

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD POLICY ON TRANSLOCATION OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED ANIMAL SPECIES

Adopted by the Endangered Species Protection Board at its 66th meeting on August 18, 1989

General Policy

For the purposes of this policy statement and proposal review criteria, the term “translocation” will include the intentional movement of animals from one location to another either within the State of Illinois or from out-of-state locations into Illinois for the purposes of population restoration or enhancement.

It will be the policy of the Endangered Species Protection Board to give first and most favorable consideration to proposals for translocation of animals which will reintroduce a species to Illinois which has been extirpated in the state or will move animals from within Illinois to areas in which they formerly occurred but have been locally extirpated.

Persons submitting proposals for the translocation of animals should be prepared to provide evidence that their proposals meet all of the basic criteria listed below. A simple statement that the proposal meets these criteria may not be considered adequate evidence.

Basic Criteria – translocation proposals meeting ALL of the following criteria will be considered by the Board.

1. Habitat suitable for the species in both quality and quantity is present in the area of the proposed translocation.
2. Translocation of the species will not have negative effects on extant Illinois populations of the same species or other native species.

Individuals to be translocated must be of the same subspecies and/or race as those animals which inhabit or have historically inhabited the target site unless: the native subspecies or race is extinct or; there is no information about the genetics of historic populations.

The translocation must not introduce pathogens, parasites, or other factors which may negatively affect existing animal populations.

3. Required approvals from other State and Federal agencies have been secured.
4. If a State or Federal recovery plan for the species has been developed, the translocation is compatible with the goals, objectives, and methods of the recovery plan.
5. The translocation plan includes recommended methods and procedures for monitoring and management of released individuals.
6. The target area for the translocation effort is known to have been inhabited historically by the species.

Detailed Review – translocation proposals which are found to meet all the basic criteria will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Factors included in that review will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Regional population trends of the species – are the species’ range and abundance diminishing in surrounding states or are there indications that the species may naturally re-inhabit the target site in the foreseeable future?

2. Available sources of animals to be imported – are animals available from areas near enough the target site to give a reasonable expectation of their being genetically suited to habitat and climate conditions at the target site? Are adequate numbers of animals available to establish a viable population?
3. What is the status of remaining suitable habitat – is it formally protected as a Nature Preserve or State Park, is it private property for which a management agreement is in place, etc?
4. Is the species likely to affect agriculture, public health, or other non-conservation interests? If so, have adequate measures to limit those effects and educate the public about the species' natural role in the ecosystem been planned and implemented?
5. Does the proposal include a review of translocation attempts for the same species in other areas? Have reasonable precautions been included in the translocation plan to avoid problems encountered in other attempts?

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