



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Customer Focus —

Roy and Sally Sisler's land in the northeast region of Pennsylvania is a reclaimed strip mine. They have enrolled 108 acres of their 400-acre farm in the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

Mr. Sisler planted warm season grasses with cut back borders and conservation cover to support bobwhite quail. Some tree plantings have also been part of his plan. Strategically placed shallow water developments have been a critical component in providing additional habitat.

Mr. Sisler is an enthusiastic supporter of wildlife habitat. When he learned that his 108 acres wouldn't be quite enough to provide a vital habitat area, he started talking to his neighbors. Roy's efforts resulted in 3 neighboring landowners also participating in WHIP for another 165 acres.

Other neighbors have planted grasses and are providing wildlife habitat although they are not participating in WHIP. Mr. Sisler makes arrangements for his neighbors and is known to go out and help with the seeding. "I do it for a love of the birds," said Sisler.

Pennsylvania Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. It provides for both technical assistance and financial assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Wildlife habitat is important to most Pennsylvanians and support for WHIP has been very strong. The primary goals in Pennsylvania are to improve grassland and streamside habitats. Partner support has also been strong and state and private funding compliments to WHIP cost-share have assisted farmers in providing habitat for more of Pennsylvania's wildlife.

Accomplishments

Grassland wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds, have declined dramatically over the past 30 years in Pennsylvania. The WHIP program has successfully provided participants the opportunity to restore this declining resource. Partners and participants alike are spreading the word about this successful program. One farmer is canvassing his neighbors, convincing them of the benefits the entire community will share. WHIP contracts often meld grassland habitat with working farms. Pennsylvania has offered funding statewide and approved 138 contracts totaling \$232,770 of federal cost-share funds in fiscal year (FY) 2001.

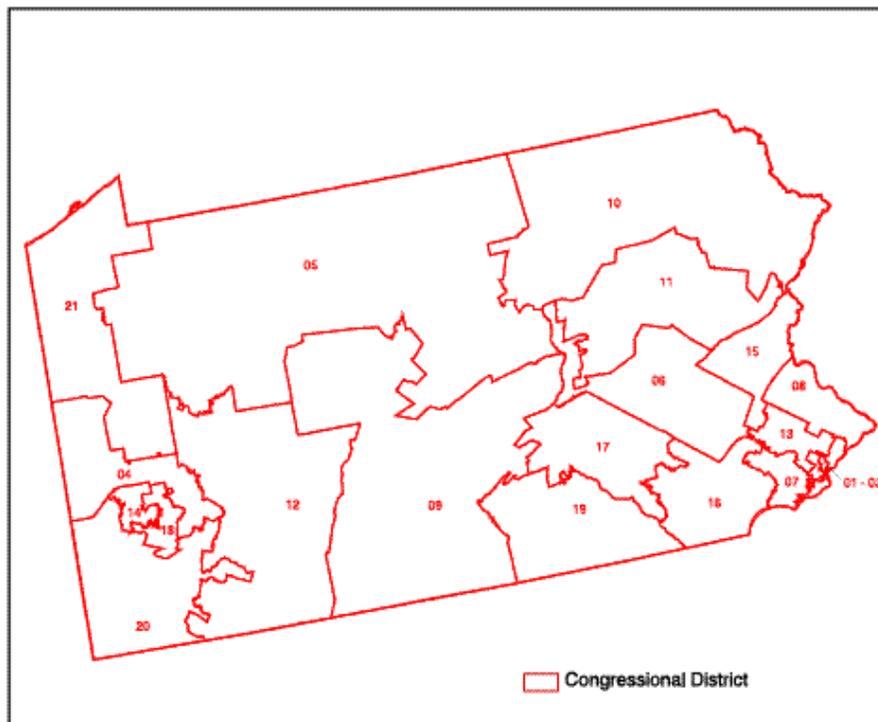
Outlook

Because the program has been so successful in Pennsylvania, we can only see WHIP increasing in popularity and success. Wildlife organizations are assisting in promoting the benefits of WHIP to watershed groups and individual farmers.

State contact

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Pennsylvania Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Pennsylvania Dollars and Contracts

Congressional District	Contracts	Federal Dollars	Cumulative
	FY01	FY01	FY98-01**
District #1-3 (Philadelphia)	0	\$0	0-\$0
District #4	3	\$10,895	9-\$23,195
District #5	28	\$54,172	68-\$167,183
District #6	2	\$6,000	7-\$19,736
District #7	2	\$5,997	4-\$11,997
District #8	2	\$5,990	4-\$11,990
District #9	17	\$27,589	66-\$171,091
District #10	47	\$42,064	92-\$90,920
District #11	12	\$18,051	20-\$66,189
District #12	5	\$14,176	25-\$85,410
District #13	2	\$3,054	2-\$3,054
District #14 (Pittsburgh)	0	\$0	0-\$0
District #15	1	\$2,900	1-\$2,900
District #16	2	\$5,999	9-\$44,499
District #17	0	\$0	2-\$20,000
District #18 (Pittsburgh)	0	\$0	0-\$0
District #19	3	\$6,006	22-\$57,327
District #20	5	\$17,888	52-\$169,687
District #21	7	\$11,989	37-\$109,663

**Note: FY 97 data unavailable. Report contains cumulative data for FY98-01.

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