-West Fish and Wildlife Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, December 2006.
- Brennan, E.K., L.M. Smith, and N.E. McIntyre. **Assessing Species Co-occurrence Patterns of migratory Wetland Birds at Multiple Temporal Scales**. Presented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Ecological Society of America Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 2005.
- Brennan, E.K., M. Vrtiska, T. G. LaGrange, and L.M. Smith. **Temporal Changes in Local and Regional Variables Predicting Migratory Bird Habitat Use in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin Wetlands**. Presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife Society Conference, Madison, WI, September, 2005.
- Brennan, E.K., M. Vrtiska, T. G. LaGrange, and L.M. Smith. **Evaluating Migratory Bird Habitat Use in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin Wetlands: A Multi-Scale Approach**. Presented at the Wetlands and Migratory Birds: Protecting and Restoring Wetlands of International Significance, Kansas City, MO, October 2004.



*Service Activities*

- Advisor for ATU Chapter Fisheries and Wildlife Society
- Advisor for ATU Ducks Unlimited Chapter