



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Focus — FY 2001 Alaska State WHIP Priorities

Through multi-agency, Tribal and private cooperation and consensus, Alaska NRCS expanded the program to include:

1. Anadromous fish stream restoration and enhancement.
2. Restoration of forestlands impacted by Spruce Bark Beetle, striving toward native plant conditions.
3. Restoration of road and trail areas to pre-disturbance ecological conditions.
4. Shallow water areas for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Diverse and specialized ecosystem components are important in the health of riparian zones, streams, river courses and waterbodies, for all of Alaska's fish and wildlife species. The relationship to and habitat quality of fish and wildlife needs can be both simple and complex. Alaska's wildlife, its people and environment require sincere attention and understanding.



Alaska Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that develops habitat for all types of wildlife. WHIP offers landowners technical and financial assistance to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on their property.

NRCS Alaska has broadened the scope of wildlife resources addressed by expanding and diversifying the types of activities it will fund through WHIP. Features of the program now make the program available to more Alaska citizens with fish, wildlife and other resource concerns. Wildlife issues are at the heart of many Alaskan's conservation feelings, reflecting this State's great appreciation and dependence on fish and wildlife for subsistence, recreation, and the integrity of its natural environment.

Accomplishments

Alaska NRCS first received funding for WHIP in 1998. Two of the projects that year featured construction and vegetative improvements for fish stream passage. The fish ladders, bank stabilization and riparian zone treatments improved habitat on 591 acres of uplands, 264 acres of wetlands, 11 acres of riparian zone and 9 acres of aquatic resources. Alaska received additional funding each year since, and NRCS has entered into 47 WHIP agreements that have restored or enhanced 725 acres of upland, 336 acres of wetland, 142 acres of riparian and over 260 acres of aquatic habitat. These conservation practices restored critically needed in-stream and shoreline hydrology and vegetative protection.

A study performed in June of 2001 shows that WHIP projects in Alaska are less expensive than similar projects in the several of the lower 48 states. Alaska's critical salmon fishery, its bears, moose and migratory birds, as well as the people who depend upon these wildlife resources, have benefited from the financial and technical provided through WHIP.

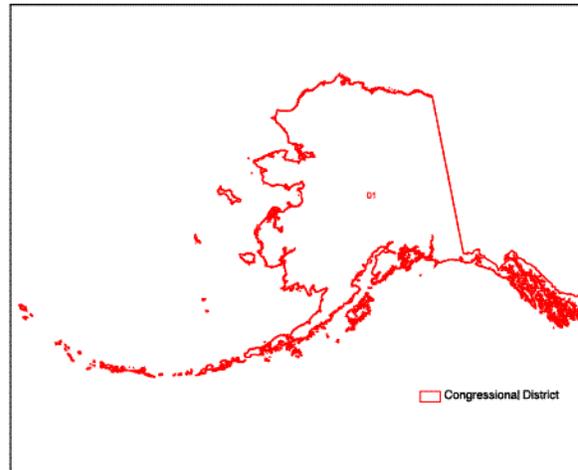
Program Benefits

Alaska's WHIP benefits include restoration and enhancement of critical salmon spawning, rearing, feeding and escape cover for over 50 distinct populations of these fish, as well as interior populations of whitefish and pike crucial as a recreation and subsistence resource. WHIP provides low impact mechanisms to restore fragmented moose and bear habitat through the decommissioning or restoration of abused roads and trail areas. **WHIP** restores forest and woodland acres lost through spruce bark beetle and other forest destruction activities. Small migratory bird species such as state sensitive Townsend's warbler and Blackpoll warbler, are keyed into spruce evergreen use in forests. Migratory shorebirds and waterfowl (plovers, cranes, ducks and geese) will heavily utilize WHIP shallow surface waters and surrounding area native plants. Lastly **WHIP** provides diverse ways for private citizens to become involved in wildlife conservation stewardship, and become informed and empowered on issues that affect them and their property.

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Streambank bioengineering stabilization on Willow Creek consists of root wads and brush-layering techniques to improve water quality and fish habitat. The elevated walkway offers low impact access for public recreation.

Alaska Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Alaska Dollars and Contracts

| Congressional Districts | Fiscal Year 2001 | | Cumulative Total (96-01) | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Obligated Dollars | Number of Contracts | Obligated Dollars | Number of Contracts |
| District 1 | \$54,000.00 | 3 | \$474,000.00 | 46 |

State Totals

Dollar Value of All Years Applications Received - \$ 2,950,000.00
Dollars Allocated - \$ 474,000.00
2001 dollar value of applications received - \$266,910.00
2001 dollars allocated - \$ 75,900.00



Alaskan's sometime love their resources too much. This site shows the need for education and a WHIP streambank restoration project. Bioengineering and management practices will help restore resident and anadromous fish stream habitat along shore and in the channel, as well as sensitive migratory bird habitat. The public will get an educational opportunity to understand their impacts on, and how they can help the resources they love and want.

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