



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Customer Focus

WHIP funding has played a vital role in the restoration of globally imperiled natural communities located on the Massachusetts Islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Elizabeth Islands. This area has been designated by The Nature Conservancy as one of the 40 "Last Great Places" on Earth.

Because funding is often provided through partner organizations, who then hire the Conservancy's professional burn crew, more than ecological restoration has occurred. It has also fostered cooperation between organizations and coordination of management of various preserves.

Natural communities and species that have benefited from this restoration include: Maritime grasslands, Maritime heathlands, Scrub oak barrens, Maritime oak woodlands, Northern harrier, Grasshopper sparrow, Sandplain blue-eyed grass, Nantucket shadbush, Bushy Rockrose, and rare wildflowers such as the state-listed species Northern Blazing star.

The Nature Conservancy expresses its gratitude to WHIP for facilitating the restoration of biodiversity and the formation of partnerships.

Massachusetts Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The program offers landowners up to 75 percent cost-share for wildlife habitat projects. In Massachusetts, strong interest and participation in WHIP continued through fiscal year (FY) 2001. Applications requesting federal cost-share funds totaling nearly \$300,000 dollars were submitted by 35 landowners. The Massachusetts NRCS FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was \$113,900, which resulted in a significant shortfall of nearly \$186,000 to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and partners developed and approved 24 WHIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated all of the available financial assistance funds.

Accomplishments

A total of \$121,565 in WHIP federal cost-share dollars were obligated in Massachusetts in FY 2001. WHIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 400 acres across the state. More than 750 clients were provided assistance associated with WHIP. Since the inception of WHIP in Massachusetts, more than 300 distinct conservation practices have been planned in WHIP contracts. FY 2001 contracts will work to create, enhance or protect 1,200 acres of upland wildlife habitat, 9 acres of wetland wildlife habitat and 100 acres of aquatic wildlife habitat. About 1,000 acres of upland habitat will benefit from working with a dozen cranberry growers to retrofit power poles to prevent electrocution of raptors. In addition, 100 acres of spawning habitat is being created by installation of 4 anadromous fishway improvement measures.

Outlook

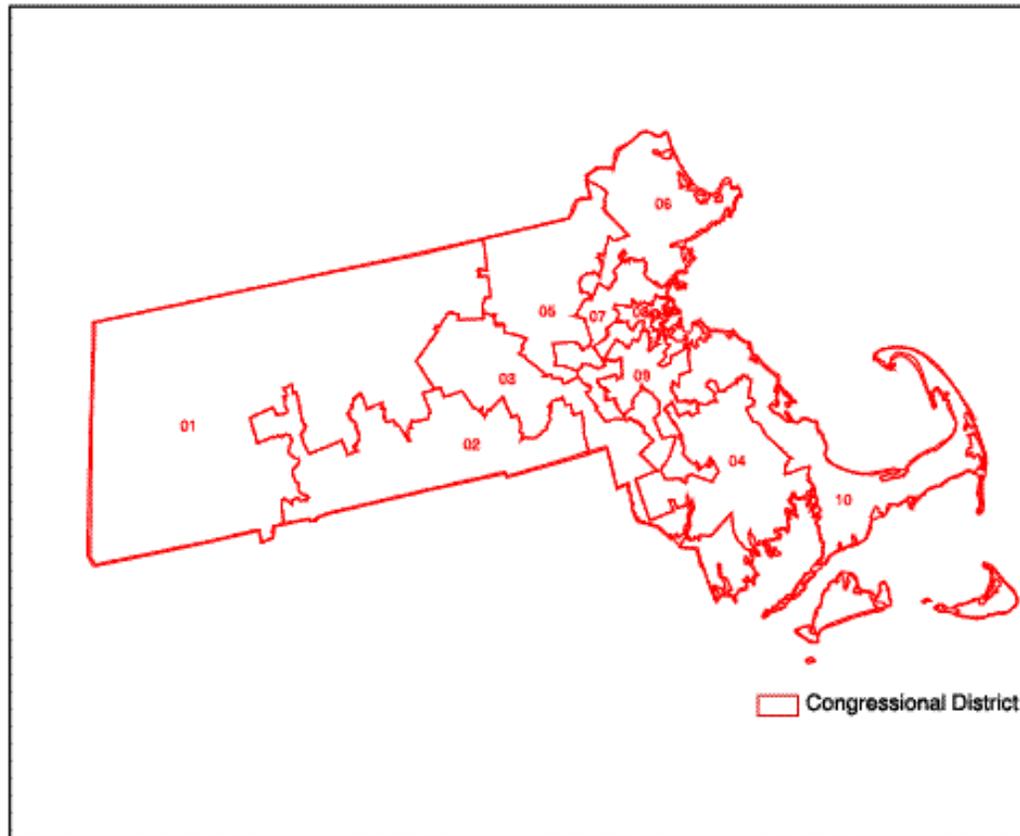
If participation were a measure of success of this program, Massachusetts would report tremendous success with WHIP. The unmet need requested by clients totaled \$200,000 in FY 2001. The total unmet need is estimated to be \$3 million. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

State Contacts

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Massachusetts EQIP Dollars and Contracts



Massachusetts WHIP Dollars and Contracts

| Congressional Districts | Fiscal Year 2001 | | Cumulative Total (1998-2001) | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Obligated Dollars | Number of Contracts | Obligated Dollars | Number of Contracts |
| District 1 | \$41,452 | 10 | \$209,843 | 39 |
| District 2 | 1,036 | 1 | 35,344 | 7 |
| District 3 | 5,000 | 1 | 5,000 | 1 |
| District 4 | 13,000 | 2 | 24,750 | 4 |
| District 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 0 | 0 | 32,740 | 4 |
| District 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 10 | 56,931 | 9 | 226,436 | 29 |
| Total | \$117,419 | 23 | \$534,113 | 84 |

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